



Calendar

January

Sun., 15: Burns Film: "Defying the Nazis, the Sharps' War": 1:00 PM. See page 12 for more information.

Thurs., 19: Public Policy Luncheon. Vicki Ringer of Planned Parenthood of the South: 11:45 PM. - 1:00 PM.

Jan/Feb., TBA: Program Planning Meeting. This meeting will help establish the State goals supporting local issues and the National League Make Democracy Work program. Last year, when the focus was National programs, SC urged National to make the direct election of the U.S. President and Vice President one of the few priority issues for the upcoming biennium. It was further moved and carried in Columbia to urge LWVUS to make the issue of nonpartisan redistricting that eliminates gerrymandering the single most important priority for the biennium. This year the focus is State programs.

Sat., 28: LEAD See page 2 for more information.

February

Sat., 18: PPL: Wade F. Luther, II, AICP SCDOT. State-wide Planner: 11:45 AM - 1 PM.

April

Sat-Sun., 29-30: LWVSC Convention: The Inn at USC in Columbia, SC



JANUARY PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON



VICKI RINGER OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE SOUTH - ATLANTIC
Thursday January 19, 2017 - 11:45 AM
LOURIE CENTER - PARK CIRCLE (AT PICKENS & BLOSSOM STREETS)



Vicki Ringer is the South Carolina Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. She is responsible for public policy and legislative affairs, working to preserve reproductive health rights in the state. Previously, she served for 15 years as director of public affairs and spokesperson for the South Carolina Department of Revenue and six years as director of public relations for the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. She owned her own public relations firm prior to joining Planned Parenthood.

Vicki chaired the successful bond referendum campaign for Lexington 1 schools, which at the time was the largest bond referendum in the state's history. A graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in journalism, Vicki lives in Lexington with her husband Charlie and daughter Sally.

Planned Parenthood South Atlantic is the regional affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, providing healthcare in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Planned Parenthood has served patients in South Carolina for more than 50 years.

All are welcome, but reservations for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, January 18.

Cost of lunch: \$10.00 (Attendees may bring their own lunch). Please RSVP to Susan James sc.susanbjames@gmail.com or call 256-6822

ALSO INSIDE:

Table with 2 columns: Article and Page. Includes items like Julie's Jems, PPL Summaries, National League Priorities, etc.

*THE PREZ SEZ**Julie Sellers*

JULIE'S JEMS – 2017 is finally here. It is a prime number, and for some reason the primes always have made me feel uncomfortable. However, not this time. Equivocation aside, prime means first; of great importance; of the best possible quality; excellent. While many people had a wonderful year, most of us cannot wait to be far away from those 365 days. I really need a prime year! Besides the political upheavals, we experienced, my own family worked through two car accidents, three aneurisms, one loss of job, six surgeries, one child custody problem, one food poisoning, and too, too much stress. So, welcome, 2017.



I want to thank **Janelle Rivers** for being the most wonderful VP ever. She took over everything while I was laid up twice in December. But then she herself got sick with a bad cold and missed our Winter Social. And what a grand event it was! Set in **Pat Forbis** and **Joel Duncan's** beautiful home, we had a wonderful time. The food was delicious, and the libations equally so. **Janie White**, who knows everyone, told me that people were there that she had not seen in years. We have a few over 110 members and are on our way to a higher total. Don't forget that if you have not paid your dues yet, it is extremely important that you do so now. Janie must turn in the official number by the end of January.

All Board members and committee heads should attend the board meeting on January 9. And I hope EVERYONE can be at the PPL on women's health on January 19. Now you need to start thinking. Was there an issue or topic that you wanted us to have a program about this past cycle? We will have our annual Planning meeting either in late January or February. As usual, we will have some guidance from National and State, but we must ultimately decide where we are going in the next cycle of July 2017 through June 2018. We will compose statements about the issues we plan to emphasize. In addition, LEAD Day will soon be here. Make sure **Janie White** knows if you wish to attend as we have the funds to subsidize the registration fee. **Mel Jenkins** will let us know when the first meeting of Making Democracy Work discussion group will be.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in this prime New Year.

Julie Sellers

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OTHER NEWS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK – READY FOR 2018! LEAD (LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY DAY) -

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9:00 to 3:00.
For more information and to register go to: <http://lwwsc.org/2016LEAD.html> LWV/US has been making thoughtful changes which allow us flexibility, but enable US staff to focus on Voting Rights issues. Register, come, and be a partner in change! South Carolina Education Association, 412 Zimalcrest Drive, Columbia 29210.

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SUMMARIES OF RECENT PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEONS:

OCTOBER PPL LUNCHEON: Julie Sellers opened the luncheon by giving us an introduction to the updated LWV Columbia Area website. Please take the time to visit the local, state, and national websites; they are listed page 20 of this *League Lines*. If you didn't come to the October Public Policy Luncheon, you missed an opportunity to learn something about education in America, and South Carolina in particular. **Melanie Barton**, Executive Director for the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC), painted a not-very-promising picture. Her presentation made me realize that high school has changed a lot since I attended, and that the focus has

become more on graduation rather than education. There has been a paradigm shift from the “no child left behind” to “every student succeeds.”

Melanie didn't start her career focused on education. She was initially hired in 1986 to be the health-care policy person for the State Senate and was asked to switch to education. That proved to be a positive move for the children of South Carolina, because Melanie does not focus on education, but on the children receiving that education. Focusing on the children helps Melanie to change the attitudes of those who hear her message. She is a wonderful messenger.

A high school diploma is no longer sufficient to provide a person with the skills necessary to perform basic tasks and get a job. Statistics show that by 2025, fewer than ten years from now, two-thirds of all jobs will require postsecondary education; for instance, the market will require students strong in computer repair skills. In the early years, programming was the top requirement, but that is no longer the case. The skill to *repair* equipment is the top job. Some statistics provided by Melanie: (1) more than 50% of all public school students nationwide are in poverty. (2) 90% of students graduating from Charleston, SC, high schools need remediation before taking technical courses. (3) South Carolina is number 42 when it comes to the percentage of adults in the state with postsecondary degrees or credentials. We are behind Georgia, Florida and North Carolina (21, 22 and 24 respectively). (4) It is estimated that thirty people per day move to Charleston to fill the gap for more

qualified employees. (5) The average ACT score for SC is 18.5, while the national average is 20.8.

A bright spot is that graduation rates have gone up from 67% to 80%, but, the dark side is that many of the students (47%) do not meet all four benchmarks of education (English, reading, mathematics and science). Note (per the SCEOC website) that the benchmarks are subject areas that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher in first-year college courses.

Half of the SC students who qualify for Life Scholarships lose their scholarship after one year because they do not have the necessary benchmark skills, and, therefore, are unable to compete at the college level. Students qualify for the scholarships because of their GPA, class standing or ACT score, none of which affects their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). The IGP, mapped out in high school, determines what students want to do and what education is needed to do it.

Another statistic: **SC has the 9th highest college student loan debt in the nation**. For the class of 2015, student loan debt for SC is estimated at \$30,564 per student. When compared with the fact that fewer than 40% of SC juniors meet benchmarks, many of our students end up with debt but no degree. There are other nonacademic skills that are lacking in many of the students. Showing up for work is another skill graduates must learn. When Boeing performed drug tests for new employees, approximately 80% were not able to pass.

This is a problem and all of us must be part of the solution, because we all have a stake in what happens. If you have a child or grandchild in the system, you want their future to be positive. If you are growing old, and we all are, you need to turn the reins over to qualified persons. Support early education, particularly birth to third grade.

Notes taken by Pam Craig

NOVEMBER PPL LUNCHEON: Rep. Beth Bernstein addressed what is happening in the legislature right now and what might be coming down the road. Below are some highlights:

- Reflections on the 2016 presidential election: She remains committed to fighting for human rights, women's rights, and to stay engaged.
- Reflections on local/state outcomes: We have 18 new members overall in the State Legislature. There are 8 new members in SC senate, including Mia McLeod. The balance in the Senate hasn't changed, with the GOP still dominant. Numbers in the House have gone from 46 Dems down to 44.
- Dialog on re-districting reform: Gerrymandering is a big problem because it reverses the democratic process—*voters* should choose their representatives, not vice versa. Gerrymandering should be a concern for both parties. We now have fewer swing districts than ever in SC (less than ten), making it almost impossible to get Democrats to run and dampening any inclination for current representatives to compromise because they don't want to get "primaried." Beth also recommends

a change in date for local/state voting to November, because too few people vote in June and thus decisions are determined by very few voters.

- Change in SC government: Beth doesn't see a lot of change on the horizon for SC in general.
- Females in SC government: There are now four women in the SC Senate, but the number has gone down in the House. She encouraged women to run locally and pointed out Sarah Leverette's influence.

At the end of her comments, Beth responded to questions from the audience:

What can the LWV do to affect changes in the re-districting process and the Electoral College? Beth said both Dem & GOP chairs support changing how we draw district lines. Change in the Electoral College is going to be more difficult, and Beth doesn't see it changing.

- *Do other states have different ways of drawing district lines?* Some states have a commission to do it (e.g., Arizona, California). Beth mentioned that this takes power away from the legislature, though, which means it will be difficult to pass in a state like SC. We might consider using population distributions, but it has to be fair.
- *Could we move the Legislature by publicizing some neglected issues like roads?* Both chambers want to pass something that will make a difference in our lives. But we have

some arcane Senate rules that cause gridlock.

- *What about the gas tax?* The House voted last year to increase this tax, but it stalled in the Senate, which gave us a plan without the tax, because legislators thought they couldn't get elected if they voted to increase any tax.
- *Personhood bills?* Several advocates for these bills were defeated this time. Beth has voted against them in the past, and said we may not have to deal with as many this year.
- *Other women's issues?* Beth will focus on equal pay in workplace.
- *What subjects look like they will be a priority this year?* The retirement system and roads. Beth is hopeful we can move on some of them.
- *Any movement on gun control?* The House wants to preserve the Second Amendment. Beth has filed a bill about background checks (closing the Charleston loophole).

Notes taken by **Pat Mohr**

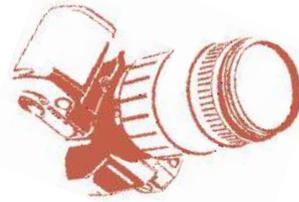


Pictures depicting the Speaker, Beth Bernstein, the attendees, including Sarah Leverette, and others are included on the next page.

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PPL Speaker - Beth Bernstein



Sarah Leverette, Cynthia Williams & Beth Bernstein



Sarah Leverette



PPL Attendees





U.S., STATE AND LOCAL LEAGUES: ALL ONE TEAM

By Barbara Zia, former LWVSC President and LWVUS Board member

My role as LWVUS board director from 2014-16 and as chair of the 2-year Money in Politics Review and Update offer me insight into what is happening in our national office.

First off, as we members all know, the League's strength draws from our 3-tiered structure—local, state and national. Our effectiveness is synergistic: each tier of the League strengthens the others.

At the 2016 LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC, delegates adopted the Campaign for Making Democracy Work [C4MDW], a comprehensive program item for the League nationwide. The focus of the Campaign is on core democracy issues: supporting voter protection and mobilization and election reform; implementing new positions on Money in Politics (the result of intense League work over the previous 2 years to review and update the League's decades-old Campaign Finance position); taking action using new positions on Redistricting Reform and on amending the US Constitution. Leading up to Election 2016, the League worked tirelessly on the first leg of the C4MDW—voter protection and mobilization.

VOTE411.org is a key component of the League's voter service work.

In our voter protection and election reform efforts, LWVUS works hand-in-hand with state and local Leagues, because that is where the action to protect our democracy occurs. LWVSC's partnership with LWVUS led to successful efforts in beating back the most voter suppressive elements of South Carolina's voter ID law. LWVUS provided

critical resources and guidance through the long, arduous process that led us to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Our national office has been a valuable partner to beat back other voter suppressive legislation in our state, such as proof of citizenship to register to vote. Through this collaborative work, we sent a strong message to South Carolina public officials that the League is steadfast in our commitment to protect voters and their rights. And that record of strength positioned us to work effectively with the majority party in the state legislature on ethics reform.

The League, through our national office, partners with many state Leagues in litigation to fight efforts to suppress the vote in states. In addition to South Carolina, legal battles are/have been underway in states such as Florida, Kansas, Arizona, Wisconsin, and North Carolina (where LWVNC is currently involved in 3 lawsuits). As an example of other recent leadership from the national office, LWVUS joined in sponsoring a full page ad that ran in the Washington Post. The ad calls on President Obama to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic Coasts from offshore drilling. In addition, digital ads ran on WashingtonPost.com, RollCall.com and CQ.com throughout that same week. A landing page for the digital ads can be found at: https://www.nrdc.org/oil-free-arctic-atlantic?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=ocs. LWV advocacy to address climate change is aligned with our focus on core democracy issues because a flood of money is being poured into politics by carbon-based industries in order to influence public policy. As part of the C4MDW, the national League

is developing Action Kits on issues such as redistricting and money in politics. These will include ready-to-use resources to help Leagues and our partners in advocating in their states and communities that are battlegrounds for voting rights and election reform.

The national office is guiding action at the federal level to reform campaign finance, but the 2016 election makes clear that we cannot rely on DC for help with reforms such as overturning Citizens United. Instead, states offer opportunities for reform on core democracy issues like money in politics and redistricting. LWVUS sings the praises of work that the League has done on ethics reform in South Carolina. I serve on the off-board Education and Advocacy Committee that is designing the action kits. We plan to highlight state Leagues that are undertaking MIP advocacy, such as SC, CA, NY, ME, and WA, to inspire and guide other Leagues. Experience on the LWVUS leadership team brings home to me that the League in South Carolina is awesome!

I hope everyone is receiving online biweekly League Updates. They are excellent sources of information from the LWVUS president and executive director about League activities and opportunities. You can sign up at <http://lww.org/> by completing the Get Involved form.

Those of us who attended the 2016 Convention last June understand that the national League is undertaking a self-analysis of our structure and operations in order to ensure a bright future as we near our second century. That restructuring includes staff cuts. So fewer staff members are manning (mostly woman-ing) the League's lean, mean fighting machine in our nation's capital. Still, there has never been a time in the League's history—or our

nation's—when our organization has been more needed at the local, state, and national levels. If you are able, please consider responding positively to one of LWVUS's financial appeals in order to help expand the services that the national office can offer to protect and expand democracy.

So I'll close with a timeworn truism:
Together we are stronger!

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COMMENTS ON CAROLINA CROSSROADS PROJECT:

([HTTP://CONGAREERIVERKEEPER.ORG/RIVER-WATCH/CONCERNS-ABOUT-CAROLINA-CROSSROADS-PROJECT](http://CONGAREERIVERKEEPER.ORG/RIVER-WATCH/CONCERNS-ABOUT-CAROLINA-CROSSROADS-PROJECT) SUBJECT): Our Rivers and the Columbia canal need to be free from highway runoff, the effects of car emissions, and the noise of the highway so that we all may enjoy them as the recreational gems they are. The Carolina Crossroads alternatives that parallel or cross the rivers need to be redesigned, and, at the very least, they need to ensure they are in compliance with the State Scenic River Act's mandate not to build within the scenic easements or public access areas. If there is an alternative which causes commercial or residential structures to be moved, rather than the rivers to be overshadowed, enclosed, and polluted, I am in favor of the higher cost of razing the buildings and other structures, rather than destroying the light and air and water quality of these rivers and feeder streams. The boating and fishing in these rivers, and the quiet enjoyment of these green and sunlit pathways, are very important to the

quality of life in downtown Columbia, West Columbia, Cayce and the surrounding areas. However, if any of the highway construction projects must cross the Saluda and Broad Rivers, the plans must contain pedestrian and bicycling bridges to encourage recreational use and to facilitate non-automotive commuting.

I-20/1-26 East-West Connector Concerns and the Lower Saluda River

I look forward to the new Saluda Riverwalk greenway, which will extend from the Broad River to I-26 and further upstream, and I want to ensure these highway projects do not disrupt the planned pathways and future greenway projects.

It appears the Directional Alternative would cross the Saluda River right over two high quality class II rapids (Oh Brother and Ocean Boulevard) and a very popular trout fishing area. The impact of the noise and shadow on the recreational value of these areas must be studied and mitigated if this is the chosen route.

After the devastating floods of October 2015, you must evaluate the safety of placing transportation infrastructure in the floodplain and floodway. It appears each of the three I-20/1-26 East-West Connector alternatives would include some construction in the floodplain and floodway, with the Direct Connector alternative almost entirely in the Saluda River floodway.

Outside Corridor Concerns and the Broad River

In addition to my concerns about this project's crossing the Broad River with added noise, shadow, runoff, and air-quality issues, the Northern Expressway and Northern Arterial appear to have some of the highest stream and wetland impacts of all the proposed alternatives. It appears

these projects would cross at least 4 perennial streams, at least 5 intermittent streams, and at least 3 large wetland areas, and significantly impede the stormwater runoff in the area. The impact of increased flooding in this area will need to be studied and mitigated.

I stand with the Congaree Riverkeeper in my concern about the impact these roadway projects will have on the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers.

Margaret Anne B. DuBose

mabdubose@att.net

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STAND UP SUNDAY - JANUARY 21!

A non-partisan event has been organized by the Progressive Network to give SC advocacy groups a platform to talk about their work and help mobilize the newly engaged. Beginning at noon on January 21 on the **north steps of the State House (Gervais St. side)**, rally speakers will talk about what their groups are doing and offer ways people can get involved in political advocacy. The League will be represented at this event through participation in a democracy fair on the grounds. Participants will be able to talk to us about what the League does and join us if our goals and approaches are the kind of thing they are interested in. The event will be kid-friendly and fully accessible. We hope that League members will attend the rally to become better informed about the range of advocacy activities in South Carolina and that non-members will become interested in our work and join us!

After the rally, at about noon those who are interested will move a half-block away to the Music Farm for lunch and a round-table strategy session led by members of the SC Legislative Progressive Caucus and Progressive Network Director Brett Bursey. USC historian Dr. Bobby Donaldson will talk about the Modjeska School, a Network project launched in 2015 to teach a people's history of South Carolina and community organizing skills. There will be breakout sessions to address specific areas of interest. Those interest areas will be those that have long been the focus of the League and other advocacy groups in South Carolina: voting rights, redistricting, ethics and more. This session is also open to any interested individuals.

Lynn Teague

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Additional Reading

ARTICLES ON VOTING: PAPER BALLOTS-NOT EASILY HACKED; RECOUNTS; NO! TO INTERNET VOTING! This series of articles appeared in the *Clemson Voter*. Two appeared in *Statehouse Report*. Archived and worth reading if you want depth:

http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/articles_series.html by LWVSC Board member **Eleanor Hare**.

Questions? Contact eleonorhare@gmail.com

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THE LATEST NUCLEAR

SHENANIGANS AT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE, by LWV/SC Suzanne Rhodes is in the Winter Sierra Chronicle, **Go to**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bx3-V24gWjLcdDJKcGRKRIJEUVE/view>, page

28, or contact Suzanne -

Suzrhodes@Juno.com

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THE LWVUS MONEY IN POLITICS

PROJECT PRODUCED THIS LIST OF READING SUGGESTIONS in 2015, before Mayer's *Dark Money* came out, so it's not included. *Dark Money* is on my stack of books-to read. My one concern about her book is that it

focuses only on the role of conservatives in flooding MIP. Truly, both parties are to blame. The first list: Mann and Ornstein's *Even Worse Than It Looks Was*. It was preparation for facilitating a discussion for LWV/Charleston Area on how LWV can navigate our current hyper-partisan political climate and what League nonpartisanship means in that environment. I highly recommend the book, which lays out how we got to the current politics of extremism and their

recommendations for solving it. This an update of their first version *Looks*, which came out in 2013; the 2016 version shows today is no better. Mann and Ornstein are seasoned government watchers, one from Brookings and the other from American Enterprise. They have spoken at LWVUS meetings. A good related reading is the Pew Research Center report *~Political Polarization in the American Public*.

It's available for download

at <http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/12/political-polarization-in-the-american-public>. At the Clemson League,

during a Board meeting by phone on August 6th, book reviews were suggested.

League of Women Voters/Clemson Area has reviewed 4 books in the last year in their newsletter: Ari Berman: *Give Us the Ballot*, Philip Warburg: *Harness the Sun*.

http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/DecVote_r2015.pdf and Bryan Stevenson: *Just Mercy*, was reviewed in our newsletter at

<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/Feb16Voter.pdf>, Maude Barlow: *Blue Future* --

Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever, at

<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/Oct2015Voter.pdf>

Barbara Zia is reading: Mann and Ornstein's *It's Even Worse Than It Looks Was*. It's in preparation for facilitating a discussion for LWV/Charleston Area on how LWV can navigate our current hyper-partisan political climate and what League nonpartisanship means in that environment. She highly recommends the book, which lays out how we got to the current politics of extremism and their recommendations for solving it. This an update of their first version (*Looks*) which came out in 2013; the 2016 version shows things today are no better. Mann and Ornstein are seasoned government watchers, one from Brookings and the other from American Enterprise. They have spoken at LWVUS meetings. A good related reading is the Pew Research Center report *Political Polarization in the American Public*. It's available for download

at <http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/12/political-polarization-in-the-american-public/>.

Barbara Zia

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**YOU MAY HAVE MISSED the
LWVSC VOTER IN THE MIDST OF THE
HOLIDAYS – IF SO, CHECK OUT:**

<http://lwvsc.org/files>

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**OUR ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATOR, CHESTER SANSBURY,
PULLED TOGETHER A FASCINATING GROUP
OF LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS IN
DECEMBER.** Volunteer Don Addu came from North Carolina to help kick off an introductory meeting December 3rd at the SC State Museum.

Charlie Goldman, now new co-chair with Chester, wrote to the Columbia Group: If you haven't already, consider signing up as a member of CCL [Citizens Climate Lobby] on their website (it's free, but donations are accepted): <https://citizensclimatelobby.org>. There are over 40 members now, and if we all bring on a few more, we will soon have very impressive numbers.

As co-leader of the group, my vision is that the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts. By this I mean the group's very existence over time will support and enhance our individual efforts, and give all of us more clout as we work to implement a **carbon fee and dividend** and urge our political system to take constructive action on climate change.

Our role is to coordinate our activities with the national and regional groups, to send a monthly field report, and to keep track of our individual and collective actions. Chester is very active in the CCL Conservative Caucus and has worked hard to form relationships with various Republican politicians and other groups. There is an ongoing need to form active alliances with various community groups that have overlapping concerns.

All of us in this group feel a sense of urgency, and many have already done much. As a very recent example, one of our new members, **Jan Collins**, wrote an article about us for the *Columbia Star* weekly newspaper (see http://www.thecolumbiastar.com/news/2016-12-16/Society/Lobbying_for_climate_solutions.html). Thanks, Jan! **Charlie Goldman and Chester Sansbury**, co-chairs, are planning the first chapter meeting on **January 21** with Dr. Kirstin Dow of USC Department of Geography. Time and Place to be determined. *Chester Sansbury* csansbury1@sc.rr.com; *Charlie Goldman* 803-730-1432 (cell phone, voice and text)

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PROTECT CHILDREN FROM IDENTITY THEFT – Julie Sellers adapts the following from other sources. We adults worry about identity theft all the time, but does an eight year old? No, of course not. Many of us are also concerned with the safety of those children. Therefore we adults must protect our young folks in one more suggested way.

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Until I read the flyer, I never thought of someone taking one of my children's identity. However, it must be more common than I imagined. Please read the attached flyer from the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs. You will learn why and how to protect the children

in your life. For example: If someone asks for your child's Social Security number, ask why they want it, how they'll safeguard it, how long they'll keep it, and how they'll dispose of it. If you're not satisfied with the answers, don't share the number and ask to use another identifier. Remember to ask these questions even when you register your child for school, also making sure to read the notices schools are required to send explaining your rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Also, consider using the protected consumer freeze

You can view the flyer on [page 16](#), or go to: http://www.consumer.sc.gov/consumer/IdEntityTheft/Documents/ID%20Theft%20Brochures/Child_ID_Theft_2016.pdf

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DEFYING THE NAZIS: THE SHARPS' WAR is an account of a daring rescue mission. It tells the story of a Unitarian minister and his wife who helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe. Following the showing, there will be refreshments and discussion of the implications of what the Sharps accomplished and possible answers to the question: Can a similar crisis happen in THIS country? What can we as concerned citizens, do? Sunday, January 15, 2017 - 2 PM, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, 2701 Heyward St. Columbia, SC 29205

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Barbara Hotchkiss, mother of long-time Columbia League member **Deborah Hotchkiss**, died on Christmas Eve. Barbara was a member and attended meetings of the Columbia League back in the day, and she, herself was active in many causes and activities dear to the heart of the League. She was a teacher, and taught Spanish even while at Still Hopes. Her full obituary may be read at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestate/obituary.aspx?n=barbara-hotchkiss&pid=183217425&fhid=5564>

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Highlights of the Annual Holiday Social

This year's Holiday Social, held at Pat Forbis' beautiful Columbia home was, once again, a fun and well attended affair. As mention in Julie's Jems: **"...and what a grand event it was! Set in Pat Forbis and Joel Duncan's beautiful home, we had a wonderful time.**

The food was delicious, and the libations equally so." Many attended this event, and all who did reported having a great time. The following are pictures of the party and some of those who attended and their smiles and happy faces confirm that, as always, this party is a grand success! Enjoy!



Pat at her beautiful tree



Pat with Kitty & Rick Hepfer



Christine Goodwin & Olivia Webb



Marianne McGrath & hubby



Keller Barron, Cynthia Flynn & Susan James



July Sellers & Missy Caughman



Marsha Synott & Pat Forbis



Janie White & Andy Yasinsac



Pat Forbis & Rana Davis

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Pat Mohr & Marybeth Graham



Guests enjoying the Social



Guests enjoying the Social.

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Emerson Smith & Pat Craig

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs

CHILD IDENTITY THEFT

Prevention tips to share with your friends and family

What is Child Identity Theft?

ID or identity theft happens when someone uses a minor's personal information to commit fraud. A thief may steal and use a child's information to get a job, government benefits, medical care, utilities, car loans, or a mortgage. Avoiding, discovering, and undoing the damage resulting from the theft of a child's identity can be a challenge.

Adults can monitor their own credit reports every few months to see if someone misused their information, order a fraud alert or freeze on their credit files to help stop more misuse. But most parents and guardians don't expect their child to have a credit file, and as a result, rarely request a child's credit report, let alone review it for accuracy. A thief who steals a child's information may use it for many years before the crime is discovered. The victim may learn about the theft years later, when applying for a loan, apartment, or job.

Warning Signs of Child Identity Theft

Identity theft can be committed by a family member, a neighbor, or by someone you never met who gets access to your child's information. Several signs can tip you off to a problem:

- You get calls from collection agencies, bills from credit card companies or medical providers, or offers for credit cards or bank account checks in your child's name.
- Your child, or your family, is denied government benefits because benefits are being paid to another account that is using your child's Social Security number.
- The Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or other government agency asks you to confirm that your child is employed, even though your child has never had a job.
- After you file a tax return listing your dependent child's name and Social Security number, the IRS tells you the same information is listed on another tax return.
- Your child gets a notice from the IRS saying he or she failed to pay taxes on income, even though your child has no income.

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs
2221 Devine St. STE 200 • PO Box 5757 • Columbia, SC 29250
800-922-1594 • www.consumer.sc.gov

ACTION STEPS

How To Protect Your Child's Information

Parents do a lot to protect their children from physical harm, but protecting their personal information is important, too. Here's how:

- Keep all documents that show a child's personal information locked up. This includes a child's date of birth, Social Security number, and birth certificate. **Don't carry your child's Social Security card in your purse or wallet.**
- If someone asks for your child's Social Security number, ask why they want it, how they'll safeguard it, how long they'll keep it, and how they'll dispose of it. If you're not satisfied with the answers, don't share the number and ask to use another identifier. Remember to ask these questions even when you register your child for school, also making sure to read the notices schools are required to send explaining your rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Consider using the protected consumer freeze. The freeze allows the parent, guardian or representative of the protected consumer to create a credit file in that person's name and place a freeze on it, helping to deter identity theft.
- Before you share personal information on the internet, make sure you have a secure connection. A secure website has a lock icon in the address bar and a URL that begins with "https."
- Use a computer with updated antivirus and firewall protection. Don't send personal or financial information – your child's or your own, for that matter – through unsecured Wi-Fi.

How To Teach Your Child To Protect Their Information

Talk with your child regularly about the privacy settings on social media sites and what information and photos to share on them. For example, it's not a great idea to show photos with school or team uniforms, list birth dates or specific locations, or show background settings that are easy to identify. Why? Someone can use the information posted on a social media profile to guess account passwords.

THE PROTECTED CONSUMER FREEZE

A protected consumer is someone under the age of 16 or an incapacitated adult. Remember to place your request with EACH of the three credit reporting agencies listed below. The credit reporting agencies must place the freeze within 15 days of receiving your request. This protective measure is **FREE**.

Detailed instructions on placing the protected consumer freeze can be found at www.consumer.sc.gov. Click REPORT IDENTITY THEFT, then click *Taking Advantage of the Protected Consumer Freeze*. Directions can also be mailed by request, simply call 800- 922-1594.

Your computer can hold lots of information, and it's important that it stays secure. Talk to your child about best practices for computer security, including:

- Using “strong” passwords – those with at least eight characters, as well as numbers and symbols.
- Keeping passwords private and using anti-virus software that updates automatically.
- Knowing the risks of sharing files through peer-to-peer software, which may give someone access to more information on your computer than you want to share.
- Being alert to phishing scams, where criminals send an email, text, or pop-up message that looks like it's from a real organization. A phishing message asks the recipient to click on a link or call a phone number, and to share personal information for a prize or some other benefit.

Bottomline: delete these messages without opening or responding.



BOARD CONTACT INFO - 2015-2016 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COLUMBIA AREA

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2 nd Vice President and Women's Health	Pat Forbis	pforbis@sc.rr.com
Secretary	Sharon Ayling	rsayling@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ann Maletic	annmaletic@gmail.com

DIRECTORS/PORTFOLIOS

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Education Director and Web site	Pat Mohr	patmohr@mindspring.com
Web site	Rana Davis	ranadavis@hotmail.com
Environment Director	Margaret Anne DuBose	mabdubose@att.net
Voter Services Director	Mel Jenkins	citicivics@earthlink.net
Nominating Committee	Marianne McGrath	mcgrathlady@gmail.com
League Lines	Pat Manley	dancerpem@outlook.com

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OTHER COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee:

Marianne McGrath, Chair, Pat Manley & Janie White

* * *



Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

State: <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: To see our Facebook Page:

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left

That's it!

Twitter:

1. Go to YOUR Twitter account and search for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.

Facebook and Twitter email address:

leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com

 **VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITES** 

www.saveallvotessc.org

www.VOTE411.org

* * *

 **Columbia City Council**
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201
 Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.

 **Lexington County Council**
 Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072
 For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com

 **Richland County Council**
 Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202.
 For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2060 or check: www.richlandonline.com

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