



**LEAGUE LINES**

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**Calendar**

**October**

Mon.	3	6:00 PM <i>A Face in the Crowd</i> . See <a href="#">page 17</a> for details on this Monday series in October.
Fri.	14	CVSC partners conference at Saluda Shoals Park in Lexington County to select priorities to be presented at a SC Senate briefing January 18, 2017, and the Conservation Lobby Day March 21 <sup>st</sup>
Sat.	15	9:00 AM– 2:00 PM Richland/Lexington Recycle Day <a href="http://www.lcswc.com/event/regional-recycle-day-lexingtonrichland-county-event/?instance_id=11">http://www.lcswc.com/event/regional-recycle-day-lexingtonrichland-county-event/?instance_id=11</a>
Thur.	20	Public Policy Luncheon – SC Education Oversight Committee, Every Student Succeeds

**November**

Fri.	4	Bjorn/Wilson debate at River Bluff High School
Thur.	17	Public Policy Luncheon (to be announced)

**Future Events**

TBD	Dec.	Holiday Party at the home of Pat Forbis
Wed.	Jan. 18	Conservation Voters Senate Briefing
Sat.	Jan. 28	LWVSC LEAD in Columbia
Tue.	Mar. 21	Conservation Lobby Day
Sat.-Sun.	Apr. 29 - 30	State Convention@ University Inn, Columbia.



**OCTOBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON  
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT**



Thursday October 20, 2016 – 11:45 am – Lourie Center



**Melanie Barton, Executive Director for the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC).** Melanie will address South Carolina’s opportunities with the Congressional passage of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* in 2015. South Carolina and other states have an opportunity to merge their state and federal accountability systems for public education. Melanie will discuss issues being debated in creating a system that will determine if our students succeed in meeting the profile of the South Carolina graduate from high school, college, career and citizenship ready. Barton has been with the EOC since 2001. Her work began when she worked part time staffing the Parent Involvement Subcommittee and advising the EOC on spending recommendations for Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds. She assisted in the design of the EOC funding model and served on the evaluation team for the full-day 4K program.

After graduating from Furman University in 1984, Melanie received a master’s degree in public policy analysis from Duke University. She worked for six years as a research analyst with the Senate Education Committee and the Office of Senate Research.

She and her husband live in Northeast Columbia. They have a son and daughter-in-law who live in Greenville and a daughter attending Furman University. *Janelle Rivers*

**All are welcome, but reservations for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, October 19.**

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

**What’s inside?**



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*THE PREZ SEZ**Julie Sellers*

**JULIE'S JEMS** – Here we are at the beginning of October with still more hard work ahead. National Voter Registration Day, Constitution Day, Anita Hill Party Day, deadline for voter registration – all of these days have required participation from a number of our volunteers. Thank you all for the work you have done. You have given me the best gift ever: a beautifully organized Board and willing volunteers.



Be sure that anyone and everyone you know has been registered by October 8. Try to get as many people as possible to vote before November 8 to relieve pressures at the polls. Volunteer at the polls if you are able. This is going to be an historic election. Try to be part of it.

Months ago I wrote about Oregon's new voter registration procedure and its mail-in voting. So, how has this worked out for them? According to an AP article, "Nearly 300,000 Oregonians have registered to vote in the past 12 months and more than 75 percent of them did so under the motor voter law, the Oregon Secretary of State's office said Tuesday. In addition, the state is on track to register 250,000 new voters under the law by the November election."

This is amazing success with a 14 percent increase in registered voters compared with this time last year. Three other states have followed their example.

While new ways such as the voting procedures in Oregon are proving successful, sometimes the good old ways may actually be best. Do you even remember writing by hand? I take word phrase notes by hand, but any serious writing is on the computer. Neuroresearch suggests that writing by hand turns on a unique "switch" in our brains—one which allows us to learn more effectively. According to Stanislas Dehaene, College de France psychologist, "When we write, a unique neural circuit is automatically activated. There is a core recognition of the gesture in the written word." In one study students who wrote by hand were able to express more ideas more quickly than those who typed. <http://blog.penfactory.com/>. AND REMEMBER YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

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## OTHER NEWS

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**RECAP OF SEPTEMBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON:** Chris Whitmire, Director of Public Information & Training for the SC State Election Commission, was our speaker. He was introduced by Pat Forbis, our second VP.

Because of the recent hackings of the Illinois and Arizona voter registration systems, the first issue Chris covered was that of election security. Chris pointed out immediately that there is a difference between the *voter registration* system and the *voting system*, and workers at both the federal and state level are continuously updating the process because no system can be 100% secure. He did note that because in South Carolina, the counties run the election system, it would be difficult to hack because hacking would have to involve every county.

Chris pointed out that September is Voter Education Month, and the Commission depends upon organizations such as ours to educate and register voters. The education of voters is particularly important this November because presidential elections not involving an incumbent have bigger turnouts. In the 2008 election, the voter turnout was 76%, which is extremely high for the United States of America. This type of turnout means that again there will be lines. The lines are generated because the Election Commission has no control over when people will show up to vote. Usual jam points are early morning, before people go to work, and early evening, after they return home from work. The jam points might vary in different types of communities (e.g. retirement, college towns).

Another security check to help eliminate lines and speed the verification process along is the Electronic Voter Registration List known as EVRL. This system is in development, and the goal is to have it in place by the 2018 election. This system will scan driver's licenses and eliminate the need to type in information. Also, creating what will be described as a "resolution table" will also help by moving those with problems out of the line and having those problems handled by separate staff. Note that in South Carolina there is a three-minute voting rule. Managers are allowed to remove you if you should take more than three minutes to cast your ballot. They can request the assistance of police officers or bystanders, if necessary.

Making sure people understand "absentee ballots" can also reduce the lines by eliminating many people who can vote from the election-day lines. In 2004, 10% of the ballots were absentee; in 2008, 18%; in 2012, 21%. Absentee voting numbers are increasing because more people are taking advantage of this option, and possibly, because of an aging population.

FYI, the difference between *absentee* and *early voting* is that in early voting anyone can vote before Election Day, whereas with absentee there are distinct requirements one must conform to. Ballots are normally available 45 days before the election. Every attempt will always be made to allow an individual to vote. If you are not registered and have a valid ID, you will be

provided with a provisional ballot. Do not try to vote at the polls in South Carolina with an out-of-state driver's license.

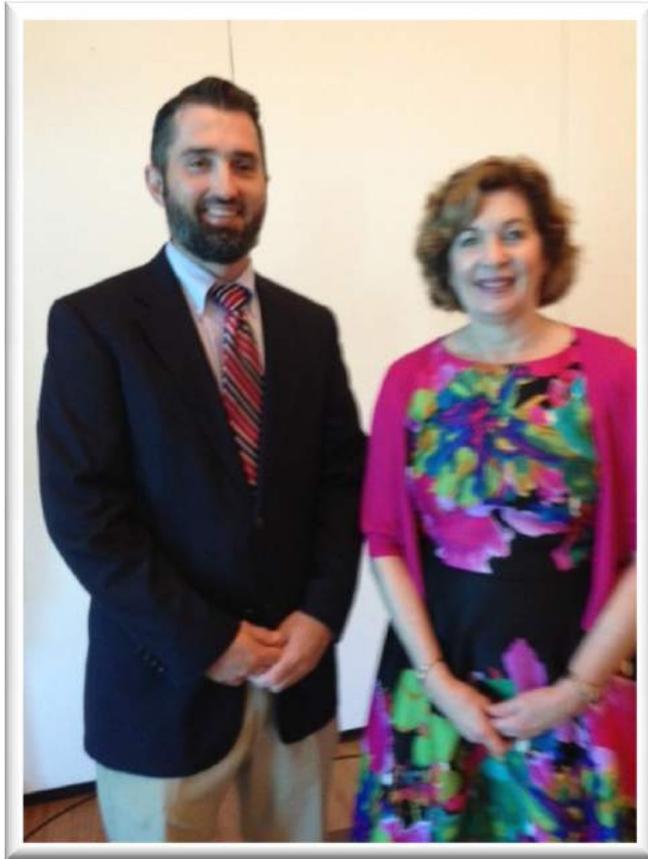
Visit [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) for additional information about voter registration, location of polling places, handicap voting and—as we get closer to Election Day—a sample ballot. You can also download a copy of the *Poll Managers Handbook*, which would identify in detail many of the rules outlined in this article.

Lynn Teague added that our voting machines are old, but new standards are coming out in 2017/18, so South Carolina does not want to purchase new machines at this time and possibly miss out on the new technology. A comprehensive maintenance program has been introduced to keep the machines in good working order until then.

*Pam Craig and Lynn Teague*



*Chris Whitmore addressing the PPL attendees*



*Chris Whitmore and Pat Forbis at PPL Luncheon*



*Pat Forbis and Lynn Teague at the Public Policy Luncheon*



## SEPTEMBER WAS VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH

**Thanks to all who made it happen!**

**LWV COLUMBIA GRANT ENABLED FURTHER VOTER REGISTRATION PARTICIPATION:** Margaret Anne B. DuBose is technically the Environmental Director, but she has been working for the past months with Voter Services. Through her efforts our League received a \$500 grant for expenses related to National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. League members filled all scheduled hours to work the NVRD events at **Midlands Tech on Beltline, The Crossings at Columbia, (assisted living),** and the **COMET Transit Center** for riders of public transportation. With the extraordinary help of current members, Margaret Anne has also been able to assist in coordinating events at **Spring Valley High School** (thanks to Janie and Robin White and Ann Maletic), **Columbia Housing Authority properties off Harden Street** (with the wonderful enthusiasm of USC law students from the Black Law Student Association and the American Constitution Society), and **Newberry College** (incredible job, Sharon Ayling!). At the time this article is going to press, events are also planned at **AC Flora High School** (Pat Mohr [patmohr@mindspring.com](mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com)), at **several churches in the Chapin area** (Lill Mood [lh mood@bellsouth.net](mailto:lh mood@bellsouth.net)), a neighborhood canvas and grocery store event with the law students on Saturday, October 1, 2016 (Margaret Anne DuBose [mabdubose@att.net](mailto:mabdubose@att.net)), and **Columbia College** (Janelle Rivers [rivers12@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivers12@bellsouth.net)). *Please contact Margaret Anne or Janelle if you would like to participate!*

**USC LAW STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN REGISTRATION DRIVE:** Representatives of the Black Law Student Association (<http://law.sc.edu/organizations/blsa/>) and the American Constitution Society ([http://law.sc.edu/organizations/american\\_constitution\\_society/](http://law.sc.edu/organizations/american_constitution_society/)) participated in the LWV Columbia Area Voter Registration Day on September 17. Margaret Anne DuBose and Marcurius Byrd, a member of both organizations, organized the event.

- Sixteen volunteers from LWV Columbia partnered with the student volunteers to canvass in pairs. Over 20 people were registered to vote. Volunteers gave out voter information and registered voters inside a grocery store and door-to-door in the surrounding low-income neighborhood.

*Margaret Anne B. DuBose*



**Right: Pat Forbis, Julie Sellers, Helen Foley, and Lashawndra Woods-Roberts during training**





*Hazel Bridges walked the neighborhood with Judy Thompson (not pictured)*



*LaShawnda Woods-Roberts, Julie Sellers, Delores Logan*



*Marianne McGrath helps students to register*





**Mel Jenkins, Aaron Green, Rana Davis, Marcurius Byrd, Julie Sellers, Jerisha Dukes, Delores Logan, Hope Jefferson, Helen Foley, LaShawnda Woods-Roberts, Hazel Bridges, Judy Thompson**



**Margaret Ann DuBose and Delores Logan**



**New voter family with Delores Logan**



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## SUCCESSFUL STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE HELD ON THE BEAUTIFUL NEWBERRY COLLEGE CAMPUS!

On Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 – 5:00, volunteers from LWVCA converged on Newberry College to assist their students in a voter registration drive. The drive was part of the college's Politics Week and was organized by Dr. Naomi Simmons of the Sociology Department.

League volunteers included Sej Harman, Sharon Ayling, Konstantina Ayling, Marianne McGrath, and Lill Mood. **A total of 111 new voters were registered** with paper registration forms with an additional uncounted number of on-line registrations.

Students from all over South Carolina were registered to vote. These included the counties of York, Berkeley, Pickens, Oconee, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Georgetown, Charleston, Laurens, Newberry, Richland, Lexington, Horry, and Calhoun.

About a quarter of Newberry College students are from other states, and we were able to register students from North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Texas, Tennessee, Colorado, and California.

Great job well done! This is democracy in action!

*Sharon Ayling*



*Sej Harman at Newberry College*

**NEW CITIZENS REGISTER TO VOTE IN GREER:** Sharon and Bob Ayling represented LWVCA at the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Office in Greer on September 16<sup>th</sup> helping to register new voters.

Bob welcomed the new citizens and spoke to them about Constitution Day, which is celebrated on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Constitution was formally adopted by the states in 1789 and it has been our basic law ever since. The Constitution establishes our form of government and protects our freedoms. One of those freedoms is the right to select the people who govern us.

Bob told the new citizens that they are now eligible voters and urged them to exercise their right to vote. He concluded by noting that the League of Women Voters was founded 96 years ago in 1920 when American women finally received the right to vote.

*Sharon Ayling*

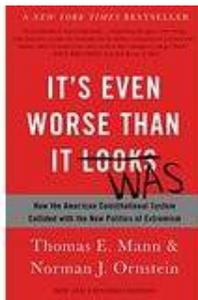
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**HEADS UP! FROM BARBARA ZIA RE MONEY IN POLITICS & LEAGUE NONPARTISANSHIP CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION:** The LWVUS Money in Politics Committee produced a list of reading suggestions in 2015, before Jane Mayer's *Dark Money* came out; it is on my stack of books-to read. Having heard Mayer being interviewed, 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. LWVSC: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/suggested-readings-money-politics>

[Editor: Includes articles, chapters in books, and testimony from our frequent-partner on SC issues, the ACLU, in the Citizens United issue, which they supported to limit corporate First Amendment protection. Great Reading!]



Barbara continues: I'm reading Mann and Ornstein's *It's Even Worse than It Looks Was* to prepare 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 is 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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**PUBLIC TRANSIT UPDATE: “Fix Malfunction Junction”:** Lill Mood represents LWVCA on the Steering Committee for this project. She reports: At the briefing late in September, we were given information leading up to the Alternative Public Information Meeting (see below). Heather Robbins, Environmental Services – SCDOT, confirmed that this stretch of highways is operating at “over capacity” and collisions are a problem.

Some of the alternatives the team has identified in Phase 2 of the project include:

- A northern expressway/arterials—a new road from Piney Grove Road to Wilson Blvd/Killian Rd at Hwy 77 with interchanges at 321 and 21. The difference in an expressway and an arterial is the degree of controlled access
- Widen Broad River Road
- Widen St. Andrews Road
- Modifying interchanges. There are a number of designs that will be posted on line.
- Collector/distributor roads—running parallel to Interstates to get people off/on before reaching the I-20/I26/126 intersection.

Mass transit development is not judged to be an adequate alternative ALONE, but may be an additional solution combined with other alternatives. The same is true for modifications such as High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes.

Impacts that will be considered in choosing alternatives, in addition to the requirement that the solution relieve traffic congestion and improve mobility, are:

Property (expected to be huge)

Wetlands/streams

Traffic capacity

Cost - The projected cost is estimated to be \$1.3-1.5 Billion

Funding has been committed to this project--#1 priority at SCDOT—and construction is expected to begin in 2019.

My two questions were:

1. Do the mass transit considerations include passenger rail service on the existing rails that run parallel to I-26? *The answer was YES.*
2. In addition to improving the ability to get through this congested area, there are people who live and work IN the congested area. Will provisions be made so people can get across the highways on safe pedestrian and bike space? *The answer to this was also yes, in areas where this is needed.* I encouraged them to adopt a *complete streets policy* for the project.  
<http://pccsc.net/a-south-carolina-complete-streets-policy/>

Steering Committee members will receive the details of this presentation on line in about 1½ weeks, and it will be posted on line prior to the public input session on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Citizens can participate in the public meeting in person or on line.

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Lill Mood



## MEMBERS' CORNER

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**MARGARET ANNE BUMGARDNER DUBOSE** has been a League member for most of her life, thanks to her mother Keller Barron. Marianne McGrath came calling last spring to ask Margaret Anne to be on the Board of Directors of the Columbia Area League, and she said YES!

Margaret Anne was born in Columbia, SC, and attended Richland One public schools: Brockman, Crayton, and AC Flora. She loved being a summer camp counselor in Brevard, NC, and driving a school bus while in high school. After graduating from Davidson College in 1980 with a degree in English, she joined the Peace Corps serving in Colombia and Ecuador. USC School of Law, clerking for a federal judge, and working at a big law firm in Columbia gave way to twenty wonderful years at home with husband Theodore (also an attorney), son Theo (26, a grad student at Duke) and daughter Katie (23, Peace Corps in Lesotho, a landlocked country completely surrounded by South Africa). Margaret Anne returned to the world of paid employment working as a payroll data entry clerk for the 2010 Census- and now works as an attorney at a State agency. The nominating committee has been inviting Margaret Anne for years to join the Board, and we are all delighted to have her as a new Board member and instant leader (as noted regarding the Voter Registration project on [page 9](#)).

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES:** Conservationists enjoyed a good time honoring Green Tie awardees at the annual luncheon organized by Conservation Voters of SC (CVSC) and sponsored by many organizations and businesses. The event on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 701 Whaley Street was attended by about 400 people. Elected and government officials, conservation organization members and staff, business people, law firms, and politicians of all stripes were well represented. The Lt. Governor, SC Attorney General, Mayor of Columbia, and Directors of both the SC Republican and Democratic parties were there. Compared to the national political scene, SC officials have learned to work together on important pollution and conservation issues, and the efforts of CVSC have helped make it happen.

Environmental legislative issues and needs are now being prioritized for the 2017 legislature lobbying agenda. Discussion and selection of priorities will be a major part of the annual CVSC partners (of which the LWV is one) conference October 14<sup>th</sup> at Saluda Shoals Park in Lexington County. Selected priorities will be presented at a SC Senate briefing January 18, 2017, and the conservation lobby day will be March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Water and energy issues will likely dominate the discussion. These include the status of water withdrawal bills, the DHEC dam safety program, water quality monitoring funding, the State Energy Plan which is nearing completion, and electrical vehicle and solar system tax credits. The energy plan will be critical to setting the tone for future actions on how SC should meet its electrical energy needs and issues related to fossil fuel use and climate change. More about the SC Energy Office efforts, including the draft plan, can be found at <http://www.energy.sc.gov/energyplan>. As discussed in the LWV SC Voter, the Charleston area is responding to the effects of climate change by updating response strategies for adapting to sea level rise, flooding, extreme events, and increased heat. Major scientific organizations agree that more aggressive action is needed to combat climate change. According to the American Meteorological Society, "It is clear from extensive scientific evidence that the dominant cause of the rapid change in climate of the past half century is human-induced increases in the amount of atmospheric greenhouse gases. Meanwhile, a dysfunctional Congress is stagnating on policies to address climate. One current presidential candidate even said climate change is a hoax.

The University of SC Geography Department is a major player in advancing knowledge about climate change. Some of you may have heard the presentation at a Public Policy Luncheon by Dr. Kirstin Dow. To find out more about what she and others are doing visit [www.cisa.edu](http://www.cisa.edu).

And if you want to join an effort to convince our own Congressmen to combat climate change through effective legislation, please contact Chester or Margaret Anne. Also take a look at what the Citizens Climate Lobby is doing at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Chester Sansbury [csansburyl@sc.rr.com](mailto:csansburyl@sc.rr.com) and Margaret Anne B. DuBose [mabdubose@att.net](mailto:mabdubose@att.net)

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**NATIONAL LEAGUE ADVISES MODERATORS:** The conducting of debates and forums certainly has been in the news lately. Concerns on both the state and local levels as well as up to the national level have created an atmosphere of doubt surrounding the events.

On the state and local levels, we have had our share of differences with ETV about the broadcasting of state debates. LWVCA is in favor of ETV broadcasting debates between candidates who will serve on the national level. We also favor showing state-level debates when there are two parties running.

On the national level, the LWV is concerned with the managing of the debates by the moderators. After the debate moderated by Brian Williams, (of NBC News at the time), LWV delivered a letter to all of the moderators sharing its concerns about the situation. Essentially it states that moderators should conduct themselves in a narrow and straightforward manner so as not to appear controlled. Please follow the link to read the entire letter sent by LWV to the national moderators.

[LWVUS\Users\Owner\Documents\2 League of Women Voters\Candidate Debates & Forums\LWV Letter to the Debate Moderators 2016.pdf](#)

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**BJORN/WILSON DEBATE CONFIRMED:** Republican U.S. Rep. **Joe Wilson** (above right) will debate his Democratic challenger, **Arik Bjorn** (above left), just days before the fall election. According to Wilson's campaign, American Party candidate Eddie McCain will also participate.

South Carolina Democrats have been concerned regarding SCETV's decision not to air any debates this election cycle. There's no word yet on whether another local outlet will air parts of this debate.

Wilson said, in a statement, "I look forward to sharing my positive agenda for the people of the Second Congressional District during the upcoming debate. I have a strong, conservative record of creating jobs, promoting peace through strength, and fighting for limited government and expanded freedom for American families."

Bjorn, meanwhile, said he was "excited for Status Quo Joe to have to give an accounting to the people of District 2 and our state for his 15-year do-nothing tenure in Congress."

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### ANNOUNCING NICK FOR AMERICA

*Nick for America* is a four week series that includes documentaries and narratives that take different perspectives on the American electoral process. We've partnered with the *Free Times* to bring journalists to participate in a post film discussion moderated by editor Andy Shain.

This series is sponsored by Governor and Mrs. James H. Hodges  
In Partnership with Columbia's *Free Times*

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#### **LWVUS IMPACT ON ISSUES 2014-2016: *Arms Control; Military Policy and Defense Spending.***

As we listen to the presidential debates, we will undoubtedly hear discussion about what the United States should or should not do on a military basis. While we have already heard pronouncements of “bomb them,” we will have to wait to see what will be policy when the candidates face each other. Both arms control and military policy and defense spending are important in a world where terrorists are feared and many countries want nuclear weapons. The League of Women Voters feels that each of these topics requires careful and clear thinking in order to make our planet safer to live on and the people able to survive.

*Arms Control* - The League's History: The League's 1982-84 national security study was intended to add focus and direction to existing support for “efforts to reduce the risk of war, including negotiations on disarmament and arms control” under the UN position. Once the 1983 position was reached, League action in support of arms control measures was immediate and effective, particularly on the issues of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)—a missile defense plan that undermines the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty—and anti-satellite weapons. The League has continued to play a key role in legislative efforts to limit funding for unworkable and destabilizing missile defense systems and to uphold the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

Other arms-control measures supported by the League included negotiation of a bilateral, mutually verifiable freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons to be followed by reductions; a comprehensive test ban treaty; and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In 1988, the League was successful in lobbying for Senate ratification of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), an unprecedented agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons. In October 1991, the League urged the Senate to ratify the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

The League lobbied for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) from 1997 until October 1999, when Senate arms control opponents brought the treaty up without full hearings and the Senate rejected the resolution of ratification.

In 2000, the League again worked in support of the ABM Treaty and in opposition to deployment of a planned national missile defense (NMD) system.

After extensive review by a Board-appointed task force, the League's position was updated at Convention 2010 by concurrence of League delegates. In 2010, the LWVUS successfully lobbied for the new START Treaty between the United States and Russia. In 2011, the Treaty, which includes new verification requirements for deployed strategic warheads as well as delivery vehicles, was ratified and signed.

*The League's Statement of Position on Arms Control, as Announced by National Board, December 1983 and Updated by the 2010 Convention: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability.*

Toward that end, the U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that:

- Limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- Limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- Prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons;
- Prohibit explosive testing of nuclear weapons;
- Reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

While these objectives should receive the highest level of attention, the U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase incentives to attack first in a period of crisis.

As a goal of international negotiations, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

The League of Women Voters recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and, therefore, strongly favors multilateral negotiations. Leadership

by the United States in advancing arms control measures through negotiations and periodic review is encouraged.

Given the potential for worldwide proliferation of nuclear technology, efforts involving all countries are essential to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to protect commonly held nuclear weapons-free regions such as the seabed and outer space. Multilateral efforts are appropriate as well to achieve bans on the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons, and to achieve limitations on the transfer or trade of all weapons.

The League of Women Voters also supports bilateral arms control efforts which may be especially appropriate in negotiations to limit, safeguard and reduce quantities of weapons. The League believes that unilateral initiatives are not the most appropriate means to achieve arms control.

The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms

control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals.

The League of Women Voters believes that arms control measures should be evaluated in terms of the following factors:

*EQUITY.* The terms should be mutually beneficial, and each nation's security and interests should be adequately protected, as should the security of all nations. Equity does not necessarily require equality in numbers of weapons but may be achieved through a relative balance in capabilities.

*VERIFIABILITY.* Each party should be able to ensure that other parties comply with the terms of the agreement, whether using national technical means (such as satellites, seismic sensors and electronic monitors) or on-site inspection. The League recognizes the role that multilateral and international institutions can play in assisting verification efforts and believes it is extremely important to ensure compliance, acknowledging that absolute certainty is unattainable.

Equity and verifiability are critical in efforts to limit and reduce quantities of weapons and to prohibit the possession and spread of nuclear weapons.

*CONFIDENCE-BUILDING.* Each party should be assured of the political or military intentions of other parties. Fostering confidence is vital in efforts to stem the development and proliferation of weapons and prohibit their first use, and to reduce tensions.

*WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT:* All appropriate parties should participate in and approve the results of the negotiating process. However, the League recognizes that, in specific cases, progress can be achieved even though some key parties do not participate.

*ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:* The quality of the earth's environment should be protected from the effects of weapons testing or use. Environmental protection has special significance in negotiations regarding all weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional weapons that have residual effects.

*CONTINUITY:* Negotiations should build on past agreements and should be directed toward future negotiations whenever feasible. Innovative thinking and new approaches should, however, be encouraged when appropriate.

*FURTHER GUIDELINES:* League support of arms control measures includes actions on proposals, negotiations, and agreements.

The League supports efforts to achieve quantitative limits or reductions that focus on nuclear warheads, non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction, missiles and other delivery systems, antiballistic missiles, conventional weapons, and/or troop levels.

The League advocates limits on the spread or proliferation of weapons, nuclear technology, and fissile materials. The League opposes the proliferation of weapons, nuclear technology and fissile materials to non-state actors or to commonly held areas such as the seabed or outer space. The League supports establishing effective international monitoring, accounting, and control of such transfers.

The League's pursuit of bans on the possession or use of weapons may apply to existing weapons or those not yet developed.

The League seeks to reduce tensions through better means of communication, exchange of information or prior notification of military tests and maneuvers in order to avoid the risks of miscalculation or accident. Other League-supported measures to reduce tensions and create a climate of trust among nations include scientific and cultural exchanges, conflict resolution training, and strengthening the United Nations and its supporting agencies. Efforts are encouraged to mediate regional issues and arrive at negotiated settlements to minimize arms build-ups and avoid conflicts. The United States should keep lines of communication open.

The League supports efforts to inhibit the development and improvement of weapons through qualitative limits, including limits on testing of weapons. These constraints may be selective or comprehensive in their application.

Efforts to improve the arms control regime of international laws, oversight bodies, and verification modalities are also supported, and U.S. engagement and leadership in this regard is encouraged. The League supports diligence by the United States in meeting the terms of ratified arms control agreements and in reviewing their effectiveness over time.

*Military Policy and Defense Spending: The League's History* - The second part of the League's 1982-10.584 national security study focused on military policy objectives and defense spending, including spending priorities and links between defense and domestic spending in the federal budget. League members first evaluated U.S. military missions, then scrutinized military forces and defense budget priorities. This comprehensive approach stemmed from the principle that weapons systems should reflect a nation's military policy, which in turn should be developed from basic military purposes or missions. The resulting April 1984 statement related military policy and defense spending.

League action focused on congressional efforts to limit deployment of the MX missile and to oppose funding for a rail-garrison basing system. The League also has strongly opposed funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) since 1985 and has been part of successful efforts to

limit spending increases for the SDI program. Since the mid-1980s the League has called on Congress and the President to focus on defense spending when making budget cuts for deficit reduction.

As a result of the 1984-86 study of U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, the Military Policy and Defense Spending position was revised to emphasize that “Military assistance and the direct military involvement of U.S. forces are not appropriate means to further the League’s stated paramount interests in developing countries.”

*The League’s Position: Statement of Position on Military Policy and Defense Spending, as Announced by National Board, April 1984 and Revised, April 1986:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the U.S. government should seek to protect its interests at home and abroad through the use of nonmilitary measures, including diplomacy, mediation and multilateral cooperation. These measures reflect the importance that the League attaches to U.S. efforts to strengthen international organizations, reduce tensions among nations and minimize the risk of conflict worldwide.

The League believes that military force should be viewed as a tool of last resort. Unquestionably, defense of the homeland is an appropriate military objective. In this context, conventional weapons are clearly preferable to nuclear weapons. Any decision to defend another nation militarily should be in support of clear foreign policy goals and tailored to specific circumstances. Military assistance and the direct military involvement of U.S. forces are not appropriate means to further the League’s stated paramount interests in developing countries. The League believes that nuclear weapons should serve only a limited and specific function—that of deterring nuclear attack on the United States—until such time as these weapons are eliminated through arms-control and disarmament agreements. The goal of U.S. military policy, however, should be to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used.

*Nuclear Deterrence:* The League believes that the United States should vigorously pursue arms-control negotiations in order to ensure that all nations reduce and eventually eliminate their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons. The League does not support unilateral elimination of any leg of the strategic nuclear triad of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and long-range bombers. However, the League does not support any modernization of the land leg that would result in weapons systems that are vulnerable or increase incentives to attack first.

*North Atlantic Treaty Organization:* The League believes that the defense of NATO allies should continue to be a shared responsibility. The League supports the United States’ commitment to defend NATO allies with conventional forces. The League urges continued efforts to negotiate mutual and balanced reductions in conventional forces in Europe.

The League believes there is no appropriate role for U.S. nuclear weapons in the defense of NATO allies. The League strongly opposes the policy of threatening to introduce nuclear weapons into a conventional conflict in Europe, a policy commonly referred to as “first use.” Consistent with these views, the League opposes the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons on European soil.

*Other Commitments:* The League supports the U.S. commitment to defend Japan with conventional forces. Conventional forces also are appropriate for defending other allies. The League rejects any nuclear role in defending Japan and other allies, in protecting access to vital resources, or in responding to military conflicts around the world.

*Defense Spending:* The League believes that defense spending should be examined in the same way as spending for other national needs. Within any given level of defense funding, the United States should move toward emphasizing readiness over investment. Preference should be given to operations and maintenance expenditures and military pay as opposed to research and development, procurement of new weapons and construction of military facilities. The League believes that savings in the defense budget can be achieved through increased efficiency and improved accountability.

*In summary,* the League believes that national security has many dimensions and cannot be limited to military policy alone. It can be defined as ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, and promoting the general welfare. Key elements include the country's ability to implement social and environmental programs and to maintain cooperative relationships with other nations. Other important components are effective political leadership and a strong economy. Therefore, in decisions about the federal budget, political leaders should assess the impact of U.S. military spending on the nation's economy and on the government's ability to meet social and environmental needs.

The summary of the section on INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS is now finished, and look at what you have learned!

*Julie Sellers*

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

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#### Nominating Committee:

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Marianne McGrath, Chair, Pat Manley & Janie White

\* \* \*



**Websites:**

**National:** [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/)

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

**Columbia:** [www.lwvcolumbiasc.org](http://www.lwvcolumbiasc.org)

**NEW, user-friendly directions**

**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](mailto:leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com)



[www.saveallvotessc.org](http://www.saveallvotessc.org)

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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 **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.richlandonline.com)

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