



# LEAGUE LINES

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## Calendar

### March

**Mon. March 5, Columbia Board Meeting** - 5:30 PM at Jason's Deli. Members are welcome to observe, but anyone wishing to speak should notify Janelle to be placed on the agenda.

**Thurs. March 15, Public Policy Luncheon** - 11:45 AM at Lourie Senior Center. WREN Ashley Lidow on The SC Legislature and Women's Health

**Thurs., April 19, Public Policy Luncheon** - 11:45 AM at Lourie Senior Center. SC Environmental Focus

**Thurs., March 8 and March 22, Book Sharing continued** – Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want, (Lappe & Eichen) - 5:30 PM at The Local Buzz, a coffee shop located at 141 South Shandon at Rosewood.

- **March 8, Part 2: Exposing the Roots** (Chapters 3-4);

- **March 22, Part 3: Creating Solutions Together** (Chapters 5-9). Come if you can and share a lively conversation! Janelle has read the book and recommends it as highly relevant to our current political environment.

### April

**Sat., April 28, LWVSC State Council** - 10:00 AM at the DoubleTree Hotel in Columbia

### Future Events

**Fri., May 11, Registration deadline** to vote in June Primary

**Tue., June 12, Primary Elections**

**Thurs - Sun., June 28 - July 1. National Convention in Chicago.**



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## PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON Thursday, March 15, 2018



**MARCH PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON –ASHLEY LIDOW, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FOR WREN** (Women's Rights and Empowerment Network) will speak on the work of WREN on behalf of women and girls in South Carolina. WREN focuses on economic

opportunity as well as health and education issues and freedom from violence for women. She will also update us on current bills before the legislature that affect women, including the personhood bill, pregnancy accommodations act, and many others. Ashley advances WREN's policy objectives with the South Carolina General Assembly, leads WREN's research activities, and coordinates the South Carolina Coalition for Healthy Families. Ashley has been the driving force behind the SC Coalition for Healthy Families' growth over the last few years. Ashley earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Carolina and was the 2014 Master's Student of the Year for the Department of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior at the USC Arnold School of Public Health. In addition to her advocacy work, she has co-authored research on how policy-level interventions have been shown to be effective in increasing public health benefit.

JoAnne Day and Christina Goodwin

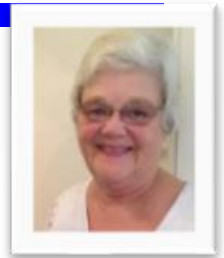
**All League members are welcome. RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, March 14.**

**Cost of lunch: \$10.00**

**(Attendees may bring a lunch)**

**Please RSVP to Susan James: [sc.susanjames@gmail.com](mailto:sc.susanjames@gmail.com)**

**or call 256-6822**

*VIEW FROM RIVERS' EDGE**Janelle Rivers*

**FROM THE RIVERS' EDGE:** Rivers is my maiden name, not always my last name. Maybe it will be helpful to talk about this now. Many years ago, my faith development led me to end an emotionally--and sometimes physically--abusive marriage. I know how the family court system can be used as a tool for abuse, especially when some of the judges are corrupt. [Carroll, C. (1995, May 9) Herald-Journal, Spartanburg, SC, pp. A1, A9].

I also know how the South Carolina League of Women Voters improved that situation by working for judicial screening. That is how I first came to love the League.

I see every day how the media and the political system can be used for abuse, as well. Consequently, I am troubled by the recent news reports describing how some government officials are minimizing or ignoring societal problems including the problem of domestic violence.

Current events have led me to reflect on the oft-quoted words of the prophet Amos, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." As we all know, context is important to the interpretation of scripture. So, here's a succinct description of the context of the Book of Amos, which is found in both Hebrew and Christian scriptures:

Israel, during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753) was propelled to heights of power and prosperity unmatched since the days of David and Solomon. Many were buoyed by a sense of well-being and felt optimistic about the future. While the military was strong and the gross national product was high...the nation was in an advanced state of social, moral, and spiritual decay. Shocking extremes of privilege and powerlessness, wealth and want had emerged. Judges could be bribed. Religion was a syncretistic [only partially successful] mix of ritualistic devotion to Yahweh and various pagan deities.

(From <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/amos-theology-of.html>)

I'm sure you can find parallels to that scriptural context in contemporary society, and I'm guessing you share some of my concerns about the future of our country. So, those are the reasons I'm sharing my wish for our nation and our government's leaders:

- May the citizens of our nation understand the perils of our times.
- May our people encourage and strengthen those who seek truth and value justice for all.
- May the men and women of our nation have the discernment and common sense to choose and support strong, effective leaders.
- May those in authority think clearly and exercise wisdom in every decision.
- May those in public service lead and govern with integrity.
- May our leaders find the courage to choose what is right, even when the path is difficult or unpopular, and
- May we all be mindful of the blessings of liberty as we share our meals and go about our daily tasks.

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## FEBRUARY PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON RECAP

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*Sharon Ayling* attended as a suffragette. Sharon was about to register voters, and her goal was to get the attention of Lexington County high school students who are eligible to register to vote. If you are interested in helping people to vote, please contact Margaret Anne DuBose. Note: If a student will be of voting age (18) by the November election date, they may register 30 days before election.

Laura Woliver, First Vice-President, introduced our guest speaker: *Greg*

*Pearce*, who has served the City of Columbia and Forest Acres in District 6, since 1998, unopposed. He has supported the arts and many City renovation projects: in particular, the Township Auditorium and the Woodrow Wilson home.

Mr. Pearce has been praised by both parties for his civility, tenacity, and the ability to cross party lines. He is now, as Elton John, doing his farewell tour. After twenty years, he will retire from politics. He plans to direct his attention to something else, and he is leaning toward the mental health arena, the field he was in before he started his career in politics.

He focused on two important issues. The Transportation Penny Program was first. This tax failed to pass the 2010 referendum, but became law with the 2012 referendum. No sooner than the tax referendum was passed, lawsuits challenged. For that reason, taxes were being collected, but no repairs were being made to the roads while the court sorted out the details. In addition, the County had never before handled such large sums of money, and management had become a problem within itself. These issues have since been alleviated and the financial issues have improved.

As of the date of the luncheon, the Department of Revenue (DoR) still has at least two suits pending and is still withholding the tax monies, insisting that DoR is the one to determine how it should be spent. One of the main problems with this issue is that the roads in South Carolina are owned by several different entities, and, before work can progress, jurisdictional priorities must coincide with ideas specifically identified in the County-wide referendum.

The second issue Pearce addressed was the Richland Renaissance Project. The underlying complication is that the City courthouse must be located downtown, and the present

location of the courthouse on Main Street limits expansion. The Renaissance Project will relocate the County offices currently at Hampton Street to Columbia Mall, the former location of Sears, Burlington and Dillard's.

This plan would not initially raise taxes; at present, the cash on hand can get the project started by incorporating other programs and projects created to help revitalize blighted areas of the community. The structures at Hampton Street would be torn down to make way for the new Judicial Center while renovations at the mall will be redesigned to house the various County offices. The project seems an "awesome opportunity," but Greg Pearce would have liked the budgeting cost of renovating the new work areas to have been presented before the project was voted on. Pearce anticipates that not until 2022 will funds other than present capital monies need to be added to the budget. It is believed that these additional funds can come from bond anticipation notes or might possibly be within the borrowing parameters of the County's budget.

Some of the questions from League members were whether or not the penny tax monies could be used to pay for the RR crossing improvements recently mentioned in the news. That's a "no" because when the referendum was put on the ballot, the projects to be addressed were identified. Another question was what will happen when the penny tax money runs out? How will the buses be paid for? Another referendum would need to follow for those challenges.

If you need to know who represents you, visit the website [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) or get a copy of your LWV Directory of Elected Officials, better known as DEOs, at the next League meeting.

*Pam Craig*



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**OTHER NEWS**

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**THERE WILL NOT BE NEW MACHINES WITH PAPER TRAILS FOR THE 2018 ELECTION.** First, no one is going to raise millions of dollars by then. If they did, this state function requires soliciting bids and a contracting process as well as training that also will not happen by the 2018 election.

In any case, the registration system is most vulnerable to external cyber-attack. The South Carolina Election Commission (SEC) has worked closely with the feds, and has asked for and is expected to receive the funding needed from the legislature. The SEC has asked for voting machine funds, but it won't happen by 2018.

The SC League will not take the lead in pushing for new machines for 2018 because we know enough about the situation and the process to know that it is not a feasible goal. Lynn Shuler Teague, VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC

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**MEMBERS' CORNER**

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**REDISTRICTING PRESENTATIONS – LWV COLUMBIA HAS SPEAKERS READY TO PRESENT ON THIS TOPIC.** JoAnne Day and Anne Sinclair presented to the John Bachman Group of Sierra Club this February. Great team! They and other leaders are prepared for invitations to other groups.



LEST WE FORGET

**Keller Barron** wrote to **Shan Rose's family**: Thank you for your mother's lovely picture and write-up in *The State*. She did indeed enjoy Columbia, and we certainly enjoyed her and your father. I remember a beautiful party that you all had for them. Shan was such an asset to the Columbia League of Women Voters, sharing her experience and her knowledge in such an articulate way..... In community, Keller Barron

Shan Rose's obituary is at

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/thestate/shan-rose-condolences/188160291?cid=full>

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## BOARD CONTACT INFO 2017 - 2018 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COLUMBIA AREA

### OFFICERS

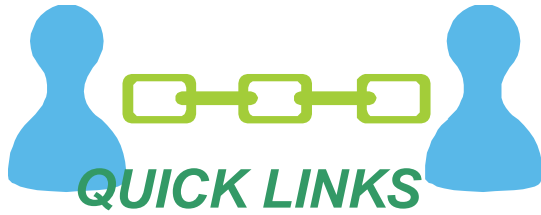
President	Janelle Rivers	<a href="mailto:rivers12@bellsouth.net">rivers12@bellsouth.net</a>
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Transportation	Lil Mood	<a href="mailto:lh mood@bellsouth.net">lh mood@bellsouth.net</a>
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Tech Support for Voter Data	Duncan Buell	<a href="mailto:buell@acm.org">buell@acm.org</a>
Historian	Julie Sellers	<a href="mailto:Jsellers13@sc.rr.com">Jsellers13@sc.rr.com</a>
PPL Summaries	Pam Craig	<a href="mailto:Pcraig1@bellsouth.net">Pcraig1@bellsouth.net</a>
Observer Corps Coordinator	Rana Davis	<a href="mailto:ranaperi@outlook.com">ranaperi@outlook.com</a>
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LWVSC Board	Sally Huguley	<a href="mailto:shuguley@sc.rr.com">shuguley@sc.rr.com</a>
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LWVSC VP Issues & Action	Lynn Teague	<a href="mailto:Teaguelynn@bellsouth.net">Teaguelynn@bellsouth.net</a>





**Websites:**

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

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

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

**@LWVColumbiaSC**

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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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