



LEAGUE LINES

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October 2017



Calendar

October

- Mon., 2** - October Board meeting
- Mon., 8** - Last day to register in November elections
- Wed., 11** - Jared Yates Sexton at USC - new book at 6PM (see [page 15](#))
- Thurs., 12** - The 26th annual Anita Hill Party (see [page 15](#))
- Thurs., 19** - PPL Christina Goodwin on How Social Media can help the League (& you)
- Sun., 22** - AAUW Panel on Public Education and \$\$\$ at 2:30 PM (see [page 14](#))

November

- Sat., 4** - Public Meeting on Redistricting at 701 Whaley
- Tue., 7** - General Election Day municipal elections
- Thurs., 16** - PPL John Ruoff on how redistricting and voter access issues deserve attention NOW

December

- Fri., 1** - Fund Raiser and celebration of Sarah's Birthday, 6 PM at Laurel Suggs's house



ALSO INSIDE:

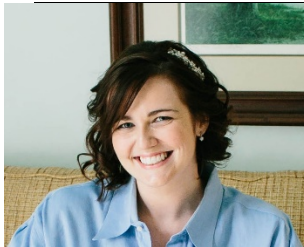
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OCTOBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON



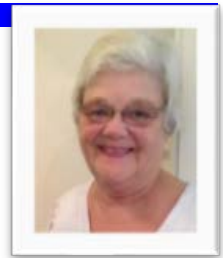
Presentation of the new League Facebook Project
Christina Goodwin, Web Master
Thursday October 19, 2017 – 11:45 AM
LOURIE CENTER – PARK CIRCLE (AT PICKENS & BLOSSOM STREETS)



Christina Goodwin, our web master, will present the new League project to use Facebook to get the League's message out to the public. We'll discuss sharing posts, engagement, and fostering dialogues on social media, including a few tips.

Members will also brainstorm strategies for getting the vote out, and how to boost participation in the November 7 elections and beyond. Be ready to put your thinking caps on and come up with ways to encourage voter participation in the primaries. Separate tables will be set up to discuss ideas and strategies, and each will have a note keeper, time keeper, and reporter to share ideas at the end of the meeting.

All are welcome, but reservations for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, October 18, 2016.
Cost of lunch: \$10.00
(Attendees may bring a lunch)
Please RSVP to Susan James: sc.susanbjames@gmail.com
or call 256-6822

FROM THE RIVER'S EDGE*Janelle Rivers*

FROM THE RIVER'S EDGE: THE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION IN A TIME OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD: *Like waves on the beach, issues and concerns seem to come crashing toward us one after another. Every day the stories roll in about natural disasters; about ongoing political scandals, squabbles, and investigations; about changes in regulations that compromise the environment, the social safety net, and equality; about the costly abandonment of nuclear power plants; about local political corruption; about inadequate funding for much-needed health care.*

With so many important issues vying for our attention day after day, week after week, it's important to step back and take stock of what has happened nationally with issues that affect women directly.

The Erosion of Women's Rights: *Along with other League members, including Keller Barron and Marjorie Spruill, I recently attended a showing of the documentary *Equal Means Equal*, sponsored by the Charleston League of Women Voters on Women's Equality Day. This documentary provides a distressing but important record of the recent court decisions and regulatory changes which have eroded women's rights. (You can view the documentary via a variety of online sources, including YouTube and Amazon Prime.)*

*The erosion of women's rights so vividly presented in *Equal Means Equal* continues. For example, in early September the current administration rolled back the previous administration's requirement that businesses with more than 100 employees collect salary data by race, ethnicity and gender. Why does that seemingly little change matter? It matters because one way to hide a problem is to eliminate the data that prove it exists. If companies are not required to collect salary data by race, gender, and ethnicity, those companies could fail to recognize --or even choose to overlook--systematic differences in pay between groups of employees who are doing the same work. And if the data points are missing, researchers cannot conduct the*

studies that tell us—and our policy-makers—what is happening in our society.

*You can find another disturbing account of recent erosion of women's rights in Marjorie Spruill's recent book *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values that Polarized American Politics*. Marjorie explains how opponents defeated the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and how the same issues played out in last year's presidential election campaigns. The long history of the ERA movement and its ultimate failure is distressing but indicative of the problems the LWV is dedicated to solving. Almost two generations of women have reached voting age since the ratification period ended in 1982, causing the ERA to fail, only three states short of ratification. First introduced in 1923 and finally approved by the United States Senate in 1972, the proposed amendment states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Marjorie's analysis shows that despite what we might think, the issue of women's rights is far from settled. In fact, the strategies that were devised to defeat the ERA decades ago are operating again in today's politics.*

The Need to Pay Attention: *Your League of Women Voters is paying attention. And the League is actively working to counter the effects of the incremental erosion of rights. Nationally, the League is aware of and working on issues that affect women and citizens in general. At the state level, the League Board is actively advocating for changes that will improve the way state government functions. Locally, the Observer Corps and designated League members in Richland County and Lexington County are noticing and reporting on the actions of various county and city government groups.*

The LWV is paying attention and getting things done; however, we must continue to notice and respond appropriately.

The famous British psychiatrist, R.D. Laing, made an astute comment about noticing things. It is couched in quirky language that sounds almost like doublespeak, but its quirkiness, after you untangle it, actually makes his point more memorable. Here it is:

The range of what we think and do is limited by what we fail to notice. And because we fail to notice that we fail to notice, there is little we can do to change; until we notice how failing to notice shapes our thoughts and deeds.

Laing is warning us that taking appropriate action is completely dependent on our paying close attention to the issues that affect us. In an era of information overload, it helps to be a member of the League of Women Voters because the League is dedicated to paying attention to government and providing pertinent information to its members!

What You Can Do and Where You Can Find Information: *One extremely important way that League members can influence public policy at any level of government is to respond as individual citizens when receiving alerts from state or national League officers. Lawmakers take notice when large numbers of their constituents address an issue simultaneously. If you haven't already gone to www.lwv.org and signed up for national email updates and alerts, I hope you'll do that right away.*

The Columbia League posts current information and shares state League information and alerts at @LWVColumbiaSC. This is a new Facebook page, so please go there and "Like" the page to be sure you're connecting with state and local information.

Then act by making a phone call and leaving a message for your lawmakers when the League sends one of its carefully timed alerts. Remind your elected officials that you are one of their constituents and let them know that you're paying attention.

Finally, we're delighted to have more new members who've joined us since the August 24 social and meeting, and we want all members to know that we appreciate their involvement.

Please note that not a single item from the Summer Social or the last Public Policy Luncheon (plastic cups, utensils and paper plates) went into a landfill. Please keep up the good work and remember to sort your lunch cutlery.

Janelle Rivers

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OTHER NEWS

SEPTEMBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON RECAP:



Lynn Teague speaking to a capacity crowd about the failed V.C. Summer nuclear project.

Lynn Teague taking questions From the PPL attendees



If there is one thing that can make you go nuclear, it would be the headlines concerning the V.C. Summer nuclear plant: “Westinghouse files for bankruptcy”, “SCANA bosses get big bonuses”. “SCE&G customers may pay another \$2.2 Billion”.

Unfortunately, guest speaker Ron Aiken was not able to attend because a crucial meeting about the V.C. Summer project came up at the last minute. We had to settle for “better”, our own Lynn Teague. Lynn has worked closely with other concerned organizations and has been in touch with investigative journalists like Ron to figure out “what should be done now?” and “how can we make sure this doesn’t happen again?”

A little history of how we got here: It started in 2004, even before the idea of building the plant came to fruition. There was “reform” of the regulatory system, that ultimately helped lay the groundwork for disaster, through Act 175. In 2007, the Summer plant itself was planned and the Base Load Review Act (BLRA) was passed to permit a substantial transfer of risk from utility shareholders to consumers, and allowed utilities to recover their costs plus a substantial profit even if a plant was never completed. Everyone thought the V.C. Summer plant was a “good idea” because fracking for oil was not a big thing, natural gas was expensive and the Fukushima disaster was still on the horizon. In addition, there was little or limited opposition to the idea of a nuclear plant. In 2009, SCANA and SCE&G began what was supposed to be a \$9 billion project to build two reactors. Generous tax credits from the Feds also helped to paint a rosy picture.

The project ran into multiple delays, cost overruns, and Westinghouse, the prime contractor, filed for Chapter 11 protection in March of this year. In 2015, a Bechtel Report hired by the reactor owners exposed the many flaws in the project; e.g., sub-contractors were not capable of performing tasks they were assigned to do, and only seventeen people were responsible for monitoring such a large-scale project on behalf of the utilities. However, this report was kept secret from regulators, shareholders, and the public. For additional points of information, visit Ron Aiken’s website: <http://quorumcolumbia.org/2017/04/07/sceg-customers-paid-1-4b-unfinished-nuclear-reactors-2/> on this subject and other topics. Please note there is a fee to join. The State and the Post and Courier are also carrying excellent investigative journalism on this project.

The Base Load Review Act has allowed SCE&G to increase rates every year since the beginning of the project. Originally, as stated in today’s news, “paying during construction...save customers in the long run”. The newspaper also stated that SCANA’s net income grew each year, except for 2016, at a rate of approximately \$50 million each year. [Note: in 2009 the average price for 1000 kilowatt hours was \$114.68; today it is \$147.53.]

League member John Ruoff argued on behalf of another citizen organization against this bill before it became law.

Currently, federal and state investigations into the possibility of criminal activity, e.g., fraud and SEC violations, are taking place. Also, there is the possibility that Toshiba, Westinghouse's parent company, might be bought out by a Chinese company. This presents the danger of a "not so friendly" foreign power buying into both Japanese and American nuclear information.

SCE&G, Santee Cooper and energy co-op customers are already paying heavily for the financing costs of this project and are now being asked to cover much of the \$9 billion construction cost overrun (less a return from Westinghouse parent company, Toshiba, and some allowances related to taxes) for a hole in the ground. I know this is personal, but I could have done better with a bucket and a shovel at the beach. At least, I would have had "fun"!

If you wish to do more, please attend the Senate hearing on October 11. Check your emails for updates. Pamela Craig

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LWV Observer Corps at Columbia City and Richland County Council meeting September 19 2017

Missy Caughman was in attendance at the County Council meeting (in her official capacity with the City) and Allison Terracio also attended.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY was September 26. Jane Emerson, Lady Jane and Bruce Cole, Angela Everett, and Cheryl Sigmon "caught" voters in the Columbia Transit Center from 4:30 to 6:30 PM as they caught the COMET buses. We also registered voters and changed addresses while riding the 6 AM #26 bus to Lexington Medical Center (Alicia Myhrer, Julie Sellers, Margaret Anne DuBose), the 7:10 AM #28 to Midlands Tech Airport Campus (Lill Mood, Susan Cirulli, Imani Byas, Margaret Anne DuBose), and the 3:00 PM #28 (Robin Dean, Anita Easter, and Gladys Coles).

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ANOTHER VOTER REGISTRATION SUCCESS: Lill Mood spoke to the School Improvement Council at Chapin High School, of which she is a member, thanking the school for our warm welcome to register voters on school registration day. She told them that although we registered some students and parents, helped some with address changes, and told others how to register online, we thought a more focused approach would be a better investment of time. Her proposal that we work with Assistant Principal Tom Price to plan with

teachers to incorporate voter registration in the required senior course in government was met with enthusiastic support. She said we would provide registration information and materials and would participate in the classroom registration exercise if that would be helpful. We agreed that spring would be the time more seniors would be of voting age, and we will put the plan in place then. She will follow up with Mr. Price.

She also spoke with a senior at Spring Hill High School about the possibility of a similar plan there and the senior thought it was a great idea. Debbie Dickinson, Sharon Ayling, and Margaret Anne DuBose met with Dean Crepes on September 13, 2017. He has been the Director of the Lexington County Commission of Registration and Elections since 2003. We had a wonderful, wide-ranging discussion about voting in Lexington County. Our purpose was to introduce ourselves and to inform him about our September 26, 2017 National Voter Registration Day events at Midlands Tech and on the COMET bus line.

On September 22 or 23, Mr. Crepes said, SCVotes.org will have the sample ballots for voters in the numerous towns in Lexington County having municipal elections on November 7, 2017. There are also elections scheduled for Gilbert town council and Lexington School Board 4 on October 17, 2017. Summit and Pelion have cancelled local elections because there were no contested elections, and Mr. Crepes said it costs towns \$600 to \$800 to open the polls. The timing of elections is governed by Title 7 of the SC Code [<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/title7.php>]. Only voters who have voted in the last two general elections are on the voter rolls in Lexington County; voters must vote a provisional ballot if they are not on the active rolls.

Mr. Crepes urged us to use social media to get the word out about the local elections since most younger voters do not read newspapers; we need to let people know that one vote can make a difference.

He will have in-person absentee voting available during office hours, and he is already taking requests for absentee ballots. He will do his best to help a homeless person register on a case-by-case basis if they can provide their full name, social security number and contact phone number. Margaret Anne B. DuBose, Director, Voter Participation.



Check out our LWV volunteers hard at work, making a difference on the following page:



Dean Crepes, Lexington Elections Office Director, Law Student, Simone Holloway, and Margaret Anne Dubose, LWV Registration Chair



Jane Durieux, and Lill Mood helping Students register



LWV Volunteers Sharon Ayling, Jane Durieux, Jean Prothro, Lill Mood



Dean Crepes, Director of the Lexington County Elections Office advises LWV volunteers Jane Durieux, Rosemary Greco, Law Student Simone Holloway, and Jean Prothro at MTC's Airport Campus.



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THE COMET ACADEMY is an opportunity for citizens to become more informed and able to advocate for public transit in our community. The first class recently "graduated" and their enthusiasm is resulting in great interest from other individuals, civic groups, and governmental entities in participating in round two! I am eager for LWV to participate and hope that interested members will complete the simple application below. The investment is of your time. The limits of acceptance are largely space--an ideal group of 15. Other classes will come later; two per year are planned.

For more than 125 years there has been mass transit in Columbia. In that time there has been change, turmoil, progress, regression and more progress. An agency once run on electric trolleys and funded by the public utility is now a public bus system with a dedicated funding source and a bright future but still has many challenges ahead. At the academy you will learn about how we are financed, structured, operated; how we serve our existing passengers and cultivate new ones; how we adapt our services to a changing community without ignoring those who have been with us for generations, and much more.

The academy will run for eight consecutive Mondays beginning October 16, from 5:50pm to 8:00pm, following the tentative schedule shown below. If you would like to participate, please complete the very short application at: <https://goo.gl/forms/Ulkpg08ihHn2NwY23>

<p>Class I (Oct 16) 1.Introductions 2.Governance with The COMET attorney Frannie Heizer from McNair Lawfirm 3.Board of directors member panel discussion</p>	<p>Class II (Oct 23) 1.Getting around with a disability 2.Travel training: planning a trip for class 3 3.Civil Rights a.History of bus boycotts b.Americans with Disabilities Act c.FTA obligations: Title VI and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises</p>	<p>Class III (Oct 30) The passenger experience. Ride routes 6 and 101.</p> <p>Class IV (Nov 6) 1.Agency structure 2.Facility Tour 3.Contract operator (operations, maintenance, safety, paratransit)</p>	<p>Class V (Nov 13) 1.Passenger Panel 2.Community Outreach 3.The Commuter Challenge</p> <p>Class VI (Nov 20) 1.Grants and Finance 2.The Penny 3.Loading wheelchairs and bicycles on buses</p>	<p>Class VII (Nov 27) 1.Transit History 2.Planning</p> <p>Class VIII (Dec 4) 1.Driver Panel 2.Class recap</p>
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**SAVE THE DATE**

On December 1, 2017, we will wish Sarah Leverette a Happy Birthday. Sarah, at 98 years young, and a member of our Columbia League for over 50 years. The party will be held at the home of Laurel Suggs (daughter of Barbara Moxon), 401 Trenholm Rd, Columbia, starting at 6:00 PM. Laurel's home was presented in the July/August 2012 edition of Columbia-Metro Magazine. <http://columbiametro.com/Columbia-Metro/July-August-2012/Home-Again/>

In lieu of gifts, Sarah would like for you to donate to the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area (LWVCA). A dollar for each birthday year would be nice, but all gifts will be accepted. If you would like your gift to be tax deductible, please add "EF" (Education Fund) to the abbreviation.



THE STORY OF SARAH: In 1943, Sarah was the only woman in her graduating law class at USC. Two other women had graduated ahead of her. The two women who started with her dropped out, leaving Sarah to blaze her trail alone, and that was just the beginning. She continued by becoming one of the first female faculty members at USC's law school and by serving as commissioner and chairwoman of the S. C. Industrial Commission (now known as the Workers' Compensation Commission). S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Costa Pleicones has described Sarah as "a beacon of credibility and knowledge." If these few sentences are not enough to describe her amazing career, then consider the fact that she still works as a real estate agent because she finds retirement is boring.

Those of us who face opposition today probably can't and wouldn't want to imagine what type of opposition Sarah faced ALONE. She said, "When I finished law school, I knew the door was closed (to women in law). I didn't know it was locked." Sarah spent 25 years

working as a law librarian and teaching legal research and writing at USC's law school. I.S. Leevy Johnson--the first black member of the class of 1968, later to serve as president of the S.C. Bar--and Jean Toal--the first woman to serve as chief justice of the S.C. Supreme Court--are just two students who crossed her path while blazing their own trails.

For more than 60 years, Sarah has had a dedicated commitment to the League of Women Voters. Sarah found the League to be an effective place to advocate for those things she had always valued: an educated electorate, fair government and women's equality. Sarah says, "A law degree prepares you for life.... You have a sense of fair play and compassion."

Let us count our blessings by adding to Sarah's. A dollar for each birthday year would be nice, but all gifts will be appreciated.

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STRONG EFFORTS CONTINUE NATIONALLY & LOCALLY TO REDUCE CARBON

EMISSIONS: Last year the National LWV said (about a U.S. House Resolution opposing a carbon tax): "The resolution declares that a carbon tax would be" 'detrimental to American families and businesses and is not in the best interest of the United States.' "This resolution is the latest example of climate action denial being advanced by extreme members of the House of Representatives. The sponsors of the resolution have no plan to address climate change and have opposed every proposal to do something about the planet's gravest environmental problem. Many of them don't even accept the scientific fact that climate change is occurring."

"At a time when the American taxpayer is already paying to move vulnerable American communities to higher ground because of climate-driven sea level rise, we have no time to waste on empty resolutions that seek to take potential climate solutions off the table."

The Citizens Climate Lobby Columbia Chapter, which has LWV Columbia area supporters and is co-chaired by Chester Sansbury, is continuing its strong, active push to help achieve a goal of reducing substantial reductions in carbon based energy consumption and transforming our society to cleaner energy. At its Columbia Chapter meeting on September 16, Casey Brayton, a Ph.D. student at USC, gave an update on her efforts to get more USC students involved in climate change issues. She also mentioned her studies at the Scripps Institute in San Diego this summer and her research on "pop ups", or upwelling of deep ocean waters, in the Antarctic, which affect sea ice. She is also involved with organizing clubs on campus and getting students to register to vote. In addition, she is involved in efforts to get the USC President to join other university presidents to support a carbon fee and dividend proposal. This is what she said in a letter published in the USC student newspaper: "Climate change denial is linked more closely with political identity than it is with the individual's level of scientific knowledge." And this: "Earth is sick and in trouble, and we need to let people know. Scientists should shout the facts so loudly from

the rooftops that it drowns out all other noise from below. Harvey and Irma show that human lives may depend on it.”

Benton Wizlinski, a contractual lobbyist with the Sierra Club, gave an update on issues related to the halting of construction of the nuclear plants in Fairfield County and the ongoing review of the issue at the S.C. General Assembly. He said this is an opportunity to promote green energy. He explained the Sierra Club’s Clean Energy 100 program and encouragement of clean energy efforts of cities, including those of Columbia, and Mayor Steve Benjamin’s active role in this effort. Here is an excellent link to information about the effort:

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2017/06/new-sierra-club-report-transitioning-cities-100-clean-renewable-energy-will>

Attendees signed a letter to Congressman Joe Wilson asking him to join the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus and to oppose President Trump’s actions to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord.

Meanwhile, Senator Lindsey Graham recently said that he supports a tax on carbon. However, he has not provided any details about his position.

The CCL Columbia Chapter also has a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/citizensclimatelobbycolumbiascchapter/>

ChesterSansbury

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AAUW PRESENTS PUBLIC EDUCATION AND \$\$\$ Panel Discussion: Past, Present, & Future

Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 2:30 PM--Lexington County Main Library, Augusta Road (right off exit 58 of I-20).

Confirmed Panelists: Bernadette Hampton, S.C. Education Association; Kathy Maness, Palmetto State Teachers Association; Debra Knight, Chair of Lexington 1 School Board; Emily Heatwole, Director of Communications and Governmental Relations, S.C. Department of Education.

We will also be collecting for birthdays in a box for Children's Garden in Columbia. Vanilla cake mixes, vanilla frosting, candles, birthday favors for toddlers (hats, etc.), birthday banners, cupcake holders, sprinkles, birthday wrapping paper, etc. Questions? Email Anne Mellen, co-President, at annemellen@yahoo.com.

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JOURNALIST AND WRITER JARED YATES SEXTON will speak at the University of South Carolina at 6 pm, Wednesday, October 11, Williams-Brice (Nursing Bldg) room 127.

His recently released book, *The People Are Going to Rise Like the Waters Upon Your Shore: A Story of American Rage* (Counterpoint 2017), is being compared to classic political works by Hunter S. Thompson and Norman Mailer. “The book is a chilling account of his cross-country tour covering the 2016 presidential election” (Publishers Weekly) and “essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how and why our country turned on itself” (Bronwen Dickey).

Sexton rose to prominence as a political commentator after he became one of the first journalists to attend Trump campaign rallies. His live tweets from the notoriously divisive rallies garnered thousands of followers as well as death threats, harassment, and campaigns to get him fired from his university job. He is an associate professor of creative writing at Georgia Southern University. His political writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *The Washington Post*, *Mother Jones*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere.

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ANNUAL ANITA HILL PARTY: Mark your calendars for October 12 and look for more information. Tell us you're coming on our [Facebook page](#), check out the sponsors – who include your friends -- and invite other friends by sharing the event. Known as South Carolina's largest networking opportunity for women, it is also the longest-running event honoring Anita Hill for her courage in testifying against then U.S. Supreme Court nominee

Clarence Thomas before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991. The party is free thanks to the contributions of our hosts. We welcome your contributions at the door.

Join us as we broaden the event's mission to connect guests with non-profits that stand up for justice and equality through our new initiative, Connecting Community. The League will be one of the organizations featured at this year's party for people to volunteer/join to get involved in their community or politically, etc.

JoAnne Day

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MEMBERS' CORNER

COMMITTEE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS MET ON 9-17-17. Pictured are Keller Barron, Allison Terrace, Marianne McGrath, and Susan James



Welcome

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

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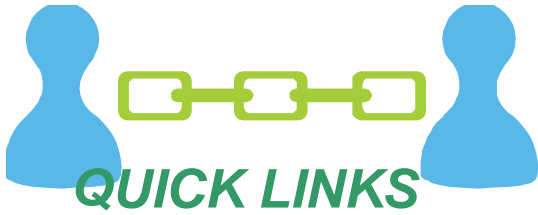
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Websites:

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:

@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 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

