

Co-President's Message

It is official -- we are now the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties, LWVOP. And Anderson is now an official MAL (member at large) unit. We don't yet have our official logo, so this issue of the Voter is still under our Clemson Area name.



Ruth Reed

Maybe we should focus our December meeting on a "big reveal"!

Local elections are set for November 2. Check Vote411 to learn what elections are in your area. We are planning forums for the town of Central and the city of Seneca. I realize that we need to start planning NOW for next year. And we need lots of input!

If you are willing to help, email Linda Gahan or me. If you would like to observe a forum, plan to attend the Central forum (in person with plenty of space to spread out, masks available) or Seneca (not in person, plans still incomplete as I write). Candidate forums are a League trademark; let's go all out next year!

And the final "big deal": The *Post and Courier* published (Oct. 4) a favorable editorial on the League redistricting maps. I feel especially privileged to have been privy to the major effort of member **Matt Saltzman** on redistricting since I joined the League over three years ago.

I hope you all pay particular attention to Matt's call for us to focus on redistricting in Oconee and Pickens counties, and please be sure to check out all the interesting scheduled programming in our newsletter calendar on the following page.

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Clemson Area
Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties

P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633
www.lwvclemsonarea.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5 at 4:30 pm:	Monthly meeting of Pickens County Board of Elections Commission
October 19 at 10:30 am:	New member orientation by Zoom
October 19 at 7:00 pm:	LWVOP Monthly meeting by Zoom on Home Rule
October 21 at 6:30 pm:	In person Candidate Forum for Central Town Council/Mayor, Cannon Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Central
October 21	Candidate Forum for Pendleton Town Council (sponsored by LWV Anderson MAL)
November 3 at 5:00 pm:	Dinner at Our Daily Rest homeless shelter in Seneca; meal prepared by Oconee LWV members
November 2:	Election Day for municipalities in Pickens/Oconee Counties except Clemson
November 4 at 10:00 am:	Quarterly meeting of Oconee Election Commission
November 4:	Monthly meeting of Pickens County Board of Elections Commission following Board of Canvassers Meeting beginning at 12:55pm.
November 16 at 7:00:	LWVOP Monthly meeting by Zoom - Conversation with State Legislators
November 23 at 5:00 pm:	LWVOP Board Meeting by Zoom
December	Holiday party

Upcoming Candidate Forums

Candidate Forums for Offices of Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Central

Date and Time:

Thursday, 21 October 2021

6:30 pm (3 Mayoral candidates); approximately 7:30 pm (five Council candidates)

Place: Cannon Memorial Church Fellowship Hall, 120 Pepper St., Central, South Carolina

Candidates for Mayor:

Andrew Beckner

Rosa Grayden

Mac Martin

Candidates for Town Council:

Kim Allen

Paige Hudson Bowers

Ken Dill

Daniel Evatt

L.C. Hayes, Jr.

Why Vote?

Have you decided who you will vote for on November 2?

Municipal elections in Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson counties this year will determine many of the people who make our local laws. See the list on the previous page.

Among the issues decided locally are recycling, garbage collection, fees for water, where to put landfills, street paving, street lighting, parking, zoning, and more. The issues that most affect our daily lives are decided by local officials. Each vote cast locally is also more influential than in any other elections. Our vote is just one of millions in a presidential election but may be the deciding vote in a small local election.

The web page Vote411.org lists candidates in your area. (You need to enter your address so that Vote411 can find your candidates.) Vote411.org is provided by the League of Women Voters. Every candidate has been given the opportunity to answer questions about why they are running and what they hope to accomplish if elected.

Mark November 2 on your calendar and vote.

Submitted by Alice Flower
Chair, Vote411

Home Rule

Our October 19th (7:00 pm) meeting will host **Holley Ulbrich** about Home Rule. This term refers to the degree of autonomy granted to local governments (city and county councils and school boards). If your question is "How much home rule do we have in South Carolina?," the answer is "Not much, and not enough." Think Heritage Act, plastic bags, hog farms, property tax restrictions, and appointments to county boards and commissions by the legislative delegation.

The League has long standing positions on home rule, and for people who can't find it in the Program and Action Agenda on the LWVSC web site, the new edition changes the title of the section called Local Government to Local Government and Home Rule. Look at that before we meet.

WE ARE NOW THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES

At its September meeting, the LWVUS Board of Directors approved our League's name and boundary change request. LWV of Clemson Area is now LWV of Oconee and Pickens Counties.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Learning Opportunities for October

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are not simply buzzwords, they are commitments to our organizational mission. Our local chapter is fortunate to have access to the Gantt Multicultural Center at Clemson as we continue to seek opportunities to promote education, enlightenment, and discussion around this topic. Here is a sampling of October events and learning opportunities available through the Center:

Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month

September 15th – October 15th

The Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month Celebration was created with a desire to educate and heighten awareness about this rich culture.

Noche de Gala

Saturday, October 16th at 7:00pm at the Madren Center

Close out the month with a night of food, dancing, awards, and community! Join our closing celebration in this event as we celebrate not only the end of this heritage month but also all the wonderful people and cultures that make up the Hispanic/Latinx community. Tickets on sale through Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/noche-de-gala-tickets-166353829783?aff=ebdsoporgprofileor>) or at the door. \$15 for presale; \$20 at the door.

Contact **Amanda Arroyo** at aarroyo@clemson.edu with questions.

National Coming Out Week

October 4th – 15th

National Coming Out Week is a week of celebration for the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual) community at Clemson, with a particular focus on the coming out process.

Keynote by **Mariah Parker**

Wednesday, October 6th from 7:00pm-9:00pm via Zoom, Register here:

<https://forms.gle/FuwLFpHTbCQEcEDh7>

Mariah Parker is the District 2 Commissioner in Athens, Georgia, and a doctoral candidate in Language and Literacy Education at UGA. According to *Teen Vogue* and her commission profile, she "is black, openly queer, a rapper, and dedicated to transformative politics for communities of color." She has also toured internationally as a performing artist. She leads literacy workshops on hip hop, spoken word, and civic engagement at local schools. Sponsored by the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

C-SAGA (Clemson Sexuality and Gender Alliance) National Coming Out Week Festival

Friday, October 15th from 3:00pm-6:00pm at the Carillion Gardens

Come out to the Carillion Gardens and celebrate National Coming Out Day! Join us for a day of arts, crafts, photos, food, and more! Everyone is welcome! Sponsored by Clemson University Sexuality and Gender Alliance.

Contact **Kim Carter** at kec2@clemson.edu with questions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Learning Opportunities Continued

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

The Accessibility Commission is celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Keynote by **Mariah Parker**

Wednesday, October 20th at 5:00pm on Zoom,

Register here: <https://www.clemson.edu/accessibility/learn/ndeam.html>

As part of Clemson University's NDEAM 2021 Keynote Speaker Series: **Dr. Clare Mullaney**, Disability Rhetorics Professor at CU, will present an introduction to the field of disability studies, which has gained a growing presence in college and university classrooms as well as disability cultural centers on several campuses. In 1986, the Section for the Study of Chronic Illness, Impairment, and Disability of the Social Science Association was renamed the Society for Disability Studies. Following nearly twenty years of disability activism, "disability" began to take on new meaning in the context of academic scholarship. Detached from doctors' offices, hospitals, and government paperwork, disability was no longer considered an individual flaw but was reframed as a social and cultural experience. The conversation will consider the emergence of disability studies in the past to chart its future: "From Activism to the Academy: A History of Disability Studies."

"Autism at Work: Taking an Organizational Perspective"

Wednesday, October 27th at 12:00pm on Zoom,

Register here: <https://www.clemson.edu/accessibility/learn/ndeam.html>

As part of CU's NDEAM 2021 "Lunch and Learn Series," **Dr. Tim Vogus**, Professor of Management & Director of the Frist Center for Autism at Vanderbilt University, will offer insights from organizational research and practice in leading organizations regarding how to make organizations more inclusive of neurodiversity. There will be a specific focus on understanding and transforming organizational culture. He will also describe technologies being developed by the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation at Vanderbilt University that helps build skills and overcome some of the barriers to identifying, hiring, and retaining a neurodiverse workforce.

Registration is required to attend these virtual events. Captioning will be provided, but if you require additional accommodations, please contact **Priscilla Harrison** (priscih@clemson.edu).

Website: clemson.edu/centers-institutes/Gantt

Email: CUGantt@clemson.edu

Phone: 864-656-7625

Submitted by Carolyn Bishop-McLeod

National Voter Registration Day

Working with CLEMSON VOTES was a good experience on National Voter Registration Day. Using Democracy in Action online registration cards we registered 20 people and using paper registrations, we registered 3. For 3 hours I answered questions and encouraged students to show up at the polls. We were told not to bring a crowd of people, so I went by myself.

In the past we have been able to use the Cooper Library bridge but there is construction going on. Unfortunately, we did not have the traffic that the bridge has but they did provide me with a wonderful parking spot which I had never had before. We were located on the Horseshoe way right outside Vickery Hall. Hopefully, the LWVCA can speak to and register the Clemson football team members who have not yet had that opportunity. I suppose they are rather busy right now, however.



Given the construction project and the pandemic, it was a successful day.

In addition to the work at Clemson, seven high school students in Oconee County and seventeen students in Pickens County were registered by League volunteers: **Ansley Fraser, Ruth Reed, Becky Jo Clark, and Cynthia Warner.**

In League, Cheryl Lee

Your Membership Matters

Local, State and National Membership League of Women Voters

21-22 DUES (same as last year)

\$60 Primary Membership

\$30 Additional Household Membership

\$10 Student Membership

Ways to Pay Your 21-22 LWVCA Dues

-Mail a check to PO Box 802 Clemson, SC 29633.

-Send a Bill Pay payment through your bank or credit card.

-Pay with PayPal through our website.

-For other options or questions, phone a board member or send an email to LWVclemson@gmail.com



South Carolina Election System Legislation: A Conversation with Senator Rex Rice

Concern and confusion about two bills related to the South Carolina election system led my husband, **Ken**, and me to talk with our **State Senator, Rex Rice**. We met in the Pickens County Delegation Office in Easley on September 16, 2021.

Our initial question was less about bill content and more about motivation of Legislators to write these bills. Senator Rice said the two bills might be “companion” bills, H3444 originating in the House, and S0499, with Senator Rice as a sponsor, originating in the Senate. Since both bills deal with the South Carolina election system, how it is structured and goes about its business, and not with the policies that affect voters such as absentee balloting, we wondered if Legislators are concerned about the integrity of the state’s election system. Senator Rice affirmed the system works well. His major concern is the need to purge voter rolls which include people who have died, moved, and so forth.

Allowing the Senate more control over State and County Election Offices and Commissioners seems to be the primary concern of Legislators. Currently, State and County Election Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, following a vetting process. Under both H3444 and S0449, the Governor’s appointments would receive additional vetting by the Senate. Senator Rice believes this Senate “advice and consent” process would ensure greater Commission system accountability. (It is unclear how this would work at the county level, but the Legislation allows for the South Carolina Election Commission to implement new policies and procedures at the county level.)

Where are the two bills now? Senator Rice stated that S0499 passed the Senate and was sent to the House Judiciary Committee late in the spring session. Following modifications that included language from S0499, H3444 went from the Senate to the House where Senator Rice said it will probably be voted on by the full House in early 2022. He commented that it might need to go to Conference Committee to work out more realistic dates included in the bill and perhaps a few other items.

The bills also deal with replacement of the current South Carolina Election Commissioners once the legislation is passed. Senator Rice indicated that doesn’t mean that current Commissioners would be terminated, per se, but they would need to resign, reapply, and go through additional vetting by the Senate as required in the new law. (Will the same procedure be required at the county level?)

Senator Rice also said that he thinks the same or similar guidelines that were issued by the South Carolina Election Commission for the 2020 election will be used for future elections. He doesn’t support “early voting,” but does believe that absentee voting is an important tool to encourage participation.

Senator Rice indicated he got involved in politics in the 1980s and his commitment grew as he canvassed his neighborhoods and saw that the well-being of citizens was not improving from one generation to the next. People were born into poverty and died in poverty. He has two cell phone numbers on his card and said he is available to anyone, even at 6 PM on a Friday night! Cell: 864.616.5657, Cell/text: 864.884.0408, rexriceSouthCarolinasenate@gmail.com

Submitted by Janet and Ken Marsh

<i>Clemson City Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Pickens County School Board</i>	<i>4th Monday, 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Seneca City Council</i>	<i>2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Oconee County School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Pickens County Council</i>	<i>1st Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Anderson Co. School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Oconee County Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		
<i>Anderson County Council</i>	<i>2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		

Contribution Form

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area LWVCA, P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Phone (opt) _____

_____ I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

_____ I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters Ed Fund" which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

_____ I wish to support the League's action priorities. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters" and is not tax-deductible.

Visit our website at www.lwvclemsonarea.org and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

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