



# THE VOTER

February 2019, Vol. 46 No. 2

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

## Guest Message

I think it is safe to say that the environment is extremely important to the citizens of South Carolina. Our beautiful mountains, pristine lakes and beaches bring us joy and help our economy thrive. The Governor brought a smile to my face this past month when he said in his State-of-the-State address that there will be no seismic testing nor drilling off the shore of South Carolina.



**Patty Warner**

LWVSC is strongly opposed to off-shore drilling and supports a Clean Power plan. Our state is moving forward with a positive agenda for clean energy that will bring even more jobs to the State and keep moving toward more modern energy-producing methods. For this legislative session, excitement centers on two companion omnibus solar energy bills:

H.3659 - The SC Energy Freedom Act and S.332 - The SC Clean Energy Access Act /SC Electric Consumer Bill of Rights. Both bills have bi-partisan legislative support, and both are backed by the corporate and conservation focus of the "100 Day Clean Energy Agenda" plan.

This omnibus solar, reform and energy independence act will be a landmark in more choice, more jobs and lower electric bills! Filing the bills was accompanied with a 100 Day Clean Energy Rally at the State House. Please support these House and Senate bills by contacting your legislators.

For more information regarding these and other bills, track legislation at this site: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/>.

*Submitted by Patty Warner*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guest Message  
Calendar of Events  
Preview of February Meeting –  
Artificial Intelligence  
New Member Bio  
Review of January Meeting  
Why Should We Care about  
Cyber-warfare?  
Recap of LEAD Day  
January Program Planning Meeting

### 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](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

### OFFICERS:

Ansley Fraser, Co-President  
Linda Gahan, Co-President  
Rosellen Alequire, Secretary  
Bill Hare, Treasurer

### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Mike Ellison  
Cheryl Lee  
Janet Marsh  
Cece Parker  
Ruth Reed  
Elizabeth Vogt  
Patty Warner

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Eleanor Hare

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Carol Kozma, Janet Marsh, Ruth Reed,  
Janie Shipley, and Carol Ward

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday, February 1, 2019-  
Thursday, February 28, 2019**

**Black History Month**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019  
7:15 p.m., OLLI**

**General Meeting. Artificial Intelligence**

**Friday, March 1, 2019-  
Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**Women's History Month**

**Saturday, March 16, 2019  
5:30-7:30 pm, Mill Creek Lodge**

**WINE TASTING. Hors d'oeuvres by League  
members  
\*\*\*See Information Below**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019  
7:15 p.m., OLLI**

**General Meeting. Immigration. Keith Ray**

*Mill Creek Lodge: 541 Pike Road, Central, South Carolina  
OLLI: 100 Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631*

**Saturday, March 16, 2019, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mill Creek Lodge 541 Pike Road, Central, 29630**

**Hors d'oeuvres by League Members \$30 per person - or - \$100 for 4 people**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CLEMSON AREA**

**Promoting Good Government One Ounce at a Time**

**Invite a friend!**

**Join Us for a Wine Tasting Fundraiser**

**RSVP: Fran Rundlett frundlet@bellsouth.net or 864-638-5903 by March 14th**

## Preview of February Meeting – Artificial Intelligence

The phrase “artificial intelligence” is often inaccurately applied, but the nascent technology, whatever it is, is becoming ubiquitous. It’s being deployed in health care and warfare, making music and books, evaluating individual job applicants and credit worthiness, and adjusting the photos taken with your smart phone camera. At the present AI is making decisions that affect your life whether you like it, or know it, or not. [The State of AI in 2019, James Vincent, theverge.com, 2019/1/28]

The phrase “artificial intelligence” is more appealing than “machine learning” but the latter is more descriptive of the current state of affairs (at least insofar as the readily available popular information asserts). Using some of the tenets of evolutionary biology, genetic algorithms enable machine learning by empowering the associated program to learn by choosing between a set of possibilities and evaluating the relative level of success of the outcomes.

“In evolutionary computation, AI programmers have incorporated an organism-like procedure in the evolution of design. They provide the computers with a range of options in solving problems; then let them select and modify the available procedures to be followed. By this means the machines have come to resemble bacteria and other simple one-celled organisms.” Excerpt From: E. O. Wilson Consilience via Apple Books. From First Vintage Books Edition, April 1999, Copyright © 1998 by Edward O. Wilson.

The quote from 1998 reflects the state of affairs at that time. There has undoubtedly been much progress. How much? We lay citizens are not sure of the degree to which AI has advanced. Somethings are clear. It has eased into our lives in Alexa and Siri, in autonomous automobiles, and more. Recognition and identification of human faces, for example, is already in place, as many news articles will attest. As **Max Tegmart** puts it in the book *Life 3.0*, knowing the current extent and projected power of AI may comprise “the most important discussion of our time.”

But in order to have this critical discussion, we must allow our biological minds to learn what AI is. In my talk I will present an initial exploration of the topic from the perspective of an educated layperson.



**At left: New members gathered with some of the Membership Team for an orientation to the League on November 27th. Starting on the left and going around the table are: John Dyar\*, Janet Marsh, Norma Budke\*, Brad Russell\*, Ann Russell, Ansley Frazer, Pat Moynihan\*, Ann Fuhr and Mac Wood\*. Those with an “\*” are new members.**

## New Member Bio



**Kathy Barger**

**Kathy Barger** is a “Georgia Cracker” from Atlanta; however, she has been in Clemson “forever” (since the early 70’s). At Clemson University she worked in the Registrar’s Office, the Chicken Pathology Lab and in Dairy Science. She then took classes to become a pre-school teacher at Code Elementary in Seneca where she enjoyed teaching for eighteen years. She has been active in Oconee County political events and her favorite pastime: Pickle Ball. Besides her affection for the sport, she also enjoys being grandma to three, soon to be four, granddaughters.

Kathy became a member because “things like bills in the South Carolina Legislature, local and state issues, and the League’s positions are explained.”

## Review of the January General Meeting

The new year at the League is off to a terrific start with a compelling presentation by **Daniel Warner**, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Clemson and the Conservation Chair of the Foothills Group of the Sierra Club. In his talk entitled, “Climate Change and the Positive Outlook for 2019,” Professor Warner started with an historical look at climate change starting with the Industrial Revolution and the beginning of our widespread dependence on coal and moving through the centuries to the present-day damage.

Just when it seemed all hope is lost, Dr. Warner switched gears and gave us the good news: the hole in the ozone layer is closing up; there have been no new investments in coal; and great strides are being made globally with wind and solar power. Even though our President has tried to withdraw from the Paris Accord, individual states are working to comply with the goals set forth by the Accord.

Dr. Warner ended the talk by encouraging us to form our own chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby. The presentation was compelling, informative and, in the end, hopeful.

*Submitted by Mary Tavalacci*

**Make Democracy Work! Observe a County or City Council or Commission.  
Your presence speaks volumes.**

## Why Should We Care about Cyber-warfare?

A Review of *The Perfect Weapon* by David E. Sanger

Most Americans have little awareness of the constant silent warfare that is carried out over the internet. Our government rarely acknowledges attacks on us. When they do acknowledge a specific attack, the news media does not understand how it fits into the overall picture. The result is an uninformed public. Some of the most devastating attacks have been:

- Iran's centrifuges were disabled by a "worm" that periodically caused centrifuges to spin out of control and explode. The Iranians did not know if they were witnessing bad design or cyber-attack until evidence indicated it was a joint effort of the US and Israel.
- Russia attacked the election in Ukraine, wiping out data in the system that tallied votes and substituting their own numbers in the system that reported to the media. The attack was discovered and corrected. Unaware that the hack had been caught, Russian media published the hacked results. Ukraine uses paper ballots.
- Russia attacked the electricity grid in Ukraine – twice. Ukraine is far less dependent on electricity for daily lives (cell phones, credit cards, banking, etc.) than the US. After the first attack, Ukraine was able to use the electricity grid without computer controls. Similar attacks in the US would be far more disruptive. Code implants similar to those used in Ukraine have been found in US utilities.
- North Korea stole \$81 million from the Central Bank of Bangladesh. They intended to steal \$1 billion, but someone at the New York Federal Reserve (through which transactions flow) noticed "foundation" misspelled as "fandation" and halted the transfer.
- China spent about a year in the files of the Office of Personnel as they quietly copied 21.5 million personnel records. Among the documents stolen were the 127-page background checks for secret and top-secret employees, allowing the identification of CIA operatives in foreign countries.
- Iran hacked Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, wiping the memories of 30,000 computers and 10,000 servers, destroying all digital contents. Communication with shipping terminals was disrupted. It took 5 months to undo the damage.
- Successful phishing (for passwords) allowed the Russians into the State Department unclassified email network. As the Russians were being removed from the State Department network, they invaded the unclassified servers at the White House, where removal was especially difficult.

Hidden from our view, Russia, North Korea, China, Israel, Iran, the US and other nations are constantly engaged in tit-for-tat attacks, implanting malware in any system they can access. Without agreement among countries there is danger of escalation into a military war. Cyber warfare needs rules that are agreed to by all countries and that specify what kind of attacks are forbidden.

*Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

**Shelia Crawford, Ruth Reed, Bill Hare, Linda Gahan and Eleanor Hare attended the Pickens County Delegation Public Meeting in Liberty on Jan. 7. Janie Shipley and Eleanor Hare spoke at the Oconee County Delegation meeting on Jan. 24. Bill Hare also attended. Ruth Reed, Bill Hare and Eleanor Hare attended the Pickens County Council meeting on Jan. 14.**



## Recap of LEAD Day in Columbia

**Holly Ulbrich** called the day to order and introduced the state board. She announced that there is a new League in Aiken, the thirteenth in the state. **Kate Kennedy**, the LWVUS development officer, and Emily Yost, her assistant, attended from National. Kate was recently elected to the city council of College Park, Maryland. She gave an impassioned talk on fundraising, emphasizing that this is an especially good time for it: currently, HR1, a new bill on governance reflects our primary mission and was sponsored by the League; women's issues are at the forefront of national attention; and the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage is eminent. Donations are up 20% due to our having a broader reach and deeper roots than other groups. Our main concerns are about voters.

Talking points:

- Educating: VOTE411 is already a big success.
- Protecting: we have "standing" when it comes to court cases.
- Mobilizing: work diligently at getting voters to the polls.

**At right: Matt Saltzman, Aleta Robinson, and Linda Gahan attended LEAD Day in Columbia.**



Fundraising is fun! It raises endorphins! She then asked us for money and asked us to ask others. The panel discussions were amazing. **Prof. John Holder** of Winthrop described the astounding changes in the demographics of Congress since the midterms, e.g., six states now have TWO female senators.

**Prof. Duncan Buell** of USC revealed the extent of South Carolina's "screwing up" of elections due to the abominable performance of current voting machine practices. The League is in favor of paper ballots which would be cheaper AND more accurate than computers. H3616 has been filed; it would require counting votes at the precinct. **Sen. Tom Alexander** and **Rep. Gary Clary** are in favor. South Carolina has an "excess of hubris and shortage of skepticism" when it comes to voting machines. Votes should be "cast as intended and counted as cast." The League's own **Barbara Zia** announced that our state's VOTE411 received 127,000 "hits" in 2018, mostly during the week before the election. A new and improved "platform" will launch soon.

**Lynn Teague** presented a legislative update. As always, she is on top of many issues; see the website for details on how to follow particular bills, which she reviews in her conference calls. A "late" lunch was no impediment to roundtable workshops where suggestions for improving our League were discussed and reported. The meeting was adjourned in a timely fashion.

*Submitted by Elizabeth ("Buzzy") Adams*

**IMPORTANT: Please call/write your SC legislators to support S.374 and H.3616.  
These bills provide for a paper ballot to be the ballot of record in our elections.**

## January 2019 Program Planning Meeting

The South Carolina League of Women Voters will generate positions for which its members will advocate and lobby; these positions will be presented at the state meeting on May 4-5, 2019. These positions come from input from each of the local leagues. The Clemson Area Board members and committee chairs for advocacy issues met to discuss changes to propose to the LWVSC Board. The issues themselves can be found online at [lwvsc.org](http://lwvsc.org) under Quick Links/Issues, then Action/League Action Issues. In-depth description of each issue can be found by clicking on the issue. What follows is a description of changes proposed for each issue. Motions were made and accepted by acclamation to retain each of the action items. Changes are summarized below.

**Child Welfare:** Add a review of funding for and administration of DSS with the goal of maximizing quality care for children. Funding includes governmental and nonprofit support. We should plan a program on DSS operation at the grassroots level (Anderson, Pickens, Oconee counties).

**Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice:** Add advocacy for completion of education and skills training for prisoners. Address drug addiction, drug court, other follow-up services to reduce recidivism.

**Education:** Add support for greater than 5% increase in teachers' salaries, incentives to teach in rural areas, reduction of student/teacher ratio, and reduction of college costs. Review regulation and funding of charter schools.

**Natural Resources:** Add advocacy for solar energy in SC, the "Sunshine State"; remove restrictions, increase awareness of job opportunities.

**Electoral Democracy:** Reword summary statement to clarify "voting equipment" to read "voting systems" throughout. When using Rank Choice Voting, the method (algorithm) for determining the winner must be clearly specified in advance. Supported purchasing only voting systems that include paper ballots as the official record. Maintain open primaries.

**Transportation:** Concern was expressed for traffic congestion on Hwy 123 in Clemson.

**Health Care:** Mental health should be explicitly included in the summary statement. Prescription drug costs and addiction treatment should be addressed. Place more focus on the right to an abortion under any circumstances and support organizations that provide abortions or information on abortion. These freedoms are under serious risk.

After consideration of the issues above, the group voted to retain the three top priorities as Redistricting, Voter Access and Ethics Reform. Collaborative areas voted on were women's reproductive choice, environmental issues including renewable energy, education funding, mental health and access to health care insurance.

*Submitted by Ruth Reed*

*Clemson City Council*      *1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm*  
*Seneca City Council*      *2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm*  
*Pickens County Council*      *1st Monday, 6:30 pm*  
*Oconee County Council*      *1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm*  
*Anderson County Council*      *2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm*

*Pickens County School Board*      *4th Monday, 7:00 pm*  
*Oconee County School Board*      *3rd Monday, 6:00 pm*  
*Anderson Co. School Board*      *3rd Monday, 6:00 pm*

### 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](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) and contact us at [lwvclemson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvclemson@gmail.com).

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