



# THE VOTER

March 2019, Vol. 46 No. 3

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

## Co-President's Message

You joined the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. Now, what? Membership in our organization is at an all-time high. People want to be better informed about the political process. People want to find out what is going on in this crazy world we live in. You have come to the right place because the League of Women Voters' mission



**Linda Gahan**

is to encourage active and informed participation in government. What does that mean?

First, we want to be educated on the issues, so we can advocate for policies we believe our local, state and national government should be pursuing in our best interests. League issues are many as we found out during state program planning in January. We have studied and formed positions on child welfare, juvenile and criminal justice, natural resources and the environment, education, state and local government, state and local taxation, transportation and health. Presently, state legislators are addressing how to reform education. Keep informed by reading and listening to the news. Read our education position on the LWVSC website. League monthly meetings are another source of information on the issues. Come to the meetings. Join the program committee to formulate next year's program agenda or submit a program idea to this committee. State meetings like LEAD held in January and the state convention that is scheduled for May 4 and 5 in Charleston are also great sources of information and an opportunity to exchange ideas. The LWVSC top action priority is redistricting and on March 12, **Dr. Anne Catilla** presented a program on "Beyond the Basics: The Math of Gerrymandering". The league publicized this meeting as a great opportunity to learn more. Finally, educate yourselves by attending a meeting of your local or county government or the school board. Here you will learn firsthand how your local officials are serving your needs.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Co-President's Message
- Calendar of Events
- Preview of March Meeting  
(Immigration)
- Proposed 2019-2020 Budget
- New Member Bios
- The Biennial LWVSC Convention
- Review of February Meeting  
(Artificial Intelligence)

### 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  
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, March 1, 2019-Sunday, March 31, 2019

Women's History Month

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

General Meeting. Immigration.  
Keith Ray will discuss the existing physical barriers along the U.S./Mexico border and the way the current wall has driven up deaths along the border.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 7:15 p.m.  
OLLI

General Meeting. Guns

Saturday, May 4, 2019-Sunday, May 5, 2019  
Charleston, SC

LWV of South Carolina Convention.

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 7 p.m.  
Location TBD

Annual Meeting. Barbara Zia - League History of Making a Difference and Recent Wins.

*OLLI 100 Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631*

## Preview of March 26 General Meeting – Immigration

**Keith Ray** is an English teacher at Greenville Early College, a program of Greenville County Schools. He previously served as a United Methodist pastor in South Carolina for twenty-nine years, before taking early retirement to teach lower income students. His most recent pastorate was Clemson United Methodist Church, where he served as senior pastor 2010 - 2018. He is a member of the board of directors of Colibrí Center for Human Rights in Tucson, AZ. Keith has also recently become a member of the League of Women Voters! Mr. Ray will talk about the existing physical barriers along the U.S./Mexico border and the way the current wall has driven up deaths along the border.

**Sarai Bautista** is a part-time DACA student at Tri-County Technical College. She is originally from Mexico and arrived in the United States when she was 11 years old. Now 28, her hope is to promote education about DACA recipients through the telling of her own personal story. She is super excited about graduating this spring with an Associate in Arts degree. She lives in Easley.

## Proposed 2019-2020 Budget

	<u>2018-19 Budget</u>	<u>2019-20 Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Dues	\$5,100	\$5,100
Member contributions	\$250	\$250
ED Fund contributions	\$1,000	\$600
Fundraising		
wine tasting	\$1,000	\$1,200
Non-member contributions	\$100	\$50
*Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000
Misc. (from reserves)	\$4,000	\$800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,450</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
PMPUS**	\$2,672	\$2,550
PMPSC***	\$1,169	\$1,360
Voter		
Printing	\$850	\$850
Mailing	\$560	\$560
Website	\$250	\$250
GoDaddy	\$30	\$30
Convention/Council		
National	\$3,600	\$0
State Conv, Counc,LEAD	\$1,000	\$1,500
Board Tools		
Program/Action	\$200	\$200
President	\$150	\$0
Membership	\$300	\$200
Voter Ed/Services	\$100	\$300
Advertising	\$100	\$100
Misc	\$200	\$100
*Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,450</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
<b>Off Budget Funds</b>		
	Income Balance	Expense
Voter Services Grant LWVUS	\$32.14	
Voter Services GrantLWVUS	\$375	\$375
Haselton Fund	\$1,185	
<b>Off Budget Totals</b>	<b>\$1,591.14</b>	
Ed Fund Balance 3/7/19	\$317.30	

PMPUS is Per Member Payment to LWVUS  
PMPSC is Per Member Payment to LWVSC

## New Member Bios



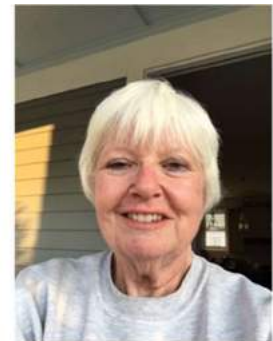
**Marty Bynum**

**Marty Bynum** is joining the League because she wants to work with others to get as many people as possible to the polls - registering voters, driving voters to the polls, whatever it will take. She feels strongly about the important role of citizen involvement in making democracy work.

Marty and her husband, **Steve**, moved to the Clemson area in 1988 after he retired from the Air Force. She worked as an Operating Room Nurse at Oconee Hospital until 1995 when she entered Clemson University and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1997. After she received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lander in 1998, she began fifteen years at Tri-County College teaching Art History.

As a Founding Member of the Art Gallery in Pendleton in 2014, Marty spends much of her time with her passion - making jewelry and working with textiles, weaving and dyeing.

**Norma Budke** joined the LWVCA in September 2018, soon after she moved from Peoria, IL, to Patrick Square in Clemson. Charlotte Holmes introduced her to LWVCA and she has found it serving her desire for community and for continued learning. Born in the Peoria, Illinois area, she spent most of her life there raising her family and working in Radiology Technology. She has two sons, in Peoria and Chicago, and two grandchildren in Peoria. Norma loved her work and the opportunity to work with all professions and patients in a medical setting. The learning curve was continuous and steep, with the demand to stay abreast of new developments in radiology. During a five-year period, she worked for a temp agency, traveling around the US to work in medical settings a few months at a time. She retired when her husband got very ill.



**Norma Budke**

Some of her pleasures are participating in OLLI programs/classes and in the City of Clemson Leadership Program. Through the latter she expects to learn where she may give some additional time and energy. Perhaps her greatest joy is her dog, Jax.



**Julie Weir**

**Julie Weir** has been a resident of Clemson for over twenty years. She is a proud Iowan who was an early education teacher. She established Iowa's Head Start program and the first public nursery school in her county. Her love for that age group carried over into her employment at Clemson University as a teacher and Student Teacher Supervisor, until her retirement.

Julie enjoys her work at Clemson Community Care, playing the piano as a substitute at her church, hiking, singing with the Sunshine Singers and cheering for the Tigers. She is the proud mom of three children and four grandchildren. Julie is joining the League because she wants to be informed about local and state issues by knowledgeable people.

## The Biennial LWVSC Convention

**"Celebrating Democracy, Embracing Diversity"**  
**May 4 and 5, 2019**

### Speakers:

**Jennifer Bremer**, Statewide Coordinator for Fair Elections, League of Women Voters of North Carolina

**Anton Gunn**, Chief Diversity Officer and Executive Director of Community Health Innovation, Medical University of South Carolina

**Carlton B. Washington**, Executive Director, South Carolina State Employees Association

**Judge Richard Gergel**, District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of S.C. and author of *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring*

The registration fee of \$165 per registered participant is due by April 17 to Fran Holt. (See Registration Form for instructions.) It includes light breakfasts, coffee service, lunch, banquet, snacks, etc.

To make hotel reservations, call the Town and Country Inn and Suites, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC at 843-571-1000. The Town and Country is holding a block of 50 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights (May 3 and 4) at a special LWV rate of \$189 plus tax (\$215.46 inclusive). Call before April 2 and ask for the LWV rate.

**Registration Form:** [http://www.lwvsc.org/files/registration\\_form\\_2019\\_.pdf](http://www.lwvsc.org/files/registration_form_2019_.pdf)  
**More Information:** <http://www.lwvsc.org>

### OBESERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Bill Hare** and **Eleanor Hare** attended a meeting of the Pickens County Elections Commission on Feb. 5.

**Linda Gahan** attended a meeting with developers at the Clemson Community Center last Monday, Feb. 18. Approximately 30 residents commented on a proposed development on Keowee Trail, highlighting their concerns about downtown traffic, the height of the building, the need for condos and townhouses for professionals, and the desire to build something that complements the park and meets residential needs.

**Ruth Reed**, **Bill Hare** and **Eleanor Hare** attended the Pickens County Council Committee of the Whole on Feb. 25.

## Review of February Meeting – Artificial Intelligence



**Mike Ellison**

The speaker for the Clemson Area League’s February meeting was **Mike Ellison**, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering, Clemson University. Mike, who classified himself an amateur in the subject of artificial intelligence, gave an excellent overview of the field.

He based his presentation on the 2018 book, *Life 3.0* by Max Tegmark, which he highly recommended that we read. (I, for one, plan to do so.) The title comes from considering the early one-celled forms of life as life 1.0, the evolution of human intelligence as life 2.0, and the potential for artificial intelligence, AI, as life 3.0.

This evolution of AI goes beyond the focused tasks of today’s robots—from vacuuming the floor to winning at chess or Jeopardy—to a much broader capability from replicating itself to improving its function by learning from experience, AGI (artificial general intelligence).

The human brain can be thought of as a structure with an input layer: light triggering the optic nerve with sound, touch, smell and taste similarly triggering nerves which serve as the input to the brain. The output is the action resulting from the input. How the input gets translated into meaning is the function of the complex interior of the brain. This complex interior can be modeled as an exceedingly large number of fairly simple components (the NAND gates of electronic logic, for those for whom this makes sense). With enough of the right complexity, AGI will emerge.



**Dalton James, Kay James and Bill Hare listen to presentation on AI.**

The question then becomes what do we do with it and how to we keep it under control? We now have an issue well within the purview of the League: what political action needs to be taken to do this. At least one California league has already considered artificial intelligence as a study issue but rejected it.

“Members cited the complexity of Artificial Intelligence and the fast-moving changes in the field which make it a difficult issue to study as we lack the technical expertise.” (www.lwvlamv.org, program planning notes 2018). This is definitely an issue to watch. Thanks, Mike, for a thought-provoking presentation.

*Submitted by Ruth Reed*

## Co-President's Message Continued

Second, we want to affect policy decisions in government, so we must advocate for these positions. After you have become informed on issues like education or voting technology, call your legislators and let them know you want teachers to get a raise or you support a voting technology that includes paper ballots that can be read by an optical scanner.

When legislators propose bills that govern local issues, remind them that home rule is the best way to address these issues, not at the state level. **Lynn Teague** is our LWVSC lobbyist and she keeps us informed on our advocacy opportunities. Heed her call to action.

Third, as our organization's name suggests, we are all about voting – registration, making the voting process easy and fair for everyone, protecting the voting system against outside interference like Russian hacking, protecting the voting districts against gerrymandering, protecting the voter registration rolls against unfair purging, etc. Get out there and register voters and advocate for fair and just elections.

Finally, we need your help to make LWV the best it can be. It takes commitment of its members, so bring any talent that you have to the table by joining a committee or becoming a board member or whatever. Together we can move forward and make our democracy work.

*Submitted by Linda Gahan*

### Suggested Reading on Immigration

Immigration - *Notes on The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border*, by Francisco Cantú.

In Parts 1 and 2, Francisco Cantú relates episodes from his four years with the Border Patrol in Arizona. These are interspersed with stories of the history of the region and glimpses into his own life. In Part 3, after he has left the Border Patrol, he becomes friends with an immigrant from Mexico who was 11 years old when he came to the US. Much of Part 3 describes the legal proceedings as this man, having left the US to visit his dying mother in Mexico, attempts to rejoin his wife and three citizen children in the United States.

**Help publicize the League's work. Share the League's Facebook page.**

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

**League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area**

*Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties*

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633