



THE VOTER

August 2019, Vol. 46 No. 5

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

Co-President's Message

Ruth Reed and I are honored and excited to be serving as your co-presidents this year! The Clemson Area LWV has an exciting year ahead and hope you will all be part of these upcoming events.

We will be gearing up for both local elections this fall and the presidential election next year.



Sandra Gray

The League of Women Voters has many reasons to be involved in the registration and education of a new generation of voters. Every vote counts, and, as League members, we can help make sure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to register to vote. This effort is headed up by League member **Cheryl Lee**, and there will be several opportunities to serve in this capacity during the year. National Voter Registration Day is held on the fourth Tuesday of September and will take place this year on September 24. Across our nation in 2018, over 800,000 voters used National Voter Registration Day to register to vote, so let's do our part.

Happy 100th Birthday! 2020 is a very significant year of celebration for the League of Women Voters and for all women across our country. It was 100 years ago in 1920 that the League of Women Voters was founded by **Carrie Chapman Catt** during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. A few months later, on August 18, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified guaranteeing all American women the right to vote.

Celebrations are being planned on the national, state and local levels to remember American suffragists and honor their hard-won success.

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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

OFFICERS:

Sandra Gray, Co-President
Ruth Reed, Co-President
Matt Salzman, Vice President of Program & Action
Rosellen Aleguire, Secretary
Bill Hare, Treasurer
Elaine Laiewski, Co-Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Janet Marsh
Mike Ellison
John Dyar
Shelia Crawford
Kathy Bargeron
Sandy Rosche

SPECIALISTS:

Cheryl Lee, Voter registration
Eleanor Hare, Vote411
Liz Vogt, VOTER Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Ann Russell
Liz Vogt
Ellie Taylor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

5:30 p.m.

OLLI

Welcome Back Party

We will socialize, preview our activities and share a glimpse into how women attained the right to vote. Would you bring friends, daughters, granddaughters, mothers and grandmothers Let's really celebrate 100 years of Women's Equality! Finger food, if you can. If not, come anyway.

Social time: 5:30 – 6:00

Business: 6:00 – 6:15

Program: 6:15 – 7:00

There will be a special program of a bit of history surrounding the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. If you can help with decorating/setup/cleanup, please contact Ansley Fraser (ansleyfraser@gmail.com). Because of the OLLI alcohol policy, we will not serve wine.

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

7:15 p.m.

OLLI

General Meeting. TBA

OLLI, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson 29631

Co-President's Message Continued

This year we celebrate the example of the suffragists and all those brave women who still carry on that spirit by celebrating democracy and embracing diversity.

On the national level, part of this celebration will include the League's plans to re-introduce the League of Women Voters to a new generation of online audiences. This campaign is called "She is Me" and will feature stories from real League members about their work in the League and their commitments to defend democracy. On the state level, **Keller Barron** is Chair of the LWVSC Centennial Task Force. She is encouraging local Leagues across the state to "party" with other Leagues during this celebration so we will be seeking other Leagues to partner with. There will be more information forthcoming as we start making plans on how to honor those League members who were so influential 100 years ago in defending democracy and ensuring women achieved the right to vote.

We would love to hear from you about any ideas, party themes, and celebrations you might have in mind for the Clemson Area League. Please let us know what you think.

In League, *Sandra Gray*

Welcome Back Party and Women's Equality Day Celebration

The League's welcome back party and Women's Equality Day celebration will take place at OLLI on August 27, starting at 5:30 pm.

The program features a dramatic reading of a short play by **Holley Ulbrich**, inspired by the book, *The Women's Hour* by **Elaine Weiss**. The play dramatizes the committee hearing in the Tennessee Legislature on ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

League members and guests will have an opportunity to learn more about the important 2019-2020 public issues in which the League is involved. Members associated with these issues will circulate during the social hour, identified by a hat or banner stating the issue. They will be prepared to discuss the League's approach to the issue and how others can be involved. Some of the issues that will be represented include: Gerrymandering, Education, Census, Voter Rights, Naturalization ceremonies and Vote411.

Music will be provided by "Six Chickens and a Beer."

Submitted by Janet Marsh and Matt Saltzman

Local Study Activity

The initial study question asked if the League should support increasing the number of members of the Pickens County Council to seven, in order to minimize the number of ballot types in an election.

Linda Gahan, Eleanor Hare, Sarah McNeill, Ruth Reed, Aleta Robinson, and Ada Lou Steirer met to assign members to interviews and list questions to be asked.

We are finding the contacts with our elected officials to be interesting and informative. We are also finding that the study may be enlarged to include related recommendations. Anyone interested in joining the study group should contact Eleanor.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

**Who are we and what do we do?
Check out twelve years of League newsletters on our website!**

<http://www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/Archives.html>

South Carolina Buys a Voting System Not What We Wanted, But ...

We wanted a system that was primarily hand-marked paper ballots, read by a scanner at the precinct. We bought a system that uses Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs), which print a “ticket.” The barcodes on the “ticket” are read by the scanner.

We thank Sen. Thomas Alexander and Rep. Gary Clary who submitted excellent bills that would have made paper ballots the official record of the election and would have required audits.

Using the new system, the voter uses the BMD to make selections and then prints a “ticket” which lists his selections. Voting is completed when the “ticket” is read by the scanner. Our objection is that the voter cannot verify for whom he is voting because the scanner reads the barcodes, not the names.

The news is not all bad. These scanners can read hand-marked paper ballots. Some localities are using the scanners primarily to read paper ballots. South Carolina may permit the use of hand-marked paper ballots in order to decrease waiting times (although the law needs to be changed to permit the printing of more Emergency Ballots).

Another positive is that the “tickets” can be used for a risk-limiting audit when examined by hand. Current law does not require such an audit.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Municipal Elections and Vote411 A Challenge

This November we hope to make our online candidate forums available to all the municipalities in Pickens County, Anderson County and Oconee County, that are holding elections **Alice Flower** (Anderson County), **Kathy Barger** (Oconee County) and **Eleanor Hare** (Pickens County) are collecting candidate information and entering it in the computer. Invitations to participate are being sent to candidates by email. Letters will be mailed to those who do not reply.

We need volunteers in two areas: (1) to phone candidates who do not reply and (2) to take Vote411 flyers and business cards to each council having an election.

This outreach, to municipalities of all our three counties holding elections, is a huge task, but it is a major benefit to voters. If we can reach all these elections, candidate participation in future candidate forums should increase. Contact any of the county coordinators if you can help.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Review of the April Meeting – Public Education



Ansel Sanders

The speaker for the April 16 meeting of the LWV was **Ansel Sanders**, president and CEO of Public Education Partners (PEP), Greenville’s only independent nonprofit dedicated to investing in and improving public education.

According to its website, the mission of PEP is “To lead our community in acting collectively to support, strengthen and advance public education and student achievement in Greenville County schools. Since our inception in 1985, we have crafted initiatives, celebrated progress, and vigorously sought to collaborate to address challenges.”

After describing his educational and career background, Ansel went on to describe the education challenges that Greenville faces. It is the 43rd largest district in the country and the largest in the state. He described the disparity between the severe teacher shortage, particularly in math and science with the surging student population. He then went on to describe the strategic intentions which focus on three goals: investing in creating conditions that position Greenville as an ideal destination for teachers; leveraging an advocacy point of view that supports our mission and shifting the capacity model to support work at systemic level.

PEP has developed several initiatives to address some of the problems our schools face, most notably the Gate Program which addresses the shortages of math and science teachers. This is a fast track program for professionals who want to teach and #Teach864 (My Drive to Teach) which honors teachers.

PEP is a supporter of H.3759/S.419, the largest Ed bill in a long time, which includes much needed increases in teacher salaries. Ansel then went on to discuss some of the others challenges that educators face, such as the challenge to the “minimally adequate standard” and the “corridor of shame” which describes areas in our state which are not addressing the needs of low-income minority populations.

Given the League’s commitment to education reform, Ansel Sanders, in conjunction with PEP, provided us with compelling information and more importantly hope for the future of education in South Carolina. The meeting ended with a lively question and answer session.

Submitted by Mary Tivolacci

Membership Dues Should Be Paid for Our 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

The beginning of our League year means that dues are now due. Dues are \$60 for a first and \$30 for a second family member. Student dues are \$10. Our bylaws request payment by December 1. You may make your payment at the August 27 meeting. Or, if you prefer, mail to LWVCA, PO Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633.

Cheryl Lee Receives Spirit of Democracy Award



Ansley Fraser (left) and Cheryl Lee pose at the awards ceremony.

Cheryl Myers Lee was honored with the Spirit of Democracy Award at the League of Women Voters' Annual Meeting on May 7, 2019.

Driven by a passion for voter registration, Cheryl has served as the LWV Voter Service Chair for the last several years. During this time, she has organized voter registration drives at the high schools in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties to offer all seniors turning 18 years of age the opportunity to register to vote.

Her efforts included emailing all the school principals and government/economics teachers to elicit their support, setting up a registration schedule at each school, obtaining registration forms from the Registration and Election Commissions, recruiting League volunteers to come to the classrooms and delivering a brief talk on

the importance of voting and how one vote matters and delivering the forms to be processed. Teachers are the keys to engaging their students in this process.

Since Cheryl graduated from high school in Oconee County and taught in Pickens County, she has connections with school leaders to make this work. Cheryl has also written grants to obtain funds for purchasing information on voter registration, voting procedures, and pamphlets with U.S. Constitution for distribution to students and the classrooms. She has offered postcard reminders of dates when voting will take place. In addition to registering high school students, Cheryl has expanded her efforts to register college students, tech students, and adults at festivals and community events.

Eleanor Hare and others have entered candidate information on the 411.com website so all new registrants and all voters can learn about the candidates they will be voting for. Finally, Cheryl has assisted with LWVCA sponsored candidate forums to educate voters on the issues. All these activities help to make democracy work.

Beyond Voter Service, Cheryl has been a total leader in the League of Women Voters organization. She has coordinated events such as the wine tasting fundraiser and the annual meeting plus she has shared her musical talents by playing the piano. Cheryl served as a delegate to LWVUS National Convention and has attended LEAD meetings and state convention keeping informed, proposing new ideas and interacting with other league members. Cheryl's efforts have made the league a stronger organization and LWVCA has awarded her efforts.

Congratulations, Cheryl.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

National Voter Registration Day is September 24

The LWVCA registered voters at the School Success Program held by Clemson Community Care on August 8. Pictured at right are **John Dyar, Cheryl Lee, Carol Ward, Catherine Mobley** and her daughter. Notice our new Voter Registration banner created by **Patty Warner**.

National Voter Registration Day is September 24. We will announce our plans for our major project to be held that day as soon as we get a confirmation.

We hope you will be as willing to pitch in and help Make Democracy Work, as you have been in the past.



The League plays an active role in local voter registration.

If you miss a Pickens County Council meeting, Council Chair **Roy Costner** summarizes the activity in a short YouTube presentation after each meeting. The site also includes an audio of the meeting at <https://www.facebook.com/PickensCountySC/>

Clemson City Council is now video streaming all its meetings. You may watch recordings of Council by going to YouTube and typing in “City of Clemson.”

2019 Annual Membership Meeting

On May 7 our League celebrated the close of another League year with dinner and a speaker at Occasions at Wedgefield. A short business meeting included the recognition of officers and directors, the report of the Nominating Committee, the election of officers, the approval of the 2019-2020 budget, and the presentation of the Spirit of Democracy award to **Cheryl Lee**.

John Ruoff, who has followed the redistricting process in South Carolina for decades, used maps to illustrate current district boundaries, sometimes identifying the location of the home of the legislator representing the district, which often helped explain the strange shape of a district. In South Carolina redistricting is done by the majority party. Legislators have such complete control of the redistricting process that they can move individual voters in or out of their district.

Led by **Matt Saltzman**, all leagues in South Carolina will focus on redistricting during the next two years.

<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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Clemson, SC 29633