



THE VOTER

September 2019, Vol. 46 No. 6

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

Co-President's Message

I'm "riding shotgun" along I-81 on a hazy September morning, enjoying the view. I love this highway, having traveled it at least once a year for twenty-five years. And I'm acutely aware that I'm riding through hunting country. As we pass Virginia Tech, I recall my fellow grad students who hunted turkey (difficult, in those days) and deer.



Ruth Reed

I ate groundhog stew as a child at my grandmother's farm, and I've welcomed a gift of venison from a younger friend in central Pennsylvania who hunts to stock her freezer for the next year. I understand that overpopulation of deer is not good for their health. I accept my Appalachian farming background, and that includes hunting. HOWEVER, I do not accept a culture that condones killing humans.

Wikipedia (the most neutral source I can think of) reports 248 mass shootings between January 1 and July 31 of 2019: 979 people injured, 246 dead. And yesterday, Aug. 31, 2019, six more were killed in Texas. Gun rights are clearly a matter of public interest and thus an increasingly important topic for discussion within the League, as we research, discuss, and advocate for action on matters of good governance.

The topic for our September meeting grew out of comments that many who are concerned about gun ownership don't know much if anything about guns.

I include myself in this category, and I'm looking forward to learning. I hope **Lt. Chris Harrington** brings some examples. And I hope that you will come and bring friends who might be interested.

(Continued on next page)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Co-President's Message
Calendar of Events
Preview of September Meeting –
Active Shooter/Hostile Event
Preparedness
Review of August Meeting and
Welcome Back Party
New Member Bio
Build a Better Clemson
League Activities

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

OFFICERS:

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

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Shelia Crawford
Kathy Barger
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, September 17, 2019
General Meeting
7:15 p.m.
OLLI

Active Shooter/Hostile Event Preparedness.
Presentation by Lt. Chris Harrington
Clemson University Police

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
General Meeting
7:15 pm
OLLI

Redistricting. Matt Saltzman

League officers can be contacted by email using links at:

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

Co-President's Message Continued

Turning to a more cheerful subject, thanks so much to everyone who helped with the August Welcome Back /Women's Equality meeting. We had above average attendance (46) despite one of your co-president's (me!) not getting the information to area news outlets. We had guests, thanks to personal invitations. Reminder to self: word of mouth is the best way to get the news out. Thanks to everyone who brought food (yummy), held a picket sign, cleaned up, provided live music, or otherwise contributed, for making it all possible. The Clemson Area League is super; even when the new, green co-president doesn't quite know what is going on yet, the event proceeded flawlessly. If only our government worked as smoothly!

If you missed this meeting, you missed a good one. The outstanding playlet by **Holley Ulbrich** provided our introduction to this Centennial year for the League. The national and state leagues are planning many celebratory programs and events; if you are willing to help, please let our Co-President, **Sandra Gray**, know. We will provide much more information in the next newsletter.

Submitted by Ruth Reed
Co-President

Preview of September Meeting Active Shooter/Hostile Event Preparedness

Active shooter/hostile events are dynamic and rapidly changing incidents that present a number of problems typical emergency response options do not address. By planning and thinking outside of the traditional box of responses, we can work to maximize our opportunity for safety in these evolving incidents. This program centers on discussion of the Department of Homeland Security developed model of "Run-Hide-Fight" and teaches a practical understanding of how to implement each option with examples of successful applications.

Lieutenant Chris Harrington has been with the Clemson University Police for fourteen years and currently serves as the Commander of Professional Development and Training. He has a Bachelor of Science from Clemson University in Psychology and will complete a Master of Public Administration, also from Clemson, in December 2019. Lt. Harrington is a state and federally certified law enforcement instructor and specializes in police use of force and active shooter training. In 2012, Lt. Harrington was selected to participate in the first cohort of the statewide active shooter instructor development program and was a member of the curriculum development committee that drafted the state training program. Lt. Harrington has authored numerous lesson plans, standard operating procedures, incident action plans, and after-action reviews, and has served as the lead exercise director for several critical incident full-scale exercises. Lt. Harrington is a member of the National Tactical Officers Association, SC Training Officers Association, and serves on various local and statewide committees. He is a graduate of the FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership School and the 76 Session of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police.

Reading to Supplement September Program

The Second Amendment: A Biography by Michael Waldman is an interesting and academic travelogue. It begins with a thorough presentation of the composition and function of the militia in the colonies and ends with discussion of the most recent Supreme Court decisions. Throughout the book, Waldman describes the events and people that have influenced our perspective. I found it an instructive and enjoyable book.

Michael Waldman is President of the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and policy institute that focuses on improving the systems of democracy and justice. Waldman is a constitutional lawyer and writer and is an expert on the presidency and American democracy.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Review of the August Meeting and Welcome Back Party

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Close to fifty women and men celebrated Women's Equality Day at the LWVCA Welcome Back event at OLLI August 27th.

Ruth Reed and **Sandra Gray**, co-presidents, welcomed members and friends. They encouraged attendees to enjoy the social time of conversation and delicious snacks provided by LWVCA members. Several members circulated in the crowd, holding banners representing League issues such as voter registration, the Census, gerrymandering, etc. Others indicated an interest in getting involved in one of these issues which supports the League's mission, Making Democracy Work.



Shelia Crawford (left) and Kathy Barger enjoy the evening's festivities.

Holley Ulbrich introduced the program, a skit she wrote based on the book *The Women's Hour* by **Elaine Weiss**. The skit tells the story of suffragette efforts in 1920 to have the Tennessee Legislature approve the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. With passage, Tennessee became the thirty-sixth and final state needed to add the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Acting in the play were: **Cheryl Lee, Holley Ulbrich, Ansley Fraser, Carol Ward, Bill Hare, Dan Warner, Matt Saltzman, Ken Marsh, and Pat Warren**.

Contributing to the festive spirit was the band: **Mike Ellison, Jennifer Ruth, Ken Marsh, and Brad Russell**. Thank you to our Hospitality Chair, **Ansley Fraser** and her team for contributing to the ambience appropriate to the occasion.

Submitted by Janet Marsh

At right: Patrick Warren and Martha Alexander. Warren is playing the role of Rep. Burns (TN), who cast the critical vote for passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, and Alexander plays the part of his mother in Holley Ulbrich's skit based upon Elaine Weiss' book *The Women's Hour*.



New Member Bio



Carolyn Bishop-McLeod's interest in social justice issues has motivated her to join the League.

Carolyn Bishop-McLeod and her husband, **Glenn**, made a permanent move from Sumter to Clemson this past May, although they have had a home in Keowee community for the past six years. Both are Clemson alumnae and that was the draw to have a home where they could stay when they attended CU activities. Her interests include the fine arts, literature, health, and social justice issues. Carolyn was very active in the Sumter community and comes with a background in serving others. She was a graduate with a degree in sociology and was a social worker for over thirty years, serving in areas that included working with children in difficult situations to home health care. She has led many organizations in the past, one being in charge of the Sumter Candidates Forum, but considers herself a "Worker Bee" now. The League appeals to her for many reasons, however, she is primarily interested in social justice issues, voter registration, and volunteering as a poll worker.

How the League Spends Your Dues \$\$

Your dues support national, state, and local efforts. Out of the \$60 individual dues, Per-Member-Payments (PMP) are \$32 to LWVUS and \$14 to LWVSC. Our League retains \$14 to pay for printing and mailing eight issues of our newsletter, a fee for the League web application, a fee for the Vote411 application, support for carpooling members to state meetings and support for delegates to League conventions.

Dues are \$60 for an individual, \$30 for an additional household member, and \$10 for a student. Please bring a check to the treasurer (Bill Hare) at a meeting or send to LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633.

SAVE THESE DATES TO REGISTER VOTERS

September 23—Anderson University and Clemson University (11am - 1 pm)

September 24—Anderson University and Clemson University (11pm - 1pm)

We will pass a signup sheet (with location to be determined) at the September LWV meeting.

New venues this year include Walhalla High School - classes and football games.

Submitted by Cheryl Lee

Build a Better Clemson



League members may want to be aware of a local initiative to address Clemson's unprecedented growth. Build a Better Clemson was started by a group of concerned residents of Clemson -- a diverse gathering of people living in neighborhoods all over Clemson. They met in local restaurants and brainstormed ideas brought forward at the town hall meetings that took place this past summer. Retired folks sat across the table from working professionals. Parents with young children expressed their concerns to empty nesters. Drivers, cyclists, pedestrians -- they were all there trying to figure out how to get our voices heard. Build a Better Clemson was born as a grassroots movement to encourage responsible growth -- the type of growth that preserves the character, quality, and safety of our city. They decided the best way to do this is through the Build a Better Clemson petition to the Clemson City Council. We hope you consider joining their effort by signing the petition and sharing the website with others.

MISSION

Create a foundation for thoughtful city planning with a vision of Clemson as a world-class community balancing the needs of diverse year-round residents and an engaged university population.

STRATEGY

Convince the Clemson City Council in the fall of 2019 to adopt seven measures outlined in the BABC petition.

For years, Clemson's growth and development has focused only on the transient, temporary student population that delivers profits to a few and disregards the majority year-round residents and businesses. The lack of a master plan and the lack of community input is unsustainable and damaging to the City's long-term success. Year-round residents and businesses will retreat to outlying areas as Clemson becomes a less desirable place to live and make a living. Clemson's traditional charms and traditions create the potential to make the city a world-class college community, a destination small town. Sign the petition to give the city council a map to achieve this vision. Build a Better Clemson wants to expand the conversation for Clemson's growth to include families, professionals, retirees and others who contribute to Clemson year-round. For more information, please visit buildabetterclemson.com. You may also visit their site through Facebook.

League Activities

Mark Your Calendar

Check our online calendar at <http://www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>

Our Program and Action Team is working to provide an interesting schedule of general meetings on League topics for Fall and Spring. Our speakers are not confirmed yet, but please mark your calendars and save these additional dates: October 15, November 19, December 17 (Holiday Party), and January 25, 2020 (LEAD Day: Leadership, Education, and Advocacy Day in Columbia).

Summer Book Club

Our summer reading group met three times over the course of the summer to enjoy company and book discussions on political topics from three very different sources. Attendance ranged from four to nine people.

The first book was **Ben Sasse**, *Them*, about left-right divisions in America, where they come from, and how we can build bridges. Sasse is a conservative Republican senator from Nebraska and a former college president.

The second book by New York Times reporter **Richard Shenkman**, *Political Animal*, helped us to understand the mind of the voter, who is not always thinking clearly, processing information well, paying attention, or even aware of where his/her self-interest lies. A bit discouraging to the league of Women Voters which assumes that reasonable dialogue can help to shape policy, but very informative.

The final book was **Elaine Weiss**, *The Women's Hour*. It was a solid and engaging account of the last six weeks of the battle to ratify the 19th amendment in Tennessee and was the basis for the readers' theatre play presented at the annual Women's Equality Day celebration in August.

All three are great reads. If you are interested, **Holley Ulbrich** and **Bill Hare** and several others have copies to lend.

Look for another set of great reads and good conversations next summer!

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

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 and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

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