



THE VOTER

January 2019, Vol. 46 No. 1

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

Co-President's Message

2019 – A New Year has arrived and it's time to make our New Year's Resolutions. Number One on the list is to continue our efforts "To Make Democracy Work." The elections are over but there is still much work to do to ensure our democracy thrives. Think about what you can contribute to our local league.



Linda Gahan

Some suggestions are to educate yourself by attending the general meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, to attend LEAD (League Education and Advocacy Day) with others league members across the state to be held in Columbia on January 19, 2019, to participate in our LWVSC Program Planning Session on January 26, and to attend a meeting of city council, county council or school board. Be a volunteer and contribute your time to the League.

For those of you who are new to the League, over the years our organization has studied many topics such as education, immigration, health care, child welfare, government, the environment, natural resources, taxation, growth management, etc. Some of these are national studies while others originated at the state or local level. After informing ourselves on the issues, we come to a consensus on certain questions generated by the study. These form our positions on the issues.

In January leagues across the state of South Carolina will engage in Program Planning by reviewing existing League positions at the state level and making recommendations for the future of our state organization.

We will be looking at positions on Child Welfare, Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice, Education, Natural Resources, State and Local Government, State and Local Taxation, and Transportation to determine if we should retain, drop, or reconsider.

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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:

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

Tuesday, January 8, 2019	General Assembly Reconvenes.
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 7:15 p.m., OLLI	General Meeting --Environment
Saturday, January 19, 2019 7 a.m., The SC Education Association	LEAD - League Education and Advocacy Day
Thursday, January 24, 2019 6:00-8:00 p.m., J.L. Mann High School	The Teacher Shortage: It's Real and It's Here. Sponsored by the LWV of Greenville County. Speakers will be Superintendent of Greenville County Schools, Dr. Burke Royster. and Chair of the Greenville County School Teachers' Forum, Suzanne Billings.
Saturday, January 26, 2019 11 a.m., OLLI	Program planning for state and local. Bring a "brown bag" lunch.
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 7:15 p.m., OLLI	General Meeting -- Artificial Intelligence
<i>OLLI Building</i>	<i>578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)</i>
<i>The SC Education Association</i>	<i>421 Zimalcrest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210</i>
<i>J.L. Mann High School</i>	<i>160 Fairforest Rd., Greenville, SC 29607</i>

Co-President's Message Continued

We will have the opportunity to recommend a new study and we will suggest three top action priorities for 2019-2021 to guide our advocacy agenda at the state level. In 2017-2019 our top priorities were redistricting, voter access, and ethics reform. To guarantee that our program planning is grassroots, I want to encourage each one of you to participate in this process on January 26. It will be educational and guide the state board in developing a program to be discussed, debated, revised, and adopted at state convention in May. Look for details in the Voter and please come.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

The LWV supports hand-marked paper ballots, cast at the precinct using optical scanners. These paper ballots should be the official record of the election. Read more at:

<http://www.lwvsc.org/votingtechnology.html>

January Meeting to Address Climate Change

The next meeting of the LWVCA will be January 15, 2019. Our featured speaker will be our own **Dan Warner**. Dan is also the Conservation Chair of the of the Foothills Group of the Sierra Club. He is Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences at Clemson and is currently teaching a course entitled "An Inquiry into Climate Change."

Human-induced climate change is widely considered among the most serious issues facing us because of the potential impact on the earth's ability to sustain human civilization as we know it. Dan will briefly review the scientific evidence for global warming and its effect on the climate. He will then discuss some recent scientific results and political events that provide reasons to hope for a positive outlook for the coming year.

Holiday Party



Ansley Fraser

On Tuesday, December 18, League members celebrated the success of voter registration drives, candidate forums and Vote411 participation at their annual holiday party at OLLI.

The League looks forward to another successful year in 2019, with the goal of encouraging increased voter participation and transparency in our election process.



Jenifer Ruth, Mike Ellison, Brad Russell, and Ken Marsh provided the musical entertainment.



League member Shari Jung won the door prize for the evening.

New Member Bios



John Dyar

Clemson graduate **John Dyar** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) has returned to Clemson after a 25-year career designing military communication systems for the federal government, where he developed a close affinity with and respect for U.S. military personnel.

John received training in law and ethics, particularly focused on federal government employee conduct in upholding public trust, at George Washington University as well as Engineering Process training through Carnegie Mellon and ongoing training in both physical and IT security.

Mac Wood up in Atlanta with three siblings and active parents. He graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Industrial Arts. His expertise in so many areas can be attributed in part to his mother's decision to buy a farm in north Georgia where for a time he immersed himself in the cattle and chicken business. His degree from Clemson, his farm management, and later his industrial construction work for Fluor Daniel, were all background experiences that eventually led to a career in the residential home building business. He presently maintains and manages rental property in the Clemson area. He is a participant in the "Better Angels" endeavor along with his wife, **Shari Jung**; and he has recently become an active League member. His interest in joining the League can be best summed up by his statement: "For a democracy to be successful as a form of government, its citizenry must recognize their role as participates in the governing process. That not only requires one to vote, but for that vote to be an informed vote. That's what the League of Women Voters does."



Mac Wood

**Mike and Diana Stafford have moved to Virginia to be near their daughter.
Their new address is 118 Adams Street, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.**

LWV November Legislative Meeting

State senators **Rex Rice** and **Thomas Alexander** and State Representative **Gary Clary** were the speakers for our November program. Co-President **Linda Gahan** first noted the goals of the Clemson LWV: redistricting reform, ethics reform, regulatory reform and upgraded voter technology. She then asked each of the senators to give a ten-minute summary of their view of the challenges facing the state and bills coming up in the next legislature. A question-and-answer period followed. The senators provided good, straightforward information and good responses to questions.



Co-President Ansley Fraser, Rep. Gary Clary and Sen. Rex Rice



Rep. Gary Clary answers questions from the audience.

Senator Alexander noted that South Carolina has maintained its AAA bond rating and has a budget surplus.

He said that, among items of legislation to be considered are a modest tax increase on gasoline, an increase of the number of school counselors and detention and funding for state employees. Representative Clary is sponsor of a bill for universal screening of first-graders for dyslexia.

Other items he noted were expanded prescribing responsibilities for nurse practitioners, his opposition to offshore drilling, strengthening of ethics legislation and the continuing difficulties relative to Santee-Cooper.

Senator Rice spoke about problems in the Department of Corrections but saw no clear path to solutions. Additionally, he stated that the Department of Social Services has difficulty in securing and maintaining qualified personnel.

After the three legislators' presentations, a lively question-and-answer period followed.



New member Mac Wood and Sen. Alexander

Looking Forward to 2019: A new year brings new opportunities for member involvement. We need help in updating our Directories of Political Officials (consider adopting a page) and need observers at local government meetings (your presence is important).

Come to Columbia with Us on Saturday, January 19

We plan to carpool to Columbia to join with League members from across the state, hearing about the League program from experts and participating in workshops. In order to be included in carpools and advance registration, please send email to Bill Hare (wrhare@earthlink.net) by January 11. The registration fee will be paid by our League.

WHO: All League members and guests are welcome and urged to attend!

WHEN: Saturday, January 19, 9:00 a.m. – Registration, coffee; 9:30 - 3:30 - Program

WHERE: South Carolina Education Association, 421 Zimacrest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Registration includes light breakfast, lunch, and materials.

The program will include a panel on “After the Midterms: Lessons for Future Elections,” fundraising ideas from Kate Kennedy (LWVUS development), a legislative update, and roundtable discussions (choice of 2) on topics such as maintaining nonpartisanship, running an Observer Corps, programming on issues not currently LWVSC priorities in the Statehouse, and planning for the 2020 centennial. Network, compare techniques, and problem-solve with members of other local Leagues!

Program Planning: Saturday, January 26 at OLLI

For those of you who have taken part in state program planning in the past, it's different this year. We are not asking local Leagues to set action priorities, because they must be determined each year by determining where our positions intersect with the legislative agenda. What we are asking you to do is to address a concurrence with a position taken by the Florida League affirming support for open primaries that allow us to vote in either primary. That's our present practice. We want to be able to respond if there is another move toward party registration and closed primaries as there was last year.

We are also asking you to look at the whole range of League positions and identify your top three areas for study and review over the next two years. We have many positions that were adopted decades ago. Your top choices will determine where state board prepares materials for study and review by local Leagues, so in 2021 we will be better prepared to update and streamline our state positions in those areas.

The program planning meeting, which also covers local positions and suggestions for next year's meetings, is on Saturday, January 26th. It's always a fun brainstorming and idea-sharing time, so plan to attend. LWVSC positions: <http://www.lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Vote411 is in Our Future

Vote411.org is poised to become the primary source of comprehensive, non-partisan candidate information in our area. Much of Pickens County, including the City of Clemson, has no dedicated source of local news. The result is that many local candidates have difficulty explaining their candidacy to voters. By offering a web presence to all candidates and requesting the candidates' answers to questions of general interest, Vote411 assists voters to make informed choices.

Where we succeeded: Participation by both candidates and voters was high in Clemson and the surrounding area. All candidates for City Council, Pickens County Council and the candidate for SC House District 3 posted their information. Almost 2,000 of the (estimated) 3,820 voters in Clemson accessed the Vote411 pages. Advertising in SCIWAY helped attract voters.

Where we need improvement: As Vote411 becomes more widely known as a source of unbiased candidate information, we expect that more candidates will participate. Some candidates may not have received our email invitations. However, others did not participate after receiving letters, phone calls and personal invitations handed to them by members. We do not know why these candidates declined to participate.

Elections in 2019: We hope to build candidate and voter participation in targeted elections. In February nine precincts near Dacusville in northeastern Pickens County will have an important race for a seat on the Pickens County School Board. Dacusville is a bit out of our area but can provide an opportunity to inform voters about the candidates and Vote411. In November we can target selected municipal elections.

Looking ahead to 2020: The experiences of 2018 have taught us a great deal about setting up the technical aspects of the site, outreach to candidates and advertising to voters. As in 2018, we will need membership participation for maximum coverage. Having expanded our influence in local elections in 2019, we hope that a full slate of candidates will participate – all the way down the ballot to Soil & Water Commissioner and Water Shed Commissioner. Year 2020 will be critical for voter information.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Sign Up for LWVSC “Voters Rule” Redistricting BLOG

Stay connected to the League’s efforts to promote independent redistricting. LWVSC has created a blog where we can read the latest information and post our own comments. Persuading the Legislature to allow independent redistricting will not be easy. This blog will help us to stay connected and to encourage each other.

Sign up at: <http://votersrule2020.wordpress.com>

<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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