

Co-President's Message

Does it surprise you to learn that agriculture is the number one industry in South Carolina?

With an economic impact of nearly \$42 billion, there are 25,000 farms that cover approximately 5 million acres in our great state. This significant economic impact comes from a diversity of production in South Carolina including the broiler



Sandra Gray

chicken business, turkey, cattle and egg production on the animal side; grains such as soybeans, corn, wheat; fruits such as peaches, strawberries, blueberries and watermelon, and a variety of vegetables including kale, tomatoes, leafy greens, cucumbers, and collard greens (the official state vegetable!). Greenhouse nursery and forestry products contribute significantly to this total as well as peanut and tobacco production.

But move over chicken and corn, there is a new kid on the agriculture block in South Carolina that promises to be a new lucrative cash crop. Hemp is a variety of *cannabis sativa* and, while called by the same genus and species, it is genetically different from marijuana and contains very low amounts of the psychoactive compound THC. On the other hand, CBD oil (cannabidiol), which is used unofficially for a variety of aches and pain, is extracted from the buds of the hemp plant. In addition to the oil, the hemp fibers can be used for clothing, construction, paper, plastic composites and many other commodities. A pilot program for growing hemp was offered to 20 farmers by the SC Department of Agriculture in 2018 and 20 more in 2019 and was determined to be successful. Thus, a state law (The Hemp Farming Act H.3449) was passed this year to remove the cap on applicants and acreage for hemp production.

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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

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SPECIALISTS:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

7:15 pm

OLLI

GENERAL MEETING - Redistricting. Matt Saltzman

The public is invited to attend.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

7:15 pm

OLLI

GENERAL MEETING- Legislative Forum. TBA.

We invite state legislators from the tri-county area to review plans for the upcoming legislative session and to hear the concerns of area voters. The public is invited to attend.

OLLI, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson 29631

Co-President's Message Continued

It is estimated that more than 3,000 acres of hemp will be grown in South Carolina next year. Hemp and CBD oil legalization across the country has been promoted by a "Mommy Lobby." This is a group of women who have children with epilepsy or other seizure disorders and whose children have had significant reduction of their seizure activity after treatment with the CBD oil. The efforts of these determined women in South and North Carolina and across the country have helped pass legislation to legalize hemp production in their states, and thus provide a source for this precious oil to help their children.

So, what is the connection between all this agriculture talk and the League of Women Voters? I concede it is a thin thread, but next year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage and enactment of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote. It is a time for us to celebrate the strong women of that era as well as the women of today who are empowered by those early twentieth-century women. There would be no "Mommy Lobby" or any other women's group to lobby their legislatures without the passage of the 19th amendment. Today the League of Women Voters strives to defend democracy for all. Yes, just like agriculture in SC, the LWV values diversity, explores new policies (crops) that benefit all, and works at the "grassroots" level to educate others on the value of new policies. Let's all work together toward a bountiful harvest next year!

Submitted by Sandra Gray, Co-President

WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE FORUM

A forum is planned for the Westminster municipal elections on Monday, October 28 at the Westminster Fire Department Meeting Room located at 116 Emergency Lane. The forum will begin at 6 pm with questions for the two mayoral candidates. Immediately following the mayoral forum, questions will be directed toward the candidates for city council. Ten candidates are vying for three available seats.

Preview of October Meeting- Redistricting

Events of the past year or so have brought vast changes to the redistricting landscape. The Supreme Court decision of 2018 was a major setback for the campaign for fair maps, and national developments since then have alternately raised doubts and hopes about the possibilities for progress. We will review recent events and plans going forward to ensure fair maps in South Carolina and nationally in 2021.

Matthew Saltzman is on the faculty of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences at Clemson, where his research interests include the mathematics of redistricting. He is currently the director for redistricting for the South Carolina League of Women Voters.

Invitation to VotersRule2020 Blog

Want to keep up with developments in redistricting in South Carolina and around the nation? Sign up to follow the LWVSC blog on redistricting at:

votersrule2020.wordpress.com

Welcome to the team!

<https://www.vote411.org>

Our Vote411 team (**Kathy Barger**, **Alice Flower**, **Eleanor Hare**) have entered candidate information for the November 5 municipal elections in the Vote411 system. Invitations to participate have been sent to all candidates. Information for all municipalities in Pickens County and most candidates in Oconee and Anderson Counties have been included in the system, but are concentrating outreach to Central, Pendleton and Easley.

If you live in an area that is conducting municipal elections in November, please contact the candidates and ask them to enter their responses in the Vote411 system.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Public Demonstration of New Voting Systems

Pickens County

When: Now through October 7, Monday through Friday, 8am – 5 pm.

October 7-November 5 on an individual basis, 8am – 5 pm

Where: Registration and Election Offices, Pickens County Administrative Building, 222 McDaniel, Suite B9, Pickens, SC

Oconee County

When: October 14 at 6 pm

Where: Gignilliat Community Center, 621 N Townville St, Seneca, SC

Sponsored by the Oconee County Republican Party

Anderson County

Voter Registration and Election Commission has not been trained on the new voting systems.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

POTENTIAL VOTERS ARE REGISTERING

What a great day at Clemson University we had on NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY (NVRD)—September 24. Four Clemson league members and fifteen students registered a total of 149 students from 9-3 in 90-degree weather. It was a collaborative project including Young Democrats, Young Republicans, Political Science Club, the Southern Poverty Group, and LWVCA. This was one of our most productive pursuits in terms of getting them registered. Next comes the challenge of encouraging them to vote. September is NVR Month. In addition to the 188 total registered students at Clemson University in two days, we registered thirty-two at Anderson TCTC and fifty-three at Pendleton TCTC for a total of 273. We are only partially through registering.

The local papers interviewed and took pictures of the participants and students gave them an earful. You will read about it soon. We all know that our job is never done so now the challenging part begins. I will be requesting lots of help as we work with student Support Services at SWU, Pickens County Library System, Tigers Vote, and many more schools and organizations who want our services. I believe we can make a difference if we all work together, and I want to thank you all for your contributions.

Submitted by Cheryl Lee,



The League had a great turnout at Clemson University, registering new voters!



New Member Bios



Nikki Harvey

Nikki Harvey is happy to join the LWVCA where she finds friends who feel strongly about exercising one’s right to vote and ensuring everyone understands how important their rights are! Her curiosity about politics started in the 1950s and her interest grew over the decades with the Kennedy-Nixon debates, the Civil Rights Era, and the Vietnam War, to name a few events.

Raised in a military family, Nikki graduated from Columbia College with a BA in Public Affairs and married her husband, **Val**, in 1967 in Beaufort, SC. She joined the SC Department of Social Services Office of General Counsel in 1978. With creation of SC Department of Health and Human Services, she joined the Deputy Attorney General’s Office and eventually managed contracts for all home and community-based services and special programs in coordination with US DHHS. She retired in 2003.

She and Val moved to Clemson in 2012 and live in Patrick Square. Val is a Clemson graduate and they are strong Clemson fans. In 2016 she volunteered as a poll worker which she plans to continue. With the League, she wants to engage in redistricting and voters’ rights issues.

Sandra Land has joined the League because she is very interested in public policy issues and she is looking for volunteer opportunities.

Born in Pennsylvania, she received her BS in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967, eventually earning a Ph.D. in Public Health Administration from the University of Delaware. She moved frequently with her former husband who had a civil service job with the military. Throughout these years, she held positions in Public Health Administration, Maternal and Child Health Programs at the county, state and international levels.



Sandra Land

In 1990, she joined the World Health Organization (WHO), focusing on health systems and services in the Region of the Americas: Latin America and the Caribbean. Although she retired in 2005, she has continued to consult for WHO and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in midwifery development. She moved to Seneca in 2013 to help her daughter with child care and provides after-school care for her six-year-old grandson.

Another Reminder that Dues Are Now Due!

Our Bylaws ask that all dues be paid by December 1. The amounts are \$60 for member, \$30 for a second member of household, and \$10 for student members. Dues help in many of our functions: publishing and mailing the VOTER newsletter, paying expenses incurred in voter registration, paying for our website, etc.

Review of the September Meeting

The program for the General Meeting on September 17 was presented by **Lt. Chris Harrington** of the Clemson University Police. The Active Shooter/Hostile Event Preparedness proved to be a topic of controversy and consensus. Lt. Harrington, a fourteen-year police veteran with impressive law enforcement credentials, was an engaging and well-informed speaker. He noted that today's statewide concern for active shooter events was not the mindset twenty years ago when hunting before school with guns stored in the car afterwards was not considered a threat to safety. Kids today are taught as students to practice for intruders using the Run/Hide/Fight model for defense. Lt. Harrington addressed the importance of mental health awareness for police officers in hostage situations.

Audience participation saw questions focused on the purchase of assault weapons seemingly protected by the second amendment. Lt. Harrington concurred that assault weapons should not be available for individual purchase but said that hand guns were the most prevalent firearms in mass shootings. He pointed out that in hostile events a variety of weapons including edge implements and vehicles were used along with firearms.

Law enforcement does not speak politically, and Lt. Harrington maintained his composure throughout the evening's program. I was impressed with his thoughtful presentation and glad to know that he is protecting the Clemson community.

Submitted by Ann Russell

Clemson Area Better Angels – One Year Later

One year, and seven major public events later, Clemson Area Better Angels (CABA) is hosting a special meeting aimed at starting an ALLIANCE. (CABA is credited with hosting more Better Angels events in the past year than any other BA organizations in the country!!)

Shari Jung, CABA organizer and LWVCA member, describes an ALLIANCE as a group of reds and blues who have experienced a BA workshop or training and want to continue their association with each other in order to tackle an issue, frequently local, that is important to them. The goals are to depolarize political discussion and promote understanding and unity. Alliances have red/blue co-chairs and no more than a 60/40 split in red and blue membership. "All are welcome at this meeting, whether they have attended a CABA event or not," according to Shari.

The gathering will be Thursday, November 14, 7 – 8:45 PM at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Clemson. Reserve your space at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/better-angels-reuniting-america-documentary-screening-tickets-72681401027>. The gathering is FREE. Our second planned event is a day-long Red-Blue Workshop January 25. More information will follow. For more information, please contact **Paula Appling** at: upst8hiker@gmail.com or **Janet Marsh** at: jmarsh@clemson.edu.

Submitted by Janet Marsh

The District of Columbia: The Fifty-First State?

The League of Women Voters has supported District of Columbia self-government since 1938. District residents are required to fulfill all the obligations of US citizenship – paying taxes, voting, serving on juries and in the military. Yet, for over 200 years, they have been denied a full voice in our national government and sovereignty over their local affairs. They do have a delegate in the U.S. House who can sit on and vote in committees, can introduce legislation and participate in debate but cannot vote on bills being considered by the full House. They have no representation in the Senate. The population of the District of Columbia is more than the states of Wyoming and Vermont. H.R.51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act calls for the federal district to be reduced to the monumental core which includes the Capitol, Supreme Court, the White House and the Mall. The residential and commercial portions of the current district would then become the fifty-first state.

The Washington, D.C. Admission Act has been introduced in both the Senate and the House with multiple co-sponsors representing many states. On September 19, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing on H.R. 51, the first hearing on D.C. statehood in more than a quarter century. The LWV of the District of Columbia is depending on fellow League members throughout the country to support this effort with our legislators. Let's get behind D.C. statehood.

Submitted by Janie Shipley

Remembering Ben Turetzky

Ben Turetzky, husband of LWV member **Reggie Turetzky** passed away September 8, 2019. Ben was a graduate of MIT with a chemical engineering degree. He obtained a master's degree at Stephens Institute. He and Reggie (who was his high school sweetheart) spent many years living in New Jersey where Ben started his community service by serving on the town council of Parsippany-Troy Hills.

After his professional life was over, Ben donated his time to many civic endeavors: Oconee School Board member, volunteer in the ER at Oconee Medical Center, President of the Computer Club at Keowee Key. In that position, he personally collected more than 100 used computers to donate to the schools. As president of FOLKS (Friends of Lake Keowee Society) and then as Executive Director, he worked closely with Duke Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the relicensing of Duke's nuclear power plant.

Ben was a valued member of Temple B'nai Israel in Anderson. Over many years, He served as an officer, wrote the newsletter, and prepared the annual memorial book that was vital to our yearly memorial service. Believe it or not he found time for "fun". He enjoyed bridge, golf, boating and especially travel. Many of his friends benefited from his travel photos. His family remembers him mischievously riding an electric wheel chair with the smile when visiting his daughter in London. Many of us will have a smile on our faces when we remember Ben!

Submitted by Elaine Epstein

<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.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633