

## Co-President's Message

On Monday evening of October 28, I helped with a candidate forum for the city of Westminster. Sandra Gray organized it, **Holley Ulbrich** served as moderator, **Rosellen Alleguire** was timekeeper, and **Janie Shipley** and **Ansley Fraser** collected written questions from the audience for the candidates. Eleanor Hare brought the supplies and the Vote411 business cards.



Ruth Reed

Vote411.org links to voter information and a position sheet for each candidate to be filled out by that candidate. There were 2 candidates for mayor and 9 for city council. The crowd overfilled the room (141); in fact, some of us had to leave while tables were cleared out to increase the room capacity.

In reflecting on this event, I see the importance and effectiveness of League work. The answers of several candidates and conversations I had with participants afterwards decried inflammatory Facebook postings and blocked responses. I'm not sure what the point(s) of contention are, but I think that, without the League structure of written questions and timed responses, the forum could have devolved into a shouting match with no real information being given. That it did not is a credit to the democratic process, to the League, and to our members who volunteer to carry out events such as hosting forums and registering voters. I also noted that most of the League members present were long-term League members. I suspect that many of the newer members would be willing to help, at least with small, last-minute tasks, if asked. How do we best facilitate that process? Putting out an email to all or making a request at a meeting isn't always effective, nor is cold-calling someone

*Continued on next page*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Co-President's Message
- Calendar of Events
- Preview of the November Meeting-  
Environmental Protection in SC
- Well-Attended Candidate Forum
- China – Emergence of a New World  
Order? Part I
- New Member Bios
- Review of the October Meeting
- Opportunities to Make Democracy  
Work by Registering Voters

## 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:

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  
Ansley Fraser

## SPECIALISTS:

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, November 19, 2019**  
**7:15 pm**  
**OLLI**

General Meeting – South Carolina Environmental Law Project.  
Michael Corley, an attorney in the Greenville office of the  
South Carolina Law Project will speak about SCELPA work.

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m**  
**OLLI**

Holiday Party  
**Time Change**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020**  
**7:15 pm**  
**OLLI**

General Meeting - Education  
Lakes and Bridges Charter School

*OLLI, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson 29631*  
*The public is invited to all LWVCA meetings.*

## Co-President's Message Continued

who might not welcome such a call a very good idea? Although I'm still trying to get control of my duties as co-president, I would like to address how to better link members to work. I'm thinking perhaps of creating a list of members with preferred means of contact, what kinds of help you are or are not able to offer, and perhaps other information. If anyone has additional thoughts, please call, text, drop by, write a letter(!). Our work is important!

*Submitted by Ruth Reed, Co-President*

### **Holiday Party December 17** **Note time change: 5:30 p.m.**

**December is a time for celebrating with our League friends, so please save the date and plan to join us for some merriment on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 p.m. at OLLI. Since this is a social meeting, plan to bring your favorite party snack or beverage to share if you wish.**

## Preview of November 17 Meeting – Environmental Protection in SC

**Michael Corley** is upstate coordinator and attorney for the South Carolina Environmental Law Project, a public interest law firm dedicated to protection of South Carolina's environment. He is also an adjunct professor of environmental law at Furman University and a board member of Friends of the Reedy River and TreesUpstate. Before he became an attorney, Michael graduated from Clemson in industrial engineering.

SCELP provides concerned citizens and environmental groups with the services of attorneys having broad experience in environmental law. SCELP offers free legal services to those who require expert assistance in order to protect their natural resources or community. SCELP is in its thirty-second year of operation, working in communities from the coast to the mountains, and handling issues from nuclear waste dumps to salt marsh impairment.

Michael will explain the role of SCELP in allowing citizens to speak out and oppose powerful countervailing issues. His presentation will specifically focus on a couple of presently pending legal disputes, including a contaminated coal tar site that has been allowed to fester in one of Greenville's African American communities for more than 70 years, as well as several conflicts that have arisen because of climate change.

## Well-Attended Candidate Forum in Westminster



**Candidates for Westminister municipal elections participated in a League-sponsored candidate forum.**

The recent candidate forum in Westminster was so well-attended that, halfway through the program, a fire marshal announced that the room was over capacity and thirty people had to leave. We were meeting in his fire station, so his announcement was very official. Tables were removed, which increased the allowable room capacity and those of us who had been evicted were allowed back in.

The two candidates for mayor and nine candidates for three seats on council expressed the frustration of the community over utility problems and the city budget.

The forum was organized by **Sandra Gray** and moderated by **Holley Ulbrich**. **Rosellen Alleguire**, was the time-keeper. Other League members who participated were **Ansley Fraser**, **Eleanor Hare**, **Ruth Reed** and **Janie Shipley**.

## China- Emergence of a New World Order? Part I

When most Americans think of China, images of poor people making shoes and other products for pennies on the dollar come to mind. Work and living conditions are perceived like those of impoverished third-world countries. While to a great extent this is still true due to China's size and population, it's largely an outdated view. Emerging are new cities with high paying jobs and sky scrapers on par with anything the West has produced. With China's new economic might it is re-inventing itself. China has silently been preparing to become the most technologically advanced nation on Earth and the center of everything – from pharmaceuticals to genetic engineering; from the new Wall Street to Hollywood, from computers to Artificial Intelligence (AI), and most concerning, the world's superpower and possible ruler. This is the first of a series of articles that will examine China's goals, its growing influence in the world, and how it can achieve its objectives.

Under President Xi Jinping's leadership communism has merged with capitalism. China is predicted to soon have the world's largest economy and consumer of goods. It has a vision it pursues relentlessly while the West is distracted with political turmoil and division. The U.S. seems to be losing a sense of purpose and vision, impacting everything from education, manufacturing, to democracy itself. Inside the U.S., even the fundamental reason for our existence as outlined in the Constitution is being increasingly forgotten and disregarded. The decline of U.S. manufacturing is underscored by our recent trade dispute with China – exports focus on agricultural goods while imports focus on technology commodities. If we examine items we purchase, we often see "Made in China" written on them. When buying high tech products such as computers, "Made in China" may or may not be listed, but if not, chances are high most of its electronic components were manufactured there.

China has already infiltrated the U.S. as part of a patient, long term strategic initiative over the decades. It has embedded itself in our Internet-connected electronics (including military computers) and is silently establishing the capability to influence U.S. politics. It is electronically and physically spying on U.S. government operations, stealing intellectual property, and even obtaining medical records and sensitive personal information about us. Chinese individuals have long sought higher education in the U.S. and the American dream; however, there's a shift now. Just 15 years ago, 80% of Chinese students at institutions such as MIT chose to remain in the U.S. That number is now 30% with most returning to China to develop products and innovate within its high speed and high-tech manufacturing infrastructure.

To begin understanding the mechanics of Xi Jinping's initiative, it's necessary to understand ancient Chinese warfare strategies attributed to Sun Tzu, documented in "The Art of War." These include distracting the opponent, exploiting vulnerabilities, remaining patient and flexible, gathering intelligence, disinformation, and waging war with minimal resources (i.e., even small armies with scarce resources can defeat large ones through intellect and strategy). Tactics referenced in the document applicable not only to warfare but business strategy as well. Sun Tzu's work is so highly regarded, it is even part of Russia's KGB curriculum.

A few notable principles outlined in this work are: 1) "In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity;" 2) "Attack their weaknesses. Emerge to their surprise;" 3) "Know yourself and you will win all battles;" and, 4) "The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."

*Continued on page 7*

## New Member Bios



**Becky Jo Clark**

**Becky Jo Clark**, a native South Carolinian, joins the League with a history of vocations that have influenced and inspired. After marriage, she followed her husband's career which took them to universities in different states...an early life that delighted her adventurous spirit. She began her own career path teaching at Tri-County Tech, an institution that still holds her affection for the help they provide to students who might not be able to begin higher education any other way. Later, her love of children of all ages inspired her to take the position as the first director of Clemson Child Development Center following their receipt of a Federal grant. While serving in that position, and as a mother with three young children, she received her Master's degree in Counseling

from Clemson. She then served as Administrator in the Anderson Health Department, establishing rural health clinics in three counties and administering their Maternal and Child Health programs. After her three children were older, Becky Jo decided to strike out on her own. Drawing on her many years of experience in the nuts and bolts of establishing, financing, and administering in various organizations, she became a Certified Financial Advisor. In the first year, she became the first woman to receive the Southeast Division Rookie Award for outstanding performance. Becky Jo and husband, Ed, are new residents of Clemson Downs. In retirement, she had been active in the guardian ad litem program in Oconee and Pickens counties. Becky Jo desires to keep abreast of the issues affecting our democracy, to help the League grow, and to encourage voting in all levels of government. She looks forward to being a part of the Clemson Area League.

**Ellen Kochansky** was born in Brooklyn NY. She spent her young days in Connecticut where she began developing her talents in a creative home. Her mother (also a League member) created beautiful handcrafted items, and inspired Ellen to sew. She helped found a musical theatre group while still in high school. She then went on to Syracuse University, where she used her interest in fabrics, design, and the sociological influences in fashion, and continued creating period costumes for the theatre there. After graduation, she worked at Vogue, as an editor of "The Vogue Sewing Book," published in 1970.



**Ellen Kochansky**

She attended she began working a wedding in lovely Charleston while living in snow country, and decided this climate was better...Ellen and family bought a large wooded property in rural Pickens county and, in 1980, her parents decided the same thing, left the city life, and began a new lifestyle there. They built houses and established studios in an existing farm building. She began creating award-winning quilts, employing many area residents over twenty years in the piecing and shipping of the creations for both beds and corporate lobbies. She received two of the coveted state craft fellowships over the years and held positions on several national boards. Ellen launched the Rensing Center, named for her mother, in 2009. It serves both as a local gathering spot and international residency program for aspiring and established poets, authors, and musicians, for forums, events, farm-to-table meals, and nature walks. The Rensing Center is 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and receives fees, grants, and donations for its effort in developing awareness for the environment and for the value of the creative spirit. Ellen is the Center's guiding force, moving people to get involved in environmental and creative concerns, and that's what inspires her to want to be a part of the League.



## Review of the October Meeting - Redistricting

**Matt Saltzmann**, Clemson University Professor of Mathematics and Statistics spoke October 15th on Redistricting. He serves on both the State and LWVCA boards.

LWVUS advocates for fair and competitive elections. The problems start with the accuracy of the Census held every ten years. The allocation of the 435 members of the House of Representatives depends on the reliability of the Census. Based on this allocation, state legislators draw their district house seat maps.

Another problem facing fair redistribution is gerrymandering (drawing district maps to favor certain political interests). This is used to a certain extent by all state legislators to determine House districts. It is done generally by splitting communities among several districts or splitting communities among many districts. South Carolina is such a small state their gerrymandering usually involves protecting an incumbent's seat.

Mathematicians have developed a formula to determine the amount of gerrymandering that has occurred in each state. Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Wisconsin have all been found to be outside of the normal criteria and or have been subject to court action.

The Voting Act bill of 1965 prohibits gerrymandering for racial reasons. The LWVUS criteria includes districts that are contiguous, compact, respectful of the integrity of the community. It cannot use the address of an incumbent in the criteria. HRI has been passed by the U.S. House requiring non-partisan redistricting. The LWVUS has a five year (2017-2021) \$1,000,000 campaign in place to encourage non-partisan redistricting in all 50 states. The approach in SC will concentrate on educating our state legislators. To keep up with this action visit: <https://votersrule2020wordpress.com>.

*Submitted by Sandy Rosche*

## PayPal is Coming to Our Web Site

If you choose to pay your dues using PayPal, there will be a \$2 fee for some categories of membership. This fee covers our payment to PayPal. Charges for online payment will be:

For those using PayPal payments will be:

- **Individual Member: \$62 (\$60 + 42 fee)**
- **Household Membership (2 people): \$92 (\$90 + \$2 fee)**
- **Student Member: \$10 (no fee)**

There is no additional fee for paying by cash or check.

The membership will be notified by email when this service becomes available. We hope that it will be soon. Remember that the LWVCA board has urged that dues be paid by December 1.

*Submitted by Bill Hare and John Dyar*

## Opportunities to Make Democracy Work by Registering Voters

Several plans are in the works for the League of Women Votes of the Clemson Area (LWVCA). We are cooperating with the Easley Library, the town of Seneca, local schools, and other venues.

The media specialist wants the LWVCA to meet with them to either teach them to register voters and share our literature, or simply register the voters after they set up the time and place. It will be a night or late afternoon registration at the main library.

On November 23 we are doing a joint KNOW YOUR TOWN at the Seneca Park off Main Street from 11-3 with the Democrats, Republicans, and town officials. The Mayor of Seneca and others will speak briefly, free lunch for all and rides for the kids will be available, and two Voter Registration tables will be set up. We need four volunteers at least for this four-hour public presentation.

The Media specialist and I are working on the details of the library voter registration drive which will be held as soon as these details are worked out.

Come and help us do this valuable work.

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

## China-Emergence of a New World Order? Part I Continued

As an introduction to this series, below are two links to explore. The first is Sun Tzu's "Art of War" document and the second is a video produced by NBC inside China with exceptional access.

1. Sun Tzu: "The Art of War:" <http://classics.mit.edu/Tzu/artwar.html>
2. MSNBC: "Made in China:" <https://www.msnbc.com/on-assignment/watch/from-copycat-to-innovator-inside-china-s-tech-rise-64000581516>

In my evaluation, China poses a major threat to democracy, yet I'm concerned little is being done on a national level to counter it. There appears to be no strategic vision for our nation that could drive education, manufacturing, the economy and even national security to operate within an electronic interconnected world. There is no official focus on AI – the emergence of which both Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin agree will control the world. Unless the United States immediately places a priority on remaining viable in the age of technology, my concern is our way of life will end. I have written each presidential candidate asking, "What is your vision for where the US should be in 2025, 2030, and beyond, considering the implications of China's "Made in China 2025" program and longer-term strategies?" To date I have received no reply. Time to react to this danger is disappearing more rapidly than most realize. The U.S. must engage now or succumb to a future none of us imagined.

*Submitted by John Dyar*

<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