



THE VOTER

September 2021, Vol. 48 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

The League of Women Voters begins a new year continuing our efforts to "Make Democracy Work." We need many volunteers to carry out this mission, so as you read through this September *VOTER* please sign up for something that interests you. We have many new members who I am hoping joined the League to become educated voters and join in the action.



Linda Gahan

Cheryl Lee needs help organizing voter registration of high school and college students. Alice Flower is working on VOTE411.org, a website that provides information on the candidates running in the municipal elections this fall. We need volunteers on the five statewide working groups (education, health, environment, racial justice, and women's rights) that address League issues, programming, and advocacy. Janet Marsh and Shari Jung head up Safe, Accessible, and Fair Elections (SAFE). This group is getting to know their election commissioners. Become involved and make a difference.

Look at the programs we have planned for this year. **Matt Saltzman** will bring us up to date on Redistricting State of Play on September 21 at 7 pm by Zoom. (RATS!! We are still in the midst of a pandemic with the highly infectious Delta variant.) The new census data will be used to draw maps that determine voting districts in each state, which will determine representation on the county, state, and federal levels. The League wants fair maps.

We can become educated voters, but we will not be effective in shaping public policy unless we advocate for safe, accessible, and fair elections, for which fair redistricting

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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:

Ruth Reed, Co-President
Michael Wood, Co-President
Jill Gemmill, Vice President
Toni King, Secretary
Elaine Laiewski, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Buzzy Adams
Kathy Barger
Sheila Crawford
Janet Marsh
Sarah McNeil
Catherine Mobley
Sandy Rosche

APPOINTED BOARD:

Eleanor Hare, Vote411
Mike Ellison, *Voter* Editor
Cheryl Lee, Voter Services
Janie Shipley, National Representative
Holley Ulbrich, State Co-President
Sandra Gray, Past Co-President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	<i>Redistricting by Matt Saltzman</i>
October	<i>Home Rule with Holley Ulbrich; Candidate Forums for Local Municipal Elections</i>
November	<i>Conversations with our State Legislators</i>
December	<i>Holiday Party</i>
January	<i>Secure and Fair Elections Focus – Janet Marsh and Shari Jung</i>
February	<i>Truth in Civic Education – Debunking the Critical Race Theory – Holley Ulbrich and Sheila Crawford</i>
March	<i>Health Working Group Focus – Sandy Land</i>
April	<i>Environmental Working Group – Ellie Taylor</i>
May	<i>Annual Meeting</i>

Co-President's Message Continued

redistricting maps are vital; other important issues include voting rights, reproductive rights, measures to stem the tide of climate change, civic education in the public schools, racial justice, and many other issues on which the league has taken a position. So, make a resolution to communicate your views on these issues with your legislators. Call **Senator Lindsey Graham** or **Senator Tim Scott** today and tell each of them to pass the “For the People Act.” Let’s do this as if our lives depended on it.

Linda Gahan, Co-President
glinda1942@gmail.com

Help Needed for Vote411

Vote411 is a League of Women Voters project dedicated to providing voters with the information they need to make informed election decisions. We need people to call candidates to ask for email addresses (when we can’t read them on the filing document), call candidates to ask if they received our email invitation (if they don’t respond), and send reminder postcards to candidates who don’t respond. Most of all, we need members to help with publicity. We will finish our work before the election on November 2. If you are available to help, please contact **Alice Flower** at (aliceflower2019@gmail.com) or (864-202-3235).

Elections are as follow:

Oconee County: Salem, Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, West Union.

Pickens County: Central, Easley, Liberty, Norris, Pickens, Six Mile, District 7 School Board.

Anderson County*: Belton, Honea Path, Iva, Pendleton, Pelzer, West Pelzer, and part of Easley. (*It is our hope that the new Anderson MAL will take responsibility for the Anderson County races.)

Update on Our Name Change

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area is changing its name to the League of Women Voter of Oconee/Pickens (LWVOP). The name change to Oconee/Pickens more distinctly describes the area we cover. While our membership is about half in Clemson, we intend that the name change would help us to recruit members elsewhere in the two counties.

The name "Clemson Area" has historically been a good description of the area covered by this league. However, with the advent (re-institution) of a League in Anderson County, we think that it is a good time to change our name to one that more effectively represents the area we serve.

Also, the new name does not link us with Clemson University. This reason is a mixed blessing: most of our membership lives in Clemson, and that may well continue. However, some in the two counties do not necessarily consider the University to be representative of the area. The county names give us a more neutral face for our work.

One final point: there are currently three leagues in South Carolina with the initials LWVCA: Charleston Area, Columbia Area, and Clemson Area. LWVOP is likely to remain unique.

Our LWVSC President, **Nancy Williams**, is assisting us with the change. The State Board has approved our name change and the proper paperwork has been submitted to LWVUS. Once approved we have a few other details to change, and we will be good to go. LWVSC approved member-at-large (MAL) status for Anderson County at the same meeting (August) where our name change was approved.

Women's Equality Day

The League planned an ice cream social for August 17, 2021, at Nettle's Park to celebrate Women's Equality Day. Torrential rains and tornadoes nixed these plans, but on Wednesday, August 18, a few of us gathered by Zoom to draw attention to gender equality and to pay tribute to the suffragists who worked 72 years to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote. We viewed a short video on the colors adopted by the suffragists and learned their significance: purple for loyalty, white for purity, and gold for hope. **Holley Ulbrich** prepared a ten-minute video on the history of the movement and some women involved in SC. From a short quiz, we learned that the amendment was originally called the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, and that President Woodrow Wilson called for the passage of the amendment in the US Senate, that Tennessee cast the final vote to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, Mississippi became the last state to adopt the amendment in 1984, and 8 million women voted in the 1920 presidential election. The League of Women Voters was established in February 1920 to educated women on the political issues so they would be informed voters. Don't miss next year's celebration.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

LWVCA Redistricting Activities

Redistricting State of Play

We will bring you up to date with the state-level redistricting process in South Carolina. After a brief review of redistricting basics, we will show the changes in South Carolina population distribution captured by the 2020 census and discuss the impact on district maps for Congress and the state house and senate. We will describe the process by which new maps are developed and adopted in the state and what you can do to have an impact.

Matthew Saltzman is on the faculty of Clemson's School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. The mathematics of drawing and analyzing district maps is one of his research interests. He is currently serving as the Director for Redistricting of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.

Submitted by Matthew Saltzman

Senate Redistricting Hearing Report

Janie Shipley and I attended the Senate Redistricting Hearing in Greenville on Monday, August 2. The panel of senators stated at the outset that this meeting was to hear concerns from the public and not for them to speak. Everyone who wished to speak registered their intent and was offered the opportunity to walk up to the microphone and speak. Concerned citizens, including numerous League representatives, including our own **Holley Ulbrich** did so.

Presentations were still going strong when I left after an hour and a half. I saw no restrictions while there. In a few instances, people presented concerns that seemed either unrelated or quasi-related to redistricting, but most presentations directly addressed the importance of fair and representative redistricting.

Multiple people stated that these hearing should also be included after the census data was published and that citizens deserved input with final decisions. One presentation included computer modeling specifically designed for fair, unbiased, and representative redistricting. I can report that no one came forward to present that current districts exhibited fair and unbiased representation.

Our lobbyist in Columbia, **Lynn Teague**, wrote to members that gerrymandering makes a mockery of one person-one vote when many votes will not affect the outcome. She further stated that if the outcome of an election is known, candidates do not need to care about minorities, cater to their base, and these further drives partisan politics. These sentiments came up multiple times in presentations.

The large auditorium was filled except for spacing to offer social distancing, so the senators witnessed strong interest by the public on redistricting in South Carolina. The forum was a good example of democracy in action with many citizen concerns expressed to our representatives in a peaceful but emphatic manner.

Submitted by Kenneth S. Marsh

LWVCA Redistricting Activities Continued

Holley Ulbrich's Testimony at the Senate Redistricting Hearing

Holley Ulbrich made two points in her testimony at the Senate Redistricting Hearing in Greenville on August 2nd. One was to pay closer attention to communities of shared concerns, such as Clemson-Central-Pendleton struggling with growth management issues spilling over county lines. The second, more important, issue is how redistricting interacts with the role of legislative delegations in micro-managing county governments. Ideally, the legislature should cede some functions such as appointments to county board and commissions and let citizen referenda govern decisions about the structure of school boards (district consolidation, size of boards, numbered vs. at large seats) as they did for counties in Article 8 of the South Carolina Constitution in 1974.

Submitted by Linda Gahan, Co-President

SAFE Committee Acts to Increase Diversity

In our ongoing effort to promote safe, accessible, and fair elections, the SAFE committee reached out to the Pickens County delegation regarding their recommendation to the Governor for the open seat on the Pickens Election Board.

The following is an excerpt from the letter which was hand delivered to the delegation secretary on August 24th.

The League of Women Voters Clemson Area thanks you for your public service to the citizens of Pickens County. As you know The League is a nonpartisan group with a mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

To that end we know that you are in the process of considering applicants for the vacancy on the Election Board. We encourage you to consider diversity when considering your recommendation to the Governor for his appointment. We suggest a representative of the African American community or someone who has a deep understanding of the challenges to voting that are faced by citizens with disabilities. We are confident that you will recommend a Board member who will help the overall Board reflect the citizenry of our county.

The deadline for Board applications was 8/31. The SAFE committee will continue to follow up with the delegation as they consider the applicants.

Submitted by Carolyn Bishop-McLeod

New Member Bios



Pat Spurlock

Pat Spurlock and her husband **Jim** moved to South Carolina in 2014, when he accepted a faculty position at Clemson University.

Prior to the Clemson move they lived in Alexandria, Virginia, for 25 years. Jim was a political appointee in President Reagan’s final year, and Pat was Legislative Assistant to **Senator Charles Robb’s** (D-VA) Commerce Committee for six years. Their license plate “GOPDEM” drew a lot of attention. Pat’s other employment included Senate Lobbyist for the National Association of Broadcasters and Director of Public Policy for The American Academy of

Physician Assistants, which was her final D.C. gig. In this role, she advocated (aka lobbied) for PAs with patient safety organizations such as The Joint Commission, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and individual state medical licensing boards.

Prior to her D.C. experience, Pat worked for Bell Operating Companies until 1988 where she gained an incredible education in corporate America. She credits living in Aurora, Colorado — her last location before relocating to DC — with developing her political acumen, local government activism, and leadership skills. She was a member and leader of the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County and Aurora, Colorado, for sixteen years.

Carrell Dammann (right) is an Atlanta native. She practiced as a clinical psychologist for 47 years before retiring. She is 79 years old, married to **Steve Chase**, and moved to Seneca in 2015. Carrell has been active in public policy related to child abuse, women's issues, poverty, and civil rights since the 1960s. She has also worked with women's issues in the former Soviet Union and Tanzania, and with refugee programs in Atlanta. She looks forward to joining the League of Women Voters and continuing to work on public policy, especially voting rights.



Susan Coryell and her husband **Ned** are Virginia natives and former educators. Susan retired from teaching English and Writing to students from 7th grade through college levels. With her degree (Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, which she received from George Mason University in 1990), she led efforts to teach using interdisciplinary methods. She is listed in Who’s Who in American Education. A published author with five-star Amazon ratings, Susan has addressed everything from bullying in her book, “Eaglebait,” to Virginia and the Confederacy, in “Beneath the Stones,” to Agatha Christie-like mysteries, in “A Murder of Principal.” Susan and her husband have three children, all educators/writers/musicians themselves, and seven

grandchildren. Her daughter, **Heidi Williams** is an active League member. Susan was a League member before her move here, even when her community had no chapter. She is interested in education and social action endeavors through the League.

Statewide Working Groups Address League Issues: Programming and Advocacy

Congratulations to our League for being the first to have a representative for each of the statewide working groups! There are now four active groups and two in formation. The oldest is redistricting, headed by our own **Matt Saltzman** and **Shayna Howell** from Charleston (each working group has co-facilitators from two different Leagues). Others currently active are:

- Education (co-chairs **Holley Ulbrich** and **Bernadette Hampton** from Beaufort, also with **Jane Powell** representing LWVCA)
- Environmental Policy (co-chairs **Ted Volskay** from Greenville and **Ellie Taylor**)
- Health Care (co-chairs **Elizabeth Brown** from Charleston and **Janie Shipley** and **Sandra Land** representing LWVCA)

The two groups being formed are Women’s Issues (**Buzzy Adams** will represent us) and Racial Justice (**Sarah McNeill** and **Sheila Crawford**). Working groups encourage collaboration across local Leagues in programming and individual advocacy on state public policy issue on which we have positions. **SIGN UP TO BE PART OF A WORKING GROUP THAT INTERESTS YOU. CONTACT Linda Gahan** (glinda1942@gmail.com) or **Ruth Reed** (reed.juniata@gmail.com) with your interest. Commitment is one zoom meeting per month.

Voter Registration - Request for Volunteer Organizers

We have need of:

1. A Clemson University faculty member who works with a club or other organization to assist **Cheryl Lee** in reserving a spot on the Cooper Library bridge. Cheryl Lee can do the rest, but she must find a faculty member to sign her up. Cheryl plans to partner with Young Democrats and Young Republicans.
2. Two volunteers to organize Oconee County’s three high schools: Oakway, Seneca, and Walhalla. At least one volunteer should have prior experience conducting the voter registration drive.
3. Two volunteers to do the same for Pickens County’s high schools: Pickens, Daniel, and Easley. Cheryl’s contact at Liberty High School does most of the work himself!

Your Membership Matters



- 2021-22 DUES (Same as last year)
- \$60 Primary Membership
- \$30 Additional Household Membership
- \$10 Student Membership

Ways to Pay Your 21-22 LWVCA Dues

- Mail a check to PO Box 802 Clemson, SC 29633.
- Send a Bill Pay payment through your bank or credit card.
- Pay with PayPal through our website. For other options or questions, phone a board member or send an email to LWVclemson@gmail.com

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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