

THE VOTER

APRIL 2012 Vol. 39, No 4

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

President's Message

This month's newsletter contains the information for our annual meeting on May 1st at Collins Old Towne in Central. We have a slate of nominees for the 2012-13 board, a



proposed budget, a proposed local program (unchanged from last year), and a proposed bylaws change. I think we have an excellent incoming board to continue the efforts of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area to make democracy work.

It's the time of year to reach out and connect with the state and national League. Paula Appling will be our delegate to the national convention in Washington DC in June. At the state level, this is the year for Council rather than convention, a one-day event in Columbia on Saturday, April 14th. We hope to have a good turnout. Let me or any board member know if you are interested in attending. Information is elsewhere in this VOTER.

We had a good turnout and some good storytelling and consensus making at the March 13th meeting on privatization. It's one thing to formulate criteria and guidelines and something else to embed them in actual stories, including privatized prisons, parking meters, a semi-privatized Post Office, mental health care, and Clemson University custodial services. Ellen Magee also shared with us her experience with an alternative to privatization in New York, a non-profit quasi-governmental agency that provides services to small rural school districts on a contract basis. Mary Ann's account of privatized prisons is on the LWVCA web site for those of you who missed it or want to see it in greater detail. Paula Appling is writing up our consensus to submit to the national League.

March has been a very active month for the League as we registered high school students to vote (over 200 so far), participated in consensus on privatization, had a Hot Topics meeting in Oconee on education funding, responded to numerous opportunities to act on pending state legislation, and started to gear up for the primary elections in June. It looks like there will be a lot of contests, mostly on the Republican side but some on the Democratic side as well. We have three counties to serve, so we hope you will want to help with one or more of the candidate events, mostly in May.

Thank you for being part of the League and for whatever contributions of time, money, and/or attention you are able to give.

Holley H. Zelfuch

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633 www.lwvclemsonarea.org

Holley Ulbrich, President Paula Appling, President Elect Mary Ann McKenzie, VP/Program Co-chair Carol Ward, VP/Program Co-chair Ada Lou Steirer, Secretary Bill Hare, Treasurer/Finance Co-chair DIRECTORS: Barbara Hamberg Linda Gahan, PR Co-chair/Voter Editor Sandra Gray, Natural Resources Director Eleanor Hare, Webmaster June Hay, Finance/Fundraising Co-chair Elaine Laiewski, Membership Co-chair Matt Laiewski, Membership/Co-chair Reggie Turetzky, PR/Comm/Voter Service OFF BOARD: Bill Hare, Voter Service Pickens Co. Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co Della Baker, History and Archives

Arlene Stewart, Nominating Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, APR 10	GENERAL MEETING "HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING" , Presented by Catherine Watt, Ellen Saltzman and Holley Ulbrich, CLEMSON-CENTRAL LIBRARY, 7:00 pm-social, 7:30 – 9:00 pm-program.
Saturday, APR 14	LWVSC State Council, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull Street, in Columbia, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm.
Tuesday, APR 24	ACTION TUESDAY , OLLI building in Patrick Square, noon (brown bag or take out lunch).
Tuesday, May 1	LWVCA ANNUAL MEETING , Collins Ole Town, Central, S.C., Social Time begins at 6:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by our Guest Speaker CU Professor Dr. Cindy Lee on " <i>PCBs and the Environment</i> ".

APRIL 10 GENERAL MEETING

"Higher Education Funding"

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina has a long-standing position supporting adequate funding for higher education in South Carolina. The share of college budgets coming from the state has dropped dramatically over the last ten years, and tuition has risen equally dramatically, pricing some of our high school graduates out of the market and saddling many of our college graduates with a burden of debt that will take years to pay off. Lottery-funding scholarships have helped, but not as much as you might think. Catherine Watt, Ellen Saltzman and Holley Ulbrich of the Strom Thurmond Institute will take a look at higher education funding in South Carolina at our April 10th meeting.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

LWVSC Council Meeting April 14, 2012

The Biennial Council Meeting of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is April 14, 2012, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull Street, in Columbia. Join us for a day of learning, networking and fun. Council also is a chance to exercise your democratic rights as League members to participate in the governance of the LWV in our state. We urge citizens to play an active, informed role in their government. Likewise, grassroots member participation in governance is critical to the health and future of the League of Women Voters in South Carolina--at the state as well as local level

South Carolina League members and their guests are welcome to attend. In an effort to make Council participation affordable for as many as possible, we are maintaining the registration fee at \$25. Go to www.lwvsc.org to see the agenda. Contact Holley Ulbrich if you are interesting in attending and/or carpooling.

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area cordially invites members and their guests to our Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Wine at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Collins Ole Town, Central, S.C Come at 5:00 p.m. to see the Old Town buildings.

"South Carolina's Energy Future"
Featuring our Guest Speaker
Dr. Cindy Lee*
"PCBs and the Environment"

Dinner: \$25 per person
Buffet includes two choices of meat, several choices of vegetable,
coffee, tea and dessert
Wine and other beverages provided by LWVCA volunteers
(Please volunteer!)

We need your reservation no later than April 24.

Please email your reservation to Bill Hare at: wrhare@earthlink.net or phone him at 654-4417.

Checks should be made out to LWVCA and either mailed to: P.O. Box 802, Clemson SC 29633 or paid at the door.

Reservations not honored will be billed after the event.

Dr. Lee is a faculty member Environmental Engineering and Sciences. Her major teaching and research interests are the chemistry of environmentally significant organic compounds. Her specific research interests involve the fate and transport of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), especially polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); pesticides; and petroleum.

INFORMATION FOR LWVCA ANNUAL MEETING

LWVCA Local Program:

Education: The LWVCA believes our schools should be adequately financed. Therefore, we support increased taxes, if necessary, for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson County schools.

The LWVCA supports greater fiscal autonomy for the School Boards of Trustees in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties

We support returning to the current structure of the Pickens County School Board with six area seats and three at-large seats.

Growth Management: We support intentional and collaborative growth management in the three county area (Anderson, Oconee, Pickens) of South Carolina. We encourage regular consultations among public agencies related to growth and development and local elected bodies—city councils, county councils, and school boards. We also encourage an open and frequent dialogue between those agencies and the general public on growth management. We support the concept of managing growth to preserve and enhance quality of life for all residents, old and new, through the effective and coordinated use of such land use management tools as conservation easements, purchase of development rights, development impact fees, and zoning where appropriate.

~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

PROPOSED 2012-2013 BUDGET

		2011-12	Proposed
			2012-13
INCOME	Dues	\$4,050.00	\$3,805.00
	Member Contributions Ed. Fund	\$500.00	\$300.00
	Contributions	\$500.00	\$700.00
	Fundraising	\$1,220.00	\$924.00
	TOTAL	\$6,270.00	\$5,729.00
EXPENSES	PMPUS	\$2,025.00	\$1,905.00
	PMPSC	\$945.00	\$889.00
	Voter		
	Printing	\$950.00	\$405.00
	Mailing	\$400.00	\$405.00
	Website	\$225.00	\$225.00
	Convention	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Board Tools		
	President	\$200.00	\$200.00
	Membership	\$150.00	\$200.00
	Voter Education	\$100.00	\$200.00
	Publications - DPO		
	Fundraising	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Miscellaneous	\$125.00	\$150.00
	Citizenship Award	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Annual Meeting		
	TOTAL	\$6,270.00	\$5,729.00

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Offices for 2012-2013:

President	Paula Appling
President - Elect	Sandra Gray
Secretary	Elaine Laiewski
Programming	Holley Ulbrich, co-chair
Director	Lisa Robinson
Director	Loretta Park
Director	
Nom. Comm.	Janie Shipley, chair
	Ansley Fraser
	Elaine Laiewski

Membership count as of 1/31/12:

48 single member households, 10 two-member households, 1 student

Per Member Payment:

Single member - \$30 PMPUS, \$14 PMPSC 2-member - \$45 PMPUS, \$21 PMPSC student - \$15 PMPUS, \$7 PMPSC

Proposed By-Laws Changes to Articles 111, IV, and VIII

Current wording Article III. Membership:

Section 2. Types of Membership

a. Voting members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and the League of Women Voters of the United States; (1) individuals who live within the area of a local League may join that league or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who make a lump sum life membership payment to the League of Women Voters of the US shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life mmbers excused from the payment of dues.

Proposed change Article III. Membership:

a. Voting members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and the League of Women Voters of the United States; (1) individuals who live within the area of a local League may join that league or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members ecused from the payment of dues.

(Justification: to conform to the national by-laws, eliminating the process for making a lump-sum life membership payment) Current wording Article IV. Officers:

Section 1. Election and term. The officers of the LWVCA shall be a president, a president elect, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The vice-president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years at the annual meeting and shall take office on June 1 following their election. The secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years and the vice-president and treasurer in odd-numbered years. The president elect shall be elected at the annual meeting and take office on June 1 following the election. The president elect shall succeed to the office of president on June 1 of the following year.

Section 2. President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; and shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management that pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

Section 3. President-Elect and Vice President. The president elect and vice president, in that order, shall, in the event of the absence, disability or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

Proposed change Article IV. Officers:

Section 1. Election and term. The officers of the LWVCA shall be a president or co-presidents or a management team, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Co-presidents shall be elected for a two year term. One of the co-presidents shall be elected in an even-numbered year, and one co-president shall be elected in an odd-numbered year. The vice-president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years at the annual meeting and shall take office on June 1 following their election. The secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years and the vice-president and treasurer in odd-numbered years. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and will take office on June 1 following the election.

Section 2. President. The term "president" shall refer to the president, a co-president or any member of the management team as appropriate to the circumstances. The president, co-president or member of the management team (hereinafter referred to as the president) shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; and shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management that pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. If a co-president or management team member resigns before the term expires, the remaining president or management team member will take over the duties of president for the remainder of the term of office.

Section 3. Vice President. The vice president shall, in the event of the absence, disability or death of the <u>co- presidents or management team</u>, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. **(Justification: to allow alternative leadership structure)**

Current wording Article VIII. Program:

Section 3. Action by the annual meeting: The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures.

- a. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting.
- c. A majority vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption.
- d. Program recommendations submitted by voting members two months prior to the annual meeting but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the annual meeting provide that (1) the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and (2) the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.
- e. Changes in the program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is discussed and (2) final action is by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

 Continued on page 7

CONSENSUS RESULTS ON PRIVATIZATION

Consensus questions one and two should be presented to the group at the outset of the meeting and then repeated after the other questions have been answered.

 As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is: _ Much too much X Too much _ About right _ Too little _ Much too little _ No consensus We may have been privatizing the wrong things. 	
2. Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector X Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree No consensus "Core government services" needs to be defined.	:.
3. As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector? a. Transparency and Accountability: All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and	
information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control. X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus b. Public Well-being: Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being.	11
being, especially to vulnerable populations. X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus	.1-
c. Cost and Quality: Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public. X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus d. Environmental and Natural Resources: Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.	
X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus e. Contracts and Sales of Public Assets: All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.	
X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus subject to competitive bidding where appropriate and feasible f. Economic Impact: Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.	
High priority X Lower priorityNot a priorityNo consensus g . Government Recovery of Services and Assets: Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.	
X High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus	
 4. Privatization is not appropriate: a. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto. X AgreeDisagree No Consensus 	
 b. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term. X AgreeDisagree No Consensus c. When it poses a potential threat to national security. 	
X AgreeDisagree No Consensus d. When it poses a risk to personal or security data. X AgreeDisagree No Consensus	
e. When there has been evidence of potential corruption. X AgreeDisagree No Consensus f. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.	
X AgreeDisagree No Consensus g. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits.	
 X AgreeDisagreeNo Consensus h. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services. X AgreeDisagreeNo Consensus 	
5. Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions. As a general matter, should privatization be regulated?	
a. Yes, all privatization efforts should be regulated.b. Yes, some types of privatization efforts should be regulated.c. No, privatization efforts should never be regulated	
X d. No consensus Question is confusing. Group was split between "a" and "b"; need more information.	
6. Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions? a. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus b. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract.	
Strongly agreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus c. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits.	
X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus d. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts. X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus	
e. Transition plans for displaced employees. – Very important! X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus	
f. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts. X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus R Popular performance graduations including meaningful expertunity for public comment.	
g. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment. X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus B. Parairing for the forming a surface of the distribution of the	
h. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance. X Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeNo consensus i. Adequate resources for enforcement.	
Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagree X No consensus – Needs clarification	

BY-LAWS Changes continued from page 4

Proposed addition Article VIII. Program

Section 3. Action by the annual meeting:

f. If LWVCA has studied a local issue and adopted a position that might be applicable to other Local Leagues in the state, LWVCA shall appropriately reword the position so that it would apply to other Local Leagues and recommend it to the state board for concurrence by submitting it to the state board at least eight weeks before the state convention.

(Justification: to clarify the process for moving a local issue to the state level through concurrence. It is expected that more positions will be proposed using the concurrence process, given the reduced expenditure of human and financial resources to adopt positions through concurrence vs a two-year study; adoption by concurrence allows the state League to act more quickly on issues that are time sensitive.)



DR. MIKE LUCAS, Superintendent of Oconee County Schools, spoke on HOT TOPIC of "how decreased state funding has impacted local public schools". School finance is a three-legged stool made up of 12% federal, 37% state and 51% local monies in Oconee County. The State Budget and Control Board calculates the base student cost (BSC). For 2011-2012 school year, the BSC was \$2790 for Oconee County but the state only appropriated \$1880. Oconee County has a higher index of tax paying ability because of Duke Energy. This means schools in Oconee County do not get as much funding from the state as school districts with lower tax paying ability. This also means when the state cut funding, Oconee County schools do not suffer as much. Cuts came to district office jobs and did not affect the classroom. In addition Oconee County schools were able to use \$4 million from their fund balance. As of June 30, 2011, there was \$24 million in their fund balance. Since money from the federal, state and local government does not come in at regular intervals, the fund balance is used to meet the \$6 million monthly payroll. Dr. Lucas also touched on other topics such as charter schools, home schooling, dropout rates, family literacy programs, and different taxing powers of the 83 school districts.

Observer Corps: Clemson City Council March 19, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Linda Gahan attended Clemson City Meeting as an observer for the League of Women Voter and to present her concerns about the proposed conceptual CU plan for Douthit Hills during the public session. The CU plan would provide residential units for juniors, seniors, graduate students and Bridge students, relocate the Barnes and Noble bookstore to this site, furnish food service and contain 1300 parking spaces for student residents. Linda ask council to assist her neighborhood that abuts this project in minimizing the impact of new student traffic through the neighborhood as students come from downtown or Highway 123 to Douthit Hills or the reverse. Emily Hunter reported on the organization of the neighborhood into study groups to seek solutions to traffic flow problems. Tal Slann asked for clarification on the Rental Housing Ordinance. One woman asked city council to work with Pickens Co Council. The Arts director spoke of their upcoming tour of homes fundraiser.

The rest of the meeting addressed the following agenda: City Council passed all items on the policy/action agenda.

Discussion Agenda: Receive a report on the Douthit Hills redevelopment concept meeting, hosted by representatives of Clemson University, which was held on March 13th - City Council.

Policy/Action Agenda:

- a. Item Request Consider 2nd Reading to adopt changes to Chapter 13, Article III, Rental Housing Ordinance as presented CC-2012-03 Planning & Codes Administration.
- b. Item Request Consider 1st Reading for Concurrent Annexation or Zoning request for a 0.95-acre parcel located at the north corner of Old Central and Lawrence Road. The request is to annex the parcel, which is contiguous to the City's corporate boundaries, and concurrently zone the parcel as RM-4, multi-household residential district (Staff Report) Planning Administration.
- c. Item Request Consider 1st Reading for changes to the Aspen Heights Planned Development Ordinance as presented Planning & Codes Administration.
- d. Item Request Consider a Resolution accepting a Proposal from Patrick Square LLC that establishes the location, management structure, advertisement and promotion, and operation of the Clemson Farmers Market for Calendar year 2012 Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator.
- e. Item Request Ratify the April 16, 2012 date for a public hearing. The proposal is to hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the specified date for a requested rezoning of a 0.42-acre parcel located at 104 Daniel Drive from the RM-3, Multi-household Residential District to C, General Commercial District Planning & Codes Administration.
- f. Item Request Consider 1st Reading to adopt changes to the City of Clemson Code of Ordinance, Section 5-3(a) Fees to reflect the correct formula to calculate permit fees as presented with an effective date of April 16, 2012 Planning & Codes Administration.
- g. Item Request Consider an Amendment to the City of Clemson Personnel Policy Manual regarding annual leave options for employees who participate in the TERI Program or choose early retirement benefit options and become rehired as City employees Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator.
- h. Item Request Consider a Resolution supporting the efforts of the City of Clemson to enter into a five (5) year extension of the existing Intergovernmental Agreement with Anderson County regarding a consolidated real and personal property tax collection system, and other matters related thereto Mr. Tom Sparacino, Finance Director.

Clemson City Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 pm.
Seneca City Council 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm.
Pickens County Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm.
Oconee County Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm.

Anderson County Council Pickens County School Board Oconee County School Board Anderson Co. School Board 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm 4th Monday, 7:30 pm. 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm. 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		
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.	-	-		

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

P. O. Box 802 Clemson, SC 29633

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4