



THE VOTER

APRIL 2013 Vol. 40, No 4

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

President's Message



Even though we have another month or two to finish out this year, I find myself reflecting on this past year of League activities. Since June 2012, we registered 225 mostly young people and armed countless others with information on how to register to vote long-distance, hosted 7 candidate forums, put on 6 informative programs and provided materials and information for advocacy. We gained 13 new members, enjoyed socializing with wine in hand, and learned – again! – how much we enjoy getting together and discussing national issues over a meal! But even knowing how much we accomplished, the best thing I learned is that making that personal connection is most important.

We celebrate April with a general meeting on funding schools, the Biennial State Convention in Duncan, and our Annual Meeting with a talk from Shawn Jadrnicek on Sustainable Landscaping. In addition, a handful of Leaguers are going to local high schools to register students to vote... the opportunities to do good deeds are endless!

Somewhere in this issue, you will find the slate of candidates, which you will vote on at the Annual Meeting. Janie Shipley and the Nominating Committee worked tirelessly to put this slate together – and it looks like a good one! To Janie, the Nominating Committee and the candidates who all said “yes, I can!” I thank you!

Yours in League,

Paula Appling

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Calendar	2
April General Meeting	2
Oconee Hot Topics	2
High School Voter Registration	2
LWVCA Annual Mtg Invitation	3
LWVSC Convention	3
Report on March Meeting	4
Wine Tasting a Success	4
Estate Planning for Retiree	4
2013-2014 Propose Budget	5
Local Program (Annual Mtg.)	5
Nominating Committee Report	5
Observer Corps Schedule	6
Contribution Form	6

THE VOTER

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

Paula Appling, President
 Sandra Gray, President Elect
 Holley Ulbrich, VP/Program Co-chair
 Elaine Laiewski, Secretary
 Bill Hare, Treasurer/Finance Co-chair

DIRECTORS:

Diana Stafford
 Matt Laiewski
 Eleanor Hare, Webmaster
 Pattilee Tate, Finance/Fundraising Chair
 Lib Crockett, Membership Co-chair
 Lauretta Park, Membership Co-chair
 Reggie Turetzky, PR/Comm/Voter Service
 Linda Gahan, PR Co-chair/Voter Editor

OFF BOARD:

Bill Hare, Voter Service Pickens Co.
 Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co
 Della Baker, History and Archives
 Janie Shipley, Nominating Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, Mar. 27 **OCONEE HOT TOPICS**, Steakhouse Café in Walhalla, 12 noon
- Tuesday, April 2 **LWVCA BOARD MEETING**, Clemson City Hall Meeting Room, 5:30 pm.
- Tuesday, April 9 **APRIL GENERAL MEETING: "PAYING FOR EDUCATION"** Central/Clemson Library, 7:00 pm social, 7:30 pm program
- Sat/Sun, Apr 27-28 **LWVSC STATE CONVENTION, "HONORING OUR PAST AS WE GROW THE LEAGUE'S FUTURE"** Hampton Inn & Suites, 108 Spartanburg Blvd., Duncan, SC
- Tuesday, April 30 **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. Shawn Jadrnicek on **sustainable agriculture**.

April General Meeting: "Paying for Education"

Our April 9th meeting is on Paying for Education, which looked like a lively issue this session. However, two of the more pressing questions have been put on the back burner--revisiting Act 388 (the sales tax for homeowner property tax relief legislation passed on 2006) and rethinking the Education Finance Act formula that is a significant source of state aid to schools. We have new information on how Act 388 made rich districts richer and poor districts farther behind, and there are some ideas for reform floating around. As for EFS, the formula is 36 years old and complicated, depends on assessments from two years earlier, and doesn't do much equalizing. Other states have moved on to better formulas for state aid.

So what has the General Assembly been doing? Well they did increase the base student cost in the formula, although it is still well below where it is supposed to be. And they once again considered robbing the general fund to pay for private schools through tax credits. Stay tuned for further developments. Holley Ulbrich will help us to be better informed about this very important issue.

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

Oconee Hot Topics

The Clemson Area League of Women Voters is sponsoring an Oconee Hot Topic luncheon on Wednesday, March 27 at noon at The Steakhouse Café in Walhalla. The speaker will be Mr. Scott Moulder, Oconee County Administrator. He will discuss various important 2013 objectives. The public is invited. Lunch is Dutch treat. For further information, call 944-7171.

-Submitted by *Reggie Turezky*

HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION

For high school seniors, spring brings acute senioritis and a team of LWV volunteers with Voter Registration Forms! Cheryl Lee is coordinating with Seneca, West Oak and Daniel High Schools. Reggie Turezky is coordinating with Walhalla and Tamassee-Salem High Schools and Sue Medlock will work with Pendleton High School. Should you wish to help out, please contact Cheryl, Reggie or Sue. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers and their helpers!

*The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area cordially invites members
and their guests to our Annual Meeting*

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

*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.*

Shawn Jadrnicek*,
CU Student Organic Farm Manager
will speak on "Sustainable Landscaping"

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 23.

Please email your reservation to Bill Hare at: whare@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.

**Among other things, Shawn practices permaculture with chickens, fish, bees, food forestry, vermiculture, insect production, greywater systems, passive solar, mushroom production, rainwater catchment, floating hydroponics, and a partial hydroponic systems.*

SOUTH CAROLINA LWV STATE CONVENTION

LWVSC's 31st Biennial Convention will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2013, in Duncan, South Carolina (Spartanburg County). The theme of this Convention is *Honoring Our Past as We Grow the League in South Carolina*. This theme is woven throughout Convention with outstanding sessions offering strategies for growing and sustaining the League, illustrations of political leadership and courage from our past and present, along with educational opportunities on hot button policy issues.

You don't have to be a League Leader to take advantage of this weekend of learning, networking and fun. Convention is also an opportunity to exercise your democratic rights as League members to participate in the governance of the League in our state. We encourage citizens to play an active role in their government. In the same way in the League, grassroots member participation in governance is critical to the health and future of the League of Women Voters in South Carolina.

You can access convention materials and information here: <http://lwvsc.org/convention2013.html>

Contact Paula Appling for car-pooling information.

REPORT ON MARCH MEETING: HEALTH CARE POLICY ISSUES AND SC



February's meeting on health care policy issues and South Carolina was informative and lively with Sonya Albury-Crandall bringing us all up to speed on health insurance exchanges, Medicaid expansion, and other issues as the implementation of the 2010 Affordable Care Act continues to move ahead. South Carolina's legislature has affirmed Governor Haley's request to reject the Medicaid expansion despite intense lobbying by the hospital association and other groups. Several other Republican governors have reversed their position on this issue. The exchanges will be in operation this fall, and like many other states, South Carolina has elected to use the federal exchange rather than set up their own. The exchange is really a guided tour of the health care options from which to choose. Keep alert for new information on this important change in how we as individuals and as a nation attempt to broaden coverage and contain costs.

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

LWV Fund Raiser a Rousing Success!

More than 60 LWV-CA members and their guests gathered on February 23 for the Annual Wine Tasting and Fundraiser. The theme was Italian wines and food. A plethora of both were available to savor thanks to Palmetto Spirits and our fabulous League chefs.

The success of any event depends on the willingness and participation of League members as well as the committee in charge. Both groups came through as always to create an evening of fun. The room was gaily decorated with Italian flags, red, green and white table clothes, flowers, and candles. The crowning touch was the centerpiece, a large basket of wine, glasses, bread and other Italian items. The buffet table groaned under the weight of so many delectable treats, from appetizers to desserts and members kept asking who made each delicious dish.

The room buzzed with lively conversation. Newer members mingled with old-timers. Our sommelier, Matt, kept the wine flowing all evening and answered many questions about vintages, production, and food-wine pairings. The grand total raised for the evening was \$1555.00 and will keep our chapter moving forward during the next year.

Special thanks go to Clemson Child Development Center for lending us their facility and to Palmetto Spirits which graciously provided the wine. Many thanks are owed to Pattilee Tate and Diane Haselton who coordinated the fund raiser, as well as all members who set up, cleaned up and provided the food. This was teamwork in action from start to finish and ensured that a good time was had by all.

~Submitted by *Lib Crockett*



***State retiree?
TERI participant?
Within five years of qualifying
for state retirement?***

The State Retirees Association of SC (SRASC) invites you to a **free presentation on estate planning** on Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m., at the Madren Conference Center on the Clemson University campus. Subject matter will include wills, trusts, medical powers of attorney, and DNRs – what they are and how they are best used.

Our speaker, Greenville attorney Charles Verdin, is provided on a recommendation from the Public Employee Benefits Authority (PEBA) and there will be absolutely **no sales pitch** for his professional services! SRASC President Wayne Bell also will give an update on legislative issues and latest developments on the State Retirement Investment Commission.

A BBQ plate lunch will be provided **at no cost** to participants at noon but **seating must be limited to those registering to attend**. Register online at <http://www.srasc.org> by Thursday, April 11.

~Submitted by *Lib Crockett*

2013-4 PROPOSED BUDGET

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.

The program planning meeting in January recommends that we change the last statement to "either one or three at large seats" in order to provide an odd number of members to reduce the likelihood of tie votes.

Growth Management: We recommend that we continue our growth management study focusing on the three-county area and revise our current position in support of local comprehensive planning. Our draft growth management position is as follows:

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.

	Proposed 2013-14 Budget
INCOME	
Dues ¹	\$3,890.00
Fundraising	\$1,322.50
Ed. Fund Contributions	\$600.00
Member Contributions	\$300.00
Nonmember Contributions	\$200.00
Annual Meeting ²	\$1,000.00
DPO Publication Contributions ³	\$300.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,612.50
EXPENSES	
PMPUS ¹	\$1,999.50
PMPSC ¹	\$967.50
Voter Printing	\$500.00
Voter Mailing	\$400.00
Website	\$225.00
Convention ⁴	\$1,500.00
Board Tools	
President	\$200.00
Membership	\$200.00
Voter Education	\$100.00
Fundraising	\$100.00
Citizenship Award	\$50.00
Annual Meeting ²	\$1,000.00
DPO Publications ³	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$70.50
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,612.50

¹ 72 members at 12-13 rates

² Paid for by ticket sales

³ Expected to be funded by Duke Energy

⁴ National convention in Texas

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates who have agreed to serve in a leadership capacity for the upcoming term. The following nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting:

Co-President – Sandra Gray

(The other Co-President is Paula Appling, 2012-2014)

Vice President – Holley Ulbrich

Treasurer – Bill Hare

Director – Liz Branstead 2013-2014

Director – Eleanor Hare 2013-2015

Director – Della Baker 2013-2015

Director – Michael Stafford 2013-2015

2014 Nominating Committee: Reggie Turetzky, Chair, Ron Goldstein, Aleta Robinson

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Janie Shipley, Chair, Ansley Fraser, Della Baker, Elaine Laiewski

LWVCA membership	#
Single households	57
2 member households	13
Students	2
Total 2/4/2013	72

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 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm
 Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:30 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 _____

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