

## Message from the President

*“Education reform.” Simple words, but not such a simple idea, when you consider the 2014 SC Supreme Court ruling that held that SC had failed to adequately fund poor, rural school districts in the Abbeville court case. That case was litigated for 21 long years. Little has been done to right the wrongs identified in the court’s ruling, but some proposals have surfaced that the General Assembly is poised to consider.*



These are the words which opened a recent letter to the editor (LTE) which I sent to local newspapers, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. I would like to mention a couple other issues raised in the LTE and update you on some developments in the education arena since this letter to the editor was written.

The House Task Force on Abbeville has presented their recommendations and the Governor has proposed a significant investment to build and/or renovate rural schools. Further recommendations from the Collaborative Agenda for PreK-12 Public Education were presented. This document is the outcome of a collaboration between the League of Women Voters of SC and several SC educational groups. The agenda has five components that relate to early education, school choice within the public school system, teacher compensation, teacher evaluation and funding.

But precious little progress has been made during this session. H4941 Fiscal Oversight has passed the house. This bill requires the State Department of Education, working with superintendents and district financial officers, to develop and adopt a statewide program to identify poor fiscal practices and advise districts using this statewide plan. The plan calls for three levels of concern: fiscal watch, fiscal caution, and fiscal emergency. Spending so much time discussing the roads bill, the Senate has accomplished little for education, other than the negative impact on education resulting from funding the roads bill out of the general fund.

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### THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Clemson Area  
P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633  
[www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues, Apr 5    **BOARD MEETING**, Foothills Community Healthcare Boardroom, Clemson, 5:30 pm  
 Tues, Apr 19    **APRIL GENERAL MEETING: Kicking It Down the Road**, OLLI, 7:15  
 Tues, May 10    **ANNUAL MEETING**, Occasions, Central, SC

**Refer to [lwvclemsonarea.org](http://lwvclemsonarea.org) for updates and current information**

### April: Fixing Roads or Kicking It Down the Road

Roads have been a hot button issue in South Carolina for more than a decade. The Jim Self Center on the Future at Clemson University undertook a three-year study of transportation issues and funding options in SC in 2001 that Jim London headed. The project looked at public perception, comparative state approaches and a series of funding options to close the gap between projected needs and current funding options. Despite calls at the time from a number of groups, including the State Chamber and trucking interests, the debate has continued. The program will focus on key issues and options in addressing long-term transportation needs in the state.

Jim London received his PhD in applied economics from Clemson and taught at both Clemson University, and the College of Charleston. He retired in 2014 as Associate Dean of Architecture, Arts and Humanities at Clemson. His research focused on economic development and natural resource policy. He and his wife, Donna, now operate London & Associates Economic, Policy & Planning Consultants. In addition to his academic and consulting work, he served for 10 years on Pickens County Council.

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

### March Meeting in Review: Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Policies in SC

*The March meeting was delivered by MaryAnn McKenzie, who spoke about Human Trafficking, and Deborah Cantrell, who spoke about domestic violence.*

While most in our state are aware of the domestic violence problems faced by far too many families, the issue of human trafficking is new to many of us. Human trafficking is a horrible combination of slavery and indentured servitude, and escape is rare. It was only in 2012 that trafficking became a felony in SC, and while the law is viewed as one of the best in the country, it has yet to be fully enforced. There have been only three convictions and many people do not even realize the vastness of the issue.

If you are not familiar with SC's human trafficking problem, there is an executive level task force led by Attorney General Alan Wilson. A plan is in place, and grass roots organizations are reaching out across the state to directly meet with, talk to, and assist those in need ([www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Human-Trafficking-Executive-Summary.pdf](http://www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Human-Trafficking-Executive-Summary.pdf)). Locally, Operation Freedom Awareness: A Mission Against Human Trafficking (<http://www.OFAmission.org/>)

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SC ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in child well-being according to the 2015 Kids Count. Certain indicators related to education contribute to that low ranking: per-pupil spending, salaries for beginning teachers, and percentage of fourth graders not proficient in reading. Reforming the way we fund education will go a long way toward ensuring that SC students are well educated and prepared to qualify for jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to provide leadership to South Carolina. The League of Women Voters encourages our legislators to urgently respond by making changes needed for that to happen.

*Janie Shipley*



Left: President Janie Shipley (1) and Event Organizer Nicole Paluzzi.

Below: Jeff Appling, amateur sommelier, surrounded by League supporters.



### WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER SUCCESS!

Approximately 80 Leaguers plus friends enjoyed Saturday evening at Circa 1930 on Ram Cat Alley in Seneca. A flight of 8 wines, plus bellinis, plus a delectable array of edibles were served. Two carefully crafted and artistically arranged baskets of goodies were given away as door prizes. AND we gained 2 new members and had a successful fundraising! Hats off to Nicole Paluzzi for arranging this beautiful evening, Jeff Appling for serving, numerous others for their efforts!

### One Woman's Experience: Voter ID Issues at the Polls By Heidi Coryell Williams

I knew what I was doing when I left my house the afternoon of the Republican primary election. My voter registration card was zipped into the pocket of my athletic pullover, my sneakers were on my feet, and my eight-year-old daughter was in tow: We'd decided to run the mile from our house to my polling place at the Clemson-Central Library. The plan was that I would vote, and she would peruse the stacks.

When we arrived, slightly sweaty but all smiles, my neighbor from a few doors up the street was behind the check-in table, as he always is. But when I presented him with my voter registration card, he let me know that it was no longer sufficient to cast a ballot. I needed a photo ID.

I didn't dicker with saying "but you know me," although he offered that up and said it didn't matter anyway. An ID was required.

I didn't have it, of course. I'd left my house with one thing in my pocket and my daughter by my side. Turning around and getting my ID would require another two-mile jog, as far as I was concerned.

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**Annual Meeting – May 10**

Join your League friends at Occasions at Wedgefield (1551 Eighteen Mile Road, Central, SC 29630) for a dinner buffet by Boulevard Catering. The program, **The South Carolina Energy Innovation Center: Building a World Class Facility for Wind and Solar Research**, will be presented by Dr. Imtiaz Haque.

During the business portion of the meeting, we will vote on the 2016-17 Proposed Budget (see right), the slate of nominees (below) and the proposed local program, which has not changed from last year and will be available at the Annual Meeting.

This lovely venue makes for a perfect evening starting with happy hour with drinks and appetizers from 6-6:30. The dinner meal will feature a choice of roast beef with mushrooms or Dijon chicken with all the trimmings, followed by Crème Brûlée for dessert. The cost is \$25 per person and Bill Hare, our Treasurer, will reserve your place; contact him at wrhare@earthlink.net.

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

LWVCA TREASURER'S REPORTS 2015-16			
Proposed 2016-17 Budget			
		2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Proposed Budget
<b>Income</b>	Dues	\$3,630	\$4,440
	Member contributions	\$559	\$300
	ED Fund contrib	\$650	\$900
	Fundraising	\$1,450	\$1,000
	wine tasting		
	Non-member contributions	\$250	\$300
	*Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000
	DPO Publications Contrib.	\$300	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,839</b>	<b>\$7,940</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	PMPUS**	\$1,872
PMPSC***		\$819	\$1,036
Voter			
Printing		\$650	\$640
Mailing		\$400	\$400
Website		\$225	\$225
Convention		\$2,000	\$1,000
Board Tools			
Program/Action		\$50	\$200
President		\$100	\$150
Membership		\$100	\$200
Voter Ed/Services		\$50	\$250
DPO Publications		\$300	
Fundraising		\$100	\$100
Misc		\$123	\$247
Citizenship Award		\$50	\$50
*Annual Meeting		\$1,000	\$1,000
Off Budget Expenditure			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,839</b>	<b>\$7,940</b>	

**2016-17 Slate of Nominees**

The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area is proud to announce the following nominations for the 2016-2018 term:

- President – Eleanor Hare (2016-17)
- President-Elect – Holley Ulbrich (2016-17)
- VP Program and Action – Catherine Watt (2016-18)
- Secretary – Ann Russell (2016-18)

- Elected Directors:
- Cheryl Lee (2016-18)
  - Janet Marsh (2016-18)

Nominating Committee: Linda Gahan – Chair, Mary Ann McKenzie, Rosellen Aleguire  
*Respectfully Submitted by Rosellen Aleguire, Carol Kozma, Janet Marsh, Holley Ulbrich*

... Voter ID *continued from page 3...*

The next 30 minutes or so was an interesting exercise in what might happen to anyone who arrives at a polling place without an ID. The questions I still had afterward included (*answers were provided by Rodney Allen, Executive Director of the Board of Voter Registration & Elections Of Pickens County in a follow-up phone call*):

- Do I need a photo ID to **register** to vote, or can I still use my utility bill, bank statement, or pay stub? *You do not need a photo ID to register to vote. Only proof of residency.*
- What if I have a photo ID but it's from another state? What if it's expired? *You must have a non-expired photo ID which includes driver's license, military ID, DMV ID card, or passport.*
- What about casting an absentee ballot? If no photo ID is required to do that, how can it be required at the polls? *You can still vote absentee without a photo ID. If you cast your absentee ballot in person, however, you must show a valid photo ID.*
- Are there any exemptions, as I believe there have been in the past, for voters who are age 65 and over, voters with disabilities, etc.? *Yes, those exemptions still exist, but additional paperwork may be required when voting.*

It seemed to me that the new law creates a lot of inconsistencies between registering to vote and actually casting your ballot. More concerning that day, however, was that the polling place seemed somewhat unprepared to deal with someone who had arrived without an ID beyond saying, you had to have one. My next-door neighbor had also shown up without his ID. (His grandson reminded him he'd left it in his car, so he had to go back out and get it.) Ultimately he was able to vote. No problem.

I, on the other hand, had no intention of going home to get my license. I informed the poll workers that they needed to provide me with a provisional ballot, which after a couple of phone calls and some lengthy searches through a stack of boxes, was discovered, although no one seemed really sure that it was, in fact, a provisional ballot. Then I was told I would need to take that provisional ballot to the Board of Elections office in Pickens and present it to elections officials with... you guessed it: my ID.

I was also told if I wanted to use my voter registration card in the future without an ID, I could go to the Board of Elections office in Pickens to have a registration card with my picture on it made for me, free of charge.

"If I don't have a driver's license, I surely don't have the ability to get myself all the way out to Pickens," I pointed out.

About that time, Herbert Thompson, a member of the Pickens County Board of Elections showed up and everyone else in the room breathed a sigh of relief. Mr. Thompson patiently went through all of this with me again, at which point a light bulb went off for me, the first of many. He reiterated that I could get a new voter registration card with my photo on it by visiting the board of elections. He even said I could go online to pull up my DMV photo, so it could be made without having to take a new picture.

Now, I understand that the state is not going to shell out the money to pay to send everyone a new voter registration card that has a photo on it. But my question was, if you can pull up my DMV photo on a home computer, why can't poll workers pull that up at a polling place?

Also, several days after the primary, when I was doing a little more reading on the subject, I learned that I could have been offered an affidavit so that I could cast my provisional ballot in the absence of an ID. I'm not convinced that this paperwork was either readily available at my polling place or that the poll workers had been instructed on how to use it. But I will give them the benefit of the doubt and assume I was not offered this affidavit because most everyone in the room knew good and well I had a driver's license. Therefore, no affidavit was necessary.

In any case, it didn't take long before it was clear the gig was up: "Go home and get your license," Mr. Thompson said with an exhausted smile after we'd reached a stalemate. My point was made, though I never cast my vote in the primary.

Instead, I went across the hall and found my daughter in juvenile fiction, where I helped her settle on a selection. I did not have a library card with me of course, but I went to the checkout counter anyway and presented my voter registration card and an explanation of why I'd arrived without my library card.

The librarian looked down at my voter registration card and used it to look me up in her system: "If this was good enough for you to vote, it's good enough for us to loan you a book."

If only she knew!

## NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY: September 27, 2016

September 27 is not far away and it is a very important day. That is when we hope to have all 85 members of the LWVCA involved in National Voter Registration Day. Our goal is to reach all the high schools we have done in the past, Clemson University, Anderson University, and all three Tri-County Tech campuses. We will also visit nursing homes and other public facilities if we can get enough volunteers.

Please look at your calendar and save September 26-27 for an all-in campaign to do one of our most important services – voter registration.

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

## What's going on at the Statehouse? Legislative Webinar – March 3, 2016

On March 3, eleven of us listened for an hour to Lyn Teague, our LWVSC lobbyist as she described what had gone on that week. This was the second webinar and there will be others the first Thursday of the month. I would recommend that you listen in as you learn more about South Carolina politics.

H4857, the coal ash bill, was an environmental victory for Pickens County. It was the only bill that she discussed that passed this week. Remember this webinar is over 2 weeks old so some of this information may be old news to you.

H3184, the ethics bill, will probably not be voted on as this is an election year and it includes some controversy - income exposure, oversight, etc. Donors will not be named in this bill. There was reference to keeping refugees out of SC also. Lyn is guardedly optimistic about its passage. Another bill proposes stretching the statute of limitations on an ethics situation to four years past the legislator's time in office.

The House passed five education bills and sent them to the senate. They are as follows: 4936 - sets education goals for high school students; 4937 - establishes the SC Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council; 4938 - studies incentives for rural teachers; 4939 - studies obsolete statutes and reports this every five years and monitors school boards in underperforming schools; and 4940 - creates an Office of Transformation to send e-mail alerts, help with technical assistance, and discuss bills. Lyn feels that most of these bills have a zero chance of passing, at least this year.

Heated debate ended with the GOP coming together to give up the gas tax for the roads bill as Gov. Haley would not agree on this tax unless it is combined with an income tax decrease. Using a surplus that was found, they will take \$400 Million out of the general fund (education/health care) for this year. There is no guarantee that this will be available next year. Also, it was mentioned that Gov. Haley is against structural reform and wants to appoint the DOT head.

LWV supports structural reform but a gas tax of \$.12/gal. would be needed to implement this bill, H3579.

H3114 is an abortion bill - Unborn Child Protection Act - that prohibits any abortion after 20 weeks, even in case of rape or incest.

Senator Alexander is working on medicaid expansion. Lyn is allowing her personal story to be used in Palmetto Plus: her brother, George Shuler, did not have insurance, failed to go to the doctor with a sore throat, and died at an early age four months later.

The LWV supports the Base Load Review Act. Presently, utilities are allowed to charge ahead of time for the cost of construction. This was written by a lawyer from South Carolina Electric & Gas and cannot be challenged. She believes it is a license to steal, as there were \$6 billion overruns last year. It is a bad business practice and government needs to be accountable to the public.

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Also discussed was the Nuclear Waste Disposal Act - don't dump in SC and voter technology - the voter should be able to directly verify and there should be a paper ballot backup system. No system will be funded until satisfaction of these requirements is met.

Again, I believe you will find these webinars quite interesting and informative.

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

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*... Trafficking continued from page 2 ...*

works with law enforcement, trucking, manufacturing, and other volunteers to bring awareness and enforcement to the Upstate. (They also have a Facebook page.) SC's interstate system makes trafficking easier, as criminals can use the many rest areas, truck stops and other exits to make transfers. Most of those being kept prisoner work in either sex trade or manual labor (across several industries). While most are females, the ratio is only 3.5:1, women to men.

The outcome for the discussion was to increase awareness of a hidden crime, and to encourage people to support funding for law enforcement training.

Far too many of us have been affected by domestic violence. Since 1996, SC has had the unfortunate trend of ranking in the top 6 nationally for women who die from domestic violence. The issue primarily affects Whites, and across multiple income and education levels. Why do we consistently rank so high? Turns out there are multiple problems – from reporting, to data tracking, to enforcement, to sentencing, and even to state policies.

When it comes to reporting and data tracking, SLED maintains two databases. Law enforcement officers sent out on a domestic violence call are not required to report what happened. That's one problem. But then, if you are the victim of domestic violence, the problem is exacerbated in moving ahead because "simple assault" (as most cases are) is treated the same as a traffic ticket. Yes, your case is heard by a magistrate, with the responding officer acting as the prosecutor with only his report as evidence. If you are killed by your partner, it may not even be recorded as such because there is no mandate to report death by domestic violence.

The SC Domestic Violence Task Force, Report II is available online through SC.gov (<http://governor.sc.gov/Documents/Phase%20II%20Proposed%20Recommendations.pdf>). The report details three focus areas: 1) State action, 2) Local action, and 3) Governor/Task Force responsibilities. For example, the State action areas include reasonable progress in a) increasing accountability, b) increasing quality prosecution, c) improving data, d) ensuring a common database language, and e) creating a domestic violence advisory committee. However, it also includes the statement that there should be "minimal mandates," meaning that law enforcement should not be forced to improve responsiveness to domestic violence, but trained and educated and persuaded to do so. At the Local action level, examples include a) forcing law enforcement to report on calls, b) improving documentation, and c) training across agencies and counties on handling domestic violence crimes.

Similar to human trafficking, domestic violence requires specific and in-depth training for our officers. Funding is rarely made available, despite mandates and laws. League members can call on current bills in the legislature, including H.4666 and S.971 related to funding for training.

Of course, there is much more to this topic than what we covered. League members are encouraged to become involved with shelters such as Safe Harbor and to work with their legislators to make sure reporting, prosecution, and punishments are tracked by multiple factors. This is an opportunity for women to help women, maybe even saving a life in the process.

*Submitted by Catherine Watt*

Clemson City Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:30 pm  
 Seneca City Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
 Pickens County Council 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:30 pm  
 Oconee County Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Anderson County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
 Pickens County School Board 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm  
 Oconee County School Board 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:00 pm  
 Anderson Co. School Board 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) and contact us at [lwvclemson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvclemson@gmail.com).

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

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