

Co-President's Message

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. . . ."

Well, maybe for Juliet, but perhaps not so much for the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. You will see in this *Voter* the call to vote at the Annual Meeting on May 18 (7:00 PM) on whether to change the name of our League from



Ruth Reed

Clemson Area to Anderson, Oconee, Pickens Counties (LWVAOP).

This issue has been discussed extensively during this year, the report by **Buzzy Adams** and **Eleanor Hare** in the January *Voter* outlines pros and cons of various names. Since that report came out, the names that have appeared most often on my radar have been Blue Ridge and Foothills, the negative being that they are not geopolitical designations, and they are generally understood to cover a broader area than just Anderson, Pickens and Oconee Counties.

Apparently, Greenville and Spartanburg Leagues objected to these designations for exactly this reason in a previous discussion of name change years ago. Thus, the call for a vote contains only two names: Clemson Area or Anderson, Oconee, Pickens Counties.

So—why consider a name change, and why bring it to a vote now rather than next year when we might know whether Anderson forms a separate League? As Vote411 maven **Eleanor Hare** points out, municipalities in these counties will be holding mayoral elections this

Continued on next page

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Co-President's Message
- Calendar of Events
- LWVCA Working Group on Health Care
- CAPER: Living the Pledge Workshop *The For the People Act*
- SAFE Committee Welcomes Lynn Teague
- Preview of the April Meeting

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

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

Braver Angels Workshop
Tuesday, April 13 via Zoom

“Bridging the Political Divide Workshop”
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-bridging-the-divide-hybrid-south-carolina-registration-142259089767>

April General Meeting
April 20, 2021 via Zoom

Dr. Khoa Truong of Clemson University will host a conversation about the economic impacts of Covid-19 pandemic.

Annual Meeting
May 18, 2021 via Zoom

The speaker is **Claudia Smith-Brinson**, journalist and author of *Stories of Struggle: The Clash over Civil Rights in South Carolina*

Co-President’s Message Continued

coming November—all except, ironically, Clemson—and the League will want to hold candidate forums.

The Vote411 group reports some pushback from area candidates not wanting to be part of forums under the Clemson name: “Clemson doesn’t dictate what the rest of us do.” Rightly so. On the proverbial other hand, the Clemson name has a long history—more than fifty years now. Do we honor the history, or do we honor the future?

Names are important; for example, many in Clemson have reverted to calling Old Main by its original name rather than calling it Tillman Hall. In the case of LWVCA, also the acronym for Columbia Area and Charleston Area Leagues (three of thirteen SC leagues are currently LWVCA), I can proudly accept either name in good non-partisanship, or I accept the argument for calling the vote at this upcoming Annual Meeting.

See you there!

Vote411

Municipal elections will be held this November in Easley, Central, Norris, Six Mile, Pickens, Liberty, Walhalla, Westminster, Salem, Seneca, West Union, Pendleton, Belton, Honea Path, Iva, West Pelzer and Pelzer. Candidate filing will open in August. If you are interested in joining our team contact **Alice Flower** at 864-202-3235.

LWVCA Welcomes Your Input to a Working Group on Health Care

A small group of LWVCA Members met on April 7 via Zoom to share ideas and begin planning for local League action on health care priorities. Although health care is a broad topic covering many issues important to our Members and our communities, the Health Group will focus initially on Medicaid expansion in South Carolina for two reasons.

The first reason is based on the recently passed COVID Relief Act that provides new financial incentives to 12 states, including South Carolina, that did not accept the expanded Medicaid offer under the Affordable Care Act. Although **Governor McMaster** has strongly opposed adding uninsured, poor South Carolinians to the SC Medicaid Program, several advocates for expansion believe these new incentives could make a difference. However, this option through the COVID Relief Act is only available during 2021.

The second reason for choosing Medicaid Expansion as a focus is that it is already a priority for LWVSC as stated in the Program & Action Agenda as follows: “LWVSC believes that South Carolina should help to ensure coverage of its citizens by expanding Medicaid or similar federal programs to the extent feasible.” ([LWVSC Program&ActionAgenda_2019-2021_2ndEd_kb0523](#))

The Health Group’s efforts will be directed toward communicating, educating and advocating, as follow:

1. Compiling and analyzing information regarding the potential impact of Medicaid expansion in our three-county area.
2. Identifying local area stakeholders - individuals and organizations - that could influence the Governor using that information; and,
3. Developing and implementing an action plan to influence public officials to expand Medicaid in South Carolina.

Anyone interested in joining the Health Group or wishing to share ideas should contact **Sandy Land** at sandyl@pa.net or phone 717-491-7483.

Call for vote on changing the name of the League of Women Voters Clemson Area, To be presented at the Annual Meeting, May 18, 2021

Reason:

We cover all of Pickens and Oconee Counties and part of Anderson County. See the article in the January *Voter*, p 4, for discussion of the reasons for a name change.

Proposed Names:

1. Clemson Area (No Change)
2. Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Counties

CAPER: Living the Pledge Workshop

Registration for those participating in the two-session virtual workshop to be held on Saturday, May 8 and Saturday, May 22, 2021 is now open: www.clemsonpledge.org.

The Clemson Area Pledge to End Racism (CAPER) is a multi-faith initiative, and the pledge is a personal commitment to work on ourselves and to work with others throughout the Greater Clemson area to address racism in all its forms. We invite all to join us who would like to connect with others to reflect, learn, and practice how to develop and maintain this commitment to end racism. Attendance at both sessions is required. Registration closes on Friday, April 30. Shortly after your registration is processed, you will receive workshop materials for the first session.

Volunteers are needed and if you are interested, please email clemsonpledge@gmail.com ,and we will respond. Areas where your help is needed includes database management, registrant communication, facilitators and technology support. For any further questions contact stacylkeelor@gmail.com or 914-217-8092.

Saturday, May 8 and 22
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Motion to accept the following slate of officers to be voted on at May 18, 2021, Annual Meeting:

Co-President:	Linda Gahan , 2-year term	
Co-President:	Ruth Reed , 1-year term	
Secretary:	Ellie Taylor , 1-year term	
Board:	Kathy Barger , 2-year term)	
	Carolyn Bishop-McCleod , 2-year	(DEI)
	Shelia Crawford , 1-year term	
	Sandy Land , 2-year term	(health care)
	Jane Powell, 2-year term	(education)

Nominating Committee:

Ann Fuhr
Shari Jung
Patty Warner

Note: Continuing officers are **Jill Gemmill** (Vice-President), **Elaine Laiewski** (Treasurer), and Board members **Buzzy Adams**, **Janet Marsh** and **Sarah McNeill**.

Tell Our US Senators to Support S1!

The *For The People Act* (S1) is the democracy reform bill we want and deserve. This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. Over the last two years, we saw the bill pass the House of Representatives but get stalled at the Senate. **We cannot let this happen again.** The House has just passed the *For the People Act* again. It is now time for the Senate to fulfill their duty for our democracy.

This is what the *New York Times* (4.2.21) wrote about the new Georgia voting law, with similar laws pending in over 40 states:

Go page by page through [Georgia's new voting law](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/us/politics/georgia-voting-law-annotated.html), and one takeaway stands above all others: The Republican legislature and governor have made a breathtaking assertion of partisan power in elections, making absentee voting harder, and creating restrictions and complications in the wake of narrow losses to Democrats. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/us/politics/georgia-voting-law-annotated.html>

The *For the People Act* addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our democracy by:

- restoring the Voting Rights Act.
- modernizing our voter registration system.
- restoring voting rights to formerly incarcerated people.
- curbing partisan gerrymandering; and
- making campaign contributions more transparent.

Contact Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator Tim Scott: tell them to support the For People Act (S1). Return control of our government back to where it belongs—into the hands of the people. Call or write a letter please, not an email!

Senator Graham

290 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, D.C.

Office: 202.224.5972

Pendleton Office: 864.646.4090

Senator Scott

717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Washington, D.C. Office: 202.224.6121

Charleston Office: 843.727.4525

SAFE Committee Welcomes Lynn Teague

Lynn Teague, LWVSC VP for Action and Issues, shared her extensive knowledge, wit and wisdom about the SC Legislature with a group of 26 members via zoom on April 8. The session was initiated by SAFE, with the intent to better educate ourselves and our members. It was recorded, and a link to the recorded presentation has been emailed to members and will be active for several weeks.

The link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Tk3_sa0FyRUggUJRclSUf5Jp155JLd7NmK-SV4xTmdMlj0A7auYN2knKc671DUgP.mN_8SSLou18203iU
Passcode: GYeYd?6h

Known better as “our lobbyist,” Lynn encouraged us with some key points:

- It does not take many concerned citizens to make a difference.
- Write letters or postcards to legislators, not emails; reach out with phone calls. “I am a constituent of ___ and I want ___.” Be a constituent who is known for staying interested over time!
- SC legislative staff are very good and helpful.
- Follow-up on Action Alerts from LWVSC.
- Don’t worry about legislator motives, just results.

She described two sources of information about legislation: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/> and <https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina>.

The former site is very well constructed and useful for finding almost any information, such as bill content, sponsors, process/hearings, legislators’ votes, and so forth. The LWVSC site is maintained largely by Lynn with current information under ‘Advocacy’ and ‘Action Alerts.’ Also, under Advocacy is a brief and instructive booklet, [Advocacy 101](#) ... a must for League members. Additionally, Lynn ensures that the LWVSC Facebook page is current. She described ways that tech-savvy members can stay up to date using a mobile app, live streaming, etc. Additionally, she gives current information on LWVSC legislative priorities via zoom every third Monday, 5-6 PM.

SAFE is committed to supporting SC and federal legislation that ensures secure, accessible and fair elections and to supporting Election Commissions and Directors in our three-county area. We meet at least monthly via zoom and welcome all League members. Contact **Janet Marsh** (jmarsh@clemson.edu) or **Shari Jung** (spjung1@me.com).

Who are we and what do we do?

Check out twelve years of League newsletters on our website!

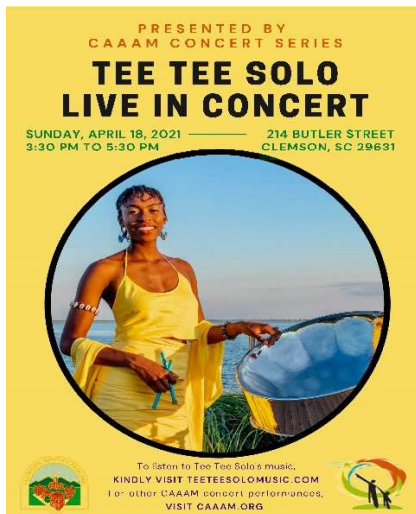
<http://www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/Archives.html>

Preview of the April Meeting: A Conversation about Covid-19

The April General Meeting will be presented by **Dr. Khoa Truong** of Clemson University. The topic will be "A Conversation about Covid-19 and its Impacts on Livelihood and Healthcare Services."

Dr. Truong will begin this conversation by sharing some thoughts on Covid-19, its impacts on livelihood and healthcare services around the world. The presentation will be given through the lenses of a health economist with an international background. This will be truly a conversation where you can share your thoughts and answer questions from the participants. All perspective and experience will be welcome!

Dr. Truong is a health economist. He recently has led a team of several faculty and students to study the uninsured, especially the chronically uninsured population in South Carolina. The project involved both primary data collection and secondary data analyses to examine health, physical access to healthcare, and utilization of ER among this population.



The Friends of CAAAM (Clemson Area African American Museum) will host a special outdoor CAAAM Concert on Sunday April 18 featuring **Tee Tee Solo.** (teetesolomusic.com)

This event is set for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the outdoor space beside the Calhoun Center Building (214 Butler St. in Clemson.) There will be snacks and room for social distancing. Masks are strongly encouraged.

Consider coming by, even if for a short time, to support this talented artist AND the CAAAM as it comes back to action from the Covid-19 shut down.

Congressional Interview Program (*Rep the League!*)

The National office is encouraging us to participate in the Congressional Interview Program, a program where we would interview our Representative to Congress.. We would interview **Rep. Jeff Duncan**, who is the representative to the US Congress for District Three. We are also discussing the possibility of joining with upstate Leagues to interview **Sen. Lindsay Graham**, leaving Lowcountry Leagues to interview **Sen. Tim Scott**.

If you are interested and willing to help, please email Ruth Reed (reed.juniata@gmail.com) or **Janie Shipley** (janrel@mindspring.com). The interview needs to be completed before June of this year.

<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 and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

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