

Message from the President

Holley and I welcome everyone back to an especially exciting election year. Please put the Women's Equality Day celebration (Aug. 23) on your calendar and join us for music, food and a preview of the coming year.

Watching the TV productions of our National conventions, I am struck by how much of what we are hearing appeals to our emotions and how little to the policies necessary to produce the promised results. Emotional arguments worry me. Some experts tell us that, when voters accept emotional arguments, the impact of rational arguments and facts recedes. I hope that the presidential debates will shift public attention away from emotion and toward the presentation of facts and ideas, like we observed at our forums.

In South Carolina, our League's very successful Voter Service Chair, Cheryl Lee, plans to launch another extensive voter registration drive. Last spring Cheryl's 29 volunteers registered 726 new voters. Her team is at work again, planning to surpass their previous achievements.

November will bring non-partisan local elections for county school boards and for Clemson City Council. Our seven candidate forums in the spring provided useful information to voters -- especially at the forums which were covered by the news media. Arranging forums for local races requires many workers: organizers, publicists, moderators, question sorters, photographers, timekeepers, greeters (who hand out cards for the audience to write their questions), and helpers at membership and information tables. At least 10 members are needed at every forum. A couple additional people would be helpful. Please consider volunteering when the call goes out.

In addition to registering voters and holding forums, we will be encouraging citizens to vote using our Patriotic Partners and other programs. It's going to be an exciting year, so stay tuned.

Eleanor Hare



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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:

Eleanor Hare, Co-President
Holley Ulbrich, Co-President
Catherine Watt, VP/Program & Action
Ann Russell, Secretary
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ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Lyn Norton
Patty Warner
Sandra Gray
Cheryl Lee
Janet Marsh
Catherine Farris

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Paula Appling, Mem. Co-Chair
Elaine Laiewski, Publicity Chair
Diana Stafford, *Voter* Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Aug. 23, Women's Equality Day celebration, OLLI, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 6, Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 20, General Meeting, 7:15 p.m. (Apportionment, Election stuff)

Monday, Sept. 26, Earth Dialogue 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 27, National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, Oct. 4, Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

October – no general meeting, candidate forums

Monday, Oct. 24, Earth Dialogue, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 8, ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 15, General Meeting, 7:15 p.m. (Higher Education)

Tuesday, Dec. 6, Board Meeting, 5 p.m. (?)

Tuesday, Dec. 13, Holiday Party **Saturday, Jan. 28, LEAD Day (Columbia)**

Issue Groups Explained

So you joined the League because you cared passionately about a particular issue or cluster of issues--maybe the environment, or education, or good government. Maybe you don't get to meetings much because you don't like to drive or go out at night. Or maybe both. Have we got a deal for you!

This year the Clemson League is launching three issue groups--one on environmental issues, facilitated by Sandra Gray, one on good government facilitated by Holley Ulbrich, and one on education, facilitator to be determined. They will meet for lunch once a month and focus on what's happening with issues in their area of interest, to share concerns, track legislation, write letters to the editor and contribute to the VOTER. You can attend every meeting or just a few, and belong to one, two, or all three, depending on your interests. If there are enough people that want to focus on a different interest cluster, let your Board know and we will help you organize a group around another area such as children's issues, or health and safety.

We plan to launch these groups one at a time throughout the 2016-17 League year. The first one will be the environmental group, so watch for an email soon announcing a time and place for the first meeting.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Annual Meeting

The May 10th annual meeting at Occasions in Central, arranged by board member Cheryl Lee, was very well attended and the food and location drew high praise. Along with routine business--budget, election of officers and directors, and adoption of local program—we recognized two outstanding members of our community.

B.R. Skelton, a new member of the League and a recently retired state legislator, received the Spirit of Democracy Award for his outstanding work for education and local government during his many years in the General Assembly.

Aleta Robinson, a longtime member of the Clemson League, became a life member of LWVUS and was recognized for 50 years of (very active!) membership.

Dr. Imtiaz Haque gave a very informative presentation on the South Carolina Energy Innovation Center in Charleston, which houses the world's largest wind turbine drivetrain testing facility.

Submitted by Holleu Ulbrich



Francis Plotnik congratulates Aleta Robinson

Voting We Can Trust - Paper Ballots One Computer Scientist's Opinion by Eleanor Hare

South Carolina's current voting system does not use paper ballots, except for absentee voting and provisional voting.

The requirement for a paper ballot, adopted by the LWVUS in 2006, is crucial to the accuracy and reliability of voting systems.

It is essential that the voter receive the ballot in his hand, verify that the choices listed are those he selected, and place the ballot in the ballot box (or in a scanner that records the vote and retains the ballot).

Except as necessary to identify an election, a precinct, a voting machine or to align the ballot with the scanner, barcodes should not appear on ballots. Also, as is customary, any barcodes should contain its digital translation. Otherwise, the barcode can be used to associate the ballot with an individual voter.

People assume that counting the vote is accomplished by recording the choices the voter sees, but some voting systems ignore the names the voter sees and use only the barcode to count the vote. In such a system, the voter is deceived into thinking that he confirmed his choices.

The most basic requirement of a voting system is a paper ballot, but even the paper ballot needs judicious protection.

September 2016 Earth Dialogue

Please join us on Monday, September 26th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for Earth Dialogue at Moe Joe's Coffee Shoppe and Wine Bar in Clemson. Our discussion topic will be "ENCOURAGING CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS: Challenging & Supporting Candidates; Influencing Friends." A panel of experts will look at this issue from many perspectives including the latest data on climate change and techniques for engaging others in conversation about your serious environmental issues.

Earth Dialogue is a free and open community discussion on hot environmental issues. Several local environmental groups including Foothills Sierra Club and Upstate Forever serve as sponsors. Food and drinks will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 pm. For more information join the Clemson Earth Dialogue Facebook page, or contact Ellie Taylor at 864-654-1331.

Submitted by Ellie Taylor

Gentle Dues Reminder

Your membership dues for 2016-17 are now due since our fiscal year is June 1 through May 31.

Dues are \$60 per membership, \$30 for a second family member, \$25 for students.

Make checks payable to LWVCA

Mail to LWVCA, PO Box 802, Clemson,
SC 29633.

Voter Registration

Get ready for an "All In" National Voter Registration Day/Week. Serena Williams and I have birthdays this week (September 26-30) but that's not nearly as important as our thrust to get as many LWV members to participate in this most important service that we are working on - voter registration before the HUGE election, November 8. Anyone who gets their paperwork in 30 days before the election and who meets the qualifications can vote at that time.

There are Chairs for each school district, each university, and other areas that we will target. Be expecting a call from Linda Gahan, Aleta Robinson, Carol Ward, Eleanor Hare, Holley Ulbrich, Elizabeth Adams, and others to help. If you are unable to go to a school, there are many other valuable services that we need. These will be presented to you at our August meeting.

We need help with posters, stickers, buttons, calls, and many other items of interest that you may think about discarding. A packet of items that Chairs will be taking to the schools will be prepared from these donations.

Did you know that we register voters at Clemson Community Care, OLLI, and other designated places? Someone suggested we find out where the PokemanGo sites are and set up tables there.

Thank you in advance for helping us get all members involved in this most important service of our League. Let's all be in on this enormous project!

Submitted by Cheryl Lee

Report on Lobby Day and Convention 2016

I have served as your Lobby Day team member and voting delegate to this biennial conference in Washington, D.C. and am pleased to make the following report. The Voting Rights Act (VRA) was enacted by Congress in 1965 to prohibit racial discrimination in voting. In *Shelby County V. Holder* (2013), the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a portion of the Act, Section 4(b), which established a formula for determining whether changes to a state's voting procedure should be federally reviewed. Once formula in Section 4(b) was invalidated, the pre-clearance requirement of Section 5 became redundant. Our team of three South Carolinians met with staffers from the Judiciary Committee of Senator Graham and main office of Senator Scott. (Lobby Day occurred on the same day that South Carolina Senators were speaking on the anniversary of the shooting at Mother Emanuel Church AME.) Individually I met with Congressman Jeff Duncan while the two lowcountry team members met with Congressman Mark Sanford. The objective was to encourage our representation to push the VRA out of committee and be vocal in their support of stronger voter protections. Congressman Duncan agreed to converse with members of the House Judiciary Committee and other Republicans that have been vocal in their support of the Act before deciding whether he would sign a discharge petition.

The Conference brought introduction of new and revised bylaws, and positions that may be viewed on the League of Women Voters website. A noted change in the League Bylaws is that now all members over age 16 may be voting members regardless of citizenship. Significant to South Carolina was a Task Force assembled to study and recommend a redistricting position. This Task Force was assembled of individuals from states not implicated under Section 4(b) of the VRA and did not consult with members from those states. It was heavily debated whether a state issue can be reliably studied and recommended when many states have not been included. Ultimately the position was adopted with the understanding that each State League may study and adopt their own position on redistricting.

Speakers during plenary sessions and breakout educational sessions focused on the main League objectives. A number of articulate speakers made passionate presentations on their involvement in organizations that encourage and inform voters. A panel session called Expanding the Electorate included four speakers from organizations focused on outreach to minority voters and new citizens. Educational sessions on Voter Watch Parties and expanded Voter411 programs will provide our League with better resources to inform and empower voters. More thorough report of the speakers and education sessions will be made at the LWV meeting on August 23.

Submitted by Nicole Paluzzi



Help Us Welcome New Citizens to America

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area is joining with LWV of Greenville County in a special voter registration project at the office of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Greer, SC. LWV of Greenville County has obtained a grant from LWVUS to support voter registration at weekly naturalization ceremonies of new citizens. The Greenville League has invited the Clemson Area, Columbia and Spartanburg Leagues to join them in each being responsible for one week a month. LWVCA has been assigned to the second Friday each month.

Representatives from the Clemson Area attended the weekly citizenship ceremonies on July 8 and August 12. Diana Stafford, Bill Hare, Sarah McNeil and Janie Shipley were on hand to witness dozens of new citizens from all over the world take their oath of citizenship as they pledged among other things, to *absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;* and to *support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.* New citizens received a warm and hearty video welcome from President Barack Obama – and smiles and hugs from their loved ones who accompanied them.

Officials from DHS welcome participation by the League of Women Voters. After the ceremony, new citizens are invited to visit with members of the League who provide voter registration forms and guide them through the registration process. Many people registered on-site and others took forms home with them to complete later. Bonnie Holaday and Janie Shipley are coordinating the project on behalf of LWVCA. Please consider joining them for the trip to Greer on the 2nd Friday of each month, departing Clemson around 8:15 am and returning before noon. Two or three members are needed to assist with the project each month. To volunteer, contact Bonnie Holaday, (864.654.3239 / holaday@clemson.edu) or Janie Shipley (885.1967 / janrel@mindspring.com). Dates for the remainder of this year are September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9.

Submitted by Janie Shipley

Observer Corps

Pickens County Council (June 20, 2016). The Council earmarked \$322 M in the reserve fund for a new jail. They carefully explained that they were not allocating the money, but were saying that it could not be spent on anything else.

Pickens County Council (July 18, 2016), If no representative of the media is present, reports of actions taken by Council may not be available until minutes become available 3 or 4 weeks after the meeting. Mr. Whitehurst asked Council to look into buying cameras in order to make Council meetings more easily available to the public.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters CA held several candidate forums before the primary elections this past spring. Pictured are the May 5th Pickens County Council Districts 3, 4 and 6 forum and the May 26th Senate District 3 forum.



Forums for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties will be arranged later in the Fall before the November 8, 2016.

Clemson City Council	1 st and 3 rd Monday, 6:30 pm	Anderson County Council	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Seneca City Council	2 nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm	Pickens County School Board	4 th Monday, 7:00 pm
Pickens County Council	1 st Monday, 6:30 pm	Oconee County School Board	3 rd Monday, 6:00 pm
Oconee County Council	1 st and 3 rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm	Anderson Co. School Board	3 rd 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

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633