



THE VOTER

AUGUST 2013 Vol. 40, No 6

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Co-President's Message



A new program year is commencing! This year, we have a new structure, new Board members, and a new approach to general meeting reminders. As you probably know, two co-presidents will be sharing the duties this year. Sandra Gray and I will attempt to alternate months writing this message, and running the board and general meetings. I am looking forward to working with Sandra this year! Of our two new Board members, one, Liz Branstead, is also a new League member. Liz is already making valuable contributions to the League. She is thoughtful, enthusiastic, and well versed in politics; I think she will be a great addition to the Board! Our new approach to general meeting reminders this year (in addition to email reminders) will be phone calls. A team of seven people has volunteered to make reminder phone calls the week before the general meetings. I look forward to seeing the results of that experiment! New for me is watching the tail end of that first-year-as-President learning curve fade into the distance. I am looking forward to this year!

This fall, we will have two Voter Registration drives on Clemson University Campus, one in August, and one in September. Last year we registered over 200 students; I expect to do the same this year! The New Member Welcome is also this month, as is League Leaders Day. All League members are invited to attend! September brings our first General meeting, which will be a legislative panel. Please tell your friends about what's going on in League!

So many people give their time and expertise to make an organization run, the very visible people in the forefront and many, many, many behind the scenes. Obviously, this organization is my priority this year; it is how I'm making the world a better place. Whether you are spending your time with the League or making another organization your priority, I thank you for your efforts!

Yours in League,

Paula Appling

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THE VOTER

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www.lwvclemsonarea.org

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UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 20	Voter Registration on CU campus
Saturday, August 24	League Leaders Day , St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull St., Columbia, SC 9:00 – 3:30 pm.
Monday, August 26	Women's Equality Day
Tuesday, August 27	New Member Welcome/Program Year Kickoff
Tuesday, September 10	LWVCA Board Meeting , Clemson Community Room, 5:30 pm.
Tuesday, September 17	General Meeting, Legislative Delegate Panel , OLLI, 7:00 pm.
Tuesday, September 24	National Voter Registration Day

September General Meeting: Legislative Delegation Panel

Our first meeting of the new League year on Tuesday, September 17th will be a panel of veteran legislators, Senators Alexander and Martin and Representative B.R. Skelton. They will discuss the last legislative session and what's in the hopper for 2014. They will also respond to questions from the moderator and written questions from the audience. This meeting is a great opportunity for dialogue with three legislators that have always been interested in what League members have to say.

Every meeting will have an action focus, sometimes tied to the topic of the meeting, sometimes not. Our action focus for September is on home rule, with two specific issues, one concerning Pickens County and one concerning all counties. See the separate article in this VOTER for details.

Please note that we have moved our monthly general meetings from the 2nd to the 3rd Tuesday and to a new location, the OLLI building at Patrick Square where there is plenty of parking and a good meeting space. Let OLLI know that we appreciate the use of their space, which is made available because of our shared educational purpose. We also appreciate the Clemson-Central Library for hosting many of our meetings in the last few years. This change of location was necessary because of the change in meeting night from 2nd to 3rd Tuesdays.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

New Member Welcome and Fall Kick-off

Host: When: Where:

Paula
Appling

864 868
2022

***Tuesday,
August 27
at 6 p.m.***

Elinor
Baron's
Home

***100
Holiday
West***

Clemson, SC
29631

This year's presentation is all about how
the League is making a difference!
Please join us!

LWVCA 2013-2014 Calendar

Board Meetings – Clemson City Community Room at 1250 Tiger Blvd., Clemson, 2nd Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; General Membership Meetings – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 100 Thomas Green Blvd. (578 Issaqueena Trail), 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm (Social), 7:30 pm (Program).

Aug 13	Board Meeting, CAT Department, 200 West Lane, Clemson, 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 16	<i>VOTER</i> Deadline
Aug 20	Volunteer Fair Day at CU/Voter Registration Drive
Aug. 24	League Leaders Day 9:30-3:30 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia
Aug 26	Women's Equality Day
Aug 27	New Member Welcome
Sept 10	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Sept 17	General Meeting, <i>Legislative Delegation Panel</i> , OLLI, 7 p.m.
Sept 20	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Oct 8	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Oct 15	General Meeting, <i>SC Water & Land Conservation</i> by Jan Hammett, LWV Spartanburg, OLLI, 7 pm.
Oct. 18	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Nov 5	Election Day
Nov 12	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Nov 19	General Meeting, <i>Voting Technology</i> with Juan Gilbert, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Nov 22	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Nov 21	Thanksgiving
Dec 10	Holiday Party
Jan	<i>Program planning</i>
Jan 14	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Jan 21	General Meeting, <i>Protecting Voting Rights in SC</i> OLLI, 7 p.m.
Jan 24	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Feb 11	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Feb 14	LWVUS 94 th birthday
Feb 15	Wine tasting
Feb 18	General Meeting, <i>Sustainable Agriculture National Consensus</i> , OLLI, 7 p.m.
Feb 21	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Mar 11	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
Mar 18	General Meeting, <i>SC State Board of Education</i> , OLLI, 7 p.m.
Mar 21	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
Apr 8	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:30 p.m.
April 15	General Meeting, TBA, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Apr 18	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
May ??	Annual Meeting/TBA
May ??	<i>VOTER</i> deadline
June 6-10	National Convention in Dallas TX

OUR VOLUNTEERS for 2013-2014

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

P&A: Liz B, Charlotte Holmes, Diana S, Matt L Janie

Voter/Communications: Cheryl Lee, Carol K, Charlotte Holmes, Reggie, Rett, Linda G, Elinor B

Finance. & Fundraising: Mike S, Bill Hare

Membership: Aleta, Frances, Lib C, Arlene, Carol W

SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEERS:

Annual Meeting: Carol K, Lib C

Holiday Party: Cheryl Lee, Lib C

General Meeting Hospitality: Aleta, Lib C

Welcome New Members: Aleta, Cheryl Lee, Lib C, Arlene, Claudette

Wine Tasting: Dianne H, Charlotte Holmes, Lib C, Reggie, Carol W, Claudette, Linda G

OTHER VOLUNTEERS:

General Meeting Hospitality: Aleta, Lib C, Arlene, Carol W, Diana S

Voter Registration – HS/Spring : Aleta, Cheryl Lee, Mike S, Carol K, Reggie, Della, Linda G, Carol W

Voter Registration – Fall: Aleta, Elaine L, Cheryl Lee, Mike S, Carol K, Dianne H, Charlotte Holmes, Reggie, Della, Diana S, Elaine P

Candidate Forums: Aleta, Cheryl Lee, Carol K, Dianne H, Frances, Ken R, Charlotte Holmes, Arlene, Linda G, Diana S, Janie

Attend State/Natl Meetings: Aleta, Linda G, Janie

Observer Corps: Diana S

Advocacy: Aleta, Frances, Charlotte Holmes, Della, Linda G, Carol W, Janie

Phone reminders: Elaine L, Carol K, Frances, Reggie, Diana S, Claudette, Janie

Organize getting to know you events: Aleta, Rett, Arlene, Elaine P

Upcoming Elections in 2013

Voter Service chairs in our three counties are keeping an eye on developing municipal elections in the tri-county area. The deadline to file in Pickens has passed and we can report the following contested election in the Town of Central. Other contested elections in Pickens County can be found at pickenselections.org. More information will be published in the next VOTER.

Central Town Council Candidates (3 seats to fill)

- Paige Bowers
- Benji Cumbie
- Kill Dill
- Steven Farmer

~Submitted by Paula Appling

Easley City Council Ward 2

Libby Brown Dodson

Kent Dykes

Mayor of Liberty

Eric Boughman

Lavant Padgett

Michael Sheriff

Liberty City Council At Large

Brian Deese

Chuck Powell

Norris Town Council (2 seats to fill)

Lawrence McClure

Wendell Melton

Brian Norris

Pickens City Council (3 seats to fill)

Carl H Allmond

Jimmy Lee Davis

Carlton A Holley Jr.

www.pickenselections.org

2013 LEAGUE LEADERS DAY

SUSTAINING SOUTH CAROLINA: OUR LAND & OUR PEOPLE, OUR LEAGUE & OUR LEADERS

WHAT: Take part in exciting leadership training and learning opportunities like...

- *Sustaining women's rights from the vote to full power with seats at the tables of influence*
- *Sustaining Agriculture in South Carolina*
- *Home Rule: Sustaining local government in South Carolina*
- *Sustaining the League: Nuts and bolts of running your League and developing leaders*
- *Networking with state League leaders on board roles and LWV study and action priorities, including LWV efforts to strengthen government ethics and campaign finance laws and to increase access to voting. A chance for new and not-so-new members to connect with committed Leaguers who are doing remarkable things in South Carolina.*

WHEN: Saturday, August 24, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm.

WHERE: St Paul Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull St., Columbia, SC.

Registration: \$20 to cover material, light breakfast and lunch. Deadline for registration is August 21.

Complete agenda and registration details at www.lwvsc.org. Also see page 7 of this VOTER.

LWVCA DUES NOTICE

Annual membership dues are now payable:

- **\$60** for a first membership
- **\$30** for a second person in the family
- **\$25** for a student membership

Checks for the appropriate amount should be made to "LWVCA" and mailed to:

LWVCA; PO Box 802; Clemson, SC 29633

A member contribution may be included as part of a membership check. Tax-deductible contributions must be done via separate checks and must be made to "LWV Education Fund" and mailed to the same address.

~Submitted by Bill Hare, Treasurer

HOME RULE

At League Leaders' Day on August 24th we had a discussion of home rule issues, which keep cropping up in various forms. Two of those forms are local legislation and legislative appointments to county boards and commissions. At our new member welcome on August 22nd June Hay spoke to us about a specific home rule issue, adding an at-large member to the Pickens County School District Board of Trustees. She was one of the at-large elected trustees whose seats were abolished by local legislation five years ago. The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area has adopted a position supporting the restoration of one or more of those seats in order to provide adequate representation of growing areas of the school district between reapportionments. There are now two bills, H. 4165 and H. 4258, that would add back one of those seats. Petitions will be available to sign and circulate asking our legislators to support that change. Thanks to Eleanor Hare for bird-dogging this important issue for us, and to June Hay for sharing her story.

The larger issue is one that the state League is following. Members of boards and commissions that are created by county councils are appointed by county councils, but members of boards and commissions that are created by state statutes are appointed by county delegations, even though much of the funding for the services they oversee comes from county councils. County delegations now cross county lines, so legislators who are not residents of the county still have a voice in appointments, while these boards and commissions are not accountable to their elected county councils. The League would like to see this change, so that county councils have more say in these appointments. Among the boards and commissions that are affected by this policy are county Registration and Election Commissions. We would like to urge our legislators to delegate some of those appointment powers to elected county councils. More information on this issue will be available at the September 17th meeting.

~Submitted Holley Ulbrich

COST COMPARISON OF VOTING TECHNOLOGIES

Voting systems sold by manufacturers and open-source software systems differ greatly both in initial cost and annual license fees. The dramatic difference between the costs for a manufactured system¹ and the Prime III software¹ illustrates the typical situation.

Assumptions: A paper ballot, read by an optical scanner, will be the official record of the voter's intent. Each precinct will need one or more ADA-compliant ballot-marking devices. (It is possible, but not required, that all voters use ballot-marking devices.) If not all voters use ballot-marking devices, each precinct will need a scanner that will detect over-votes¹ (in which case the ballot will be returned to the voter so that a substitute ballot can be generated).

Cost of ballot-marking devices: In 2008, a study in Maryland found that ballot-marking devices from manufacturers cost \$ 4,950 each¹. A ballot-marking device used by PRIME III, consisting of a printer and high-end tablet, would have an estimated cost of \$ 1,400.

Service contracts: South Carolina currently pays more than \$1 million annually to the manufacturer in maintenance, firmware and software license fees. The PRIME III, an open-source software system, has no initial cost and no annual fees. Both systems require IT specialists.

Cost of ballot preparation: Only a person who has received training from the manufacturer may prepare ballots for their hardware and only manufacturer-certified suppliers may prepare ballots. Ballot preparation will soon be available free to all users of the PRIME III on a portal at Clemson University.

Cost of optical scanners: In 2005, Iowa paid \$ 4,950 each for M-100 optical scanners and \$ 45,000 each for M-650s. After buying these scanners, South Carolina pays an annual maintenance and firmware fee to operate them (included in the \$1 million above). It is estimated that suitable optical scanners for precincts can be bought off the shelf (i.e., in Staples) for \$ 500 each. Scanners should use optical character recognition.

Cost comparison of ballot-marking systems

	Manufacturer	Prime III
Cost of one ballot-marking device	\$ 4,950	\$1,400 (printer & high-end tablet)
Initial cost of software	Included in price	\$ 0
Cost of one scanner	\$ 4,950	\$ 500
Continuing maintenance	\$ 1 million / year	Only for scanners

IT Support Required: Both systems require IT personnel to prepare machines for voting, to set up equipment at precincts and to be available to address any malfunctions that occur. Open-source software systems require that IT personnel be responsible for ordering the equipment and maintaining it. Manufacturers maintain their own equipment.

¹ The manufactured system currently in use in South Carolina consists of iVotronic DREs, M-100 scanners and M-650 scanners. The iVotronics do not print a ballot. A typical manufactured system provides all the hardware (DRE, ballot-marking device, scanners) and the software that operates the hardware. After the voting system has been purchased, the manufacturer charges an annual fee for maintenance and software for the life of the system. Software and hardware provided by a manufacturer are proprietary and may be examined only by the manufacturer's agent.

² The Prime III prints a paper ballot, which is examined by the voter and becomes the official ballot. The paper ballot is scanned and retained for use in a recount or audit. The Prime III software can use commonly available tablets, pcs and printers.

³ An over-vote occurs when the voter selects too many candidates. For example, if the voter selects three candidates to fill two vacancies on city council, an over-vote has occurred. The over-vote can be detected either by a ballot-marking device or a scanner.

⁴ <http://www.saveourvotes.org/legislation/packet/08-costs-mdvotingsystem.pdf>

~Submitted by Matt Laiewski, Elaine Laiewski and Eleanor Hare

VOTER PHOTO ID CARD POORLY EXECUTED

After spending millions of dollars to defend the ID law in court, why is the state spending so little to produce a trustworthy ID card?

Today I received my free permanent S. C. Voter Identification Card. The photo is slightly smaller than a postage stamp, approximately 7/8 of an inch by 11/16 inch. It is printed on a white card, 3 3/8 inch by 2 1/8 inch. The card also gives my full name, a 9-digit identification number and a bar code for the identification number.

Problems with the voter photo ID card are the result of poor design of the card and a financial decision that seriously limited the trustworthiness of the cards.

The tiny photo clearly shows that I am a Caucasian female with very light hair. If you look closely, you can see that I am wearing glasses. Beyond that the photo is too small to include the detail required for reliable identification.

With so much available space on the front of the card, it's regrettable that the photo is not larger. The entire front of the card could have been used for the photo and all of the printing could have been done on the reverse side of the card.

In spite of its drawbacks for use as identification, it might be worthwhile to drop by your county elections office and ask them to take your picture for an ID. The card is free and it is permanent. Once you have a photo ID, you never have to get another one – even if the picture is a few decades old. It's still perfectly valid for identification at the polls.

If more money had been spent on producing the ID cards, the card could offer better protection from counterfeit. The card does not use any of the holograms, multiple photographs, laser engraving and micro-printing commonly used to prevent counterfeiting. Only the clumsiest counterfeiter would be unable to produce a South Carolina Voter Photo ID.

Photo identification is not required to vote in South Carolina. If a voter does not have one of the selected types of photo ID, he can vote a provisional ballot and sign a statement saying why he was unable to obtain a photo ID.¹

¹ That provisional ballot must be counted unless election officials have evidence that the voter is not who he says he is. Note: In a case in which a voter forgets to bring his photo ID to the polling place, he will vote a provisional ballot; in order for that vote to count, he must present the photo ID at his county election office before the post-election certification of the vote count. ~Submitted by Eleanor Hare

VOTING RIGHTS

Message from Elizabeth MacNamara, National League President

There has been more news on the voting rights front this week, especially as we prepare [to celebrate the anniversary of the March on Washington](#). The Governor of North Carolina signed [an omnibus voter suppression bill into law](#) on Monday. This new law restricts voting not just by requiring the most restrictive voter photo ID, but also significantly cuts back on early voting and restricts voter registration.

North Carolina has a proud tradition of forward thinking election administration. Early voting and Election Day registration during the early voting period have worked well for voters in the state. The new law cuts early voting periods in half and ends registration at the polls during the early voting period. With a stroke of his pen, the governor eliminated North Carolina as a model of good election administration practices and made it the subject of lawsuits aimed at returning the state to Justice Department preclearance under [the Voting Rights Act](#). The [League of Women Voters of North Carolina](#) is [the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits](#) that have already been filed.

It is truly sad that as we gather to celebrate the achievements of the Civil Rights movement, states are continuing to curtail voting rights and erecting barriers to voting that disproportionately impact the young, the elderly, poor and minority populations. The March on Washington was not just about voting, it was about equality of opportunity. It is up to all of us who care about this issue to be alert and active in insuring that equality of opportunity is the hallmark of our election laws.

2013 LEAGUE LEADERS DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Fee: \$20 per attendee (includes light breakfast, lunch and materials) Your name

_____ **Additional attendees**

_____ **Local League**

or Member at Large Unit: _____ **Phone**

_____ **E-Mail** _____

Reserve by August 21 to: Terri Eisman, LWVSC Treasurer 108 N. Franklin Rd., Greenville, SC 29609. Or e-mail your registration to League@lwvsc.org. Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Make checks out to "LWVSC."

Total enclosed for all attendees: _____ **X \$20.00 = \$** _____

Contact the League with any questions: 803-251-2726 or League@lwvsc.org

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