



# THE VOTER

December 2015 Vol. 42 No. 8

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

## Message from the President

Sound Off!!! One of our *raison d'être* and certainly one of the strengths of the League is our effort to “influence public policy through education and advocacy.” What better way to exert our influence, than a heart-to-heart with our legislators. When they attended our September meeting, local legislators specifically invited us to come to the Delegation Meetings this winter to share our concerns. The League always sends a representative to each Delegation Meeting to speak on behalf of the League, emphasizing the topics that we want to focus on in the upcoming legislative session. But that is just two or three members who speak to the Delegations representing Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. That leaves another 70-some of us, who could go, as private citizens, and speak our minds! Among the issues that are on our collective radar are ethics reform, voting machines, healthcare reform, resolution of problems identified in the Abbeville court case.



Think about some of the local or state issues that concern you and your family. They may fit neatly into League positions, or they may not. Perhaps you feel passionately about

- A juvenile justice system that has as its primary purpose the rehabilitation, safety and well-being of the offender
- Drug use and addiction being addressed by substance abuse treatment and education programs instead of incarceration
- Early identification of students who are at risk for dropping out of school
- Creation of a nonpartisan and independent reapportionment commission to reapportion the South Carolina House, Senate, and Congressional districts
- Protecting the integrity of the electoral process in the way elections are conducted
- An independent, unified judicial system
- Comprehensive tax reform rather than piecemeal changes in the tax system
- Reducing the regressivity of the sales tax
- Independent safety oversight at federal nuclear facilities

*The President’s Message is continued on page 6.*

*See also Arlene Stewart’s message from the Membership Committee on page 3.*

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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)

### OFFICERS:

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Janet Marsh, Membership Co-Chair  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues, Dec 1     **BOARD MEETING**, Foothills Community Healthcare Boardroom, Clemson, 5:30 pm
- Tues, Dec 15   **DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING: Holiday Party**, Cheryl Lee’s home
- Tues, Jan 5     **BOARD MEETING**, Foothills Community Healthcare Boardroom, Clemson, 5:30 pm
- Thu, Jan 7     **PICKENS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**, Clemson City Hall, 5:30
- Tues, Jan 19   **JANUARY GENERAL MEETING: SC Board of Education with Lyn Norton, OLLI**
- Sat, Jan 23     **National Program Planning: Ye Olde Sandwiche Shoppe, 11-1**
- Sat, Jan 30     **League Education and Action Day, Columbia**

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

### November: Water

The November LWV meeting welcomed Katie Buckley and Charly McConnell to the OLLI center.

McConnell is an extension agent with the Clemson University Center for Watershed Excellence. She reported that Clemson is now designated as a small MS4. The campus (including the botanical garden and the golf course) is the first university in the state to have this designation. Efforts are underway to educate the community as to the problems that storm water runoff can produce. Pollutants are handily carried to the waterways with every rainstorm.

A “floating wetland” is an appealing and efficient method of treating wastewater. An example can be seen on the golf course and plans are in the works for another near the baseball field. Floating wetlands provide habitat for wildlife while purifying storm water. The Center is writing grants to finance improvements on campus, to create plans for 12-mile creek and other nearby waterways, and to model educational projects for other universities.

McConnell acknowledged the problems of parking and football crowds who litter the campus. One offender was seen dumping his charcoal briquettes into a storm drain.

Katie Buckley is the water resources agent for Clemson University. She is engaged in the South Carolina Surface Water Availability Assessment. The two-year goal is to gather input and create a management model for each of the 8 river systems in SC, only one of which (the ACE basin) is wholly contained within the state’s borders. To determine water needs, stakeholders are involved; this tactic is

*... continued on page 7 ...*

At right: Katie Buckley (l) and Charly McConnell (r)

### Events in January

Save the dates for an extra League meeting or two in January! Our regular meeting on January 19th will feature our own Lyn Norton sharing her experiences on the State Board of Education. That's at the OLLI building. Bring any friends, neighbors, or prospective members who are interested in public education.

We will be holding our annual Saturday lunch meeting on January 23rd in the back room at Ye Old Sandwiche Shoppe in downtown Seneca from 11 to 1. Order from the menu, provide input into local and national program planning, and participate in a consensus on money in politics.

The final event is a repeat of State League's successful switch from August to January for a statewide meeting called LEAD (League Education and Action Day). This year it will be January 30th in Columbia. A good opportunity to meet people from other Leagues, learn about statewide issues. A group from Clemson will carpool down. Details will be forthcoming in the next SC Voter.

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*



## *Southern Hospitality . . .*

In the South, we are known to be friendly, warm, inviting, generous, encouraging, sweet, and welcoming. Is the stereotype accurate? Could we say that the League of Women Voters Clemson Area (LWVCA) represents the best of this view of the South? Along with researching issues, providing voter services, sponsoring candidate forums, and providing opportunities to discuss salient issues, welcoming other members and visitors to our events is part of our work in growing the impact of the League in the community, the state and the country. Would you join me in:

showing off our Southern Hospitality to visitors and new members at League events? If each member could make a point to talk with a visitor or new member, we could show off our Southern Hospitality and grow the League. Do let a membership committee member know when you welcome someone to our events and let us know what interests the new members or visitors.

Thanks so much . . . see you at the meeting.

*Arlene Stewart*

## Welcome New Members!

### **Dan Warner**

Dan Warner was born in Mobile, Alabama, but grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. He earned a BS and MS in Math at Arizona State University, and while still an undergraduate worked full time as a computer programmer for G.E. While at ASU he was fortunate enough to attend a rally led by Martin Luther King. After ASU he served as a Naval Officer in Underwater Demolition Team 11 where he got the opportunity to visit Vietnam several times. More importantly, back in San Diego he met and married Patty Fitzgerald. Their oldest son, Douglas, was born between tours. After the Navy he combined Math and Computing by earning a PhD in Computational Math at UCSD. The family then moved from California to New Jersey, where Dan worked at Bell Laboratories. During those five years they were blessed with a son, Russell, and a daughter, Amanda. Finally in 1979, Dan and family moved to Clemson where Dan taught in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

In addition to his professional duties, Dan is one of the founding board members of the Shodor Education Foundation. Also, during the last decade

he was very active on the Faculty Senate even serving as president for one year. He is a firm believer that one of the most important pillars for our democracy is a free and educated electorate, and that the LWV has played a leading role in that area for more than a century.

### **Ellen Saltzman**

Ellen Saltzman is originally from New Hampshire. She moved to Clemson 1989 with her husband Matt Saltzman who got a job as a Mathematics professor at Clemson University. Ellen has degrees from Clemson and Cornell University, and she is finishing her Master of Economics degree at Clemson University under Holly Ulbrich. She has worked with Holly since 1994 at the Strom Thurmond Institute. She has a background in Geology, Science Policy and City Planning, with her main focus being State and Local Government Tax Policy. Ellen also has an interest in feral cat trap, neuter, and return, as well as participating in International Folk Dancing since 1978.

*Submitted by Patty Warner*

## Holiday Party!

The LWVCA is invited to a Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the home of Cheryl Lee at 510 Bentbrook Lane, Clemson, SC from 5-7. Bring your spouse, a potential member, a generous finger food, your preferred beverage and canned goods for Clemson Community Care. Those contributing to the CCC food collection will be eligible for door prizes. We are happy to report that Cynthia Warner and her friend Martha Lee will provide harp music for our Holiday Party! Car pool if possible because parking is limited.

## Lynn Teague Talks to Clemson University Students

A packed house, a dynamic speaker, and a great night for the university when Lynn Teague came to speak on “Women and the Vote” on November 3. Lynn is the VP for Issues and Action for LWVSC, and is the face of the League in the General Assembly.

It was standing room only at the Academic Success Center on Clemson’s campus and a success it was! In class the next day, this author asked students what they had learned and they delivered the following points:

- Voting rates are abysmal, especially among the young.
- Vote! And learn to vote intelligently, avoiding a straight party ticket.
- A history of the LWV and the many activities of that organization were sprinkled throughout Lynn’s presentation.
- In the State House in Columbia, you, too, can become a lobbyist – just apply, spend \$100, and have your picture taken.
- Politicians are people, too. They WILL talk to you.
- A handwritten letter gets attention; emails, not so much.
- Final word... She came in as a cynic, and while still amazed at the underhanded practices that occur regularly, she is encouraged by the honesty and integrity of many of our South Carolina politicians.

Many thanks to our own Lynn Teague for inspiring a new generation of voters.

Eight students and the author lingered over dinner at Briosio, charmed and delighted to get to know her.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Adams*

## Book Review: *Harness the Sun* by Philip Warburg

Philip Warburg is an enthusiast. By his own admission, his house in Massachusetts has leased solar panels on the roof that supply the house's needs when the sun is shining, with enough left over to charge their plug-in hybrid car. With this in mind, he has gone around the United States to look at the various currently operating schemes for tapping solar power electrically on individual, community and industrial scales. He spends some time describing various methods of financing solar panels, from ownership to rental - though without going deeply into the details - and mentions the pros and cons of each in a discursive manner. He spends a fair amount of time on the various siting arrangements for larger solar arrays, several of which are built on lands condemned after being industrially polluted. He favors this alternative highly, and points out how much of this particular resource is available. (If it were all used, it could supply 7 times as much energy as is used by all the households in the U.S., though not the industrial needs.)

On a slightly more technical level, he points out how much equivalent carbon is produced in the manufacture of solar cells, what the problems with their manufacture is, what improvements are in the pipeline, and how some of the possible alternatives stack up. He addresses the problems of integrating solar energy with the existing power grid, and why the companies who operate the grid are less than enthusiastic about net metering. He is also honest about how much part the federal and state governments do play, and will have to play in the implementation of an increasingly solar-powered future. In the last Chapter he spends some time describing the large strides that have been made in Europe, particularly Denmark and Germany in the use of renewable energy sources.

This book is not highly detailed, nor highly technical, but does serve to give some feel for what is currently being done, and how much more is possible.

*Submitted by Lew Fitch*

## Student Voter Registration Efforts

Students who are 17 now, but will be 18 on or before November 3, 2016 will be allowed to vote in the primaries in February (Democratic primary is 2/27, Republican Primary is 2/20) if they are registered to vote. To that end, Cheryl Lee and other volunteers are making a big push to get as many students as possible registered. Thus far, they registered 99 students at Seneca High. Administrators from SHS say that all eligible students were registered! At West Oak, where 103 students registered to vote, the Computer Lab was reserved all day long, just for student voter registration! People who register online must have their Social Security number and Driver's License number; the Driver's License number allows access of their signature. Registration at other schools in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties (many high schools and Clemson University, Tri-County Tech and SWU) are being planned. Cheryl is hoping to finish up by January 15; this date will allow time for students to receive their Voter Registration Cards in the mail. If you want to lend a hand in this extensive effort, please call Cheryl Lee at 654 4283.

Please save us a phone call and pay your dues now! Make your check payable to the LWVCA and send it to P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633. Rates are \$60/one member; \$90/2-member household; \$25/student. Thank you!

## Update on Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions

Despite the fact that we had to cancel our lunch gathering, six intrepid souls sent in their responses to the Constitutional Amendment consensus questions. Those responses have been compiled and sent into LWVUS along with responses from many other Leagues across the nation, due November 1st. We did comment that more advance warning and information and better publicity about the deadline would be appreciated in the future! Thanks to those who took part, and those who at least gave it some thought even if they didn't send in a response. That's what keeps us a grassroots organization. The national consensus will be announced in June at National convention.

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

Our legislators care about what we think!  
Save the date, please attend and deliver a statement:

Pickens County Legislative Delegation Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

CLEMSON CITY HALL – Council Chambers

1250 Tiger Blvd., Suite 1

call 864-850-7070 and ask Barbara to put you on the agenda

\* \* \*

Anderson County Legislative Delegation Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Ronald T. Townsend Government Building

2404 N. Main Street, Anderson

call 864 260 4025 and ask Linda to put you on the agenda

\* \* \*

The date of Oconee Delegation Meeting has not been decided.

*League members will be alerted when the date is announced.*

Book Review: *Give Us The Ballot*  
*The Modern Struggle For Voting Rights In America*  
 by Ari Berman (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015).

With the presidential election only a year away, this recent publication by political correspondent and investigative journalist, Ari Berman, is a must read for the electorate. As a native Texan, I am proud to cite the author's opening quote from President Lyndon Baines Johnson: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice." August 6, 1965

Using extensive notes and author interviews as documentation, Berman has written a compelling account of the continuing struggle for voting rights from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s to the present. The book begins and ends with the name of John Lewis, who marched, respectively, with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Barack Obama over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. With King in 1965 Lewis, the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was marching to protest the lack of voting rights for Negro citizens in Alabama. With Obama in 2015, Congressman Lewis was marching to commemorate the event that fifty years earlier had nearly taken his life. Lewis's story is entwined with the struggle for voting rights that did not end with President Johnson's Voting Rights Act (VRA) legislation. Ari Berman tells what happened after the passage of the VRA in 1965. As "the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the twentieth century," the VRA fulfilled the goal of the 15th amendment by addressing voting restrictions, employing federal agents to monitor voting disputes and authorizing the federal government to rule on electoral changes in states with the worst histories of voter discrimination. Thus, the VRA started a new debate over voting rights. Should the VRA provide only access to the ballot or should the VRA provide enforcement of this access in a broader scope? The Revolution of 1965 led to the rise of counter-revolutionaries and those who want to restrict voting rights are alive and well today. According to Berman "the fragility of the right to vote is all too evident." The Supreme Court's radical move to the right since 1965 is cause for concern as evidenced by a recent ruling after Obama's reelection declaring federal supervision of states' voting changes to be unconstitutional.

The election of Obama in 2008 was "the pinnacle of the VRA's success" and the fight over voting rights has intensified since then. The Tea Party's triumph in 2010 saw nearly half the states pass stricter voting laws that targeted "young people, blacks, hispanics, women," those voters whose support was critical to Obama's win in 2008.

Beginning with the compassion of Lyndon Johnson's commitment to civil rights and ending with Barack Obama's concern questioning the future of the VRA in light of controversial Supreme Court legislation, Berman's book on voting rights is a sophisticated political analysis of the past fifty years in the history of the American presidency. Each reader can take or leave the author's bias with regard to administrations but surely the right to cast a ballot will not be seen in the same light.

*Submitted by Ann Russell*

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All of these points have come from the League Positions from LWVSC [lwvsc.org/files/leaguepositions20152017.pdf](http://lwvsc.org/files/leaguepositions20152017.pdf) where more information can be found to support talking points. Perhaps you would like to speak about water quality, domestic violence, off-shore drilling, German shipments to Savannah River, Syrian refugees in South Carolina, the Voting Rights Act, gun violence, roads and bridges. Legislators welcome hearing from reasoned, insightful voices. Members of the general public are invited to come sound-off at these annual Delegation Meetings, so join us! (See details in calendar about time and place).

May your holidays be joyful,  
 Janie Shipley

## Observer Corps Report: Pickens County Council, November 16, 2015

The Pickens County Council has held two special called meetings (October 22 and November 9) that were not announced to the public. These two meetings were revealed when their minutes were included in the Agenda for November 16. Chair of the Council, Jennifer Willis, explained to the audience that these meetings did not need to be announced because they were executive sessions. However, executive sessions do not result in minutes. Furthermore, the SC Code of Laws, Section 30-4-80, Notice of meetings of public bodies, does not provide any exception to the “post 24 hours before the meeting” requirement for executive sessions. Transparency in government is lost when prior notice of scheduled meetings (including agenda) is not given.

Eleanor Hare read a statement asking that Council protect the rights of the citizens of Pickens County by adequately funding the required temporary workforce. Members of Council responded that the Director of the Board of Registration and Elections was not using his temporary workers appropriately. Two major criticisms were that a temporary worker was hired part-time in June instead of waiting until later in the year and that the temporary worker was seen driving a car with the Director in it. Council instructed the Interim Administrator to do a time study of the operations of the Board.

The Council asked Eleanor why the temporary worker was driving the Director. She responded that they were asking the wrong person. They should ask the Director. However, it should be noted that Council is not allowed to exercise operational control of the County Board of Registration & Elections. Act 196<sup>1</sup> makes the Director responsible for hiring and managing the staff. The Council needs to make its concerns known to the Pickens County Board of Registration and Elections and, if not satisfied, then share them with the Executive Director of the State Elections Commission.

In the rest of the public session members of the Pickens County Tax Payers Association claimed that \$789,000 in taxes was over-collected, congratulated the Council on voting to not accept any refugees, and opposed funding for Tri-County Tech. The Humane Society requested \$500 for a computer and Neil Smith told her that he would give a private check to her.

*Submitted by Sarah McNeill and Eleanor Hare*

<sup>1</sup> [www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120\\_2013-2014/bills/815.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/815.htm)

## The State of South Carolina Hears Testimony about Current Voting Machine Technology

As South Carolina begins the process of selecting new voting machines, the Joint Voting System Research Committee of the Legislature heard witnesses describe currently available technology.

Duncan Buell, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Alternative Voting Technologies, gave oral testimony<sup>1</sup> to the committee. The League also submitted written testimony<sup>2</sup> emphasizing the dangers of using barcodes on ballots.

A video of the meeting is available at [www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php)

<sup>1</sup> [clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/DuncanBuellTestimonyNov2015.pdf](http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/DuncanBuellTestimonyNov2015.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/VotingMachineTestimony.pdf](http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/VotingMachineTestimony.pdf)

*Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

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meant to enhance trust and transparency in policy making. Stakeholders include persons in agriculture, utilities, industry and environmental groups. Clemson functions as an unbiased third party.

The new gigantic potato farm in the low country located here because our laws are so “friendly to industry.” Perhaps predictably, the problems relating to water in SC are at crisis level.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Adams*

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).

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Clemson, SC 29633