



THE VOTER

February 2015 Vol. 42 No. 1

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Message from the Co-President

*To the wrongs that need resistance,
To the right that needs assistance,
To the future in the distance,
Give yourselves.*

**- Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947)
LWV Founder**



The founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt (née Lane) was a remarkable woman. January 9 was the anniversary of her birth. Here are a few facts about her, which may be of interest to you:

- She received a BS degree in general science at Iowa State (then Iowa Agricultural College) though she was originally interested in studying medicine. She was the only woman in the class of 1880.
- Catt became a school teacher, principal and superintendent in Iowa. At the age of 27, she began her career as a political activist when she joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association.
- In 1900 she was elected President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), succeeding Susan B Anthony. While in this role she founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and served as its President for many years.
- Catt envisioned a nonpartisan educational organization for women voters and on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment was passed, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago. She was the honorary President of the League for the remainder of her life.
- She was close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow League leader.
- She was active in many other causes, including international peace, refugee relief, and child labor.

May the words of our founder give us inspiration to pursue a busy and productive 2015. Sandra and I invite you to join us as we prepare for a busy legislative session where League members all over the state will be working on ethics reform, the environment, education finance, voting and elections, reproductive health, Medicaid expansion, judicial reform. The list seems endless. Please bring a friend and come along!

Regards,

Janie Shipley

**You're Invited!
Wine Tasting Fundraiser,
Sat., Feb 21, 6 - 8 p.m.,
Reservations to Bill Hare
wrhare@earthlink.net**

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat, Jan 31	LEAD: League Education and Advocacy Day, Columbia, SC
Tues, Feb 10	BOARD MEETING , Clemson City Hall Community Room, 5 p.m.
Sat, Feb 14	Program Planning Meeting , Ye Olde Sandwich Shoppe, Seneca, 7 p.m.
Tues, Feb 17	GENERAL MEETING , Immigration, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Sat, Feb 21	Wine Tasting Fundraiser , Calhoun Bridge Center Auditorium, 6-8 p.m.
April 25-26	State League Convention in Hilton Head.

Refer to lwvclemsonarea.org for updates and current information

LWVCA Promotes Good Government One Ounce at A Time . . .

Our annual and much anticipated Wine Tasting Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 at the Calhoun Bridge Center Auditorium. The Clemson Child Care Development Center is graciously sponsoring us again and David Moore of Palmetto Spirits in Seneca has donated a case of South American wines. Sadly, David will not be our sommelier for the evening, so drop by his store in Seneca and thank him! Admission is \$30 per person or \$100 for 4 people. Please make your reservations with Bill Hare, wrhare@earthlink.net, payment may be made in advance (P.O. Box 802, Clemson 29633) or at the door.

February's General Meeting: Immigration Reform

Many of us in the Clemson League participated in the national League consensus on immigration a few years ago. Immigration is a hot button issue once again, with President Obama's unilateral actions to protect many current immigrants from deportation and Congress's pushback. We have invited David Dreher to bring us up to speed on what is happening and what the pros and cons of various alternatives might be. David is a veteran of 25 years in the U.S. foreign service and teaches some popular OLLI classes on immigration issues. We are delighted that he can be our speaker on Tuesday, February 17th. So come listen, learn, ask, and be informed. Then tell your representatives in Congress what you think.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Program Planning Meeting

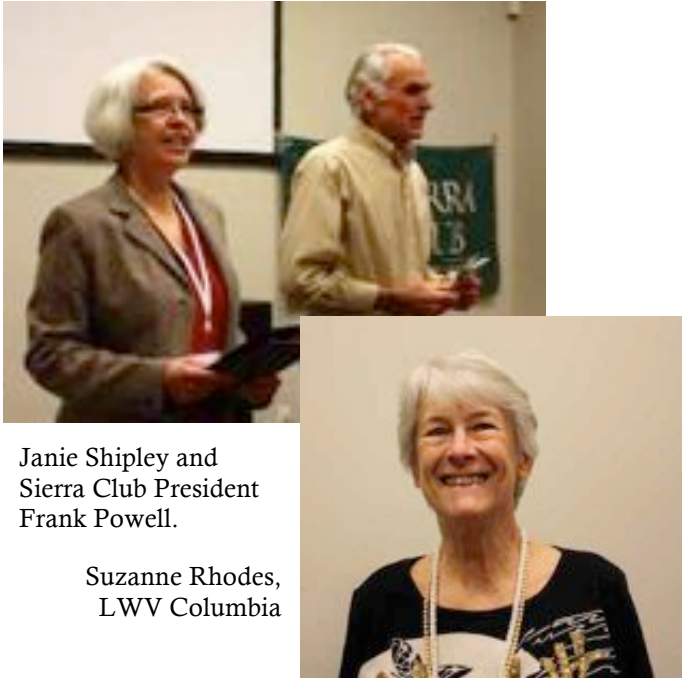
Every year at this time we as a local League throw our two cents worth in the pot for charting the course for the state and national League in program planning. Every year at this time we have a lunch meeting to accommodate those of our members who don't like to go out at night. Every year at this time we have a meeting in Oconee County, because so many of our members live in Oconee County. So it all comes together at Ye Olde Sandwich Shoppe in downtown Seneca, in the back room, on Saturday, February 14th at 11:30. We will order from the menu and talk about state and local program (in even numbered years, it's national and local program) and send recommendations to the state League.

Where should we concentrate our attention? Ethics, education funding, environment, transportation, taxes home rule, voting integrity, child welfare? You can review our state positions on the state LWV web site and decide where you think our energies should go, whether we need to have a new study or revisit an old position or just decide where to concentrate our energies for the next two years. We will have some abbreviated summaries available at the meeting for you to use as a discussion guide. (*See also, p. 5*)

We also have local positions on growth management and education. Do we need to act on them, revisit them, or address some other pressing local issue? How can we make a difference in our three counties? (*See also, p. 5*)

No pre-registration is necessary. Just show up at the Sandwich Shoppe and join us in the back room for a lively conversation and a sense of ownership of our League, local, state, and national. We look forward to being with you on February 14th!

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich



Janie Shipley and
Sierra Club President
Frank Powell.

Suzanne Rhodes,
LWV Columbia

January Recap: Nuclear Waste and the Savannah River Site

The January meeting featured Suzanne Rhodes from Columbia bringing us up to date on the issues surrounding the shipment of nuclear waste to the Savannah River Site from around the country and the world. Suzanne has picked up the thread left by the death of Mary Kelly, who watchdogged this issue for the League for many years. Little progress is being made on storage and disposal anywhere, and in the meantime, South Carolina has become the repository of choice for everyone else. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and drew an excellent turnout and lots of questions and comments. The League report is on the state web site: lwvsc.org/files/nuclearwaste20140116.pdf if you would like to learn more.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

LWV Blogs

The LWVUS has launched an education blog. It contains “data, studies and perspectives that inform the discussion about school choice.” This blog’s coordinator is Sue M. Legg, Chair LWV Florida Project on School Choice and Ph.D. in Educational Research, Measurement and Evaluation. The blog does not advocate for positions other than those found in LWVUS *Impact on Issues*. Six national committees are compiling information on school choice: Accountability, Curriculum, Facilities, Law, Management, and Vouchers. Read their posts at lwveducation.com.

More blogging action can be found at lwv.org/blog. Renee Davidson and guest bloggers sound off on timely national issues. Renee is an activist writer and works for several grassroots organizations including the LWV. Recent posts include the State of the Union, Fighting Secret Money and Corruptive Influence of Money in Politics.

On a local level, head over to govt.statehouse.report.com to learn about the SC’s policy process involving good government. The blog team includes 4 League members, Jon Butzon of Summerville, Lynn Shuler Teague of Columbia, Holley Ulbrich of Clemson and Barbara Zia of Charleston. Other contributors are Andy Brack, publisher of the Statehouse Report and Lynn Bailey who has consulted for rural hospitals, physician practices and ambulatory surgery centers for more than 30 years.

Submitted by Paula Appling

LEAD – League Education and Advocacy Day

LEAD (League Education and Advocacy Day) will be held on Saturday, January 31 in Columbia. We will hear from Lynn Teague about what’s going on in SC Legislature, League success stories, the state of South Carolina’s state budget, and more. Look for a synopsis in the next *Voter!*

Influence Public Opinion with your Personal Letters to the Editor

Send a personal letter to the editor! Keep it to 250 words or less and focus on specifics. Send your letter to each paper individually.

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A New and Impressive Voting Technology¹

A major advance in the reliability and usability of voting machines has been designed in Travis County (Austin), Texas. A group of elections officials and specialists in cryptography, human factors and statistical auditing² have designed a voting system that retains the usability that voters have come to expect and includes new sophisticated techniques for prevention of errors and hacking. In addition, the developers claim that this system will radically improve usability for untrained poll workers.

Designed by Impressive Group of Experts

The STAR (security, transparency, auditability, reliability) Voting System has been designed by Travis County elections officials and nationally recognized experts. Dan Wallach³, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Rice University, has been researching and publishing about voting machines for over 10 years. He also manages Rice University's Computer Security Lab. Josh Benaloh⁴ is a cryptographer at Microsoft Research. Olivier Pereira⁵, from the Catholic University of Louvain, specializes in cryptography, information security and voting. Philip B. Stark⁶ is Chair of the Statistics Department at the University of California, Berkeley. Philip Kortum⁷ and Michael Byrne⁸, both of the Rice University Department of Psychology, specialize in human factors. These experts bring a level of understanding of technology that was not present in commercial designs to this new design.

The design of the STAR Voting System has been presented at meetings of USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association. One recent presentation by Dan Wallach is available on YouTube⁹ ([Watching this presentation will really explain how these experts designed the STAR ! Strongly recommend watching it !](#))

How the STAR Voting System Works¹⁰

The STAR system uses a touch-screen display such as is found on tablets or "point of sale" terminals that are used in restaurants worldwide. (The system, as designed for Texas, also includes a step to identify the voter's registration and designate which precinct the voter is in.)

After selecting candidates, a summary ballot is printed, containing only the choices that the voter made. For example, if Smith and Jones are both running for Coroner and the voter selects Smith, only "Smith" will be printed on the summary ballot.

The ballot is not cast until it is inserted into a ballot box that reads its contents. If the ballot is unsatisfactory, it can be voided instead of being placed in the ballot box and another ballot can then be printed. When the ballot is inserted in the ballot box, its contents is recorded electronically and its selections counted. Thus, there are two records of the election: the ballot box records and the paper ballots themselves. Additional protection against malfunctioning machines, hacking, and other errors is provided by multiple electronic checks and balances. Auditing is part of the system.

All machines at a precinct are wired together so that a control machine can sense potential problems and take corrective action. There are also protections against stuffing the ballot box and other attempts to falsify an election and a method for the voter to verify that his vote was counted.

Development and Cost

The STAR Voting System has been designed, but is not yet available. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being generated to write the software and, if necessary, specify the hardware. (Screen size, battery life and ability to attach headphones and other devices for disabled voters are a consideration.)

Open source software will be licensed to Travis County and others will pay some fees. The cost of the STAR is estimated to be approximately half that of commercially available systems.

The STAR System is expected to be ready for use in the 2018 elections in Texas.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

¹ www.texastribune.org/2014/07/09/travis-county-forges-new-territory-voting-machines/

² www.usenix.org/system/files/conference/evtwote13/jets-0101-bell.pdf

³ www.cs.rice.edu/~dwallach/

⁴ research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/benaloh/

⁵ scholar.google.com/citations?user=qRtfawUAAAAJ

⁶ www.stat.berkeley.edu/~stark/

⁷ www.ruf.rice.edu/~pkortum/

⁸ psychology.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=122

⁹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdhHgSn8D3Q

¹⁰ www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2013/09/Dana-Debeauvoir-STAR-Voting-System-Diagram.pdf

Catherine Mobley Wins Class of '39 Award for Excellence



LWVCA member Catherine Mobley has received Clemson University's Class of '39 Award for Excellence. The award is presented annually to a member of the faculty whose outstanding contributions for a five-year period have been judged by his or her peers to represent the highest achievement of service to the

university, the student body and the larger community. Congratulations Catherine!



The holiday party on December 16th at the OLLI building attracted about 25 members for a good evening of fellowship. The highlight of the evening was the reading of Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Bob Sorrells.

Positions

Adopted by LWV of the Clemson Area

Education

- The LWVCA believes our schools should be adequately financed. Therefore, we support increased taxes, if necessary, for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson County schools.
- The LWVCA supports greater fiscal autonomy for the School Boards of Trustees in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties.
- We support returning to the former structure of the Pickens County School Board with six area seats and one or more at-large seats.

Growth Management

- We recommend that we continue our growth management study focusing on the three county area and revise our current position in support of local comprehensive planning in light of the study adopted in 2004.

Adopted by LWV of South Carolina 2013-2015

(Complete Positions available at www.lwvsc.org)

Child Welfare: LWVSC supports programs and policies that ensure quality services, personnel, financing and training at all levels of government in order to meet the needs of children and families.

Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice: LWVSC supports improvements in the function of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice to include attention to the offender's responsibility to the community and his/her return to the community.

POSITIONS, continued . . .

Education: LWVSC supports public state-supported education at all levels which is high quality, effective, equitable, fully funded and accountable.

Natural Resources: LWVSC supports promotion of an environment that is beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, habitat preservation, waste management and water resources and sustainable agricultural programs and practices.

State and Local Government: LWVSC supports the development and monitoring of governmental structures, processes, and procedures that ensure efficient, representative, responsive, transparent and accountable state and local government and citizen access to, and participation in, decision-making.

State and Local Taxation: LWVSC supports a system of state and local taxation in South Carolina that is equitable and provides adequate revenue for public purposes.

Transportation: LWVSC supports regional and coordinated multi-modal transportation services that efficiently and economically meet community needs and enhance planned growth, but do not adversely affect the environment.

Statement to the Pickens County Legislative Delegation January 8, 2015

I am representing the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area, which has been serving the voters of Pickens County since 1968. We encourage informed citizen participation in government and thoughtful discussion of public issues at the local, state, and national levels.

As the new legislative session begins, we are concerned about several pending issues. The most important issue to address is ethics reform. The League supports an independent commission as outlined in the bill introduced by Senator Martin. It is important that citizens be able to trust their legislators to be attentive to the needs of the state rather than their personal self-interest. We urge all of you to support this important legislation.

We are also concerned about protecting the integrity of the Local Government Fund, which is especially important to counties. Counties have a number of functions that are a shared responsibility with the state, such as libraries, health, voter registration, and courts. They depend on the Local Government Fund to help pay for those responsibilities. When the Local Government Fund was created in 1990, it replaced local taxes that had been taken over by the state and redistributed to counties and municipalities. That agreement is no longer being honored. We urge you to take a careful look at the Local Government Fund and make sure that local governments are supported in meeting basic needs of our citizens.

Finally, the League is always concerned about education, and the recent decision in the Abbeville case offers an opportunity to rethink the ways we fund public education, and particularly in poor, rural districts with high transportation costs, high turnover and inadequately prepared teachers, and poverty. Pickens County is blessed with good schools and good school leadership, but we share a state with people who are not so blessed, especially in the low country. When their children receive the education they need to participate in society as workers, voters and consumers, all of us are better off. The redistribution of state aid through Act 388 and underfunding the EFA formula have hit many of these poor rural districts hard, and many of them have very high mill rates just to try to provide an inadequate education for their children. Please give thoughtful attention to adequately funding for all of our schools.

Citizens Speak to Pickens County Legislators

On January 8, the Pickens County Legislative Delegation held their annual “listening” session – this time in Easley. Any citizen from the county can show up, step to the podium, and speak what is on his/her mind.

Cheryl Lee presented the League’s statement. Eleanor Hare presented a statement for the State League’s Task Force on Alternative Voting Technologies. Bill Hare attended to support the presenters.

Many of the people who stepped up to give their opinions were familiar to the League with their anti-any-new-tax and anti-Common-Core statements. Many of these people, with whom we frequently differ, supported the League’s statements in favor of strengthening ethics legislation.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS:**Clemson City Council 1/5/2015 and Clemson City Planning Commission 12/08/2014**

At the Clemson City Council meeting on January 5, Mayor Cook welcomed the new council members: Jerry Chapman and June Hay; however June Hay along with council woman Crossie Cox were absent. There was no comment at the public session so the council began with a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report given by the city's external audit firm Stancil, Cooley, Epstep & Stamey. Next, Lowell Arwood gave a presentation on E-billing notification and payment which is being made available for City of Clemson's utility customers. Residents can sign up on the Clemson website and receive their bills on line. Paper bills will also be sent.

Action items included the 1st reading and passage of two different Zoning Text Amendments dealing with structure height and buffer yards and screening between Nonresidential Uses and Commercial Districts. The first reading of a Text Amendment to the Rental Housing Ordinance was tabled because the language had been changed since the agenda was published. The highlight of the meeting was the announcement that Mayor Cook and Rick Cotton had worked out a means to get the RR bridge project completed. It had been stalled for lack of funds to relocate the Clemson RR passenger station during the College Avenue/NSRR bridge replacement project. The solution came in the form of Financial Participation Agreement between SCDOT and the City of Clemson to provide for reimbursement of up to \$200,000 for the creation of a new CAT bus route to transport RR passengers between Greenville and Clemson. Passengers who would board at Clemson will ride the bus to the Greenville RR station and passengers scheduled to get off at Clemson will disembark in Greenville and be transported to Clemson by CAT bus. Al Babinicz presented a revised Intergovernmental Agreement that outlines the costing saving agreement between Seneca and Clemson due to the use of electric buses. Al is also working on a Resolution Adopting the Clemson Area Transit Title VI Program for Direct Recipient of Federal funds. Sixteen requirements must be met for qualify.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

The **Clemson City Planning Commission met on December 8**. The main order of business was approval of a plan to build 10 connected housing units on North Clemson Avenue (Wynkopp). The chair invited members of the audience to ask questions and voice opinions.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

LWV US Offers 4 Solutions to Fight Corruptive Money Influences

The 2014 midterm election was the most expensive midterm election in US history with an estimated \$4 billion spent. In her blog post, Jessica Jones outlines four ways the League will be fighting this corrupting influence. In brief:

- The League will continue to push for passage of the DISCLOSE Act.
- Establish a Public Financing System, so that the size and type of contributions can be limited.
- Encourage the Federal Election Commission to strengthen regulations on coordination.
- Continue to improve voter turnout.

Read Jessica Jones post in its entirety lwv.org/blog/4-solutions-fight-corruptive-influence-money-politics

Submitted by Paula Appling

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

Anderson County Council 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:00 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.

Visit our website at www.lwvclemsonarea.org and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

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