

Co-President's Message

Every time I have put together thoughts in my head for writing this message, new feeds come through that change my perspective. The letter from our national president, **Dr. Deborah Turner**, which came through this morning, settled the matter. Her letter is reprinted in this newsletter. It authorizes me, as a local League president, to put my whole-hearted effort into calling



Ruth Reed

for the removal of President Trump from office. (I also support denying him access to the Office of President in the future.) As soon as I complete this message, I intend to contact Senators Graham and Scott and Representative Duncan to express my opinion and to point out the League's stance. I also stated this position in my statement at the annual meeting of the Pickens County Legislative Delegation on Monday, January 11.

Given that the final straw for me (the camel's back was long since broken) was the effort to disrupt the counting of the vote, I am further committed to our local League effort to continue to work with the election offices of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Please plan to attend our meeting on Jan 19th, at 7 p.m., to learn more about what our Free and Safe Elections Group accomplished and to discuss where we want to go next.

We are less than two years from our next national election (November 2022.) Speaking of which, I urge our local League to support the Pickens County NAACP in its goal to register every eligible citizen of Pickens County as well as to support similar efforts in Anderson and Oconee counties.

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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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Zoom meeting of LWVCA for January 19, 2021

Election 2022: Takeaways from Successful Election 2020 Work

Time: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, Jan 19

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84980807026?pwd=ajRPRTgzdXA1MFNyLy9NSm1LOFZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 849 8080 7026/Passcode: 380237

League Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) is Jan. 23, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. It will be by Zoom; go to my.lwvsc.org for agenda and link to register.

Co-President's Message Continued

One sentence of Dr. Turner's letter bears highlighting:

*The statement we issued this morning was not a partisan one. As we made clear in the statement, we support the processes that would remove Donald Trump and install Mike Pence as president for the remainder of the term. On January 21, we are hosting a **webinar how our nonpartisan and DEI policies intersect** and how to navigate them during hyper-partisan times. We welcome everyone to attend.*

I hope many of us can attend. I have marked my calendar. And I encourage you to participate in the efforts of the DEI committee of our local league, starting with discussions of *Caste*, by **Isabel Wilkerson**. If you would like to buy a copy from an independent bookseller, may I recommend Turning Page Bookshop, the only African American-owned bookshop in South Carolina (turningpagebookshop.com). The owner moved her bookshop from Seneca to Goose Creek about a year and a half ago and would be delighted to mail you a copy.

Submitted by Ruth Reed, Co-President

We still have plenty of copies of SC League history, *In Her Shoes*, for \$15. If you want a copy, pay online using PayPal (from our LWVCA website) or send a check to LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, S.C., 29633.

If you have ordered a copy but haven't received it, email or call **Ruth Reed** for delivery/or pick up or send an email to: reed.juniata@gmail.com, (814 251 4163). You may also pay upon delivery.

LWVUS and LWVEF Call for the Removal of President Trump from Office

January 8, 2021

Last night, the full LWVUS and LWVEF boards met to consider the events of this week and unanimously voted to **call for the removal of President Trump from the office of the president.**

And this afternoon, we issued an **action alert for people to call their senators** and ask them to support impeachment.

This was an unprecedented decision for our organization. As a respected, 100-year-old nonpartisan institution, the League's action represents the grave and extraordinary nature of this moment in history. The world we live in is fundamentally different after the events of January 6.

Donald Trump showed himself to be a dangerous agitator with the power and will to upend our democracy by force. He is a threat to our republic and to our national security.

We know that this decision will be controversial, but this moment in history demands we protect and defend our democracy. We cannot stand silent as the actions of President Trump this week have demonstrated he is unfit for office. We will not endure the next two weeks and the potential for further damage to our democracy and the world.

It is time to remove him from office by any legal means possible, which is why LWVUS supports both impeachment and the 25th Amendment as viable options to ensure safety of Americans and preservation of our republic.

The statement we issued this morning was not a partisan one. As we made clear in the statement, we support the processes that would remove Donald Trump and install Mike Pence as president for the remainder of the term. On January 21, we are hosting a **webinar how our nonpartisan and DEI policies intersect** and how to navigate them during hyper-partisan times. We welcome everyone to attend.

All of you, our members across the country and around the world, have joined this organization because you believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. Today, we ask you to stand together in this decision to defend democracy as we have for 100 years.

In solidarity,

Dr. Deborah Ann Turner
Board President, LWVUS

What's in a Name?

Well, quite a lot as it turns out!

Fifty plus years ago, when our League was founded, all the members lived in Clemson or only a few miles away. Most were associated with Clemson University in some manner. We were the League of Women Voters of Clemson. As the years went by and we acquired members from Pendleton and the Seneca area, we changed our name to "Clemson Area."

Today we aspire to serve Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. We now have teams of members attending election commission meetings in all three counties and we included all candidates in all three counties in our Vote411 coverage. Before COVID-19, several of our members regularly attended Pickens County Council meetings. Last year we sponsored a candidate forum in Westminster. We submit letters to the editor to the Seneca Journal, the Anderson Independent and the Sentinel-Progress (Easley). We have members in all three counties, and we attempt to serve all three counties, but our name and our email address make it appear that we are only about Clemson.

At least twice in our fifty-year history, the Clemson Area LWV has considered changing the name to make it more descriptive of the areas we serve. Now, with Vote411 candidates discarding our emails thinking that Clemson is not their concern, the subject is again before us.

Names that have been suggested include LWVAOP (people might not know what that means), LWV Golden Corner (sometimes that just means Oconee County), LWV Tri-County (there is another league in SC with that name), LWV NWSC (North-West South Carolina -- cumbersome?). LWV Upcountry (doesn't that include Greenville and Spartanburg?), LWV Lake Country or LWV Three Lakes (elitist, perhaps?), LWV Foothills, *hmmmm*.

Earlier attempts to change the name were stalled by indecision. Certainly, the current name has a proud history showing our growth and it is well known to other leagues in the state, both arguments for keeping the name as it is. But those in "outlying" areas are tired of Clemson's attitude. "Who are they to tell us what to do!"

Join this exciting debate! Make plans to attend the program planning meeting to be held on January 30, via Zoom. There will be time for discussion of this issue with an eye toward the annual meeting in the spring. At that time, voting on whether to make the change at all and, if so, change to what new name will bring this controversial subject to a close.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare and Buzzy Adams

Programs and Action

On January 30th the Clemson League, as well as Leagues across the state at other dates in January and early February, will engage in the grassroots process of refining, clarifying, and revisiting that set of positions adopted over the years by the state League's biennial conventions. Those positions are the basis for our lobbying efforts as well as our educational programming that ensures that citizens and especially League members will be informed about what the government is doing or considering doing and what is at stake for the issues we care about: good government, electoral democracy, education, child welfare, environmental protection, and others. The State Board depends on local Leagues having a conversation about these issues every other year in anticipation of the biennial convention, which will be held May 1st this year.

This year **Lynn Teague**, JoAnne Day, and I (**Holley**) have revised the materials sent to local Leagues to use for their discussion and to provide feedback. We have also offered some suggestions for change, such as deleting positions that have already been adopted and implemented, rethinking statements that need clarification, and considering questions that we might want to revisit. Local Leagues are free to consider these suggestions or not and certainly encouraged to offer their own.

Here comes the homework part. On the state website you will find a publication called Program and Action Agenda. Download it. Either put it on your desktop or, if you want a hardcopy, print it out. Read it. Decide which ones you would like to see changed -- expanded, deleted, or revised. Each League sends its recommendations to State Issues chair **JoAnne Day**. Based on that input, the state board will recommend changes in our positions at the convention. Non-recommended items emanating from local Leagues can also be considered at the convention. About a week before the January 30th meeting, you will receive an email with some attached suggestions and a brief summary of our positions as well as a Zoom link for you to join the meeting. Please plan to take part. Janie Shipley, a member of the state board, and I will facilitate the conversation.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich, LWVCA Board member and Co-president, LWVSC

LWVCA Will Miss Bill Hare

LWVCA will miss **Bill Hare**, a long time League member, long time local treasurer, and holder of the distinction of being married (not simultaneously) to two members of the original LWVCA board. He and **Eleanor** were stalwarts of the Clemson League. Bill's other passions in life were theology (he was an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church), music (sang for many years with the Greenville Chorale), and his children and grandchildren. He is survived by their children **Bill Jr.** and wife **Denise**, **David**, **Ginny**, and **Cathy Huddle** (husband **Eddie**) and grandchildren **Bill**, **Lizzie**, and **Peter Hare**, and **Lauren** and **Kelcey Huddle**. He was a passionate reader, deeply engaged in politics, had a good sense of humor, and enjoyed a reputation for both frugality and generosity.

A full obituary is available at the Duckett-Robinson website.

New Member Bio



Eunice Lehmacher has lived in Clemson since 2002 with her husband **Gerald**, a professor of physics at Clemson University. They have two sons in their 20s who work out of state in mathematics and IT. In her free time, Eunice likes to hike, read, garden, and walk her chihuahua Lula. She's also been active in scouts, her neighborhood (Camelot), and her church (University Lutheran).

As a former high school teacher, director of Christian education, librarian, community mental health counselor, ELS teacher, and medical social worker, she is aware of many issues in communities related to health care, education, and spirituality. She volunteers with various groups including groups working toward housing and racial equity, and sustainability issues.

From 2009-2014, Eunice operated a small business in Seneca as a private mental health counselor. Since 2014 she has been an outpatient therapist for Oconee Memorial Hospital: a bereavement coordinator, a home health medical social worker, a counselor to hospital employees, and a trainer and counselor for caregivers of persons with dementia.

Voter Registration during a Pandemic

Last year NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY (NVRD) was September 22 but it went quite differently this year. After calling all schools, none wanted in-person registration, so we had to set up a Plan B: send them a video describing the voting procedures. Only **Lynn Batizy** was able to do some registering at our technical schools in person.

In addition to the two videos (they can be seen on the LWVCA website, on the Pickens County Library site, or at the two direct links below), each school received a bag of forms, pens, posters, and other supplies. We asked for a total count from each school to send this information to NVRD headquarters. Our numbers were down this year as we suspected they would be. However, many registered on-line also.

Thank you to **Pam Warren**, **Lynn Batizy**, and **Michael Austin** for all your help.

Submitted by Cheryl Lee

Links to the videos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eczm8vmn2czlrph/PickensCountyVoting1.mp4?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sotxpwlh729duim/WomenVoteFinal.mp4?dl=0>

Message to the Legislative Delegation of Pickens County

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you for your service. The League of Women Voters is non-partisan and perhaps best known for its mission to register voters and to provide information to voters on candidates for public office through means such as public forums and the Vote411.org website. We do not endorse candidates or parties. However, we do work hard to support good governance, studying issues extensively before taking positions. Our tagline is “making democracy work.”

We want to thank our public officials for a very efficient, safe, accessible election with record turnout in South Carolina this past November. No-excuse in person and mail absentee options and satellite locations with drop boxes made voting much easier. This flexibility spread the voting out and reduced pressure on poll workers and officials on election day. Many of our members, neighbors, and others have expressed great satisfaction with the way that the election was conducted with results very similar to previous elections in terms of the distribution of votes between the two parties. On their behalf, **we urge you to retain the practices and procedures implemented for the November election for future elections.**

Although the League supported a different type of voting equipment to the 2019 legislative session, we have been pleased with the functioning of the new equipment and the paper trail that it creates. We thank the legislature for listening to our concerns about **providing a paper trail for audit** and also in case of equipment malfunction.

The League has taken particular interest in redistricting, or gerrymandering. Voters, not parties or incumbents, should be at the center of redistricting decisions, and districts should be more rather than less diverse. Legislators may be tempted to serve their own interests by making their district more predictably biased toward themselves and their party. But this practice may make it easier for a more extreme candidate to win in a primary. The cumulative effect over multiple rounds of sophisticated and complex redistricting is to increase political polarization, which is not, as we currently can see, a desirable situation. **We request that all discussions of redrawing district lines be announced in advance to the public.**

There are many issues where the League maintains active interest, from education to health care. We will restrict our final comment to the pressing issue of the fetal heartbeat bill, which we understand will come before committee on Tuesday (tomorrow). **We very strongly urge you to vote against the fetal heartbeat bill.** Beating heart cells are not a unique feature of an individual. I first saw beating heart cells in a petri dish in the late 1970s that were generated from skin cells. Hearts can be transplanted along with kidneys, livers, and other organs. The heartbeat plays on our connection of hearts and emotion and is not an appropriate organ to be used in the argument between a woman’s right to privacy and a culturally mandated definition of the beginning of life. The League has been a longstanding proponent of a woman’s right to privacy. Abortions should be legal, safe, and rare.

In summary, thank you again for your willingness to serve, and we look forward to working with you on issues of importance to our citizens.

Submitted by Ruth Reed

<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>		

Dues are due! Donations are always welcome.

Copies of the South Carolina League history, *In Her Shoes*, have arrived.

You can send one check for all of these:

Item	Cost/ item	# ordered	Total cost
Dues—individual		_____	\$60
Dues—family		_____	\$90
Dues--student		_____	\$10
Donation		_____	
Book: "In Her Shoes"		_____	\$15
Total		_____	

Make check out to LWVCA and mail to: LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633