

President's Message

Well, the filing deadline for the June 11 primary has passed and the VOTE411 Team has a lot of work to do!

According to *The Seneca Journal*, 16 Republican candidates filed to run for open seats in Oconee and 25 in Pickens. Oconee and Pickens have six candidates each running unopposed in their primaries.



Pat Spurlock

Bottomline is that there are several potentially competitive races in the shadows of the statewide and Presidential contests. And plenty of opportunities for our League to provide forums for the candidates and for voters to take a closer look at their platforms.

We need to make ourselves available to the Voter Services Teams to ensure that we meet the purpose of the League: "...to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues."

Closer to home, we have several operational and leadership changes to keep us busy.

Our annual meeting, May 14 at Occasions in Central, will be filled with good food, wine (or other beverage of your choice), League business, and a much-anticipated speaker, Furman University **Professor Glen Halva-Neubauer**.

Dr. Halva-Neubauer is Chair of Politics and International Affairs and is a specialist in U. S., state and local government and politics. He is an entertaining speaker, and his topic will be Home Rule in South Carolina. Thank you, **Carol Asalon**, for suggesting him.

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THE VOTER
 League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties
 P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29631
www.lwvop.org

OFFICERS
 Pat Spurlock, Co-President
 Holley Ulbrich, Co-President
 Sandra Land, VP Programming
 Allison Ranson, Secretary
 Elaine Laiewski, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS
 Carol Asalon
 Kathy Bargeron
 Carolyn Bishop-McLeod
 Janet Marsh
 Sarah McNeill
 Ruth Reed
 Elizabeth Vogt
 Cherie Walker

APPOINTED DIRECTORS
 Sheila Crawford
 Linda Gahan
 Eleanor Hare
 Janie Shipley

Calendar of Events

April 9 5:00 p.m.	LWVOP Board Meeting Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 230 Pendleton Road, Clemson
April 16 7:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting “Constitutional Officers Study” Clemson United Methodist Church 300 Frontage Road, Clemson
May 14 6:00 p.m.	LWVOP Annual Meeting at Occasions 1551 18 Mile Road, Central
May 28-June 7 8:30-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday	Early Voting, Statewide Primaries
June 11 Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Statewide Primaries

President’s Message Continued

The business segment of our meeting will be to adopt a local program for 2025, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget, and amend our bylaws to align with the LWVUS. This includes a significant change to our membership and dues structure. Please read through the *VOTER* for more details on the bylaws, budget, and nominations. You will also see a major shift in our leadership structure. We are transitioning from the traditional President/Co-President alignment to a Management Team.

I look forward to seeing you at the May 16, annual meeting. Please RSVP to our incoming Treasurer **Wanda Shehan** LWVOP1@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spurlock, Co-President

Vote 411

The date of the Statewide Primary is June 11, 2024. The Vote411 team will cover all the offices on the State ballot. Filing closes April 1st at noon. All candidates will be invited to participate by answering several questions on-line to help give voters the information they need to decide whom to vote for.

If you would like to help with this effort, please call **Alice Flower** at 864-202-3235 or aliceflower2019@gmail.com.

April Program – Constitutional Officers, Appointed or Elected?

The April LWVOP meeting is a little different. It is a consensus meeting, and it is members only (because we are making decisions in the name of the League) and in-person only (because it is too hard to manage decision making via conversation in a hybrid setting). The General Assembly just gave a heads up for our April meeting by putting the question we are asking ourselves, “Should this statewide official be elected or appointed?” In the last ten years voters have been asked that question about the Adjutant General and the Superintendent of Education. This time, the focus is on the Comptroller General (basically the state’s chief accountant) who made some very large accounting errors and was forced to resign.

At the 2023 State Convention the State League voted to authorize a “brief” (not so brief) study of the seven Constitutional officers. Like the governor and lieutenant governor, these seven officials are listed in the Constitution as elected by the voters. Voters have already approved changing the office of Adjutant General (head of the state’s National Guard) from elected to appointed and rejected a proposal to do the same for Superintendent of Education. The others are attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, treasurer, secretary of state, and the upcoming vote on the comptroller general.

The League does have a position, adopted sometime in the murky past, that supports the following:
*Appointment by the governor, subject to legislative approval, of the following government officials:
Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller General, Attorney General, and Commissioner of Agriculture.*

Also,

Gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent of Education, with the advice and consent of the General Assembly. The appointee must have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of Pre-K-12 public education.

We do not have a position for the Adjutant General, who is now appointed. All local Leagues have been encouraged to hold a meeting on this issue by the end of June and report their recommendations (with reasons) as to which should be appointed, and which elected.

A team of eight developed information and materials for our use as we try to reach consensus on appointment versus elected for each of these seven positions. Consensus does not mean unanimity or simple majority, but rather a sense of the meeting, with dissenting opinions duly considered and noted. We will have two recorders to take notes and a facilitator to present some brief historical context, background information about the duties of each officer, and the practice in other states (elected or appointed).

If you want to get a head start in thinking about what we should support, either **Holley Ulbrich**, HolleyUlbrich@gmail.com or **Pat Spurlock**, spurlock.pat@gmail.com. will email the study to you.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich, Co-President

LWVOP Proposed Budget: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

	2023-24 Budget	Proposed 2024-25 Budget
INCOME		
Member Dues	\$4,410	\$4,575
Donations	\$1,000	\$925
Fundraiser/Activities	\$1,300	\$1,200
LWVOP Reserve Funds	\$2,290	\$3,550
TOTAL INCOME:	\$9,000	\$10,250
EXPENSES		
LWVUS Per Member Payment	\$2,288	\$2,496
LWVSC Per Member Payment	\$1,001	\$1,092
State/National Meetings	\$1,550	\$800
Local Meetings *	\$500	\$900
Annual Meeting**	\$400	\$1,400
Printing	\$1,350	\$1,100
Postage/Mailing	\$300	\$200
VOTE411	\$400	\$400
Website Hosting/URL	\$430	\$440
Membership	\$100	\$100
Advocacy and Action	\$250	\$200
Voter Services***	\$150	\$860
Administrative Fund	\$281	\$262
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$9,000	\$10,250

*Increase in cost of meeting space

**\$1200 from ticket sales income above

***Increase due to election year

Proposed LWVOP By-Law Changes

Key: strikethrough on sections to be deleted. Additions in italics.

Article II. Purposes and Policies

Section 2. Policies.

- a. The LWVOP shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- ~~b. LWVOP shall be a 501(c) (4) nonprofit entity. This designation allows LWVOP to lobby and donations are not tax deductible. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity. Donations to the LWVEF are tax deductible.~~
- b. *The LWVOP is fully committed to ensure compliance—in principle and in practice—with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy.*
- c.

(Note: According to LWVUS, “All state and local Leagues are required to match LWVUS in their first three articles and to include a nonpartisan and DEI policy.” LWVOP’s statement about being a non-profit 501(c) (4) should be on our website under fundraising.)

Article III. Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership

- d. ***Renewal.*** *Membership lasts for one year after joining or renewing.*

Article IX. Financial Administration

~~Section 2. Dues. The amount of annual dues shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting on the proposed budget at the annual meeting. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of September and shall be received no later than the first day of December. If there is more than one member in a family, dues for the second member will be 50% of the regular dues, and only one copy of LWVOP mailings shall be sent.~~

Section 2. Dues. *Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.*

(Note: This change will become effective Jan. 31, 2025.)

Section 5. Distribution of funds and dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVOP, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVOP shall be paid to the LWVSC after ~~state and national per member payments and other~~ any outstanding obligations have been met.

(Note: Remove all references to per member payments.)

Adopted (May 18, 2018), Amended (May 17, 2022), Amended (May __, 2024)

Nominations for Officers and Elected Board Members

**Every officer and elected Board Member in italics
must be confirmed by a quorum of members attending the Annual Meeting**

A huge “Thank You” to our Nominating Committee: **Ansley Fraser, Kathy Bargeron, Ann Fuhr, Sandra Land, and Holley Ulbrich!**

Management Team:

Carolyn Bishop McLeod, VP (2025)
Sandra Land (2025)
Kathy Bargeron (2025)
Ruth Reed (2025)

Treasurer:

Wanda Shehan

Secretary:

Allison Ranson (2024)

Board Members: Elected

Carol Asalon (2024)
Cheri Walker (2024)
Sue Schneider
Christine Prado

Board Members: Appointed

Janie Shipley (2024)
Janet Marsh
Eleanor Hare
Shelia Crawford (2025)
Pat Spurlock (2025) immediate past Co-President

Nominations Committee: Elected

Holley Ulbrich, Chair
Cynthia Warner
Linda Gahan

New Members' Bios



Cathy Huddle is a graduate of Clemson University (1983) with a B.S. in Financial Management.

She and her husband **Ed** have lived in the Columbia area for over 30 years and part-time in Clemson since 2017. She is retired from Conceptual MindWorks, Inc, a healthcare software company, and Ed is retired from the S.C. Department of Corrections. Their daughters, **Lauren** and **Kelcy**, both graduated from Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina. Lauren is a dentist in Greenville and Kelcy is a dentist in Spartanburg.

Cathy currently serves on the Lexington-Richland School District Five School Board and on the Board of Directors for Niagara Life Insurance Company. She served on the United Way of the Midland's Health Committee, School District One mentoring coordinator, and she has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for over 20 years.

Cathy is also a member of the Chapin Woman's Club and chair of the Civic Engagement Committee.

Linda Gorry was born and raised in Pennsauken, N.J. (a suburb of Philadelphia in the Delaware Valley), Linda came of age in the sixties and was positively influenced by the changing culture and social unrest. She earned Bachelor of Science Degrees in English and Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. Her activism began here joining protests against the political landscape and the escalation of the Vietnam Conflict. Linda participated in the inaugural Earth Day on June 22, 1970, in Boone.

Upon graduating, Linda married, taught high school English, and had identical twin boys (a delivery table surprise). Living in the North Carolina mountains brought a love for the outdoors and a strong desire to preserve

and protect it. She became an active member of the Boone Junior Woman's Club, chairing the Conservation Committee with an emphasis on stemming growth along the scenic New River in Watauga and surrounding counties. Eventually careers took the family to Charlotte, where Linda became a licensed Realtor and property manager. They soon moved to Columbia, where they raised their boys.

Semi-retired in Seneca, Linda spends time on the tennis courts with friends, the hiking trails with **Kevin**, and tending the yard. Last year she began developing and leading a Bible study for youth and young adults.

They especially enjoy time spent in Charleston with their grandsons.



*Clemson City Council
1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.*

*Seneca City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.*

*Pickens County Council
1st Monday, 6:30 p.m.*

*Pickens County School Board
4th Monday, 7:00 p.m.*

*Oconee County School Board
3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m.*



SAVE THE DATE!

<https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/south-carolina/poweronpurple.jpg>