

## President's Message

I invite you to the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Pickens and Oconee Counties on May 9 at 6 p.m. at Occasions to celebrate our efforts to "Make Democracy Work."



**Linda Gahan**

Collectively we support women's reproductive rights, truth in the teaching of history in the public schools, conservation and good management of our planet's resources, adequate staffing of election commissions and increase in teachers' salaries, while we oppose the use of public tax money to fund private schools and the banning of books from our public school and community libraries. There will be good food and a social hour to catch up with friends. After a short business where we will elect officers, adopt the budget and local program for the coming year, we will be privileged to hear **Heidi Williams**, one of our members, talk about "The Green Crescent Trail." In addition, we will present the *Spirit of Democracy Award* to a member who has provided exceptional service to our organization. This is a time of celebration of trying to make a difference in public policy and becoming educated voters. Two new committees have formed around issues of the environment and education. **Ellie Taylor** and her committee on the environment will encourage us to do "just one thing" to conserve resources. Look for these tips in the coming LWVOP *Voters*.

I would like to thank this year's officers: **Vice President for Programs, Holley Ulbrich; Eleanor Hare and Catherine Watt** (off board); **Secretary Ellie Taylor; Treasurer Elaine Laiewsky; Elected Directors Kathy Bargeron, Carolyn Bishop McLeod, Sandy Land, Janet Marsh, Sarah McNeill, Pat Spurlock, and Cherie Walker;** and **Appointed Directors Ruth Reed, Eleanor Hare, Janie Shipley,**

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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](http://www.lwvop.org)

### OFFICERS:

Linda Gahan, President  
Holley Ubrich, Vice-President  
Ellie Taylor, Secretary  
Elaine Laiewski, Treasurer

### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Kathy Bargeron  
Carolyn Bishop-McLeod  
Sandy Land  
Janet Marsh  
Sarah McNeill  
Pat Spurlock  
Cherie Walker

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Past President	Ruth Reed
Policy Advisor	Eleanor Hare
Policy Advisor	Janie Shipley
Voter Reg.	Cheryl Lee
Vote411	Alice Flower
Web Master	Allison Ranson
Web Master	Carol Asalon
NAACP Liaison	Shelia Crawford

## Calendar of Events

May 8 Oconee Co. School Board Meeting, Oconee Co. District Office, Walhalla, 6 p.m.

**May 9 LWVOP Annual Meeting, Occasions Event Center in Central, 6 p.m.**

May 15 Oconee County School Board Meeting, Oconee Co. District Office, Walhalla, 6 p.m.

May 16 Oconee County Council, Oconee Co. Council Chambers, 415 South Pine St., Walhalla, 6 p.m.

May 22 Pickens County School Board, 1348 Griffin Mill Road, Easley, 6 p.m.

**LWVOP will hold a forum for the candidates for Seneca City Council on May 22 at the Gignilliat Center, 100 Stadium Road, Seneca, SC from 7 :00– 8:30 p.m. See details on page 7.**

*OLLI Building 578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson  
(864-633-5242)*

## President’s Message Continued

**Cheryl Lee, Alice Flower, Allison Ranson, Carol Asalon and Shelia Crawford.** I also appreciated the involvement of **Ann Fuhr and Aleta Robinson** (membership), Elizabeth Vogt (*Voter* editor), **Ansley Fraser, Sandy Rosche, Bill Ranson, Sharon Fennell, Buzzy Adams, Reba Kruse, Rachel Rowe, Eunice Lehmacher, Ken Marsh, Ted Taylor, Shari Jung, and Carol Kozma** in various capacities. What a great team!

### LWVOP Annual Meeting on May 9

We are all looking forward to the annual LWVOP banquet held at Occasions in Central on May 9. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. After a short business meeting, our speaker and league member **Heidi Williams** will bring us up to date on the Green Crescent Trail. Cost is \$25 which you can pay at the door. For more information, contact **Cheryl Lee** at 864-903-5076 or at Cheryl\_Lee1234@bellsouth.net. See you all there!

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

## LWVSC Biennial Convention 2023

The convention's theme was "Democracy: Our Mission, Our Passion", and was opened by welcomes from **LWVSC President Nancy Williams**, and the Mayor of Columbia, **Daniel Rickenmann**. There are fifteen local state leagues, and thirteen were in attendance, with LWVOP attendance of eight delegates.

Speaker **Armand Derfner** encouraged us, "Can Our Democracy Survive the Supreme Court?" He referred to how the Supreme Court has turned the right to vote around in his lifetime, and spoke of the effects of gerrymandering, and money contributions. Mr. Derfner does not agree with expanding the Supreme Court but feels there is hope that the basic decency of the people of our country will save our democracy. He also reminded us that gerrymandering is a vicious crime, right up there with insider trading or fixing a horse race, etc. He praised the League for its dedicated, unbiased work for democracy.

The League was part of the audience for "Bourbon in the Back Room" Live Podcast hosted by **Joel Lourie** and **Beth Bernstein** who interviewed former **South Carolina State House of Representative Rita Allison**. She shared information gathered from educators' group meetings concerning the reason for teacher shortages. She reports the responses showed disrespect for the teaching professional, lack of support from administration and parents, inadequate salaries for teachers, and additional stress from other duties besides teaching. Mrs. Allison stated that politics is now about me and not us.

The business consisted of four by-laws revisions (ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ARTICLE X - PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM, ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, Treasurer's Report, 2023-2025 Budget and Program, and election of officers. The 2023-2025 program priorities in alphabetical order, as determined by local League responses are education, health care access, and protection of voter rights/voter access.

Information and knowledge were gained from the breakout sessions, "Redistricting: Where We're at and What the Future Looks Like", "The State of Health Care in South Carolina", "Global Warming and Sea Level Rise," and "Lead Like a Woman: Blueprint for a New Kind of Leadership," "Cover SC: Building Our Health, Growing Our Economy," and "W(h)ither Our Rights" Awards Presentation were the highlight of the banquet. The networking and meeting other League members added another great dimension to the convention. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a delegate.

*Submitted by Shelia D. Crawford*

### Newly Formed LWVOP Education Team

The LWVOP Education Team held its first organizational meeting May 2 via Zoom. **Rachel Cox, Linda Gahan, Carol Kozma, Reba Kruse, Janelle Rivers, Bill Ranson** and **Rachel Rowe** shared their concerns about the attack on public education by well-organized groups like MOMS for Liberty and Conservatives for the Upstate. We will focus on organizing as defenders for public education and will meet again to brainstorm strategies, select a name for our group and develop a way forward. Please join us if you have an interest in this group by contacting **Reba Kruse** at rebakruse@gmail.com.

## New LWVOP Environmental Team Gets Organized

Our new Environmental Team met in April for their first meeting. Our purpose will be to educate ourselves and LWVOP members as we work together on environmental issues at both the state and local level. Issues could address current legislation along with deforestation, conservation easements, safe water, sanitation, landfills, recycling, reducing food waste. These and many others will also relate to environmental justice.

Of special interest to the group is local and home composting, especially eliminating food waste thrown into local trash that ends up emitting methane. Methane is a gas sixty times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> in heating our planet. Team members are also gathering information about where plastic can be recycled in our area and how to eliminate the use of plastic in our own lives including our own LWVOP events.

Look for the environmental ***“Tip of the Month — Just One Thing”*** campaign that will share ideas that LWVOP members can use to help save our planet by lowering our own carbon emitting footprints and by sharing these ideas with friends, family, or other organizations. See the first tip below that can help eliminate those huge plastic laundry detergent containers from ending up in a landfill for 1000 or more years.

If you are interested in joining our team, please let **Ellie Taylor** know at [elpty1@bellsouth.net](mailto:elpty1@bellsouth.net). The environmental team will meet again on May 10 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

### **“JUST ONE THING” from the LWVOP Environmental Team**

*A new monthly tip will be appearing in The VOTER as well as on the LWVOP website at [lwvop.org](http://lwvop.org). Be on the lookout for our monthly TIP and remember “Every Day is Earth Day!”*

#### **TIP OF THE MONTH FOR MAY:**

Buying laundry detergent (and other household products) can result in throwing enormous amounts of plastic into the landfill over the years. Sadly, it can take centuries for this plastic to deteriorate. Plastic pollution is also known to end up in bodies of water where they hurt our ecosystem. **An alternative to purchasing plastic containers of laundry detergent is to purchase laundry detergent sheets and dish detergent through one of these websites or Amazon — Earth Breeze or Tru Earth. If you prefer to make your own, there are ‘recipes’ for making homemade laundry detergent and many other household cleaners on the internet.**

#### **LWVOP Environmental Team on Styrofoam Recycling**

Publix recycles Styrofoam and other materials at local stores by selling to a local vendor. Clean food containers (clam shells, cups, egg cartons, trays used for meats, vegetables, etc.) can be dropped off at local Publix grocery stores. No packing blocks or peanuts. However, Publix customer service at Seneca location says if left in the bin, they send peanuts to Corporate with other materials.

*Submitted by Sandra Land*

## Recap of April Meeting: DART- A Project to Teach Older Adults How to Detect Internet Deception

Our April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting welcomed back two of our favorite cybercommunications experts **Patrick Warren** and **Darren Linvill** from Clemson University. They had shared with us information on election interference by “bots” at a League meeting in 2021.

Their new project DART, well-funded, is a broader approach to protecting our citizens from internet disinformation and deception. Specifically, they are heading an interdisciplinary team across the country that is working to create an engaging and educational online platform that teaches older adults how disinformation and deception spread. Their project targets older adults because research finds that this population is more susceptible to misleading information. They are more likely to engage with false information and fall for scams. (Patrick and Darren did indicate that they did not think the members of the League of Women Voters would be their best target audience because we are savvier than average. Thanks, guys!)

DART will use a game format to teach these skills to older adults. It is not ready yet, but when it is, it will help people spot lies and scams. Earlier tests of a Spot the Troll program showed improvement across all ages in the ability to spot a troll after testing after engaging the program.

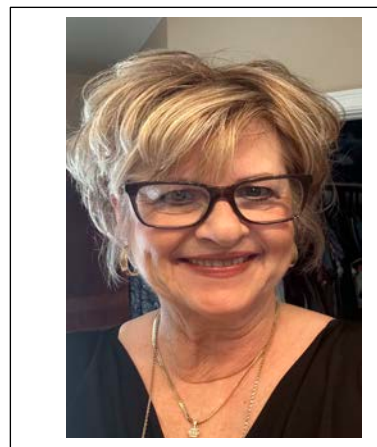
*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

### New Member Bio

A native of Seneca, South Carolina, **Wanda Shehan** has lived here most of her life. She attended Southern Wesleyan University, where she received her bachelor’s and master’s degree in business administration. She worked at Duke Energy, in various departments and locations, for twenty-five years, until her early retirement in 2015. After retiring from Duke, Wanda served as volunteer guardian ad litem, and worked part-time as a substitute teacher.

Later, Wanda accepted a job with South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Protective Service, as a Case Manager in Family Preservation group, where she worked until she retired for the final time.

Wanda is married to **Lee Shehan**. They have five children, twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild. Wanda’s hobbies include crochet, macramé, cooking, reading, traveling, and spending time with family. Wanda volunteers with the Oconee County Democratic Party, is a member of the NAACP of Oconee County, and serves on the board of NOLA, a local non-profit, whose mission is to prevent sudden cardiac arrest through awareness and education.



## Safe Meeting Notes April 13, 2023

The LWVOP SAFE committee met Thursday, April 13 at the Kite Hill Conference room. **Janet and Ken Marsh, Janie Shipley, Sandra Land, Ruth Reed, Carol Asalon and Carolyn Bishop- McLeod** were in attendance.

\*Legislative Updates- Janet shared information from our LWVSC lobbyist Lynn Teague on legislation related to elections. H3695 is of particular interest because, if passed, it would close primaries. The status of this bill is difficult to track. The league will continue to monitor and act if needed.

\*Oconee Election Commission: Janie reported that the election commission recently met. Director Kristi shared results from a collaborative survey initiated by the Darlington Election Commission and her office. Janie will seek permission from Kristi for the LWVOP to utilize this survey to support both the Oconee and Pickens Commissions in their efforts to improve staffing. Sandra Land observed that additional data could also be used to support voter services activities.

\*Pickens Election Commission: Carol and Ruth reported on the March Pickens meeting (see report). Carol commented that the report which was published in the LWVOP March Voter needed a correction. The correction has been posted on the website. The committee recommended submitting this correction in the next edition of the *Voter*.

\*New Business: Scope of involvement with election commissions:

The committee will continue supporting our local election commissions by attending their meetings. Information gathered at these meetings will be shared with the Board. The committee will use its discretion with written reports. Next meeting: 7/27/23 via zoom.

*Notes taken and submitted by Carolyn Bishop-McLeod.*

### Erratum

As noted above, the following information should have been included along with the Pickens County Election Commission report for April and can be accessed at the Verified Voting website:

*Prior to 2022, South Carolina had no statutory post-election audit requirement. S. 108, which was signed into law in May 2022, requires the Executive Director of the South Carolina State Election Commission to: “establish methods of auditing election results, which may include risk-limiting audits, hand-count audits, results verification through independent third-party vendors that specialize in election auditing, ballot, or any other method deemed appropriate by the executive director.” Audits must be conducted prior to state certification following all statewide elections. Based on information available on the State Election Commission website, as of 2022, the state appears to be conducting both hand-count audits of selected precincts and an “automated audit” using ballot images. Unless otherwise specified, references are to S. 108. The SEC is developing procedures for risk-limiting auditing of all state elections. State Senator Thomas Alexander submitted a bill proposing risk-limiting audits a few years ago; the bill was not passed, but the League supported Senator Alexander’s bill. [Further details are in the 2022 Annual Report of the SEC, available on SCVotes.gov.]*

## Candidate Forum Seneca City Council 's Special Election

LWVOP will hold a forum for the candidates for Seneca City Council on May 22 at the Gignilliat Center, 100 Stadium Road, Seneca, South Carolina from 7 :00– 8:30 p.m. The candidates are:

<b>Kyle Nicholson</b>	138 Julian Drive, Seneca 29678	864-723-0504
<b>Donna Peppers</b>	501 Thomas Heights Circle, Seneca 29678	864-723-3743
<b>Ernest E. Riley</b>	21 Westwild Court, Seneca 29672	864-903-5290
<b>Jim Sites</b>	800 Grey Oak Dr., Seneca 29678	864-710-8568
<b>Delanio Taylor</b>	300 Dalton, Rd., Seneca 29678	864-247-5513

Go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) for more information on the candidates.



**At left from the LWVSC Biennial Convention: Nancy Williams, LWVSC President and Lynn Teague, LWVSC VP for Issues and Action**

**At right: Armand Derfner, Outstanding civil rights attorney for over 60 years, and co-author of *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court* (2021). At the convention, Derfner presented a talk “Can Our Democracy Survive the Supreme Court?”**



*Clemson City Council  
1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm*

*Pickens County School Board  
4th Monday, 7:00 pm*

*Seneca City Council  
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm*

*Oconee County School Board  
3rd Monday, 6:00 pm*

*Pickens County Council  
1st Monday, 6:30 pm*

**Are you missing current information on league events or breaking news on league issues?**

**Visit our updated website [LWVOP.ORG](http://LWVOP.ORG)  
Follow us on Facebook!  
Access Facebook at [LWVOP.ORG](http://LWVOP.ORG)**

## **Contribution Form**

League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties LWVOP, 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.lwvop.org](http://www.lwvop.org) and contact us at [lwvop1@gmail.com](mailto:lwvop1@gmail.com).