



# THE VOTER

November 2022, Vol. 49 No. 8

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties

## President's Message

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This fall, the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties has seen a flurry of volunteer activity in preparation for the midterm election on November 8. **Cheryl Lee** and **Sheila Crawford** spearheaded the registration of voters in the high schools, tech schools, Clemson University, Clemson Downs, festivals, and others.



**Linda Gahan**

**Alice Flower** led the team in collecting and entering candidate information on the VOTE411.org website. **Sarah McNeill** and some 16 volunteers set up and held three candidate forums in October. YouTube videos of two of the events had over 500 views and 140 persons in attendance. **Janet Marsh** and the communications team publicized voter and forum information in the newspapers, next door, city websites, and wrote letters to the editors and put events on the calendar. **Carolyn Bishop-McLeod** and the SAFE team has aided the Election and Voter Registration Commission to help with recruiting poll workers. **Carol Asalon** developed and kept the LWVOP website filled with current information, while **Cherie Walker** maintained our Facebook page. YOU ALL MAKE A GREAT TEAM striving to Make Democracy Work. Let's celebrate our effort November 15 at 6:30 p.m. at OLLI! In the meantime, let's get all voters to the polls!

In addition to issues surrounding voting, **Sandy Land** and the health care team has been lobbying for women's reproductive rights. Their efforts to prevent the passage of any South Carolina Senate or House bill that would restrict a woman's right to control her own body has involved testimony, letters to the editor, action alerts urging you to call your state representatives, demonstrations, forming coalitions, league offers many ways to actively participate in government. Get involved.

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### THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties  
P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29631  
<https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/oconee-pickens-counties>

### 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	Sheila Crawford

## Calendar of Events

November 8	Election Day, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
November 15	Program on “The Teacher Shortage”, OLLI, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. program
November 29	LWVOP Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Zoom
December 13	Holiday Party, OLLI, 5 pm. Bring snack to share. Beverages provided.
<i>OLLI Building</i>	<i>578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)</i>

### Ways to Pay Membership Dues

Thank you to the 38 new and former members who paid their membership dues by September 30. We still need the support of 56 of our FY21-22 members for FY22-23. Dues are \$60, \$30 for each additional household member, or \$10 for a student membership.

- Bring your dues to the October meeting.
- Mail a check to: LWVOP PO Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633.
- Click on the JOIN button at the top of our website home page. There is a \$2 fee.
- Use the Bill Pay section of your bank or credit card.
- Email lwvop1@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

### Social Hour before General Meeting on November 15

The Membership Team will sponsor a social time prior to the November 15 monthly meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. Our social hour and meeting will be 7 days following the election. Regardless of the election’s outcome, we will raise our glasses high to CELEBRATE and be grateful for some successful aspect of the election (tis 9 days till Thanksgiving!).

*Submitted by Janet Marsh*

## November Program - The K-12 Teacher Shortage Panel Discussion

Even before the pandemic, the nation was seeing a teacher shortage. For generations, we took for granted that there would be a group of new, mostly female, mostly young college graduates waiting to teach the nation's children. Now, every year our local districts open with positions unfilled. Even more so, they can stay unfilled, with districts using long-term substitutes or teachers from other communities. This affects learning, community support, and morale. How much is about standardized testing or pay? The questions pursued in this program will focus on the local problem, short-term solutions, and long-term plans.

Guests include **Dr. Danny Merck** of Pickens County, **Dr. Lee D'Andrea** of Clemson University, and two teachers still confirming permission to attend. There will also be a representative from Clemson's "Call Me Mister" program who will be present.

We recognize that this is a systemic problem arising after decades of teacher neglect, of taking teachers for granted, and of placing low taxes above all else in our state. At some point, we need to confront how this decades-long attack on public K-12 education contributed to the shortages that we can't just blame on the pandemic. Bring your questions and ideas, and we'll cover the issue from the supply of future teachers to the reasons teachers leave the profession. Perhaps few issues are more important than ensuring our kids have well-qualified, well-treated, and respected teachers in our classrooms.

*Submitted by Catherine Watt*

### October Update from LWVOP Reproductive Rights Group

In October the SC Senate voted nonconcurrency with H.5399, the abortion ban passed by the House, and appointed 3 for a conference committee. Most opinions are that there will be no further action by the Legislature during this session. We will need to be prepared for a new bill in the next session. What happens will depend, in part, on the anticipated SC Supreme Court ruling in the suit filed to declare the Fetal Heartbeat Act unconstitutional. In a recent article in the *Seneca Journal* several our local legislators (**Alexander, Rice, Sandifer, Whitmire** and **Carter**) were asked about abortion bans. They seemed to uniformly support the Fetal Heartbeat Ban or something even more restrictive.

The LWVOP Reproductive Rights Group met to review efforts to educate and advocate for reproductive rights. Although we can't be sure about the effects of the activities, no more restrictive abortion ban was passed, and the Fetal Heartbeat Act is blocked so abortion is currently legal and available in South Carolina through 20 weeks of pregnancy. Meanwhile, alternate plans for access to abortion in North Carolina are being put into place. We will continue to reach out to other local organizations and individuals and be ready to respond quickly to action by the legislature next year.

*Submitted by Sandra Land*

## Report on October Pickens County School Board Meeting

I attended the Pickens County School Board meeting on October 24, 2022. The meeting began with a Committee of the Whole, at which **Seth Young**, Assistant Education Supervisor for Human Resources, gave a report on the policy used to review of instructional resources, referred to as IGR, which is being revised, following the School Board's banning of two books, *Stamped* by **Jason Reynolds** and **Ibram X. Kendi**, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by **Stephen Chbosky**. Mr. Young began by saying that Pickens County was one of only a few counties in the state that already had policy in place in the case a parent or guardian made a formal complaint about a specific instructional resource being used in the classroom. In the policy, the parent/guardian could request that their child be provided other resource material, or the parent/guardian could fill out a form requesting a formal review of the instructional resource. Mr. Young said the standing policy was followed in the case of the two banned books. A request was made to review two books, a District Level Committee reviewed the two books, and a recommendation was made to the Board, which voted to remove them for five years. At this meeting, Mr. Young suggested a list of topics for Board to continue discussing to refine the present policy:

- 1) whether or not there should be a district-wide list of approved educational resources and who should be the ones to approve such a list.
- 2) how School and District Level Committees to review these materials are appointed, who should serve on them, parents, community members, employees? Define employees (administrators, teachers, instructional coaches, etc.? Which community members?
- 3) whether or not review committee members should be compensated, as it takes a good bit of time and there is pressure on the committee members to meet a deadline. Mr. Young felt it was becoming difficult to get parents to agree to be on these committees.
- 4) based on discussion at the previous month's meeting, the wording had been changed as to who may request the initial review from "stakeholder" to "parent or guardian."
- 5) what would be an appropriate timeline for the review process so classes may continue if a material under review is listed on the syllabus. It had previously been determined that that a book would not be removed immediately, or this process could be used to disrupt a class, frivolously or maliciously.
- 6) whether or not there should be a unanimous decision by the review committee or some type of a majority vote before the report is submitted to the Board.
- 7) how all affected parties should be notified when these challenges are being made to provide adequate input from all parties.
- 8) what information should be provided to the review committee members, just the challenged book or material itself, or the syllabus and how the materials will be used in the classroom, etc.
- 9) The only discussion following his report was one committee member who disagreed with changing "stakeholder" to 'parent or guardian.'" They believed taxpayers should be allowed input.

The regular meeting of the Pickens County School Board was well attended. There was an overflow of people, and at least sixteen individuals spoke eloquently against banning books.

*Continued on next page*

## School Board Report Continued

The rest of the meeting was other business. During the final remarks from each of the Board members, only one of the members addressed the book banning. **Ms. Williams** addressed the gratuitous use of expletives in the next book up for review (no title was mentioned). Referencing a statement made by former **Chief Justice Warren Burger** after the decision on *Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico*, Ms. Williams stated her belief that it is the responsibility, not of judges, but of parents, teachers, and school boards, to dictate standards of morality and vulgarity allowed in the resource materials used by teachers in the schools. She is also the one who believed taxpayers deserved the opportunity to weigh in on what was being used in the classrooms. She was very open and offered to have a coffee with anyone who wished to discuss opposing viewpoints with her, and provided her phone number, and email address.

*Submitted by Rachel Rowe*

### New Member Bio

**Patricia Carpenter** is originally from Wisconsin, educated there and in Illinois. With a degree in Geriatric Social Work, she migrated to Vermont where she lived with her husband and beloved dogs for many years.

When her best friend moved to South Carolina, and after visiting her regularly, two years ago Pat decided to make the move here following the death of her husband. Pat enjoys animals, dogs in particular, gardening with pollinating plants, knitting, hiking, and reading. She looks forward to getting further acquainted with the area, local politics, and learning more about the League and the many ways she can get involved.



### Thank You for a Refurbished LWV Banner!

Thanks to **Cynthia Warner**, our old LWV Clemson Area stand-up banner has been refurbished rather than sent to the landfill: it is now our new LWV Oconee and Pickens Counties banner. While I was in Canada in August, **Cheryl Lee** needed League materials for voter registration. Cynthia had the key to my house and agreed to rummage through my stuff to find what Cheryl needed. (She even did a Zoom walk-through with me to find stuff--only an old and true friend would do that!) In the process, she found the outdated but still functional (and expensive) stand-up banner and decided to see if it could be salvaged. It could; a local print shop was able to disassemble the hardware and replace the cloth part with an update. LWVOP Board members thank you, Cynthia!

*Submitted by Ruth Reed*

## Recycling Clemson

### Where Can I Take My Recycling in the City of Clemson?

The City of Clemson Department of Public Works has a recycling drop-off facility located at 1155 Old Central Road.

*(If you've ever picked up free mulch at the brush grinding facility, the recycling drop-off facility is in this same area.)*

### What are the hours of operation?

Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. with a lunch break from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### What recyclables are accepted at this location?

- #2 plastics only
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Mixed paper
- Clean corrugated cardboard (which **MUST BE** broken down)
- Motor oil only (No oil filters or cooking oil)
- Electronic waste
- Glass: clear, blue, brown, and green

### What is NOT accepted at this location?

- No plastic bags or plastic wrapping
- No household cookware
- No Styrofoam or packing peanuts
- No lightbulbs
- No batteries
- NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The City of Clemson still offers curbside pickup of corrugated cardboard!

This service is offered only by work order on Friday afternoons.

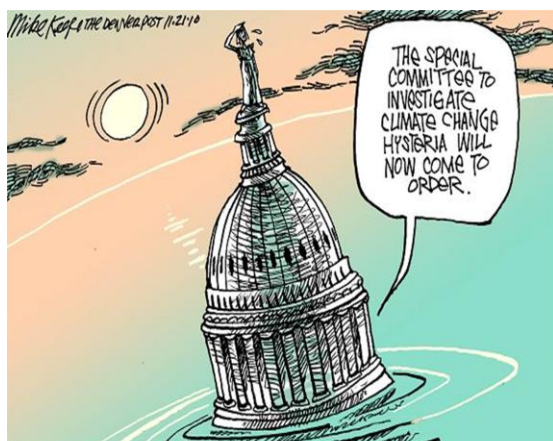
To have your cardboard picked up, please call 864-653-2053 by close of business on Wednesday. Then have your cardboard broken down and placed on the curb by 7 a.m. Friday.

## League Tidbits



**The League's new banner, courtesy of Patty Warner was on display during the recent candidate forums sponsored by LWVOP.**

**At right: The candidates for the Clemson district of the Pickens County Council, Claiborne Linvill and Brad White were hosted by the LWVOP during a well-attended candidate forum.**



**A little climate satire from the pen of Mike Keefe of the *Denver Post***

*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.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) and contact us at [lwvop1@gmail.com](mailto:lwvop1@gmail.com).