

Co-President's Message

Since June 2017, the last time I was President, our local League has changed a lot. It's bigger, has more people involved in leadership, and has developed more ways for people to participate and contribute to the work of keeping our country safe for democracy. We have been through COVID, learned to do hybrid meetings, created working groups, and



Holley Ulbrich

expanded our involvement in local government. We've moved to a new location, changed our name, and spun off Anderson County into a separate sister League.

We have a lot of people involved in leadership. Maybe you are new to the League and don't know where to plug in, or don't have a lot of time to give. You can help with the final phase of voter service. **Sarah McNeill** needs volunteers to help at the seven municipal candidate forums in our two counties in October. Contact Sarah or one of the Co-presidents and we will find you a role to play in making these candidate events happen. There will be more opportunities to help with registration, VOTE411, and candidate forums in the spring.

If you are more of an issues person, we have teams that work on health care, environment, education, and safe and fair elections. You can attend our next meeting on the U.S. Supreme Court in October, or one of the two informal book club meetings in October: one in Seneca, one in Clemson. If you are really interested in local government, you can volunteer to attend public meetings in person or via Zoom of county council, city council, school board, library board, or other bodies that make decisions about local programs and services. You can attend in person or via streaming services.

Continued on next page

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Co-President's Message
- Calendar of Events
- The Supreme Court: What's Ahead?
- 2023 Municipal Elections
- Climate Change Reduction Tip
- SC League Files Amicus Brief in
Gerrymandering Case
- Recap of September Meeting: Freedom
to Read
- New Member Bio
- LWVOP Book Club
- Candidate Forums

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
Cheryl Lee
Janie Shipley

Calendar of Events

October	Candidate Forums	See article this edition.
Oct. 1 – 7	American Library Association “Let Freedom Read” Banned Books Week	
Oct. 17	“Supreme Court Shadow Docket”	7 p.m., Clemson Methodist
Oct. 24	Book Club <i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	5:00 p.m., Sandi Rosche 16 Birch Place, Clemson
Oct. 27	Book Club <i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	9:30 a.m., Seneca Library
Nov. 7	Municipal Elections	Oconee and Pickens Counties
Nov. 21	“South Carolina Legislative Agenda”	7 p.m., Clemson Methodist Church

Clemson United Methodist Church, 300 Frontage Road, Clemson, (864-633-5242)

Co-President’s Message Continued

For additional information contact **Janie Shipley** for Oconee County or **Linda Gahan** for Pickens County.

Finally, you may have some special skills to offer. The communications team could always use more people with technology and communication skills. **Janet Marsh** could use more help on membership and **Sandra Land** on program planning.

Our most urgent need is for a treasurer to replace **Elaine Laiewski**, who will be moving in March. We would like to find a replacement now to work with her until then, especially a person with an accounting or business background who feels at home in Excel.

If all you have time for is to attend meetings and social events, that’s fine too. But like most volunteer organizations, what you get out of it depends on what you put into it. In addition to new friendships, LWVOP offers opportunities to work towards: a local, state, and federal government that listens to its citizens, works to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.

Holley Ulbrich

The Supreme Court : What's Ahead?

Our October 17 meeting will focus on the U.S. Supreme Court as it begins its 2023-24 term, October through June. We are fortunate to have as our guest speaker **Chip Stapleton**, who teaches a class on the Supreme Court for OLLI.

Chip is a retired government relations executive consultant, originally from New Jersey. A 1966 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He volunteered for duty in the US Navy and served as a Communications Officer in Vietnam. After serving as a reporter for the Gannett Group of newspapers, and an executive of the Savings and Loan industry, he became Executive Director of the New Jersey State Senate and Senior Advisor to **New Jersey Governor DiFrancesco** before starting his own government relations management firm.

We have asked Chip to help us understand the process by which the cases coming to the court are resolved, dismissed, or placed on the docket. We have also asked him to address any proposed reforms. His focus, however, is what's on the docket.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

2023 Municipal Elections Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Oconee County

Salem, Seneca, Walhalla, Westminster, and West Union

Pickens County

Central, Easley, Liberty, Norris, Pickens, and Six Mile

Sarah McNeill is coordinating candidate forums in October (Walhalla, Central, Easley, Pickens, and Six Mile). City of Clemson elections will be in 2024. She will be calling on members for LOTS of help.

Vote411 "voting information you need" will again publish candidate responses to League-generated questions in early October. Alice Flower is coordinating this effort. **Eleanor Hare** and **Ruth Reed** will coordinate publicity for Vote411. Help and suggestions are welcomed.

Submitted by Sarah McNeill and Alice Flower

Climate Change Reduction Tip

COMPOSTING: Putting Food Scraps to Good Use by Creating New Soil

There are a variety of commercial composters available online or in local stores. Or you can build a small, fenced area outside. You will need a balance of **green materials**—which are fresh, moist plant materials—and **brown materials**, which are dry, carbon-rich plant materials with no life in them.

Green/wet materials:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Eggshells
- Grass clippings
- Coffee ground/filters and tea leave/tea bags with staples

Brown/dry materials:

- Dry/dead leaves
- Wood chips and wood ash
- Straw
- Chopped up twigs
- Dryer lint
- Paper towels or napkins

NOTE: Do Not add meat or dairy products to your compost pile. Adding protein-based foods can cause unpleasant odors and attract vermin. For convenience you can keep a container in your kitchen then transfer to a composter. Turn the pile over to encase the newly added items. Compost is ready to use when it looks, feels, and smells like rich, dark earth.

Submitted by Ellie Taylor

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina Files Brief in Supreme Court Racial Gerrymandering Case

On August 18, 2023, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) filed an amicus—or friend of the court—brief along with the Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce, the Charleston Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Circular Congregational Church in the case *Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP*, which will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on October 11, 2023. The case is on appeal after a three-judge district court struck down South Carolina’s congressional map as an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. For more information, see the following link:

[League of Women Voters of South Carolina Files Brief in Supreme Court Racial Gerrymandering Case](#)

Recap of September Meeting: Freedom to Read

Over sixty residents of Oconee and Pickens Counties packed the September 19 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties (LWVOP) for its monthly program, Freedom to Read: Combatting Censorship in our Public Schools and Libraries.

The program was presented by Community Advocates for Education (CAFE), a recently formed coalition of local citizens and the League. Its purpose is to defeat unconstitutional efforts to ban and censor curriculum/programs in public schools and libraries.

The presentation included three speakers: **Josh Malkin**, Senior Advocacy Strategist, ACLU of South Carolina; **Cassie Owens Moore**, Intellectual Freedom Chair, South Carolina Association of School Librarians; and, **Reba Kruse**, Advocate with Community Advocates for Education (CAFE) and Chair, LWVOP Education Action Committee. **Holley Ulbrich**, Co-President of the League, moderated the discussion.

Panelists responded to questions on the importance of intellectual freedom, recent examples of banned books, age-appropriateness, and the role of the public. The comments were wide ranging and met with enthusiasm from the audience. Ms. Owens described the role of librarians as inspiring children to read by selecting books so that every child sees themselves represented on the shelves. Every child should feel seen, safe, and represented.

Josh Malkin pointed out that parental choice is already the law; no one is arguing against parental rights/control of what their children read. The issue is that no parent has the right to tell other children what they can read and learn. Ms. Kruse championed the role of activism to support local librarians and school personnel. She noted that she served in the military abroad to defend our freedoms and can't believe that she has returned to confront freedom issues at home.

Press Release for Sept. 19 "Freedom to Read" Program



From left to right: Holley Ulbrich, Pat Spurlock, Josh Malkin, Cassie Owens Moore, and Reba Kruse.

Photo taken by Ken Marsh

New Member Bio



Trinket Hurlburt grew up as a “military brat.” That meant attending eight schools in five different states and graduating from high school in Japan. One of those states was South Carolina. She received her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Michigan and taught various grades and subjects in Michigan public schools for twenty years before early retirement. After that she moved back to South Carolina and started her second career as Recycling Coordinator for Oconee County.

She has volunteered as an instructor at the American Red Cross, coached swim teams at YMCAs, and coached LEGO robotics teams at schools. Now she volunteers with Keep Oconee Beautiful.

Her first encounter with the League was when the LWVOP Environment Committee asked her to speak; she had not heard of the League prior to that invitation. Her League-related interests include equal rights, eliminating gender pay gaps, environmental protection, campaign reform, and social reform specifically related to children.

Trinket is married to **Tim Hurlburt**. They have two grown boys who still live in Michigan. She enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, music concerts, and line dancing.

LWVOP Book Club

The LWVOP Book Club is back! **Holley Ulbrich** and **Eleanor Hare** have taken responsibility for it as part of the Program Team. We are planning three discussions this year.

In the summer we read *Shadow Docket* by **Stephen Vladeck**, which inspired us to schedule an October meeting on the Supreme Court. Our September meeting led to the October selection, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by **Ibram X. Kendi** and **Jason Reynolds**. This book was one of two banned from school libraries in Pickens County, leading to a lawsuit. It is written for young adults.

To make it more accessible and keep a small group discussion format, we are holding two gatherings. One is in Clemson at the home of League member **Sandi Rosche** on Tuesday, October 24th at 5 p.m. Wine and snacks will be served. Sandi lives in Clemson Downs at 16 Birch Place, off Berkeley Drive. The other is at the Seneca Library, 300 E. South 2nd Street, on Friday, October 27th at 9:30 am. We will have donut holes, bring your own coffee. Hope to see you there! In the meantime, get your copy (available on Kindle as well as other formats) and start reading!

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

LWVOP Candidate Forums

Pickens County

Oct. 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Easley City Council Districts 1, 3, and 5, Getty's Middle School, 510 S. Pendleton St., Easley

Oct. 16, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Easley Mayoral and Utilities Commissioner, Easley High School, 154 Green Wave Blvd., Easley.

Oct. 19, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Central Town Council, regular and special election council seats, Central Town Hall, 1067 W Main St, Central.

Oconee County

TBD. Watch for emails, Facebook, and lwwop.org for more information.



All the election information you need is available now! Go to Vote411.org



For more information on State League activities, please see:

<https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina-state/events/calendar-league-women-voters-south-carolina-events>

Local Government Meeting Information

Clemson City Council
1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Pickens County Council
1st Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Pickens County School Board
4th Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Pickens County Library Board
Schedule on Pickens County
Website, Boards & Commissions

Seneca City Council
2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
Oconee County Council
1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.
Oconee County School Board
3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m.
Oconee County Library Board
Schedule on Oconee County
Website, Boards & Commissions

Confirm dates, time, and agenda on their websites.