



The Voter August 2025

Calendar of Events

August 26, 6 p.m.

Celebration of Women's Equality Day

Ballenger House

212 E. South 3rd St., Seneca, SC 29678

[Click for a list of local Public Meetings](#)

We must show our interest and determination to make a difference in the current political environment. Please make an effort to attend some of these meetings.

From the President

Welcome to an action-packed new year! Here are some highlights for the 2025-2026 year.

Board Members (elected)

- Patricia "Pat" Spurlock, President, 2025-27
- Linda Gorry, Vice President, 2025-27
- Carolyn Bishop-McLeod, Secretary, 2025-27
- Margie Barnes, Treasurer, 2025=27

Directors

- Christine Prado, editor, The VOTER, 2024-26
- Carol Asalon, Webmaster, 2024-26
- Cherie Walker, Social Media, 2024-26
- Janet Marsh, Membership, 2025-27
- Janie Shipley, 2024-26

- Sue Blount, 2025-27
- Jane McLamarrah, 2025-27
- Kathy Barger, 2025-27
- Ruth Reed, immediate past president, 2025=27

The monthly meeting programs will be heavy on preparing for the 2026 mid-year elections.

Our first meeting is **Tuesday, August 26, 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Ballenger House in Seneca.** Why the change from our regular meeting day and location? August 26 is Women's Equality Day and our first social event of the year. We will celebrate the day and have our first Voter Services related program.

The rest of the meetings will be on the third Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., location to be determined.

- Sept. 16, Observer Corps Initiative
- Oct. 21, How does county government work
- Nov. 18, Threats to Public Education
- Dec. 16, Holiday Party
- Jan. 20, Annual Program Planning
- Feb. 17, The Importance of Voting in Primaries
- Mar. 17, The State of Health Care in South Carolina
- Apr. 21, Why Youth Don't Vote
- May 19, Annual meeting and dinner

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved including our local municipal elections this year on November 4, 2025.

Our single goal:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

— *Pat Spurlock, President*

Come Celebrate Women's Equality Day

Hear from the Voter Registration and Civic Education Team and Enjoy Social Time with other members!

August 26, 6-8 pm, Ballenger House in Seneca

The August meeting will kick off with a Celebration of Women's Equality Day presented by Holley Ulbrich. [RSVP to Carolyn Bishop-McCleod ASAP.](#)

What's next? A presentation from The Voter Registration and Civic Education team that includes eight league members who have met and worked tirelessly since April.

Our goals? Reach out to community members to bridge the political divide, meet folks where they are, discuss issues of importance to them, and share information on Voter Registration and Civic Education. To achieve our goals, we needed to develop a curriculum. We connected with several folks for best practices: Cheryl Lee (who handled Voter Services for several years), the Greenville League of Women Voters and the NAACP of Oconee and Pickens Counties, all with a wealth of knowledge and extensive experience in this area.

Our accomplishment? An enhanced and interactive High School presentation! Ultimately, our goal is to develop a library of presentations that may be used for all types of audiences but on August 26th you will hear a teaser of our accomplishment from our team. — *Carol Asalon*

Update: Challenges to Health Insurance Coverage in SC

The past 15 years have witnessed valiant efforts to cover the health care gap in SC. Most recently, a coalition of organizations and many individuals have mounted an extensive statewide campaign, COVERSC, using persuasive information and data about the health and economic benefits of expanded coverage (COVERSC.org).

An estimated 200,000 are projected to lose their insurance coverage beginning in January 2026 due to the ending of a provision in the American Recovery Act that allowed an increased number of Americans to receive Medicaid due to disruptions of Covid. Another 30,000 will lose coverage as a result of OBBB (One Big Beautiful Bill) Act beginning in January 2026. (Congressional Budget Office)

This cut in Medicaid participants is particularly egregious given that SC:

- Does not allow working-age adults to receive Medicaid unless their income is under 67% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$16,650 for a family of 3)
- Ranks 10th worst among the states in premature deaths due to preventable causes
- Ranks 10th worst in working-age uninsured (SC 15%, Oconee 18%, Pickens 15%)

- Ranks 9th worst in a composite of 12 metrics for reproductive and women's health
- Ranks 2nd worst in percentage of people with medical debt in collections (Oconee & Pickens 26% of population)

What's the ACTION?? If you care about this issue, go to COVERSC.org and familiarize yourself with some of the good information.

Then, contact Janet Marsh, jmarsh@clemson.edu or [864.710.0557](tel:864.710.0557). — *Janet Marsh*

New Member Orientation

The LWVOP Membership Team met with nine new members in early August to share information and lead a lively discussion about the League and its various aspects. Three new members participated through Zoom – Kathy Headley, Donna Buchanan and Jody Usher. Six participated around Janet Marsh's dining room table – Marian Osborne Berky, Janet Bull, Paula Eversole, Katie Haritos-Shea, Nookie Nemchak and Bonnie Surface. Janie Shipley facilitated the discussion. Membership Team members Ann Fuhr and Kathy Barger on were on hand to extend a warm welcome.

Membership stands at 113 with 32 new members between January and June 2025. Over the next months we hope to have the photos and bios of many of our new members in the monthly electronic VOTER.

Please, do all you can to welcome our new members! — *Janet Marsh*

Continue to scroll to read about the League's new members!

New Members



Tookie Nemchak

Growing up in a military family, Tookie literally traveled the world as a child. As an adult, she settled in Colorado where she raised her family. One especially cold winter, with her husband Jim, she decided to escape for a few months to South Carolina, where their son had settled. The warmth of the people they encountered was all it took to convince them that they needed to stay! They had found their forever home in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Since arriving in the area and as a Realtor, Tookie immediately became involved in the business community. She founded the Clemson chapter of an international business networking group, served as Chair of the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, was awarded Clemson's annual Catherine Smith award for community contribution and involvement in Clemson.

Recently Tookie changed her business model to a "past client and referral only" model which has freed her time to pursue other passions such as her new granddaughter and protecting our fragile political climate.



Paula Eversole

Paula was born in 1943 in Washington, DC, raised in Silver Spring, MD and attended Montgomery County MD public schools. After she graduated from Penn State University, she taught physical education in Montgomery County for three years. She lived in Syracuse, NY for six years while her husband was in graduate school. In 1974 they moved to Clemson where she worked as a lab technician from 1979 to 2000; then at Clemson Elementary until she retired in 2007. In addition to enjoying being a mom to their son, she enjoyed cycling and running. She has served on the Board of Directors of the former Clemson YMCA and the Susan B Komen Race for the Cure Committee. She is a long-time serving member of Clemson Meals on Wheels.



Janet Bull

Janet Bull and her wife Robbins Richardson, moved from Asheville NC in 2022 to reside full time on Lake Hartwell. They have 2 grown sons, a golden retriever, and a stray cat who showed up on the deck and never left.

She attended Southwestern Medical School in Dallas Texas and trained in Obstetrics-Gynecology. She practiced for several years in Atlanta, Georgia and in 2000 switched to Hospice and Palliative Medicine. For the last 25 years, she practiced in Western NC working for a non-profit organization. In 2017, she served as President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. For a decade, she helped train and develop palliative care physicians in Zambia. She retired in 2023 but still teaches and does consulting work. She earned her MBA at age 60.

She became politically active during the Women's March in DC. She believes in social justice, healthcare as a right, and women equality. She loves to bike, swim, play pickleball, and travel across the globe.

Want to Submit to the Voter?

We are always looking for great content to share with our members. If you have something you wish to share, including the great work being done by League members, let us know! We need the content submitted by the 21st of each month for inclusion. You can email your submissions to [Pat](#) or [Christine](#).