

The Voter: December 2024

From League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties <lwvop1@218343882.mailchimpapp.com>

Date Wed 12/4/2024 12:09 PM

To Carol Asalon-Retired <carol.asalon@retiree.furman.edu>

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Calendar of Events

December 17: Holiday Party

4:00-5:30 pm, Patrick Square Clubhouse
145 Keller Boulevard, Clemson, SC 20631

January 14: LWVOP Program Planning

4:00 pm, United Methodist Church
300 Frontage Road, Clemson, SC 29631

New Meeting Time

Starting in January (and through April), monthly membership meetings will begin at 4:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm. They remain the third Tuesday of the month.

The Board hopes this will allow members to avoid night driving but still accommodate members who work. This policy will be evaluated by the board in May. Comments or questions, [Janet Marsh](#), [Membership Chair](#).

Member Dues

It is time once again to pay dues: \$60 for individual membership, \$90 for joint membership, \$10 for student membership. [Payment can be online](#). \$2 is added for

the Paypal fee. You can also send a check made out to LWVOP to: LWVOP, PO Box 802, Clemson, SC, 29633. Pay before Dec. 31, 2024.

What is Program?

The League's Program is its education and advocacy platform. It consists of the policy positions that the League holds as well as the priorities it selects for action, advocacy and education. Come to the January meeting to discuss this important advocacy work.

Membership Team at Work

Attracting and retaining League members is an on-going challenge of any organization, including our League. An ad hoc group* of eight League members recently suggested a number ideas to address this concern:

- Develop a Member Directory that provides essential information: list of members and description of team/committees with contact information, general information about how to how to get involved, and so forth.
- Continue mid-day informational meetings (Project 2025 example), perhaps 3-4/year. Start with follow-up ... 'Project 2025: 100 days after 2025 Inauguration.'
- Membership Team review member list and what we know about members and their interests.
- Strongly encourage members to attend January Program Planning meeting and UNDERSTAND its importance.
- Meet with group of younger/employed members to learn their ideas for attracting/retaining younger members.

*Thanks to Ad Hoc group: Sarah McNeill, Margie Barnes, Bev Sevick, Carolyn Bishop McLeod, Shari Jung along with Team members Ann Fuhr, Kathy Barger and Janet Marsh.



Membership Team meets to follow up ad hoc group suggestions. Left to right: Ann Fuhr, Kathy Barger and Janet Marsh

Empowerment Grant

LWVOP received a grant from LWVSC to help fund some of our Voter Services for the 2024 election.

“Empowering Internet-Disadvantaged Voters” was submitted by Holley Ulbrich. The project committed to prepare and distribute multiple printed versions of basic voter information on registration, polling places, early voting, voting by mail, voter ID requirements, assistance for the handicapped, senior citizens, African American voters, Hispanic Voters, and those without regular internet access.

In addition to the mailings, the project included enlisting local partners to staff information tables at community sponsored events.

In collaboration with and under the direction of Carol Asalon and Sheila Crawford, 5,354 voter education letters were mailed to disadvantaged voters.

Many in person events were planned by Carol and Sheila in Pickens County and by Oconee County Team members Libby Imbody, Pat Spurlock, Kathy Barger, Janie Shipley, Wanda Shehan, and Linda Gorry.

Here is a partial listing of events.

- Juneteenth
- CommunityWellness Fair
- Clemson African American Museum
- Hagood Community Senior Event.
- NewcomerClub of the Foothills

The power of collaboration with local partners to distribute information allowed for greater impact. Our partnership with the NAACP enabled us to reach a large population with mailed voter education. The impact of Helene is still being evaluated, but many in person voter education events were canceled. The importance of including the large mailing in the project turned out to be extremely important.

Thank you, League Members! Through this project we helped support a record high voter turnout of close to 80% in Oconee and Pickens Counties.

Submitted by Carolyn Bishop-McLeod

New Members



Portrait of Sharon
Morgenroth

Sharon Morgenroth

Originally from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Sharon is a recently retired attorney. Sharon started her career as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, representing the Department of Banking and Insurance. She later moved into private practice specializing in corporate real estate and land use law. For the last 18 years, Sharon worked in-house for a large financial institution managing the corporate and consumer compliance, privacy, and ethics programs. Sharon attended Rutgers University where she earned her B.S. in Political Science and Rutgers University School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctorate.

Sharon currently lives in Pickens with her husband, Dennis and her two cats, Katy Purry and Roxanne. She has a passion for historical fiction, yoga, and music. Sharon volunteers for the Pickens County Guardian Ad Litem program and is looking forward to actively participating in the LWV.

Eleanor Perkins

Eleanor spent her childhood in Charleston, SC, went to high school in New England, and received her B.A. in English from the University of Georgia. While in college, she enjoyed volunteer work with the Legal Aid Clinic, a rape crisis hotline, and an after-school reading clinic for young children. After college, she taught sophomore and junior English at a small high school in Maine that focused on character development. Eleanor had the good fortune to travel extensively with her family. Love of travel and adventure lead her to backpack around Europe for a year, then live in New Zealand for a year. After returning to Charleston, she earned a B.S. in Nursing and a Master's in Nurse Anesthesia from MUSC.

With her daughter now in college, Eleanor is looking for ways to be of service to her community. She hopes her varied experiences and skills will enable her to assist the LWV in accomplishing their mission to ensure that everyone is represented in our democracy.

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