
The Voter: February 2025

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

Date Wed 3/5/2025 10:49 AM

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

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Calendar of Events

March 18, 4:00 p.m.

**Monthly Members Meeting: “Medicare and Medicaid Expansion: What’s
Happening in South Carolina?”**

Update by representative of Cover SC, a coalition of SC 94 member organizations
300 Frontage Road, Clemson, SC

March 19, 5:00 p.m.

LWVOP Board Meeting

Zoom

All members are invited to observe the meeting.

Contact [Pat Spurlock](#) for Zoom link.

April 15, 4:00 p.m.

Monthly Members Meeting: “Trust in Digital Information”

Clemson United Methodist Church
300 Frontage Road, Clemson, SC

May 16-17, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Forging into the Future

Greenville Technical College Center for Manufacturing Innovation
575 Millenium Blvd, Greenville, SC

[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.

Women Defend Democracy

In this time of national change and turmoil, many people are feeling sickened, overwhelmed, outraged, saddened, powerless and angry. In a word, helpless. The cure for helplessness is ACTION.

At the LWVOP board meeting on February 19, the board approved a new initiative for our members: **Women Defend Democracy**. This initiative is rooted in the LWV mission statement. **Empowering voters. Defending Democracy.**

The Women Defend Democracy initiative suggests our members take at least one action per week that defends democracy.

To support our members in taking action, LWVOP will send a weekly eBlast that lists several action items from which they can choose. There will be actions on the national, state and local levels. Members are also encouraged to submit their own action ideas. There will be a section on the website that updates each week, and posts on social media.

The goal is not only to encourage actions, but to raise visibility, position the League as a group that walks the walk, and provide a resource to members and non-League members who are searching for ways to help. Even taking one small action can help us fight the negative emotions we are feeling and leave us feeling empowered to do more.

When you take these actions, always remember to express your personal views, and not to speak on behalf of the League. Only League Presidents or designees can speak on behalf of the League.

We would love to hear from you about this initiative. Whether it's how this made you feel, results you saw, or suggestions for future topics, please let [Cherie Walker](#) know.

LWV Member Portal

The League of Women Voters has rolled out their new [Member Portal](#) system. From this portal, you can pay your dues and update your information, as well as find other resources. Here's how to access it:

- Click on the link and enter your email, to receive a verification code, required for login.
 - Check your email, get the code at the bottom of the page (small print), go back and enter the verification code.
 - After entering the code, you will be logged into the system.
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Forging into the Future

Please join League members from around the state as we forge our future at [LWVSC's 2025 Biennial Convention in Greenville on May 16-17](#). We're planning 1.5 days of speakers, workshops, business, and awards at Greenville Tech's Center for Manufacturing Innovation.

Every two years delegates from South Carolina Leagues gather to adopt a state Program and Action Agenda and a budget, elect a slate of officers/directors, and act on any governance proposals like bylaws changes. LWVSC Convention always includes great speakers and break-out sessions. Once again, this year's program will be stellar!

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](#).

LWVOP Membership Growth and Orientation

LWVOP is experiencing a steady growth in new members in recent months. Twelve folks have joined in January and February, adding to four new members in November

2024. The Membership Team is doing its best to visit and welcome all of them!! Please look for their photos and bios in The VOTER each month and do what you can to welcome them also! The Membership Team is Ann Fuhr, Janie Shipley, Kathy Bargerion and Janet Marsh. We'd welcome another team member or three!

Janie led an orientation for five new members in late February around Janet's dining room table. A lively and productive discussion was enjoyed by all! The team will hold another in-person Orientation and also one by Zoom. More info to follow.

New Member

Candace Schutt

Candace Schutt was born and raised in Louisiana but moved around quite a bit in her 20s and 30s for school/ work before finally settling down in Upstate SC. She lives in Seneca with her husband and 2 furry kids and enjoys gardening, anything outdoors, coffee and music. She became more involved politically after local politics started mirroring national politics and with the overturning of Roe v Wade and move towards fascism. She feels that Civic education is greatly needed in our area to produce informed voters and is looking forward to working with others to create a more unified community.

Donna Brazeal

Donna Brazeal is native to the Upstate and graduated from Clemson University. With her husband, Donna moved to Greenville where she taught at Greenville Tech, and later joined the Greenville school district as lead psychologist in the Northeast Area Office. She served on the Human Rights Committee at Developmental Disability Resources and The Howell Residential Center in Charlotte. She is a supporter of public education, public libraries, programs for people with disabilities, elder care and health care. Donna desires to participate in areas that will help those in need with access to assistance information.

Cathy Nove-Josserand

Cathy Nove-Josserand arrived in Seneca six years ago after working with both the public and private sectors on finance and accountability. She started her career in corporate accounting in Jacksonville, Florida, where she grew up, then worked on finance and economic regulation for a private sector water utility based in Miami. In the early 90's she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ukraine, then worked in Poland and Ukraine under USAID contracts. She joined the World Bank and worked on water supply, sanitation, and water resources primarily in Africa and South Asia. In addition, she coordinated the World Bank's Governance and Anti-Corruption agenda and infrastructure stimulus following the 2009 economic crisis. After retiring from the World Bank, she taught a course at Clemson for five years in the Construction Science and Management department. She and her husband now split their time between SC and France. She'd like to support practical work to help strengthen our democracy.

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