

President's Message



I am so grateful to the LWVCA Nominating Committee of 2009, and Elinor Baron in particular, for asking me to be on the Board! I have learned that Board Members lead the charge in keeping our communities fair, vibrant and strong! In 2012, we helped over 500 mostly young people register to vote, we educated more than one hundred about their candidates, and we presented a handful programs on current issues that anyone could attend! How awesome is that!? Please consider telling the Nominating Committee of 2013 **"Yes, I can!"**

Yours in League,

Paula Appling

P.S. If I'm re-elected in April, I am looking forward to doing this again (really!) and after that, I hope to stay on the Board . . . for as long as you'll have me.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Calendar	2
February General Meeting	2
Welcome to Rose Lowe	2
Wine Tasting Event A Success!	2
Hot Topic in Pickens County	
A Chat with Jeff Martin	3
Consensus on Evaluation of Teachers	4
On Keeping Members	4
LWVCA and Project Voter	4
2013-2014 Propose Budget	5
Local Program (Annual Mtg.)	5
Nominating Committee Report	5
Observer Corps Schedule	6
Contribution Form	6

THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area
 P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633
www.lwvclemsonarea.org

Paula Appling, President
 Sandra Gray, President Elect
 Holley Ulbrich, VP/Program Co-chair
 Elaine Laiewski, Secretary
 Bill Hare, Treasurer/Finance Co-chair

DIRECTORS:

Diana Stafford
 Matt Laiewski
 Eleanor Hare, Webmaster
 Pattilee Tate, Finance/Fundraising Chair
 Lib Crockett, Membership Co-chair
 Laretta Park, Membership Co-chair
 Reggie Turetzky, PR/Comm/Voter Service
 Linda Gahan, PR Co-chair/Voter Editor

OFF BOARD:

Bill Hare, Voter Service Pickens Co.
 Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co
 Della Baker, History and Archives
 Janie Shipley, Nominating Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, Mar. 5 **LWVCA BOARD MEETING**, Clemson Community Meeting Room, 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, Mar. 12 **MARCH GENERAL MEETING: "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT"** Central/Clemson Library, 7:00 pm social, 7:30 pm program
- Sat/Sun, Apr 27-28 **LWVSC STATE CONVENTION, "HONORING OUR PAST AS WE GROW THE LEAGUE'S FUTURE"** Hampton Inn & Suites, 108 Spartanburg Blvd., Duncan, SC
- Tuesday, April 23 **LWVCA ANNUAL MEETING**, Collins Ole Town, Central, S.C., Social Time begins at 6:00 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by our Guest Speaker CU Professor Dr. Shawn Jadrnicek on **sustainable agriculture**.

March General Meeting: "The Implementation of the Affordable Care Act"

Our March 12th League program is on a very timely state and national issue, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act with emphasis on health insurance exchanges and expansion of Medicaid. As more and more states with conservative governors (including Florida, Texas, Ohio, and Arizona) agree to participate in the Medicaid expansion, South Carolinians are looking for explanations about South Carolina's decision not to participate. There is also a lot of confusion about the operation of the new health insurance exchanges scheduled to be launched October 1st for policies taking effect January 1st.

Our speaker, Sonya Allbury-Crandall, is a member of the Clemson League and a Ph. D. student in Policy Studies with over 20 years of health project management experience. She was lead researcher for Clemson's Architecture + Health Program for the "Patient Room of the Future" project sponsored by the Department of Defense. She also developed curriculum and trained volunteer health coaches for a hypertension control education program through a HRSA Office of Rural Health Services outreach grant. Prior to coming to Clemson, Ms. Crandall served for thirteen years as Executive Director of the Health Council of South Florida. She is a Past President of the American Health Planning Association (AHPA) and served on the Policy Oversight Committee of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

Welcome to Rose Lowe

Our newest member is Rose Lowe! Rose is originally from Mississippi, but has lived several places since then and is happy to call this area her home for now. She enjoys puzzles, sewing and baking and is planning to walk a half-marathon with her daughter in the near future! Good Luck, Rose!

-submitted by *Paula Appling*

WINE TASTING EVENT A SUCCESS!!!!

To all you wonderful "wine helpers"--many, many thanks:

I heard from Bill Hare today and the gross is \$1555. That's a great return for all your efforts.

We decorated in record time and had the place looking like no one had been there by 8:30. What a bunch of workers!

The food was delicious and plentiful. I learned not to double my recipe. I'll be eating peas and pasta for the rest of February, at least.

Thanks again! It sure is a whole lot more fun than the hard sales we used to do!

~Submitted by *DIANNE HASELTON*

***A BIG THANKS FOR ORGANIZING THIS
EVENT, DIANNE!! -----FROM LWVCA
MEMBERS***

HOT TOPICS IN PICKENS COUNTY: A CHAT WITH JEFF MARTIN



Review: There was a small but actively interested group of people who met with Dr Jeffrey Martin, District 1 Councilman for Pickens County today at the Hibachi Grill at noon. Greg Oliver, the Journal reporter who covers Clemson, was also there. Cheryl, Jeff's wife and community activity partner, was also present.

Information taken from the Pickens County website <http://www.co.pickens.sc.us/council/default.aspx>

"Pickens County Council is a six member elected governing body dedicated to providing the most efficient services to its citizens. The Council is responsible for adopting the annual budget, setting the county property tax rate and determining the goals and objectives that reflect the best interest of Pickens County."

Jeff and I both brought maps of Pickens County and he used those as the basis for the "Hot Topics" discussion.

After the 2010 census, boundaries of the Districts in Pickens County were altered slightly. District 1 added the Patrick Square area and purchased 580 acres east of Patrick Square/*Issaquena* to 18 mile Highway. Alliance Pickens, an economic development group, is committed to economic development for this area. To date, no business proposals have been made for that area. Alliance Pickens has a strong board that will focus on bringing jobs to the county over the next two years. An Economic Development Building will be added to Commerce Park and will be the staging site for companies to come in and view what the county has to offer. Pickens County has a highly trained workforce and the Alliance Board have good Connections with Industry.

Pickens County has not had a tax increase in the last 5-7 years. Budget is about \$52M/year. There are 119,000 residents and 490 county employees. Pickens County has a strong bond rating and good management.

The main issue, the hot topic, is water and more specifically water levels of Lake Hartwell. As of today, we are within 2 feet of full pool. The audience expressed dubious surprise. Lake Hartwell water levels are essential for tourism and recreation use. We can expect more people to move to Pickens County and to District 1 so there will be an increasing need for good water quality as well as quantity. Water levels are determined by rainfall and for the month of January 2013 we have had above average rainfall. The restoration of Twelve Mile River with dredging of PCB-contaminated soil and removal of two dams has been in the news over the past years. A new study of the impact on the food chain is complete and will be communicated to residents.

The county purchased Dascusville Elementary and Easley Middle schools and is converting them to recreation use. They have good auditoriums and can host classes as well as offer venues for local plays and musical productions.

Chap Hurst, the Pickens County Administrator, conducted an analysis of roads and bridges. All county roads are on a schedule to be paved every 17 years. County roads and bridges are in good shape.

The Doodle Railroad is not a county issue. It is a proposed municipal project between Pickens and Easley to potentially turn the abandoned tracks into a recreation area similar to the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville. It is a long way from becoming a reality since right of way and individual property owners concerns must be taken into consideration.

As a result of this forum, the League of Women Voters of the Clemson area has two opportunities for action:

- Invite Ray Farley, Pickens Alliance Chair, as a speaker to an appropriate LWV venue.
- Apply to serve on one of the Pickens County committees. The county has 18 committees and is always needing people to serve on them. League members and other interested residents can submit their application for any committee, available from the PC website, to Jeff for consideration and nomination.

Liz Bransted and Charlotte Holmes co-hosting the Hot Topics forum.

~Submitted by Liz Branstead

CONSENSUS ON RETENTION & EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

The February meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area was a consensus meeting on Retention and Evaluation of Effective Teachers. We had an excellent panel—Donna London as moderator and experienced educators Sue Medlock and Elaine Park sharing both their own insights and background material on how the process of evaluating teachers works now in South Carolina and other states. There was plenty of discussion, but we were able to reach consensus on all questions.

- We wanted to see teacher evaluations used as a tool for teacher improvement, not just decisions about retention and compensation.
- We stressed measuring student progress rather than achievement as part of the evaluation.
- We also saw a stronger role for principals in informal evaluation and parent input.

Consensus is how we at the grassroots shape League positions. We were pleased to have 23 members participating in the consensus process. Our responses and comments were forwarded to the state board to be combined with those of other Leagues in formulating a position for state convention in April.

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*



On Keeping Members

Do you remember when you joined the League? Who hooked you? More importantly, why did you stay? I made myself come to those first meetings. I'm strongly introverted (yes, I am) and walking into that meeting room when it was so obvious that everybody knew everybody else – except me! – was so hard. Obviously, I kept coming and I kept renewing my membership. However, one year I stayed only because if I didn't, I'd have to tell Aleta I was dropping out – a truly impossible task. (Thanks, Aleta!) Now I stay because of the friendships I've made and because I'm involved.

New members are the lifeblood of an organization. They need to be nurtured and made to feel welcome. They need to be included and given ways to be involved. Most of all, they need to feel a connection. I call every new member and they are all fascinating, but the phone call from the President is a courtesy call and not enough. Please reach out to our new members!

New members this year include:

- Paulette Keffas-Chassin
- Sue Medlock
- Laura & Ron Goldstein
- Jeanne van den Hurk
- Liz Branstead
- Starlett Craig
- Ari Alexandrescu,
- Gabriel Fair
- Elaine Park
- Charlotte Holt
- Sandia Rosche
- Rose Lowe.

Ask me for contact information!

- Submitted by *Paula Appling*

Clemson Area League Works with Project Vote

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (“NVRA”) requires state public assistance agencies to offer clients voter registration applications and assistance during certain transactions. Project Vote has requested the help of South Carolina Leagues to survey these assistance agencies to determine compliance with the NVRA. Our League has agreed to participate and teams of league members will survey agencies in Walhalla, Pickens and Anderson.

If South Carolina agencies are found to be out of compliance, Project Vote will work with these agencies and encourage action to bring SC into compliance.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ellen Magee (magecem@aol.com or 654-3383).

2013-4 PROPOSED BUDGET

LOCAL PROGRAM

	Proposed 2013-14 Budget
INCOME	
Dues ¹	\$3,890.00
Fundraising	\$1,322.50
Ed. Fund Contributions	\$600.00
Member Contributions	\$300.00
Nonmember Contributions	\$200.00
Annual Meeting ²	\$1,000.00
DPO Publication Contributions ³	\$300.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,612.50
EXPENSES	
PMPUS ¹	\$1,999.50
PMPSC ¹	\$967.50
Voter Printing	\$500.00
Voter Mailing	\$400.00
Website	\$225.00
Convention ⁴	\$1,500.00
Board Tools	
President	\$200.00
Membership	\$200.00
Voter Education	\$100.00
Fundraising	\$100.00
Citizenship Award	\$50.00
Annual Meeting ²	\$1,000.00
DPO Publications ³	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$70.50
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,612.50

Education: The LWVCA believes our schools should be adequately financed. Therefore, we support increased taxes, if necessary, for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson County schools.

The LWVCA supports greater fiscal autonomy for the School Boards of Trustees in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties.

We support returning to the current structure of the Pickens County School Board with six area seats and three at-large seats.

Growth Management: We support intentional and collaborative growth management in the three county area (Anderson, Oconee, Pickens) of South Carolina. We encourage regular consultations among public agencies related to growth and development and local elected bodies—city councils, county councils, and school boards. We also encourage an open and frequent dialogue between those agencies and the general public on growth management. We support the concept of managing growth to preserve and enhance quality of life for all residents, old and new, through the effective and coordinated use of such land use management tools as conservation easements, purchase of development rights, development impact fees, and zoning where appropriate.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting. Here is how the slate looks so far:

- Co-President – Sandra Gray
(The other Co-President, Paula Appling, 2012-2014)
- Vice President – Holley Ulbrich
- Treasurer – Bill Hare
- Director – Eleanor Hare 2013-2015

NEED VOLUNTEER 2013-2014
NEED VOLUNTEER 2013-2015
NEED VOLUNTEER 2013-2015

2014 Nominating Committee: Reggie Turetzky, Chair;
 Ron Goldstein
 Aleta Robinson

We are looking for 3 additional Board members. If your phone has not rung and you are willing to serve, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

Janie Shipley, chair
 Ansley Fraser

¹ 72 members at 12-13 rates
² Paid for by ticket sales
³ Expected to be funded by Duke Energy
⁴ National convention in Texas

LWVCA membership	#
Single household	57
2 mem household	13
Student	2
Total 2/4/2013	72

Clemson City Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 pm.
 Seneca City Council 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm.
 Pickens County Council 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm.
 Oconee County Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm.

Anderson County Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm
 Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:30 pm.
 Oconee County School Board 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm.
 Anderson Co. School Board 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm

Contribution Form

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area LWVCA, P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

P. O. Box 802
 Clemson, SC 29633

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4