



# THE VOTER

March 2017 Volume 44 No. 3

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area  
Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties

## Message from the President

There is an old Chinese curse that says, "May you live in interesting times." We do. As stewards of democracy, we are doing our best to protect and defend the democratic process from assaults from many directions. We are trying to encourage and promote civilized dialogue and the search for common ground. It's not easy. But I saw lots of fellow Leaguers at Lindsay Graham's town hall at a full Brooks Center on March 4<sup>th</sup>, and most of the audience was well-behaved most of the time. Lindsay gave some pretty good answers and received a mixed reception, but we appreciate his willingness to answer questions and explain his positions.



We have a lot of people involved in advocacy at all levels right now. We also have some opportunities to do some traditional voter service work in Anderson County, where eight candidates are vying for the Republican nomination to succeed Kevin Bryant as state senator. The League and the Progressive Women of Anderson County are co-sponsoring a candidate forum at 6 p.m. at the main Library in Anderson. If you would like to help, let me know. If you live in that district, be sure to attend and invite your friends and neighbors.

We also have an opportunity to do voter registration at Jazz on the Alley in Seneca. It's on Thursdays t 6:30 starting April 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with that, just let Holley or Eleanor or Cheryl Lee know.

But we also need to be informed, to discuss issues and advocate on well thought out positions. Come to one of our two daytime groups, the environmental group on the first Tuesday at 10 or the good government group on the second Tuesday at 11:45. We have our regular meetings at OLLI on March 21<sup>st</sup> (child welfare challenges) and April 18<sup>th</sup> (small towns in the Upstate and their achievements and challenges).

And if that's not filling up your calendar, there's the wine tasting on April 1<sup>st</sup> and a bunch of us going to state convention in Columbia April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and our annual meeting at Occasions on May 9<sup>th</sup>. So we expect to see a lot of each other in the next two months!

Holley

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### THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Clemson Area  
*Serving the Citizens of Pickens,  
Oconee, and Anderson Counties*  
P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633  
[www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

### OFFICERS:

Eleanor Hare, Co-President  
Holley Ulbrich, Co- President  
Catherine Watt, VP/Program & Action  
Ann Russell, Secretary  
Bill Hare, Treasurer

### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Lyn Norton  
Patty Warner  
Sandra Gray  
Cheryl Lee  
Janet Marsh

Catherine Farris

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Paula Appling, Mem. Co-Chair  
Elaine Laiewski, Publicity Chair  
Diana Stafford, *Voter* Editor

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Mar. 21, General Meeting - Justice System 7:15 p.m.  
OLLI Building

Monday, Mar. 27, Earth Dialogue -Managing Climate Change 6-7  
p.m. Moe Joe's

Saturday, Apr. 1, Wine Tasting Fundraiser Mill 5-7 p.m. Mill Creek  
Lodge (see p.3)

Thursday, Apr. 6, Clemson University SCG&E Innovation Center Tour  
1-4 p.m. see p.

Tuesday, Apr. 18, General Meeting - Panel of Mayors 7:15 p.m.  
OLLI Building

Monday. Apr. 24 Earth Dialogue - Local Environmental Action  
6-7 pm Moe Joe's

Saturday, Apr. 29-30, State Convention (Columbia)

Tuesday, May. 9 - Annual Dinner Meeting 6 p.m. Occasions

Please attend our next Earth Dialogue on Monday, March 27 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Moe Joe's Coffee Shoppe in Clemson. The topic will be "Dialoguing with Our Earth: Where Science and Spirituality Meet". Our panel of experts will include a Catholic priest, a Geomancy expert and an Episcopal priest. Earth Dialogue is a free and open discussion of hot environmental issues. Come early for food, easier parking and a good seat. For more information join the Clemson Earth Dialogue Facebook page or contact Ellie Taylor at [elptyl@bellsouth.net](mailto:elptyl@bellsouth.net). Earth Dialogue is sponsored by several local organizations including Foothills Sierra Club, Upstate Forever and our own LWV.

OLLI Building 578 Issaqueena Trl, Clemson (100 Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson SC 29631)

Moe Joe's Coffee Shop and Wine Bar 385 Old Greenville Hwy, Clemson SC

Mill Creek Lodge 541 Pike Rd, Central SC

Occasions 1551 Mile Rd Central SC

Check current information on the web site: [clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org](http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org)

## Wine Tasting

SAVE THE DATE! We are so excited to announce that this year's annual fundraiser will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 5:00. Please start recruiting your friends and family members now because we want this to be our largest tasting ever. Our location is the lovely waterfront Mill Creek Lodge, which is conveniently located between Clemson, Central, and Six Mile.

Our theme this year is a little different. The planning committee has done the tough work of sampling an assortment of wines to bring you the **Best Wines Under \$15**. After all, many of us are drinking more these days, and we need to invest wisely in our choices. Many thanks to Jeff Appling for providing the gold medal winners to get us started on our quest. We are being helped by Moore's in Seneca and possibly others as we start finalizing our purchases.

Tickets!! Just like last year, they are \$30 each or \$100 for four. If you want to get on the early bird list, please email me at [Catherine.watt67@gmail.com](mailto:Catherine.watt67@gmail.com). Bill Hare and I will be keeping track and building our reservation list. If you know of a business who would like to be a sponsor, we are working out some great opportunities for them to stand out and work with us.

Oh, and the food! Can't forget the food! I am building a cadre of people who will help us coordinate an organized menu. If you like to cook and want to be part of the food team, please email me at the address above. The planning team is coordinating and accessorizing in a way to make Martha Stewart herself proud.

*Can't wait to see you and drink some wine!*

## State Convention Reminder

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina will hold its biennial state convention in Columbia at The Inn at USC, a lovely place. Dates: April 29th and 30th. Speakers include the president of LWVUS, Wycleia Harris; Pamela Goodman, president of the Florida League, on their successful redistricting fight in court; Shawna Howell on using social media; Anton Gunn from USC on health care in South Carolina; and Senator (retired) Wes Hayes, recipient of the Spirit of Democracy Award. We have the usual business--budget, elect officers and directors, adopt program--as well as approving a position on health care. And you get to meet people from Leagues all over the state.

**The Clemson League is entitled to seven voting delegates, plus our two state board members who are also voting delegates, and as many observers as wish to come. We will pay all registration costs. So mark your calendars and plan to attend.**

## March General Meeting

Few things move us more than the issue of child welfare and what we can do to keep our children safe. However, that issue often is less prominent in our news than tax cuts, health care, and roads. Even nationally, we do not seem to prioritize child welfare issues.

Our program this month focuses on child welfare priorities for SC Department of Social Services. After speaking with Directors from Anderson and Oconee Counties, I had a great conversation with Karen Wingo, State Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs. Members of the State DSS team will be joining us to discuss how we can advocate for, and be more aware of, issues facing our state's children. Jim Casserly, the statewide Foster Care Recruitment Coordinator, will be part of the presentation team to tell us how we can help with the 4,000 SC children in foster care.

I have asked DSS also to discuss some of the challenges facing elder care, the standards, and the reporting criteria. We need to be aware of our other most vulnerable population and how we can help prevent and report any elder abuse or neglect we may witness.

The League platform has long included advocating for our next generations. March's meeting will focus on DSS's priorities for our children and how the League can become more active in our advocacy. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Please contact Catherine Watt ([Catherine.watt67@gmail.com](mailto:Catherine.watt67@gmail.com)) with any questions or suggestions.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

Come join us for a great spring annual meeting! After such a great time last year, we are going back to Occasions at Wedgefield in Central. Join the League for wine, women, and a catered dinner under the tent.

Our special guest this year is Betty Bagley. Some of you may know Betty from her significant experience serving as Superintendent of Anderson 5, where she oversaw many opportunities for growth. As a popular leader and dedicated public servant, Betty retired from the challenges of school districts to take on even greater challenges! Betty now serves as a member of the Pickens County School Board. She was elected last year and brings her many years of experience to the complex world of county school boards.

Betty has two children and three grandchildren, and she lives in Clemson with her husband, Sack. Her priority is to provide the support and resources necessary for students in Pickens County to be college and career ready upon graduation. We have asked her to speak briefly about her experience going from superintendent to public official, the opportunities she sees for public education in our area, and how we can be advocates for our education system.  
*submitted by Catherine Watt*

## Issues Groups - Good Government

Our monthly meeting of the good government group is Tuesday, March 14th at 11:45 in the small room at Western Sizzlin'. We have four issues on the agenda that offer opportunities to act.

1. There is a local election in Anderson County, including the Pendleton Area, in early April with eight Republican candidates vying for the Senate seat vacated by Kevin Bryant. We are helping with a candidate forum on March 14th. There is also a school district bond referendum in May for Anderson 4.
2. There is legislation introduced to change the way we redistrict.
3. There is legal challenge in the matter of the Richland County Recreation Commission on which the League was asked to file an amicus brief based on our home rule position.
4. Frances Rundlett has alerted me to the opportunity to get involved in boards and commissions. She just got appointed in Oconee County! For counties, some appointments are made by the county council and some by the legislative delegation. For cities, appointments are made by county council. We need volunteers to inquire about openings (I know there is one on the election commission in Oconee) and how one applies or seeks consideration. Think about whether you would be interested in an appointment or if you are just willing to inquire about the process in one or more of our three counties. I think municipalities generally do it in December and January, but it would be good if we could arrange to be notified of vacancies.

Hope to see you on the 14th, usual room.  
*submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

Advocacy references are on the web at

<http://clemsonarea-members.sc.lwvnet.org/ADVOCACY.html>

## Tour of Clemson University SCG&E Energy Innovation Center Thursday, April 6th

Our League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area and the Foothills Sierra Club are co-sponsoring a tour of the **Clemson University SCG&E Energy Innovation Center** in North Charleston on Thursday, April 6th from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. The Center was introduced to our LWV members last May at our annual meeting by Dr. Imtiaz Haque.

The Energy Innovation Center (<http://clemsonenergy.com/about/>) houses the world's most-advanced wind-turbine drive-train testing facility capable of full-scale highly accelerated mechanical and electrical testing of advanced drive-train systems for wind-turbines. The Duke Energy eGRID — Electrical Grid Research Innovation and Development — Center is housed in the SCE&G Energy Innovation Center. The 15-megawatt hardware-in-the-loop grid simulator supports education, research and economic development to speed new electrical technologies to market. The eGRID can simulate the electrical grid of any country in the world.

Jim Tuten, Facilities Director, will begin the program at 1 p.m. in Room 201 of the new Zucker Family Graduate Education Center. Mr. Tuten will present an overview of the development and work being done at the Center. A tour of research facilities will follow.

The tour is limited to the first 50 people who sign up prior to March 24th. Attendees do not need to be a LWV or Sierra Club member, so guests and spouses are welcome. Sign up by completing the attached reservation form and giving it to Janet Marsh or Ellie Taylor. Or you can email Ellie Taylor at [elptyl@bellsouth.net](mailto:elptyl@bellsouth.net) (please title the email RESERVATION for ENERGY TOUR) and include names/emails/phone numbers of registrants. Some people may wish to stay overnight in the North Charleston area. A notice will be sent to members when the maximum registration is met.

The physical address for the Innovation Center is 1253 Supply Street, North Charleston, SC

## April General Meeting

South Carolina is a state of small towns. We have 268 incorporated municipalities, of which 123 (46%) have fewer than 1,000 residents. Our April 18th meeting on the famous day of Paul Revere's ride will take us through several Upstate villages and farms as we visit with some small town mayors about the accomplishments and challenges of governing at the grass roots, how their county and our state can and do help or impede them in their efforts to meet the needs of their citizens, and what we as a League can do to help them in that work.

## Youth Voter Registration Project

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area has received a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund to support Youth Voter Registration. This is aimed at high schools, colleges, and vocational schools for the purpose of engaging young people in our electoral process. There will be particular emphasis on minority students, the poor, and new citizens coming to the United States. This must be done in a nonpartisan fashion.

Our goal is to register students in our local high schools in the Tri-County Area, Clemson and Anderson University students, Tri-County Technical students, and several community events. We will offer registrations to new citizens, clients at Clemson Community Care, the elderly at local facilities, Jazz on the Alley in Seneca, and other venues.

There will be follow-up educational programs and efforts made to keep records on our newly registered potential voters. There will also be support from the LWV Education Fund in the way of webinars and training manuals.

We are looking forward to a successful spring registration effort and we will need all members to pitch in for this to be implemented.

Submitted by Cheryl Myers Lee 510 Bentbrook Lane Clemson, SC 29631-1895 [864-654-4283](tel:864-654-4283)

### Clemson University SCG&E Energy Innovation Center Visit Thursday, April 6, 2017 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Complete and submit this form by March 24 to register (see below):

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (print very clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ (text \_\_yes \_\_no)

----- Tear and Keep-----

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE is Friday, March 24**

Give this form to Janet Marsh (LWV) or Ellie Taylor (Sierra Club) or mail to Ellie Taylor at 4914 Bayshore Drive, Seneca, SC 29762

Questions: Email Ellie Taylor at [elptyl@bellsouth.net](mailto:elptyl@bellsouth.net) or call at 864-654-1331.

We will meet in Room 201 at the Zucker Family Graduate Education Center at 1 p.m. to begin our program. If you wish to spend the night, the Innovation Center is located at 1253 Supply Street, North Charleston, SC 29405.

Website: [clemsonenergy.com](http://clemsonenergy.com)

Clemson City Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:30 pm  
Seneca City Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
Pickens County Council 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:30 pm  
Oconee County Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Anderson County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
Pickens County School Board 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm  
Oconee County School Board 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:00 pm  
Anderson Co. School Board 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Visit our website at [www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) and contact us at [lwvclemson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvclemson@gmail.com).

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