



THE VOTER

MAY 2012 Vol. 39, No 5

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

President's Message

This is my last message as your president. It has been a terrific year—good board, good participation, good programs, good times together, and lots of action and lots of young voters registered. It has been a joy to serve as your president for the fourth, and hopefully last time, but I truly look forward to returning to my first love, program and action, knowing that I leave the Clemson League in the very capable hands of Paula Appling.



Usually May is a winding down time for League after the annual meeting, but this year is different. We are up to our eyeballs in candidate forums in May and June in preparation for the June 12th primary elections. I don't think I have ever seen this many primary contests, or this many candidates for sheriff—four in Oconee, six in Pickens. Details on upcoming forums are elsewhere in this VOTER.

Our last Action Tuesday for spring was held on April 24th at the OLLI building, a brown bag lunch with eight in attendance. We talked about pending legislation on tax and education finance, closed primaries and election audits. We probably won't start up Action Tuesdays again until after the November election as we jump right into trying to influence our newly elected legislators. We had some lively sessions this year and hope you will plan to participate next year, especially if you prefer daytime to nighttime meetings!

My thanks to all of you for a really good, productive, meaningful year! Special thanks to Ada Lou Steirer, who is leaving the board after serving in many capacities over the year and who was the recipient of our Spirit of Democracy Award this year. And also to those who work behind the scenes, like VOTER editor Linda Gahan, Rec Flyer editor Carol Kozma, webmaster Eleanor Hare and treasurer Bill Hare. And those who take on special projects, like Paula Appling with the DPO and Reggie Turetzky with both publicity, hot topics and Oconee Voter service and Dianne Haselton with the wine-tasting fundraiser. And all the great volunteers who brought us our League Programs and who made our youth voter registration project so successful!

Have a wonderful summer, and be ready to start another good League year in the fall.

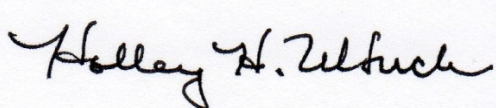


TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Calendar of Events	2
Candidates Forums	2
Youth Voter Registration Project	2
Forum for Oconee Co. Sheriff	3
Highlights Funding Higher Education	3
Action Tuesday: April 24 Report	3
April 14 LWVSC State Council Report	4
LWVSC Legislative Agenda	5
LWVSC Legislative Agenda continued	6
Disclose Act of 2012-Action Letter	6
Report on Clemson City Council	7
Annual Meeting Award	7
Observer Corps	8
Contribution Form	8

THE VOTER

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

Holley Ulbrich, President
Paula Appling, President Elect
Mary Ann McKenzie, VP/Program Co-chair
Carol Ward, VP/Program Co-chair
Ada Lou Steirer, Secretary
Bill Hare, Treasurer/Finance Co-chair

DIRECTORS:

Barbara Hamberg
Linda Gahan, PR Co-chair/Voter Editor
Sandra Gray, Natural Resources Director
Eleanor Hare, Webmaster
June Hay, Finance/Fundraising Co-chair
Elaine Laiewski, Membership Co-chair
Matt Laiewski, Membership/Co-chair
Reggie Turetzky, PR/Comm/Voter Service

OFF BOARD:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday May 8	CANDIDATES FORUM FOR OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2, 4, 5 , Gignilliat Center, Seneca, 7:00 PM.
Thursday, May 10	CANDIDATES FORUM SC HOUSE DISTRICT 1&2 , Gignilliat Center, Seneca, 7:00 pm.
Tuesday, May 15	LWVCA BOARD MEETING , Outgoing and Incoming Board members, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, Social Room, 5-6 pm.
Monday, May 21	CANDIDATES FORUM FOR SC HOUSE DISTRICT 3 , Central Clemson Library, 7:00 pm.
Tuesday, May 29	CANDIDATES FORUM FOR PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF , Hampton Memorial Library, 304 Biltmore Road, Easley, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.
Monday, June 4	CANDIDATES FORUM FOR SC SENATE SEAT 2 & SC HOUSE DISTRICT 4 , Hampton Memorial Library, 304 Biltmore Road, Easley, 6:30 pm.
Monday, June 4	CANDIDATES FORUM OCONEE CO. DISTRICT 4 co-sponsored with Westminster Chamber of Commerce, Depot in Westminster, 6:30 pm.
Tuesday, June 12	SC STATE PRIMARIES FOR DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES , Voting Precincts, 7 am-7 pm.

CANDIDATES FORUMS

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area will hold a series of candidate forums for citizens to hear from individuals running for the General Assembly and for sheriff in the June 12th primary. The first forum for Pickens County is on Monday, May 21st at 7 p.m. at the Clemson Central Library. This forum will feature House District 3, where incumbent B.R. Skelton will face challenger Ed Harris. Senator Thomas Alexander, who is running unopposed, has been invited to make a brief presentation. The second forum on Tuesday, March 29th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Easley Public Library will present the five Republican candidates and one Democratic candidate for Pickens County Sheriff. The final forum for SC Senate Seat 2 and House District 4 will be held on Monday, June 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Easley Public Library. Senator Larry Martin and his challenger Rex Rice, and Representative David Hiott and his challenger Vicki Wynn will speak and answer questions. Representative Philip Owens, who is running unopposed for the 5th House District, will also make a brief presentation.

Other forums will be held for Oconee County candidates (*see schedule above*). The public is encouraged to attend and to submit written questions for the candidates.

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

Youth Voter Registration Project

The youth voter registration project is close to completion with 459 high school students registered so far by our intrepid team of Eleanor Hare, Paula Appling, Linda Gahan, Cheryl Lee, Frances Plotnik, Cheryl Stevens, Aleta Robinson, Mary Ann McKenzie, and Carol Kozma. Students were registered at West-Oak, Tamasee-Salem, Easley, Daniel, Seneca and Walhalla High Schools as well as the Hamilton Career Center. Pickens High had already conducted its own voter registration, and Liberty High will be a joint effort of the League and the Pickens County Election Commission. Students who registered received "Registered Voter" stickers, and other students received "Ready, Set, Vote" stickers. They also received business-sized cards with primary and general election information and web sites. We are also conducting a voter registration at Clemson Community Care on May 5th in conjunction with the Manna truck. The youth voter registration is a part of a national League effort to register young and especially minority voters. We received a grant of \$300 that was spent on the stickers and cards. Thanks to everyone who was a part of this important effort!

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*



On April 19th, the LWVCA cosponsored a forum for the Oconee County Sheriff with the Seneca Journal, Anderson Independent Mail, WGOG and the City of Seneca. It was held at the Gignilliat Center in Seneca. The forum opened with statements from each candidate, then a question period from the press, followed by written questions from the floor and finally, a closing statement. Paula Appling served as moderator. The candidates participating were: James Bartee, Mike Crenshaw, Donnie Fricks and Terry Wilson. Reggie Turetzky organized the event, welcomed everyone and presented the forum ground rules. Sandra Gray was the timer. Lyn Norton, Pam Fjeld, and



Janie Shipley passed out candidate sheets with their bios and responses to questions posed in advance by the LWVCA. They also collected questions from the floor. Eleanor Hare was the League photographer. The press asked specific questions of some of the candidates. The League made sure that all the candidates answered each question from the floor. There were 370 people in the audience. The forum was on the front page of both the Anderson Independent Mail and the Seneca Journal with photos of some of the League members.
~Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

Highlights of “Funding Higher Education”



The April 10th general meeting of the Clemson League addressed Funding Higher Education in SC. Lower state support, higher tuition, and greater student debt are a problem nationwide, not just in South Carolina. However, state support has declined much more steeply in South Carolina than in most other states, reflected in very large increases in tuition. The state does offer scholarships, but for the four-year institutions, most of the lottery-funded scholarships are based on merit rather than need, so that many students do not have access to that kind of help with tuition. For a summary of the funding picture, go to the Strom Thurmond Institute website and check out the PowerPoint presentation on higher education funding as well as the publication, Citizen’s Guide to Higher Education Funding in South Carolina. The program was presented by Catherine Watt, Ellen Saltzman, and Holley Ulbrich of the Strom Thurmond Institute and generated considerable discussion from the audience. State Representative B.R. Skelton was in attendance and responded to questions about the current budget for higher education.
~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

ACTION TUESDAYS

April 24 Report

Our last Action Tuesday of the year was held at the OLLI building at Patrick Square on April 24th with eight people in attendance. We talked about the post-election audit bill (League supports), the proposal to have party registration and closed primaries (League opposes), the bill introduced by Senator Leventis (S. 1454) to eliminate a number of sales tax exemptions in order to fully fund the Education Finance Act, the Local Government Fund, and Act 388 property tax relief. Action Tuesday will resume after the elections in the fall. We generated a lot of ideas for action and some phone calls, letters and emails. Our Board made a commitment to being more involved in action at the Board retreat last fall, and Action Tuesday (formerly Friday) has gone a long way to fulfilling that goal. Thanks to everyone who participated, and if you haven’t tried it, watch for it in 2012-13!

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

APRIL 14 LWVSC STATE COUNCIL REPORT

Protecting South Carolinians Against Human Trafficking – A Fast Growing Industry in Our State:

Catherine Burton from the Citadel gave an overview of human trafficking (HT). Major forms include sex trafficking, forced labor, child labor, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. 161 countries throughout the world engage in forced labor and sexual exploitation that affects 2.5 million people. One in 800 are prosecuted and less than half of these are convicted. The greatest challenge to combating human trafficking is lack of public awareness and knowledge of the issue. **Jeff Bruning** with the FBI described how difficult it is to get victims of HT to come forward because they do not trust law enforcement, they lack identification, they are ashamed, and they fear for their family members. **Susan Dunn**, legal director of ACLU, commented on Russian women working in Charleston hotels with no money and Eastern Europeans working in Myrtle beach. Sex education is needed to prevent the breeding of HT. Martha Hurley, LWVSC Criminal Justice Director, outlined H3757, a bill before the SC House that will significantly reduce the impact of human labor and sex trafficking in SC.

Working on Growing the League and Our Leaders in South Carolina:

Shayna Howell, LWVSC Membership and Leadership Development Project, and her panel spoke of three aspects of membership: recruitment, retention and Leadership development. Their suggestions - have an enthusiastic membership chair; be visible in the community through voter registration at festivals, candidates' forums, partnerships, and advocacy; publicize events: engage members in activities; make members feel welcome and important to the organization, serve as a resource to the press; have a diversity of issues and programs; and make the LWV fun and interesting.

Political Environment in SC:

Andy Brack of The Statehouse Report, LLC humored us with his view of the political realities in SC. Our state government has 3 strong legislators, a weak governor and a bunch of lemmings. Forestry, agriculture and tourism make out 25% of the economy but receive less than 1% from the state budget. The General Assembly is made up of white older males, fewer lawyers and more retired people. There is a deficit of SC leadership. Mr. Brack referred to the expression "When in Doubt, Do Nothing. Stay in Doubt all the Time" to illustrate his point. Most of the candidates running in the 2012 elections for the SC House and Senate are Republicans. Therefore the people of SC will have to force accountability, be squeaky wheels and practice effective advocacy through direct contact with legislators.

The Future of Energy in SC:

Nicholas Rigas, Director of Renewable Energy Programs at CU spoke of the important of energy and the facility being built in Charleston. Through many partnerships, this project will provide various industries a place to test equipment and will serve to educate students at Clemson University. Dr. Rigas updated us on the progress of the construction of the plant.

The League in Action: Reports from LWVSC Policy Specialists:

Updates on Education, Natural Resources, Transportation, Child Welfare/Early Education, Voter Issues, Electronic Voting Audits, and Human Trafficking Legislation were presented. See pages 5 & 6 of May 2012 **VOTER** for SC legislation dealing with these issues.

Power of the VOTE—Update on League Voter Outreach Efforts:

Leagues across the state are participating in the Youth Voter Registration Project with great success.

LWVSC BUDGET was passed and the treasurer's report was received.

LWVCA members in attendance: Della Street, Linda Gahan, Bill and Eleanor Hare, and Dianne Haselton,



LWVSC Legislative Agenda (as of 4/24/12)

NUMBER	NAME/SUBJECT	STATUS	POSITION
Voting Rights and Elections			
H.4549	Third Party Voter Registration	Ref. back to H. Judiciary; effectively dead	con
S.304	Proof of Citizenship	On S. calendar; needs special order before debate; effectively dead	con
H. 3110	Party primary registration	Did not make crossover date; dead	
S. 1025	Post election audits	Passed S., Ref. to H. Judiciary 2/21/ 12	pro
H.4945	On-line registration	ref. to S. Judiciary subcommittee 4/27	pro
Education/Early Childhood			
H.4894 S. 1325	Private/home school tax deduction	Passed House 65-49 on 3/29; on 4/3 referred to Senate Finance	con
S.1267	School district choice	4/11 favorable from S. K-12 Ed Subcommittee; missed crossover	
H.3407	Private/home school tax credit	Inactive since 5/25/11 when there was a House roll call vote Y 60/N 59	con
H.4610	Privatizing school buses	Sent to study committee by House; won't re-emerge	con
H.4317	early childhood home-visiting program evaluation	Committed to H. LCI 3/21; moved to 3M ; passed by subcommittee 2-1 but missed crossover	pro
S.604	Common Core withdrawal	Ref. to S. Education Comm. 2/12/11; hasn't moved	con
H.4813	Budget (education funding)	At ca. \$2100/pupil at present in H. version, referred to S. Comm. On Finance 3/15	Full funding of state formula
H.5145	Education Funding Revision, Horne et al.	Introduced 4/19/12; to begin dialogue; no action this session	
Criminal Code			
H.3757 S.1135	Human Trafficking	Passed H. unanimously; Senate bill Ref. to S. Judiciary subcomm. 2/6/12; passed subcomm.	Pro

LWVSC Legislative Agenda (as of 4/24/12) continued

Environment			
S.461	ABC Recycling	Passed S., on House Ag and Nat Res subcomm. Agenda 5/2 8:30; Teague will testify for League	Pro
H.4654 (S.1126)	Pollution act private right of action; wetlands permitting	Passed H. 3/28; Ref. out of Medical Affairs Comm. 4/12; on Senate calendar but Hutto et al "desire to be present"	con
Ethics and Transparency			
H.4673	Ethics Reform (Brown)	Ref. to H. Judiciary on 1/25/12	
H.3235	Public access (FOIA)	Passed H. 4/26, so made crossover date	
Women's Repro. Health			
H.3408	"freedom of conscience"	Passed H., Ref. to S. Committee on Medical Affairs 3/31/11	Con
S.102	Prohibits health plans under fed. PPAC from abortion coverage	Passed S. 38/1, Ref. to H. Comm. On LCI	Con
S. 1149	"born-alive" bill	Favorable report out of S. Judiciary 3/14/12; on Calendar, "Sen. Leventis desires to be present."	con

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
 From: Elisabeth MacNamara, President LWVUS
 Re: Cosponsor the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, S. 2219

The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor S. 2219, the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections.

In its ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for big-money special interests in our elections. Corporations and unions can now make unlimited secret expenditures seeking to elect or defeat candidates. And they can make unlimited secret contributions to other entities that seek to elect or defeat candidates. This is unacceptable in a democracy.

We must preserve the integrity of our electoral process by increasing transparency and letting the sunlight shine in. Disclosure of corporate, union, and individual spending in elections is vital to allowing voters make informed decisions. S. 2219 accomplishes that fundamental purpose.

The DISCLOSE Act of 2012 is carefully crafted to require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures – those over \$10,000 – and includes a valuable "stand-by-your ad" provision for ads run by such groups. It requires outside groups to certify that their spending is not coordinated with candidates and, very importantly, covers transfers of money among groups so that the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections will be known.

S. 2219 builds on requirements already approved by the Supreme Court. In fact, the Court pointed in the direction of enhanced disclosure when it said that disclosure is important to "providing the electorate with information." It also supported disclaimer requirements "so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjected." We couldn't agree more.

S. 2219 focuses only on disclosure and does not contain elements from previous legislation such as barring campaign spending by government contractors.

Voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising. The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to cosponsor and support quick action by the Senate to enact the DISCLOSE Act of 2012. Taken from The LeagueE-Voice Newsletter

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AWARD**

for

Leadership in League of Women Voters:

- Charter Member and Past President
- First Newsletter Editor
- State & Local Board Member, Secretary
- Skilled Researcher, Study leader

Public Service Leadership:

- Clemson City Council
- Governor's Council on Natural Resources & Environment
- Clemson Zoning Board of Adjustments
- Planning & Economic Committee of Appalachian Council of Government

Strong Advocate for:

- Environmental Protection
- Improvement in Education
- Active Citizen Participation

presented to

Ada Lou Steirer

by The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

May 2012



LWVCA President Holley Ulbrich presents *The Spirit of Democracy Award* to Ada Lou Steirer at the Annual Meeting

Observer Corps: Clemson City Council April 16, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Linda Gahan attended Clemson City Meeting as an observer for the League of Women Voter and to present at the public session a report of her neighborhood's work groups in regards to the proposed conceptual CU plan for Douthit Hills. The Arts Director requested permission from City Council to hang a banner on the corner of Hwy 76/28 and Hwy 123 announcing the Clemson Arts Festival on May 19th.

Oath of Office: J. C. Cook III was installed as the new Mayor of Clemson.

Discussion Agenda:

- Item Request - Discuss the adoption of an Ordinance against the possession or sale of synthetic narcotics - Police Chief Jimmy Dixon.
- Item Request - Receive a Summary Report from City Council's annual planning retreat work session that was conducted on March 16, 2012 - Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator.

Policy/Action Agenda:

- Item Request - Consider 2nd Reading for Concurrent Annexation/Zoning request for a 0.95-acre parcel located at the north corner of Old Central and Lawrence Road. The request is to annex the parcel, which is contiguous to the City's corporate boundaries, and concurrently zone the parcel as RM-4, multi-household residential district (Staff Report) - Planning Administration.
- Item Request - Consider 2nd Reading for changes to the Aspen Heights Planned Development Ordinance as presented - Planning & Codes Administration.
- Item Request - Consider 2nd Reading to adopt changes to the City of Clemson Code of Ordinance, Section 5-3(a) - Fees - to reflect the correct formula to calculate permit fees as presented with an effective date of April 16, 2012 - Planning & Codes Administration..
- Item Request - Consider approval of the Construction Budget for Downtown Clemson (Phase 1B) streetscape construction project and the Construction Contract with Town & Country Construction Company - Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator.
- Item Request - Consider renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement between Clemson University, acting through the Joseph F. Sullivan Center, and the City of Clemson for Specific Health Services; Scheduled Access to Acute Care - Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator..
- Item Request - Consider a Resolution declaring and celebrating Fair Housing Month for the month of April 2012 in Clemson and the State of South Carolina - Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator.

OBSERVER CORPS

Clemson City Council	1 st and 3 rd Monday, 7:30 pm.	Anderson County Council	1 st and 3 rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Seneca City Council	2 nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm.	Pickens County School Board	4 th Monday, 7:30 pm.
Pickens County Council	1 st and 3 rd Monday, 7:00 pm.	Oconee County School Board	3 rd Monday, 6:00 pm.
Oconee County Council	1 st and 3 rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm.	Anderson Co. School Board	3 rd 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