



# THE VOTER

May 2015 Vol. 42 No. 4

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

## Message from the Co-President

Another program year is behind us. Two weeks ago, several representatives from LWVCA attended the biennial convention of LWV of South Carolina and last week we celebrated, for the 46<sup>th</sup> time, the Annual Meeting of the LWV of the Clemson Area. We elected a new officer and new board members who will help lead the organization into the next year, beginning June 1. Chosen as President-Elect was Eleanor Hare; Patty Warner, Lyn Norton and Sandra Gray were elected to fill the 3 director positions. We welcome our new members to the Board of Directors.



What a busy year it was, kicking off with a rousing celebration of Women's Equality Day, followed by voter registration and candidate forums preparing voters for the November election. We promoted Patriotic Partners in the community and activated our Observer Corps. Speakers at our monthly meetings challenged us to learn more and take action on topics as diverse as land-use planning to the Affordable Care Act. We've done all this while trying to keep tabs on the legislature with issues such as ethics reform and alternate voting technologies.

You can see why we were ready for a breather a couple months ago when we held our annual wine tasting and raised over \$1000 to add to the coffers. That's us – promoting good government, one ounce at a time!

Stay tuned for more good things to come during 2015 – check out a preview later in this newsletter. As we change officers, I would like to extend a special “thank you” from Paula Appling and me to Sandra Gray. Sandra served as Co-President during Paula's last year in office, and during my first year in office. She is dedicated to the mission of the League and has demonstrated real grass roots advocacy by keeping a watchful eye on her local government and taking action as it was called for. We say a sincere thank you to Sandra for her service and look forward to her continuing on the Board in a new role. Have a good summer!

*Janie Shipley*

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## THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area  
P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633  
[www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

Sandra Gray, Co-President  
Janie Shipley, Co-President  
Holley Ulbrich, VP/Program & Action  
Diana Stafford, Secretary  
Bill Hare, Treasurer

### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Eleanor Hare, Webmaster  
Cheryl Lee  
Ellen Magee  
Mary Ann McKenzie, Co-Chair P & A  
Nicole Paluzzi  
Mike Stafford, Chair Finance/Fundraising

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Paula Appling, VOTER Editor  
Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co  
Elaine Laiewski, Nominating Comm Chair  
Elinor Baron, VOTER Mailing

Photo Credits: Eleanor Hare, Mike Stafford

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon, June 1	<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b> with photo IDs being made by Pickens County Board of Election; Clemson Downs 10 a.m. to noon; Abel Baptist Church 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tues, Aug 25	<b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY</b> , OLLI, 7 p.m. <b>Refer to <a href="http://lwvclemsonarea.org">lwvclemsonarea.org</a> for updates and current information</b>

### Sneak Preview: Fall General Meetings

Your program and action team is gearing up for a fall where we don't have to devote quite as much League time and energy on voter service and elections and can instead turn our attention to issues and what we can do about them. In September, we will kick off an issue-filled season with a panel of area legislators, talking about what the legislature did and didn't do this year and what challenges they will be facing in 2016.

In October, our program will focus on the promise and challenge of solar power with new, less expensive technology and the spreading use of solar power not only in the developed world but in rural African villages isolated from the grid. Solar power has faced legal obstacles such as getting approval for net metering.

November's program will address the challenging issue of domestic violence and what steps we can take to prevent and protect.

December, of course, will bring the annual holiday party. So mark your calendars for September 15<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> and plan to take part in these conversations.

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

### Looking Forward to August

We know that fall is the last thing on your mind, but we have something to look forward to that you need to put on your calendar. As you may know, we usually start the year with a celebration of Women's Equality Day. August 26<sup>th</sup> marks the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, culminating a 72-year struggle for voting rights for women. No, don't mark your calendar yet. We celebrate the night before, August 25<sup>th</sup> at OLLI, with a party! Getting to know each other and prospective members! Stories of South Carolina Leaguers who made it into the big leagues – the State House, the state Supreme Court, and Congress! Live music with Six Chicks and a Beer! Good food, good beverages, good company.

Here is what you can do. We don't want your food. We don't want your beverages. We have a small grant from state League to cover that. We do want some folks to join the planning team for decorations, menu, and invitations. **AND WE WANT GUESTS! LOTS OF THEM!** Invite your mothers, daughters, brothers, sisters, neighbors, colleagues, aunts and uncles. Send names. Join the team. You can send names to Janie Shipley or Holley Ulbrich, or tell either of them you want to come to a couple more planning meetings at Holley's house for wine and brainstorming.

**PARTY TIME!**

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

### Welcome New Members!

Welcome to new members Kristi Barnes, Mary Haque and Ed Rock! Kristi teaches Social Studies at Seneca Middle School and looks forward to getting involved as her time allows. Mary Haque is Professor Emeritus in Landscape Design, volunteers in many organizations and enjoys her garden and bird watching in her spare time. Ed Rock is a librarian at Clemson University. He likes what the League stands for and hopes to become more involved in the future. Please make these new members feel welcome when you see them next!

## Annual Meeting in Review: Walker Miller on Policies for the Future of Food

*The following article is a reconstruction of notes from Walker Miller's talk at the annual meeting, edited for brevity*

Walker Miller<sup>1</sup> of The Happy Berry farm in Pickens County talked about the Future of Food on May 5 at the Annual LWV CA dinner meeting. We have posted his notes online (with permission), which you can access at [clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/AnnualMeeting2015\\_Walker\\_Miller\\_Notes.pdf](http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/AnnualMeeting2015_Walker_Miller_Notes.pdf).

He began with the three biggest threats to human civilization (Scientific American):

- Climate disruption – 1 in 2 chance in the next 200 years
- Solar super storm – 1 in 20 in the next 15 years
- Killer pandemic – 1 in 2 in the next 30 years

and went on to talk about climate disruption, outlining how and why agriculture is a big part of the problem.

Contributing factors to climate disruption include:

- population growth (all living things expand to the least available essential required resource),
- populations migrating to coastal areas and exceeding the carrying capacity of local natural resources,
- available fresh water declining,
- energy from the sun being substituted for labor (its waste stream, CO<sub>2</sub> is a major contributor to global warming gases),
- capitalism (because capitalism as it is now depends on population growth and created needs)
- famine.

For three billion years the earth has been storing carbon that has enabled the Holocene, our current geologic epoch that began about 11,700 years ago<sup>2</sup>. For the past 12,000 years, our annual agriculture traditions have been releasing global warming gases, increasing with increased population. Our current agriculture practices are responsible for 30% of the global warming gases. Carbon sequestration occurs naturally, above the ground – in the plant – and below the ground in complex microbial communities that nourish plants. We destroy that bridge with plowing and by using herbicides and other soil biocides.

Simply put, increasing carbon sequestration and slowing global warming will require research, incentive programs for farmers to change, and intentional move to a bio-regional economy. A bio-regional economy would include local governments based on self-reliance, guilds and co-ops, re-establishment of the commons (natural resources shared by many individuals<sup>3</sup>), and the creation of those resilient communities to care for the local commons.

End notes:

<sup>1</sup>Walker Miller is retired from Clemson University Extension Service and, with his family, owns The Happy Berry farm in Pickens County. For more on the farm, see: [www.thehappyberry.com/management.html](http://www.thehappyberry.com/management.html)  
[www.thehappyberry.com/about.html](http://www.thehappyberry.com/about.html)

<sup>2</sup>Holocene: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene)

<sup>3</sup>the commons: [tragedy.sdsu.edu](http://tragedy.sdsu.edu)





## A New Member's Impressions of the LWVSC Convention, Hilton Head, SC

It came as no surprise to find that the nearly 100-year-old League is allowing traditions to continue! Plenty of history and parliamentary procedure reminded members of the serious and longstanding nature of our business.

We were welcomed to the island by the exuberant mayor of nearby Bluffton and reassured of our solvency with wry wit by our treasurer, Diane Haselton. On Day One, we decided what to do and on Day Two, we did it. Along the way we heard speakers: historians of Gullah culture, a scientist's assessment of coastal water woes, the archivist of our records, the award winning lawyers of the 20+ year Abbeville school lawsuit, words from the national League, and a most encouraging new SC Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman.

League business involved much discussion of whether we would endorse electing or appointing the state Superintendent of Education and much more. The general view is that the legislature has too much power as it is! How can Lynn Teague keep the Roberts Rules of Order language straight? How much knowledge is contained in the heads of League members? I don't know – but I can assure everyone that it all occurred with the lively addition of external distractions in the form of two beach weddings bracketed by “rain bombs” (in the scientific jargon of scientist, Liz Fly), the likes of which sent us hightailin' it back to the upcountry.

Good food, good company and the dulcet tones of the “Shore Notes” (Sweet Adeline group performing for our pleasure) made for an enjoyable way to pack my head with knowledge.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Adams*



(l to r) Convention attendees: Eleanor Hare, Linda Gahan, Linda Wassenich (LWVUS Board Liaison to SC), Janie Shipley, Holley Ulbrich, Ansley Fraser, Patty Warner and Elizabeth Adams. Not pictured: Dianne Haselton.

## From the Desk of the Editor

What's happening in the LWV blogging world? Several Mother's Day pieces, and one in particular: written by one who is uncharacteristically active in the League of Women Voters given the ages of her kids, Shayna Howell is concerned about what she's teaching them --- what we're teaching all of our children and our grandchildren – about the political process. What's effective is talking about “how we can impact all the things we care about in our lives.” Read Shayna's piece here [lwv.org/blog/connecting-dots-our-mini-americans](http://lwv.org/blog/connecting-dots-our-mini-americans). What can we be doing over the summer when we're not having regular League meetings? How about talking to our kids and grandkids about the political process in terms they can buy in to?

*The Editor*

## April General Meeting Reviewed

On April 21, Sonya Albury-Crandall spoke to the League about the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on health care in South Carolina. After introducing her audience to the lack of access to preventative care and disease management and to the rising cost of health insurance prior to the ACA, she outlined coverage requirements now in effect.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have extended Medicaid to low-income adults. A Clemson Research study found that: *As a result of not expanding Medicaid, some gains have been achieved through the ACA, but the gap in coverage affects many lower income working adults in South Carolina.*

Recently, the South Carolina Legislature briefly considered an alternative to expanding Medicaid that would bring federal funding to South Carolina. Alternatives to the Medicaid expansion provisions of the ACA have been approved for several other states. Arkansas, New Hampshire and Iowa use Medicaid funds to purchase private health insurance (although these alternatives are estimated to increase the cost by 20% to 40%). Michigan uses a traditional Medicaid design, but requires copayments and other unconventional features. Pennsylvania and Indiana also have approved waivers.

Some of the new programs that South Carolina has introduced to improve care for the uninsured are: Healthy Connections Checkup (\$48M), Healthy Outcomes Plan (\$35M) and the Hospital Transformation Plan (\$15M).

Medicaid Expansion would have provided \$700 Million in each of 2014, 2015 and 2016, a cumulative loss of \$2.1 Billion. From 2017 through 2019, extending Medicaid would mean that South Carolina would be reimbursed \$9 for every \$1 spent by the state. It is estimated that, in addition to the considerable loss of federal money, 44,000 new healthcare jobs have been lost.

*Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

### New Member Orientation

At 6 p.m. prior to the General Meeting on Tuesday, Co-Presidents Janie Shipley and Sandra Gray and MLD Membership State Coach Paula Appling held a brief orientation and getting-to-know-you meeting with three new members Elizabeth Adams, Kristi Barnes and Mary Haque. Our fourth new member, Ed Rock was unable to attend at 6, but did attend the general meeting at 7:30. Janie showed a 5-minute clip about the history of the League, and talked about how we develop our positions, where our dues go and non-partisanship. Learn more about our new members on page 2 and extend a welcoming handshake at our next meeting!

*Submitted by Paula Appling*

### Influence Public Opinion with your Personal Letters to the Editor

Send a personal letter to the editor! Keep it to 250 words or less and focus on specifics. Send your letter to each paper individually.

[letters@GREENVILLENEWS.com](mailto:letters@GREENVILLENEWS.com)

[bpadgett@GREENVILLENEWS.com](mailto:bpadgett@GREENVILLENEWS.com)

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[sbradley@UPSTATETODAY.com](mailto:sbradley@UPSTATETODAY.com) OR online to [upstatetoday.com/comments/submit-a-letter-to-the-editor/](http://upstatetoday.com/comments/submit-a-letter-to-the-editor/)

[letters@INDEPENDENTMAIL.com](mailto:letters@INDEPENDENTMAIL.com)

KEOWEE COURIER/WESTMINSTER NEWS:

[westnews@bellsouth.net](mailto:westnews@bellsouth.net)

[www.THEEASLEYPROGRESS.com/section/submitletter](http://www.THEEASLEYPROGRESS.com/section/submitletter)

[PICKENSSSENTINEL.com/section/formeditor](http://PICKENSSSENTINEL.com/section/formeditor)

[POWDERSVILLEPOST.com/section/formeditor](http://POWDERSVILLEPOST.com/section/formeditor)

## Observer Corps: Clemson City Council April 6, April 20, May 4 Summaries

- The City of Clemson and Clemson University hosted the 2015 Collegiate National Championship Triathlon event on April 24 and 25th. Over 120 schools and 1500 competitors participated in this world-class event, yielding a very positive economic impact for the community and great camaraderie.
- City Council will hold several workshops in the month of May to hash out the 2015-16 Budget. Rick Cotton informed council that the city needs to add 7 new employees and enact a 2 mil increase in property taxes to keep up with growth. This year's budget saw more income from taxes, Sunday alcohol sales fees, and court fines and more expenditures relating to police protection, rental inspections, residential sanitation repairs and a new sanitation truck than anticipated.
- Clemson City Council passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of The Grandmarc Planned Development at 139 Anderson Highway. Discussion centered around the building's façade, the benefits to both the city and the developer, the traffic study, pedestrian safety, traffic control and the placement of a bus stop.
- The city is working with a consulting firm Seamon, Whiteside and Associates to design a Streetscape project for the Old Calhoun District. The plan will bury utility lines, take nonconforming parking off the street, add a sidewalk on one side of the street, make Clemson Street one way, install a bus stop and historical focus at Calhoun and Clemson Streets, manage storm water, extending plantings to connect with historical walls, retain canopy trees and fill in gaps and add understory trees. Dot Yandle proposed a "Little Library" program be added to the project, allowing a book swap from small watertight shelters.
- The City passed an ordinance for Stormwater Management and created the Stormwater Utility to be financed by fees on residents' utility bills in the amount of \$4 for single resident and \$12 for commercial business.
- Parking Deck fees have been increased as well as fees for services rendered by the Planning and Codes Administration Department.
- A number of Zoning Text Amendments have passed second reading and the city zoning map has been amended to rezone the Clemson Municipal Complex, the Police Station and the Clemson Free Clinic from R-20 (single family residential) to CP-2 (commercial business).
- City Council approved an infrastructure reimbursement agreement with Tom Winkopp for constructing sidewalks around his Pinehurst development. The amount agreed upon was 100% of the cost of voluntary sidewalks and 50% of the required sidewalks.
- City Council approved 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an Ordinance approving the financing of improvement of the water system of the City of Clemson through borrowing up to \$1.89 million from the SC Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Payne, McGinn and Cummins were awarded the contract to replace the SRF water lines that does not include Warbranch this time.
- City Council will consider amending the start time of its meetings to begin at 6:30 pm beginning July 1.
- The Clemson and Pendleton communities are invited to participate with Pacolet Milliken Enterprises in the development vision of the Highway 76 Master Plan on May 11-15 at University Baptist Church and May 21 at the Madren Center. See [www.PME-US76masterplan.com](http://www.PME-US76masterplan.com).
- Clemson Arts Festival will take place on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The next meeting of Clemson City Council will be June 8<sup>th</sup> due to ITGA conference on June 1.

*Submitted by Linda Gahan*

**Observer Corps: School District of Pickens County – April 27, 2015**

Public input focused on school prayer, property taxes and education.

Tony Qualkinbush offered a Christian prayer. Another person voiced that people want a policy to reflect their faith. One other said that we need to put God first and not let this prayer deal die.

Johnell Raines reported on the property tax increase petition drive, saying that retribution was given as a reason not to sign. She was afraid board members would not read it or abide by it and asked that we (the Board) listen to the public. An unnamed realtor spoke about the high taxes on secondary homes (main residence is in Hilton Head). For Pickens County to grow, the policy on taxing secondary property must change.

Laren Russell of Clemson shared sobering facts that 20% of Pickens were below reading level. 70% of Learning Disabled students could not read. One individual requested increased spending for disabled students and suggested that intensive instruction would be beneficial to autistic students.

Policy 1st readings: organization structure that will not allow flexibility. Saita thought the policy should be modified. Others said details should be up to CEO of the organization. The Law says the superintendent presents it and board must approve. Saita stated that this policy should be sent back to the policy committee for amendment. Item will go back to committee.

One of the policies of the Board is to get input from all employees This policy says all people should be able to talk to board members but the present proposed policy disallows principal. This was sent back to policy committee.

Policy clarification requested for interrogations on school grounds about notifying parents – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Board sent it back to policy committee.

Policy concerning capital improvements savings should be shared if over \$500 was discussed. Board decided that there were too many policy readings so they tabled it.

Policy regarding Tobacco-Free Schools eliminated e-cigs - 2nd reading.

Sick Leave Bank Committee recommends changes to allow employee data bank to provide sick leave for family members. – 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Saita questioned the change. He thought that sick leave is generous and although intention is good, expanding it is not good. He cited extra costs. The Board allowed the change, but limited the allowed leave to not exceed 30 days. Passed 5-1.

Approval of textbooks was discussed. Books are recommended by a group of teachers. Caravans are available for parents to review this before they pass. No parents are on committee.

District Strategic Plan is done every 5 years. Most activities are continued, some are added (Reading Counts). Asked board to approve updates. Passed.

Dr. Merck says that Josh Young recommends that press box be named for Hal Garrett at DHS. Passed.

Dr. Roach introduced the approval of surplus items to be sold at auction on May 6.

Mrs. Sally Nicholson gave update on student nutrition services and shared the results of a survey. Board members Wilson and Saitta offered that their children did not like food.

The budget was introduced and will be voted on later. There is a 2% increase in the budget.

Adjourned at 8:51.

*Submitted by Cheryl Lee*

Clemson City Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 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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