

Message from the President

It's been a kick. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president for the past two years. We have had many successes during this period. Starting off this year with *Six Chickens and a Beer* was a good omen! League member Elizabeth Adams is a member of this band, which brought great energy to our Women's Equality Day kick-off event last August. In addition to our monthly meetings, where Holley Ulbrich and the Program and Action Team arranged enlightening speakers and where Francis Plotnik and Aleta Robinson nourished us, we have been engaged in many activities in our three-county area and beyond. We have registered hundreds of young voters, many in time for them to vote for the first time in the Presidential Preference Primaries in February. We have sent delegates to state meetings, and are sending two delegates to the national LWVUS convention in Washington DC this summer. We have participated in a state study on *Palmetto State of Health* and a national study on *Money in Politics*. We recently had a wildly successful wine-tasting fundraiser. Another of our big successes is our increase in membership in the last two years – 13 members.



Thankfully, our successes have outweighed our shortcomings. Alas, getting ethics reform passed in the legislature has not been one of our high points (at least, not by the time of this writing), though there is still a bit of hope that some progress will be made. Ethics reform is a project that we have worked for several years on, but have been unable to convince enough legislators to see it our way. Likewise on expanding health coverage to the less fortunate – there is almost no hope for progress on Medicaid Expansion during this session. But we continue to work with our legislators to promote our positions.

I look forward to being with you on May 10 at our annual celebration of a successful year and a look forward to our upcoming year.

Best,

Janie Shipley

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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

OFFICERS:

Janie Shipley, President
 Eleanor Hare, President-Elect, Webmaster
 Holley Ulbrich, VP/Program & Action
 Diana Stafford, Secretary
 Bill Hare, Treasurer

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 Cheryl Lee
 Nicole Paluzzi
 Patty Warner
 Lyn Norton
 Sandra Gray

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Paula Appling, *Voter* Editor, Mem. Co-Chair
 Elaine Laiewski, Publicity Chair
 Janet Marsh, Membership Co-Chair
 Rosellen Aleguire, Nominating Comm Chair
 Photo Credits: Ken Marsh

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues, May 3 **BOARD MEETING**, Foothills Community Healthcare Boardroom, Clemson, 5:00 pm
- Thu, May 5 **FORUM**, Pickens County Council, Districts 3, 4, 6, *See page 6 for details*
- Mon, May 9 **FORUM**, SC House of Representatives (Pickens County)
- Tues, May 10 **ANNUAL MEETING**: Occasions at Wedgefield, 6:00 p.m.
- Sat, May 14 **LWVSC Bi-Annual Council Meeting**, SC Ed. Assoc. Bdg - Columbia, 9 am-3 pm
- Mon, May 16 **FORUM**, SC Senate District 2 (most of Pickens County)
- Mon, May 23 **FORUM**, Pickens County Council District 5
- Thu, May 26 **FORUM**, SC Senate District 3 (Anderson County)
- Thu-Sun, Jun 16-19 **NATIONAL CONVENTION**, Washington, D.C.
- Tue, Aug 23 **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY** Celebration, details to be announced
- Tue, Sept 27 **NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY**, details to be announced

Refer to lwvclemsonarea.org for updates and current information

Invitation to the Annual LWVCA Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m.

Where: Occasions at Wedgefield, 1551 Eighteen Mile Road, Central, SC 29630

Program: Dr. Imtiaz Haque on *The South Carolina Energy Innovation Center:
Building a World Class Facility for Wind and Solar Research.*

Dr. Haque will focus on the path of events and progress that turned an abandoned Navy warehouse into a unique energy lab that houses the world's largest wind turbine drivetrain testing facility. The Innovation Center is not widely known in South Carolina, but is a world leader in energy research and testing.

LWVCA officers will be elected, and the '16-'17 budget will be voted on.

See the April *Voter* for details on the proposed budget and slate of nominees on which you will be voting.

Cost: \$25 per person

Questions should be sent to Cheryl Lee (cheryl_lee1234@bellsouth.net).

Reservations must be made by Tuesday, May 3, to Bill Hare (wrhare@earthlink.net).

Reservations not honored will be billed after the event.

LWVSC Bi-Annual Council Meeting

The LWVSC Bi-Annual Council meeting will be held on May 14 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at SC Education Association building at 421 Zimalcrest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210. Speakers include Andy Brack, Editor of SC Statehouse Report and Alyssa Miller, SC Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. Registration is \$20. An award will be given to the local League with the highest percentage of members in attendance. LWVCA will be arranging car pools – contact Janie Shipley (janrel@mindspring.com) or Eleanor Hare (eleanorhare@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Submitted by Janie Shipley

April Meeting in Review: “Kicking it Down the Road” with Jim London

About thirty people attended the April general meeting on South Carolina roads. Jim London, retired Clemson Planning Professor who headed an earlier study of funding options for transportation funding in South Carolina, was the speaker. Jim also is a ten year veteran of Pickens County Council. He reviewed both House and Senate bills to fund roads submitted over the past year. Some options included proposed higher fuel taxes, pegging increases to the cost of living, increasing registration and license fees and increasing the cap on new car sales. Momentum for increased fuel taxes slowed following a Senate filibuster leaving a Senate proposal to apply \$400 million from the state surplus to roads and a House version with \$415 million in the budget.

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Taking Effective Action on Legislation: Summary of Ideas Presented at March Earth Dialogue

League members Heidi Williams and BR Skelton led a lively and informative Earth Dialogue discussion on how to positively influence legislators and legislation. Here is a summary of their remarks:

Influencing Your Legislator:

- If you want to influence others, learn to listen first. Hear various opinions and separate yourself from your strong emotions.
- Stay informed about what is happening in your state government and the current status of the legislation that you are concerned about. (SCStateHouse.Gov).
- Personal phone calls and well written personal letters are more effective than robo calls, blanket emails or form letters. Many legislators will try to call you or write back because they appreciate your willingness to contact them. Social media like Twitter can also work because it reflects the opinions of large numbers of constituents.
- Remember: Legislators want to abide by the wishes of their constituents, but they also want to get re-elected. They are often in difficult situations. Support them, and disagree ‘agreeably’. Back up your arguments with facts. Never use threats like “I won’t vote for you again”.
- Do not give up or stop letting your legislator know how you feel. You can change opinions best by providing information. Build up your lobbying skills: listen, support, reframe, provide resources and show gratitude.

Influencing Legislation:

- Be cautious about which Internet sources you use. We all seek reinforcement about our own beliefs, but we can end up finding myths or distortions. Try to learn about all aspects of an issue, even opinions that differ from yours.
- In South Carolina there is only one paid administrative staff for every four House members. However SC Senators each have one paid staff member whom you can contact. It sometimes works better to contact the staff person who is working directly with the committee focusing on your issue.

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LWVCA Becomes Sponsor of Earth Dialog

The LWV of Clemson has joined several other groups in sponsoring the efforts of *Earth Dialogue*, a free and open monthly community discussion on sustainability and environmental issues. Started in 2013, Earth Dialogue aspires to promote collaboration and action by bringing together various groups and experts who are working toward the same goals. Current sponsors include several local groups including Sierra Club, Upstate Forever and Green Congregations.

Held at Moe Joe's Coffee Shop in Clemson, Earth Dialogue is a lively interactive conversation between experts and the audience. After opening remarks from the two or three invited experts, a dialogue begins with audience members who ask questions, share experiences and explain their individual perspectives.

Each sponsoring organization assists with selecting the monthly topics to create a calendar that is published during the summer. Each sponsoring organization has the responsibility for announcing the monthly gatherings to their members and the community. Earth Dialogue currently meets on the fourth Monday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in August, September, October, January, February, March and April.

Contact Ellie Taylor for more information at elptyl@bellsouth.net

Submitted by Ellie Taylor

No Name Change

The **Committee to Review a Name Change** met in December and has recommended that we keep the name as is, add a line to all stationery, website and Facebook pages stating, "Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties" and list the counties in order of most membership.

Excerpted and edited from Minutes, March 2016

...Kicking continued from page 3...

Some new funding will help, but the state is in dire need for comprehensive funding reform. South Carolina is near the bottom in state highway funding, with gasoline taxes the third lowest in the country without other funding options to prop them up. Surveys show a willingness to pay to address road maintenance, safety, and congestion. The last increase in the state fuel tax to 16 cents/gallon occurred in 1987. If the Consumer Price Index had been applied to the fuel tax it would now be 33.5 cents/gallon.

Several in the audience expressed concern about the deteriorating conditions and congestion on I-85, I-95, and I-26. Federal funds can help but they require a partial state match.

It is expected that some additional road funding will emerge by the end of the legislative session as the entire General Assembly prepares to adjourn and face the voters, who have put roads at or near the top of their must-do list.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich and Jim London

Legislative Updates from Lynn Teague: Recommended!

Legislative Update from Lynn Teague's phone call was not available for April. The tidbits this editor has heard in passing have been most interesting (alternately intriguing and disturbing) and strongly recommends making the time to listen in. The next legislative update phone calls will be the first Thursday in May and June at 3:30 pm. The Conference Call number is 605-475-3235 and the PIN is 867392#.



New Member Orientation

Four new members and three visitors attended the New Member Orientation that was held just prior to the April general meeting.



Clockwise from foreground: President Janie Shipley, President-Elect Eleanor Hare, new members Ed Rock and Pamela Davison-Smith, Membership Co-Chairs Janet Marsh and Paula Appling, Vickie (barely visible) and (new member) B R Skelton, visitors Arthur and Barbara Logan, and new member Sarah McNeill. Missing are Ken Marsh (photographer) and new member Catherine Farris.

Welcome New Member!

Pamela Davison-Smith is a busy lady! She is owner of the Pamela Davison LLC, Foreign Trade Zone based in Raleigh, is active with the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones and continues to work with Foreign Trade Zone Grantees in North & South Carolina. She has organized and conducted trade missions to China, Thailand, Vietnam & Uruguay. In her "spare time" she is the Ways & Means Chair of the Seneca Woman's Club and in-coming president of the Once A Week Club. She and her husband, Bill Smith, Emeritus Professor of Soils, Clemson University live on Lake Keowee.

Quick Review of Voter Photo ID

If you brought your valid South Carolina Photo ID to the polls, you should not encounter a problem. The problems occur if (1) you do not have the required ID or (2) you do have the required ID, but you don't have it with you.

In South Carolina, only the following Photo IDs may be used at polling places:

1. Valid SC Driver's License
2. Valid ID Card issued by SC Dept. of Motor Vehicles
3. SC Voter Registration Card with photo
4. Federal Military ID
5. U. S. Passport

If you do **not** possess a valid South Carolina Photo ID you probably you can still vote (see below). You have three choices:

1. Vote absentee by mail or
2. Request a photo voter registration card from the County Elections Office (in person). Provide your name, date of birth, and last 4 digits of your SSN and have your picture made. This card is provided free of charge.
3. Request to vote a Provisional paper ballot. Show your non-photo voter registration card and sign the reasonable impediment affidavit declaring why you were unable to obtain the required ID.

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Permissible reasons for not having obtained an acceptable ID include any obstacle you find reasonable, including: family responsibilities, lack of transportation, lack of a birth certificate, lost wallet, etc. The voter makes the decision of what obstacle is reasonable to him.

Voters who do possess a valid South Carolina Photo ID but did not bring it with them cannot cast a ballot using the provisions for people without the ID. These voters have three choices:

1. Vote absentee by mail or
2. Vote a Provisional paper Ballot at the appropriate polling place, and drive to the county elections office with your Photo ID before the vote is certified or
3. Go home and find the Photo ID and bring it back to the polling place prior to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

The law that required Voter Photo ID continues to be controversial. One of its lesser known quirks is that the Voter Registration Card with photo, once acquired, is good in SC for the remainder of your life. If you get it now, you can use it forever.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare, in consultation with Rodney Allen, Executive Director of the Board of Voter Registration & Elections Of Pickens County

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED CANDIDATE FORUMS

As of April 22, 2016

These events are critical to our purpose of “promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government.” We encourage you to help publicize the candidate forums in your community groups, and with friends and family. Please contact Eleanor Hare at lwwclemson@gmail.com if you can volunteer your time at any of these events.

WHAT: Candidate Forum for Pickens County Council, Districts 3, 4 and 6

WHERE: William A. Carr Room, 135 Folger Ave, Easley (West End Bldg)

WHEN: Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

CANDIDATES: Randy Crenshaw, Jimmy Davis, Wes Hendricks, Alex Saitta, Roy Costner, Keith Culbreath, Neil Smith, Carl Hudson

WHAT: Candidate Forum for SC House (Pickens County)

WHERE: William A. Carr Room, 135 Folger Ave, Easley (West End Bldg)

WHEN: Monday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

CANDIDATES: Gary Clary, Travis McCurry, Davey Hiott, Joey Lum, Neal Collins, Rick Tate (declined to participate)

WHAT: Candidate Forum for State Senate District 2

WHERE: Hampton Memorial Library, 304 Biltmore Rd., Easley

WHEN: Monday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

CANDIDATES: Don Joslyn, Larry Martin, Rex Rice, Allan Quinn

WHAT: Candidate Forum for Pickens County Council District 5

WHERE: Hampton Library, Easley

WHEN: Monday, May 23, Forum from 7 to 8:45

CANDIDATES: Mitch Bagwell, Chris Bowers, Robert H. Sams, Harley Staton, Jeff Willis

WHAT: Candidate Forum for State Senate District 3 (Anderson County)

WHERE: Cox Hall. Clemson Little Theatre, 214 S. Mechanic St., Pendleton, SC 29670

WHEN: Thursday, May 26, Forum from 7 to 8, Doors open at 6 p.m.

CANDIDATES: Kevin Bryant, Carol Burdette

Observer Corps Reports

Pickens County Council – April 4, 2016

The Interim Administrator's Report cited a Title 6 Review of Pickens County under the Civil Rights Act of 1984. The Administrator said that it was a routine review and that there had been no complaints. One of the councilmen asked if other counties were undergoing this review. The Administrator said, "no."

The Council approved a first reading of the 2016-2017 Budget in "title only." The Budget was not available. Council said that they had not seen it yet. They expect to finalize the Budget and make it available to the public soon.

Submitted by Sarah McNeill and Eleanor Hare

Pickens County Board of Registration and Elections – April 05, 2016

The meeting of the Pickens County Elections and Registration Board on April 5th included a recap of the presidential primaries. Overall things went well. The incident involving a League member and Photo ID was recounted. The director, as a result, assured board members that poll workers would be reminded how to properly handle such cases and he hopes this incident serves as a learning experience for poll managers.

Partisan candidate filing results were shared and can be found on the department website. The voter registration deadline for the June 14 primary election is May 14, 2016. Pickens County will hold only a Republican primary as there are no Democratic races.

The town of Six Mile will hold a special election on Tuesday June 21 if more than one candidate files for the position.

The board approved a new policy for the delivery and retrieval of voting machines as the County administrator requested. The County will no longer guarantee that IT Department employees will deliver voting machines to polling places. Poll managers typically pick up and delivery voting machines in other nearby counties.

The board also approved a plan of action and agreement to be implemented between the Office Assistant and the Board. Its intent is to preserve the integrity of the elections as the employee's spouse is a candidate for office.

Submitted by Sarah McNeill and Eleanor Hare

Pickens County Board of Registration and Elections – April 11, 2016

A "called" meeting of the Pickens County Board of Registration and Elections was held on April 11, 2016. The Board had received word that a change needed to be made in the storage location for our voting machines. (The manufacturer's warranty requires that these machines be stored in a secure, climate-controlled facility.) The Board will work with the county to find a satisfactory relocation.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare and Sarah McNeill

... *Action continued from page 3* ...

- Lobbyists from your organization can be helpful. Legislators soon learn which lobbyists they can trust for support and information.
- Work with local organizations that share your goals. There is strength in collaboration: League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), League of Conservation Voters, Chamber of Commerce, Upstate Forever.

Submitted by Ellie Taylor

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

Anderson County Council 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm
 Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:00 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 _____

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 and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633