



THE VOTER

November, 2016 Vol. 43 No. 8

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

Message from the President

One of the buzzwords of this election year is “pivot.” I am writing this before the election, but by the time you read this, it will be pivot time for the League. We have been focused on primaries, elections, and voter registration for the last six months. Now we turn our attention to the other half of our mission, which is to do our part as engaged citizens to make that government work, or work better. It’s time for study and action, educating ourselves and others, and letting our public officials know what we think and why. It’s time for that informed citizen participation in government part of our purpose.



Pivot is a dance step, so come dance with us. Come to the meeting on November 15th to learn about the problems and challenges facing higher education in South Carolina. Join an issue group (more about that elsewhere in this VOTER). Talk to your legislators as they get ready to pivot from running to governing. Volunteer to help the basic tasks the League does—help register new citizens to vote, help with mailing the VOTER, check on who are our current officeholders as we produce our biennial Directories of Public Officials for Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Plan to attend our issue-focused meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month on health care, environment, corrections, and municipal challenges in the spring. Start attending meetings of public bodies—school boards, cities, counties—and share what they are doing with the League. Learn, share, advocate.

We are now ninety members strong. We can make a difference.

Holley Ulbrich

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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:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 15, General Meeting 7:15 (Higher Education)

Tuesday, Dec. 6, No board Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 13 Holiday Party 5-7 p.m. @ OLLI

Tuesday, Jan. 3 Board Meeting 5 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 17 General Meeting 7:15 p.m. (Health Care Concerns)

Monday, Jan. 23 Earth Dialogue 6:00 p.m. (Moe Joes Coffee Shoppe)

Saturday, Jan. 30 LEAD Day (Columbia)

Saturday, Feb. 4 Program Planning Lunch (State and Local Program)

Tuesday, Feb. 21 General Meeting 7:15 (Solar and Alternative Energy)

Monday, Feb. 27 Earth Dialogue 6:00 p.m. (Moe Joes Coffee Shoppe)

HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

DECEMBER 13th --- OLLI Building at Patrick Square

Whew! After the election, after the turkey, and just when you need a shopping break --- the 2016 Holiday Party!! We are so excited to invite you and your guests to come and celebrate the warmth and joy of this busy time.

Please join us on Tuesday December 13th, from 5:00 until 7:00 at the OLLI Building at Patrick Square. If you would like to bring a treat to share, please do so. Food and beverage is coordinated by Catherine Watt (Catherine.watt67@gmail.com, or 903-3266).

*Earth Dialogue meets at Moe Joe's Coffee Shoppe and Wine Bar in Clemson.

Check current information on the web site, <http://clemsonare.sclwvnet.org/forums.html>

November General Meeting

Higher Education in SC: Let's talk about Affordability and Management

The November 15th program next Tuesday will open an overdue discussion about how affordable our state's institutions of higher education are. While many candidates offer opinions on K-12 education, very few understand that the governance of our public colleges rests at the state level, with our elected representatives and state senators. They control who sits on boards of trustees and who sits on the Commission of Higher Education; they also decide if new buildings get built and if institutions will be held accountable for the money they spend.

Speakers for this important discussion are Catherine Watt and Gary McCombs who have served our public universities in research and financial positions, and they have both worked with state higher education policy leaders. The topics covered will include:

Are SC public institutions affordable? What are the real costs to attend our institutions?

Who oversees what tuition and charges are?

How much of our tax dollars go to support our institutions? What does that pay for if tuition keeps going up?

Does the lottery help students like they said it would?

What can be done to keep costs down? Why are other states' tuitions less than ours?

More than ever, SC citizens of all ages need post-secondary education and training. We need to make sure the information is available about who really does control the state's two and four-year institutions.

Come and be part of the discussion! Bring your questions and thoughts about what higher education in South Carolina should look like. Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 7:15 at the OLLI Center in Clemson.

by Catherine Watt

Questions may be sent to Catherine ahead of time if you have a particular area where you would like answers. You can reach her at cwatt@educause.edu



**Clemson City
Council Forum**

**Moderator:
Nicole Paluzzi**

Health Care is Coming!

Our January meeting offers one of those periodic opportunities to shape a League position. A year and a half ago the Clemson League proposed and the South Carolina League agreed to study and develop a position on what we think should be the state of South Carolina's role in providing health care for our citizens. Local Leagues have background information and questions to answer, which will be in the January Voter. We use a consensus process, not just voting but discussing and including minority views. Our responses will go to the state League which will combine them with reports from other Leagues in South Carolina to formulate a position to be approved by the convention in April.

What is the reason for this study?

- 1,000-1,300 South Carolinians will die in the coming year due to a failure to expand Medicaid services. The governor has vowed never to expand the program.
- The state remains medically underserved with fragmented care. Unlike some issues advocated by the League, healthcare touches every citizen in the most personal way.
- Medical care costs continue to climb faster than wages. The current trajectory is unsustainable. Current plans, including the ACA, will not arrest soaring prices.
- Repeated assaults on reproductive rights, in the form of "personhood" and "TRAP" legislation, continually threaten to interject politicians between patients and doctor

Here are the questions we will be considering

- Do you support expanded health insurance covered for uninsured South Carolinians?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No consensus

If yes, which of the following are your priorities? (Check all that apply)

☐ covering low income individuals

☐ basic health care

☐ mental health care

☐ access to health care in rural areas

☐ prescription drug coverage

☐ co-pays based on income

☐ children

☐ Other (_____)

If no, what are your concerns?

☐ cost

☐ other (_____)

Comments:

- Should the state of South Carolina take responsibility for providing at least basic health care to its citizens through

☐ a) Medicaid expansion

☐ b) developing its own plan

☐ c) encouraging insurers to offer more affordable options

☐ d) Other (_____)

☐ e) None of the above

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Voting We Can Trust 4: Say NO! to Internet Voting

One Computer Scientist's Opinion by Eleanor Hare

Of the many reasons that the internet should not be used to vote, the most important are:

- Internet votes do not provide paper ballots.
- Any information that can be reached via the internet can be altered or deleted, and may not be recoverable.
- Without a complete paper ballot backup, if the result of the vote is changed a hacker could control who is elected.

Absence of paper ballots.

One major objection to South Carolina's voting machines is the absence of paper ballots. There is no way for the voter to verify that the voting machine correctly recorded his vote in its internal memory. Voters say that they want a paper ballot so that they can examine and verify their ballot before dropping it into the ballot box. A paper ballot gives voters confidence that their ballots are being counted correctly.

Nationwide, voting systems are rapidly changing to paper ballots. Some states have passed laws requiring paper ballots. At the Voting Fair in Columbia last spring every manufacturer demonstrated systems that used paper ballots (although some had a paperless option for voters with disabilities). There is no disagreement about one requirement for our next voting system: We will use paper ballots.

Voting on the internet does not use paper ballots (except for some implementations of absentee voting). If you were to vote on your phone or on your computer, there would be no paper ballot. We object to our current system because it does not use paper ballots. We need to be aware that the same problem exists if we vote on our phones.

Voting Results Accessed by Internet can be Altered.

If a voting machine is connected to the internet at any time, any information on that computer can be changed, or even deleted. If voting results can be accessed on the internet, a hacker can decide the winner of an election.

Some reports of internet intrusion:

- In 2010, election officials in Washington, DC, developed a system for internet voting and invited security researchers to try to hack it. Researchers at the University of Michigan not only invaded the voting machine code, they reprogrammed it to play the Michigan fight song after voters cast their ballots – an indication that they could do anything they wanted with that machine and any election results on it.
- In 2012, 3.6 million tax returns were hacked at the South Carolina Revenue Department and some of the stolen information used to submit fraudulent requests for tax refunds.
- This year the FBI reported “voter registration database intrusion” in more than 20 states. At this writing, state voter registration databases have been copied, but not altered.
- The military protects confidential information on computers by never connecting those computers to the internet.

Other Internet Voting Concerns

Is voter impersonation a problem when using a phone or computer to vote? The ID of the ballot cannot be linked to the identity of the voter because of secrecy protections.

The internet is like a highway with many connections. Data flowing through the Internet is subject to interception, manipulation and even outright deletion.

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Issue Groups

The board has been planning to launch several issue groups to provide another way for Leaguers to participate in civic conversation. We heard there is more interest in lunch meetings. We think there is interest in smaller, less formal meetings. We know that some of you joined the League because you were interested in a particular issue—maybe environment, education, or good government. We hope eventually to have these three groups meeting monthly September—May (but not December, a total of eight meetings a year) to discuss current issues, proposals, and challenges. We hope these groups will share their conversations in the VOTER.

Our start of the environmental group has been delayed because we are looking for a coordinator to work with Sandra Gray. We have a list of interested members, just haven't found the leadership yet. So we are going ahead in January with the good government group, which will meet in the little side room at Western Sizzlin in Clemson on the 4th Monday of the month. At our first meeting, we will explore lessons learned from the 2016 elections.

If you are interested in the good government group, please email holleyulbrich@gmail.com and I will add you to the mailing list. There is no obligation to attend every meeting, but we hope you will want to! And for those of you who are more interested in education or environment, watch this space for future developme

by Holley Ulbrich

Health Care is Coming! *continued from p.4*

Comments:

3. Should the League support efforts to address lifestyle health issues such as obesity and tobacco use by (check all that apply)
 - ☐ supporting policies to address food deserts ,nutritional education and physical activity
 - ☐ discouraging the use of tobacco products
 - ☐ Other (_____)

Comments:

1. How important is it for the League affirm its commitment to reproductive rights, including family planning, access to abortion and sex education?
 - ☐ very important
 - ☐ somewhat important
 - ☐ not important

Comments:

Voting We Can Trust 4; *continued from p.5*

Internet Access Threatens Validity of the Election

When people talk about voting on their phones, they are looking for convenience, but may not realize that phone access is internet access.

Internet access via phone or computer provides a pathway for hacking that can be undetectable and uncorrectable.

It is reported that more than 30 states have some provisions for online voting, primarily for voters living overseas or serving in the military. (South Carolina does NOT allow internet voting.) If internet votes are recorded on the election system, it opens a pathway for hackers to change the totals in order to “elect” the candidate of their choice.

When internet voting is allowed our elections are no longer trustworthy and our democracy is at risk.

Many thanks to Juan Gilbert, Dave Crockett, Lew Fitch, and Ada Lou Steirer for their helpful suggestions, which have been included.

Help Wanted

You will find invitations to volunteer scattered throughout this VOTER. So we are starting a help wanted column. Here are our volunteer needs for the near future:

NEWSLETTER MAIL CLERK—Work from home. About two hours a month, picking up VOTERS from Campus Copy, buying stamps and putting on labels and stamps and taking them back to the Post Office. Contact: Eleanor Hare at eleanorhare@gmail.com

WELCOMING COMMITTEE—We need a few more volunteers to participate in registering newly naturalized citizens to vote in Greer on the second Friday of each month. Car pool with a few other Leaguers for a rewarding experience. Contact Janie Shipley, janrel@mindspring.com.

FACILITATORS—wanted for issue groups in good government, environment, and education. We need a team of two to share responsibility for coordinating each of these groups. Sandra Gray will co-facilitate the environmental group if there is another volunteer. Contact Holley Ulbrich at holleyulbrich@gmail.com.

INTERNET RESEARCH—We will be preparing Directories of Public Officials for three counties—Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson. We need people to update the names, addresses, and contact information for state and local officials from state senators and representatives to city and county council members, school board members, and appointed officials who run commissions, committees, and other public entities. If you can spare some time at your own convenience to help with this project, contact Eleanor Hare or Holley Ulbrich (see addresses above).

New Member

Louise Huey joined LWVCA at our New Member meeting in August. A retired science teacher from Daniel High School, Louise still keeps her hand in education as she helps tutor young students who have difficulty with some subjects. Her wisdom and patience help the student to improve without upsetting the parents who might not be as able to help them. She enjoys knowing her former students and has taught many people in this area.

Originally from Atlanta, Louise graduated from Queens College in Charlotte. Although she considered going to Agnes Scott, she finds that her study at Queens prepared her well for her life. Her husband Cecil Huey is retired from Mechanical Engineering at Clemson University, where he taught for 31 years. We are honored to have Louise as a current member of our League. Please welcome her to our group

By Carol Ward

New Address:

Elinor Baron
2525 Taft Dr. Apt 406
Boulder CO 80302
Cell phone and email will remain the same.

Gentle Dues Reminder

Your membership dues for 2016-17 are now due since our fiscal year is June 1 through May 31.

Dues are \$60 per membership, \$30 for a second family member, \$25 for students.

Make checks payable to LWVCA
Mail to LWVCA, PO Box 802, Clemson, SC

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.

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