



# THE VOTER

OCTOBER 2012 Vol. 39, No 7

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

## President's Message



Driving through Walhalla one day, I noticed a series of signs that were just intriguing enough to turn around and get a better look-see. The first sign said "The 4 Way Test". After I got home I learned that this test is and was promoted by the Rotary Club. That sign was followed by four others: "Is it the TRUTH?", "Is it FAIR to All Concerned?", "Will it Build GOODWILL and Better Friendships?" and "Will it Be BENEFICIAL to All Concerned?" I thought about it and decided that those were good words to live by. Their website (the4waytest.org) proclaims that this simple test helps build better communities . . . I'll bet it does too!

September started the new program year off with a bang! At the new member welcome, we heard wonderful, inspiring stories about charter member and local activist Berniece Holt as seen through the eyes of her daughter, Charlotte. And we got eight new enthusiastic members! We heard about water from Jeff Allen, interim Director of the Strom Thurmond Institute and Director of the Water Resources Institute. Looking ahead, we have seven forums planned for the month of October! It's going to be a busy month!

So many people in League contribute in so many ways: some are behind-the-scenes, some are out in front, some focus on specialized knowledge, some on keeping the organization running. Whether you're interested in advocacy, forums, or voter registration drives, presenting information or organizing a program, there is a way for you to make a difference. To all of you who work for the betterment of our lives – inside and outside of League – *thank you!*

Yours in League,

Paula

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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)

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Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co  
Della Baker, History and Archives  
Janie Shipley, Nominating Committee

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct 2	<b>LWVCA BOARD MEETNG</b> , Central/Clemson Library, 5:30 pm
Oct 3, 11, 16, 22	<b>Presidential Debates</b> , <a href="http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/">http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/</a>
Thursday, Oct 11	<b>Candidates' Forum SC House District 1 &amp; 2</b> , Gignilliat Civic Center, 7:00 pm
Monday, Oct 15	<b>Anderson County Council Candidates' Forum</b> , Anderson County Library, 11:30 am
Thursday, Oct 18	<b>Candidates' Forum Oconee County Sheriff &amp; Auditor</b> , Gignilliat Civic Center 7 pm
Wednesday, Oct 24	<b>Candidates' Forum SC Senate District 2</b> , Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library, Easley 7:00 pm
Thursday, Oct 25	<b>Candidates' Forum Oconee County County Districts 4 &amp; 5</b> , Gignilliat Civic Center, 7 pm
Tuesday, Oct 30	<b>Candidates' Forum Pickens County School Board District 5</b> , Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library, Easley, 7:00 pm

### Candidates in Contested Races for Nov 6 Election

SC HOUSE DISTRICT 1: Rep. Bill Whitmire, John Hester, and John Dalen

SC HOUSE DISTRICT 2: Rep. Bill Sandifer and Ed Rumsey

SC HOUSE DISTRICT 3: Rep. B. R. Skelton and Ed Harris

OCONEE CO. SHERIFF: Mike Crenshaw, Donnie Fricks, and Terry Wilson

OCONEE CO. AUDITOR: Ken Nix and Betsy Redmond

SC SENATE DISTRICT 2: Sen. Larry Martin and Rex Rice

OCONEE CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 4: Jack Collins, and Joel Thrift, Frankie Pearson

OCONEE CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 5: Reg Dexter, Greg Connally and James Glenn Hart

PICKENS CO. SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 5: Judy J. Edwards, Valerie R. Ramsey and David F. Whittemore, Jr.

PICKENS CO. SHERIFF: Rick Clark, Tim Morgan, Stan Whitten

ANDERSON CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 1: Francis Crowder & Jeff Ricketson

ANDERSON CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 3: James Mitchell Coel & Eddie Moore

ANDERSON CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 5: Tommy Dunn & Denny Floyd

ANDERSON CO. COUNCIL DISTRICT 6: Ann Smith & Ken Waters

See [www.lwvclemsonarea.org](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org) for more information

~Submitted by Reggie Turezky & Paula Appling

### Other Pickens County Candidates' Forums

Aug. 28 – **Pickens County Sheriff** – pcvotes.com, First Wesleyan Church of Easley, 104 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Easley

Tuesday, Sept. 25 – **Pickens County School Board** – pcvotes.com, First Wesleyan Church of Easley

Tuesday, Oct. 2 – **Pickens County School Board** – Pickens County Taxpayers Assn, 7 p.m., Farm Bureau office, 5017 Moorefield Highway (US 178), Pickens

**\*\*Thursday, Oct. 18 – Harris/Skelton – Pickens County Taxpayers Assn, 7 p.m., Six Mile Town Hall**

Tuesday, Oct. 23 – **Pickens County Senate** – pcvotes.com, First Wesleyan Church of Easley, 104 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Easley

\*\* LWVCA was unable to schedule a forum with Ed Harris and Rep. B. R. Skelton. Rep. Skelton agreed to participate. Mr. Harris stated that he thought one forum in Pickens County was sufficient and requested that we attend the forum on October 18, 7 p.m., Six Mile Town Hall, sponsored by the Pickens County Tax Payers Association. ~Submitted by Eleanor Hare

[pickenselections.org/2012/09/24/2012-general-election-candidates/](http://pickenselections.org/2012/09/24/2012-general-election-candidates/) or go to <http://pickenselections.org> and sign up for newsletter

## LWVCA Programs for 2012-2013

- September 11 **Water Issues in South Carolina.** Speaker: Jeff Allen
- October 9 No general meeting due to scheduled candidate forums. Eleanor Hare will be at the library to answer any questions about forthcoming elections.
- November 13 **Legislative Panel on Accomplishments & Pressing Issues in the S.C. General Assembly.** Janie Shipley, moderator.
- December 11 **Holiday Party** at Holley Ulbrich's.
- January 8th **Consensus meeting on Teacher Effectiveness.**
- January ?? **State Program Planning brunch.**
- February ?? **Hot Topics lunch** in Pickens County with Pickens County administrator to talk about county issues, needs and priorities.
- February 12 **Campaign Finance Reform**
- March ?? **Hot Topics lunch** in Oconee County with Oconee County administrator to talk about county issues, needs and priorities.
- March 12 **The Affordable Care Act in South Carolina** (focus on the Medicaid controversy and the exchanges)
- April 9 **K-12 Education Funding in South Carolina**
- April 30 **Annual Meeting**, location TBA, program on High Speed Train Transportation

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

### ACTION TUESDAYS

The Program Committee has decided to discontinue Action Tuesday and replace it with a brief statement at each general meeting on a pending, narrowly defined issue with a written handout to encourage people to take action. For the November meeting, the issue will be standardized national early voting procedures for federal elections. The last Action Tuesday meeting was held on Tuesday, September 18th with four people in attendance. We developed candidate questions for upcoming forums and also talked about the implementation (or lack thereof) of some provisions of the Affordable Care Act in South Carolina.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

### National Voter Registration Day- September 25

On September 25, LWVCA partnered with Civics and Service House at Clemson University to register 82 students. Many, many thanks to Irene, Jeremy, Chastity, Robert, Izzy, Dale, and Rene who assisted Paula & Eleanor. Nationalvoterregistrationday.org, reports "In 2008, 6 million Americans told the US Census that they did not vote because they did not know how to register or they missed their state's voter registration deadline. In 2012, we want to make sure no American is left out." Groups across the nation are getting involved to make this day a success. Check out nationalvoterregistrationday.org for a list of their partner organizations! ~Submitted by Paula Appling

## Report on League Leaders' Day

Seven members of Clemson Area LWV attended League Leaders Day in Columbia on September 15., including Paula Appling, Eleanor Hare, Bill Hare, Dianne Haselton, Janie Shipley, Della Baker and Diana Stafford.

Presentations on political issues included:

- “Reforming Education Funding in SC: What Are the Prospects?” by Debbie Elmore from the SC School Board Association “
- Voter Protection - A National and South Carolina Perspective” by Tim O’Brien from LWVUS Specialist for the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project.

Afternoon presentations included:

- Social Media
- Advocacy
- Ideas on taking care of our members – the new ones and all the rest too.

State League co-president Barbara Zia kept things running smoothly. League Leaders Day is always packed with many opportunities for networking, in-depth looks at select issues and motivation. Traveling to and from the event with fellow local leaguers can be a lot of fun too! League Leaders Day is open to all members, not just leaders!

~Submitted by Paula Appling



Dianne, Della, Eleanor, Paula, Diana, Janie, Bill



Della, secretary of the LWVSC board, records minutes on her computer



Diana converses with other state leaguers



Peggy Appler and Paula Appling

## Membership Renewal-2<sup>nd</sup> Notice

Members should pay dues for the 2012-13 year as soon as possible. Members not paid by January 31, 2013, are removed from the LWVUS roster. Dues are \$60 per person, \$30 for a second member in the same household, and \$30 for a student member. Make checks payable to LWVCA, with "membership" in the memo line. Mail to Bill Hare, LWVCA Treasurer; PO Box 802; Clemson, SC 29633.

Dues status can be checked with our treasurer at [wrhare@earthlink.net](mailto:wrhare@earthlink.net).

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to "LWV Ed Fund." Write "Clemson Area" in the memo line to ensure that our League receives credit. (A contribution to the Ed Fund needs to be a check separate from the membership check because we are required to mail the Ed Fund check to National without cashing it.)

We may pay one-half of dues to LWVUS and one-fourth to LWVSC from Ed Fund deposits credited to LWVCA. Any funds beyond these amounts can be used to pay for expenses incurred in educational activities: candidate forums, part of the cost of publishing the Voter, etc. And, of course, your Ed Fund contribution is tax-deductible to you, whereas a contribution to LWVCA is not.

~Submitted by Bill Hare

## Observer Corps Report

Clemson City Council September 17, 2012 7:30-9:30 pm

Liz Branstead attended the Clemson City meeting as an observer for the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area.

Full Council met. Approximately 16 in the audience: 14 gave reports or were staff.

Public session: Resident Sara Gilliland gave the council a pictorial presentation from the Tamassee-DAR school students in Salem in honor of the 225 anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

### Reports/Discussion Agenda:

a. Received an annual status report from the non-for-profit organizations that partner with the City of Clemson: 1) Clemson Free Clinic (Sandy Smith), 2) Littlejohn Community Center (Adrienne Jackson Garner), 3) Clemson Area African-American Museum (Paul Ellison, Pat Kemp).

b. Consider a request to extend the Farmer's Market on the first Fridays of November and December and to plan for year-long markets. Presented by Kathi Dimmock, Farmer's Market Manager. Currently there are 29 vendors. Request

## Observer Corps Report continued

c. Received a report on the proposed schedule for review and adoption of a rewrite of the City Zoning Ordinance. Sharon Richardson, Planning and Codes Director.

d. Discuss potential Business License Ordinance amendment to address issues related to sweepstakes video machines in Clemson business establishments – Mayor Cook. Mayor Cook requests one year moratorium and study of issues. Request for first ordinance proposals on 10/1/2012 council meeting. See article by journalist Greg Oliver, *The Journal*, 9/20/2012, p.A5.

e. Received proposal for updating the City's Water and Wastewater Utility Rate schedules – Rick Cotton, City Administrator. Rates not revised for 8 years. Council requested proposal for 10/1/2012 council meeting.

### Policy/Action Agenda:

a. Consider request from Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School to allow off-site advertising banner to be displayed at the City Flag Park in front of City Hall – Mayor Cook. Representative not present. Request tabled to 10/1/2012.

b. Consider 2<sup>nd</sup> reading to rezone a .42-acre parcel located at 104 Daniel Drive – Bret Martin, City Planner. Tabled.

c. Request for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on an Amendment to the city of Clemson Comprehensive Plan 2014 (2012-R-11) to add affordable housing analysis to the Priority Investment Element (PIE) as required by SC Code 6-29-10(D)(6) – Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director. Approved.

d. Request for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on Zoning Text Amendment 2012-R-12 to allow boarding kennels as a special exception in CP-1, CP-2, P-3 Commercial Districts – Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director. Approved.

e. Consider 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of an ordinance to establish a City of Clemson Arts and Cultral Commission – Council Member Cox. Approved with adjustment to initial staggered terms of service for the 7-member Commission.

f. Consider the recommendation of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for allocation of remaining State ATAX distribution for tourism promotion – Tom Sparacino, Finance Director. Approved. See also article by journalist Greg Oliver, *The Journal*, 9/20/2012, p.A6.

g. Consider bids received for a rear-loading sanitation packer truck and a replacement leaf vacuum truck for Public Works operations – Rick Cotton, City Administrator. Approved. Note that expense of vehicles is less than previous expenditures.

Next scheduled City of Clemson Council Meeting 10/1/2012.

~Submitted by Liz Branstead

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In September, we welcomed eight new members! Please take time to seek them out at our next gathering and welcome them. They are:

**Sue Medlock**, a dedicated mother, grandmother and educator from Pendleton.

**Laura Goldstein**, an RN who works with medically complex childrens' waivers.

**Ron Goldstein**, Laura's other half and accomplished musician.

**Jeanne van den Hurk**, an artist, antiques dealer, and writer – and that only scratches the surface!

**Liz Branstead**, new-ish to Clemson from Berkeley, CA via Berkeley Lake, GA, and has been involved in politics since she was a tyke!

**Starlett Craig**, world traveler, cheerleader for education, and enthusiastic activist

**Ari Alexandrescu**, graduate of Daniel HS, current sophomore at Clemson University and looking forward to being involved with the League!

**Gabriel Fair**, Computer Science senior at Clemson and graduating in December.

*~Submitted by Paula Appling*

## MANAGEMENT OF SC WATER RESOURCES

Jeff Allen, Interim Director of the Strom Thurmond Institute and Director of the SC Water Resources Institute, spoke at the September 10th meeting of the Clemson Area League of Women Voters. His program addressed the availability, now and in the future, of fresh water throughout South Carolina.

Population growth is an important key to analyzing the interface between SC's water supply and its people. In 1950, the population in SC reached over 2 million people for the first time. By 2000, SC's population had reached 4 million. In the last ten years, the population has increased 15.3% per year, and no slowdown in future population growth is anticipated. Land use models show that by 2030, development around the city of Charleston will grow to 868 square miles. In the Upstate, models suggest growth to 1.5 million acres of developed land by 2030. --continued page 7



## HIKE with US

October is going to be a busy, busy, busy month. What better way to decompress when it's nearly done than with a short hike! Join Kathy Clark and me for a short hike at Station Cove Falls on October 27 at 10 a.m. Folks that need a very short hike (1 mile) or have unstable footing will be driven to the start, the remainder will walk. If we're lucky, we'll learn a little about this history of the area too! Email Kathy for information at [Kathy.clark1@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.clark1@gmail.com). Friends and family are welcome!

*~Submitted by Paula Appling*

## Photo Voter ID Update

The three-judge panel of the federal court will hear final arguments on Monday, September 25, and is expected to rule on R54, the voter photo ID bill, by October 1.

Corey Hutchins presents an excellent article ("Pitfall!" in [www.free-times.com](http://www.free-times.com)) describing consequences of this bill and referencing good sources of voting information: [http://www.free-times.com/index.php?cat=1992912064227409&ShowArticle\\_ID=11011809120729597](http://www.free-times.com/index.php?cat=1992912064227409&ShowArticle_ID=11011809120729597)

*~Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

**SC WATER SUPPLY** continued

Mr. Allen explained that ground water is an important source of our water resources, but topography and soils affect its availability. In the Upstate, for instance, well water is available only in pockets in the underground rock. From Columbia south, well water is much more readily available, but by the time you reach the coast, high population growth and salt-water intrusion limit the utility of underground water supplies. The fresh water wells on Hilton Head Island are down 20%, and fresh water supplies throughout the Savannah River Basin have declined.

Climate change is now a fact of life in SC, and this has affected the quantity and quality of surface water supplies, which come primarily from precipitation. Seven of the 10 hottest summers on record have occurred in the last decade, and precipitation patterns have become more irregular and extreme. Surface water in SC comes from both precipitation (48" per year) and the NC watershed (8" per year). This 56" total is affected by evaporation, temperature, and run-off into the ocean (about 21"). The participation trend shows a decrease in both SC and in NC. Rain in the Greenville watershed is down 5 inches to date in 2012.

Floods have occurred in the following years: 1903, 1908, 1928, and 1994. The history of drought in the last one hundred years is direr. Major droughts have occurred in 1925, 1954, the late 1980's, 1998-2002, 2006-2009, and we are now in a drought that began in 2011. In other words, droughts are getting longer and more frequent. The present drought period is the longest in

Rivers are the life blood of SC's water resources, but we share most of our rivers with NC and Georgia. Presently we have the lowest stream flows in Upstate SC in over 70 years. However, governmental policies do not protect the water supply adequately. SC law gives a volume discount on water usage---the more you use, the less you pay. In other words, we have subsidized water use. South Carolinians do not pay the true cost of water.

The Surface Water Withdrawal Act, which passed only recently, is of monumental importance, says Mr. Allen. This act establishes regulations that monitor withdrawal of water resources. It also gives SC greater powers to negotiate more effectively with neighboring states.

*-Submitted by Mary Ann McKenzie*



**☐ OCTOBER 2012 ☐ Pickens County Observer Schedule Sign-up**

<b>Clemson City Council</b> : October 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon @ 7:30pm. City Hall.	
Observer:	October 1: _____
	October 15: _____
<b>Pickens County Council</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon @ 6:30pm. Pickens County Administrative Facility, Pickens.	
Observer:	October 1: _____
<b>Easley City Council</b> : 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon @ 7pm. Law Enforcement Center.	
Observer:	October 8: _____
<b>Pickens City Council</b> : 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon @ 6pm. City Hall.	
Observer:	October 3: _____
<b>Pickens County School Board</b> : 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon @ 7pm. School District Office, Easley.	
Observer:	October 22: _____

Clemson City Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm.  
 Seneca City Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm.  
 Pickens County Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm.  
 Oconee County Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm.

Anderson County Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
 Pickens County School Board 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7:30 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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