



# THE VOTER

October 2016 Vol.43 No. 7

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

## Message from the President

As we face the process of organizing candidate forums, I realize how indispensable our local newspapers are. They help us advertise our forums, report on our forums, publish our Letters to the Editor, and occasionally publish Op-Eds written by our leaders.



I subscribe to a local newspaper and very much enjoy daily reading local news and opinion. I usually start the day with the Sudoku, the bridge column and Dear Abby before the news and opinion and end with the comics. Unlike the short snippets in the TV media, newspapers have in-depth coverage that helps me really understand the issues. Newspaper articles frequently seem more objective and informative than TV coverage.

As Sarah McNeill (and sometimes Charlotte Holmes, Aleta Robinson, Frances Plotnik and Bill Hare) and I attended Pickens County Council meetings during the past 16 months, we found that the only timely way for the public to be informed of the actions of the council was in Ron Barnett's articles in the Greenville News. On those rare occasions when Ron was absent, the public had to wait 3 weeks for the minutes to become available before learning what actions Council had taken.

News media presence is invaluable at our forums. Coverage of candidates' statements is frequently the public's primary information about the candidates.

If you do not currently subscribe to a local newspaper, I urge you to do so. Newspapers can continue to exist only if we support them by subscribing. And, you might enjoy the Sudoku, the bridge column and Dear Abby, along with the news.

*Eleanor Hare*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Co-Presidents Message	1
Calendar	2
Voter Registration	3
September General Meeting, New Member, Transitions	4
Voting We Can Trust:3	5
Candidate Forums	6
Observer Corps	7
Contribution Form	8

### 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](http://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

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Paula Appling, Mem. Co-Chair  
Elaine Laiewski, Publicity Chair  
Diana Stafford, Voter Editor

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October** - No general meeting; candidate forum.

**Monday, Oct 24, Earth Dialogue** 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct 25, Candidate Forum -Clemson City Council** 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers at Clemson City Hall

**Tuesday, Nov. 1, Board Meeting** 5:00p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 8, Election Day**

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

**Tuesday , Dec 6, Board Meeting** 5:00 p m.

**Tuesday, Dec 13, Holiday Party**

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

**Monday, Jan 23, Earth Dialogue**

**Saturday, Jan 28, LEAD Day** (Columbia)

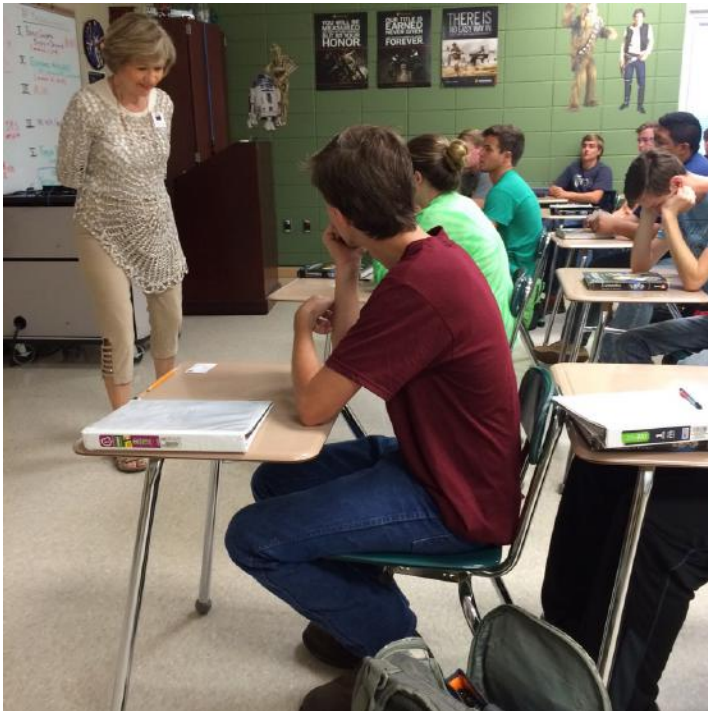
**Saturday, Mar 11 Wine Tasting Save the Date.**

Please join us on Monday, October 24th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. for Earth Dialogue at Moe Joe's Coffee Shoppe and Wine Bar in Clemson. Our discussion topic will be "OUR KIDS: Creating Environmental Stewards". Experts will include those working directly with children in schools and a Clemson University student sharing her own experience.

Earth Dialogue is a free and open community discussion on hot environmental issues with the goal of collaboration and action. We are sponsored by several local groups including Foothills Sierra Club, League of Women Voters and Upstate Forever. Food and drinks will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 pm. For more information join the Clemson Earth Dialogue Facebook page, or contact Ellie Taylor at [864-654-1331](tel:864-654-1331).

Check current information the web site, <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/forums.html>

# VOTER REGISTRATION

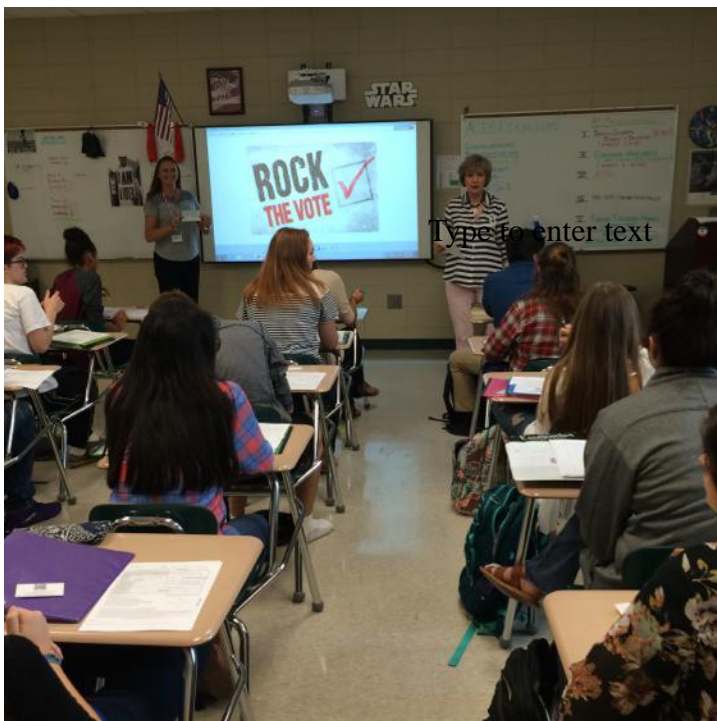


The week of September 26-30 was spent in all Oconee County schools, all Pickens County schools (except PHS); and T.L. Hanna and Pendleton High School in Anderson County registering students. In addition, LWVCA went to Tri-County Technical College, Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, OLLI, the Jazz Festival in Seneca, the Newcomers Club in Seneca and Oconee Heritage in Walhalla. Also Holley and Eleanor registered voters at 'The Downs'. An incomplete

total of 637 voters were registered with 25 volunteers helping.

Approximately 30 voters were registered at the Naturalization Ceremonies in Greer .

*Cheryl Lee*



September 27th was National Voter Registration Day. Cheryl Lee (right) of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area teamed up with Coach Pam Niles (left) of Easley High School to register new voters. Cheryl and Paula Appling visited about 10 classes that day and registered nearly 200 students!

## September Meeting

September's meeting featured a panel of Matt Saltzman, Eleanor Hare, and Holley Ulbrich talking about election issues. Matt and Eleanor talked about redistricting as we look ahead to the 2020 Census but also a possible local redistricting in Pickens County if they go ahead with a seventh seat on both county council and school board. Matt demonstrated some of the dirty tricks that can be played to minimize the influence of the minority party and/or ethnic or racial minorities. Holley described some of the issues in the caucus and primary system (winner take all, too long a primary season, low attendance at caucuses, different rules in different states, super delegates and stranded delegates) and offered suggestions for reform. Both Matt and Holley had powerpoints that they will send to you on request.

### NEW MEMBER



Gretchen Saule is originally from Long Island, New York. She's lived in the Carolinas since 2002 and relocated to Pendleton, SC in 2015. She lives with her husband and two dogs, a black Labrador and a hound. She has worked as an educator and advocate for the last twenty years. This is her first membership in the League of Women Voters, and she looks forward to the opportunity to get to know great people who champion the cause of democracy.

### Transitions:

Albert Holt passed away September 21st at the age of 99. His wife Berniece was a charter member of the League, and Albert was also a long time member, active in Habitat for Humanity and the Clemson Child Development Center. He was a much loved retired faculty member in the English Department. A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship but the date has not been set. Memorials may be made to the Clemson Child Development Center.

Elinor and Bill Baron will be leaving Clemson for Colorado as soon as they close on their house the end of this month. Elinor has been a long-time League member who served as treasurer and as president as well as helping out in many ways, including mailing the VOTER. She will be missed!

*Holley Ulbrich*

## Voting We Can Trust 3: The Illusory Recount

Before the widespread use of digital computers, we cast our votes on hand-marked and hand-counted paper ballots. The meaning of recount was unambiguous. Both counting and recounting were done by people. Now that computers have replaced hand counting, we need to reevaluate procedures used to count and recount the vote.

**“Recounting” the Votes on South Carolina’s Voting Machines.** What does “recount” mean when there are no ballots to recount? Care must be taken to use the best available method of detecting errors in the original count.

Although South Carolina’s voting machines do not use tangible ballots, copies of the ballot information and the number of times that votes were cast exist in electronic data, stored in the memory chips of each voting machine. A post-election audit compares information in the electronic files and ensures that all the votes have been collected by the poll workers. Since there are no physical ballots to recount, the post-election audit would be a good choice to “recount” the ballot. The State Elections Commission currently conducts post-election audits, but the results may not be available before the results are certified.

**Paper Ballots.** The purpose of a recount is to check for a possible error in the original count. Scanning the ballots a second time is unlikely to accomplish that goal.

In South Carolina, provisional, failsafe, emergency, and absentee paper ballots are hand-marked. Hand-marked ballots have always involved ambiguity. Not all voters follow instructions. Some have been known to circle the candidate’s name, scratch out all names except one, or indicate their choice in some other unanticipated manner.

Scanners recognize only the carefully filled in boxes that voters are intended to mark and may not detect the intent of voters who do not follow instructions. Because scanners are computers and computers are consistent, if the same ballots are rescanned the totals are unlikely to change.

When it is necessary to recount a small number of paper ballots, a hand count may be the best choice.

**The Future.** When voting technology changes, the procedures used to recount must be reexamined. New vulnerabilities, introduced when scanners are used to count the vote, require additional confirmation of results.

When South Carolina replaces its aging voting machines, it will almost certainly change to paper ballots, counted by scanners. A count of such a large number of ballots by hand would be ridiculous (and very likely inaccurate).

Scanners are computers. In addition to the well-known vulnerabilities of computers, such as hacking and incorrect programming, scanners are subject to miscalibration. Even when results are not close, procedures to confirm that paper ballots have been scanned correctly should be used in every election.

Some experts have proposed assuring the correctness of the results by scanning all ballots a second time, using a different scanning system. Another suggestion uses statistical methods and a random selection of ballots. One manufacturer uses a combination scanner and ballot box, which reads the ballot back to the voter. If the voter accepts the scan, the ballot is accepted, counted, and dropped into the ballot box.

No voting technology is invincible. New technologies pose new challenges, but a wise choice of procedures can minimize the vulnerabilities of any technology.

*Eleanor Hare*

## Candidate Forum

On September 29 the League held a forum for the two candidates, Alex Saitta and Shannon Haskett, for Pickens County School Board District 3. In the spring the League held forums for all contested seats in Pickens County for County Council, State Senator and State Representative. The District 3 School



ELIZABETH ADAMS, ALEX SAITTA AND SHANNON HASKETT

Board seat and Clemson City Council are the only major contests in Pickens County that we did not cover in the spring.

Holding a forum in Pickens was a first for us, but Pickens is the only population center in District 3. For many of us, Pickens is a 40 mile round trip, but we gathered a group of dependable members, found a venue at the local middle school, and tried various avenues of advertising the event. Elizabeth Adams, Paula Appling, Bill Hare, Charlotte Holmes, Ken Marsh, Frances Plotnik, Aleta Robinson and Heidi Williams all helped to make the forum run smoothly (as did Charlotte's husband, Paul, who helped sort questions).

Ron Barnett from the Greenville News covered the forum for the media. A video, hosted by Mr. Barnett, is on the Concerned Citizens of Pickens County web site at

<https://www.facebook.com/ConcernedCitizensofPickensCounty/>

*Eleanor Hare*

### Candidates Answer League Questions

The League has requested that candidates for Clemson City Council and for District 3 of Pickens County School Board each answer four questions. Questions for City Council address vision for the city, communication with constituencies and the impact of development and traffic. Questions for School Board address teacher pay rates, educational programs and the interaction of members of the Board.

The candidates' answers are posted on our web site at:

<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/forums.html>

## Observer Corps

### Seneca City Council meeting

The September 13, 2016, was called to order and minutes from August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and special called meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> were approved. Mayor Dan Alexander presented a special plaque and certificate to representatives from the Oconee Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution in recognition of Constitution Week. Denise Rozman presented the city with two Centennial Souvenir books donated by Lucy and Henry Barnett.

John Gardner spoke to council concerning violations of the SC Codes by an individual in the city who was selling mopeds illegally. He stated when he reported it to the police they said it was a building violation and they were not responsible. The Council took his presentation as information only.

Sandra Gray spoke as a representative of the Keep Kellett Green Adams Subdivision Committee. The presentation was in response to the city's proposal to sell approximately 4 acres of the Kellett Elementary School property and conversion of the existing school building into an assisted living facility. This proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by the Adams subdivision as they wanted keep the existing 12 acres intact as a green space for the community. Several alternate ideas for the property were presented by the committee which endorsed the previous plan to convert the building into a museum, including a toy and children museums.

Other business included motions to pay the city's bills, a motion to rezone property on Wells Highway from R20 to Highway Commercial, a motion to reword portions of the Zoning Ordinances and another to renew leases on equipment. The most notable motion was the creation of a nonprofit group called the Seneca Improvement Corporation which will allow the Mayor to sign "necessary documents". Another motion transferred \$200,000 from the Light and Water Fund to the new Seneca Improvement Corporation for economic development.

Other motions included contract for \$10,000 with Palmetto Magazine for advertising. A motion was presented to help Seneca River Association preserve an original log cabin library in the City. Another motion was approval to replace/repair air conditioning at Gignilliat Park.

The Council entered into executive session for approximately 20 minutes and then returned to the Chambers and dismissed.

*Sandra Gray*

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## 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 29633.

Clemson City Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:30 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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