



THE VOTER

October 2017 Vol. 44 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 Co-President

Should voters select their representatives or should elected officials select their voter pool? That question will be faced when South Carolina redistricts after the 2020 census. The League wants that redistricting to protect the rights of voters.

Voting districts are used when voting for our State legislators, county councils, school boards, and other governing bodies because they ensure geographic diversity. For example, Pickens County has six council districts. We vote in exactly one district, electing our one member. If not for geographical districts, it would be possible that all members might be elected from a single locality, such as Easley. Single member districts help protect the right of citizens to elect their representatives.



But, single member districts are subject to exploitation. The term, gerrymandering, was first used in 1812 to describe a salamander-shaped district drawn by Gov. Elbridge Gerry. Gerrymandering has provided a means for elected politicians to ensure that the party holding a majority of seats not only retains control those seats, but increases the size of their majority. When gerrymandering is done for political advantage, the voters are the losers.

A case involving the Wisconsin State Assembly is currently before the Supreme Court. In 2010, computer models and voting data were used to redraw political boundaries. In the three elections since, Democrats have never won more than 39 of the 99 seats, even when they won a majority of the votes cast statewide for Assembly candidates.

The insidious result of legislators placing voters in districts to make their own reelection secure and to increase the prospects of their own party is that the voters in the majority party may be disenfranchised in all future elections. The voters are assigned to districts in such a manner that the minority party elects the majority of the legislature. These legislators are unlikely to change the system that guarantees their election. Both parties gerrymander for their own benefit. Democrats did it in Maryland and Republicans did it in Wisconsin.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina has undertaken a 5-year project to educate our members about gerrymandering and lobby our legislators. We want the legislature to pass a bill that gives an independent panel responsibility for drawing the next redistricting map.

In keeping with our motto, Making Democracy Work, we believe that redistricting should preserve the one-person/one-vote principle for everyone. Come to our meeting October 17 to learn more about redistricting and how you can contribute to our effort to give all voters a voice.

Eleanor Hare

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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
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Catherine Watt, VP/Program & Action
Ann Russell, Secretary
Bill Hare, Treasurer

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Fran Rundlett
Elizabeth Vogt
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Cece Parker, Advocacy Coordinator
Lois Martin, Publicity Chair
Diana Stafford, VOTER Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Reggie Turetzky
Elizabeth Adams
Christine Prado

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 17 - General Meeting - Redistricting Workshop 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Tuesday, November 14 - General Meeting - SC's Promise Zone and Understanding Rural Needs 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Sunday, November 19 - Advocacy Workshop, Abel Baptist Church, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19 - Save the Date for a Holiday Party

Tuesday, January 16 - TBA

Tuesday, January 30 - Drop-in to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Formation of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Tuesday, February 20 - General Meeting - What's Next for Health Care? 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Tuesday, March 20 - General Meeting - TBA 7:15 OLLI Building

Tuesday, April 17 - General Meeting - Primaries and the General Election 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Tuesday, May 10 - Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Party (Occasions at Wedgefield)

OLLI Building, 578 Issaqueena Trail, Clemson (100) Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson) 864-633-5242

For further information check the website www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/

Would you like to know more about topics of interest to the League?

We have a web site that cites links to reliable news articles on redistricting, Dreamers, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act and climate change. These pages will be updated and new topics added as needed. The we site is:

<http://clemsonarea-members.sc.lwvnet.org/ADVOCACY.html>

We also have email lists for communication on these topics. If you would like to be added to any of these email lists, please send email to CeCe Parker (ADVOCACY@clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org) indicating which topics interest you.

October General Meeting

By now you have received your SC VOTER (production by our own Christine Prado) and have seen that redistricting is a major focus for South Carolina Leagues this year. For the first time in my memory, and it goes back to 1968, the state board is training all our local Leagues to put on the same program, and furthermore, not a consensus program, but one that focuses on education and advocacy on a long-established state and national position. And after our program, we want everyone to carry the message about redistricting to their children, their neighbors, their cousins, their colleagues, their bridge clubs, and the people they see in the grocery store. Education about redistricting and advocacy for a good process will keep us busy for the next two years.

Redistricting is one of those issues that goes to the heart of why we are a League. It's about democracy, participation, and competitive elections. It's about standing firm against either racial or partisan gerrymandering. So you will learn how to gerrymander so that we can catch our legislators in the act. You will learn about the court cases that have given us this opportunity to make democracy work.

We have maps, we have a powerpoint, we have information, we have a game plan, and we have people who have been trained to understand and explain what's at stake. What we need is you. Be at our October 17th meeting at the OLLI building and join the army of informed voters who are going to be reading and watching when the lines are redrawn for everything from Congress down to county council and school board.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

New Citizens registered in Greer



Voter Registration

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY IS A SUCCESS

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area along with Clemson University students successfully registered 42 students on September 26th, National Voter Registration Day, and September 27th outside Wendy's on the CU campus. New LWVCA members Vera and Subash Anand along with Cheryl Lee and Elizabeth Adams worked with two students on the 26th. Then on the 27th Cheryl, Elizabeth and Rosellen Aleguire worked with twelve CU students. It was a learning experience for all of us.

An older CU student related to the volunteers that her house had burned along with her voter registration card. We were able to find her registration number and fill out paper work for her new address. She was noticeably excited about the opportunity to vote November 7th.

Although we did not register as many students as we have in the past at Clemson, we got some good coverage from The Journal by Justin Lee Campbell. He talked to several students and volunteers and wrote a favorable front page article about our efforts and about what the League is all about.

There will be many more opportunities for you to volunteer this year for voter service. We are working to meet the needs of college-age students and adults this fall so they will be able to vote November 7th. In the spring we will visit all high schools in Oconee and Pickens County and T.L. Hanna High School and Pendleton High in Anderson County. With a few more loyal volunteers we could even reach more schools in Anderson County.



Thank you in advance for helping with this all-important service for the LWVCA.

Cheryl Lee

Membership dues for 2017-18 are now due. The fiscal year for LWVCA is June 1 through May 31. Dues are \$60 per member, \$30 for a second member of a household, and \$25 for student members.

Please make your check to LWVCA for \$60 and mail to LWVCA, PO Box 802, Clemson, SC, 29633.

Note: Dues received after February 1, 2017, are applied to the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

New Members

Jennifer Ruth and Michael Ellison have entertained at LWVCA activities in recent years as members of the music group, Six Chickens and a Beer. They liked what they heard during League programs and decided to join in May 2017.

They share a home in Pickens where they raise cows pigs and chickens. They also enjoy music together, playing at venues in the area and for their own enjoyment. Michael plays the fiddle and guitar; Jennifer plays the bass, guitar, and ukulele. Traditional music - Celtic and Old Time - is their favorite.

Jennifer is Assistant Manager of Clemson University's Poultry and Swine Farms. Prior to this position, she worked at the Animal Emergency Clinic in Greenville for five years. She received a BS in Animal and Veterinary Science from Clemson University, and holds an AS from TCTC in Veterinary Technology. She hopes that through her work she can influence people to eat local, responsibly-raised food.

Michael taught in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Clemson for 30 years. His doctorate is in Polymer Fiber Physics from UC, Davis. He has two adult children residing in Seneca and in Chattanooga.

Michael is interested in the (local) politics of redistricting so as to assure that people have an honest voice in governance, and in education. Jennifer's interests are primarily apolitical except insofar as agricultural policies and citizen's rights.



Isabel Candela is a former member returning to the LWVCA. This last election cycle left her feeling frustrated and uninformed. She is looking to become more educated about the issues she is concerned about and how to effectively advocate for those issues.



Born in Spain, Isabel immigrated to Charleston, SC where she spent her youth. She moved to Clemson over twenty years ago to attend Clemson University and became happily stuck in the upstate.

Isabel has a BS in Financial Management and has worked as a Financial Advisor for over 15 years. She is a wife to Chris Mobbs, who joined the LWVCA as well, and mother of two boys, Kenneth (4) and Michael (2). She is hopeful she will one day have more time for her hobbies: swimming, running, reading and knitting.

Redistricting Workshop

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina is leading a statewide effort in support of independent redistricting. Workshops to prepare members to lead redistricting discussions are being held in the upstate, Columbia, and the coast.

Holley Ulbrich and Matt Saltzman led the upstate workshop in Greenville on Sept. 30. Charlotte Holmes, CeCe Parker, Bill Hare and Eleanor Hare attended from Clemson. League members from Spartanburg and Greenville also attended.

New Members

Shari Jung moved to Clemson following 47 years in Dallas. The move was prompted by retirement from her psychotherapy practice and to share a home with “the love of her life” after a seven year long-distance relationship.

Shari lived on her family farm in Demopolis, Alabama until she went to Centenary College in Shreveport, LA. Upon graduation she married and moved to Dallas where she and her husband of 17 years had three children. She is grandmother to seven grandchildren.

While married, Shari received a Master’s in Social Work and subsequently opened her psychotherapy practice. During her 37 years of practice she worked with groups, families and individuals. Specialties included working with families and family members suffering with narcissistic injuries and couples therapy using a number of modalities including Redecision Therapy and Imago Therapy.

Eager to be engaged in the community, Shari has given considerable thought and energy to how she can best be involved. She has started a group



that meets regularly to consider the issues of the day that members might act in and has visited various community organizations in the area. She joined LWVCA because she believes in its mission, *Making Democracy Work!*

Sandra Lindaman was a life-long Chicagoan until she moved to Tamassee, SC three years ago. Following graduate school at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL in the 70’s, she worked in hospitals in speech-language pathology. She also traveled for fun including a visit to China in 1982.



In 1990 she began working at the Theraplay Institute in Evanston, focused on preventive psychotherapy to strengthen the child-parent relationship to support healthy growth and development. She also earned a Master’s in social work at Loyola University-Chicago in the 90’s. The Theraplay Institute is a not-for-profit training organization that teaches the model worldwide. Sandra continues to distance work for Theraplay, traveling worldwide to train for one week every six weeks. In recent years she has co-authored 6 chapters in the metal health literature.

Sandra and her husband, Ken Baker, moved to SC to live on Whitewater Lake (north of Rt. 11) to escape Chicago’s cold and live a more rural life. They have a new yellow lab puppy, Trooper Baker’s Treasure (Ken was an IN state trooper) and their home has been dubbed the “Whitewater Lake Pub, Water Sports & Kennel Club” because it is a gathering spot for tremendous neighbors, including LWV Marti Usher and Catherine Farris.

They have two young adult grandchildren in IN and four ranging from 5-19 on the Big Island of Hawaii. Sandra is interested in SC child and family issues and hopes to connect with other LWV members with similar interests.

New Members

Vera Anand said that she has known of the League and has had friends in the League for many years. Work and family kept her from joining. Recently she and her Raleigh, NC daughter decided to join. Her daughter called her saying she had joined and was so very pleased. That did it for Vera - she and her husband, Subhash, attended Women's Equality Day and joined!

Vera was born and raised in northern Brazil. She met Subhash at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL in 1964. He was born in a section of India that became Pakistan in 1947. As Hindus, he and his family moved to India. Vera and Subhash came to Clemson University in 1972. They were both professors in Civil Engineering (Vera taught graphics engineering.) until they retired. Over the years they have active in many community activities.

They have two daughters, one in Raleigh and the other in Atlanta. They are interested in learning more about the local political system and want to participate in voter registration activities.



Martha Usher (Marti) is an original Carolina Girl, having grown up in South Carolina's Darlington County. She is the youngest of three children.

She graduated from Arizona State University and taught in public schools for almost 30 years. After she retired from teaching, she worked as a med-tech in Seneca, SC. Marti was married to Troy Usher and lives in Tamase, SC.

In her spare time she reads, gardens, kayaks, swims, enjoys crafting, and hikes.

She is passionate about human rights and the environment and is active in a number of local groups working on these issues. She joined LWVCA because she wants to be connected with like minds and work to overcome the direction of our country which she believes is based on fear, hatred and divisiveness.

Entertainment and education: Tune in to John Oliver discussing gerrymandering:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-4dIImaodQ>

Clemson City Council 1st and 3rd Mondays, 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 Tuesdays, 6:30 pm

Anderson County Council 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:00pm
Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:00 pm
Oconee County School Board 3rd Monday, 6:00 pm
Anderson County 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.clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/ and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

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