



THE VOTER

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

Co-President's Message

It's a busy time, with many political campaigns, in an election season many are calling the most significant in our lifetimes. At the same time, our world has dramatically changed, for who knows how long. Covid-19 complicates everything, making calling for the state legislature, governor, and election boards to facilitate safe and fair elections particularly intense.



Michael Wood

More than ever, people depend on internet sites, like VOTE411.org, scvotes.gov, and ballotpedia.org, for everything they need to register and vote, including absentee voting, tracking their own applications and ballots, and pinning down candidate positions on issues. Internet access also enables us to Zoom meetings, as well as candidate forums (including for the Clemson mayoral race on Thursday October 1, Clemson City Council on Tuesday October 6, and SC House District 3 on Thursday October 8). Some of us are empowered by this to participate in activities we would have otherwise missed. It can seem overwhelming at times. How much can one person do? Do I make a difference?

Loren Eiseley thought so. He told of a child walking a beach strewn with hundreds of washed-up starfish, throwing them back into the water one at a time. An old man chastised the child, saying, "You can't save them all." Undeterred, the child picked up another, threw it back in the water, and said, "I saved that one." So, do something:

Attend a Zoomed League meeting. Write a letter. Find a way to safely vote. Track your absentee application/ballot. Help someone else to register and to vote. Attend a Zoomed candidate forum. Read "Drawing the Vote" and/or "In Her Shoes." Throw a starfish back into the sea.

Submitted by Michael Wood, Co-Chair

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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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 28, 2020 5:00pm	State Legislative Update Call with Lynn Teague Lynn Teague presents an update on the State Legislative Branches.
Thursday, October 1 6:30 p.m.	Zoomed Candidate Forum for Clemson Mayoral Race. See page 4 for details.
Friday, October 2	Last Day to Register <u>in Person</u> to Vote in November General Election
Saturday, October 3 10:00 a.m.	State Board Conference Call. The State Board of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina will discuss future plans and attend to matters of SC leagues.
Sunday, October 4	Last Day to Register <u>Online or Via Fax or Email</u> to Vote in November General Election
Tuesday, October 6 6:30 p.m.	Zoomed Candidate Forum for Clemson City Council Race See page 4 for details.
Thursday, October 8 6:30 p.m.	Zoomed Candidate Forum for SC House District 3 Race See page 4 for details.

All the Election Information You Need

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 General Election

Get Registered!
Registration Deadlines

ONLINE
Sunday, October 4, 2020

BY MAIL
Sunday, October 4, 2020

IN PERSON
Sunday, October 4, 2020

Important Online Resources:

www.vote411.org
<https://www.scvotes.gov>
<https://www.eac.gov>

LWVCA Safe & Fair Elections Group (SFEG) is Formed

Given the controversy surrounding issues of the safety and fairness of the November election, **Shari Jung** and **Janet Marsh** invite members to brainstorm ways the League could act to help ensure secure elections. The purpose of the initiative is to:

Develop a relationship with the Election Commission Director in each of the three counties to help them prepare for the November 3 election.

Joining the approximately fourteen League members were representatives of the Women's Civic League of Anderson. Representatives from each county formed a group and chose a leader(s). Armed with a listening ear and list of questions, leaders met with their respective Election Director and returned to the group with information and ways the League can assist them.

In addition to recruiting members to volunteer in a variety of tasks, the group is preparing a letter from the League to newspapers in the three-county area, assuring voters that their vote will count and offering basic voting information. SFEG will also use social media and other communication means to get the word out. We need you! Contact **Shari Jung**, spjung1@me.com, or **Janet Marsh**, jmarsh@clemson.edu.

New Member Bios

Toni Downes King joined the LWV because of concerns about the integrity of the electoral process and to support efforts that strengthen and promote respect for good governance.

She is a retired social worker who moved to the Clemson area with her husband, **Bobby**, in 2007 from Yorktown, New York. In Yorktown she volunteered on the Community Resource Housing Board, which advised the town council on affordable housing. During her career she practiced in several fields, including rape crisis and crime victim movements, homelessness, and housing.



In South Carolina she worked at the Upstate Homeless Coalition in Greenville counseling families facing mortgage foreclosure during the 2008-10 financial crisis. Local volunteer work includes serving as Coordinator of Clemson Community Care Crop Walk in 2012-13, and as Outreach Chair, Board member, then President of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson from 2011-16.

She and her husband now deliver Meals on Wheels and for the past six summers have volunteered at the YMCA of the Rockies and the Oregon State Parks. They share a love of bluegrass and old-time fiddling music. Toni loves the outdoors and builds hiking into her weekly activities. They have two sons and five wonderful grandchildren.

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The League to Host Candidate Forums

The Clemson area League of Women Voters will be hosting three upcoming candidate forums via Zoom. Mark your calendars and be on the watch for additional information as these dates near. No registration is required for these candidate forums.

There will be no chat questions submitted during the session, so please send any questions for the candidates in advance or during the forum to leagueforumquestions@gmail.com. Specify which forum you are addressing with your question, if you submit one in advance.

Note the following candidate forum information and mark your calendars!

Thursday, October 1

6:30pm to 8pm

Forum for the City of Clemson's mayoral race with candidates Jerry Chapman, Robert Halfacre, and Arthur Sears.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86119413067>

Tuesday October 6

6:30pm to 8pm

Forum for Clemson's City Council race with candidates Bob Brookover, John Ducworth, Kristopher Irmiter, Jacquie Myers, and Catherine Watt.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89384122617>

Thursday, October 8

6:30pm to 8pm

Forum for SC House District 3 with candidates Jerry Carter and Eunice Lehmacher.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84743017295>

Please join us on these dates to learn more about the candidates in these important races. Make sure that the website addresses are copied correctly into your browser to launch the webinar.

NO REGISTRATION FOR THESE WEBINARS IS REQUIRED.

Linda Gahan Honored with the Emeritus College Award for Community Service



The Emeritus College bestowed the Emeritus Award for Community Service to LWVCA member and past president **Dr. Linda Gahan**, Associate Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences, in October 2019.

For the past several years, Dr. Gahan has been involved with Concerned Citizens for Animals. A significant number of animals are abandoned at the end of most spring semesters, resulting in several abandoned cats throughout the Clemson community. Linda feeds thirteen cats seven days a week between 6:30 and 7:30 am, as well as monitors their health and behavior around the area of the former Clemson House.

In addition, Dr. Gahan is a supporter and benefactor of Clemson Community Care and the Clemson Child Development Center and actively involved in leadership positions of Family Promise, the League of Women Voters, PEO Sisterhood for women scholarships, Presbyterian Women, and the Central-Clemson Library Branch.

Congratulations to Linda!

<http://blogs.clemson.edu/emericuscollege/files/2020/08/Annual-Report-2020-Faculty.pdf>

Note on the Books “In Her Shoes” and “Drawing the Vote”

Check out the revised form on the back page normally there for paying dues; it is expanded to include contributing and purchasing (multiple copies of?) two books with a single check.

“In Her Shoes,” the South Carolina League history, 1920-2020, written by **Sheila Haney** and edited by **Holley Ulbrich**, should be on the coffee table of every South Carolina League member.

“Drawing the Vote” by **Tommy Jenkins** is the comic-book style explanation of voter suppression for middle schoolers. **Pamela Davison-Smith** is leading an effort to purchase enough copies for area libraries and schools. You may buy, read, and donate, or simply buy and we will donate.

New Member Bios Continued



Jane and Frank Powell met and married while attending Georgetown College in Kentucky. Jane comes from an agrarian background, and Frank from a Louisville suburb which, nevertheless, gave him green space in which to enjoy nature and influence his career direction. Jane was a teacher and administrator, with a primary interest in special education. In retirement, she volunteers with persons with special needs, including ESL, helping residents and students through Adult Education for Oconee County. Jane's main interest in the League is her concern for women's issues and education. Frank taught health, with nutrition and stress management emphasis, physical education and exercise

physiology at Furman University. Frank's work there, and his study of food chains and sustainability as they relate to the environment, provides him with opportunities to be a resource person for the community. Their early years contributed to their continued love of all things outdoors. They are active in two area Sierra Clubs. Avid hikers and campers, they have found this area allows them to do all the things they enjoy most days of the year and be happily located close to their two children and grandchildren.

Letter to the Reader

Dear Editor,

As a proud member of the LWVCA All Stars, I was thinking that we should honor our incoming president(s) with an appropriate musical fanfare. At our next in-person celebration, what better tune, I thought, than "Hail to the Chief"? So, I looked it up and guess what! It is THE official tune for the president of the U.S.A. So, I figured we're not supposed to use it. Further investigation revealed some surprising details regarding the history of this song.

- The tune is ancient and Gaelic, this according to the U.S. Marines, whose band is known as "the president's own. The melody was borrowed for a theatrical production of **Sir Walter Scott's** poem, "The Lady of the Lake," which tells the tale of a Scottish highland clan losing its heritage and its land to an imperialist invader. Poem first published in 1810.
- This musical production included the song "Hail to the Chief" which became wildly popular. It was selected to honor **Andrew Jackson**, then **Martin Van Buren**, and then **John Tyler**. One party-goer recalled, "The Marine Band...is always ordered from the Navy Yard and stationed in the spacious front hall, from which they swell the rich saloons of the palace with 'Hail to the Chief,' 'Wha'll Be King but Charley,' and other humdrum airs, which ravish with delight the ears of warriors, who have never smelt powder."
- It was finally chosen by, **Sarah**, wife of **James Polk**, to be used for her husband's entry to official occasions. According to historian **William Seale**, "Polk was not an impressive figure, so some announcement was necessary to avoid the embarrassment of his entering a crowded room unnoticed."

Important Information for Clemson Voters

Voters in the City of Clemson must not vote straight ticket, because the City Council is nonpartisan. They must go down the list of candidates one by one, and that will show them the City Council election, which is very important this year.

Clemson voters are electing a new Mayor and three members of City Council, two of whom are currently serving and are running for re-election! With all the turmoil and citizen involvement in the issues this past year, voters should study the candidates and their bios before choosing these three candidates.

I urge our Clemson residents to go to Vote411.org to find a copy of their individual ballots and study the Clemson candidates. Newspapers are also carrying info on the Clemson races; I have copies.

Submitted by Aleta Robinson

Can You Make a Few Phone Calls for the League?

Vote411 Needs YOU! (www.Vote411.org)

The three races listed below were selected because of the number of candidates, the importance of the race and the need to involve our membership to encourage candidate participation. Although we have sent email to those with email addresses and sent postcards to all candidates, no candidates in these three races have replied.

Ask the candidates if they have received our email invitation to participate in our online candidate forum, Vote411.org. You may need to explain to them what Vote411 is and what our organization does. Tell the candidates to send email to LWVClemson@gmail.com to ask for instructions about posting their information.

- Anderson County School Trustee District 2 Area 2 (Use address 200 N Shirley Ave, Honea Path, SC 29654) There are nine candidates in this race.
- Anderson County School Trustee District 2 Area 1 (Use address 306 Anderson St, Belton, SC 29627) There are four candidates in this race.
- Oconee County School Board District 5 (Use address 301 Watershed Rd, Seneca, SC 29678) There are three candidates in this race.

Membership participation is vital, both in encouraging candidates to participate and in spreading the word about Vote411. Thank you to everyone.

Your Vote411 team: Kathy Barger, Kathy Clark, Alice Flower, Eleanor Hare, and Janie Shipley

<i>Clemson City Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Pickens County School Board</i>	<i>4th Monday, 7:00 pm</i>
<i>Seneca City Council</i>	<i>2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Oconee County School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Pickens County Council</i>	<i>1st Monday, 6:30 pm</i>	<i>Anderson Co. School Board</i>	<i>3rd Monday, 6:00 pm</i>
<i>Oconee County Council</i>	<i>1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		
<i>Anderson County Council</i>	<i>2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm</i>		

Dues are due! Donations are always welcome.

Copies of the SC League history, "In Her Shoes," have arrived. "Copies of Drawing the Vote," for donation to libraries and school curricula, will be available soon.

You can send one check for all of these:

Item	Cost/ item	# ordered	Total cost
Dues—individual		_____	\$60
Dues—family		_____	\$90
Dues--student		_____	\$10
Donation		_____	_____
Book: "In Her Shoes"		_____	\$15
Book: Drawing the Vote		_____	\$13
Total		_____	_____

Make check out to LWVCA and mail to: LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633