



THE VOTER

September 2014 Vol. 41 No 6

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Co-President's Message

As I listen to the showers coming down outside my window, I can't help but think what a marvelous summer it has been for the gardener, temperatures not too hot and abundant rain! I hope each of you have also had a marvelous summer and are now ready to do a little cultivation in the League. After a busy spring of candidate forums and meetings, summer break has provided a time for rejuvenation and a time for planting new ideas. We had some League fun in August including an opportunity to register Clemson University students at their Tiger Prowl event on Bowman Field and a spirited celebration of Women's Equality Day. Both events presented us with opportunities to invite prospective members to League meetings where they can learn more about our mission in the community, the state and the nation.



At the Retreat in July, the Board discussed potential strategies for growing the League with new members, especially reaching out to the younger 20 to 30-somethings. If my math is correct, many of the founders of the Clemson Area League were in that age range when they first organized the LWV of the Clemson Area in 1968. We know that this age group, known today as the Millennials, have good reason to be and *are* civic-minded. A 2013 report by the National Conference on Citizenship says "this generation of Americans represents a potent civic and political force - comprising a national voting bloc of 21.3% of eligible voters who are playing a critical role in our democracy and driving community action nationwide." Our challenge this year in the League is to find and recruit these Millennials who are looking for an opportunity to become civically engaged and to whom we can eventually pass the leadership baton.

We also realize there are challenges. Changing our methods of communication to include digital tools used by the younger generations, who grew up during the technology revolution, might be helpful. They commonly use text messaging, Facebook, Twitter and an array of other methods to communicate that this baby-boomer doesn't quite comprehend! We might also investigate issues that are attractive to the Millennials and provide avenues for them to participate in social and civic discussion groups about these issues. For example, League-sponsored discussion groups could meet at a local bar or coffee shop in the evening and lead discussions or hold debates about current topics (such as the Hobby Lobby decision about birth control insurance coverage or rates of voter participation) that are relevant to the younger generation as well as to the League. Young adults are interested in many social issues, and it is our challenge to show them how they can work within the League to make a difference.

So, please, help us grow the League this year, and take every opportunity presented to invite interested friends, neighbors and acquaintances to one of our meetings!

Yours in League,

Sandra

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THE VOTER

League of Women Voter Clemson Area
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Paula Appling, VOTER Editor
Elaine Epstein, Voter Service Anderson Co
Elaine Laiewski, Nominating Comm Chair
Elinor Baron, VOTER Mailing

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, Sept 9 **BOARD MEETING**, Clemson City Hall, 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, Sept 16 **SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING:** Citizen Input into Local Land Use Decisions, OLLI, 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, Oct 14 **BOARD MEETING**, Clemson City Hall, 5:00 pm

LWVCA 2014-2015 Calendar

Board Meetings – Clemson City Community Room at 1250 Tiger Blvd., Clemson, 2nd Tuesday, 5:00-6:00 p.m.; General Membership Meetings – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 100 Thomas Green Blvd. (578 Issaqueena Trail), 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 pm (social), 7:30 pm (Program).

ALL DATES and TIMES are subject to change. Please refer to lwclemsonarea.org for updates.

Aug 12	Board Meeting
Aug 26	Women's Equality Day/ New Member Welcome
Sept 9	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Sept 16	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.: Citizen Input into Local Land Use Decisions
Oct 14	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Oct	Public Candidate Forums; no General Meeting
Nov 4	Election Day
Nov 11	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Nov 18	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Nov 27	Thanksgiving
Dec	Holiday Party
Jan	Pickens & Oconee County's Legislative Delegation meetings
Jan 13	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Jan	Program Planning Meeting
Jan 20	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Jan 31	LEAD (League Education and Advocacy Day), in Columbia
Feb 10	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Feb 14	LWVUS 94 th birthday
Feb	Wine tasting
Feb 17	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Mar 10	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
Mar 17	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.
Apr 14	Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, Clemson 5:00 p.m.
April 21	General Meeting, OLLI, 7 p.m.
April	State Convention
Apr/May	Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Over the past year, many of our members have been passionately engaged in local land use issues in Clemson and Seneca. Often, by the time neighbors and concerned citizens know about planned changes in zoning and land use, it's too late to stop or alter the process. So we are kicking off our League year with a program on Citizen Input into Land Use Decisions with our very own Donna London, former Clemson City Planner and currently director of the Jim Self Center on the Future at Clemson University. Donna will help us understand the process by which citizen input can be provided and what steps can be taken to influence or alter local land use decisions. If you are concerned about the evolving shape of your community or your county, this is a good chance to learn how you can be effective in making a difference.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Want Campaign Contribution Data?

A browser extension is a computer program that works in the background, in conjunction with your browser (e.g., Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, etc.) to extend its functionality. The browser extension called Greenhouse displays campaign contribution data for members of Congress on most web pages where a politician is mentioned by name. Of course, you can also find this information at opensecrets.org, but using Greenhouse puts the information where you want it, when you want it: Congressional leaders mentioned by name will appear with double-underlines. Use your mouse to hover over the name and a little box with data will appear.

Greenhouse is currently available only for Chrome, Firefox and Safari. Find out how to get it by using your favorite search engine with the key-words "YourBrowser Greenhouse extension download." Follow the instructions provided and note that you will probably have to restart your browser before it takes effect.

Submitted by Paula Appling

LWVCA DUES NOTICE

Annual membership dues for 2014-15 are now payable:

- \$60 for a first membership
- \$30 for a second person in the household
- \$25 for a student membership

Checks for the appropriate amount should be made to "LWVCA" and mailed to:

LWVCA
PO Box 802
Clemson, SC 29633

A member contribution may be included as part of the membership check. For a tax deduction a separate check must be made to "LWV Education Fund" and mailed to the same address.

From the membership cost of \$60, a Per Member Payment (PMP) of \$31 is made to LWVUS and a PMP of \$14 is made to LWVSC. This leaves our local league only \$15 for local expenses (such as voter registration drives and publishing this *Voter*). It becomes clear that the LWV Clemson Area needs contributions and fund-raising to support ongoing activities.

Submitted by Bill Hare

Insurance Premiums 2% Higher in States Not Accepting Federal Monies

The Durham/Chapel Hill Herald-Sun reports (8/29/2014) that North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper "cited data that private insurance premiums are 2 percent higher in states that do not accept federal money to expand Medicaid." Read the entire article here:

www.heraldsun.com/news/showcase/x2076631125/Panel-addresses-rising-costs-consumer-health-amid-changing-landscape

Women's Equality Day

The Women's Equality Day event, kicking off our League year, was held on the actual historic date, August 26th, celebrating the ratification of the 19th amendment that allowed women to vote for the first time in November 1920. Just imagine the daunting task facing voter registration offices across the country! The event was well attended, with ten prospective members among the 35 present.

Holley Ulbrich, Paula Appling, and Sandra Gray played Mary, Sarah and Angelina Grimke in a readers' theater presentation about the Grimke sisters (Mary was the mother). Born in Charleston to a wealthy, slave-owning planter family, they both were outspoken advocates for ending slavery and empowering women. We count them among our forebears in their passionate efforts to bring justice to African-Americans and women. They did live long enough to see the end of slavery, and the early efforts of the women's suffrage movement. It's refreshing to know that there have been other South Carolinians who bring their passion to righting wrongs and ensuring liberty and justice for all.

If you haven't read Sue Monk Kidd's new novel, **The Invention of Wings**, based on the lives of Sarah and Angelina, you might want to give it a try.

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

Voter Registration!

One of the community services that the League is known for is Voter Registration Drives.

- This past spring, our members registered high school seniors, which you can read about on page 8.
- Another handful of members registered Clemson University students at Tiger Prowl in August (page 8).
- Holley Ulbrich and Sandra Gray helped newcomers to Clemson Downs with address changes, new registrations, and questions. About ten people were helped, including one who had been turned away in the primary for lack of a photo ID.

Still to come is National Voter Registration Day, which is Tuesday, September 23 this year, so you still have time to get involved in the fun! Look for further information via email or at lwwclemsonarea.org.

Submitted by Paula Appling



The Grimke Sisters readers theater (above): Sandra Gray (Angelina), Paula Appling (Sarah) and Holley Ulbrich (Mary) entertained the audience (left).



2014 General Elections: the Candidates

Clemson City Council Candidates (3 seats to fill)

The candidates for Clemson City Council are:

Ray F. Brown
 Jerry O. Chapman
 Michael T. Fowler (Tim)
 June Hay
 C. Martin Tiller (Christopher)
 Jeremy Wright

Contact information for these candidates can be found at: pickenselections.org/2014/07/10/city-of-clemson-candidate-filing/.

Read about this election at: www.independentmail.com/news/6-candidates-to-vie-for-3-clemson-council-seats_16976727.

See Clemson's Referendum question here: pickenselections.org/2014/07/30/2014-general-elections-offices-and-candidates/

Oconee County Contested Races

Oconee County School District 1

Allen Brewer, Nonpartisan
 Jerry Lee, Nonpartisan

Anderson County Contested Races (partial list)

County Council District 1

Francis Crowther, Republican
 Stuart Sprague, Democratic

County Council District 2

Gracie Floyd, Democratic
 Larry Ray Bright, Republican
 Frank Presley, Petition candidate

School Board At Large

Sandy Addis, Nonpartisan
 Corie Collins, Nonpartisan

Pickens County Contested Races

State House of Representatives District 3

Travis McCurry, Libertarian
 Gary E Clary, Republican

School Board Trustee District 2

Phillip Bowers, Nonpartisan
 Kevin McKenzie, Nonpartisan
 Tony Qualkinbush, Nonpartisan
 Jennifer B Wood, Nonpartisan

School Board Trustee District 6

Jim Shelton, Nonpartisan

Forums will be announced via email and on our website at lwvclemsonarea.org

STATEWIDE RACES

Governor

Tom J Ervin, Petition
 Steve French, Libertarian
 Nikki R Haley, Republican
 Morgan Bruce Reeves, United Citizens
 Vincent Sheheen, Democratic

Lieutenant Governor

Henry McMaster, Republican
 Bakari Sellers, Democratic

Secretary of State

Ginny Deerin, Democratic
 Mark Hammond, Republican

Attorney General

Parnell Diggs, Democratic
 Alan Wilson, Republican

Comptroller General

Richard Eckstrom, Republican
 Kyle Herbert, Democratic

State Superintendent of Education

Ed Murray, American
 Molly Mitchell Spearman, Republican
 Tom Thompson, Democratic

U.S Senate

Brad Hutto, Democratic
 Brad Hutto, Working Families
 Lindsey Graham, Republican
 Victor Kocher, Libertarian
 Thomas Ravenel, Petition

U.S Senate (Unexpired Term)

Jill Bossi, American
 Joyce Dickerson, Democratic
 Tim Scott, Republican

U.S. House, Dist. 03

Barbara Jo Mullis, Democratic
 Jeff Duncan, Republican

For a complete list of 2014 General Election candidates and ballot questions in the Statewide Races, visit pickenselections.org/2014/07/30/2014-general-elections-offices-and-candidates/.

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2014: DALLAS, TEXAS

The National Convention held in Dallas from June 6 to 10 was again an energizing experience. LWVUS membership has held at 50,000 for the last three years; of a potential 1580 voting delegates, 772 attended from 47 states. Also in attendance were nonvoting delegates and volunteers who helped with convention.

We transacted the business of election of the National Board, adopted the national program, passed several resolutions, adopted the budget, adopted a PMP for 2014-2015 of \$31 (same as before) and \$32 for 2015-2016, and passed the by-law changes. The grassroots process for transacting all this business is necessary but very tedious to sit through. Plenary was a marathon experience in listening to many views, tolerating differences in opinions and sitting still for hours without a formal bathroom break.

The business of the convention had some interesting aspects. This year Deidre McNab, the President of the State of Florida, ran for the office of President opposing Elizabeth MacNamara. So there was campaigning by the Florida leaguers and a forum before the election. Deidre was originally nominated to be on national board but chose to jump in at the top. Her supporters rave about her skills at recruiting new members, young and old. Her charisma draws enthusiasm for the league and instills leadership. Deidre McNab did not win her bid for president but don't count her out in the future. I hope she continues to grow the league and will run again for President of LWVUS.

Delegates adopted a national program for 2014-2016. A motion to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended concurrence with LWV New Jersey Human Trafficking position was approved. Concurrence with LWV of Kansas position on the Living Wage was defeated. Delegates approved a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, a review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change, and a review of the redistricting process for U. S. Congress. A motion to adopt a study on Economic Inequality proposed by LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, CA was defeated. All current LWVUS positions were retained. Three resolutions passed on 1) supporting price on carbon emissions (LWV Delaware), 2) calling on LWVUS to review campaign finance position and study the process of amending the Constitution in order to arrive at a national action program (LWV of Massachusetts) and 3) asking LWVUS to advocate for legislation to restore voting rights to felons who had completed their terms of incarceration (LWV Clackmas Co, OR).

We listened to many engaging speakers. Annise Parker, Mayor of Houston and President of Democratic Mayors, gave a frank analysis of her job. Many decisions have no right answer. Most constituents are not engaged; only the ones who have a gripe are. Never lie to your constituents because you need the trust of your electorate. Campaigning and governing are separate skills. Government is a necessity.

Stephen Murdock from Rice University addressed Demographic Trends for the USA. Basically he said Caucasians have not replaced themselves in the last 20 years, the African American population is not growing, the Hispanic population is growing by leaps and bounds and there is also an influx of Asian people. These factors have great implications for education and economics in our country in the coming years. Minority populations tend to be less educated, experience more poverty and represent more of the unemployed. The future of this country is tied to minority populations and how well they do. We must close the gaps.

Peter Harkness, founder of **Governing** magazine in 1987, reported on intergovernmental relations, stating that Congress 2013 has been the least productive Congress in decades. He describes President Obama's administration as a mix of collaborative and coercive federalism. States rights resistance, polarization, and uncompromising attitudes have stood in the way of meaningful discussion of our country's problems of water, climate changes, K-12 education, immigration, guns safety, etc. This is nothing new to all of us who follow politics of our times.

Ray Martinez former Election Assistance Commissioner under HAVA and Ann McGeehan formerly with Secretary of State in Texas discussed Voting Rights. They both talked about the need to focus on voting systems and certified voting machines. (continued on page 7)

Not-for-Profits Cut Cost of Voting Machines

Do cost saving and other advantages of the not-for-profit market predict the end of proprietary voting machines? The for-profit industry, as experienced in South Carolina, uses single-purpose voting machines, which are subject to examination only by people certified by the manufacturer. In addition to the purchase price, counties pay a fee (total over \$1 million annually) for software licenses and maintenance contracts.

The fledgling not-for-profit groups will provide voting technology at roughly half the initial cost of proprietary machines and include lower maintenance and license fees.

A group¹ in Travis County, TX, is close to finishing the design of a prototype known as STAR (Security, Transparency, Auditability and Reliability)² and intends to have it ready for their 2018 gubernatorial race. A detailed description of the STAR system is presented by Dr. Dan Wallach (Computer Science, Rice University) on Youtube³.

Also, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder Dean Logan is leading a team that “has pioneered a voter-centered design system⁴.”

Not-for-profit systems use readily available hardware, such as the Microsoft Surface or the Apple iPad. Only the scanner, used to read the ballots, will have annual fees and these will be greatly reduced from current fees. In Travis County, the county will own the software and make it available to as many counties as possible for as low a cost as possible.

Since not-for-profit voting systems cost roughly half that of manufacturer’s systems and offer increased transparency and security, they are certainly worth attention when South Carolina considers new voting machines.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

¹ www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/content/images/presentations_articles/pdf_tc_elections_2013.07.26_star.pdf

² www.texastribune.org/2014/07/09/travis-county-forges-new-territory-voting-machines/

³ www.usenix.org/conference/evtwote13/workshop-program/presentation/bell

⁴ <https://www.lavote.net/Voter/VSAP/>

National Convention 2014 (continued from page 6)

Patrick Bresette of Public Works and Peter Levine of Tufts University spoke of Organizing for Civic Impact. Peter said the LWV is at the core of American Democracy. Citizenship equates with deliberation (deciding what to do, building consensus, listening) plus collaboration (working together and holding each other accountable) plus civic relationships (loyalty, trust, hope). Good citizenship leads to good government. Patrick commented on stereotypes of government and stressed changing the conversation to unite the public for the common good, a quality of life, community well-being, and protection of all.

Our banquet speaker was Wade Goodwyn, National Desk Correspondent for National Public Radio in Dallas. With great humor he criticized the reign of terror on voting rights across the country.

For the first time at National Convention, training workshops were held in 4 tracks (for State League Leaders, for new Local League Leaders, for veteran Local League Leaders and for State MLD Coaches and Coordinators). One of the workshops, *Repurposing Your League's Impact for Broader Visibility*, focused on communication: website content and Facebook and other social media including Twitter.

One caucus on Young Voters Task Force emphasized characteristics of the younger generation that are different from most league members: with so much information at their fingertips through technology, they do not feel the need to join organizations. However, as young professionals they do need to enhance their resumes and network. Happy Hour combined with chatting with the league on an issue may entice them to becoming involved with a voter registration project or candidates' forum.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

High School Voter Registration

This past spring (2014), we had a successful drive and registered a total of 379 students at 5 high schools in Pickens and Oconee Counties. Linda Gahan, Elinor Baron, Reggie Turetzky, Carol Kozma and Cheryl Lee spoke briefly about how one vote can make a difference, handed out forms, and answered questions concerning voter registration. At Daniel we registered 110 students, 75 at Liberty, 80 at Seneca, 43 at West-Oak, and 72 at Walhalla. All in all, we consider this a good start to our young voters.

We have laid the foundation for next year to try registering the students on line. Some of the schools seem open to this and it may get more young voters out.

We will be asking for volunteers this fall to help. This, to us, is one of the most valuable projects the LWV participates in annually. Also, it happens to be lots of fun.

Submitted by Cheryl Myers Lee

Registering Students at *Tiger Prowl*

Linda Gahan, Lyn Norton, Elaine Laiewski, Patilee Tate and Sandra Gray braved the heat on August 19 to help 30 new Clemson University students register to vote at their Tiger Prowl event on Bowman Field. Literature about voting and the League were distributed. Several students signed up to volunteer with the League at events such as the upcoming forums and voter registration drives.

Submitted by Sandra Gray



Women Legislators Needed to Stem Criminal Domestic Violence

Did you know that

- S.C. women die at the rate of one every 12 days due to Criminal Domestic Violence (CDV)
- S.C. ranks #1 in the U.S. in the rate of women killed by men
- All 46 counties in S.C. have at least one animal shelter but the state has only 19 shelters for victims of CDV
- 30 days is the maximum jail stay for first CDV conviction in S.C. but a man can get 5 years in prison for abusing his dog
- In their last session S.C. legislatures took up about a dozen bills aimed at toughening penalties for abusers but they all died in committee with one exception: provisions aimed at protecting pets of domestic violence victims
- S.C. ranks 49th in the nation for the number of women elected to its legislature
- When legislation goes before the state senate ONE woman sits among the men casting their votes

The time has come (and gone!) to put more women in the state legislature. We need to start NOW! We need to think of viable candidates and offer the support needed to enable them to run for office. It's too late to get on the ballot for the next election but NOW is the time to plan for 2016. As long as we leave protective legislation up to the men we will continue to get what we have always gotten.

"If history holds true, 30 more women will be dead by the end of the next legislative session in June 2015, when lawmakers have another chance to stem the violence." Read the entire article here: www.postandcourier.com/tilldeath/.

Submitted by Lyn Norton

The Hobby Lobby Holding as a Law Student Would Learn It

The holding in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* has received loads of media attention, but most of it boils down to observing that the Court was divided along gender and religious lines and that it reflected that famous line from *Citizens United v. FEC*, "Corporations are people too." Here is a little more detailed analysis.

The Affordable Care Act contains a mandate that contraception must be covered by employer-sponsored health insurance. The mandate relied on the recommendation of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that all twenty FDA-approved contraceptives should be covered. Two closely-held for-profit corporations, Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties, objected on religious grounds to providing health insurance coverage to their female employees for four FDA-approved contraceptives that may prevent implantation of a fertilized egg. The two that Hobby Lobby objected to were the IUD and the morning after pill.

The court found that requiring closely-held for-profit corporations to comply with the contraceptive mandate created a substantial burden on their exercise of religion under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA). Around 90% of US corporations are closely held, meaning 5 or fewer people hold over 50% of the outstanding stock. These closely held corporations employ over half of the American workforce.

The majority opinion relies on RFRA, not the first amendment Free-Exercise of Religion Clause. RFRA prohibits the government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a general rule, unless the government can show that this imposing this "burden" promotes a compelling governmental interest. (Apparently a for-profit corporation, as a "person," can have a religion!) The government must also show that its rule is the least restrictive way to address that interest. The majority opinion held that the mandate under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) fails to satisfy least-restrictive-means standard.

Where does this leave corporations and their female employees? It leaves closely held corporations in a position to limit contraception coverage. Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Irvine School of Law, said it best: "The liabilities of the corporation are not attributed to the owners, so why should the owners be able to attribute their beliefs to the company?"

Submitted by Nicole Paluzzi



Candidates for SC House of Representatives, District 5 Neal Collins, Harley Staton, and Rick Tate participated in a forum on May 27, 2014 in Easley.

Candidates in a Special Election for Oconee County District 3 (photo right), Paul Cain and Ernest Riley, and candidates for Oconee County Council District 1 (photo below right), Edda Cammick and Paul Corbeil, participated in a forum on May 29.



How Pressing is the Need for New Voting Technology?

One Computer Scientist's View by Eleanor Hare

The South Carolina State Elections Commission (SEC) intends to send a Request For Proposal (RFP) for new voting machines in 2015, intending to have the new technology in place for the 2017 elections.

The timing of this purchase seems unfortunate because a new, cheaper, more transparent technology, led by groups of elections officials and computer scientists, is rapidly emerging. One group, based in Travis County, TX, expects their voting machines to be used in Texas in 2018.

Can the South Carolina purchase be deferred a few years until the new technology is available?

According to the SEC we need new voting machines because Elections Systems & Software (ES&S) no longer manufactures the iVotronics that they sold us in 2003. Various publications give the expected life of the iVotronics at 10 years, but, since no new software is being installed on them, it is reasonable that their lifetime can be stretched a few years.

The lifetime of the currently owned technology can be stretched a few years by buying a few additional iVotronics, repairing any that need repair and, lastly, opening polls for additional hours (weekends, for example).

ES&S continues to buy used iVotronics from counties where they are discontinued (for example, the 62 iVotronics purchased from Nassau County, FL, in 2012 for \$250 each)¹. Counties in South Carolina buy at most a total of 40 additional iVotronics (\$1825 each including installation) in any given year. It would seem worthwhile for both ES&S and South Carolina to delay the purchase of new voting technology until the direction future technology will take is decided.

¹ <http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/4716>

Elaine Epstein (right) moderated a forum in Anderson County for 9 candidates (below) who ran for several offices.



OBSERVER CORPS – CLEMSON CITY COUNCIL – August 4 and 18, 2014

- In the **public session**, a representative from LOFTS apartment development enlisted the help of council to lift a stop work order issued by DHEC because of storm water run-off noncompliance. Mayor Cook responded that council had no authority to do this. A neighbor of this project complained that the site was not appropriate for this project. Tal Slann spoke on the inspection system for single rental units, requesting more consistent inspection rules. The Old Calhoun District is experiencing flooding, traffic flow problems and needs two additional stop signs.
- **Accommodation Tax funds** in the amount of \$125,000 were allocated (8/4/14) and voted upon (8/18/14).
- Mayor Cook updated council on recently actions of GPATS (acting as Greenville Urbanized Area Designated Recipient) on **CAT transit grant funding** for the new fiscal year. GPATS receives federal funds for both CAT and GTA (Greenville Transit Authority) and has developed a formula for their distribution. Mayor Cook is happy with the formula that gives CAT greater revenues but GPATS must still approve this proposal.
- Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator, reported on the **2013-14 Leased Property Financial Report**. Everyone is doing great. Any debts are made up with community development funds that have a current balance of \$49,000.
- Council received a report on the **Single Family Rental Housing Program inspection issues** and efforts to resolve some deficiencies. This program has been in place since 2000 but inspections have not been carried out. This summer single family rentals were required to come up to codes with little time to do so. Only single-family rentals are affected and the codes do not apply to rental condos or duplexes. Council discussed a 90-day grace period.
- Council approved the second reading of an **ordinance to close portion of an unused 33-foot right of way**. More information is found in the city council minutes of the 8/4/14 meeting.
- Council approved the first reading of the **City Zoning Ordinance Rewrite** (8/4/14) and the second reading on 8/18/14. Revision of the City Zoning Ordinance is on going. Proposed future updates include rules on political signage left out of the rewrite and requiring housing developers to provide one parking space per occupant, not per bedroom.
- On 8/18, Mayor Cook reported that he had met with Senator Lindsay Graham about the stalled **rail bridge project**. Rep. Jeff Duncan was scheduled to come the next day to discuss the Amtrak issue.
- Council received a **report on the storm damage** the previous Saturday night. Mitchell Street and Riggs Drive have been closed because of a collapsed culvert. Other culverts need replacing as the corrugated metal pipes are separating. Pipes have been ordered and work will be completed in the span of the next two months. Flooding to buildings in the downtown was also reported.
- **LOFTS' residential apartment development** has resumed construction after a DHEC lifted a STOP WORK order. The project has made storm water permitting corrections.
- On Aug. 21, a kickoff will be held for selecting the consultants for **developing a Master Plan for the Milliken property** on Hwy 76.
- Council received an update on **CU's Douthit Hills Residential Expansion Project** along highway 93 that has just received final state approval. Tim Fowler offered to meet with the neighbors. Emily Hunter said the neighborhood association has been meeting on sidewalks and plans to resume discussions with CU. The Mayor said the city will do neighborhood traffic studies during football 2014 and 2015 seasons and spring 2015, to collect data on traffic flow.
- **SRF sewer construction project** bids and decisions will occur during the next month with meetings on Sept 15 and 22.
- **Clemson City Hall has HVAC problems** and plans to consult a mechanical engineer to resolve the problem of 90° temperatures.
- DOT and the City of Clemson have an agreement for the **Berkley Drive Pedestrian Bridge and Shared Path Project**. Bids will be let out in next 60-90 days.

Submitted by Linda Gahan

Want to contribute, but don't have a lot of time?

If you appreciated the article (above) submitted by Linda, and you like to know what's going on in city, county and school board meetings, please consider attending a meeting occasionally and submitting the information to the **VOTER**. Our membership will appreciate it!

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

Anderson County Council 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 pm
 Pickens County School Board 4th Monday, 7:30 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 _____

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