

**Guest Message**

The League of Women Voters is all about “Making Democracy Work.” We encourage citizens to be actively engaged in government. We register voters, hold candidate forums to educate voters, compile information about candidates on VOTE411, and encourage everyone to vote. We keep in touch with our elected officials and let them know how we feel about the issues.

**Linda Gahan**

In addition to all of this, we need an Observer Corps to attend meetings of our city councils, our county councils, our school boards and various advisory committees. Our presence at these meetings with our league buttons on conveys a message that we are interested in what goes on, and more importantly, we hold elected officials accountable for the decisions they make. Concerns can be expressed in public input sessions.

In past years, I have spent some time trying to interest leaguers in participating in the Observer Corps, starting with Clemson City Council meetings. The City of Clemson has been undergoing a building transformation since 2014. City Council has approved many mixed-use apartments that have been erected in the downtown area as well as Highway 76. The principle the city council has followed is: If the building project satisfies the zoning requirements and the BAR standards, it can be built. The commercial component of the mixed-use design calls for new stores below student apartments. At present store fronts are empty in most of these mixed-use complexes. This is also a trend across the country. These Clemson City Council decisions have assisted the university with their housing problem, worked to alleviate early morning traffic issues to the university by bringing the students to live downtown and increased the city’s tax revenues.

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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](http://www.lwvclemsonarea.org)

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Vacant, Co- President  
Rosellen Aleguire, Secretary  
Bill Hare, Treasurer

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Ruth Reed  
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Patty Warner

**APPOINTED DIRECTORS:**

Eleanor Hare

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Carol Kozma, Janet Marsh, Ruth Reed,  
Janie Shipley, and Carol Ward

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Tuesday, October 16, 2018	General Meeting. Election Issues II. Registration by party, winner-take-all instead of run-offs, proportional representation, rank order voting, direct election of the President, dark money and other issues., 7:00 p.m., OLLI
Monday, October 29, 2018	Clemson City Council Candidate Forum. 7 p.m., City of Clemson Council Chambers
Tuesday, November 6, 2018	SC General Elections. Seize your opportunity to be heard.
Tuesday, November 13, 2018	General Meeting. Legislators Open Forum 7:00 p.m., OLLI
<i>OLLI Building</i>	<i>578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)</i>

**Guest Message Continued**

At the same time, these decisions have impacted the neighborhoods along College Avenue with increased traffic flowing through its streets, more noise, additional lighting and high-rise apartments in their backyards. City residents have spoken at public input sessions of Clemson City Council, but their concerns of traffic and land use development have gone unheeded. The League's Observer Corps was only sporadically represented during these developments.

Clemson has a ten-year Comprehensive Plan formulated in 2014 which serves as the vision of city residents. It addresses land use, transportation, housing, as well as 7 other elements. A five-year revision of the Comprehensive Plan began with the first public meeting on September 26.

Whether this revision will have an impact on Clemson's building program around Keowee Trail will depend on two things: who is elected to city council in this November election and the impact of the revised Comprehensive Plan in city planning. How will you as a leaguer become involved in making democracy work in the Clemson Area? I encourage you to vote and attend meetings! Those living outside Clemson may also have similar experiences. Be aware of what is going on where you live. Be an observer.

*Contributed by Linda Gahan*

**Six Chickens and a Beer (Mike Ellison, Jennifer Ruth, Elizabeth Adams and Ed Broyles) will appear on "Making It Grow" (SC ETV, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 23).**

## Preview of October 16 General Meeting – The Upcoming Election

The League's October 16th meeting is just three weeks before election day, so we are focusing on election issues:

There is a proposed amendment to the South Carolina Constitution, changing the position of Superintendent of Education from elected to appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

An LWVSC position opposes runoffs for primaries. That position was adopted due to the short time between a primary and its runoff, and the usual low turnout for runoffs. However, that was before this year when thirteen people ran for the Republican nomination for U.S. House District 4. The leader in the primary garnered only 25 percent of the vote and lost in the runoff. We currently have open primaries, where any registered voter can vote in either primary.

With closed primaries voters must be registered in a political party and must vote in its primary, precluding independent and crossover voting.

There are also some national issues to think about while our minds are focused on elections. LWVUS is supporting the NIVP, National Interstate Voter Compact, a complicated process for making sure, without having to amend the constitution, that the person elected president has a majority of the popular vote.

State and county officials are working with the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI to ensure the security of this election. Our emphasis should now be toward choosing a new voting system that can be defended against cyber-attacks and old-fashioned hacking.

So, join us on October 16th for what we hope will be a lively conversation about how we, the good government people, can try to make some of the parts of our voting process more trustworthy, more representative, and more capable of helping to make democracy work.

*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

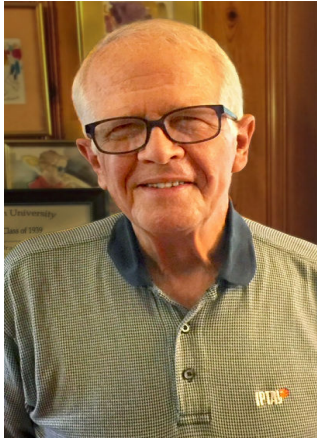
**[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)**

Check out the candidates' answers at <https://www.vote411.org/> The responses from some candidates have been excellent. Six of the eight candidates for Clemson City Council have posted their opinions and a seventh is talking to us about how to post. The primary way of contacting candidates is with email and we are concerned that our request ends up in their spam folder because our email is not in their address book. We are phoning candidates who have not replied and hope for more participation.

Visitors to the SCIWAY site will see our ad, directing them to Vote411, so Vote411 is not only helpful to voters; it is good advertising for the League.

*Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

## New Member Bios



**Brad Russell**

**Brad Russell** moved to Clemson in 1967 to teach Statistics in the University Math department. At a new faculty gathering he met Ann and they married three years later. He started attending League meetings in order to assist Ann, a long time League member, in her many duties. Recently he decided to join because of all the good things the League has accomplished and continues to do to work toward democracy.

Brad plays guitar and has often helped provide entertainment at League gatherings. He also provides music at the Lutheran church and volunteers with Meals on Wheels. He and Ann have two daughters who reside in Clemson and he is grateful to have his children and grandchildren close by.

**Lynn Batizy** settled in Anderson twelve years ago with her husband following six years in northern Pickens County. She retired a few years ago and has been involved in several volunteer activities.

The voter registration work of LWVCA drew her interest in the League. Lynn grew up around Green Bay, Wisconsin and remains a Packer fan. Later she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, working for Honeywell in various human resource functions, and finished a Bachelor's in Business. Desiring more employment flexibility led her to Eau Claire University where she earned a Bachelor's in Nursing in 1993. She has lived in South Carolina for twenty years. She enjoys hiking, gardening and outdoor activities and looks forward to working with the League.

## NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY/WEEK

What a WEEK! Our goal was 1,000 registrations and we passed that. The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area (LWVCA) along with “a little help from our friends” registered 1,103 new voters. We helped educate these new voters, we looked up the status and advised other registered voters, and we encouraged all voters to show up at the polls. Our thirty-nine volunteers were made up of LWVCA, community volunteers from Progressive Women of Anderson, the NAACP, college students, people who volunteered from our website email, and three beautiful dogs from SC Therapy Dogs.

During the WEEK, we went to 10 high schools, 2 colleges, a library, a festival, 3 technical schools, and other venues such as school open houses. Many of the 39 volunteers went to several venues--not just one school. We were on WYFF4 with our “Pups to the Polls” gimmick which featured an Irish Terrier, Riley; a Standard Poodle, Jackie Onassis; and a Golden Retriever, Bella. They were quite a hit on the bridge at Clemson University. The *Liberty Monitor* and other local papers were invited to interview and take pictures. They have been sent information about our registration project and hopefully will print it. Additionally, we are working with the NAACP to distribute brochures to register voters and to help absentee voters who receive Meals on Wheels.

There are still opportunities to register voters before October 6, the last day to register and be able to vote in the November 6 election. One venue we worked on was October 3, Wednesday, from 3-5, at Clemson. This was a combined project with a LWV in Florida.



## Candidate Forum Shows the League “Making Democracy Work”

Democracy is alive and well! The Clemson area League of Women Voters sponsored a candidate forum for the District 2 State House race on September 26th. The two candidates, (**Bill Sandifer** is a Republican; **Jody Gaulin** a Democrat), faced a packed house at the Gignilliat Center in Seneca. Radio and TV recorded the event for the press.

Participants from the League included **Holley Ulbrich**, moderator; and **Ansley Fraser**, co-president who introduced the evening. **Janie Shipley**, **Rosellen Aleguire**, **Cece Parker** and **Ellie Taylor** managed the question cards. One unanticipated task was to locate something to dry the extra chairs that were brought in from the rain to accommodate the overflow crowd.

The storm overhead echoed the strong sentiments displayed by the candidates and the often- rowdy crowd. As time-keeper I sat right down front where I could see every bead of sweat on the candidates’ brows as Holley posed rapid-fire questions for a full hour and a half. The job is to keep speakers to a 2-minute time limit; raising the yellow sign at the 20-second warning and then the red for the quit signal is not difficult.

My concern was to keep focused on the time-keeping when the candidates’ answers either delighted or bothered me. Such is the problem associated with living in a democracy where speech is free. I am privileged to do so and to be a member of our non-partisan League. Keeping an impassive expression on my face was an exercise in restraint.

The forum demonstrated that there is a genuine choice between these two candidates. The voters will certainly have been heard when the outcome is settled come November. I can’t wait!!

*Submitted by Elizabeth (Buzzy) Adams*



**Bill Sandifer and Jody Gaulin participate in candidate debate for State House District 2 race.**



**An overflow crowd turned out to hear the candidates debate.**

**Due to scheduling conflicts, the LWV was unable to hold a forum for the Third Congressional District race.**

## Report on September Meeting



The program was presented by **Dr. Patrick Warren**, Associate Professor of Economics, and **Dr. Darren Linvill**, Associate Professor of Communication, both at Clemson University. LWV members and guests packed the Olli meeting room to hear about the work of these two Clemson researchers that has received national coverage recently.

First, some background information:

- To troll (verb) is to “make a deliberately offensive or provocative online post with the aim of upsetting someone or eliciting an angry response from them.” (Google dictionary)

- **IRA:** Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg, Russia, founded by Putin's chef. This group focused on internal propaganda supporting Putin in Russia first, next expanding to the Ukraine, and then extending westward to Europe and the US.
- **Social Studio:** A social media marketing tool for businesses to use to analyze interactions of customers by social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) for use in marketing, for example. These data give businesses a real-time analysis of their brand.

Clemson University owns the Social Studio platform, which not only allows for analysis of real-time tweets, but also allows for analysis of stored tweets. Patrick and Darren started searching the data base for trolls with the goal of narrowing down the search to Russian trolls tweeting about US politics. That is a huge undertaking, given the size of the database of all tweets. Then, about halfway through their work, Congress passed a law that only three years of Twitter data could be stored. That's the bad news. The good news is that the House Intelligence Committee released a file of 3,500 Twitter accounts that had been determined to be from the Russian Internet Research Agency, the IRA. Now the task was to find all the Twitter messages sent from these accounts. It took 9 months of digging to uncover 3 million tweets from these accounts.

With 3 million tweets from accounts linked to the IRA, Patrick, the statistician of the two, and Darren, the communication expert, analyzed the tweets for content. Twitter then produced the graphics. There isn't room to show the graphs, but check [FiveThirtyEight.org](http://FiveThirtyEight.org) under “trolls”, filed under 'Russia Investigation' by Oliver Roeder if you want to see them. It is very interesting that Wikileaks released the Podesta emails the day after a peak of tweets, for example.

Darren created a set of tools to categorize tweets as 'left troll' (e.g., Black Lives Matter), 'right trolls' (e.g., gun advocates), newsfeed (retweet of local news—they are not yet sure what the motivation for this category is), hashtag gamer, and fearmonger. A common theme was attacking the middle: mainstream institutions and media. Hillary Clinton and John McCain were commonly included and reviled. Twitter feeds sometimes pointed to Facebook pages which aimed to make political conversation more divided, for example, by setting up flashmobs of opposing views near each other.

Patrick and Darren have opened up the database of tweets for analysis by others through [FiveThirtyEight.org](http://FiveThirtyEight.org), which, in turn, has posted some of this analysis. For example, about 1 million of the 3 million tweets are in languages other than English. Intervention in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Australia has been found.

*Continued on next page*

## Report on September Meeting Continued

Other researchers have analyzed the 2 million English tweets from perspectives different from those of Patrick and Darren.

I think all of us in the audience were either fascinated, appalled, confused, surprised, or otherwise struck by the details and strategy of the Russian interference in our cultural and political life. Patrick and Darren gave a few examples of specific cases; I was too enthralled to get clear notes, and this report would be way too long if they were included. But I can encourage members who weren't able to be present to keep eyes and ears open for more articles or presentations by this team.

Patrick recommends googling FiveThirtyEight/trolls for more information on this work.

*Contributed by Ruth Reed*

## Making Our Elections Less Vulnerable to Fraud

We are currently focused on the intrusion into our voting systems by foreign actors, but evidence of homegrown election tampering has also been documented in previous elections. We now know that foreign agents have wreaked digital havoc in many places, even some not connected to the internet. We need to take a new look at protecting our elections.

When using paper ballots, the hacking threat can be greatly reduced by requiring that the paper ballots be counted after the voter has cast them, not before. The following voting process increases transparency and eliminates the data files which are most easily hacked:

(1) The voter receives the paper ballot. She may have printed her ballot using a ballot-marking machine or filled out the ballot by hand. If a ballot-marking device has been used, any totals accumulated by the machine must not be used to compute the vote because the machines have been demonstrated to be hackable and the voter cannot verify that the digital image in the machine is the way she intended to vote.

(2) The voter examines the ballot to verify that the selections are those that she wants to make. The ballot should not contain any barcodes that could be used to count the vote because the voter cannot read the barcodes and therefore cannot know the selections on the ballot. (One machine being considered in SC counts votes by reading the barcodes on the ballot.)

(3) The voter casts the vote. She probably feeds her ballot into an optical scan machine at the precinct that reads her ballot and then drops it into a ballot box. These ballots are the official record of the vote. They can be recounted and audited.

(4) After the election a risk-limiting audit should be performed on a random sample of the ballots in order to ensure that the ballots have been counted correctly. (LWVSC should include this requirement in its position statement.)

All currently available voting systems use paper ballots, so we can be sure that our next system will also use them. The discussion will be about when and how the votes are counted. If we insist that the voter be given a physical ballot to cast and that the results be tallied from the ballots that the voter has approved and cast, we eliminate the electronic files that have been shown to be an easy target for fraud.

*Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

<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>		

### 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).

### League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

*Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties*

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633