



THE VOTER

November 2018, Vol. 45 No. 8

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

Guest Message

We are writing this column a few days before the November 6th election. We hope the election outcome moves us closer to an equal number of partisan representatives. Even if that happens, however, we are concerned that Congress has proven unable to collaborate across party lines. Incivility, rage and suffering are constant.



Linda Law, Shari Jung, Janet Marsh and Paula Appling

It is up to us, we the people, to take the action we desire of our representatives ... talking with and listening to folks different from us. And, this we can do. "We" includes all of us. The LWV, with its motto of Making Democracy Work, is particularly engaged and supports development of a Better Angels organization.

Better Angels of the Clemson Area (CABA) offers a safe place for local citizens of liberal and conservative beliefs to explore differences and find common ground. Through workshops and trained moderators, attendees speak thoughtfully and listen fully in a manner that can depolarize our communities, states and nation. The first day-long workshop was October 27th at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Better Angels is a national, grassroots organization, founded in 2016 by two friends, a conservative and a liberal. They understood that if we believe even some of what we hear, read, feel or think of "others," our democracy is endangered. Promoting civility and respect for the other through many Better Angels organizations nationwide, Better Angels intends that when citizens lead in restoring civility, Congress will follow.

If you remember a more civil time, if you want to contribute to a more civil time, join us to make a difference.

Submitted by Paula Appling, Shari Jung, Linda Law and Janet Marsh

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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:

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Vacant, Co- President
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Bill Hare, Treasurer

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Cheryl Lee
Janet Marsh
Cece Parker
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, November 13, 2018
7:00 p.m., OLLI

General Meeting. Rep. Gary Clary, Sen. Thos. Alexander and Sen. Rex Rice have responded to the invitation to give "their assessment of the past session and learn of their priorities for the upcoming session.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
7:15 p.m., OLLI

General Meeting. Environment

Saturday, January 19, 2019
7 a.m., Columbia

SC LEAD

Saturday, January 26, 2019
11 a.m., OLLI

Program planning for state and local.

Tuesday, February 19, 2019
7:15 p.m., OLLI

General Meeting. Artificial Intelligence

OLLI Building

*578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard,
Clemson (864-633-5242)*

Preview of November 13th Meeting – Legislative Panel

Please note that this meeting is on the second Tuesday of November. Annually, before the beginning of each new session in the General Assembly, the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area invites a few local legislators to discuss the accomplishments of the past session and the issues they hope to pursue in the coming session.

Rep. Gary Clary, Sen. Thomas Alexander and Sen. Rex Rice have responded to the invitation to give "their assessment of the past session and learn of their priorities for the upcoming session."

Cheryl Lee reports that the League sent 200 postcards to newly-registered high school students, reminding them to vote on November 6 and listing websites with voting information.

SC House District 10 Candidate Forum



Ansley Fraser confers with Dr. Liz Smith.

South Carolina House District 10 represents a bit of each of Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Counties. The seat became open when the previous holder ran for state office this year. The LWV of Greenville County and the LWV of the Clemson Area jointly sponsored the forum for **West Cox (R)** and **Lucy Hoffman (D)**.

Dr. Elizabeth (“Liz”) Smith, Professor and Department Chair of Politics and International Affairs at Furman University, moderated the forum. Other participants were **Ansley Fraser**, **Ruth Reed**, **Bill Hare**, **Eleanor Hare**, **Dusty Deming** (Greenville) and **Susan Bell** (Greenville).

Submitted by Eleanor Hare



**District 10 Candidate
West Cox (R)**



**District 10 Candidate
Lucy Hoffman (D)**

Update of Directories of Public Officials

In November of even-numbered years, after the dust has settled from the general elections and run-offs, our League updates our Directories of Public Officials, commonly called DPOs. Directories from 2016 are on our website at <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/pubs.html>. Scroll to the bottom of the page.

We give a page or two of a directory to each volunteer, who contacts the local authorities listed on that page and makes changes as needed. Updating a single page usually involves checking with a single official. To help with updating the DPOs, please email DPO@clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org to request an assignment in your area.

New Member Bios



Evelyn Kochansky

Evelyn Kochansky was born in 1920, the year women got the vote, in Brooklyn, NY. She attended Pratt Institute, which is not only an outstanding art college, but also offers degrees in science, literature and home economics, among others. This information is important because Evelyn became proficient in all these areas, teaching most of the above subjects throughout her working career. Her fascinating life with her husband, a designer and publisher with Scholastic Magazines, allowed her to visit all parts of the world and an opportunity to study different cultures. After WWII, she and her husband, like many other soldier families, lived in Levittown, NY, before moving to Stamford, Connecticut where she taught at the King School for 25 years. She and her husband followed daughter Ellen to Pickens, SC in 1981, and she has been a part of The Rensing Center and this community since.

Evelyn is a true Renaissance woman, teaching classes on everything from the study of pollinators to embroidery (She was an early member of the Embroiderers Guild in this area.). She lives in an architecturally-conscious passive solar home, and, at 98 is, a voracious reader of talking books, and the best customer of the South Carolina Library for the Blind. Always the advocate for women and their rights, she says: “Women deal with the basics and essentials of life for years. There comes a time when we must think and get involved. I choose to be involved in the League of Women Voters.”

Mary Hilliard comes to the League of Women Voters’ table with an arsenal of life experiences that touch upon many of our issues. She is presently studying for a degree in the criminal justice system because her search for justice never ends. One example is how helping victims of domestic violence, especially against women, needs refinement. Another example: Mary has two adult children, the oldest of whom is a young man now thirty-four. He was hit by a drunk driver when he was eight, a hit-and-run that left him with traumatic brain injury. Mary was living in California and was compelled to participate in a class action suit against the county and the California Department of Education, because it mishandled funds directed to children with disabilities. Mary is all too familiar with child abuse, sexual abuse issues and sexual harassment in the workplace. She has lived across the country in California, Colorado, Idaho, Georgia and now in South Carolina, where she hopes to spend the remainder of her life. Mary served with the American Red Cross disaster response for Pickens County for three years and is a contra-dancer and English country dancer.



Mary Hilliard

Clemson City Council Candidate Forum



Clemson City Council candidates participated in the League Candidate Forum, answering questions posed by the League and by the public.

I was impressed by the quality of the candidates and wished that we could elect more than three of them to council.

When **Sandra Gray** posed the question, “Name one other candidate who you will vote for and tell us why,” the audience responded with laughter – a laughter that expressed a general feeling of good will in the room. From their answers, the audience learned things about candidates that were unlikely to emerge from the usual questions.

In their closing statements several candidates encouraged those present to participate in the city’s comprehensive long-range planning. One candidate suggested that having election of council members by single-member districts instead of at-large would give a more representative council.

Sandra Gray was moderator and **Alice Flower** time-keeper. **Elaine Laiewski** and **Sarah McNeill** sorted questions from the audience. **Ann Fuhr** and **Charlotte Holmes** provided membership information and passed out index cards for writing questions. What a team!

As one of the audience said to me as he was leaving, “You all really know how to put on a forum!” Yes, we do!

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

The obvious good will and respect of the eight candidates (for three seats) for each other were infectious, and the standing-room-only audience responded with good-natured laughter.

Answers to questions about traffic problems, zoning protection for neighborhoods, the interaction of the university with the city and how to make housing affordable demonstrated that the candidates had been studying these problems and proposing thoughtful approaches.



Alice Flower kept the candidates on schedule, as time-keeper.



Sandra Gray served as moderator for the forum.

Report on October Meeting

While I always find the monthly Clemson Area LWV programs informative, the October 16 program was particularly riveting due both to the speakers, **Eleanor Hare** and **Holley Ulbrich**, and the timeliness of their topics. Eleanor's presentation, Replacing South Carolina's Voting Machines, began with a description of our current voting equipment (iVotronics) and the serious problems inherent in its use. The ease with which this equipment can be hacked and the inability to verify that the vote recorded in memory is correct is enough to disturb any voter's sleep. It was a relief to hear that this equipment is going to be replaced soon.

A commonsense alternative would be to return to voter-marked ballots (the system utilized prior to voting machines) with the addition of scanners to count the votes. The SC Elections Commission, however, wants to replace the current machines with other machines, i.e. Ballot-Marking Tabulators, which are essentially iVotronics voting machines with printers added. Unfortunately, this option does not eliminate the potential for hacking. From a standpoint of fiscal prudence, there is the added concern of the hefty price tag for new ballot-marking tabulators (~ \$62,500,000) compared to voter-marked ballots with scanners (~ \$2,500,000). By the end of Eleanor's presentation, it was easy to conclude that voter-marked ballots were safer, cheaper, and verifiable.

Holley Ulbrich's presentation, "Making Elections Better," focused on both state and national issues. Of particular interest to me were the pros and cons of our current method of electing the Superintendent of Education versus giving the governor the right to appoint the Superintendent of Education (a constitutional amendment on the upcoming SC ballot). As a voter and former high school teacher, my biggest concern was to learn that the General Assembly does not specify that appointees must have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience in K-12 public education.

Prior to Holley's presentation, I had not heard of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Intrigued, I explored the subject further and was not surprised to find that the League assembled a collection of readings (National Popular Vote Compact Suggested Resource List) that offer pros and cons on this topic. Ultimately, it was reassuring to be reminded once again of the huge resource of nonpartisan information we have in the League.

Submitted by Janet Scott

IPCC and You (and Me)

The topic that most engages me is climate change. As a retired biologist, I know that data about climate change have been gathered/compiled for many decades. When I was a graduate student (in the early 1970s), my vocabulary did not yet include the phrase climate change. Even with our "vocabulary deficit," my fellow biologists and I were fully aware that biological habitats were changing.

We understood that our data about population sizes and habitat distributions "looked different" from comparable data gathered by our predecessors. My strongest personal impressions about such data came from developmental biology studies about Ecuadorian-dwelling tree frogs because I was personally acquainted with the scientist conducting them.

IPCC and You (and Me) Continued

Now, decades later, I remain aware of numerous biological studies of “biological discontinuities” about specific study subjects. For me, each of these studies provides reminders that “things are changing”. By 2014, many of these “biological discontinuities” were summarized in a book by **Elizabeth Kolbert** entitled *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*. These days reports of “biological discontinuities” are available from many sources. I am especially impressed by climate change coverage by both the BBC and *The Guardian*.

Biologists are not the only scientists to report effects of climate change. Geoscientists report these effects also. In 1988, climate scientist, **Dr. James Hansen**, presented testimony about climate change to the U.S. Congress. In that same year, the United Nations established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to assess climate change and provide possible response strategies.

The most recent IPCC report was released a few weeks ago. Authors of this report were asked to focus specifically on differences we can expect between average global temperature rises of 1.5°C vs 2.0°C. With each passing year significant amounts of additional scientific data are added to what we know about impacts of increasing global temperatures. The authors of the most IPCC report incorporated all available data into it. Their results are both clear and completely in keeping with earlier reports: a rise of 1.5°C rather than of 2.0°C would be significantly less devastating to life on planet earth. They acknowledge that limiting further increases in planet temperatures to 1.5°C will be hard. Those who want to see more details about these differences can find the IPCC report online.

Despair among scientists with respect to climate change and its impact on our planet is wide spread. I count myself among those in despair. From that place, I am always looking for signs of hope on this subject. Among my current Hopeful Signs are these:

Ethics of Climate Change. This is a course at MIT developed and taught by **Kieran Setiya** and **Caspar Hare**. Their course provides a moral philosopher’s toolkit for addressing environmental problems. The course is one of the most popular offerings at MIT. I am encouraged to learn that engineers can be engaged by study of climate change ethics. I hope there are many other courses like this at other institutions!

- **Juliana, et al. v. United States of America, et al.** This groundbreaking federal lawsuit began in 2015 when 21 youth plaintiffs, represented by Our Children’s Trust, bring attention to their claim that our federal government has violated their rights to clean air and water. They claim this violation results from governmental failure to adopt appropriate environmental protection measures.

- **350.org.** In 2007, when this environmental organization was founded, environmentalists were mostly older-middle-class-white people. In the 12 years since its founding, 350.org grassroots organizing has transformed “environmentalism” into a younger-colorful-international coalition working to reduce CO2 emissions. When 350.org was founded, their intention was to keep CO2 emissions below 350 ppm. Now that CO2 emissions exceed 400 ppm, their intention is to return CO2 emissions to below 350 ppm.

Effectively addressing climate change will require building political will for doing so across our country (and indeed around the world). My hope is that now, in the wake of the most recent IPCC report (and using the data contained within it), we can be energized to undertake that work!

Submitted by Cynthia Warner

To access the full report, please visit: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

<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 and contact us at lwvclemson@gmail.com.

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P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633