

Message from the Co-President

Unfortunately, civility is hard to codify or legislate, but you know it when you see it. It's possible to disagree without being disagreeable. Sandra Day O'Connor



Is civility dead? There is much concern over the loss of civility today. It is becoming harder for those on opposite sides of an issue to identify common ground.

And it is this common ground that allows us to find solutions to our problems. The levels of uncivil discourse that we are experiencing today did not pop up overnight. Nine years ago, a South Carolina Congressman shot to the top of the “uncivil discourse” chart, when he screamed “you lie” as the President of the United States addressed a joint session of Congress. He received national attention – and a reprimand from the House of Representatives. It is hard to turn on a tv news program today and not hear egregious examples of bad, and uncivil behavior.

Do we long for the days when, decades ago, senators and representatives would fight tooth and nail on the floor of the chamber, then retire to share drinks and cigars and laughs? Tip O'Neill reported that members of Congress in the 90s were more “ethical and honest” than in the past, but far less effective. He remembered some lawmakers of the 50s as drunken womanizers or shysters making illegal financial deals, yet they passed some monumental legislation such as the Interstate Highway Act, laws that removed the ban on Asian and African immigration and that opened the doors to integration. These days, it seems, fewer legislators are willing to work together as divisions and distrust deepen.

Civil discourse is critical to building trust. But this is often easier in theory than in practice. The National Institute for Civil Discourse is a partner of LWVUS, and has proposed several simple tips to achieve positive, effective communication.

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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
Janie Shipley, Co-President
Ann Russell, Secretary
Bill Hare, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Catherine Farris
Cheryl Lee
Janet Marsh
Fran Rundlett
Elizabeth Vogt
Patty Warner

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Cece Parker, Advocacy Coordinator
Linda Gahan, Co-Program and Action
Diana Stafford, VOTER Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Reggie Turetzky
Elizabeth Adams
Christine Prado

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 14, 2018	Advocacy 101 Workshop sponsored by Greenville League of Women Voters. 10:00 – 11:30 am; Greenville Library, Pelham Rd, Greenville. To register email jean.wood@charter.net .
Sunday, April 15, 2018	Chasing Coral a Netflix documentary on the rapid decline of coral reefs. Sponsored by Conservation Voters of SC; co-sponsored by LWVCA. 5:00-7:00 pm; Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 Edgewood Dr. Clemson. RSVP: lindsey@cvsc.org
Tuesday, April 17, 2018	LWVCA general membership meeting – Healing the Divide; 7:15 OLLI
Thursday, April 19, 2018	SC Gubernatorial Candidate Debate, sponsored by LWVSC and The West Center, Winthrop University, Rock Hill; 7:00 – 8:30
Saturday, April 28, 2018	LWVSC State Council Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Columbia, 9:00-3:00
Tuesday, May 8, 2018	LWVCA Annual Meeting; Speaker Brooks Brown, Ph.D., J.D., Coordinator of Law, Liberty and Justice Program at Clemson University; 6:00 pm; Occasions at Wedgefield
June 28 – July 1, 2018	LWV National Convention, Chicago
<i>OLLI Building</i>	<i>578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)</i>
<i>Occasions at Wedgefield</i>	<i>1551 Eighteen Mile Road, Central</i>

PROPOSED LOCAL STUDY

By Eleanor Hare

After the 2020 census Pickens County will have seven districts for School Board and six districts for County Council. Currently, Pickens County has the same six districts for both School Board and County Council. The change in districts will increase the number of ballot types, increasing the complexity of elections. The proposed study examines the advisability of changing the number of County Council districts to the same number as School Board districts.

Co-President's Message Continued

1. Enter a conversation or meeting with an open mind.
2. Listen carefully and respectfully. This gives you an opportunity to better understand the background of that viewpoint.
3. Do not be afraid to ask questions, but ask them in a respectful manner.
4. Avoid non-verbal cues. Be aware of your own biases and reactions. Be careful of your facial expressions, body language, etc.
5. Stay engaged with the person to whom you are speaking and be present in the conversation. For example, do not text while others are talking.
6. One voice at a time. Let the person finish talking; do not begin to speak over him/her. Be patient.
7. Avoid name-calling and other disrespectful actions. If the speaker said something that offended you, express your concerns peacefully.
8. Accept differences. Sometimes you must agree to disagree.

I hope you will be able join us for our next program on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:15 p.m., which will be presented by LWVCA member Shari Jung. The topic is Healing the Divide. We hope his will help us kick-start our own efforts at restoring civility in public and personal discourse.

Janie Shipley

Preview of April 17 General Meeting – Healing the Divide

By Shari Porter Jung, LCSW, LMFT, CGP

Underneath this country's political schism, there exists a corresponding cultural and/or societal divide. We all experience it: an overarching fear, disrespect, righteousness, incivility and often deep anger. These basic human feelings, although common to mankind throughout the ages, now threaten the effectiveness of our democracy.

It is helpful but not enough to vote new leaders into Congress. We the people can and must create a culture in which we return to our basic principles of inclusion, connection and civil discourse.

This presentation is about hope, healing and communication. It will focus on the relevant work being done around our nation and ways we might participate in healing both ourselves and subsequently healing our divided nation.

New Member Bio



Molly Dunn-Devine

A proud alumna of the Georgia Southern University Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design program, Molly Dunn-Devine moved to Clemson in 2015 to further her marketing career. She has served on the Executive Board for the Pickens County Democratic Party from 2016 to 2017, where she created and implemented the IMPACT series, a program focused on discussing social issues.

She has also worked on state and national political campaigns, most recently as a Deputy Campaign Manager for Hosea Cleveland and was chosen as the 2017 Pickens County Representative for the James E. Clyburn Political Fellowship. Molly has a mission to engage young voters and currently runs a blog that promotes social justice advocacy and voter education.

Aside from politics, Molly works as the Practice Representative for Advantage Chiropractic and loves the “Phillies!”

Annual Meeting and Dinner at Occasions at Wedgefield

**The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area
invites members and their guests
to our Annual Meeting
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of LWVCA**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Gathering and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Occasions at Wedgefield, 1551 Eighteen Mile Road
Central, SC 29630**

Dinner: \$25 per person

Deadline for reservations: April 28, 2018

**Make reservation by email wrhare@earthlink.net or phone 864.654.4417
Mail checks to LWVCA to: P.O. Box 802, Clemson SC 29633 or pay at the door.**

2018 Wine Tasting Roundup

By Catherine Watt

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this year’s wine tasting. To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, we had about 50 people come out to Mill Creek Lodge and drink about 30 bottles of wine! We continue to think this is the best location for this annual event, and I think we’ve even learned more about what wines people like to try.

There are many to thank: a special thank you to Catherine Farris and her decorating squad including Ansley Fraser, Cheryl Lee and Liz Vogt. They took a blank slate and created a warm and festive spot to put us in the mood to celebrate St Patrick’s Day. Mike Hammig, Catherine Farris and Sheila Crawford contributed to/assisted with the raffle items. Ken Marsh managed the sound system and regaled the group with music and limericks. Bill Hare was the official greeter and ticket-taker.

If you missed out, we enjoyed six different varieties of wine (ask me for the list). I think I learned that the League prefers red, so maybe we’ll adapt some for next year. Wines were all under \$15 and all are available at Total Wine of Greenville. As for me, I enjoyed serving wine for a couple of hours and appreciate all who attended.

After our expenses, we profited about \$1200 which will make our Treasurer happy. We should already be looking forward to next year!

Follow-up note from the LWVCA Board: Catherine Watt was a sommelier par excellence. Sincere appreciation to her and the planning committee for executing a wildly successful wine tasting fundraiser!

Nominating Committee Report

The following slate of officers will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting:

Co-President (2018-2019)	Ansley Fraser
Co-President (2018-2020)	Frances Rundlett
Vice-President Program and Action (2018-2020)	Matt Saltzman
Secretary (2018 – 2020)	Janet Scott
Directors (2018 – 2019)	Mike Ellison and Ruth Reed
Directors (2018 – 2020)	Catherine Farris, Cheryl Lee, Janet Marsh, Cece Parker
Nominating Committee (2018 – 2019)	Carol Kozma, Janie Shipley, and Carol Ward

From Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Adams, Janet Marsh, Christine Prado, Janie Shipley, and Reggie Turetzky

You can watch the South Carolina Legislature in action at
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov>.

Report on March Meeting



Rosanne Pruitt

LWV Clemson Area met on Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. Janie Shipley, Co-President, opened the meeting and announced the success of the wine tasting event. Catherine Watt gave away the secret to success (you had to be there). Janie thanked Catherine Watt and Farris and ALL who assisted in making this fund raiser possible.

Cheryl Lee announced that 453 students have been registered SO FAR! Dates for upcoming high school and college voter registration events will be sent to the membership by email. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in making democracy work!

The evening's speaker, Rosanne Pruitt, is a Clemson University professor of nursing. The focus of her presentation was the legislation that will expand the services that nurse practitioners (NPs) can provide. Given the shortage of general practice doctors, this bill is vital (no pun intended) to us all. South Carolina and neighboring states allow NPs a restricted practice. For example, they must work within 45 miles of a practicing physician, hardly a practical constraint considering the rural nature of the south. Also, with technology allowing face to face electronic consultations, geographic proximity is no longer so relevant.

With more privileges NPs could serve as basic medical providers, which we desperately need since many physicians today are specialists. Full practice NPs in many states provide communities with better medical service overall, save everyone money, and lower hospitalization rates. In rural areas, NPs comprise some 50% of primary care providers.

Rosanne Pruitt has created a lobbying machine! Large groups of NP students descend upon the state house to address legislators. The students are dressed in white lab coats and appear as dedicated professionals fighting for the cause of a just medical community. They train with partners using video feedback to streamline their talking points. Their repeat visits (4 years at last count) have produced results. The Senate bill S345 has passed and with slight modifications the House bill, H3773, is working its way through the system. Students unable to travel to Columbia write letters to their federal and state legislators as a part of their curriculum. Rosanne Pruitt is educating her students in life-giving procedures and in life-expanding skills.

As a sidebar, Janet Marsh reported on the Foothills Community Health Center, which is federally qualified and funded. It is available to all citizens on a sliding-fee basis. Our next meeting (April 17), features member Shari Jung, a mental health care professional, who will assist us in "Healing the Divide" in our families, our communities, our world.

By Elizabeth Adams

LET'S GO TO STATE COUNCIL

State Council is an opportunity to exchange ideas with League members from other parts of South Carolina. Members from around the state will gather in Columbia April 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbia. Lunch is included. Speakers include former South Carolina Senator Joel Lourie discussing redistricting strategy and USC Professor of Political Science, Robert Oldendick, talking about primary watching and the changing South Carolina political landscape. Round-table workshops on advocacy issues and league organization.

Registration fees will be paid for our members and the Board will help arrange carpools. If you are interested in attending, please contact Janie Shipley at: janrel@mindspring.com, or Eleanor Hare at: eleanorhare@gmail.com.

Student Voter Registration Gets Underway

By Cheryl Lee

Many of you have signed up to register voters. We are well on our way to giving every eligible high school student the opportunity to register this year. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers for local festivals in the tri-county area.

In addition to signing students up, we are handing them a brochure entitled "Congratulations! You Are Registered to Vote! NOW WHAT?," a READY- SET, -VOTE sticker, and several pamphlets on such titles as Absentee Voting, SCVotes.org, and Vote411.org. Also, students are given the opportunity to self-address a post card which will be mailed to them two weeks before the June 12th primary with voting information. Each school will be given a classroom set of the United States Constitution to share in class. They have been most appreciative of this small gift.

Our goal is not only get numbers of registrations but to get these students to the polls. Only about one in four votes at this age level. However, with recent tragic events, marches, and other news-making situations, along with our classroom lectures, we hope to make a small dent in these statistics.

The LWVCA has partnered with Indivisible, Anderson Democrats, Progressive Women of Anderson, and Jr. League of Anderson to register 327 young voters in Anderson's five school districts. Also, in Pickens County we have registered 229 with Easley High School, the largest school, to be visited April 10-11th. That's 556 so far, and we have all of Oconee to work on.

There are many more opportunities available. Everything that you need to register voters, as well as play-by-play directions will be given to you if you choose to organize one or two of the following: Tri-County Technical College, Anderson University, local festivals such as Central Railroad Festival, or other local events. Frequently I get calls and we need members to "man the fort." Are you willing to head up the following?

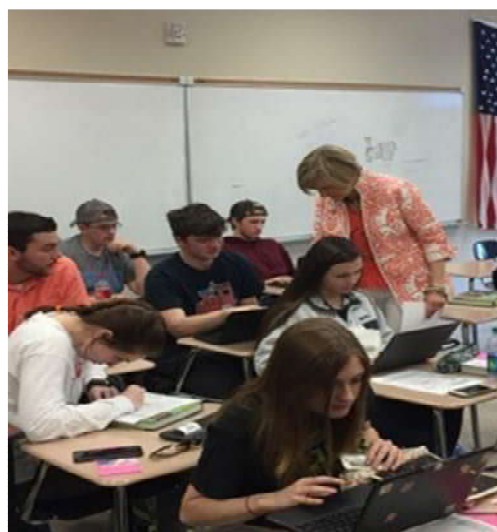
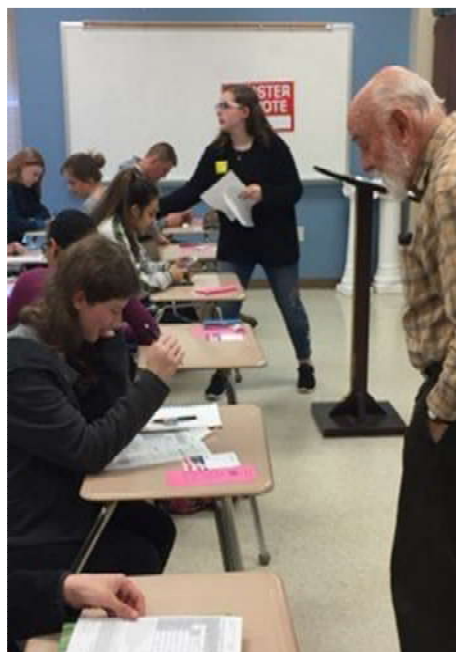
**Tri-County Technical College - Contact - Mary Geren - 864-260-6758 or
mgeren@tctc.edu**
Anderson University - Contact - 864-231-2030
Central Railroad Festival - 864-654-1200 - info@centralrrfestival.com

Also, if you are interested in helping Linda Gahan or Reggie Turetzky in Oconee, please give them a call. Seneca High School is scheduled for April 18-19th but we need volunteers for all schools in Oconee County. Additionally, I will be going to Easley High School April 10-11.

Remember, registering voters is only one part of the program but this comes first. As we continue to provide this service, we can do our best to educate our population with our Vote411.org website and in many other ways. Please volunteer to help with our voter registration projects.

Student Voter Registration at Daniel High School

Board members, Cheryl Lee and Bill Hare, and student intern Ashley Levesque visited Daniel High School on four separate days to help eligible students register in a successful voter drive!



Proposed Changes to Bylaws and Proposed Budget

Current Wording

Article V, Board of Directors

Section 1. Numbers, manner of selection and term of office. The Board of Directors of the LWVCA shall consist of five (5) elected officers, six (6) elected directors, and not more than six (6) appointed directors. Three of the elected directors shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall serve a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors not exceeding six, as they deem necessary, to carry on the work of the League.

Proposed Change

Article V, Board of Directors

Section 1. Numbers, manner of selection and term of office. The Board of Directors of the LWVCA shall consist of five (5) elected officers, eight (8) elected directors, and not more than eight (8) appointed directors. Four of the elected directors shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall serve a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary, to carry on the work of the League.

Current Wording

Article IX, Financial Administration, Sec. 2. Dues.

The amount of the annual dues shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting on the proposed budget at the annual meeting. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of September....

Proposed Change

Article IX, Financial Administration, Sec. 2. Dues.

The amount of the annual dues shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting on the proposed budget at the annual meeting. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of September and shall be received no later than the first day of December.

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	5,100	PMP-LWVUS	2,720
Member contributions	250	PMP-LWVSC	1,190
ED Fund contributions	1,000	VOTER	
Fund Raising		Printing	850
Wine-tasting	1,000	Postage	560
Non-member contributions	100	Website	250
Annual Meeting	1,000	Go-Daddy	30
Misc. (from reserves)	4,000	Convention/council	
		National	3,600
		State	1,000
		Board Tools	
		Program/Action	200
		President	150
		Membership	300
		Voter Ed/Services	100
		Fund Raising	100
		Miscellaneous	350
		Citizenship award at DHS	50
		Annual Meeting	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,450	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,450

Clemson City Council *1st and 3rd Monday, 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 Tuesday, 6:00 pm*
Anderson County Council *2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm*

Pickens County School Board *4th Monday, 7:00 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 _____

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.

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area

Serving the Citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson Counties

P. O. Box 802

Clemson, SC 29633