



THE VOTER

March 2018, Vol.45 No.3

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

Message from the Co-President

South Carolina elections are not exciting. Far from it! Most seats in the South Carolina legislature are not contested and there is little interest in going to the polls when there are so few races on the ballot.

The result is low voter turnout and denial of the voters' right to choose their representatives.



When Oconee County residents went to the polls in November 2016, they could vote in at most five races: President, US Senator (Tim Scott won), US Representative (Jeff Duncan won), School Board 4th District (Denise McCormick won) and Keowee Fire District. The other fifteen candidates were opposed by "write-in."

It was the same story across South Carolina. In 2016, of 124 seats in the SC House, only 34 had both a Democrat and a Republican in the race. The SC Senate was even worse. Only 7 of 46 seats were contested by both major parties. Voters deserve better! Voters deserve the right to elect their representatives!

Much of the lack of competition is due to "safe" districts, voting districts in which the incumbent is so likely to win that the opposing party thinks running a candidate is a waste of time, money, and effort. "Safe" districts are frequently created by gerrymandering, when voters the incumbent wants are packed into his district and voters he doesn't want are pushed into neighboring districts. In South Carolina legislators draw the voting maps, so they have the ability to push voters in and out of their districts. (Ever wonder why voting districts have such strange shapes? Now you know.)

We propose taking partisan politics out of drawing the voting map. The League supports H.4456, which creates a bipartisan reapportionment commission, provides for public hearings of their proposed map, and includes deadlines for adoption. We hope that this plan will eliminate "safe" districts and encourage politicians to offer voters a choice.

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

P. O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633

www.lwvclemsonarea.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 17, 2018	Wine Tasting FUNdraiser. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Mill Creek Lodge
Tuesday, March 20, 2018	LWVGC General Meeting on Election Integrity Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rm. 209 A/B, 2310 Augusta St., Greenville, SC
Tuesday, March 27, 2018	Health Care Update 7:15 p.m. OLLI
Tuesday, April 17, 2018	General Meeting –Healing the Divide, 7:15 p.m. OLLI
Thursday, April 19, 2018	Governor Candidate Debate. Sponsored jointly by LWVSC and The West Center, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 2018	State Council Meeting, Columbia
Saturday, May 5, 2018	Registration Deadline for June Primary
Tuesday, May 8, 2018	Annual Dinner Meeting. Occasions at Wedgefield
Tuesday, June 12, 2018	Primary Elections. Don't miss your opportunity to be heard.
Thursday, June 28, 2018-	53rd LWV National Convention. Creating a More Perfect Democracy
OLLI Building	578 Issaqueena Trail, 100 Thomas Green Clemson Boulevard, Clemson (864-633-5242)
Mill Creek Lodge	541 Pike Road, Central
Occasions at Wedgefield	1551 Eighteen Mile Road, Central

SAVE THE DATE FOR STATE COUNCIL

April 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbia. Lunch will be included. The agenda has not been completed, but Senator Joel Lourie of Richland County is a confirmed speaker. Another speaker will be announced soon.

Two afternoon round-table workshops will be led by League members with expertise in specific areas. Round-table topics will include getting ready for the primaries, planning an issue-based program, redistricting and fundraising, member engagement and leadership development, and dealing with nuclear wastes.

State Council is held in even numbered years and Convention in odd numbered years. The only other LWVSC statewide meeting is LEAD Day (Leadership, Education and Advocacy Day), held every January in Columbia.

Changing Healthcare through Legislation

Several of South Carolina's rural counties will be losing their only healthcare provider with impending physician retirement. Nurse practitioners are available to fill the gap, however current SC regulation limits distances from a physician preceptor. Bills currently in the SC Senate and House have the potential to rectify this situation and ease some of the most restrictive laws in the US. This session will discuss current practice restrictions and efforts to pass autonomy legislation to meet health needs.

Rosanne Pruitt, PhD, FNP-BC is a professor in the Clemson University School of Nursing. She holds degrees from Emory University, USC and University of Maryland. Dr. Pruitt's current teaching includes Health Policy and Advanced Assessment. Her research is focused on health promotion. She has recently completed research with undergraduate honors students focused on the research supporting herb use. She mentors graduate nurse practitioner students each week with the Sullivan Center in locations around the update. She is married to Dr. John Pruitt and mother to two grown sons.

LWVCA Participates in Vote411

Vote411.org provides "the election information you need," including nationwide online voter registration and helpful information about provisional voting, absentee voting and election dates.

Visitors to the Vote411 web site can also search for "Candidate and Ballot Information," which includes voter guides. The League of Women Voters of South Carolina will provide the information for the voter guides.

The SC State Board is developing questions for statewide offices (Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, etc.) and will suggest questions for U.S. House of Representative candidates. Our League is responsible for sending questions to candidates for District 3 U.S. House of Representatives, statehouse representatives for our three-county area, and local races, such as county council and probate judge. We may use the questions suggested by our SC State Board or develop our own.

During March we will formulate questions. When candidates have completed filing for the primaries on March 30, our leagues will be ready with questions to send to the candidates. When the candidates return their answers, we will post them to Vote411. Preparing questions, contacting candidates, and posting candidate replies is a huge task, but a rewarding one. Everyone, including news media, will have easy access to candidate responses.

We have not tried to provide voter guides recently because some candidates would not reply. We expect that 2018 will be different.

STATEHOUSE ACTION: Ask your senator to oppose H 3529, the "ban the ban" bill, which prohibits localities from passing bills to (among other things) limit or tax plastic bags.

New Member Bios



Liz Purcell grew up in Clemson. She moved to Syracuse in 1977 and moved back to Clemson 40 years later, now living in the home in which she grew up. She is busy with the renovation of her parents' home.

She received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Syracuse University in 1981. When she returned to South Carolina, she lived in Greenville for 30 years, teaching psychology classes at Greenville Tech for 15 years.

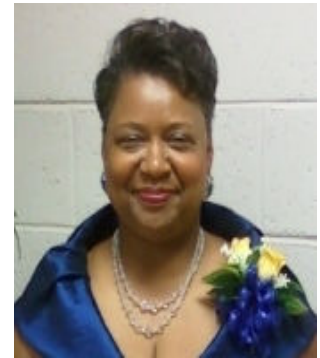
Her sister will join her in Clemson in the next year or so, where they will live together. Liz has one daughter who lives in Greenville. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, participates in the Concerned

Third, a political discussion/action group, and enjoys yoga and volunteering at the South Carolina Botanical Garden. She joined the League because she "needs to do something" ... make democracy more viable, voting easier, government structures less confusing.

Shelia Crawford has served as President of the Pickens County NAACP since 1999. In joining the LWVCA, she wants to join NAACP efforts with League efforts, where feasible, to maximize voter service activities. The focus of the two organizations is the same: voter education, registration and participation. As she says, "Why reinvent the wheel when we can network."

Born in Greenville, SC, Shelia moved to Liberty in 1982. Raising two children and ensuring equal opportunities for them and all children was not always easy but she found support and willing acceptance along the way from both the African American and white communities. She is proud of her adult children and has 8 grandchildren, all living near her in Liberty.

Shelia is retired from Ellucian Inc., a higher education software company. She continues as a Senior Consultant with the company, working when she wants.



Ellen Kochansky was born in New York. She studied at Syracuse University, where the winter was bitter, motivating her to move to Pickens County in 1970.

Two children, now full-on adults, and a grandchild, motivate her to concentrate on the urgent state of the planet, and to join LWV in hopes of helping move hearts and laws. From her home in Pickens, in a national career spanning over 40 years, she actively promotes the arts, craft traditions, and environmentally responsible practices.

For her company, EKO, she designed and manufactured custom quilts from 1989 to 2004. In 2009 she founded the Rensing Center, a non-profit international residency program, to further these goals. She served on the Pickens County Cultural Commission and on the City of Clemson's Green Ribbon Commission. She has been an American Craft Council Trustee, a founding Director of Ripple Effect Sustainable Design Group, and a two-time Fellow of the South Carolina

Arts Commission, as well being the creator of an array of teaching, jurying, and national and international collections at institutions such as the Mint Museum, the American Museum of Art and Design in NY, and the White House Collection. A list of exhibitions, commissions, awards and more can be found on her website: www.ekochansky.com.

Review of the February 20th Meeting on Climate Change



“Sixteen of the seventeen hottest years on record have occurred since 2001.”

Dr. Dan Warner began his presentation on climate change data by listing the contributions of scientists to understanding the effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Graphs were shown that pictorially represented the history of global temperature, using recent measurements and the results of analyzing ice cores from Antarctica. As global temperatures continue to rise, scientists predict an increase in weather extremes, including floods and forest fires.

Finally, to help us lobby for our future climate, Dan presented a list of bills currently filed in South Carolina: H.4425 (Public Utility Consumer Protection Act), H.4421 (Electric Consumer Bill of Rights Act), S.44/H.3079 (Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Resources), H4304 (Definition of Offshore Wind Development Resources), and H.4317 (Prohibit transportation of offshore oil to land).

Submitted by Eleanor Hare, Co-President

Membership News – Numbers and Testimonial

Bill Hare reports that LWVCA has experienced a significant increase in membership. In January 2017, LWVCA included 72 members; in January 2018, 105 members.

This increase is the result of at least two factors: current members inviting friends to join. We thank you! The other factor is the uncertain times in which we live. Our mission, Making Democracy Work, resonates with many folks!

With the permission of Julie Ogletree, a relatively recent member, I am copying an unexpected accolade to LWVCA I received in an email from her.

“I’ve been wanting to tell you that the 50th Anniversary celebration last week was really inspiring, hearing about the work and history of Clemson’s story in particular, and involving women who are still involved even today. It helped me, as someone new to LWV, to better understand the type of work the League has been and is involved with, and ways I might contribute. I can see that individual initiative has been such a crucial part. It’s unfortunate that I didn’t join until last summer! But I’m definitely inspired to seek out the League in whichever place we’ll be next.”

Thank you, Julie, and all others who contribute to LWVCA!!!

Submitted by Janet Marsh, Chair

Advocacy Report

On February 17, buses from Greenville, Beaufort, and Charleston areas converged on Columbia carrying members of the LWV's, Sierra Club, and others to voice their disapproval of our current Federal administration's plans to pursue oil and gas testing and drilling off the coast of South Carolina. Ruth Reed, Cece Parker and other LWV members such as Lynn Teague joined more than 200 protesters on the SC State House steps for a rally sponsored by the Coastal Conservation League, Oceana and others. The rally was followed by a forum at the Double Tree Hotel to hear more speakers and experts about why off-shore drilling would be detrimental, not just for SC, but



United States. Both events were organized because of the BOEM (federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) "town hall" meeting that was also at the Double Tree Hotel at the same time. This was a type of "science fair" in which federal employees had "stations" at which they demonstrated each aspect of the oil drilling and testing plans and development process.

The speakers on the Capitol steps who spoke passionately and eloquently included a wide range of both Democrats and Republicans. Starting the morning was US Rep. and former Governor Mark Sanford (R-Charleston) who said that every single coastal municipality in South Carolina had come out against drilling. Other speakers included a spokesperson for Gov. McMaster, Democratic candidate for Governor James Smith, and many SC Representatives and Senators from the upstate, midlands, and coastal areas. Clemson area Rep. Gary Clary spoke against drilling as did an equal number of Democrats and Republicans who were announced in pairs. The speakers here did not touch on particularly sensitive or "radical" topics because almost all were state officials and rarely mentioned climate change or global warming.

Later at the Double Tree Hotel, speakers became somewhat more passionate. Spokespersons represented fishing families of SC, the chartered boat industry, the tourism industry, real estate, fisheries, Parks Recreation and Tourism, and mayors of Myrtle Beach and Edisto Island. One of the first female oil riggers, spoke of the filth and harm caused, not just by the possibility of oil spills, but by the infrastructure created to maintain the drilling such as refineries, pipelines and the constant plowing through our coastal waters of oil tankers and the filth they generate. But most impressive of all speaking was Marquette Goodwine, also known as Queen Quet of the Gullah/Geechie Nation.

As an activist speaking out against oil drilling as a threat to a centuries old culture on the sea islands from Jacksonville NC to Jacksonville FL, Queen Quet whose home is St. Helena Island in Beaufort has been honored by Oceana in Washington DC with their Oceans Hero Award. She has spoken at the UN in Geneva and recorded the story of the Gullah/Geechie people at UNESCO headquarters in Paris for the UN archives. Among many other things, she said the only oil we need in South Carolina is the oil to fry our fish and shrimp in. Amen to that!!

Submitted by Cece Parker, Advocacy Coordinator

Clemson League 50th Anniversary Celebration



On January 30, 1968 a group of committed women gathered in Clemson to sign their names to officially establish the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area., and we have been going great guns ever since!

On January 30, 2018, we had a special celebration of this event at the Clemson OLLI Building, to commemorate the founding of our organization fifty years ago. Our charter members were there to regale us with tales of those early days – and to remind us of why we are STILL working to make democracy work for everyone.

1st row: Fran Rundlett, Janet Marsh, Patty Warner, Reggie Turetzky, Eleanor Hare, Ann Russell, Ada Lou Steirer, Frances Plotnik, Julie Ogletree, Ellen Reneke, and Ansley Fraser

2nd row: Paul Holmes, Mike Hammig, Brad Russell, Stuart Rundlett, Ashley Levesque, Dan Warner, Catherine Farris, Catherine Mobley, Sarah McNeill, Holley Ulbrich, Linda Gahan, Bonnie Holaday, Charlotte Holmes, Sharon Fennell, Rosellen Alequire, Carol Ward, Shelia Crawford, Shari Jung, Linda Law, Alice Flower, Katherine James, Ann Fuhr, Janie Shipley, and Ken Marsh

3rd row: J.C. Cook, Elizabeth Branstead, Matt Saltzman, Cheryl Lee, Aleta Robinson, Bill Hare, Eunice Lehmacher, Dalton James, (unidentified), and Bob Fennell

Not pictured: Vera Anand, Paula Appling, and Elizabeth Vogt

STATEHOUSE ACTION: Ask your representative to support S 954, a joint resolution that would allow for a thorough investigation of the problems with the failed nuclear plant before taking corrective action.

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.

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