



THE VOTER

May 2017 Volume 44 No.5

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

Message from the President

This will be my last message to you as co-president. As most of you know, I was elected co-president of the state League, and will be directing my energies there, which means that I will not complete the second year of my two-year term. In fact, I will not even be serving on the Board as immediate past president, because I need that space to shift my focus from local to state. I can't remember the last time I was not on the Board, either as president or as VP for Program and Action. As a 50 year member of the League and one of five remaining charter members, it has been a great run, and I think this League is ready for 50 more. But I'll be around, at meetings and serving on the Program and Action team.



With Janie Shipley and Eleanor Hare at the helm, LWVCA will be in good hands. We have had a remarkable year with tremendous membership growth, good programs and social events, lots of advocacy and a great year's work in voter advocacy and education. We have elected some outstanding people to the school board, the county council and the state legislature, and enjoy a cordial and mutually respectful relationship with most of our state and local elected officials. In keeping with our mission of informed citizen participation in government, our theme at every level continues to be Making Democracy Work. In South Carolina, that means emphasis on voter access and participation and getting ready for redistricting.

We are thrilled to be approaching the magic number of 100 members. Some join to support us, some to learn, and some to become involved. We appreciate our members at whatever level of engagement they choose, but we hope more of you will find ways to become active in some way. We encourage you to use your gifts and talents to help our cities and counties, our state and nation, become better, safer, more compassionate, more thoughtful and more neighborly places to live and work and grow the next generation. There are many organizations that can help address that vision, but the League's central role in that is in promoting good government through citizen activism.

League takes something of a break and regrouping over the summer to come back recharged for fall, starting with Women's Equality Day on August 29th. Have a great summer and mark your calendars for August 29th and third Tuesdays thereafter to be informed, engaged, and effective in the work ahead of us.

Holley Ulbrich

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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

OFFICERS:

Eleanor Hare Co-President
Holley Ulbrich, Co- President
Catherine Watt, VP/Program & Action
Ann Russell, Secretary
Bill Hare, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Lyn Norton
Patty Warner
Sandra Gray
Cheryl Lee
Janet Marsh

Catherine Farris

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Paula Appling, Mem. Co-Chair
Elaine Laiewski, Publicity Chair
Diana Stafford, *Voter* Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Aug. 29, Women's Equality Day - 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Tuesday, Sep. 19, General Meeting - TBA 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Tuesday, Oct. 17, General Meeting - TBA 7:15 p.m. OLLI Building

Check the website for further information: clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org

Annual Meeting



Betty Bagley strikes a note with League of Women Voters Clemson Area at annual dinner meeting.

The League of Women Voters was most fortunate to welcome former Anderson District 5 Superintendent and current Pickens County School Board Trustee Betty Bagley as keynote speaker for its annual dinner meeting. Betty, whose work on behalf of and inside of schools has spanned a lengthy and notable career, challenged League members and their guests to seek out and live a life of purpose. She shared the story of her educational journey—as student, teacher, parent, administrator, state department of education employee, and then shared with attendees how all of those experiences now inform her work as an elected official.

Her charge, she explained, is setting the vision for the School District of Pickens County, not to administer. And after many years of serving in an administrative role, watching and competing with neighboring school districts (and we learned she does have a competitive streak!), she said she knew that Pickens County deserved better than what it was getting. And that is why now, as a resident of Patrick Square, she sought out the Clemson-area school board seat.

Ms. Bagley knew teachers deserved more than they were receiving in the way of support and encouragement from their trustees. But she also talked about the challenges ahead for all public school children in Pickens County and across the state—notably those who attend schools in the corridor of shame. She brought to light students like her own daughters whose names were placed on a lawsuit two decades ago, demanding that the mandate for an adequate public education be met in the corridor—demands that have been legitimized but have been far from met, even though her girls are now grown professionals.

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State League Convention May 2017

LWVCA Members Help Determine Direction for Next Two Years of LWVSC

Several members of LWVCA were among the sixty-five attendees at the biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, held in April in Columbia. The two-day convention was kicked off with a presentation by the President of LWV of Florida who described the 2007 – 2015 fight for redistricting in Florida. Early decisions in the process, led Floridians to think that the issue had been settled with appropriate boundaries for new districts. Then partisan politics kicked in and it took several years and multiple rulings by the Florida Supreme Court for the new boundaries to be honored.

Another special presentation came from South Carolina native Wycleia Harris, Executive Director of LWV of the United States. She discussed the process being undertaken by the LWVUS Board of Directors leading the effort to define the League's direction as the organization approaches its one-hundredth birthday.

Delegates determined the action priorities for the next two years. Redistricting will receive primary attention, in anticipation of the results of the upcoming census. Other concerns will be voter access, ethics reform, regulatory reform and judicial reform. LWVCA members in attendance were Dianne Haselton, Joanne Shalaby, Ansley Fraser, Eleanor Hare, Elaine Laiewski, Patty Warner, Holley Ulbrich, Cheryl Lee, Elizabeth Adams, Catherine Watt, Janie Shipley and Bill Hare. For the first time in the history of the Clemson Area League, a local member was chosen to lead the state League. Holley Ulbrich was elected Co-President of LWVSC and will serve with Co-President Julie Hussey of Charleston. Eleanor Hare will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of LWVSC.

submitted by Jane Shipley



photos by Eleanor Hare

New Members

Catherine Farris joined the LWVCA in April 2016 at the encouragement of her daughter-in-law, Nicole Paluzzi. During her first year she has readily shared her skills and talents with the League!

Catherine moved to this area 20 years ago and lives on Whitewater Lake, north of Rt. 11. She has a BS in Health Sciences and worked as a Respiratory Therapist in hospitals for 35 years. She is the mother of two sons and grandmother of four grandchildren.



Joanne Shalaby comes to the League with a deep interest in being of service in the community and enjoying social interaction with others. She and her husband moved from New Jersey to Pendleton 26 years ago. They formed Poly-Med, a medical device company with headquarters in Anderson County. One of her sons assumed management of the company 6 years ago after her husband died. She is semi-retired. She has been active in the Elks Lodge of Pendleton for 10 years where she has used her book-keeping skills as well as her desire to be of public service to others. Joanne holds a

doctorate from Rutgers University in Vocational Technical Education and taught in higher education in New Jersey, Georgia and South Carolina. She is the mother of four sons and grandmother of 10.

Her interests/passions include music, art and nature. She loves being outdoors. Motivation for joining the League were her desire to be politically more active.



Ann Fuhr has lived in the Clemson area for thirty years, currently in Clemson Downs. She is the mother of three sons and has eight beloved grandchildren. In addition to her long career in church music, she worked as a counselor on the cancer floor for AnMed for ten years. She is a past recipient of the distinguished Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for her contributions to the community. Ann says that she joined because the League stands for the things she believes in.

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Carolyn Huff and her spouse, James Claeys, joined the LWVCA in February 2017. They are interested in supporting advocacy and voter registration. They are willing to serve in all aspects and issues of the League.

Carolyn and James met in Upstate New York where they were employed at General Electric. They moved to Anderson, SC 20 years ago and continue their employment with GE in Greenville. Carolyn is an Initiatives Leader, with a degree in Chemical Engineering. James is an Emerging Technology Leader with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



They share their enjoyment of hobbies: automobiles and auto racing (BMW race car), water sports, downhill skiing, and good food and good wine.

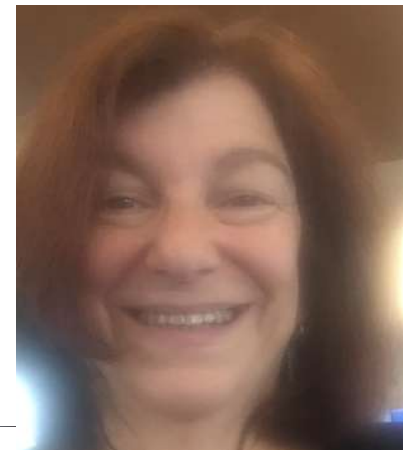


Marty Duckenfield has been in Clemson since 1978 and played various roles in her family, community, and work. With her late husband Chris, she has three children and 8 grandsons. Her entire work life, as well as community interests, have been around education of young people. After 25 years at the National Dropout Prevention Center, she moved over to work part time at Clemson Broadcast Productions to produce education-related videos. In her 20s, she was a member of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Gambier, Ohio, serving on the Welfare Committee and the Education committee.

Jill Gemmill moved to Clemson from Birmingham, Alabama ten years ago to accept employment at Clemson University. She joined the LWVCA in February, 2017.

In Alabama she worked in the textiles industry eventually getting both a Master's Degree and PhD in Computer Science at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB). She worked at the Research Center at UAB until her move to Clemson.

Her work at Clemson University brings together the research needs of faculty and students with the resources of the university to support their research. Frequently that means applying for and managing grants from outside sources.—



Her hobbies are varied: painting, knitting, hiking, dancing. She is the mother of two children and grandmother of four. She is interested in the League because she believes it is time for everyone to be active at the local level.



Cece Parker is a native South Carolinian. She grew up in Union, later graduating with a BA in Liberal Arts and BS in Secondary Ed from Clemson University and an MEd from Southern Wesleyan University.

She held a number of teaching positions in the area, eventually teaching social studies courses at West Oak High School in Oconee County. Following 28 years at West Oak, she retired two years ago. She keeps busy with her husband, renovating three houses they purchased over time.

She and her husband have two sons, one in CA and the other living locally.

LWVCA is attractive to her because she wants to get more politically involved. As a teacher, she felt she had a strong voice through what she taught students in their social studies courses. Now she believes she needs to be active to have her voice heard.

Cassie Thomas joined the League in December 2016 because she felt she needed to take a larger role in the political life of our country. After some research, she found the League which fit the kind of organization she was looking for.

Born in Iowa, she spent much of her early life in Arkansas. She has a MS in Library Science and works in the Pickens County Library System in the Easley Public Library. She loves her work!

Along with her partner she enjoys outdoor life including hiking and lake water sports. She lives in Anderson with her partner and their cat and dog.



Ruth Reed and her husband moved to Clemson in 2016 after both teaching at Juanita College in central Pennsylvania from 1976 – 2014.

Ruth is a native of Clemson, SC. After graduation from Daniel High School, she attended Winthrop University and received a BA in Chemistry. Following a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, she attended Virginia Tech and received a PhD in Biochemistry and Nutrition. Her last education stop was Johns Hopkins, where she did Post-Doctoral work.

As a professor, she had a strong interest in encouraging her students to learn a language and facilitating their study abroad. Countries in which she created opportunities included France, China, India and Mexico.

In League, she wants to learn about and participate in county government issues.



Lois Martin joins LWVCA because she is eager to be involved in activities that promote the issues on which she is concerned. Two of these issues are elevating the role of women in the US; she believes they are undervalued. She also wants to see a greater number of young women involved in the political arena.



Raised in Walhalla, she continues to live there with her husband of 30 years. They have 1 grown child. She received a BS in Sociology from Lander and worked in Child Protective Services at DSS for 24 years. In her retirement, she is working part-time at the Walhalla Public Library.

An active outdoors person, she runs in various events for important causes including the 5K “Band of Brothers” Mount Currahee and the 3 mile Ranger Runs for state parks.

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Ms. Bagley’s record as superintendent of Anderson’s largest school district included bringing six new schools online, updating k-8 curriculum to be more technology based, and implementing a sweeping school choice program that introduced magnet schools throughout the district. It became clear during the keynote that—both through her elected role in Pickens County and via her job--working as field director with Transform SC—Ms. Bagley’s goal is to effect the same brand of innovative changes here in Pickens County and statewide. Handouts that Ms. Bagley shared with audience members explained that TransformSC promotes “world-class knowledge” and “world-class skills” for all children in South Carolina, by “championing efforts to bring innovation, critical-thinking skills, collaboration, and access to cutting-edge media, technology, and communication platforms into every public school classroom.”

“When our students are skipping to the bus and our teachers are dragging to the car,” something is not right, Betty charged toward the end of her speech. Simply put: investing in students means investing in teachers and in our public schools, so that these long-revered institutions of learning might prepare our children for a technology-driven and ever-changing world, one in which they can find their purpose and live it out to the fullest.

submitted by Heidi Williams

Observer Corps Reports

Oconee County Council Notes 4/17/17

The main issue at this meeting was discussion of the suggestion by some farmers for a county-wide agricultural zoning district. There was one public comment against such a district. While such zoning is voluntary, the main sticking point was that once a farmer enters into zoning, he/she cannot return to a “control free” designation. In other words, the type of zoning can be changed to another type, but the farmer cannot return to no zoning. The agricultural zoning request was killed 3 – 2 but the chair noted it may come up again.

In other matters, the chair noted that the county is out of money to distribute to any applicants, including the current request for gravel. Also, the council noted that one appointment is filled and there are two applicants waiting for the remaining committee appointments.

Submitted by Frances M. Rundlett

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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