



THE VOTER

July 2018 Vol. 45. No. 5

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

Co-President's Message

Hi, I hope that you are all having a wonderful summer! South Carolina was well represented at the National LWV Convention in Chicago, which was held June 28th through July 1st. Fran Rundlett and I attended as Co-presidents of our League, along with Cheryl Lee. Holley Ulbrich represented the state League. All of us had a great time, of course, learned from some inspiring speakers, and also did some work. We adopted positions for the League, elected an amazing slate of officers, and voted on bylaw amendments. With approximately 1000 attendees, we had a fantastic opportunity to network and hear what other Leagues from across the country are doing.



Fran and I arrived back home feeling energized about planning for our next year, starting with the Women's Equality Day / Welcome Back Celebration on Tuesday, August 21st. If you would like to help with this event, please contact me (ansleyfraser@gmail.com) or contact Catherine Farris (cfrrt53@gmail.com). We will be sending out invitations in a separate e-mail. This event is a good way for potential members to get acquainted with the League. Please pass the invitation along to any friends who may be interested and offer to bring them with you.

We are looking forward to a busy and productive fall with many opportunities for members to be involved in the important work of the LWV.

Ansley Fraser, Co-president

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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:

[Ansley Fraser](#), Co-President
 Fran Rundlett, Co-President
 Matt Saltzman, VP for Program
 Rosellen Alequire, Secretary
 Bill Hare, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Patty Warner
 Cheryl Lee
 Janet Marsh
 Catherine Farris
 Cece Parker
 Mike Ellison
 Ruth Reed
 Elizabeth Vogt

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Diana Stafford
 Eleanor Hare

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Please note change of meeting times**

Tuesday, August 21, 2018	Women's Equality Day, 6:00 p.m. OLLI
Tuesday, September 18, 2018	Elections Issues I *, 7:00 p.m. OLLI
Tuesday, October 16, 2018	Election Issues II **, 7:00 p.m. OLLI
Tuesday, November 13, 2018	Legislator Open Forum, 7:00 p.m. OLLI
December	Holiday Party, TBA

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

* Ballot Security, State Government Structure, Superintendent of Education Appointed or Elected?

** Discussion of 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.

Welcome

As your new Vice President for Programs and Action it is my pleasure to welcome new and returning members and other interested folks to the 2018–2019 season of programs by the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. Although some meeting arrangements are still tentative, I think we have an interesting collection of topics in the works.

August 21 is the League's annual celebration of Women's Equality Day, celebrating the anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution on Aug. 26, 1920, giving women the right to vote. We are working hard to finalize the program for that meeting.

Because 2018 is an election year, we have several election-related events planned. The September 18 and October 16 general meetings will be devoted to election issues. In addition, throughout October the League will conduct candidate forums for federal, state, and local offices.

The third Tuesday in November is in Thanksgiving week, so our November meeting will take place on November 13 instead. That will be the first meeting after the election, and we plan to invite our newly elected and re-elected state legislative delegation for an open forum.

December is the time for the annual holiday party, date TBA. Topics under consideration for next winter and spring include the environment, artificial intelligence, immigration, and gun safety. For the annual meeting we plan to include some stories of the impact that the League has had on issues that matter.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Submitted by Matt Saltzman

Check current information on the web site, <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/forums.html>

Annual Meeting

What is the Role of Ceremonial Vegetables?

Who would've imagined that "ceremonial vegetables" would be featured in the Annual Meeting of LWVCA? About sixty League members and guests gathered at Occasions at Wedgefield on May 8 to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, to celebrate our contributions to the past 50 years, to examine whether we are "doing enough", and to lay the groundwork for our upcoming year.

A business session followed a reception and dinner. Among the highlights of the business meeting were the election of new officers and members of the Board of Directors. Those elected were Co-Presidents Ansley Fraser ('18-19) and Fran Rundlett ('18-20), VP Program and Action Matt Saltzman, Secretary Janet Scott, Directors Cheryl Lee, Janet Marsh, Catherine Farris, Cece Parker, Mike Ellison, Ruth Reed. Following her report on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Elizabeth Adams bestowed "ceremonial vegetables" upon the newly elected leaders in recognition of their commitment to help the organization grow.

Other business items of note:

- the creation of the Dianne Haseleton Community Service Award in recognition of Dianne's valuable role as League member and leader. The first winner will be announced at next year's Annual Meeting
- reduction of dues for student members
- adoption of a by-laws amendment increasing the size of the LWVCA Board
- adoption of a proposed study relating to number of seats on the Pickens County Council

The five charter members of LWVCA, Eleanor Hare, Berniece Holt, Ellen Reneke, Ada Lou Steirer and Holley Ulbrich were recognized for their role in creating the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area fifty years ago. They were given a certificate from the President of LWVUS awarding them life membership in LWV.

The keynote presentation was given by Brookes Brown, PhD, JD, Director of the Law, Liberty and Justice Program at Clemson University. She challenged members to ask themselves "Am I Doing Enough?" as we examine our individual role participating in, and contributing to, the democratic process.

Submitted by Janie Shipley

Why are LWVCA dues paid in the fall?

When we organized, 50 years ago, most of our members were closely connected to Clemson University, so the League year begins June 1. We are collecting dues now. Please send your check to LWVCA, P O Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633. Individual dues are \$60. Additional members of household are \$30 and students are \$10.

Submitted by Bill Hare

Reports

Reflections on State Council

On Saturday, June 28, Ansley Fraser, Fran Rundlett, Ashley Levesque, Bill Hare and Eleanor Hare attended LWVSC State Council in Columbia. State Council is a gathering between the convention years to approve the annual budget, hear speakers, get recharged, and share ideas and network with other Leagues. Morning speakers were professor Bob Oldendick of USC, who discussed campaign funding and handicapped the upcoming June primaries. The second speaker was former Senator Joel Lourie, who shared his thoughts on re-districting. Afternoon workshop sessions included voting issues, a local presidents' roundtable, issue-based program ideas, voter service, membership retention and engagement, and nuclear waste issues at the Savannah River Plant. Your new presidents, Fran and Ansley, gathered lots of good ideas as they were preparing to take on their leadership roles.

Better Angels: An Initiative to “Heal the Divide” Moves Forward

Healing the Divide, the topic of the April Membership meeting, is drawing interest from a broader segment of the community. Presenting the topic to the League in April was League member Shari Jung. She has spent considerable time researching and engaging in projects intended to reduce political polarization among citizens, or, healing the divide.

The project Shari has suggested developing in this area is “Better Angels,” a bipartisan citizens’ movement launched in 2016 to reduce political polarization in the US. Better Angels is bringing liberals and conservatives together to understand each other beyond stereotypes through a growing number of community-based Better Angels projects across the country.

On June 15, 27 people gathered at OLLI to learn more about Better Angels. This follow-up meeting was encouraged by the positive response from League members in April. Shari, and co-organizers Linda Law and Janet Marsh, were delighted by the interest and level of commitment expressed by many in the group.

A skills training session was held on July 14 for all interested in the skills and commitment we will need to launch a successful project in the Clemson area. If you have questions, comments, want to join or stay informed as the project develops, please contact Shari Jung, 214.780.0220.

For more information about Better Angels: better-angels.org

Submitted by Janet Marsh

Work Continues on Vote411

Nonpartisan candidates for Clemson City Council (3 seats), County School Boards and Watershed District Directors will be complete on August 15. We are preparing questions for these candidates now. Your input is invited. Email Eleanor Hare (eleanorhare@gmail.com).

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

National Convention

IMPRESSIONS OF MY FIRST LWVUS CONVENTION

Starting on Thursday, June 28, the League of Women Voters of the United States 53rd convention was packed with conversations containing helpful information sessions, political humor, and friendship engagement zones. Included were relevant topics and workshops given by experts in the field. The usual business of the convention was peppered with great speakers and enough time to meet new friends and swap ideas.

Several information sessions gave new ideas on voter service that we will be able to use locally. Also, related to this was an informative conversation on redistricting, organizing and mobilizing voters, raising money for voter service, using social media to inform voters, and other political engagement activities. One of my favorite was “Beyond Youth--Empowering Generation Z.” This session, if put to use, will help our League move beyond just student registration to student engagement for our future voters.

Some programs were directly related to our theme--Creating a More Perfect Democracy. In addition to the aforementioned redistricting/gerrymandering conversations, we received valuable insight on immigration and refugee advocacy, open primaries, ideas on abolishing the Electoral College, climate change, gun safety, working at the United Nations, fostering civility and respect in our divided democracy, lowering the voting age, and healthcare in a democracy. Particular emphasis was placed on the resurgence of the Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution and the National Popular Vote movement.

We heard many great speakers but two come to mind: Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States, and Elaine Weiss, author of *THE WOMAN'S HOUR: THE GREAT FIGHT TO WIN THE VOTE*. Rios pointed out many inequities she observed as a child--no pictures of females on our money and very few statues of female role models for young girls. She told of her work to right these wrongs. Weiss' book is a history of the women's suffrage movement and she, too, gave a rousing speech that made us want to work harder for a more perfect democracy.

Perhaps you will consider attending this thought-provoking convention in two years in Washington, D.C.

Submitted by Cheryl Lee



Candidate Forums

Organized by Ansley Fraser and Janie Shipley, three candidate forums gave voters an in-depth look at some of the candidates. A highlight was a forum at the Anderson Library, featuring Democratic Candidates for the 3rd Congressional District. Four Republican candidates for Pickens County Council participated in a forum at the Central-Clemson branch of the Pickens County Library and four candidates for Anderson County Council participated in a forum at the Westside Community Center in Anderson.

Sarah McNeill, Holley Ulbrich and Catherine Watt moderated. Many League members participated as question sorters, time keepers and greeters. Planning has begun for additional forums before the November election.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare



New Members

Donna Rafert is joining the League of Women Voters because she wants to better understand our government, including at the local level and the issues facing our country.

She and her husband, Bruce, returned to Clemson in 2016 when he retired as Provost from the Uni-



versity of North Dakota and now live in Patrick Square. They had lived in Clemson from 2009 – 2014 while Bruce was Dean of the Graduate School at Clemson. Prior to that, they lived in a number of communities across the country as they raised their son and pursued their careers, Bruce in universities, Donna as a Medical Technologist.

Donna grew up in Ft. Myers, FL and met Bruce at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Their son lives in Colorado with his spouse and their two young grandchildren, 4 years and 16 months.

Donna enjoys travel. This summer they will spend over three weeks in national parks: Grand Tetons (Donna’s favorite), Zion, Glacier, Banff, and so forth. A big attraction at the parks is the opportunity to hike, an activity they have both enjoyed over the years.

Ginger Carner is joining LWVCA because it is engaged in important work, is non-partisan, and she is friendly with some League members. Growing up in southern California, she was inspired by her parents. She remembers her home being a voting location and her parents actively supporting voter rights.



After her move to Clemson in 1970 with her first husband, she began working in Undergraduate Admission at the University in 1971. She retired in 2006 from Clemson Computer and Information Technology (CCIT).

Ginger is enjoying her retirement with her spouse, Gerry, who she married in 1986. Sharing a love of animals and nature, they spend much time in the outdoors. They own a cabin near Jones Gap and try to get there weekly. They belong to the Sierra Club and Upstate Forever and she is a member of Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. She works out daily at the gym. Additionally, Ginger has already joined LWVCA in registering students to vote!

Ginger and Jerry have three sons and four granddaughters between ages 8 and 18.

Summer Reading Group

We met at the Moe Joe Coffee Company in Clemson to share our impressions of the books: *Post-Truth* by Lee McIntyre (on June 26) and *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright (on July 28). This reading experience was enlightening, so we intend to include occasional book reviews in future newsletters.

Submitted by Eleanor Hare

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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