



League of Women Voters of Greenville County

Newsletter
Issue: Fourth Quarter 2017
Editor: Jean Wood

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 PRESIDENT
- 2 NOV. 7TH ELECTION
- 3 GROUP OF FIVE
- 4 DACA OP-ED
- 5 HURRICANES
- 6 WELCOME
- 7 DUES CHANGES

10/26/17 General Mtg.
6PM – 7:30PM
Room 209 A/B
Westminster Church
(Education)

11/2/17 Board Meeting
1PM – 2:30PM
Room 209C
Westminster Church

12/7/17 Board Meeting
1PM – 2:30PM
Room 209C
Westminster Church

1/4/18 Board Meeting
1PM – 2:30PM
Room 209C
Westminster Church

1/25/18 General Mtg.
6PM – 7:30PM
Room 211
Westminster Church
(Redistricting)

2/1/18 Board Meeting
1PM – 2:30PM
Room 209C
Westminster Church

Notes from the President – Jean Wood

I am so pleased to announce that we finally have a permanent meeting location for our League. Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC), at 2310 Augusta St., Greenville, 29605, is our new home. Big thanks go to Board member Dorothy Dowe for cinching our acceptance with the church supervisory committee. Board meetings will be held there in room 209C, while general meetings will be in room 211. There is lots of parking on the Augusta St. side parking lot and everyone should enter through the double glass doors.

Our League is holding two candidate forums for the November 7th election:

Greenville City Candidate Forum. There are two contested races for Greenville City. The forum will be held at Hughes Main Library, 25 Heritage Green Place, Greenville, SC 29601, on Wednesday, October 25th from 6:30 to 8PM. Professor Brent Nelsen of Furman University will be the moderator.

Simpsonville City Candidate Forum. There are three contested races for Simpsonville City. The forum will be held at The Simpsonville City Park, Community Building, 100 Park Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29681, on Monday, October 30th from 7 to 8:30PM. Associate Professor Teresa Cosby of Furman University will be the moderator.

On National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), which was Tuesday, September 26th, three League members held a student voter registration drive in front of the library at Furman University. They are Linda Hardman, Catherine Cuneo, and Dorothy Dowe.

On Wednesday, October 4th, League members Lawson Wetli and Susan Bell, held a student voter registration drive at Greenville Technical College in the University Transfer building.

I hope to see you at our meeting on Thursday, October 26th. The focus of the meeting will be Education, one of our three League priorities for 2017-2018. 6PM to 7:30PM at WPC. Steve Hairston of Public Education Partners (PEP) will be the featured speaker.

Do you live within the city limits of Travelers Rest, Greer, Greenville, Mauldin, Fountain Inn, or Simpsonville? You have an election coming up on Tuesday, November 7th. Here are the contested races... Remember to vote and take a neighbor along!

Travelers Rest City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: Mayor of Travelers Rest	Candidate: Brandy Hart Amidon, Nonpartisan
Office: Mayor of Travelers Rest	Candidate: Rebecca Nix Cooper, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Harvey E. Choplin, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Rick Floyd, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Jeff George, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Cindy Meier, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Duncan Shirley, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Brantly Vest, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council At-Large	Candidate: Megan Smith Zapf, Nonpartisan

Greer City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: City Council District 06	Candidate: Judy Albert, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council District 06	Candidate: Dexter L. Reaves, Nonpartisan

Greenville City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: City Council District At-Large	Candidate: Russell Stall, Democratic
Office: City Council District At-Large	Candidate: John DeWorken, Republican
Office: City Council District 02	Candidate: Lillian Brock Flemming, Democratic
Office: City Council District 02	Candidate: Matt Cotner, Republican

Mauldin City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: City Council Seat 3	Candidate: James Kennedy, Nonpartisan
Office: City Council Seat 3	Candidate: Terry W. Merritt, Nonpartisan

Remember to Vote!

Fountain Inn City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: City Council Ward 3

Candidate: Mart D. Harrod, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 3

Candidate: Rose Ann Woods, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 5

Candidate: Anthony Cunningham, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 5

Candidate: L. Berry Woods, Nonpartisan

Simpsonville City Candidates - Contested Races

Office: City Council Ward 2

Candidate: Stephanie Kelley, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 2

Candidate: Aaron Rupe, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 4

Candidate: Sherry Roche, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 4

Candidate: T. Blake Whitaker, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 6

Candidate: Lou Hutchings, Nonpartisan

Office: City Council Ward 6

Candidate: Jason M. Wilmoth, Nonpartisan



Vote November 7th

‘Group of Five’ Isn’t All Men

Letter to the Editor in Greenville News on 9/25/17

By Dorothy Dowe

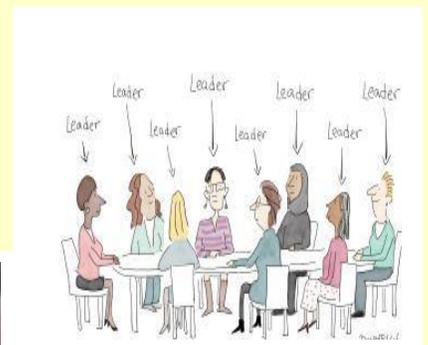
In response to the letter published Sept. 9: Government is not for or by the ‘people” I thank Mr. Richardson for highlighting the power that our political structure provides for the president, majority and minority leaders of our House and Senate. As a group of five, they certainly are positioned to set the tone and agenda for the business of the people.

It should be noted, however, that they are not all male as Mr. Richardson states when he writes: “...Only these five men need to reside in Washington, DC.” Rather, it is a group of four men and one woman who very much holds her own in this group. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has a long resume of leadership in the House ... the longest, in fact, of any of the other “men” Mr. Richardson references.

In these modern times, I believe it is important not to refer to one gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc. as the “default,” as it can be offensive to some, or in the case of Mr. Richardson’s letter, inaccurate.

Women represent more than 50 percent of the population, according to the 2010 Census, and more than 51 percent of the state’s population.

Emerge South Carolina and Emily’s List are two organizations that promote a government that reflects the people it serves by helping to elect more women to office. As we continually seek a “more perfect Union,” I hope at least two, and perhaps three of those five people of power will be women.



Undocumented Students Face Tuition Challenges in Pursuing Higher Education

By Dorothy Dowe

Op-Ed in Greenville News

If you grow up in South Carolina and pay all your income taxes, shouldn't you be able to benefit from your hard work by attending a South Carolina college or university without paying a premium that you can't afford? Recent articles in the Greenville News have highlighted the fact that undocumented students are denied the ability to obtain professional licensure in South Carolina, even after completing the necessary education to obtain the license.* For all undocumented students, regardless of whether they will eventually face the challenge of licensure, they will first have to face the burden of disqualification for in state tuition and the South Carolina Education Lottery scholarships, known as the Palmetto Fellows, Life and Hope scholarships. This is State policy, even if their parents pay income taxes through an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number), which is issued to individuals who are required to have a U.S. taxpayer identification number but who do not have, and are not eligible to obtain, a Social Security number.

At the recent DREAM On event hosted by Ground Up Greenville, the Hispanic Alliance and Latinos Unidos of Clemson University, local immigrant youth shared stories about their triumphs, struggles and aspirations, while encouraging support for the bipartisan Dream Act which has been introduced by our own Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois. Children of undocumented immigrants face incredible challenges, usually beginning the moment they come to the United States not necessarily by choice, but because of their parents' decision to seek a better life for them. The students that spoke at DREAM On told harrowing details of their journeys, and stories of loneliness, alienation and fear as they began a new life in this country. Most of them were under ten years old when they came here, and now they are currently enrolled in some form of higher education after graduating from high schools throughout Greenville County.

For this upcoming school year, the estimated cost to attend Clemson without the benefit of in state tuition or any level of Lottery scholarship is over \$50,000 per year**. Compare this with the cost for an in-state student with the most likely Life level of scholarship, and the cost is just under \$25,000 per year. The premium is roughly the same at the University of South Carolina. Thus, the child who came to this country at a very young age by someone else's choice, struggled to integrate into a community, worked tirelessly to succeed in high school and earn admission to a college or University, and very importantly, *is supported by an income tax paying family*, will endure disproportionate financial burdens should they choose to pursue higher education in South Carolina.

Undocumented students are often highly motivated, hardworking, and determined to pursue their education regardless of the financial burden. Their greatest fear is not that they will fail, as they have faced hardship throughout their lives and consistently overcome the challenges inherent to being undocumented. Rather, they fear the loss of DACA status and the prospect of arrest and eventual deportation which could occur, especially under the current administration. They consider South Carolina home, and they want to earn their education, and contribute to the South Carolina economy. Denying undocumented students access to in state tuition and lottery scholarships does not deter them from pursuing their goals of higher education, however, it unjustly burdens them.

I commend Senators Graham and Durbin for working across the aisle to protect these families and provide them with a path to citizenship, which would ultimately provide access to in state tuition and lottery scholarships. If the Dream Act does not progress through the House, perhaps our State legislators could look at this challenge through a different lens than Governor McMaster and Attorney General Wilson, both of whom have gone on record as wishing to eliminate DACA and proceed with deportation of undocumented children. Listen to these students and you will hear that they will not be deterred, and that through their actions, they have earned the right to pay the same price for higher education as a student who was born here.

*Greenville News Editorial 7/14/17 “Let DACA Students Get the Licenses They Need to Work” and Paul Hyde article 7/8/17 “Dreamers Denied: DACA Students Unable to Obtain Occupational Licenses, In State Tuition”

**<https://www.clemson.edu/financial-aid/costs/>
http://www.sc.edu/apply/cost_tuition_financial_aid/
<http://www.sceducationlottery.com/educationwins/scholarshipinformation.aspx>



Dorothy Dowe

DACA 
 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals



Hurricanes and Global Warming

Letter to the Editor in Greenville News on 10/9/17

By Victor T. "Ted" Volskay

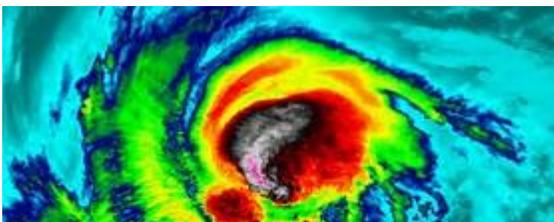
This hurricane season has produced 13 named hurricanes including infamous hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Numerous hurricane forecasting models predict hurricane intensity and projected paths approximately seven days in advance. Collectively, predicted paths of hurricanes are commonly referred to as "Spaghetti Plots" because projected storm paths are hundreds of miles of converging and diverging lines drawn on a map.

Furthermore, Spaghetti Plots continuously change as forecast models are updated. Ironically, consensus among these models is general and none of the models are ever (100 percent) correct. Regardless, hurricane forecasting models save many lives.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was asked if carbon dioxide is proven contributor to climate change. Pruitt said "I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no,

I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to global warming" (CNBC's "Squawk Box", March 2017).

Tropical depression 16 recently formed off the coast of Nicaragua and billions of tons of carbon dioxide were emitted into the atmosphere globally. Hurricane forecast models predict that tropical depression 16 will turn into a Category 1 hurricane. Similarly, atmospheric scientists warn that carbon dioxide produced by human activity is exacerbating global warming and that some consequences may be dire. Prudent politicians and coastal residents do not demand absolute consensus when warned of potentially dire consequences by a majority of eminently qualified climatologist.



Welcome to the League of Women Voters



We have many more new members that have joined our League. Please welcome Jerry Acosta, Leila Carter, Sharron Glickman, Eleanor Grosskopf, Jonathan Heald, Rebecca Lambert, JoAnne Mitchell, Genie Murphy, Emilee O'Brien, Ruth Todd, Tiffany Tumlin, and Frances Wortkoetter. We now stand strong at 80 members.

New Dues Changes for Younger Members

The Board has voted to change some of the dues categories for young people to make it more accessible and inviting to those just starting out in life. The National League voted at convention to move the age of new memberships from 18 to 16. The Greenville Board has decided to offer membership of \$25.00 to anyone age 25 or younger. If you know of a young person that would be interested in joining our League and is age 25 or younger, consider sponsoring them for just \$25.00. What a great gift to start someone out in life with a League membership. Or they may join on their own for \$25.00. The Board wants to give a hand up to some folks that might find it difficult to pay full dues, but are interested in helping to "Make Democracy Work". If you have questions, ask Jean (864) 236-9068 or Don (864) 294-6687.

