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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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LWV **The Voter**
Clemson Area League of Women Voters

Volume 36, Number 5
August 2008

LWVCA President: Beatrice Bailey
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Thurs. Sept. 4 | Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change, Strom Thurmond Institute, Reception at 6:00 pm, Presentation 7:00 pm (see p. 2) |
| Tues. Sept. 9 | LWVCA Board Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 5:00 p.m. |
| Mon. Sept. 15 | LWVCA Membership Recruitment Social, at the home of Elinor Baron, 100 Holiday West in Clemson, 5:00-6:30 pm (see p. 4) |
| Tues. Sept. 16 | LWVCA General Meeting: "Ready, Set, Vote" Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Social time, 7:00 p.m.; Formal Program, 7:30 p.m. (see p. 2) |
| Sat. Oct. 11 | Fall Book Discussion Group at the home of Holley Ulbrich, 11:30 a.m. (see p. 4) |

WATCH DEMOCRACY AT WORK...

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|------------------------------|---|
| Clemson City Council | 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. |
| Seneca City Council | 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. |
| Pickens County Council | 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. |
| Oconee County Council | 3rd Tuesday, 3 p.m. |
| Anderson County Council | 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. |
| Pickens County School Board | 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., except July and December |
| Oconee County School Board | 2nd and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. |
| Anderson County School Board | 3 rd Monday, 6:00 p.m. |
| LWV National Office | 202-429-1965 (800-424-2937 for state and local board members) |
| LWVCA website | http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/ |

President's Message:

Welcome aboard! Let's make this **Presidential Election** year one to remember. We have so many opportunities to encourage voter participation as the election draws near. Our **Voter Services** team, led by Steve Johnson, will help us host voter registration drives and candidate forums. If you are not on this team and would like to be, please contact Steve immediately via email at johnsos@clemson.edu. We need you! We only have the months of September and October.

We also hope to increase our external fund-raising efforts this year. We have a fine **Finance and Fund Raising** team led by Janie Shipley. We hope to raise \$5000 through external sponsorships. A new league member and Clemson University Foundations staff member will lead the way. Thanks, Michelle Chin, for your expertise and service.

Our **Program and Action** team, led by Vice-President Holley Ulbrich, has developed an outstanding line-up of monthly programs. Please go to our state-of-the-art web site hosted by Eleanor Hare to see this year's line-up of programs that is listed on our extensive, colorful and easy-to-read LWVCA Calendar (Please bookmark the calendar or print a hard copy for your refrigerator or bulletin board at <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org>. Just click the Calendar button on the left panel). Our first program that will be open to the public is our **Growing Cooler** address that will be held at Strom Thurmond Institute's Self Auditorium on September 4 at 7:00 p.m. You are also invited to the informal reception in the upstairs foyer at 6:00 p.m.

We also have a new **Hospitality** team leader, Ansley Fraser. She needs volunteers for this important team that provides refreshments for our monthly meetings. In the spring, our Hospitality team will work with the Greenville League of Women Voters as they host the annual state LWVSC conference. Please contact Ansley at ansley_fraser@softhome.net.

Veteran Reggie Turetsky, team leader of **Communications and Public Relations**, will help us publicize our LWVCA activities and also help us educate the public about policy issues. If you or your team needs to broadcast events or efforts, please contact Reggie at her NEW email address at turetzky910868@bellsouth.net.

Our **Membership** team is so on the ball. Our second annual Membership Recruitment Social will be held at Elinor Baron's home on Monday, September 15th. See page 4 for more information about this special event.

In closing, thank you for sponsoring my trip to the annual League of Women Voters conference in Portland, Oregon. I liked seeing how we develop policy positions that our lobbyists use to champion our perspectives on the Hill, loved getting to know our state and national leaders, and found the leadership training sessions quite helpful—especially the two that I attended on fund-raising.

After participating in our fine summer League retreat, our first board meeting of the year, League Leaders Day and several team meetings, I have no doubt that this will be a year to remember. We have so many older and young members who truly get it, who truly want to strengthen the most powerful representative democracy on earth. Thank you for your many efforts. I look forward to working with you and for you.

~ *Onward! Bea Bailey, LWVCA President*

**Join LWVCA for a Special Event:
Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban
Development and Climate Change
Thursday, September 4**

This event is co-sponsored by Upstate Forever, League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area, the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, the CU Science and the Technology in Society Program, and CU Environmental Committee.

The Upstate's continued growth raises concerns about the capacity of our transportation infrastructure and the quality of our communities. Transportation is already responsible for one-third of our state's greenhouse gas emissions, and we must consider the need to reduce these emissions as our communities grow. Solutions for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions often hinge on technological advancement and overlook the relationship between development, available modes of transportation, and greenhouse gas emissions. Join us for a presentation that highlights the relationship between urban development and transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Reid Ewing of the National Center for Smart Growth will present the findings of his latest book *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*.

Join us for a reception with Dr. Ewing on Thursday, September 4, at 6:00 pm, the second floor of the Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University. Dr. Ewing's public presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Strom Thurmond Auditorium.

Reid Ewing, Ph.D., is a Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland. In addition, Dr. Ewing is associate editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, columnist for *Planning* magazine, and Fellow at the Urban Land Institute. Dr. Ewing served two terms in the Arizona legislature and was Director of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University. He has also worked on urban policy issues at the Congressional Budget Office. Dr. Ewing received a master's degree in Engineering and City Planning from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Transportation Systems and Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**LWVCA Monthly Meeting
Ready, Set, Vote!
Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm**

Our September 16th meeting is called "Ready, Set, Vote!" Since it's a major election year, and the League is all about participating in government, it seemed like the best way to kick off the year. We will have Joy Brooks, director of Elections and Registration for Oconee County, talking about some of the deadlines, challenges and issues in managing the elections at the county level. We will also have a list of questions that you can ask candidates, related to LWV positions. Eleanor Hare will update us on the continuing challenges of electronic voting. And we will be recruiting volunteers to help with voter registration and candidate forums in September and October. So come prepared to listen, learn, talk and pick some small segment of the League's very important work that you can help with! Be sure to come for social time at 7 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:30, and bring a friend. ~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

**Snapshots of League Leaders Day
August 16, 2008**

As usual, the outstanding program made the roundtrip to Columbia well worthwhile.

First on the agenda, Sarah Leverette and Alice Henderson suggested we take every opportunity to remind the public that LWV does not support candidates or parties, but our members are active in politics. Every league should have a policy with respect to non-partisanship. Sarah reminded us that, "If you are not positive in defining yourself, someone else will do it for you."

Alice spoke to preparation for the November elections. When registering voters, the street address given must be one at which the person can receive mail. She said that 10% of people who register at the Department of Motor Vehicles do not give an address where mail can be sent.

Duncan Buell spoke to six recent problems with voting machines: (1) the EVEREST report (see LWVCA web page) is the first time anybody had done a serious study of the software and hardware of the voting machines; (2) the problems in the

Republican primary in Horry County when voting machines were not properly closed after testing, and, consequently, could not be opened to voting (3) the problem in Conway, Arkansas in which votes were reported by voting machines in a race which was not on the ballot; (4) the 2000 election in Georgia in which reported votes were very different from polls and in which a patch was rushed to update the machines only in two heavily Democratic counties; (5) the Sequoia lawsuit that claims their contract regarding the proprietary nature of the software was violated; and (6) the problems in Ohio when a virus infected and disabled Diebold voting machines. He concluded by citing some things that South Carolina has done right, such as having the State Elections Commission format the ballots.

Linda Bilanchone quoted her favorite league slogan, "The League is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement." Kathy Ellis suggested we type "League of Women Voters" on YouTube and look at the videos.

Robin Kimbrough-Melton moderated a panel consisting of Senator Michael Fair (District 6, Greenville County, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Corrections and Penology), Jon Ozmint (Director of the Department of Corrections), Bryan Stirling (Deputy Attorney General for Government Affairs), and Heath C. Hoffman (Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of Charleston). Senator Fair said, "Funding is a terrific problem." Many of the problems discussed, such as the inability to provide sufficient education and the inability to provide drug and alcohol treatment from the beginning of incarceration are a direct result of the lack of funds. Middle Courts are expected to improve the recidivism rate. "Truth in Sentencing/no parole" means requiring virtually all inmates to serve 85% of their sentences. Mr. Ozmint said that if we propose the Middle Court plan without "truth in sentencing," we can pass it.

Bobby Bowers, the Director of the Office of Research & Statistics in the S. C. Budget & Control Board, spoke of his experiences with redistricting. In each of 1990 and 2000, since the governor vetoed the redistricting plan passed by the legislature, the courts were given the job of redistricting South Carolina. Bowers has a database containing over 150,000 addresses the census bureau does not have. If people in South Carolina are fully counted, South Carolina has the possibility of gaining another House member and an additional \$300 billion/year (an amount based on census data).

Sarah Leverette told us that the home rule legislation that passed in 1976 provided that no laws for specific counties shall be enacted. But, school boards are exempted from this provision.

Holley Ulbrich urged members to talk to local officials first about their concerns about the state, especially funding for cities and counties through the Local Government Fund and protecting K-12 education funding and to ask candidates for state Senate and House to commit themselves on these two issues. *~Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

<p>LWVCA Sponsors Another Round of Candidate Forums</p>
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As many of you know, the LWV is known for its skilled coordination and monitoring of candidate forums. Late last spring, the LWVCA hosted and monitored two local candidate forums. On May 29, the LWV-CA held a candidate forum for primary candidates for State Senate District #4 and State House District #8. This forum was held at Tri-County Technical College and was moderated by Donna London.

A standing-room only crowd overfilled the Clemson-Central Library to hear candidates for SC Senate District 2 and SC House District 3. Candidates for SC Senate District 2 were Senator Larry Martin (R) of Easley and Mayor C. J. Martin, Jr. (R) of Central. Candidates for SC House District 3 were The Honorable B. R. Skelton (R), Mr. Trey Whitehurst (R), and Mr. Jason Gale (D). Kathy Woodward of the LWVCA moderated.

**Help us to "Grow" LWVCA!
Bring a Friend to the
Fall Membership Gathering**

Like many non-profit organizations, the LWVCA thrives best with an active and involved membership. In September, we will hold a new members gathering at the home of Elinor Baron. Please plan to attend and bring along a friend or two.

We would like to send personal invitations to perspective members. Please send names of prospective members to Linda Gahan or to LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633. Include address, phone number and e-mail address. If you can, please accompany the prospective member to this event. Members who attend are requested to bring an hors d'oeuvre or a bottle of wine. Any others who want to help sponsor this event may send \$10 to the League treasurer.

The event is scheduled for Monday, September 15 at 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the home of Elinor Baron, 100 Holiday WEST in Clemson. (Holiday West is located off Route 123 in Clemson, just beyond the Western Sizzling restaurant, approximately 7/10 of a mile from the intersection of 123 and 133. Visit the LWVCA website for a link to a map to Elinor's house.)

**Join LWVCA for the
Fall Book Discussion Group
On Saturday, October 11, 11:30**

We don't have a regular meeting in October, but we do have a book to read and discuss. There are about 15 copies of Jeff Greenfield's *The People's Choice* floating around--Sharon Fennell has one to lend--for our October 11th potluck lunch at my house, 106 Highland Drive, Clemson at 11:30 a.m.. Holley will supply soup and beverages and the rest of you can bring bread, salad or fruit. The novel is very funny and makes some important points about the electoral college. (NOTE: the League favors direct election of the president).

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

FYI: Who's Who in the LWVCA

The LWVCA is fortunate to have a wonderful group of individuals who are leading the organization this year.

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Officers

President	Bea Bailey
President-Elect	Della Baker
2 nd Vice-President	Holley Ulbrich
Secretary	Ada Lou Steirer
Treasurer	Sharon Fennell
Past-President	Janie Shipley
Voter Editor	Catherine Mobley (Off Board)

Directors

2008-2010:

Michelle Chin and Arlene Stewart

2008-2009:

Steve Johnson and Mary Ann McKenzie

Appointed Directors

Web Master	Eleanor Hare
Publicity	Reggie Turetsky
Hospitality	Ansley Fraser
Membership	Linda Gahan
	Aleta Robinson



Bea Bailey (l.), LWVCA President, and Barbara Zia, President of LWVSC, "reaching new heights"* at the LWV National Conference in Portland, Oregon in June. (*The theme of the conference was "Reaching New Heights Together.")



A photo from League Leaders Day, August 16: Members of the Panel on Criminal Justice Reform (left to right): Senator Michael L. Fair (District 6, Greenville County, Chairman Senate Committee on Corrections and Penology), Bryan Stirling (Deputy Attorney General for Government Affairs), Jon Ozmint (Director, Department of Corrections), Robin Kimbrough-Melton (Moderator, Clemson University, LWV/Clemson Area, LWVSC Criminal Justice Committee), Heath C. Hoffmann



The LWVCA Summer Planning Retreat was held at the home of our president Bea Bailey on July 8th at 5:30. Seated at the table and starting from the far left are Michelle Chin, our new board member serving on our Finance and Fund Raising team; Janie Shipley, our Past President and Finance and Fund Raising team leader; Della Baker, our President-Elect; Holley Ulbrich, our Vice-President and team leader for Programs and Action; Arlene Stewart, a new board member and Voter Services team member; and Eleanor Hare, our Web Master. We reflected and dreamed as we developed our leadership structure, reviewed our forthcoming programs, considered possible voter support initiatives, and crafted our calendar of events.