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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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CLEMSON SC 29633-0802
Return Service Requested



Volume 38, Number 5
September 2010

LWVCA President: Linda Gahan
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues., Sept. 14	LWVCA General Membership Meeting on Education, 7:00 pm. social time; 7:30 p.m. meeting time, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 226 Pendleton Road.
Wed., Sept. 22	LWVCA Informal Membership Lunch, Pickens County, Friends Restaurant in Clemson (near the Blue Heron) 12:00 noon
Wed., Sept. 29	LWVCA Flea Market/Yard Sale at the Pickens County Flea Market. See page 4 for more details.
Tues., Oct. 5	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 11	“A Place at the Table” a panel on women in politics, LWVCA Co-Sponsor, at the Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University, 7:30 p.m.

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

President's Message

Our LWVCA 2010-2011 year has begun. Our theme is “**Let’s Celebrate What is Great About LWVCA!**” We began our celebrations with a picnic at the Central Park Pavilion in honor of Women’s Equality Day and the 90th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment. We will continue celebrating with a 2010 elections party in November, a holiday party in December and other events in the spring. League business is hard work but we want to have **fun** doing it!

Because of budget constraints LWVCA will have only 4 issues of the **VOTER** this year. We will also have more **fundraisers** to improve the health of our LWVCA treasury. Our first fundraiser is “\$19 for the Nineteenth Amendment” and LWVCA Board wants everyone who is willing and able to contribute in one of two ways: \$19 or \$1.90 for every voting female in your extended family.

One of our goals this year is to increase **membership**. Paula Appling and our membership team launched a Membership Kickoff Party in August and I count on every member to invite others to join League’s efforts to “Make Democracy Work!” Our league has been selected to participate in the LWVUS program called **Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI)**. Not only will MRI increase our membership numbers, but also it will boost membership participation of our leaguers and make us more visible and effective in our community.

Advocacy and active participation are two other goals for 2010-2011. **VOLUNTEER** to help with Voter Registration in September and Voter Education Forums in October. Join the Observer Corps; write an Op Ed article for the newspaper; join our Speakers’ Bureau; response to calls for action by telephoning, emailing or writing letters to elected officials; come to meetings and league events and join a LWVCA team. Be part of making the LWVCA effective in our community.

This issue of the **VOTER** contains a **membership list** and a **2010-2011 CALENDAR** of program and events. Take it to your 2010 and 2011 calendar planners and mark each activity **NOW**. There are monthly programs, voter forums, hot topics, book discussions, membership luncheons, parties, fundraisers and more. I don’t want you to miss any chance to make a difference in our community; to learn more about education and water issues on the state level, federal role for public education and privatization on the national; to act on issues and to have fun! **PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR GENERAL MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.**

~ Linda Gahan, LWVCA President

**LWVCA September General Meeting
Tuesday, September 14
Whose Schools are They?**

The general meeting on September 14th will focus on education at all three levels—federal, state, and local. Linda Gahan will give us a briefing on the newly adopted national study on the Federal Role in Public Education. No Child Left Behind, followed by Obama’s initiative on merit pay for teachers and the stimulus funds used to keep teachers in the classroom, has focused attention on this issue of great importance both to federal-state relations and to education. This national LWVUS study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government.

At the state level, the League has committed to making action on education funding a major priority. The League has decided to start with “fixing” the Education Finance Act, which is underfunded and misallocates funds to districts a result of Act 388. We have developed a primer on EFA and its three components, base student cost, per pupil weights, and the Index of Taxpaying Ability and have laid out how each one needs to be addressed. A handout will be available at the meeting so that you can talk intelligently to candidates and legislators about what we would like them to do in the next legislative session.

At the local level, we will be reviewing the status of the school governance study, which asks three important questions about who should make decisions for school districts. Note: these are NOT the consensus questions, but they are the questions we can address now in preparation for consensus in January. Here are the questions:

Question #1. Who should have the authority to make changes in the school board—the voters of the district, the county board of education if there is one, the county council, the legislative delegation and the General Assembly, or some other entity?

Question #2. Who should have the authority to make changes in school districts by consolidation or redistricting—the voters of the district, the county board of education if there is one, the county council, the legislative delegation and the General Assembly, or some other entity?

Question #3. Who should have the authority to make changes in the amount of fiscal autonomy that a school district has—the voters of the district, the county board of education if there is one, the county council, the legislative delegation and the General Assembly, or some other entity?

Right now the answer to all three questions is the legislative delegation with the normal unanimous consent of their fellow members of the General Assembly.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 14th for a stimulation discussion of what we can do for our schools and for our children.

~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

**LWVCA to Host
Voter Registration Events**

Voter Registration will take place in our tri-county area in September:

** In Oconee County, on Friday September 3 and Saturday September 25. If anyone is interested in helping in Oconee County, please call Reggie at 944-7171 or email reggie1126@gmail.com.

** In Pickens County, on Friday September 3 and Friday September 17. Please call Bill Hare if you wish to help 864-654-4417 or email wrhare@earthlink.net.

** In Anderson County, on Friday September 10 and Friday September 17. If you wish to help call Elaine Epstein 864-224-5126 or email wandy@charter.net.

Tax Policy Update for League Leaders Day

A Tax Policy Booklet will soon be available on the Strom Thurmond Institute website. Copies will also be available at the LWVCA September meeting. This booklet has been sent to the media and to candidates. Election time is an excellent opportunity to remind them of the League's position on tax policy.

If your legislator voted for increasing the cigarette tax, please be sure to thank him/her for doing so. Get ready to ask candidates some hard questions this fall. Here are what I think might be some good questions to put to candidates. Feel free to be more tactful on the first one.

1. You didn't take a "no new tax pledge", did you? If you didn't, thank you. If you did, please tell us exactly what you mean by that. Do you mean that we can't raise any more revenue than the pitiful \$5.1 billion that is projected for the next few years, down \$2 billion from 2007? Does it mean that you support starving our schools and colleges, further overcrowding our prisons, and understaffing our state agencies?

2. If you were considering how to make up that serious shortfall of revenue, where do you think the revenue should come from?

3. The Tax Realignment Commission (TRAC) is doing some good work. Do you support their proposals to broaden the base of the sales tax by eliminating some exemptions, phasing out the sales tax cap on cars, boats and planes, and exploring some extension of the tax to services? Why or why not?

4. Would you support making the Commission permanent, as many other states have done? Why or why not?

Finally, we need to think ahead to the next legislative session and what tax proposals may be in store.

Fixing the Index of Taxpaying Ability is high on the list. The General Assembly did create a study committee, which should be meeting by now. We need to support changes in the index that ensure that poorer districts still get their fair share of Education Finance Act funds. Or, more accurately we will work to protect the unfairly small share they have been getting since base student cost was ravaged by the last two budgets at the same time that Act 388 was taking from the poor and giving to the rich. Districts, that is.

5. We will keep you posted on the (TRAC) recommendations and which ones we can support.

~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

LWVCA to Continue to Host the Hot Topics Luncheons

In the past several years, LWVCA has hosted the "hot topics" luncheons in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. As discussed in the September 2009 newsletter, some of our members don't like to go out at night. Other members want an occasional meeting that is in their county and about their county. These luncheons provide a forum for discussing topics related to growth management, development and other issues.

This year, our Hot Topics Luncheon will kick off on Saturday, October 23, with a focus on recycling. Jessica Powell, the Anderson County Environmental Educator will talk about county recycling, where our refuse goes, how much goes there, how it is paid for, and how that compares to what we pay for sending our trash to the landfill.

Please join us on Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. at the Anderson County, Conference Room A on the first floor.

~ Submitted by Della Baker

LWVCA Dues are Due!

According to our By-Laws, all dues should be paid by September. While individuals may join LWVCA at different times throughout the year, all membership renewals are due in September. However, if you have joined LWVCA since June 1st, you do not need to send another check.

Dues are \$50 per year; dues for a second member of the same household are half price! (\$75 total for the mathematically challenged). Student membership is \$25 per year. Please send your dues to the following address:

LWV of the Clemson Area
P.O. Box 802
Clemson SC 29633-0802

Additional contributions are always needed and most welcome. Our budget projects \$500 in member contributions. So, please be generous, as always.

Also, remember that you can make a **tax-deductible contribution** to **LWV Education Fund**. This donation must come in a **separate** check. The local League can use these funds to pay up to one half of our Per Member Payment or we can fund other qualifying educational projects. Mail these checks to the same address noted above and the treasurer will forward them to the Clemson Area League account at the national office. Also, please notify us of any change of address, phone or email, too.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

~ *Submitted by Alice Flower*

LWVCA to Host Book Discussion Group

The twice-a-year, read-a-book, soup and salad group will be meeting on Saturday, November 20th, at 11:00 a.m., for brunch and discussion. Each year we pick two books of interest to Leaguers to read and discuss. This fall we will read Linda Tarr-Whelan's *Women Lead the Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World*. Linda will be speaking at a Clemson University event in November so now is a good time to buy and read the book, listen to Linda, and then share your thoughts and food at Holley Ulbrich's on a football-free fall Saturday.

~ **Submitted by Holley Ulbrich**

It's Time to Clean out the Attic for the LWVCA Garage Sale!

Support our garage sale which will be held at the Pickens County Flea Market on Wednesday morning, September 29th. Please bring your items to Elinor Baron's house no later than 4:00 p.m., September 28th. Elinor Baron and her committee will make sure your articles are transported to the Flea Market. Please keep in mind that we cannot return any unsold items to you. Let's have some great things to sell – they should be in good shape and in working order. Please support our fund raising effort!

~ **Submitted by Carol Kozma**

LWVCA to Co-Sponsor "Women in Politics" Panel

The LWVCA is co-sponsoring a panel on women in politics ("A Place at the Table") on Monday, October 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Strom Thurmond Institute. The lead panelist will be long-time state representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter of Orangeburg. The other two panelists are Jennifer Willis, who serves on the Pickens County Council, and Lori Dickes, a doctoral candidate in Policy Studies who has researched the effectiveness of women governors. Mark your calendar for this interesting panel!

~ **Submitted by Holley Ulbrich**

LWVCA 2010-2011 Calendar

General Events: Board Meetings – Clemson City Community Room at 1250 Tiger Blvd., Clemson, First Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm. General Membership Meetings – Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 226 Pendleton Rd., Clemson, Second Tuesdays, 7:00 pm (social), 7:30 pm (Program).

Aug.12	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Aug.21	League Leaders' Day, Columbia, 9:00 am
Aug.24	Membership Kickoff, Elinor Baron's house, 5:00 pm
Aug.26	19th Amendment Picnic Celebrating Women's Equality Day, Central Park Pavilion, 5:00 p.m.
Aug.23-31	Nineteenth Amendment Fundraiser
Sept. 3	Voter Registration - Oconee Co., Seneca Wal-Mart, 10:00 am
Sept. 3	Voter Registration - Pickens Co, Central Wal-Mart, TBA pm
Sept. 7	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Sept. 10	Voter Registration - Anderson Co., TBA, 10:00 am
Sept. 14	"Education: Whose Schools Are They?" UUF, 7:00 pm
Sept. 17	Voter Registration - Pickens Co, Central Wal-Mart, TBA pm
Sept. 17	Voter Registration - Anderson Co., TBA, 12:00 am
Sept. 22	Informal Membership Lunch-Pickens County, at Friends Restaurant in Clemson, 12:00 Noon
Sept. 25	Voter Registration - Oconee Co., TBA, 10:00 am
October	Voter Forums: Anderson and Pickens Co. TBA
Oct. 5	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Oct. 8	LWVUS Project Launching-Quest for Diverse Judiciary, Charleston, 5:00 pm
Oct. 11	Women in Politics, Strom Thurmond Inst., 7:00 pm
Oct. 23	Hot Topic: Lifecycle Recycling - Anderson Co Library, 10:00 am
Oct. 27	Informal Membership Lunch-Oconee, TBA, Noon
Nov. 2	General Election, Voting Precincts, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
Nov. 2	Board meeting/Election party, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Nov. 4	What Happened Last Tuesday? Election Party/ Commentary, TBA, 7:00 pm
Nov. 9	Water: War Between the States with Mullen Taylor, UUF, 7:00 pm
Nov. 20	Book Discussion/Lunch, Holley Ulbrich's house, 11:00 am
Dec. 14	Holiday Party, Holley's Ulbrich's house, 7:00 pm
Jan. 4	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Jan. 11	State Program Planning Consensus Questions on School & Water, UUF, 7 pm
Jan. 26	Informal Membership Lunch-Anderson, TBA, Noon
Feb. 1	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Feb. 8	Under Cover of Darkness: Making Government Transparent, UUF, 7:00 pm
Feb. 23	Informal Membership Lunch-Pickens, TBA, Noon
Feb. 25	Wine Tasting Fundraiser - CCDC Auditorium, 6:00 pm
March	Hot Topic: Oconee County, Recycling, TBA
March	Hot Topic: Go See Tour of Pickens Co. Recycling Facility, TBA
Mar. 1	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Mar. 8	Women Health TBA, UUF, 7:00 pm
Mar. 23	Informal Membership Lunch-Oconee, TBA, Noon
April	Book Discussion/Lunch, Holley Ulbrich's house, TBA
Apr. 5	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Hall, 6:30 pm
Apr. 12	Here Comes the Judge: Justice in SC, UUF, 7:00 pm
Apr. 27	Informal Membership Recruitment Lunch-Anderson, TBA, Noon
May-10	Raffle Fundraiser/Annual Meeting/SC Energy Future, Collins Ole Town, Central, 6:00 p.m.
May	LWVSC State Convention, TBA



**Celebrating Women's Equality Day
and the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**

Our picnic celebrating Women's Equality Day and the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment on August 26 was attended by 32 members and guests. The food was plentiful, the program was informative and entertaining and we all had fun celebrating. We can remember this day because it is also the birthday of one of our members: Ben Turetzky. Thank you to all who brought food, presented reading from the Founding Sisters and Garrison Keillor, and brought us good humor. For all those missed this event, we have included a photo of some of the attendees, taken by Ben Turetzky.

Row 1: Frances Plotnik, Julia Kempton, Catherine Mobley, Reggie Turetzky, Carol Ward, Bill Steirer

Row 2: Ansley Fraser, Sandra Gray, Carol Kozma, Sharon Fennell, Elinor Baron, Ada Lou Steirer, Eleanor Hare, Charlotte Holmes, Linda Gahan

Row 3: Dianne Haselton, Paula Appling, Cheryl Lee, Bill Hare, Aleta Robinson, Bob Fennell, Larry Gahan

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

August 26, 1920

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. We would greatly appreciate your support! Please complete the form below and mail to:

League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area
P. O. Box 802
Clemson, SC 29633-0802

Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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.

Comments _____

Thank you for your support!

* ~ *

Newsletter Preference

We would also like to hear your preferences for receiving future LWVCA newsletters. Please indicate below your preferred method for receiving the newsletter:

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E-mail address: _____

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_____ Please do not send me your newsletter.