

League of Women Voters-- Clemson Area



March 2007

Clemson League Reviews Adult Education Resolutions

League Events

Board Meeting
March 14 12:00 UUFC

General Meeting on Global Warming
March 27 7:00 Refreshments 7:30 Meeting UUFC

Yard Sale Fundraiser UUFC
March 31 Plants, Seedlings, and Gardening Items

Board Meeting
April 10 12:00 UUFC

Annual Meeting
Dutch Maid in Seneca
April 17 6:30 p.m.

County Governmental Meetings

Clemson City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

Seneca City Council
2nd Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Anderson County Council
1st and 3rd Tuesdays; 6:00 p.m.

Pickens County Council
1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

Oconee County Council
1st Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.; 3rd Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.

Pickens County School Board
4th Mondays, 7:30 p.m. except July and December

Oconee County School Board
2nd and 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

LWV National Office 202-429-1965
(800-424-2937 for state and local board members)



President's Message

With the nominating committee report and the proposed budget for 2007-08, the League year is winding down,

but the energy continues. I am pleased and excited to know that Janie Shipley will take over the reins from me and Bea Bailey from her. I greatly prefer having a successor located by a nominating committee than having to give birth to one, especially at my age!

But in the meantime...we have a great program lined up for March 27th on "cool cities" and a mini-yard sale on March 31st (plants, garden supplies, books and videos). And we are looking forward to having our first-ever Oconee County annual meeting at Dutch Maid in Seneca in April. We have Steve Johnson engaged in action on many fronts from net metering at the General Assembly to green schools for the Pickens, and Janet Marsh getting the word out on early childhood education, and lots of folks (including me!) delivering many DPOs to enthusiastic recipients!

League state convention is on the beach in Georgetown this year April 21 and 22. It's a great time to visit everyone's favorite part of the state, meet Leaguers from other communities, shape state program and just have a good time. Eleanor Hare, our webmaster and state board member, is coordinating those who plan to attend, so let her know if you are interested. LWVCA will pay your registration. League makes a difference--in our own lives, in the lives of our community, our state, and our nation. Be proud to be a part of making that difference. Holley Ulbrich, LWVCA President

4K Activists

I take great pleasure in writing that every League member I asked to speak up about 4K legislation in the SC House said YES!

Some wrote to Representatives Skelton (Pickens) or Whitmire (Oconee), with a copy to their State Senator. Both legislators are on the House Education Committee.

Those writing letters were Reggie Turetsky, Catherine Mobley, Jane Polk, Joni Grady, Charlotte Holmes, and Barbara Kustreva.

Thank you to Eleanor Hare for putting the information on the Clemson League website, to Aleta Robinson for going with me to talk with Representative Skelton, and Janie Shipley for presenting our 4K position to the Oconee Legislative Delegation.

The final version of H3175 was posted on the House Legislature web-site 3/1/07, very close to its original version (sad to say!). Now it goes to the Senate. There is only one bill in the Senate (S378). By about March 12 we will update the website.

If I have left anyone out from my 'thank you,' I apologize!

United Way of SC is calling a meeting of interested organizations in mid March. I will be representing the LWV of SC.

Submitted by Janet Marsh, Ph.D., Associate Director, Child Welfare, LWV SC



League Discusses Broken Branch at Inaugural Book Discussion

League Launches New Conversation on Current Political Books

Last summer at our board retreat, Bea Bailey suggested that we have a book discussion centered around a book of interest to League members. We took her up on that suggestion with our February 3rd potluck lunch and discussion of Ornstein and Mann's *The Broken Branch*, an interesting and informative description of how the operations of Congress have changed over the last half century and what needs to change to make Congress a more effective political force.

Linda Gahan suggested the book. Bea ably led the discussion for eleven avid readers (well, ten--but the eleventh had heard Mann give a speech). We concluded that there are two kinds of action that we can take in response. One is to urge the state LWV to make our apportionment position on a nonpartisan apportionment commission an action priority. The other is to plan to work on campaign finance reform,

which is a national position. The group also decided that this was a great idea and we should expand it to twice a year. So we are looking for titles of interest and relevance to the League. Please share your suggestions and plan to participate in the next one!

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich



Members Reflect on Congress' Willingness to Fulfill Mission

March Program Cool Cities

The speakers for the March 27 program will be Peggy Brock, an architect from Greenville who is chair of the City of Greenville Cool Cities Committee and John Hartz who chair the South Carolina Cool Cities Committee.

2007 LWVCA Officers and Board Members

President, Holley Ulbrich

President-Elect, Janie Shipley

2nd VP for Program and Action, Linda Gahan

Secretary, Della Baker

Treasurer, Sharon Fennell

Other Board Members

Bea Bailey

Steve Johnson

Ingrid Lampe

Catherine Mobley

Aleta Robinson

Ada Lou Steirer

Reggie Turetzky

Kathy Woodard

Webmaster, Eleanor Hare

Please be sure to check out our brand new web site: clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Dutch Maid restaurant in Seneca (near the Booksmith). The agenda is as follows:

Introduction of outgoing board
Changes in bylaws
Adoption of budget
Election of officers and directors
Approval of proposed local program
President's remarks
Recognition of new and continuing board members

The proposed bylaws changes, proposed budget, nominating committee report, and proposed local program are in this VOTER. Please bring it with you to the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee Report

Officers

President--Janie Shipley (elected last year)
President-Elect--Bea Bailey
2nd VP Program and Action--Holley Ulbrich
Secretary--Ada Lou Steirer
Treasurer--Sharon Fennell

Directors for 2007-09

Della Baker
Steve Johnson
Catherine Mobley
Aleta Robinson

Continuing Directors

Kathy Woodard
Reggie Turetzky

Nominating Committee

Frances Plotnik, Chair
Ansley Fraser
Jane Polk

Submitted by the nominating committee, Jane Polk, chair. Members: Carol Kozma, Sandy Lieberman and Reggie Turetzky.

Proposed Local Program

Existing Positions

Education The LWVCA believes our schools should be adequately financed. Therefore, we support increased taxes, if necessary, for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson County Schools. The LWVCA supports greater fiscal autonomy for the School Board of Trustees in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties.

Growth Management

The LWVCA approved a study of growth as it impacts Oconee, Pickens and Anderson Counties in changing the environment and quality of life, in increased transportation problems, urban sprawl, etc. We would like to keep that study on the agenda for 2007-08.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Article IX, Section 1. Fiscal year. The fiscal year of the LWVCA shall commence on the first day of ~~April~~ June each year.

This change will make the board year and the fiscal year coincide. At present we begin a new fiscal year without an approved budget.

Article IX, Section 2. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of September. ~~Any member who fails to pay dues within 31 days after the due date shall be dropped from the membership rolls.~~ If there is more than one member in a family, dues for the second member will be 50% of the regular dues, and only one copy of LWVCA mailings shall be sent.

This change brings our bylaws in accord with actual practice.

Article V, Section 1. The board of directors of the LWVCA shall consist of five elected officers, ~~eight~~ six elected directors, and not more than ~~eight~~ six appointed directors. ~~Four~~ three of the elected directors shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding ~~eight~~ six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. One of the appointed directors shall be the webmaster, and one will be the immediate past president if she is not elected to a two year term as a director.

The size of the board seemed excessive relative to the size of the League.

Proposed LWV Budget for 2007-2008

INCOME

Dues (\$50)	\$3250
Member Contributions	\$ 500
ED Fund Contributions (used for PMP)	\$ 400
Fundraising	\$1500
Total	\$5650

EXPENSES

PMP	\$2800
US (\$1750)	
SC (\$1050)	
VOTER	
Printing	\$ 990
Mailing	\$ 350
Website	\$ 160
Convention	\$1000
Board Tools	\$ 325
President	\$50
Membership	\$50
Voter Education	\$50
Publications	\$50
Fundraising	\$75
Misc	\$50
Citizenship Award	\$ 25
Total	\$5650

The budget includes a dues increase to \$50 (second household member \$25; student \$25).

Fundraising (with no letters) will have to be more aggressive and imaginative.

\$41.80 (assuming no SC increase) of your \$45 dues leaves our checkbook for PMP payments. So we are now operating on contributions.

Study Shows Going Green Saves Schools \$100,000 a Year

Source: GreenBiz.com

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2006 - A new national report finds that building "green" would save an average school \$100,000 each year - enough to hire two new additional full-time teachers.

The report breaks new ground by demonstrating that green schools - schools designed to be energy efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly -- are extremely cost-effective. Total financial benefits from green schools outweigh the costs 20 to 1. With over \$35 billion dollars projected to be spent in 2007 on K-12 construction, the conclusions of this report have far-reaching implications for future school design.

Sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers, the American Institute of Architects, the American Lung Association, the Federation of American Scientists and the US Green Building Council, the report includes a detailed analysis of 30 green schools built in 10 states between 2001 and 2006. The analysis demonstrates that the total financial benefits of green schools are 20 times greater than the initial cost, and include energy and water savings, and improved student health and test scores. If all new school construction and school renovations went "green" starting today, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next 10 years. Some of the major benefits documented in Greening America's Schools include:

On average, green schools use 33% less energy and 32% less water than conventional schools, and would improve national security by reducing reliance on imported energy.

Green schools typically have better lighting, temperature control, improved ventilation and indoor air-quality which contribute to reduced asthma, colds, flu and absenteeism... helping improve learning, test scores and lifetime student earnings.

Greening all school construction would create over 2000 additional new jobs each year from increased use of energy efficiency technologies.

Additional benefits calculated in the report include improved teacher retention and a reduction in dangerous air-pollutants that cause respiratory disease and premature mortality.

Specific school findings include:

The green school in Dedham, MA saved the town \$400,000 in new sewer-system infrastructure by reducing stormwater runoff from the school grounds.

A review of five separate studies by Carnegie Mellon University found a 38.5% asthma reduction in buildings - such as green schools - from improved indoor air-quality.

One school district in North Carolina experienced a 33% increase in the percentage of students testing at grade-level for reading and math after moving to a green school.

Study author, Greg Kats, a former Director of Finance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the US Department of Energy, has worked with dozens of corporations, developers, state agencies and organizations to arrive at conservative cost/benefit comparisons of different environmental and building strategies. In Greening America's Schools, Kats emphasizes that the financial benefits of green schools are substantially broader than those quantified in the report and include the creation of new educational opportunities, improved equity in education and insurance savings. "Building green schools," he writes, "is more fiscally prudent and lower risk than continuing to build unhealthy, inefficient schools."

From Steve Johnson
864-654-3360
Johnsos05@yahoo.com

My Experience at Legislative Day

Barbara Kostreva Reports

“I believe that within four years, South Carolina can be known as the most fairly funded, innovative, and choice-driven public school system in the nation. It’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.” - Jim Rex

You want to attend a League Legislative Day because it opens a door to an extraordinary world! This day gave me the background for further discussion of Dr. Rex’s platform, offered me insights into the politics around education reform in S.C., and provided the excitement to stimulate enthusiasm and energy.

Two senators, Linda Short (the only woman in the SC Senate) and John Matthews, spoke on education funding. Sen. Matthews prodded the group to work on teacher compensation as a core issue. Our own Ellen Saltzman, from the Strom Thurmond Institute, provided policy analysis of last year’s Law 388, the “tax swap” legislation. Robert E. Davis, Chief Financial Officer of Richland School District Two, talked about the law’s policy impact in his school district and stated his opinion that local school districts need to keep ownership of their schools by being able to raise local funds as opposed to total state funding (a current discussion among some legislators.) Dr. Baron Holmes also discussed the impact of Law 388 and reiterated that a crucial issue is the need for competitive teachers’ salaries. Several panelists mentioned that Law 388 would cause people who make the least to pay the most, and that renters will lose in this legislation.

After lunch with a table of interesting, active, concerned women, we heard from Dr. Jim Rex, newly-elected SC Superintendent of Education. Dr. Rex is just in his 7th week of office and brought written reports from his five campaign goals, translated by the 78-member Transition Leadership Team. His wife, Sue, sat at our table and is working on several projects for special education; she is a former teacher and education professor.

Questions and answers ranged from the League issues of preschool K-3 and 4 to adult education. It was great to hear informed people freely ask questions and receive immediate feedback.

Legislative Day really started with the ride to Columbia and ended with the ride home courtesy of other League members. It was truly wonderful to talk with and learn from them. Thank you. Seven women from LWV-CA went to Columbia on Tuesday, February 27.

Among the many role models was 87-year-old Sarah Leverette, longtime League and State Board member in Columbia. Listening to Sarah made me stop and think, “What can I do, and what is MY part in this whole process?” It was encouraging and inspiring to meet Sarah, and many other terrific women. I realized that League is providing me the opportunity to grow and showing me how I can make a difference.

Oconee County Legislative Delegation Meeting

February 8, 2007

The Oconee County Legislative Delegation met on February 8th due to cancellation of the scheduled February 1st meeting. Sen. Thomas Alexander welcomed the audience. Rep. Bill Sandifer gave the invocation and Rep. Bill Whitmire led the pledge of allegiance. The Clemson Area LWV was first on the agenda. I read a statement concerning four issues: electronic voting; changes in tax structure; home rule; and private school tax breaks. Janie Shipley read the Child Welfare: Child care and early education position paper. She also urged the House members to vote against H3175-SC Child Development Education Program because the State Department of Education should administer the four year old kindergarten program; child care centers should be required to hire state-certified ECE teachers and unspent funds should be directed to the Division of Child Care Services at DSS for its child care enhancement program for children from birth to three years of age.

Ben Turetzky, President of FOLKS, urged the legislators to vote against any takings legislation; to introduce legislation preventing boats from discharging septic wastes in the waters of lakes Keowee and Hartwell; to fund additional boats and crews to make safety patrols on Lake Keowee and Hartwell. He noted that in 2006 there were thirty-five citations for BUI (boating under the influence) on Lake Keowee. He requested that the whole delegation support the FOLKS grant requests which were submitted to the State Competitive Grant Program – one of which was for a Low Impact Development Demonstration project on the FOLKS property.

Larry Linsin and Susie Cornelius both called on the delegation to oppose a bid by Oconee County to have legislation introduced allowing for establishment of a new municipal sewer authority. Cornelius believes that there should a County referendum on the establishment of the authority. Linsin also asked the Delegation to consider legislation that would call for licenses to be rescinded for any business that knowingly hires illegal immigrants.

Mike Evatt asked the group to consider legislation requiring a verifiable paper trail for all elections. He stated “If we are going to democratize Iraq, we need to make sure that every vote is counted here in America and especially here in Oconee County.” Doug Bryson said that he would like to see legislation to make all county elections non-partisan. The Legislative Delegation elected Bill Sandifer as Delegation Chairman and that they would alternate based on legislative seniority.

WANTED: Volunteers, Plants and Books!

LWVCA Plants and Books Yard Sale Saturday, March 31, 2007 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 8:00-Noon

A reminder about the League of Women Voter's fundraiser: We need your donations for our plants and books yard sale:

- ** Do you have a green thumb? If so, *start your seedlings now!* We will be selling plants, bulbs, shrubs, etc. at the yard sale.
- ** Do you have a brown thumb? We can still use your donations! *We are looking for any yard and garden items: planters, shovels, rakes, lawn mowers, pots, trowels, garden ornaments, etc.*
- ** Finally, we need *books, books and more books!* Please consider donating your books to the yard sale this year!

We also need volunteers to collect items during the week (probably on Thursday and Friday before the yard sale) and volunteers for the actual yard sale (we have three shifts: 7:00-9:00; 9:00-11:00; and 11:00-12:30 or so)

Please contact Catherine Mobley if you can help with this important effort! (camoble@clemson.edu or 868-6530).



CLEMSON CITY ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES LWV- CA DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS



Diane Haselton Offers Rick Cotton, Clemson City Administrator, Our
Newest League's *Directory of Public Officials*

Please check our new web site:

clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org

Reproductive Choice Meeting

A meeting will be held on April 12, 4:30 p.m. of local residents who are interested in advancing the cause of reproductive choice, reproductive rights and reproductive health. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, 226 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC. If you have questions, or would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Janie Shipley at 885.1967 or janrel@mindspring.com.

Encourage Your Friends to Join the League!

Non-Profit Organization
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