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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
P.O. BOX 802
CLEMSON SC 29633-0802
Return Service Requested



Volume 37, Number 3
March 2009

LWVCA President: Beatrice Bailey
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues. March 10 | LWVCA Board Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 5:00 p.m. |
| Tues. March 24 | LWVCA Candidate Forum for Clemson City Council, the Arts Center at the Child Development Center, 216 Butler Street, Clemson, 7:00-8:30 pm |
| Tues. March 31 | LWVCA General Meeting: "Surviving Budget Cuts in Oconee County Schools," Hamilton Career Center Large Conference Room, 7:00 p.m. |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THESE DATES:

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues. April 21 | LWVCA Annual Meeting, Clemson University Outdoor Lab (Kresge Hall). Guest speaker: Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever. Time to be announced. |
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WATCH DEMOCRACY AT WORK

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clemson City Council | 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. |
| Seneca City Council | 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. |
| Pickens County Council | 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. |
| Oconee County Council | 3rd Tuesday, 3:00 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 & 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/ local board members) |
| LWVCA website | http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/ |

President's Message

Dear LWVCA, We had an incredible overview and discussion at our February membership meeting. Thanks to Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Susan Alford, the director of the newly created Girls Center at Clemson University, shared her recent juvenile justice efforts that relate to helping incarcerated young women overcome dependency and develop life skills needed to reenter society.

Many of our committees have been busy this month and with good results. Please note our slate of LWVCA officers provided by our Nominating Committee and the proposal of our Budget Committee. We will consider these and then vote on them at our annual membership meeting.

Please make plans to attend the annual banquet at the Outdoor Lab on April 21. Brad Wyche from Upstate Forever will be our keynote speaker.

Seven LWVCA members will serve as delegates at the state League convention in Greenville in April, and we have several other members who are on the state board who will also attend. We will definitely be represented.

As always, thanks for the League work that you do.

Cordially, Bea Bailey, LWVCA President

LWVCA Nominating Committee Report

Each year, the LWVCA Nominating Committee seeks to identify individuals who can lead our organization forward. This year has been no exception. As stipulated in the LWVCA bylaws, the following slate of officers is presented to the members:

Officers

- President – Della A. Baker
- President-elect - Michelle L. Chin;
- 2nd VP Program and Action - Holley Ulbrich
- Secretary – Ada Lou Steirer
- Treasurer - Alice Flower

Directors (continuing) - 2008-2010

- Arlene Stewart
- Reggie Turetzky
- (The board will appoint to fill unexpired term of this position)

Nominating Committee

- Elaine Epstein, Chair
- Ansley Fraser
- Dianne Haselton

Directors - 2009-2011

- Bea Bailey
- Paula Appling



Pictured at the LWVCA General meeting, held on Tuesday, February 17, are Dr. Robin Kimbrough-Melton (left) and Susan Alford, Director of the Girls Center at Clemson University (see page 2 for a description of this meeting)..

**LWVCA March Meeting to Address
“Surviving Budget Cuts in Oconee County”**

Because of the economic situation we are facing, the next LWVCA meeting will be a Forum to learn how the Oconee County School District is coping with recent budget cuts.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00pm at the Hamilton Career Center Large Conference Room. .

The following individuals will participate in the discussion:

- * Dr. Mike Lucas - Superintendent SDOC
- * Mr. Andy Inabinet - Chairman SDOC School Board
- * Mr. Joel Thrift - Vice Chairman Oconee County Council

The Forum will be moderated by Kathy Woodard - Director of Planning and Research at Clemson University.

~ Submitted by *Reggie Turetzky*

**Girls Expert Addresses the
LWVCA at February Meeting**

“Although girls represent a small proportion of detained youth, more girls are entering detention and they are entering with needs that are significantly different than those of boys,” said Susan Alford, the director of The Girls Center at Clemson University. Alford spoke to the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

The former deputy director for policy and planning at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Alford described a system that was ill-suited to addressing the complex needs of girls before recent reforms at DJJ. “Boys still far outnumber girls in the juvenile justice system so it is not surprising that services – community-based and institutional -- are geared to the needs of boys,” noted Alford. The recognition that serious issues of gender inequity existed for girls in custody at DJJ led Judge William Byars and his staff to implement reforms aimed at providing girls with a safe, secure and responsive

environment. Girls Circles, where girls can talk about their issues with other girls, and a transition center, where girls can live for up to six months before their release and learn everyday tasks associated with living independently, were among the gender responsive services that were implemented to better serve girls in the DJJ system.

Alford urged League members to consider ways in which they can become involved in strengthening policies and programs for girls across society. Such actions might include raising awareness, helping girls to access job training, comprehensive health care and better educational opportunities, and serving as role models for young women.

~Submitted by *Robin Kimbrough-Melton*

**Broaden Your Horizons and
Joins Us for the Next
LWVCA Book Discussion Group**

The semi-annual LWVSC book group met on Saturday, February 21st for a potluck lunch and a discussion of Harriet Keyserling's *Against the Tide*. The seven members present enjoyed the trip down memory lane with a recounting of tales of the General Assembly and state politics from 1976 to 1992 when she served in the legislature. Harriet Keyserling, a founding member of the Beaufort League, left a lasting impact on state policy in many areas, including education, the arts, and restrictions on the use of filibusters that enabled bills to move forward more quickly.

The book selection for this next fall is George Lakoff's *don't think of an elephant*, which draws on linguistics and family systems to explain how public issues are framed and how people perceive and respond to issues through their particular conceptual framework. For those of you who find this short book just an appetizer, feel free to go on to his longer book, *Moral Politics*.

Date, time and location of our fall book discussion group will be announced in a future newsletter.

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

**Don't forget to make plans
to attend the annual meeting!**

The LWVCA Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab. At this meeting, we will elect officers, board members, and a nominating committee, approve a budget for the upcoming year, and adopt our local program.

At this meeting, we will not only conduct business, but we will also have the opportunity to learn about an important LWVCA issue: growth management. At the meeting we will hear from Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, an upstate organization that “promotes sensible growth and protects special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina.” If you don't know about Upstate Forever, now is the time to learn more! And, if you are already familiar with Upstate Forever, join us to learn more about the organization's most recent efforts and to see (through Brad's slide show) evidence of their successes in the Upstate.

So, mark your calendar and plan to attend. Reservations will be required. Further details will be published in the April Voter.

*~ Submitted by Eleanor Hare
and Catherine Mobley*

**A Report on the Meeting with the
Oconee County Legislative Delegation**

The Oconee County Legislative Delegation met on February 5th in Walhalla. A number of individuals attended the session to voice their concerns on a variety of issues. George Blanchard, from the Oconee County Council asked the delegation to be more conservative in its estimates of County Aid. He noted that the counties depend on the Local Government Fund which makes up to 4.5% of the State Budget. For Oconee County, state funding amounted to \$3.6M in last year's budget. However, Oconee County had received mid-year cuts amounting to almost \$270K. Blanchard said “When cuts come after the fact, it is difficult. It is easier if you give us a conservative figure with which to build the budget.”

Several citizens, including Blanchard, urged the lawmakers to raise the tax on cigarettes as a way of funding health care costs and Blanchard urged \$.05/gallon increase in the state gasoline tax to be used to upgrade roads and bridges. He also suggested taxing the full price of automobiles instead of the current \$300 cap. Representative Sandifer said a current proposal would designate a revenue stream for this infrastructure without a tax increase. Both Sandifer and Senator Alexander said that current proposals under consideration would also look at curtailing some exemptions from the state sales tax as a means of raising revenue. Representative Sandifer said that in 2010, we will be back to where we were in 2005.

Reggie Turetzky, representing LWVCA, urged the legislators to “rethink the tax system” and make it more stable and to distribute the burden more evenly. Act 388, in particular, which tied school funding to the volatile sale tax revenue, needs to be reconsidered. Revenue shortfalls from initial projections have led lawmakers to cut nearly \$250M from the state budget for education over the past few months.

Ben Turetzky, representing FOLKS, urged that the state enact a Comprehensive Water Policy as soon as possible and noted that it is necessary to put South Carolina on an equal footing with Georgia where such legislation is already in place. He also recommended passage of the “Fare Share Water Bill” currently before the Senate as a start on a Comprehensive Water Law. Representative Bowen said that current plans include passing such legislation and also merging DHEC and DNR so that water issues are under one agency, as in Georgia. The objective is to prevent South Carolina water from being transferred to Atlanta.

Gerry Allen, representing the Oconee Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program said that in Oconee County, 60 GALs represent 556 children. Approximately 1,500 GALs in South Carolina devote at least 70,000 hours per year, thereby saving the state upwards of \$1.0M compared to using private GALs. She urged the delegation to fund the program so it can remain because in the long run, the program saves the state so much and helps so many abused and neglected children.

~ Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

**Make Plans to Attend the
Clemson City Council Candidate Forum**

Mark your calendars for the Clemson City Council Candidate Forum, Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Arts Center Auditorium at the Clemson Child Development Center, 216 Butler Street. Candidates are Jeremy T. Wright, Christel L. Medeiros, and Roy “Steve” Fields. Donna London will moderate this forum. The City Council election is March 31.

The candidates have been sent a list of questions on various topics of local interest, including how to encourage energy efficiency, how to balance the desire for commercial growth with the need to protect the quality of life in Clemson, and what criteria should be used in awarding contracts. Answers to questions will be posted to our web site when they are received from the candidates.

~Submitted by Eleanor Hare

**LWVSC State Convention to be
Held in Greenville April 18th and 19th**

The biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina will take place April 18 and 19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Greenville. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday with registration and a continental breakfast, the agenda will include program planning for the next two years, guest speakers, a panel discussion on opening doors for women and minorities, a workshop on advocacy, and time for connecting with leaguers from other parts of South Carolina.

The first call for the 2009 LWVSC Convention can be accessed at the following website: <http://lwvsc.org/files/firstcall2009.pdf>. Through this link you can find additional information, including the program and suggestions of things to do in Greenville on Saturday afternoon. Your State Board representatives (Dianne Haselton, Eleanor Hare, Janet Marsh, Holley Ulbrich) are automatically voting delegates to Convention and LWV Clemson Area is entitled to seven more voting delegates. As we go to press, seven local Board members have asked to be voting delegates, but we are almost two months away from Convention and plans change. A waiting list of

members interested in being delegates (voting or non-voting) is being created, so please email LWVClemson@gmail.com to place your name on the list or to obtain additional information. All LWVCA members are encouraged to attend any part or all of Convention. Having State Convention so close provides a great opportunity to see how LWVSC operates, so we encourage all our members to attend as much as they can.

Two years ago LWVCA was ably represented at the Convention in Pawleys Island by three State Board members and five additional voting delegates. It was an exciting meeting. -- just ask any of our members who were there: Aleta Robinson, Linda Gahan, Eleanor Hare, Bill Hare, Dianne Haselton, Jan Marsh, Mary Ann McKenzie, and Janie Shipley.

Convention Registration for voting and non-voting delegates is \$85 and includes all meals listed on the “first call,” including banquet, plenary sessions, presentations, training opportunities, and printed materials. A \$25 late fee will be assessed for registrations after April 10. Banquet tickets and other meal tickets will be available separately for both members and non-members. (Watch our web sites for information on how to reserve these tickets.)

~Submitted by Eleanor Hare

**An Announcement of the Consensus
on the National Popular Vote Compact**

The National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) is an agreement among states where the member states give their electoral votes to the candidate with the greatest “national popular vote total.” Reform of the Electoral College in order to elect the president by popular vote requires an amendment to the Constitution. The NPV accomplishes direct popular election without changing the Constitution. The compact specifies that it shall take effect only if it is law in states controlling a majority of electoral votes on July 20 of a presidential election year.

Links to discussions prepared by the LWV and to consensus questions are on our home page. We will be discussing NPV this spring and sending our responses to LWV before their May 9 deadline.

~ Submitted by Eleanor Hare

**League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area
Proposed Budget for June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010**

The following budget is presented to be considered at the Annual Meeting in April. The LWVCA budget depends mainly on fundraising as only \$6.80 of our dues stays in Clemson. Fundraising is a result of members' and non-members' contributions and various efforts, i.e., wine tasting, garage sale, plant sale or whatever creative money projects the committee decides to sponsor and organize. We greatly appreciate all tax deductible contributions to the League Education Fund. Up to 50% (\$1000) of our PMP can be paid with Education Fund contributions.

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|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Income | | |
| Dues | 3450 | * |
| Member contributions | 500 | |
| Education Fund contributions | 700 | ** |
| Fundraising | 2100 | |
| Total | 6750 | |
| Expenses | | |
| PMPUS | 2001 | *** |
| PMPSC | 959 | **** |
| The Voter | | |
| - printing | 1100 | |
| - mailing | 705 | |
| Website | 160 | |
| Convention | 1000 | ¹ |
| Board Tools | | |
| President | 200 | |
| Membership | 100 | |
| Voter ED | 200 | |
| Publications- DPO | 0 | ² |
| Fundraising | 100 | |
| Misc | 200 | |
| Citizenship Award | 25 | |
| Total | 6750 | |

* 65 regular members 8 half members

** Used to pay PMP to LWVUS

*** National PMP \$29.20 73 members (64 full pay, 9 half pay)

**** \$14 per member

¹ Convention expenses for 2009 State Convention and for 2010 LWVUS registration, which will be paid before next budget cycle.

² DPO (Directory of Public Officials) has stand alone funding when it is published.

~ Submitted by Sharon Fennell, Della Baker, and Michelle Chin