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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
P.O. BOX 802
CLEMSON SC 29633-0802
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Volume 38, Number 3
March 2010

LWVCA President: Della Baker
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues., March 23	LWVCA General Membership Meeting on "Our Broken Tax System." 7:00 social time; 7:30 meeting time, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Pendleton Road. See page 2.
Thurs., March 25	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Council Chambers, 5:00 p.m.
Tues., April 6	Oconee County Hot Topics Lunch, Copper River Grill, Rte 123 in Seneca, 11:45-1:00. See page 6.
Sat., April 24	LWVSC State Council Meeting, Time and location TBD. See page 3.
Mon., May 10	LWVCA Annual Meeting, Collins Ole Town, outside Central. Cost \$21 per person. Buffet meal provided. See pages 5 and 8 for more details.

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

There is so much going on nationally, statewide and locally in the world of politics. This is a great time to be a Leaguer. LWVCA Board Member, Janie Shipley, submitted a commentary on proposed SC legislation requiring VOTER ID at the polls. You can find it on our website. Holley Ulbrich was invited to speak on the topic of the SC tax system for the Spartanburg and Georgetown Leagues. We have had several town council candidate forums and are working on another one for Anderson County. We will send details through the weekly updates and through the media.

In this issue, you will find:

- **Information about the LWVCA Annual Meeting (see pages 5 and 8):** We are very excited that Dr. Esin Gulari, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Clemson University, will be our guest speaker. Dean Gulari recently traveled to the South Pole as part of the National Science Foundation's Office of the Polar Program to observe NSF-sponsored research. She will share some of her experiences with us. We will send more details in the next newsletter. Please save the date (Monday, May 10) on your calendar and plan to attend.
- **The recommended LWVCA Bylaws changes (see page 6):** Please read them and be prepared to vote. To view the entire By-laws, you may visit the following web site:
<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/Bylaws.pdf>
- **Information about the National Convention in Atlanta (see page 7):** Our delegate will be the LWVCA incoming President, Michelle Chin. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the national convention. Since the convention is being held so close to us, it would be great if we could get a carpool to attend even if it is only for one day.

We are still seeking candidates for some of our LWVCA offices. Please contact Elaine Epstein at 864-224-5126 if you are interested in getting involved on the board. We could use your help. The next general meeting is the 4th Tuesday in March due to the Clemson University Spring break. The topic of that meeting will be "Our Broken SC Tax System."
~ Della Baker, LWVCA President



LWVCA President Della Baker, with Mr. Tommy Dunn, Chairman of the Anderson County Council. Mr. Dunn is signing the "Making Democracy Work" proclamation in observance of the 90th anniversary of the LWVUS.

LWVCA March General Meeting Tuesday, March 23

The March meeting is a week later than usual (March 23, the 4th Tuesday, instead of the 3rd Tuesday) because of Clemson University's spring break. We are going to talk about South Carolina's broken tax system and the further injuries it may be suffering in this year's legislative session. Point of sale was stopped, barely; proposed further property tax relief is probably on hold; and we hope that the proposed elimination of the corporate income tax will not go anywhere, at least for now. By the 23rd we may know if they are going to finally increase the cigarette tax. The Tax Realignment Commission is asking good questions, so there is hope!

I know that taxes aren't your favorite topic, but they are the way we pay for the things you care about--education, roads, corrections, children's services and programs. So please come listen, learn, ask questions, and be prepared to talk to your legislators (and later in the year) candidates. They need to hear from people whose top priority is not their personal pet tax break, but who care instead about public services in South Carolina.

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*



Above: Dianne Haselton moderating the Clemson City Council Candidate Forum. Right: Candidates for Clemson City Council (l. to r.): Crossie Cox, June Hay and Jessica Robinson.

LWVCA Candidate Forum for the Clemson City Council

A standing-room-only crowd attended our candidate forum for the Clemson City Council special election at the Central-Clemson Library. May "Crossie" Cox, Pamela June Hay and Jessica E. Robinson answered questions about rental housing ordinances, preserving neighborhoods, recycling, development, sidewalks and other concerns. The winner of this election will fill the Clemson City Council seat vacated by the resignation of Elouise James. This term runs through 2012.

Janie Shipley welcomed the crowd in the name of the League and explained the League's non-partisan support of an informed electorate. Dianne Haselton moderated with assistance from Alice Flower (time-keeper), Bill Hare, Aleta Robinson, Frances Plotnik, Carol Ward and Eleanor Hare.

The Election: In the election on February 9, Cox received 377 votes, Hay 362 votes and Robinson 133 votes. Since no candidate received a majority of the votes cast, a runoff was scheduled for two weeks later. Only 872 of the 6564 registered voters in the City of Clemson turned out to vote. The turnout was approximately 13.3%.

The Runoff: In the runoff on February 23, Cox received 530 votes and Hay received 399 votes. Although the turnout for the runoff was higher than for the election, the turnout was still only slightly higher than 14%.

~ Submitted by *Eleanor Hare*



LWVSC State Council Meeting Saturday, April 24

Mark your calendar for April 24th when the SC League will gather for a one day state council. We will have panels on both the school governance study and the water study and an update on all our legislative priorities. There is an interesting development in school governance in Fairfield County, where the legislative delegation passed two local bills, one to add two legislative appointees to the school board to dilute the black majority, the other to take away the financial authority from the school board and vest it in a legislatively appointed committee that reports to county council. We will have an update on this development at the March meeting and also at state council.

State council is held between state conventions in even numbered years. It's a good chance to meet people from other Leagues and learn more about important statewide issues.

~ *Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

LWVCA February General Meeting The ABC's of Advocacy

The ABC's of Advocacy was the topic of the February LWVCA Meeting. The presenters, Janie Shipley, Eleanor Hare and Paula Appling talked about how to become a voter, the importance of getting the facts pertaining to issues of interest, and how to advocate effectively. Shipley reported on recent voter issues tracked by LWVCA, including the recent US Supreme Court decision on financing of elections, the Voter ID Bill in the SC Senate, and registration by party. Handouts listed useful websites.

Below are some tips for being an effective advocate. Before forming an opinion about any legislation, learn the "who", "what" and "why" of it. Realize that there is almost always more than one side to a story, and try to determine how each interested party views the legislation.

- Establish a rapport with legislators. Keep up with how they vote. Express your reaction to those votes on issues in which you are interested.
- Attend political functions and fundraisers in the district.
- Get personally involved in your legislator's election campaign.
- Consider hosting a fundraiser in your home or local meeting place.
- Get to know the legislator's families and about their life outside of politics.
- After developing a personal relationship, invite your legislator to social functions.

When preparing a visit with a legislator:

- The best time to contact and work with your legislator about a new proposal, request, or a change in an existing law is July through mid-December, when the legislature is out of session.
- Most Effective: Personal visit and take a friend or two, more if available
- Next Most Effective: Personal phone calls and/or well written one-page letters
- Least Effective: E-mails, unless the legislator says they prefer e-mail.
- Write or call before you visit. You most often must take the initiative with additional communications



Presenters at the February General Meeting on the ABC's of Advocacy: (l. to r.) Paula Appling, Janie Shipley and Eleanor Hare

The 2010 Oconee County Legislative Delegation

The Oconee County Legislative Delegation met on February 8, 2010 at the Depot in Westminster. The entire delegation was present: Senator Alexander, Representative Whitmire, Representative Sandifer and Representative Bowen. The room was packed and some citizens had to stand.

The first to speak was Polly Nicolay, who ran against Senator Alexander in the last Republican primary. She wants the delegation to reform Home Rule or end it. She believes that public education has failed because the system must get back to biblical values and there has been a moral decline since prayer has been taken out of the schools.

Next, Ed Rumsey, the former Republican Chairman of Oconee County, urged the delegation to consider voting for S.520, the "Education Opportunity Act."

A citizen reminded the delegation that SC cigarette tax of seven cents a pack is the lowest in the nation and must be corrected and increased. Senator Alexander said that a special order will bring the issue to the legislative forefront this session.

The next speaker was Reggie Turetzky, who spoke on behalf of the LWVCA. She reported that the LWVCA supports H.3748, which would retain the current index of taxpaying ability used to distribute EFA funds to school districts, but recommended that an expert group be convened to suggest adjustment in light of the impact of Act 388 on school district revenue. LWVCA is opposed to H.3272, the pending Point of Sale legislation and is strongly opposed to H.3418 which requires a photo ID for voting. LWVCA supports S.452, Water Withdrawal Permitting. This is a critical element which will start leveling the playing field between neighboring states with which we must come to agreement over the important water issues facing us.

Ben Turetzky, Executive Director of Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS), asked the delegation to push for a state water management plan to put SC on an equal footing with neighboring states with whom we have to deal, particularly involving withdrawal of surface water.

Representative Bowen said that getting a state management plan in place was a priority this session, especially in view of the Lake Lanier Federal Court decision last year that will block Atlanta from using Lake Lanier as a water supply. "We need to get a plan in place before Atlanta comes knocking on our door," Bowen said. Representative Bowen is working with the Brigadier General to get 12 legislators from South Carolina and 12 legislators from Georgia to work together with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a water commission.

George Cleveland asked the delegation to request the Unemployment Commission to shift help to the employees and not the employers. Representative Sandifer said there is pending legislation to restructure the State Employment Security Commission (ESC), eliminating the role of the Commissioners and shifting more of their functions to the administrative law courts. The restructuring will also change the manner in which the employment taxes that fund the agency are collected and used. Sandifer also noted that the legislature faces the challenge in preparing the state to begin paying back the \$700 million loan to the federal government that enabled the ESC to continue paying benefits after its own funds were exhausted. "Every state, except for three, has that challenge," he said.

~Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

**The 2010 LWVCA
Annual Meeting**

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Esin Gulari, Dean of Clemson University's College of Engineering and Science, will be the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting. She will speak about her trip to Antarctica.

Dr. Gulari is the first and only South Carolinian to sit on the National Science Board (NSB), the governing board of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and policy advisors to the President and Congress. As a member of the NSB, she was invited on a site visit to Antarctica to observe the research projects that NSF is supporting and to learn about the logistics associated with these projects.

Dean Gulari was impressed with the harshness of the Antarctic environment and the need for scientists to collaborate. She visited the Crary Science and Engineering Laboratory at McMurdo Station and the new Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. She took a helicopter tour of the dry valleys on Ross Island and visited some remote research sites.

To get to her destination, Dean Gulari was on commercial flights to Christ Church, New Zealand and on military flights to McMurdo and South Pole Stations. In summer at McMurdo Station, the temperature may be only 15 or 20 degrees Fahrenheit but at the South Pole, three and a half hours away by plane, at an altitude of 10,000 ft, temperatures drop to -20 degrees. Hercules aircraft landing at the South Pole keep their engines running while the planes are reloaded for return to McMurdo. The planes have skis for landing on ice and snow at the South Pole.

A Few Research Projects: Dean Gulari made special mention of three NSF-sponsored projects: Project IceCube, the South Pole Telescope, and exploring the underside of the Ross Ice Shelf.

Many scientists in Antarctica are searching for neutrinos (high-energy subatomic particles created by galactic collisions), cosmic rays, and a host of exotic particles. NSF-sponsored Project IceCube, a cosmic neutrino observatory located far below Antarctica's ice, consists of strings of light-sensing modules frozen deep in crystal clear Antarctica ice. Neutrino research helps scientists understand the origins of matter.

The NSF-funded South Pole Telescope is 10 meters in diameter. Its primary scientific goal is to find clusters of galaxies and research dark energy. (Dark energy is the most popular way to explain recent observations that the universe appears to be expanding at an accelerating rate.)

Near McMurdo, a project exploring the world under the Ross Ice Shelf hopes to discover more about how the West Antarctic Ice Shelf has responded to past climate changes. Researchers know that old ice (the ice shelves) has been decreasing in size, but more data is needed in order to determine the cause(s) of this loss.

Research at the South Pole is unique. This area is isolated from the rest of the world and not contaminated by interference from electromagnetic signals, atmospheric pollutants, and, even, noise.

More of Dean Gulari's Blog: Dean Gulari's blog from her trip includes photos of wildlife (Adèlie penguins, a red starfish attacking a scallop, a giant isopod, skuas) and a seismometer recording volcanic activity at Mount Erebus (near McMurdo). She also included notes and photos related to the exploration of Antarctica by the British Royal Navy's Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1902) and Ernest Shackleton (1907). In Clemson tradition, there is a picture of Dean Gulari standing in front of a sign at the South Pole and displaying a "tiger rag." Her blog begins at http://www.clemson.edu/owstools/blog_ces/?p=9

~ Submitted by Bea Bailey, Ellen Magee
and Eleanor Hare

**Oconee County Hot Topics Lunch
Tuesday, April 6**

In the fall, the LWVCA initiated a series of “Hot Topics Lunches.” As mentioned in the September Voter, we recognized that some of our members are not able to, or prefer not to, attend evening meetings. Others indicated an interest in attending a meeting located in their county and about their county. So the Program and Action Committee developed the “Hot Topics Lunch” to address both of these concerns. The hot topic for the year is growth management.

The first Hot Topics Lunch was held in Pickens County on September 30th. The guests were Jim London (member of the Pickens County Council) and Rick Cotton (Clemson City Administrator). The second Hot Topics Lunch was held in Anderson County in early December. Guests at that meeting were Rusty Burns, interim county administrator, Bill West from the county planning department, and Representative Dan Bowen.

Oconee County residents and members will have an opportunity to attend a Hot Topics Lunch on Tuesday, April 6 at the Copper River Grill on Route 123 in Seneca. The topic will be planning and development in Oconee County. Ordering from the menu will begin at 11:45, so plan to arrive early. ~Submitted by Ada Lou Steirer

Proposed By-Law Changes

(Members are asked to read and be ready to vote on proposed changes during the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2010)

Current wording:

Article II. Purposes and Policy

Section 2. Policy. The LWVCA shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Proposed Addition:

Add to Article II. Section 2. Policy. LWVCA shall be a 501(c) (4) nonprofit entity. This

designation allows LWVCA to lobby and donations are not tax-deductible. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity. Donations to the LWVEF are tax-deductible. **(Justification: Denotes tax status).**

Current wording:

Article VI. Meetings. Section 2. Annual meeting. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held between March 31 and April 30, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors.

Proposed change:

Change **Article VI. Meetings. Section 2. Annual meeting.** to read: The annual meeting of the membership shall be held in the second quarter of the year, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. **(Justification: Allows more flexibility for the annual meeting date)**

Current wording:

Article VIII. Program. Section 3. Action by the annual meeting. The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures.

a. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.

Proposed Change:

Change Article VIII. Program. Section 3. a. to read: The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures.

a. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations for the local program proposed by the Program and Action Committee, after receiving recommendations from voting members during the January program planning meeting. The board of directors shall receive recommendations two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program. **(Justification: Denotes responsible party.)**



LWV 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE. A FUTURE OF HOPE.

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention **in Atlanta, GA from June 11-15, 2010**. The Convention site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website www.Atlanta.net and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

LWVCA will have one official voting delegate, however, non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegates debate and adopt the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

The Marriott Atlanta Marquis recently completed a \$120 million renovation including a new Ballroom and meeting rooms on the Atrium level which will accommodate all of the LWVUS Convention events. Guests enter the hotel and a soaring 50 story atrium, and can check-in at the front desk or at a self-serve interactive kiosk which produces your room key with a swipe of a credit card. Hotel restaurants include a Starbucks Café, SEAR for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the M-Shop Deli. The hotel has an indoor/outdoor pool and a Health Club and Spa. A 2-minute walk on an indoor covered pathway leads to Peachtree Center, with over 60 restaurants and shops. For more information please call 404-521-0000 or visit www.Atlantamarquis.com

Schedule-At-A-Glance:	Pre-Convention Training	Friday, June 11, 2-5 pm
	Saturday, June 12	Briefings, 10 am-Noon
	Saturday, June 12	Call to Order (Convention Starts) 1 pm
	Tuesday, June 15	Adjourn Noon

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$295.00 PAYABLE TO LWVUS. A late registration fee of \$50 will be applied to all registrations after May 14, 2010. After May 21, 2010, registration must be made on site. Cancellation and REFUND REQUESTS must be in writing and postmarked by June 4, 2010.

Hotel Information: Marriott Atlanta Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA, 1-866-469-5475

Room Rates (Use Group Code: lwvlwva):

Single or double room per night: \$179 plus 15% tax @205.85

Triple (three persons in room) (request roll away additional bed) \$189 plus 15% tax

Quad (4 persons in room) (request additional beds) \$199 plus 15% tax

Concierge Level: \$199 and up

Suites: \$350 and up.

You may download registration forms in pdf format or you may register on-line after log in. Click on the following link: <http://www.lwv.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ForMembers/Council/Registration/Registrar.htm>



*The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area
cordially invites members and their guests
to our Annual Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2010*

*Wine at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Collins Ole Town, Central, S.C
Come at 5:00 p.m. to see the Old Town buildings.*

*Speaker: Dr. Esin Gulari, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at
Clemson University, will speak about her trip to Antarctica.*

*Dinner: \$21 per person
Buffet includes two choices of meat, several choices of vegetable,
coffee, tea and dessert
Wine provided by League volunteers (Please volunteer!)*

*We need your reservation no later than **May 1.***

*Please email your reservation to Alice Flower at alflower@bellsouth.net
or phone her at 646-2603.*

*Checks should be made out to LWVCA and mailed to
PO Box 802, Clemson SC 29633.*

Reservations not honored will be billed after the event.

