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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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CLEMSON SC 29633-0802
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Volume 37, Number 5/6
May/June 2009

LWVCA President: Della Baker
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sat., July 25 | Upstate LWV Gathering, Marybeth's Restaurant, 500 E. McBee Avenue, Greenville, SC 29601, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Average cost \$12 for lunch items; \$10 for breakfast items (including drinks). |
| Sat., August 15 | League Leaders Day, St. Paul Lutheran Hall, 1715 Bull Street, Columbia, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| Wed., August 26 | 89 th Anniversary of the passage of the 19 th Amendment. The LWVCA will hold a New Members Welcome Event in celebration of this special event, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Details forthcoming. |

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/ |

Meet Della Baker, LWVCA President



Della Baker is a native of Florence, SC, but now resides in Anderson. She has been a member of the LWVCA since 2002 and has served in various capacities – Secretary, Co-chair of the Membership Team, member of the Annual Meeting Planning Team, member of the Nominating Committee and President-elect. Her term as President begins on June 1.

Della serves as the State Extension Program Leader for Evaluation, Accountability & Staff Development for the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. She administers training needs assessments, plans training in professional development competency areas for staff and is responsible for institutional, state, and federal accountability reports. She has served as president of several organizations including, the national Epsilon Sigma Phi, the SC Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Alpha Phi Chapter of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Association for Family and Consumer Sciences. She is President-elect of the Southern Region Program Leadership Network for Program and Staff Development. She has received numerous state, regional, and national awards.

She received her PhD in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a M.Ed. in Instructional Media from the University of South Carolina and a BS in Home Economics Education from Winthrop College.

She is Chair and Founder of Women's Ministries of the Upstate. WMU is an organization that encourages spiritual development and provides leadership development training for women and women's groups. She is an Organization Development and Strategic Planning Consultant and has led sessions for churches, profit and non-profit groups, and national professional organizations.

Della will pursue a Master of Ministry degree beginning in the Fall of 2009 at Anderson University.

President's Message

In his inaugural address on January 22, 2009, President Barack Obama spoke of the importance of a spirit of service; and urged Americans to have a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. He said, "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility – a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship." I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to serve with such a knowledgeable and passionate group of people who gives so much to make democracy work for all citizens through education and advocacy.

In order for any organization to remain viable, I believe that it must periodically examine its health. One way we plan to do this is to participate in discussions to assess operations such as recruitment, training, marketing, communications, programs/program delivery, fund development and services. The board began this process during the recent orientation and planning session that was held on June 6th at the Strom Thurmond Institute and will continue this dialogue throughout the year.

I look forward to working with President-elect/1st VP - Michelle Chin, 2nd VP/ Program and Action Chair - Holley Ulbrich, Secretary - Ada Lou Steirer, Treasurer - Alice Flower; and Directors, Bea Bailey (Past President and Finance/Fundraising Chair), Reggie Turetzky(Public Relations/Publicity Chair), Carol Ward (Membership Chair); Arlene Stewart, Janie Shipley, Paula Appling, and Donna London.

This year's teams include Finance and Fundraising, Membership, Observer Corp, Program and Action, Public Relations, Voter Services and Citizen Education, and History and Archives. Some teams are already meeting and discussing their roles and responsibilities. I encourage all members to get involved on one of the teams. If you want to additional information, contact me at dellabaker@yahoo.com.

General membership meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesdays at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Pendleton with social time at 7:00 p.m. and the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please read your VOTER for important information and for opportunities for you to get involved.

Thank you for your support of the League. I am honored to serve you as President and look forward to working with you this year.

*Della A. Baker
President, LWVCA*

**Get out Your Calendars!
The Program and Action Committee
is Planning for the Upcoming Year**

As we begin to plan for fall meetings and programs, your program and action team welcomes any suggestions from members. State convention approved two new state studies, school district governance and water policy, which we will be starting on this year. Both were recommended by the Clemson LWV. We also need to finalize our statement on growth management. Our top three state action priorities are voter access, tax reform and education, so we need to spend some time getting up to speed and ready to act on all three. Janie Shipley has asked that we find a way to discuss and act on reproductive choice, which has been on the back burner for a while. We will also have two book discussions. The fall book is George Lakoff's *Don't Think of an Elephant*; short, provocative, and inexpensive! So get your copy and read it over the summer. That's a pretty full plate and promises some lively and informative meetings!

About a dozen members held a great discussion on April 28th on the National Popular Vote approach to electing the president, including viewing a video and addressing seven consensus questions. This consensus was requested by delegates at the 2008 national convention. Like many other Leagues, we found the consensus questions to be overly directive and frequently unclear. Eleanor Hare uploaded our response to national, so we made the May 1st deadline. The national board concluded that there was no consensus on the National Popular Voter compact as one way to address the election of the president, so the League of Women Votes of the U.S. neither supports nor opposes this method. There is still ongoing controversy

about the way the questions were worded and the way that the responses were interpreted. If you would like to learn more about this controversy, you can visit www.nationalpopularvote.com.

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

LWVCA Needs You!

The League would like to revive the practice of assigning LWVCA observers to attend as many meetings of public bodies as we can cover in our area--school boards, city councils, county councils. Observers are welcome to report to the newsletter but they don't have to. See the calendar on the first page for a list of meetings in the area. If you are interested in learning more about being a watchdog for local government, please contact LWVCA President Della Baker or Program and Action team chair Holley Ulbrich. This is a great way for new members to get involved!

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

LWVCA Annual Meeting

Members of the LWVCA and guests joined together on April 21 at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab for the Annual Meeting to celebrate the past year and address League business. Members and their guests enjoyed wine and conversation with friends prior to dinner.

President Bea Bailey welcomed the membership and expressed her gratitude for the hard work of many that has resulted in many accomplishments. The 2008 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved. Sharon Fennell, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. She highlighted the gifts to the Ed Fund this year and reminded the group that donations to the Ed Fund are tax deductible. The new

budget was adopted. Ansley Fraser presented the Nominating Committee's report. Donna London was nominated to the Board of Directors from the floor. Holley Ulbrich, 2nd VP, presented the Program Committee Report. President Bea Bailey thanked the LWVCA and Board of Directors for a tremendous year. Donna London introduced the keynote speaker, Jeff Allen, Director of the South Carolina Water Resources Center & Research Coordinator at the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University. The evening concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang League", sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

~Submitted by Michelle Chin



Above, Jeff Allen, Bea Bailey and Donna London enjoying one another's company at the LWVCA Annual Meeting.

**LWVCA May General Meeting
Features Discussion on Water Quality**

On May 19th 2009, Ben Turetzky, Executive Director of FOLKS (Friends of Lake Keowee Society), spoke to the LWVCA. He reviewed FOLKS activities and spoke about the Savannah River Basin. Among the FOLKS' activities is a bi-annual Lake Sweep which was just completed. One of their major projects is a Low Impact Development (LID) Demonstration Project at their Keowee School

Road Headquarters property. This project includes a rain garden, a green roof, rain barrels and a pervious parking lot with a collection system under the parking lot which captures up to 2000 gallons of a rainstorm in underground concrete tanks for later use in drip irrigation.

Ben described the Savannah River Basin and the interaction between Lakes Keowee and Jocassee (operated by Duke Energy) and the lower Savannah River - Lakes Hartwell, Thurmond and Russell (operated by the Corps of Engineers - COE). There is a basic agreement that provides for releases from Keowee to Hartwell under a number of drought conditions. He emphasized the fact that the COE has multiple responsibilities under law. These responsibilities include: Flood control, water supply, navigation in the lower Basin and protection of endangered species. The current severe drought brought Lake Hartwell down 28 feet and resulted in a strong political initiative to require the COE's drought management plan to be studied and revised so as to prevent a recurrence of the 2008-2009 drought.

The presentation was concluded with a discussion of the importance of Comprehensive Plans. Ben noted that both Pickens and Oconee Counties were updating their plans this year and that the plans constitute a road map for the future development of the counties. He asked all attendees to get involved and make their voices heard, especially with respect to provision for protection of Lake Keowee and its watersheds.

~ Submitted by Reggie Turetzky



Ben Turetzky, providing information about Friends of Lake Keowee Society.

The Hidden Costs of Coal

The LWV-SC is currently opposing the construction of a Santee Cooper power plant near Florence. This plant will burn pulverized coal. The following is an overview of the coal-to-electricity process.

Mining the coal. Half of the coal used in South Carolina is obtained from mountain top removal, a process in which trees are stripped from the mountain and the wood either sold or buried. The rock and earth above the coal is removed and pushed into nearby valleys and ravines. The mined coal is contaminated with dirt and debris, so it is washed and treated before being loaded onto railroad cars for transportation to a power plant. The excess water from the washing process is called slurry, or sludge, and is stored in open impoundments. This sludge contains such toxic ingredients as arsenic, mercury, lead, coal dust, copper and chromium. These impoundments pose a danger to nearby communities, contaminating the drinking water and potentially causing a flood of coal slurry to overwhelm communities below. In

1972, 132 million gallons of coal slurry flooded Buffalo Creek Hollow (Logan County, WV), killing 125 people and leaving over 4000 homeless. In 2000, a storage impoundment in Martin County, KY, gave way, spilling 250 million gallons of coal slurry and destroying life in 75 miles of waterways.

Transporting the coal. Railroads have made a large investment in both roadbed and the cars that move coal from where it is mined to where it is burned. In some cases, the roadbed carries only coal trains.

Burning coal – airborne emissions. Burning pulverized coal produces emissions of (1) sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide (which produce acid rain), (2) mercury (which causes neurological damage and birth defects), (3) particulate matter or soot (which worsens asthma) and (4) carbon dioxide (which causes global climate change). Sulfur dioxide and particulate matter have also been linked to cardiovascular disease. Although the 1990 Clean Air Act resulted in a 40% reduction in sulfur dioxide, mercury and carbon dioxide emissions continue to be a problem. Power plants should be required to use the technology that captures the maximum possible amount of mercury. Proposals for capture of carbon dioxide exist, but have not been shown to be effective.

Burning coal – disposing of the remains. Just as burning wood in a fireplace leaves ash which must be disposed of, burning coal leaves ash containing arsenic, lead, chromium, cadmium, boron, mercury, and other heavy metals. This ash can leach into ground water and cause health problems, including cancer and birth defects in humans. It also causes similar problems in fish, birds and frogs. It was recently disclosed that Santee Cooper

spread 425 tons of coal ash on a rural road in Berkeley County. In December 2008, a coal slurry impoundment at the TVA Kingston Power Plant in Tennessee burst, allowing approximately 500 million gallons of coal ash slurry to overcome the surrounding community.

Coal is not clean. At every stage in the production of electricity from coal, beginning with mining it and ending with the storage of its toxic ash, coal leaves its footprint on the environment. "Clean coal" exists only in the imagination of a marketing team.

Can we use less coal? Yes, gradually. First, we should build no more coal-fired power plants. The projected lifetime of a coal-fired plant is 40 to 50 years. Any new coal-burning plants should use the latest and best methodologies for stripping emissions of mercury and should include a method of sequestering carbon dioxide. Pulverized coal, the technology proposed by Santee Cooper, produces a considerably greater amount of undesirable emissions than newer coal technologies, such as integrated gasification.

What about cost? Coal is not cheap when all of its costs are considered. It is only because the true costs of health problems and global climate change are not obvious, that coal seems cheap.

Looking for alternatives. First, we can decrease our demand for electricity. Second, renewable energy provides an extraordinary investment opportunity that will bring dramatic benefits to those with foresight. Now that solar panels can be made of thin films deposited on glass, the price of solar panels is steadily dropping. Also, South Carolina has strong offshore wind potential,

providing opportunities for large offshore wind farms. Utilities can be rewarded for saving energy, as well as for selling it. The future of renewable energy seems bright.

The proposed Santee Cooper coal-fired plant would imprison South Carolina in an obsolete and hazardous technology. We should instead move forward with energy technologies that will contribute to a prosperous and healthy South Carolina.

~Submitted by Eleanor Hare



Reggie Turetzky, Dianne Haselton, and Elinor Baron spending time together at the LWVCA Annual Meeting.



The LWVCA was well-represented at the LWVSC Annual Convention. Looking at this picture, you are witnessing an estimated total of approximately 260 years of collective LWVCA experience – now that’s what we call “democracy in action”! (Pictured from left to right: Row 1 (seated): Jan Marsh, Eleanor Hare, Holley Ulbrich, Ada Lou Steirer. Row 2 (standing): Reggie Turetzky and Della Baker. Row 3 (standing): Dianne Haselton, Michelle Chin, Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Janie Shipley, Bea Bailey, Aleta Robinson and Bill Hare.)

Remember, you can support the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area (LWVCA) with a tax deductible donation to the League of Women Voters Education Fund! Such gifts sponsor public education projects allowing our League to support activities like the candidate forums and the publication of the Directory of Public Officials for the three surrounding counties. Simply, write a check to *League of Women Voters Education Fund* (LWV Education Fund) and mail your check, along with the gift form below, to:

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

Yes, I would like to support the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area!

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to the LWV Education Fund.

Name _____ Are you currently a LWVCA member? _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone number _____ E-mail _____

- Please send me more information about LWVCA and LWVCA events.
- Please send me more information about how I can become more involved with LWVCA.