

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 18
Clemson SC 29631

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



Volume 36, Number 8
November 2008

LWVCA President: Beatrice Bailey
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Thurs. Nov. 13 | LWVCA Wine Tasting, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Village Walk Clubhouse, Berkeley Drive, Clemson (see p. 7) |
| Tues. Nov. 18 | LWVCA General Meeting: "Growth Management in the Upstate" Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Social time, 7:00 p.m.; Formal Program, 7:30 p.m. (see p. 3) |
| Tues. Dec. 16 | LWVCA Holiday Party at the Ulbrich's home, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., 106 Highland Drive in Clemson (off Pendleton Road) |

WATCH DEMOCRACY AT WORK: Many people say that "all politics is local." So, become an informed citizen by attending a meeting of your city or county council or school board.

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

President's Message

Dear LWVCA members,

We were so incredibly active during this Presidential election season. We were out there!

Just for starters, we produced a top-notch *2008 Voter Guide* with the help of the *Anderson Independent Mail*. This publication provided readers from all over the Upstate with information to make better-informed voter decisions. Della Baker, our President-Elect, and crew connected with the media, wrote questions, interviewed candidates for many races in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson, posted the results within the website and offered quality control as the web-based and print version of the *Voter Guide* came into being on November 2. They also worked with the state league to get the skinny on and publish insights about South Carolina's candidates for the Senate and House races.

We also hosted many candidate forums in Pickens and Oconee and received plenty of coverage as this month's candidate forums article reveals. Check it out on pages 4 and 5.

In addition, we had a fine LWVCA book discussion at Holley Ulbrich's home. After reading, Jeff Greenfield's *The People's Choice*, we thought about how America's Vice-Presidents are currently elected and weighed the merits and limitations of the electoral college. Our next book discussion will center around Harriett Keyserling's book *Against the Tide*. See page 6 for more details.

We also sent forth a letter asking various community members for financial support for our many good causes. Janie Shipley and Michelle Chinn have done a fine job of sharing our many efforts within the Upstate and making clear to potential donors that their gifts will be put to good use.

We're currently selling tickets for our wine tasting and fund-raiser as well so get the details for this upcoming event here in our *Voter* on page 7.

Please continue to check our web site for updates and reminders at the following website address: <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/>. Thank you to Eleanor Hare for keeping us all up to date on the LWVCA news and events.

Let's celebrate our many team efforts as we forge ahead with renewed commitment to encourage informed participation in America's democratic process. Thanks to all for your efforts.

Looking forward to the months ahead, **Bea Bailey, LWVCA President**



Pictured here are three LWVCA members "making democracy work" at the LWVCA Candidate Forum at Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library (this forum was held for the candidates for Pickens County Council District 3 and the candidates for Pickens County Sheriff). Pictured here are (l. to r.): Frances Plotnik, Aleta Robinson, and Paula Appling. This team was present at every one of the Pickens County Candidate Forums, assisting at the membership table, handing out cards for questions, and collecting question cards to give to the forum moderator. We couldn't have held these forums without them. Thanks for all your hard work!

On Pulling Together the *Anderson Independent Mail* Voter Guide

While I was in Portland for the national LWVUS conference, I attended a three-hour workshop on League fundraising. We began the session by thinking about the national League's efforts and then considered why it was important for patrons to support them. We then received guidance on how to shape or enhance our own local league identities and considered many outreach efforts that have made particular Leagues distinctive. For example, one well-endowed League from a major city had developed a four-color *Voter Guide* brochure that was printed on slick glossy paper. They then used that brochure within their fundraising package—showing potential investors how the League contributes to the larger community good. I came back all excited with the hopes that we might tweak our own fund-raising platform during this big Presidential election year and perhaps even generate our own flashy *Voter Guide* on a sheet of color paper. Was I aiming too low? Evidently.

At our summer leadership retreat, I suggested the fund-raising agenda—who could disagree with fundraising—and then threw out the *Voter Guide* idea. Amazingly, it took hold. By the end of the retreat, our President-Elect, Della Baker, agreed to lead the charge.

And, sure enough she did! Not long after, she called the *Anderson Independent Mail* to see if they might like to collaborate on producing a *Voter Guide*. They were open to the idea. Della and I talked about the details some more. I eventually visited the newspaper's headquarters to meet the editor and his support staff. They could not have been more receptive. They were downright eager.

Within days after the meeting, we were getting emails from their technical web staff about procedures for producing both a full blown web-based *Voter Guide* for all three counties as well as a printed version right before the election.

We stayed on top of this one. Della and I met to create questions for the various races, using our state League's positions on major issues. We then recruited members who agreed to contact candidates, interview them, write up their responses, send them back to the candidates for review and approval, and then post them and their images and bios on the secure web-space. This seems so simple, but we spent weeks getting these responses posted. We sometimes had a bio but no picture or could not reach key candidates or were waiting for and making repeated calls for them to respond in writing. Yet, we persevered. Our website went public in mid-October and our published textual version appeared on November 2 in the Sunday edition. We developed an impressive four-page full color spread that compared quite nicely to that city slick brochure I saw back in Portland. We made sure that our logo appeared right on the front cover and that our efforts were acknowledged in a brief article that appeared on the final page.

Our stunning *2008 Voter Guide* served so many purposes. We were able to offer widespread upcountry voter service during a critical Presidential election, share some of our state league positions and interests through our thoughtful candidate questions and develop a fine working relationship with a business partner that contributed thousands of dollars to our League by helping us share our work and mission with so many readers--we received prime time publicity. And, we have some left over copies that we can now use if we choose to move forward with developing patron packages.

On behalf of the League of Women Voter of the Clemson Area, I extend our thanks and praise to Della Baker, our *2008 Voter Guide* editor, and to all the many members who gave way more than five hours each to get this massive publication ready for public review. We gave new meaning to the league's *Voter Guide*!

~ *Submitted by Bea Bailey, LWVCA president*

**Make Plans to Attend the
November LWVCA General Meeting
on Growth Management**

The November 18th meeting of the League will focus on growth management in our corner of South Carolina. We will have a panel of speakers who are engaged in the actual work of economic development and protecting and enhancing quality of life from three different perspectives:

- Chip Boyles, former Assistant City Administrator for the City of Clemson, until very recently South Carolina Municipal Association field staff, and now the new Executive Director of the International Town and Gown Association
- Jim Alexander, Director of Economic Development for Oconee County; and
- Joe Newton, from the Appalachian Council of Governments

I have asked them each to frame their remarks with the following questions:

1. What are the most important things we can do to support economic development while preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our three-county area?
2. What kinds of economic development creates job opportunities while also sustaining or even enhancing the quality of community life and the environment?
3. How can the three counties and their municipalities work together to create an economic and social environment conducive to the flourishing of citizens in our part of the state? What tools and incentives do you have for collaboration and what tools and incentives do you need? What obstacles do you face? How can we as interested citizens help?

Please join us for a very informative program on a very important issue for our part of the state.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

**LWVCA Sponsors Discussion on
“Urban Growth, Transportation and
Greenhouse Gas Emissions”**

In keeping with our interest in promoting an environment that is “beneficial to life through the wise management of our natural resources,” the LWVCA recently sponsored a presentation by Dr. Reid Ewing, a national expert on urban development and climate change. The event took place on Sept. 4 in the Self Auditorium, part of Clemson University’s Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs. It was co-sponsored by Upstate Forever, the Strom Thurmond Institute, the CU Environmental Committee and the CU Science, Technology and Society Program.

Dr. Ewing, Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland, spoke about the findings in his recently-published book, *Growing Cooler: The Evidence of Urban Development and Climate Change*. It is well documented that there is a strong link between urban growth and greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation. Transportation is already responsible for one-third of our state’s greenhouse gas emissions. We must consider the need to reduce these emissions as our communities grow. One strategy to reduce these emissions is to increase fuel efficiency. Another is to promote mass transit and alternative transportation, such as bicycling and walking. A third strategy, and the one Dr. Ewing concentrated on, is to reduce vehicle travel by building places where people can accomplish more with less driving. Ewing cited numerous examples of planned communities within existing urban centers where vehicle travel has been reduced dramatically by moving housing, work, and shopping closer to each other. The US is currently producing 25% of the planet’s greenhouse gas emissions, and we represent less than 5% of the planet’s population. For our own future, and for the future of the planet, it is

important that we find solutions to these problems.

In addition to the main speaker, League member Steve Johnson spoke about the connection between urban growth in South Carolina, its effect on Third World countries, and Oxfam America's effort to make a difference.

The event was attended by members of the local League and community as well as Clemson University faculty and students, especially those concentrating on urban planning. In addition to the event at the Strom Thurmond Institute, Dr. Ewing did a repeat performance at the Marriott Greenville the following day, and was also interviewed for a spot on "Your Day" program on South Carolina Public Radio. The interview was broadcast statewide.

Funding was provided by a grant from League of Women Voters Education Fund, Oxfam America, Upstate Forever, and Clemson University. ~ *Submitted by Steve Johnson*

A Quick Note and Reminder on LWVCA Finances

To date, the LWVCA has 66 paid members. If you have not yet paid your dues, it is time to do so. You can send the dues to LWVCA, P.O. Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633-0802.

Many thanks to those LWVCA members who contributed \$290 to our general fund and \$730 to the LWV Education Fund. Both are important financial resources that we will put to good use in the next year. The LWVCA brought in approximately \$200 – not bad for a rainy morning at the Pickens County Flea Market!

Finally, be sure to attend the LWVCA Wine Tasting (see page 7 for more details). This is an important fundraiser for our organization and promises to be an informative and fun evening!

LWVCA Sponsors Five Candidate Forums

In October, the LWVCA successfully held five candidate forums: two in Oconee County and three in Pickens. Many thanks go to our members who worked so hard to organize them. They include Bea Bailey, Eleanor Hare, Kathy Woodard, Alice Flower, Jane Polk, Charlotte Holmes, Reggie Turetzky, Michelle Chin, Lyn Norton, Ansley Fraser, Janie Shipley, Carol Kozma, Holley Ulbrich, Dianne Haselton, Ada Lou Steirer, Aleta Robinson, Fran Plotnik, Paula Appling, Joni Grady, Mary Ann McKenzie, and Bill Hare (if we missed anyone, please let us know so we can recognize you in next month's *Voter*).

Oconee County Candidate Forums

On October 13 and October 23rd we conducted two forums at Gignilliat Civic Center. They were co-sponsored with the City of Seneca. Kathy Woodard expertly moderated and Alice Flower was our precise timer at both events. Jane Polk was the coordinator, Charlotte Holmes handled the Candidate Voter Guides, and Reggie Turetzky did publicity and signs. Helpers at the forums were: Lyn Norton, Ansley Frasier, Janie Shipley, and Carol Kozma.

On October 13, our President Bea Bailey welcomed the candidates, media, elected officials and the public. Janie Shipley, immediate past-president, did the welcome on October 23rd. We had over 60 attendees on the 13th and over 80 attendees on the 23rd.

State Senate Candidates for District 1, Tom Alexander and Polly Nicolay and Candidates for the Oconee County School Board of Trustees, District 2 Rosemary Bailes and Ken Poston and District 5 Seth Chea, Buddy Herring and Terry Schiazza debated on October 13th. Oconee County Treasurer Candidates Susie Cornelius and Gregorie Nowell and

Candidates for Oconee County Council District 4 Brian Jenkins and Joel Thrift and District 5 Dick Hughes and Reg Dexter debated on October 23rd.

The events were well covered by the media. The *Anderson Independent Mail* – Ray Chandler; *Daily Journal/Messenger* – Greg Oliver on the 13th and the Managing Editor Brett McLaughlin on the 23rd. We made the front page of the *Daily Journal* on Friday October 24th. Both events were video-taped by Mike Bromley for Upstate Today and can be viewed by going to upstatetoday.com. On the 23rd, Dick Mangrum from WGOG in Walhalla recorded the entire forum to be replayed on WGOG.

The candidates were respectful of one another and answered all the questions from the audience. It was an educational experience for those present and they will be able to make informed voted on November 4th.

~ *Submitted by Reggie Turetsky*

Pickens County Candidate Forums

The Pickens County team sponsored three candidate forums: Pickens County School Board on October 7 at the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library in Easley, SC House District 3 on October 23 at the Central Clemson Library in Central, and County Council and Sheriff on October 28 at the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library in Easley. The Library system cosponsored these forums with us. Jennifer Crenshaw at the Easley library was especially helpful, quickly finding additional chairs when needed and sending out publicity to her contacts. All forums had large attendance.

Eleven League members worked on the Pickens County forums. Bea Bailey welcomed the audience at two forums and Holley Ulbrich at one. Dianne Haselton moderated the School Board forum and Ada Lou Steirer moderated

the remaining two forums. Aleta Robinson, Fran Plotnik, Paula Appling, and Bill Hare joined me at all three forums. Joni Grady and Mary Ann McKenzie assisted at the School Board forum.

Organizing the School Board forum had its problems. After two letters and two messages left on his answering machine, one candidate could not be contacted. Of the remaining six candidates, five agreed to a date. The sixth could not give us a date. So, we went ahead with the five candidates who agreed to October 7. After having agreed to this date, one of the five emailed me that he “might not be available.” Indeed, he did not show up, but did send someone to read a statement. The candidate we had been totally unable to reach called on the day of the forum to ask if he could make a statement withdrawing from the race. The forum went ahead with four candidates.

The other two forums were easier to arrange, although Sam Wyche warned us that he might need to cancel if Senator McCain wanted him to go to Ohio to help campaign.

The Pickens County forums have been notable for the absence of the kind of negative attacks we are seeing in the Presidential campaign. Several of the candidates complimented their opponent for running a campaign on the issues. Several spoke highly of their opponent.

Candidate forums, contributing to a well-informed electorate, are one of the most beneficial services the League provides. The forums are also one of our most visible services. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

~ *Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

LWVCA and Voter Registration

We conducted two voter registration drives in Oconee County –one on Saturday, September 27th at the Seneca Wal-Mart and the second on Saturday, October 4th at the Duke World of Energy where a Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Sports Expo for families was held. We had signs for the candidate forums on the voter registration table and people showed a great interest in them. Both were high-profile LWVCA events and we registered over 35 people. Kathy Toscano, Janie Shipley, Ben and Reggie Turetzky registered voters at Wal-Mart and Charlotte Holmes and Susan Brandt registered voters at Duke Energy.

~Submitted by *Reggie Turetsky*

**LWVCA Book Discussion Group
Learns about the “People’s Choice”**

Six of us had a lively discussion of our fall book selection, Jeff Greenfield’s *The People’s Choice*. All of us feel both better informed and more confused about this complex method of selecting a president, although we affirmed the League’s position favoring direct election of the president. We still don’t know what would happen if the president-elect died between Election Day in November and the meeting of the electoral college the first week in December, which is the starting point for this very funny, very thought-provoking book.

Our spring selection is Harriet Keyserling’s *Against the Tide*. Harriet was a long-time active LWV member in South Carolina and served eight years in the South Carolina House when women legislators were a rarity. Her book provides a great inside account of the doings of the General Assembly. It’s only available in hardback, so put it on your Christmas wish list and get started reading it in January for a February discussion! (Date and time to be announced in a future *Voter*.)

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

**LWVCA Helps to
Educate the Next Generation of Voters**

On Monday, October 27th 2008, Elaine Epstein put on her LWV hat and gave a 15 minute presentation to 6 government classes at TL Hanna High School, Anderson, SC. In that amount of time, she covered a short background about the League, discussed the Electoral College, an Anderson County referendum and the differing opinions on two specific issues of the two candidates for SC Senate from that area. She is a fast talker!

There was time for discussion from the students. In each class, there were a few 18 year olds who were registered and planning to vote for the first time. Several students will be working at the polls. It was a good day and Elaine was pleased with the attention and responses from the students.

~ Submitted by *Elaine Epstein*

* ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~ * ~



On Thursday, October 23, the LWVCA hosted a candidate forum in Pickens County for the candidates for S.C. House District 3. Pictured above are (from l. to r.) candidates for S.C. House District 3, B.R. Skelton (R incumbent) and Jason Gale (D), Holley Ulbrich (who introduced the candidates), and Ada Lou Steirer (who moderated the forum).

Join the LWVCA for a Post-Election Celebration and Wine Tasting: By the time you read this newsletter, we will have elected a new President and hopefully voted on our national, state and local representatives. Join the LWVCA to celebrate the completion of a busy, productive election season! On Thursday, November 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. a wine-tasting will be held at the Village Walk clubhouse on Berkeley Drive in Clemson. Professor Bruce Ransom, Chair of Policy Studies at Strom Thurmond Institute. will join us to offer comments on the '08 Presidential election. Wine will be provided by Old Town Spirits in Pendleton and door prizes will be available. Tickets for this fundraiser will be \$20 each or \$35 for 2. Parking is at a premium, so ride-sharing is encouraged. (From Clemson, take Hwy 93 toward Central. Turn right onto Berkeley Drive. Village Walk is the first street on the right. The clubhouse is the first structure on the right.) Tickets can be purchased from the following individuals: Elinor Baron (elin@bellsouth.net), Michelle Chin (michelleleanne.chin@gmail.com), or Janie Shipley (janrel@mindspring.com). Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the night of the event.

~ Submitted by Janie Shipley

Note from Voter editor: At press time for the *Voter*, the election results were in! And, I don't mean the results of the Presidential race. According to MSNBC, "Americans [voted] in numbers unprecedented since women were given the franchise in 1920. Secretaries of state predicted turnouts approaching **90 percent** in Virginia and Colorado and **80 percent** or more in big states like Ohio, California, Texas, Missouri and Maryland." And, according to Project Vote, as of October 23, the number of newly registered voters nationwide was approximately 450,000. This surge in voter turnout, and the increase in newly registered voters, is in no small measure the result of efforts of organizations like the League of Women Voters. Across the nation, our members held voter registration drives and hosted candidate forums, helping to make democracy work! See below for more photos from our own LWVCA candidate forums.



On Tuesday, October 28, the two candidates for Pickens County Council, District 3 had an opportunity to respond to questions from citizens and LWVCA members. Pictured here are (l. to r.): Wes Burbage (D), Ada Lou Steirer (forum moderator), and Sam Wyche.

Candidates for the Pickens County School Board are pictured at the LWVCA Candidate Forum held on Tuesday, October 7 at the Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library in Easley. Pictured, from left to right, are: Dale Cantrell (District 5 – Easley), Judy Edwards (District 5 – Easley), Selena Brinson (District 3 – Pickens), and Randy Bowers (District 5 – Easley).

