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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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Volume 37, Number 10
November 2009

LWVCA President: Della Baker
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues., November 17	LWVCA General Membership Meeting, "Legislative Panel," at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, 226 Pendleton Rd., Clemson, 7 p.m. – Coffee and Conversation; 7:30 p.m. – Meeting (See page 2 for more details about this meeting.)
Tues., December 1	LWVCA Hot Topics Lunch: Development Issues in Anderson County. 12:00 Noon, The Village Baker and Sandwich Shop, 108 E. Main Street, Pendleton (on Pendleton Square). See page 3 for more details about this special event.
Thurs., December 3	LWVCA Board Meeting, Clemson City Council Chambers, 5:00 p.m.

WATCH DEMOCRACY AT WORK

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

Taking Action in the Community

I hope that you are enjoying the weather and the beautiful colors of Fall. Your board members are still busy doing the work of the League. Barbara Hamberg, one of our newest members, manned a table display during the recent Clemson University Benefits Fair and was able to publicize LWVCA. Several people indicated interest in the League. The Membership Team is following up with these individuals. Eleanor Hare and team sponsored a very well received program on sustainable energy. Holly Ulbrich hosted the first and very informative Hot Topics Lunch of the year on growth management. Donna London and team have distributed the Directories of Public Officials throughout the three-county area to school libraries, elected officials and others. A very special thank you is extended to Duke Power for publishing the DPO's. This year, the directories are posted to the LWVCA website. Thanks to Eleanor Hare for taking on this task. Carol Kozma and team have published the *Foothills Area Clubs, Concerts & Organizations 2009-2010*. These were placed into new member and potential member packets and distributed by Carol Ward and the Membership Team.

As we think about actions and positions for the coming year, I thought the following excerpt from LWVUS national training tools regarding league actions and priorities would be helpful. Interpretation of a League position is the responsibility of the board that oversees that position. Local League boards are responsible for interpreting their own positions before taking action. Uniform interpretation of positions between local, state and the national league is essential for the League's effectiveness.

A local League contemplating action on a community issue should consider the following:

- Does the League have a position that supports the proposed action?
 - Do members understand and would they agree with the proposed action?
 - Is it a priority for the League?
 - Does the League have a unique role to play or would the League's assets (time, money, and expertise) be better spent on other activities?
 - Does it have some chance of success or make an important statement for the League?
 - Are other organizations or a coalition already working on the issue?
 - What action techniques would be most effective?
 - How will the League deal with controversy?
 - How can members be involved in the proposed action?
 - What kind of community involvement would best support the League's efforts?
 - What are the potential tangible results that matter to community members concerned about these issues?
 - Where is the potential for visibility? What will get the attention of the media?
 - What issues allow you to involve the most people in creating the solution so the success will be shared?
- Are there opportunities to grow membership?

Leagues may wish to consult with the LWVUS Board or staff for background on action previously taken at all levels of the League based on a particular position. Most state Leagues also do not require clearance for state positions to be used locally.

League members are encouraged as individuals to contact their legislators regarding League priority issues. Members, of course, are always free to take action on any topic, as long as it is clear that they are speaking as individuals, not for the League (i.e., they should not mention that they are League members in their communications). It is important to remember that only the League president (or designee) speaks in the name of the League.

Visit the LWVCA website to check out the local policy positions or go to www.lwvsc.org to find state positions.

Della Baker, LWVCA President

**LWVCA November General Meeting:
Legislative Delegation
Tuesday, November 17**

The regular meeting on November 17th will feature a panel of area legislators. We have invited the senators who represent Oconee and Pickens Counties and one representative each from our three counties. They will be asked to comment on the budget and on one piece of pending legislation in which they have a particular interest. We will also ask them about some pending education finance legislation, and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions or make statements. Janet Marsh and Donna London are in charge of arrangements. Holley Ulbrich will moderate. This is your opportunity to lobby your legislative delegation on the issues you care about.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

**A Report on the
LWVCA October General Meeting
on Sustainable Energy**

James Snowden, retired operations manager at Duke Energy, joined League members Lewis Fitch and Eleanor Hare to present a panel on Sustainable Energy at the October meeting of the League. Some of the major issues presented are recalled below.

Eleanor Hare talked briefly about the challenges confronting the U.S.: Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air, a book by Professor David MacKay of Cambridge University provided much of the background material presented. Professor MacKay's stated motivation is to get off fossil fuels, because they are not sustainable.

Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, believes that the largest gains in energy efficiency and conservation in the next 20 years must come from (1) decreasing the country's energy bill, (2) decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere and (3) decreasing our dependency on foreign oil.

The amount of oil produced worldwide is predicted to begin to decrease sometime this decade. As demand continues to increase and supply decreases, the price of oil is expected to increase dramatically. This prediction is known as Hubbert's Peak or Peak Oil. A discussion of the problems associated with coal was published in the May/June 2009 *The Voter* (<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/MayJuneIVoter2009.pdf>).

Offshore wind energy is predicted to be practical on parts of the South Carolina coast – especially between Georgetown and Myrtle Beach. Energy companies are currently beginning to measure the wind speed at various offshore locations in order to determine feasibility. Onshore wind in South Carolina is not economically feasible.

Professor MacKay concludes "North American needs solar in its own deserts, or nuclear power, or both."

Lew Fitch discussed the future of the electricity grid. Lew, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, explained the current configuration of the electricity grid and difficulties associated with development of a "smart grid," a grid that can both buy and sell electricity to individual users. Electricity demand is highest in the afternoon and lowest when people are asleep. Electricity should be more expensive during peak demand and cheaper during low demand. In the future individuals should be able to decide when to buy and sell electricity based on the current price. For example, you should be able to choose to run your dishwasher at 2 a.m. in order to save money.

Most of the U.S. population lives near the coast, but wind and solar production are more efficient in the Midwest. The problem is getting the energy from where it is produced to where it is used. Thus, we need to improve the efficiency and transportation capacity of the electricity grid. The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) is developing standards for transmission and for individuals buying and selling electricity

to the grid. Although development of a nationwide electric grid should logically be determined at the national level, grid development is under local political control.

Plug-in automobiles are anticipated to be a major component of a smart grid. In the automobile engine, about 2/3 of the energy is converted to heat, which wastes the energy. For a plug-in vehicle, at current prices electricity would be equivalent to about \$2 per gallon of gasoline.

An audience member observed that in Europe energy is saved when some escalators move only when people are on them.

The focus of Jim Snowden's discussion was power production at Duke Energy. Several lakes on the Savannah River utilize pumped storage, where excess electric power is used to pump water to a higher level for later power generation. Bad Creek is 100% pumped storage and has an 80% return on power used to pump water up to the lake. Lake Hartwell provides normal hydroelectric power. All of the water passing through the Lake Hartwell generators continues downstream. Lake Jocassee generates power normally, but water from Lake Keowee can be pumped up to Lake Jocassee for later generation. One advantage of hydropower is that it is instant on and instant off.

Nuclear energy is most efficient when the reactor operates at constant power. Excess power generated at low demand is used by Duke Energy to move water to pumped storage.

In the U.S., uranium fuel is used once and then stored. At Duke Energy each reactor is shut down every 18 months and about 1/3 of its fuel is replaced. These fuel assemblies are stored on site. The only reprocessing of spent fuel is done by the U.S. Government for military purposes. Each fuel assembly weighs about 1600 pounds and the dry cask storage canister weighs about 14 tons. If we reprocessed spent fuel, only about 3% of the most highly radioactive material would need to be stored permanently.

The League of Women Voters has no position on the use of nuclear energy, but is concerned with the environmental consequences of waste disposal.

~ Submitted by Eleanor Hare



Panel Members for the Sustainable Energy Panel which took place at the LWVCA October General Meeting: (left to right): Lewis Fitch, Jim Snowden, and Eleanor Hare

The LWVCA Sends a Big "Thank You!" to Duke Energy

We thank Duke Energy for printing the Anderson, Oconee and Pickens County 2009 Directory of Public Officials. The DPO's are greatly appreciated by the citizens of these three counties and we congratulate and thank Duke Energy for this public outreach.

~Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

LWVCA Moderates Candidate Forum for Town of Central Elections

About 30 people came to the Central Town Hall to hear candidates for Mayor and Town Council of Central discuss their vision for the future of the town. Bill Hare organized the forum, Michelle Chin, President-Elect, welcomed the audience, Dianne Haselton moderated, Alice Flower timed the speakers, Carol Ward set up an information table, Paula Appling collected questions from the audience and Eleanor Hare took pictures.



Long-time LWVCA member, Dianne Haselton, preparing to moderate the Town of Central Candidate Forum

Both mayoral candidates (Clyde J. (Mac) Martin and David Donald) participated, as did three (Sara Paige Bowers; Alton Benjamin (Benji) Cumbie, IV; Kenneth (Ken) Dill) of the seven candidates for Council. One candidate (John Wallace Palmer, Jr.) informed the League that he regretted missing the forum, but had to participate in a legal action in Charleston. The other three candidates (Jerry Turner, Joe N. Moss and Tracey Reynolds) did not send us any reason for not participating.

All candidates support the current council/manager (also known as the “weak mayor”) form

of government, citing the excellent qualifications of their Town Administrator. Candidates said the current form of government provides needed continuity.

Questions centered about the need to develop the downtown, build and pay for a new sewer plant, and provide more recreational opportunities for youth. In response to a question about financing the Recreation Center, it was suggested that taxpayers be issued a small number of vouchers “to go and see what a great place it is.” One candidate said that when he was growing up in Central, he had to go to Anderson for swimming lessons and now Central has an excellent pool.

In her concluding remarks Dianne reminded the audience that they, as voters, determine the future direction of their town by the votes they cast.

~Submitted by Eleanor Hare



Candidates for Central Town Council (l. to r.): Paige Bowers, "Benji" Cumbie, Ken Dill



Candidates for Mayor of Central: David Donald (left) and "Mac" Martin

**Looking Ahead to Census 2010:
Stand Up and Be Counted!**

The LWVCA Board recently listened to a presentation by William Whitney and Bob Gabbard, US Census Bureau representatives for the upstate area of South Carolina. Each of the board members received a Complete Count Committee (CCC) Training Manual. The manual includes details about the purpose of the decennial census and the various campaigns to support the 2010 Census. Gabbard explained the duties of the CCC and subcommittees. The membership and public will have an opportunity to hear a presentation by Mr. Gabbard in the near future.

To date nearly 100 leagues in 32 states are actively involved in making sure their local communities are completely counted and properly funded. We have partnered with the US Census Bureau to ensure that everyone is counted in the 2010 Census. The League has just launched its in-language materials which should be helpful with outreach. (see the following website: <http://2010.census.gov/partners/materials/inlanguage.php>). Many informational handouts are now available in several languages including Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Chinese, Armenian, Arabic, Spanish, & more.

In addition, several Leagues across the country are working with their local colleges and minority communities and have asked for specifics on how to target these audiences. The Census recently released a series of helpful toolkits, found at this website: <http://2010.census.gov/partners/toolkits/>.

For those Leagues targeting Latino communities, NALEO (The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials) has launched a bilingual Census website: (<http://hagasecontar.yaeshora.info/english>) which may serve as a useful link for your own Census pages. They have also launched a Spanish Census Hotline, 1-877-352-3673 (1 877 El CENSO), to help Spanish speakers learn more about the Census and its impact on their communities.

**SPOTLIGHT on a new LWVCA Member!
Ellie Taylor**

Everyone thought that Ellie Taylor would be much too busy to join the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. After she asked me, I sent her one of our new color membership brochures. It turns out that Ellie has been trying for years to find enough time to join the League. Fortunately she has decided to join us.

After buying a copy of her delightful and informative book *Feeding the Kids: The Flexible, No-Battles, Healthy Eating System for the Whole Family*, I asked her for some special attention to my dietary problems. As a registered nurse, Ellie brings much experience and insight into her advice about food. For her, food is still fun. Developing and teaching wellness classes from weight loss to chronic disease management, Ellie shows the breadth and depth of her education. Ellie holds a master's degree in Family Health Nursing and until recently was a certified diabetes educator. She collaborated on her book with her daughter Pamela Gould. One of the best things I learned from my sessions with Ellie is how to read the ingredient labels on food. Her book shows the difference between "Smart" healthy foods and "Empties," the junk food with no healthy benefits, just calories. I took some bread making lessons from Ellie, but she is still a much better cook than I will ever be!

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, Ellie spent time with Religious Education classes this summer teaching the youth about good foods. Recently, Ellie helped to provide Earth Boxes to local residents so they could grow their own food. It seems so simple that food can be grown in your back yard, but many people hadn't experienced that delight of growing and eating healthy foods. Ellie shared her time, energy and enthusiasm with this useful project and now she is going to share some time with us, too. We are very lucky she's joined LWVCA!

~Submitted by Carol Ward, Membership Chair

**Pickens County Hot Topics Luncheon
Gives Members Much “Food for Thought!”**

The Pickens County “Hot Topics” lunch on growth management was well-attended and informative. Clemson city administrator Rick Cotton and Pickens County council member Jim London talked about a variety of growth-related issues, primarily infrastructure, and took questions from the audience at Western Sizzlin’ in Clemson.

The LWVCA has a draft growth management statement that reads “We support intentional and collaborative growth management in the three county (Anderson, Oconee, Pickens) area of South Carolina. We encourage regular consultations among public agencies related to growth and development and local elected bodies—city councils, county councils, and school boards. We also encourage an open and frequent dialogue between those agencies and the general public on growth management. We support the concept of managing growth to preserve and enhance quality of life for all residents, old and new, through the effective and coordinated use of such land use management tools as conservation easements, purchase of development rights, development impact fees, and zoning where appropriate.” After the three hot topics lunches, the draft statement will be reviewed by the Board and brought to the membership for consideration at the annual meeting.

The next Hot Topics lunch on November 30th will focus on Anderson County and will be held in Pendleton. The final lunch in the series will be in Oconee County on March 30th.

~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich



**Thanks to the LWVCA,
More Local Citizens Will Have an
Opportunity to “Know Their State”**

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area has donated copies of the new state LWV publication, *Know Your State*, to nine area middle schools and the Central-Clemson library. Holley Ulbrich has a limited number of copies available to purchase for \$5 each if you are interested. This most recent update of a decades-old League project provides detailed information on how state and local government works in South Carolina.

~Submitted by HolleyUlbrich

**Thank you to:
Barbara Hamberg**

When no member of LWVCA Membership Team could volunteer at the Clemson Benefits Fair this fall, our Barbara Hamberg took over for the League. She prepared a table that distributed mints attached to clips of paper telling about the League. The sheet said "Public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters . . . We're "mint" to be!!" Barbara collected the names of 23 people who are interested in the League. They will be receiving three free issues of the VOTER as they are deciding about joining our group. At our last meeting two of the potential members attended and participated in the program. Thanks to Barbara for thinking about how to attract attention to and participation in our group. We need more active members like her!

~Submitted by Carol Ward, Membership Chair

*Participants in the Hot Topics Luncheon on
“Growth Management in Pickens County”
(l. to r.): Jim London (Pickens County Council),
Holley Ulbrich (LWVCA), and Rick Cotton
(City of Clemson Administrator)*

Breaking Big Money's Grip on the Political Process

A packed auditorium of Upstate citizens considered the issue of Big Money in Politics, on October 28 in Greenville. Hodding Carter III was hosted by the Riley Institute at Furman University, as he discussed *Democracy Challenged: The Power of Big Money in Politics*. Carter is a professor at the University of North Carolina and was a former Assistant Secretary of State in the administration of President Jimmy Carter. He is currently a Director of Americans for Campaign Reform, a non-partisan group that advocates for voluntary public funding of federal elections.

Carter said that, along with the present bailouts of big business, we need a bailout of the democratic system to allow those without large sums of money to have a voice. In the 1970s, a typical Senate campaign cost \$1.3 million. Now, in a medium size state, it can cost as much as \$40 million. A member of the House of Representatives spends approximately 30% of his or her time raising money, a demeaning practice. He suggests that our system is corrupt, as evidenced by the fact that 1% of the population contributes 80% of campaign donations. Among the results, are lack of faith and confidence in the "system". Carter said that it is no coincidence that as price tags of campaigns have escalated, levels of participation in elections have dropped.

Americans for Campaign Reform is "campaigning" to enact voluntary public funding of elections for the US Senate, US House and the US Presidency. "It would be nice if deliberations on health care and climate change were taking place on a level playing field", said Carter. Instead, it is big money that buys influence and access in Washington, dominates policies and corrupts politics. While reform is needed, nothing is going to take the money out of politics, especially with the Supreme Court ruling that dollars are voices. This ruling has created even more urgency to develop a new approach to the financing of campaigns. Among those who know how corrupt and demeaning the current system is, are four former Senators who are co-chairing this national, bi-partisan organization: Bill Bradley, Bob Kerrey, Warren Rudman and Alan Simpson.

There is growing interest in the concept of public funding of elections, due partly to the evidence of its success in three states, Maine, Connecticut and Arizona. In these states, "there is a rush" for candidates to accept public funding. Current legislation called the Fair Elections Now Act is being considered in Congress. It is co-sponsored by 110 members of the House of Representatives.

There was a large representation from the League of Women Voters at the presentation. Those representing the Clemson area were Eleanor and Bill Hare, Charlotte and Paul Holmes, Ada Lou Steirer, Michelle Chin and Janie Shipley. They were joined by members of Leagues from Greenville and Spartanburg and LWVSC. There is much interest among League members in reforming our system of financing campaigns and this issue will continue to be discussed. Further information on the Americans for Campaign Reform can be found on www.youstreet.org. Ideas for how one can support the Fair Elections Now Act can be found at www.fairelectionsnow.org.

~Submitted by Janie Shipley

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Editor's Note: In the October Voter, the LWVCA encourages citizens to write op-ed/editorial pieces for the local newspapers. Last month, we featured Holley Ulbrich's editorial on the Index of Taxpaying ability. Della Baker submitted a letter-to-the-editor on health care reform. And, Eleanor Hare's article on voting machines, that appeared in the *Easley Progress*, was also picked up by Verified Voting (<http://www.verifiedvotingfoundation.org/article.php?id=6726> and by Voting News (<http://votingnews.blogspot.com/> then scroll down to "S.C." to find the article). Congrats to all – and especially for the appearance of Eleanor's article in Verified Voting, an important venue, nationally, for discussions on voting! Writing editorials is an important way to "make democracy work"! Please let us know if you experience similar successes in voicing your views through the media.