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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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# The Voter

Clemson Area League of Women Voters

Volume 36, Number 6/7  
September/October 2008

LWVCA President: Beatrice Bailey  
The Voter Editor: Catherine Mobley

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues. Oct. 7	Pickens County Candidate Forum, 7:00 p.m., Capt. Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library
Wed. Oct. 8	LWVCA Yard Sale at the Pickens County Flea Market ( <i>note change in date</i> )
Mon. Oct. 13	Oconee County Candidate Forum, 7:00 p.m., Gignilliat Civic Center, 621 N. Townville Street, Seneca
Thurs. Oct. 23	Pickens County Candidate Forum, 7:00 p.m., Central-Clemson Library  Oconee County Candidate Forum, 7:00 p.m., Gignilliat Civic Center, 621 N. Townville Street, Seneca
Sat. Oct. 25	Fall Book Discussion Group, 11:30 a.m., at the home of Holley Ulbrich ( <i>note change in date</i> )
Tues. Oct. 28	Pickens County Candidate Forum, 7:00 p.m., Capt. Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library
Thurs. Nov. 13	LWVCA Wine Tasting, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Village Walk Clubhouse, Berkeley Drive, Clemson

## WATCH DEMOCRACY AT WORK...

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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:00 p.m.
LWV National Office	202-429-1965 (800-424-2937 for state and local board members)
LWVCA website	<a href="http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/">http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/</a>

## ***President's Message***

Dear LWVCA Members and Supporters,

Thanks for all that you are doing! We're off to a grand start.

Together, we hosted an incredible new member social. I understand that we already have two new members--Paula Appling and Susan Wagener--and know that others plan to join as well. The appetizers, the camaraderie, the large turn-out and Barbara Zia's thorough overview of League life all led to a highly successful event.

Our first general meeting was wonderful as well. We had a nice turnout, excellent and healthy food, and two good speakers. We learned quite a bit about voter registration and voting machines.

Della Baker has made great strides with our Voter Guide collaboration with *Anderson Independent*. Many thanks to all of you who interviewed candidates and posted the results on the *Independent Voter Guide* website. Do check out the Voter Guide at the following website: [http://www.independentmail.com/voterguide/public/candidate\\_results.htm](http://www.independentmail.com/voterguide/public/candidate_results.htm). The site should be fairly complete by October 1. We are eager to develop stronger ties in Anderson as we offer this important voter service. Our logo will be seen and our interviews read by many Anderson area citizens as they consider candidate positions. Way to go!

Plans are underway for several candidate forums. Steve Johnson, head of Voter Services, has worked with the Oconee and Pickens Voter Service teams to work out the details to stage these important forums. The first one is slated for October 7 in Pickens County. Please check out the dates within our calendar. I hope to see you at these candidate forums since we will not host a general meeting this month. We still need volunteers to help with simple tasks so please contact Steve Johnson, our Voter Service team leader, if you can help out (johnsos05@yahoo.com).

Eleanor Hare is also making great strides with our local LWVCA website. Do take a look at our impressive site at <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org>. We are so blessed to be so well represented on the world wide web.

Finally, do remember to pay your dues and feel free to contribute to the Education Fund. If you do plan to contribute to the Education Fund, in addition to paying your dues, just remember to write a separate check for each and send them to our treasurer, Sharon Fennell. We always welcome and can use additional monetary support.

Thanks again for your many League efforts during this momentous campaign season.

~ ***Bea Bailey, LWVCA President***

**Become an informed voter -  
Make plans to attend the  
LWVCA candidate forums!**

Are you familiar with the mission statement of the League of Women Voters? It reads as follows: "The League of Women Voters a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy." (from www.lwv.org)

One of the main ways for accomplishing this important mission is through candidate forums. As mentioned in the previous edition of *The Voter*, the LWV is known for its skilled coordination and monitoring of candidate forums. And, in October, you will have the opportunity to attend several forums for candidates of local and state elections. In Pickens County, the LWCA will present the following Candidate Forums (candidate names for each race are listed in alphabetical order):

**Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library, 304 Biltmore Road, Easley**

***Candidates for Pickens County School Board:***  
***District 5 (Easley):*** Randy Bowers, Dale Cantrell, Essie Clark, and Judy Edwards  
***District 3 (Pickens):*** Selena Brinson, Alex Saitta, and Dan Trouten

**Thursday, October 23, 7:00 p.m. Central-Clemson Library, 105 Commons Way, Central**

***Candidates for S.C. House District 3:***  
Jason Gale (D) and B.R. Skelton (R) - incumbent

**Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library, 304 Biltmore Road, Easley**

***Candidates for County Council District 3:***  
Wes Burbage (D) and Sam Wyche (R)

***Candidates for Pickens County Sheriff:***  
Robert Crooks (D) and C. David Stone (R) - incumbent

In Oconee County, the LWVCA and the City of Seneca will co-sponsor the following Candidate Forums (***all of the Oconee County forums will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Gignilliat Civic Center, 621 North Townville Street, Seneca***):

**Monday, October 13**  
***Candidates for S.C. Senate District 1:***  
Thomas Alexander (R) – incumbent and Polly Nicolay (Constitution Party)

***Candidates for the Oconee County School Board of Trustees:***  
***District 2:*** Rosemary Bailes and Ken Poston - incumbent  
***District 5:*** Seth Chea, Buddy Herring, and Terry Schiazza

**Thursday, October 23**  
***Candidates for Oconee County Treasurer:***  
Susie Cornelius (Constitution Party) and Gregorie W. Nowell (R) – incumbent,

***Candidates for Oconee County Council:***  
***District 4:*** Brian Jenkins (D) and Joel Thrift (R)  
***District 5:*** Reg Dexter (R) and Richard Hughes (D)

**Please Send in Your  
LWVCA Annual Dues!**

According to our By-Laws, all dues should be paid by September. While individuals may join LWVCA at different times throughout the year, all membership renewals are due in September. Thus far, we have received 2008 dues from 23 members and the "check is in the mail" from several others.

Dues are \$50 per year; dues for a second member of the same household is half price! (\$75 total for the mathematically challenged). Student membership is \$25 per year. Please send your dues to the following address:

LWV of the Clemson Area  
P.O. Box 802  
Clemson SC 29633-0802

Additional contributions are always needed and most welcome. Our budget projects \$500 in member contributions. In an election year we have increased Voter Service expenses. So, please be generous, as always.

Also, remember that you can make a **tax-deductible contribution** to **LWV Education Fund**. This donation must come in a separate check. The local League can use these funds to pay up to one half of our Per Member Payment or we can fund other qualifying educational projects. Mail these checks to the same address noted above and the treasurer will forward them to the Clemson Area League account at the national office. Also, please notify us of any change of address, phone or email, too.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

*~Submitted by Sharon Fennell*

**The LWVCA August Meeting:  
A Focus on Voting**

The September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was a lively kickoff to an active election season. President Bea Bailey announced upcoming candidate forums and recruited members to interview candidates for the web site and the *Anderson Independent Mail* Voter Guide. VP for Programs and Action Holley Ulbrich distributed the ballot issues and a guide to drafting candidate questions.

Featured speaker Joy Brooks joined the Oconee County Elections Office in 2000. She addressed a number of issues related to voting in person and absentee, including the right to challenge a voter known to reside outside the district and the ID requirement for people who have registered by mail without including a photocopy (photo ID with current address). Demand for absentee ballots is very high. Military personnel in the US or abroad and American citizens living abroad can vote either by regular mail or by email. In response to a question, Joy noted that campaign signs must be at least 200 feet from the entrance to the polling place. Candidates and their supporters may approach potential voters outside a polling place, if they do not in any way block entrance to the polling place.

Board member Eleanor Hare provided a brief update on electronic voting, citing specific cases in Florida and South Carolina. In Sarasota, Florida, the problem was undervoting—casting a ballot that does not include any vote in one or more particular races. In the 2006 race involving Katherine Harris, former Secretary of State (of Bush-Gore fame), there were 18,000 undervotes in a race that was decided by less than 400 votes. Several possible explanations of the large undervote have been advanced. These include the use of a "smoothing filter" that would slow machine response, poor ballot design, and a problem with software.

In November 2006 in Conway, Arkansas, the District 45 State Representative race was not on

the ballot, so the elections workers were surprised to find the iVotronics reporting voters in that race. These iVotronics had a voter-verified paper trail, which was used to reconstruct how people actually voted. It was discovered that the iVotronic voting machines transferred some of the votes for the coroner race to the District 45 race. No explanation for this discrepancy has been found.

Closer to home, in the Democratic primary for mayor of Florence (South Carolina) earlier this year, Stephen Wukela defeated Frank Willis by one vote. A recount of the votes was required. The 32 paper absentee ballots were examined by hand and found to agree with previous absentee totals. The 2,905 votes cast on the iVotronics were then required to be recounted. When the polls closed, a Personal Electronic Ballot (PEB) was used at each precinct to collect the totals from all machines in the precinct. Then this PEB was taken to the county seat, where each PEB (one per precinct) was fed into a computer running the ES&S Unity software. The PEBs contain totals, but not copies of individual ballots. The Unity software added the totals from the PEBs together to produce totals for each candidate. So, how was the "recount" redone? The operation of feeding the PEBs into the Unity software to retotal the precinct totals was repeated. There was no examination of the individual ballots.

~Submitted by Eleanor Hare and Holley Ulbrich

**The LWVCA Collaborates with the  
*Anderson Independent Mail*  
to Publish a Voter Guide**

The *Anderson Independent Mail* is collaborating with LWVCA to produce a Voter Guide for the November elections. This collaboration will lead to greater League visibility in the Anderson area without spending thousands of dollars and much time and effort. At this time, plans are to cover Anderson and Oconee counties.

Our name and logo and a link to our web page will be displayed on the *Independent's Mail's* Voter Guide. They will set up the electronic Voter Guide system. You may visit the League's web site to view the contested races in the area. The state LWVs will interview the federal candidates and give us that information to use in our *Independent* Voter Guide. We can place the *Independent's* Voter Guide on our website and we can have a link from their website to ours.

The *Independent* is also interested in covering our Candidate Forums in Anderson and Oconee and the Barrett/Dyer debate at the Strom Thurmond Institute. They will advertise the event, tape it, and place the debate on their website. Please contact Della Baker ([dbaker@clemson.edu](mailto:dbaker@clemson.edu)) as soon as possible if you are willing to help with the Voter Guide.

~ Submitted by Della Baker  
LWVCA President-Elect

**Judicial Selection in South Carolina:  
Challenges and Opportunities**

On Wednesday, September 17, the LWVSC and the S.C. Women Lawyers Association hosted a community forum, "Judicial Selection in South Carolina: Ensuring Quality, Independence and Diversity on the Bench." This event, which took place at the Palmetto Club in Columbia, was held in celebration of Constitution Day.

This event was a huge success, both in terms of attendance and quality of the presentations. The size of the audience exceeded the seating and they had to bring in more chairs. The audience was mostly lawyers, although there was good attendance from LWV members (mostly from Columbia, Sumter and Charleston).

Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal of the SC Supreme Court was the best known of an outstanding panel. The SC judicial selection process was described as a hybrid. A 10-

member SC Judicial Merit Selection Commission receives applications for vacancies. The candidates must take a test and submit additional documents, including tax returns and credit reports. The Selection Committee submits three names for each vacancy to the legislature, which then selects the individual.

South Carolina's judiciary is primarily white and male, which is reflective of its state legislature. The forum addressed ways in which the percentage of black and female judges might be increased. The main suggestion was that more female and African-American candidates should apply. If they're not in the pool, they can't be selected. And, since the legislature elects the judges, electing more women and African-Americans to the legislature would also help "level the playing field." Another suggestion was that since non-legislators can be appointed to SC Judicial Merit Selection Commission, more women and African-Americans need to apply for the commission.

The panelists agreed that, although the South Carolina system could be improved, it is very good when compared with systems in other states. In some states where the judges are elected by popular vote, sitting judges have said that financial contributions appear to have an impact on judicial decisions. In one case, special interests were spending ten times as much on the judicial election as were the candidates themselves. These special interests tend to be one-issue voters, which tends to elect judges who support these special interests.

*~Submitted by Eleanor Hare  
and Catherine Mobley*

**The LWVCA and the World Wide Web:  
We now have two websites!**

Thanks to the dedication of a core group of LWVCA members, we have been able to take advantage of the Internet for publicizing our events and activities. In fact, we now have two

active websites. First, we have a public website, located at: <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/>

We now also have a private/internal web site for members only. Web searching programs, such as Google, will find our public site, but not our private (members) site. To access the private web site, it is necessary to know its URL, which will be sent to you by email.

The private web site is under construction. It has been initiated in the past month and is very much a work in progress. We plan to use the private web pages for such items as Board minutes, Treasurer's reports, descriptions of Board portfolios and workspace for league projects. In the future we anticipate adding a photo directory and biographical statements to the private website. Please offer suggestions as to what you would like to see on the private site.

Alice Flowers and Michael Stafford have agreed to serve on the Web Committee. The Web Committee members will advise on web organization and function as needed.

*~ Submitted by Eleanor Hare*

**Please Join Us for the  
Fall Book Discussion on  
Saturday, October 25  
(note change of date)**

Our fall book selection is Jeff Greenfield's *The People's Choice*, a novel (and a funny one at that) about the electoral college. If you didn't get a copy in the spring, Sharon Fennell has a copy she is willing to pass on if you need one. The discussion will be held at on Saturday, October 25th (note change of date) at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Holley Ulbrich, 106 Highland Drive in Clemson. Soup, beverage and dessert will be provided. Bring a sandwich, a cup of yogurt, or whatever you need to complete your meal. Guests are welcome. Please let Holley know if you plan to attend ([holleyu@nctv.com](mailto:holleyu@nctv.com) or 654-6828).

*~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*



**Please join the LWVCA for a  
Post-Election Celebration**

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](mailto:elin@bellsouth.net)), Michelle Chin ([michelleleanne.chin@gmail.com](mailto:michelleleanne.chin@gmail.com)), or Janie Shipley ([janrel@mindspring.com](mailto:janrel@mindspring.com)). Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the night of the event.

*~Submitted by Janie Shipley*

**One Woman's Junk is  
Another Woman's Treasure!  
Donate YOUR Treasures to the LWVCA!**

If you haven't had a chance to collect your no-longer-needed treasures to be sold by the LWVCA at the Pickens County Flea Market, it's not too late! Instead of going on October 1, our group will LWVCA at the Pickens County Flea Market, it's not too late! Instead of going to the flea market on October 1, our group will be going on **Wednesday, October 8**. So, you still have time to gather your treasures for this important fundraising event. Please bring your goods to Elinor Baron's home as soon as possible. She lives at 100 Holiday West in Clemson (just off Route 123, behind King's Cleaners). Contact Elinor at 654-4602 or [elin@bellsouth.net](mailto:elin@bellsouth.net) to make arrangements to drop off your donations.

*~ Submitted by Janie Shipley*

**The LWVCA:  
Making Democracy Work!**



To prepare for the upcoming election, the LWVCA has been busy with several voter registration drives. Many of our members have helped in this important endeavor, including Cathy Toscano, pictured above (seated) at a recent voter registration drive in Seneca. Voter registration drives and the candidate forums (described on page 2 of this newsletter) are just two of the many ways that LWVCA helps to make democracy work. We hope that you will consider donating to the LWV Education Fund so that we can continue to sponsor these important efforts! (See donation form on next page.)

*~ Submitted by Catherine Mobley  
~ Photo submitted by Janie Shipley*

### *Membership Update*

The Board and Membership Committee planned a different type of gathering to start the League Year. Elinor Baron graciously allowed us to use her home for an After Hours Membership Event. And, the event was a grand success! More than 35 people attended, with about 20 prospective members and 15 Leaguers. The group said the event was really nice, informative, and fun. The informal structure to the evening allowed the members to mix with the visitors as they enjoyed delicious food and drink. As usual, League literature was available and distributed. And, Barbara Zia, President of the LWV-SC spoke to the group about League history and activities and fielded questions from the guests.

Two new members signed up that night and others promised to join afterwards. We welcome Paul Appling and Susan Wagener as our two newest members!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the League or learning more about us, please contact Linda Gahan ([lgahan@clemson.edu](mailto:lgahan@clemson.edu)) or Aleta Robinson ([sixmiletoo@aol.com](mailto:sixmiletoo@aol.com)). And remember, there are no general membership meetings in October, due to the numerous Candidate Forums. So, bring your friends and prospective LWVCA members to these forums so they can see the League in action!

*~ Submitted by Aleta Robinson*

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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

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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.