

President's Message

The first quarter of my term as your new President is almost past. It has been a busy summer with the Board Retreat, committee meetings to plan for the upcoming year, the annual League Leader's Day in Columbia, and GETTING READY FOR SEPTEMBER! We have a very busy September ahead, beginning with a variation on the yard sale theme where we will take the yard sale to the shoppers, instead of bringing them to us. See details elsewhere in the newsletter, on our visit to the Pickens Flea Market on September 12, and join in the effort, either donating your treasures (or ex-treasures!) and/or coming to help with the sale.

The following week, on September 17 and 18, we will be kicking off our new year by welcoming Elisabeth MacNamara to the Upstate. Elisabeth serves on the Board of the LWV US. She will visit with current and new members at a luncheon on September 17, will address a class at Clemson in the afternoon on the 18th, and will be the keynote speaker at our kick-off meeting of the new year, during the evening of September 18. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to get an invigorated start to our new year. Please join us!

In the midst of all the activities, there are lots of issues that we will be addressing, and influencing, in true League style, during the upcoming year. Knowing how important it is, that we EDUCATE BEFORE WE ADVOCATE, we invite all members to participate in the immigration study, a project of LWV US. The South Carolina study will be led by two Clemson members, Eleanor Hare and Holley Ulbrich. Other issues that will be addressed on the local, state and national levels include home rule, DC Voting Rights, Clean Elections, the environment, early childhood education, criminal justice. One way that we can increase our impact, is to increase our number. So I ask you, as you go through your day, and come upon someone who would be a good candidate for League membership, tell them about the good we do, and invite them to join us! If you have suggestions or comments about our work, please share them with me or any of the following members of our very capable Board: Bea Bailey, Holley Ulbrich, Ada Lou Steirer, Sharon Fennell, Della Baker, Steve Johnson, Catherine Mobley, Aleta Robinson, Eleanor Hare, Kathy Woodard, and Reggie Turetzky. I look forward to a productive year ahead, working with all of you!

~Submitted by Janie Shipley



The LWVCA was well-represented at League Leaders' Day (see story on page 2).

Some participants included (left to right): Joan Kinne-Shulman (President, Hilton Head Island LWV), Laurel Suggs (SC VOTER Editor, Columbia), Holley Ulbrich (LWVCA), Janie Shipley (LWVCA), and Barbara Zia (President, LWVSC)

League Leaders Day, 2007'
Let's Celebrate!

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area was well represented by seven members in attendance at the annual League Leader's Day in Columbia on August 4. Among the Clemson presenters, Holley Ulbrich offered her 4 "ates" in a discussion on "Running Your League". The practice of "delegate, communicate, appreciate and celebrate" has served to strengthen the Clemson Area, and was well received by the 45 League leaders from across South Carolina. There were sessions on membership, publicity and fundraising, in addition to discussion of specific issues such as environment and immigration. Other members in attendance from the Clemson Area were Eleanor Hare, Dianne Haselton, Janet Marsh, Aleta Robinson and Janie Shipley. Robin Kimbrough-Melton also attended from the Clemson area, and was so impressed with the day's events day that, upon return to Clemson, she joined the League! ~ *Submitted by Janie Shipley*

***Continuing the Discussion on Immigration:
The Benefits and Costs of Immigration***

In last edition of the *Voter*, we outlined some preliminary thoughts on the League position on immigration (see the May 2007 *LWVCA Voter*, p.2). As we prepare for an immigration consensus meeting this year, you might like to know what some of your fellow Clemson Leaguers are thinking. Here is a brief summary of what those who attended the May meeting thought were the benefits and costs of immigration and what their priorities are in immigration legislation:

Benefits:

1. Diversity
2. Productivity
3. Immigrants fill jobs Americans won't take
4. Immigrants work harder
5. Some immigrants contribute taxes and social security

Costs

1. Cultural assimilation
2. Depress wages
3. Concentrated impact on certain states
4. Strained relations between natives and newcomers
5. Untaxed income in informal economy
6. Burden on medical system
7. Bureaucratic and enforcement costs

8. Fear of terrorists
9. Enables overpopulation/sustainability issues
10. Lack of civic participation

Priorities (not rank ordered)

1. Family unification
2. Expedite the process
3. Commitment to democratic process and civic engagement
4. Trade policies that improve life in home countries
5. Support for English as a Second Language training (by states)
6. Amnesty for those already here
7. More consistent policy
8. Humanitarian issue
9. Stronger standards for citizenship for illegal immigrants

Stay tuned for more information about the LWVCA consensus on immigration.

~ *Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

***Changing the Composition of the
Pickens County School Board
Update on H. 3782***

Most of you probably know that the Pickens County Delegation, not all of whom live in Pickens County, introduced and passed legislation over the objections of B.R. Skelton and Senator Thomas Alexander that would eliminate the at-large seats on the Pickens County School board. Despite his history of vetoing such local legislation, Governor Sanford opted to sign this one.

However, the story of the composition of the Pickens County School Board is far from over. The state attorney general has opined that the Senate's practice of weighted voting, based on the share of county represented by each senator, may be unconstitutional. The city of Clemson will consider the possibility of taking legal action at its first meeting in September. If the city decides to act, the Clemson Area League will support the city on the basis of the state League's position supporting home rule (rather than having decision made by a county delegation that is not made up solely of Pickens County residents) and the national generic support of democratic process (an advisory referendum would be more appropriate). We cannot take a specific position for or against at-large seats because we have not studied and arrived at a local consensus on that issue, although individual members are free to speak as they feel moved.

The issue will be on the city's agenda for the first meeting in September. The date has not been set because of Labor Day and the football game, but it will probably be Tuesday, September 4th. There is an opportunity for public input at 7 p.m. before the council meeting begins.

~ *Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

***Making a Difference in our Community:
Getting Involved in LWV Advocacy***

The Program and Action Team will be hosting an advocacy table at each of our regular meetings this year, not necessarily based on state or national action priorities but on pending legislation or active issues where we think we can make a difference. In September, we will be providing information about the 2007 farm bill in relation to our national agriculture position--a consensus in which the Clemson League participated, and one that is of increasing importance in the light of global trade and environmental issues related to agriculture and food supply. You can read about the proposed legislation at the USDA website, and we will also provide additional summary information at the meeting.

Here is the League position, adopted in 1988:

Agriculture Policy: The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

Sustainable Agriculture. Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

Research and Development. Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

Agricultural prices. The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the

production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

Agriculture and Trade. U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

Farm Credit. Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices. ~*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

Time to Pay Your Annual Dues!

September is the month for renewing your LWV membership. The treasurer requests that you send your **\$50 dues** and any extra contribution to: **LWV of Clemson Area, PO Box 802, Clemson, SC 29632**. If there is a second member in your household (spouse, partner etc) the dues for the second member is half price (\$25). Student dues are also only \$25.

The League relies and operates on dues and contributions from members and nonmembers as well as fund raising events (garage sales, wine tasting etc.). The 14 month budget we adopted requires \$5650. EXTRA MONEY is always appreciated.

Tax deductible contributions may also be made to **League of Women Voters Education Fund**. This must be a **separate check** made out to the Ed Fund. These contributions are forwarded to the National League and we may use part of the proceeds for our Per Member Payment.

Please send your checks now to avoid further email and/or snail mail reminders. Thanks for quickly responding to this dues notice...I hope the mail box soon fills up!

~*Submitted by Sharon Fennell, Treasurer*

LWVCA Yard Sale to be held at the Pickens County Flea Market!

The next LWVCA Yard Sale will be held at the Pickens County Flea Market. The flea market is open every Wednesday from 4:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm and attracts over 600 vendors a week, not to mention thousands of treasure seekers! Please help us with this important fund-raising endeavor. If you've never been to the Pickens County Flea Market, now is your chance – it's an adventure!

When: Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 am (or so) until 12:00 noon

Where: The Pickens County Flea Market is located on Highway 183, just west of Pickens...you can't miss it!

Drop off information: Sept. 6-11 at Elinor Baron's garage – 100 Holiday West (behind the old Holiday Inn) Call first to make sure we are home to receive your items. 654-4602

We Need Donations! Clean and in working order only!

Prices marked (tags and pens available at garage), Please donate only good, usable stuff that would work for you if you needed it. Also, pack or bag small items so they will be easily transportable.

We Need Volunteers! Let us know if you can help – especially if you have a large vehicle to transport items on the morning of Sept. 12.

Elinor Baron elin@bellsouth.net

Ingrid Lampe Ingrid.lampe@agedwards.com

Janie Shipley janrel@mindspring.com

~Submitted by Elinor Baron

In Memory of Ethel Sturgis

The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area has been the beneficiary of the many talents and dedication of Ethel Sturgis, who recently passed away. She moved to South Carolina after many years in New Jersey and Texas. She was recently honored at the annual convention of the LWVSC with the *Spirit of Democracy* Award. As the Field Service Director for LWVSC, she consulted with local Leagues across the state, and was very helpful to LWVCA. Our Board would like to make a contribution to further the work of the League of Women Voters, in memory of Ethel Sturgis. If you would like to join in this effort, please send your check, with "Ethel Sturgis Memorial" in the memo line, payable to LWVCA, and send to PO Box 802, Clemson, SC 29633 by September 19. ~

~Submitted by Janie Shipley

87 Years of Fighting for Political Equality: LWV Marks Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Washington, DC – This August 26 marked the 87th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting age population, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

"This anniversary of the 19th amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in the past 87 years," said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

"This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 Presidential election is a woman.

"However, these achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change."

The League's current and recent projects include the launch of a major voter education website, www.VOTE411.org, lobbying against the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, a campaign to end "taxation without representation" for D.C. citizens by granting DC a voting representative, and continuing voter registration drives nationwide.

This anniversary "is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all."

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*You must be the change
you wish to see in this world.
Mahatma Gandhi*

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