

League of Women Voters-- Clemson Area



February 2007

Clemson League Reviews State Positions & Proposes Some

League Events

Book Discussion and Potluck
February 3 12:00 noon UUFC

Board Meeting
February 13 12:00 UUFC

General Meeting on Adult Education
February 20 7:00 Refreshments 7:30 Meeting UUFC

LWV Legislative Day ~ Education Finance
February 27 All day program Columbia
Carpools Available

Board Meeting
March 14 12:00 UUFC

General Meeting on Global Warming
March 27 7:00 Refreshments 7:30 Meeting UUFC

Yard Sale Fundraiser UUFC
March 31 Plants, Seedlings, and Gardening Items

Annual Meeting Paesano's Italian Restaurant
April 17 6:00 p.m.

County Governmental Meetings

Clemson City Council
1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

Seneca City Council
2nd Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Anderson County Council
1st and 3rd Tuesdays; 6:00 p.m.

Pickens County Council
1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

Oconee County Council
1st Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.; 3rd Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.

Pickens County School Board
4th Mondays, 7:30 p.m. except July and December

Oconee County School Board
2nd and 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

LWV National Office 202-429-1965
(800-424-2937 for state and local board members)



President's Message

How fast a League year flies! Janet Marsh, Aleta Robinson and I went to the annual Pickens

County Legislative delegation meeting on January 15th. Janet and I both made statements and then listened at great length as people vented on several subjects, but mainly the building program of the Pickens County School District. Good manners were not always being observed!

We had an excellent program planning and electronic voting consensus meeting on January 16th with good attendance and good discussion. Thanks to Linda Gahan for her good work in organizing this meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar for the new date for our first-ever salad lunch and political book discussion at the UU Fellowship on Saturday, February 3rd. The book is Ornstein and Mann's *The Broken Branch* about the problems with Congress--very timely with a change of control in both houses. It's got lots of good history and ideas for making the legislative process work.

Our plant, garden and book yard sale will be March 31st at the UU Fellowship. Gardeners, start you seedlings! We hope this will be easy and fun and make some money.

Two events to keep in mind for February, the Adult Education meeting on February 20th and the annual Legislative Day in Columbia on February 27th. Contact Eleanor Hare if you are interested in going.

Thanks to Dianne Haselton for all her hard work on the Directory of Public Officials and to her helpers, especially Elaine Epstein who did a lot of Anderson County.

Holley Ulbrich, LWVCA President

Clemson Approves Voting Machine Consensus Questions

On January 16, 2007, members of the Clemson Area league quickly, and without any dissenting voices, approved all five consensus questions on voting machines. The consensus questions, together with supporting materials, had been distributed by e-mail and a meeting had been held on voting machines in the fall, so the members were well-informed to assess the consensus questions.

The Clemson Area LWV supported:

- 1) *random testing of voting machines should be conducted during every election;*
- 2) *that new and replacement voting machines that are purchased by the state of South Carolina should include a paper ballot, for the purpose of allowing the voter to verify her/his vote, and, also for use whenever a vote recount is required;*
- 3) *that the iVotronic voting machine, even with an add-on voter-verified paper trail, is not secure;*
- 4) *that source code should be open for inspection; and*
- 5) *changing LWVSC position 9.f as follows (new text underlined):*

Implementing a statewide automated systems of voting from a statewide list approved by SCSEC to standardize voting procedures, lessen voter confusion and increase the accuracy of the count. Approved voting machines should meet LWVUS standards for security, accuracy, recountability and accessibility.

Results of consensus meetings from local leagues will be sent to State Board and presented to the membership at State Convention on April 21-22.

Eleanor Hare Reporting





Steve Johnson Makes Passionate Plea for Bringing Net Metering to South Carolina

LET THERE BE (COMPACT FLUO- RESCENT) LIGHT

"In 2006, we have DVDs, the Internet and cell phones, but when it comes to lighting, we're in the Dark Ages," says Erica Rowell, and Environmental Defense staff member. Rowell's voice is part of a growing chorus touting a new generation of compact fluorescent lamps - commonly known as CFLs. Proponents point to enormous efficiency gains and praise new CFLs for their better light.

If you've tried CFLs in the past and been disappointed with their performance, it's time to revisit the technology. Here's why:

ENERGY SAVINGS

CFL bulbs use up to 75% less energy to produce the same amount of light (an 18-watt CFL replaces a 75-watt incandescent) and the bulbs last as much as 20 times longer (10,000 - 25,000 hours versus 750 - 1,000 hours). And at current prices a typical \$3 CFL

pays for itself in just a few months.

The environment is the real beneficiary. According to EPA, "If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with an energy Star-qualified CFL it would prevent enough pollution to equal removing one million cars from the road."

CONVENIENCE

Forget the past, when every hard-to-find CFL bulb had limited applications. Now CFLs are available everywhere and specially marked bulbs can be used in dimmable or three-way fixtures, or with timers, motion detectors and photocells.

The best one-stop source of information about CFLs is the Environmental Defense online guide at environmentaldefense.org/go/CFL guide.



2007 LWVCA Officers and Board Members

President, Holley Ulbrich

President-Elect, Janie Shipley

2nd VP for Program and Action, Linda Gahan

Secretary, Della Baker

Treasurer, Sharon Fennell

Other Board Members

Bea Bailey

Steve Johnson

Ingrid Lampe

Catherine Mobley

Aleta Robinson

Ada Lou Steirer

Reggie Turetzky

Kathy Woodard

Webmaster, Eleanor Hare

Please be sure to check out our brand new web site: clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org

LWV Summary Report on Adult Education in South Carolina

Introduction

The need for effective adult education in our State is substantial. According to the 2000 U.S. Census data, 600,000 adults in South Carolina do not have a high school credential, or the literacy and technical skills needed for today's workforce. The National Center of Educational Statistics reports that the high school graduation rate in South Carolina is the lowest in the nation. Economic indicators such as median income, unemployment rates, and percentage of families living below the poverty level are similarly negative for South Carolina residents. Additional related factors are high teen pregnancy and high school drop-out rates, along with high numbers of incarcerated youth and adults in the criminal justice system.

Adult education plays a critical role in making a positive difference in educational levels, economic status, and the overall quality of life for many South Carolinians. In 2005, 64,520 students were enrolled in adult education programs in our State. Adult Education programs are accessible to diverse populations throughout the state. These programs provide opportunities for young adults and adults in a variety of age categories to achieve literacy, high school credentials, and improved chances for employability and career advancement.

Mission/Goals of Adult Education

The mission of adult education in South Carolina is threefold: (1) to assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; (2) to assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and (3) to assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

Governance and Administration of Adult Education

The State Department of Education has responsibility for oversight and governance of Adult Education. Adult Education programs are administered by local school districts, as well as by some community and faith based organizations.

Funding for Adult Education

In 2005-06 the total budget for adult education in South Carolina was \$21,531,079. Sixty-two percent (\$13,368,119) of this amount was provided by the State of South Carolina, and thirty-eight percent (\$8,162,960) came from federal sources. The State allocation, per student, in adult education programs was \$188.49 in 2005-06, while the State allocation, per student, attending traditional public high schools in South Carolina was \$2,958.75 in 2005-06.

Recommended LWV Position on Adult Education (D-R-A-F-T for discussion only)

We recommend that our current position on Education, as stated in Agenda for Action and on the LWVSC website, be modified to include the following position statements on Adult Education.

Adult Education

Governance

LWV supports:

- Governance and oversight of adult education programs by the State Department of Education, with programs administered by local school districts, community organizations, and faith-based organizations; and
- Adult education programs which are accessible to residents throughout each county and school district in South Carolina.

Funding

LWV supports:

- Adequate State funding to increase the percent of full time teachers for adult education students in high school diploma programs; and
- Provision of the same State per student allocation for adult education students (ages 17-22 years) in diploma programs as the amount allocated per student for those enrolled in South Carolina public high schools.

Effective Education

LWV supports:

- Availability of a variety of adult education programs (e.g. Literacy, English as a Second Language, Pre-GED Preparation, GED Preparation, High School Diploma Classes, Computer Literacy, Career Readiness, etc.); to meet respective needs of South Carolina's diverse population
- Local partnerships with higher education and technical education institutions, as well as businesses, community organizations, and other government entities to assist in carrying out the mission of Adult Education;
- On-site day care for children of adult education parents while they are attending adult education classes;
- Available, affordable transportation assistance to/from adult education sites for adult education students in rural areas.
- Access to adult education classes in a wide variety of community locations, including Department of Corrections State Prisons, city and county jails, vocational rehabilitation centers, and One Stop centers.

Submitted by Janet Marsh



WANTED: Green Thumbs and Bookworms!

**LWVCA Plants and Books Yard Sale
Saturday, March 31, 2007
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8:00-Noon**

I don't know about you all, but these cloudy, wintry days have me day-dreaming about my spring garden (although I don't have to daydream lately - the recent warm weather has brought some of my daffodils and crocuses to the surface!)

Well, it's time to start preparing for the League's spring "Plants and Books" yard sale! We need your donations:

- ** Do you have a green thumb? If so, **start your seedlings now!** We will be selling plants, bulbs, shrubs, etc. at the yard sale.
- ** Do you have a brown thumb? We can still use your donations! **We are looking for any yard and garden items: planters, shovels, rakes, lawn mowers, pots, trowels, garden ornaments, etc.**
- ** Finally, we need **books, books and more books!** Please consider donating your books to the yard sale this year!

We will also need volunteers to help out at the actual yard sale...more details will be provided in an upcoming newsletter. In the meantime, get some potting soil and seeds and start those seedlings!

Call Catherine Mobley (868-6530) if you can volunteer or help out in any other way.



LWVSC PROGRAM PLANNING FOR UPCOMING YEAR



On January 16, members of the LWVCA met to discuss the areas that would receive state and local programming emphasis in the upcoming year. The group agreed that the current state positions be retained on the topics of Child Welfare, Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Education, Natural Resources, State and Local Government, State and Local Taxation, Transportation. The following topics were designated as an “action priority”:

- Child welfare: 4 year-old kindergarten
- Criminal justice: prisoner rehabilitation, as proposed by the Charleston LWV
- Education: no public funds for private schools; choice of vendors who make environmentally responsible decisions in construction of school buildings
- Natural resources: establishment of one governmental agency with the power to develop and implement energy policies that would give consideration to all energy-generating sources; net metering; climate policy
- State and local government: state-level campaign finance reform; fewer statewide restrictions on local governments (restore home rule);
- State and local Taxation: support of an adequacy and equitable tax system

Local programs which were recommended for programming emphasis include: Education: support increase in taxation to fund public schools and Growth Management: impact of residential issues on quality of life.

At State Convention on April 21 in Georgetown, convention delegates will adopt state programming for the next two years and set actions priorities in two tiers. . For 2005-2007 the action priorities the action priorities were First tier: Education, Home Rule, and Taxation; Second tier: Election Reform, Child Care and Growth Management. **Please help LWVCA delegates to State Convention by prioritizing the action priorities listed above for 2007-2009 and email this information to Janie Shipley at janrel@mindspring.com before February 9**

Reminders



Please remember to send information to Aleta Robinson if you have important news to share. Are you making a career change or moving or coming back from a big trip or

writing your next book? Let your league members know.



The deadline for VOTER news is the fourth Friday of every month. We hope to get the VOTER to you early in the month. Please take plenty of digital images whenever you participate in league events and then send them to the editor as JPEGs. Clip art is also welcomed. You can send your JPEGs to Bea Bailey, LWVCA Newsletter Editor, at cbeatr@clemson.edu or contact her at 864-656-5126.

Please check our new web site:

clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org

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