



Volume 36, Number 1  
January 2008

LWVCA President: Janie Shipley  
*The Voter* Editor: Catherine Mobley

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues. Jan. 8	LWVCA Board Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.
Tues, Jan. 15	LWVCA Immigration Consensus Meeting, Part II, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Social time, 7:00 p.m.; Formal Program, 7:30 p.m.
Mon. Jan. 21	Meeting with Pickens County Delegation, Dacusville Fire Department, 2509 Earls Bridge Road, Easley 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Jan. 22	LWVCA national and local planning meeting & potluck dinner, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 5:30 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 25	Focus the Nation National Kickoff, Tillman Hall, Clemson University, 7:30 p.m. (co-sponsored by LWVSC)
Sat. Jan. 26	LWVCA 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Calhoun Bridge (formerly Morrison Annex), 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

### 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.
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.
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***

In December, I was asked to address a group of Oconee County high school students during a voter registration drive. Below is a short article that I shared with them in an effort to demonstrate the importance of their vote.

*In 1645, ONE VOTE gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.*

*In 1649, ONE VOTE caused Charles I of England to be executed.*

*In 1776, ONE VOTE gave America the English language instead of German.*

*In 1839, ONE VOTE elected Marcus Morton Governor of Massachusetts.*

*In 1845, ONE VOTE brought Texas into the Union.*

*In 1876, ONE VOTE saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.*

*In 1876, ONE VOTE gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency of the United States.*

*In 1923, ONE VOTE gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi party.*

*In a recent election for county council in Virginia, the vote came down to a ONE VOTE difference. There was one challenged ballot which was a ballot cast by the son of the losing candidate. The son was in the military assigned overseas. The ballot cast by the son was counted; he voted for his mother and that tied the vote. In Virginia, when a tie vote occurs, a flip of a coin is used to determine the winner. The mother of the serviceman won the flip and the election.*

*In another recent election, a gentleman in Massachusetts for Governor's Council was so involved in his campaign that he showed up too late to vote. The official vote count was 14,716 for his opponent. His vote count was 14,715. He lost the election by ONE VOTE, his own.*

As we enter 2008, an election year, may we remember the value of our vote, and the importance of the democratic process. It will be a busy year for the LWVCA as we continue to register new voters and seek to inform voters on important issues. On the final page of this newsletter, we describe a number of ways that you can become involved with the LWVCA. As we say on our website, Democracy is not a spectator sport. During the upcoming year, we will be continuing our efforts to make democracy work!

Happy New Year to you!

***Janie Shipley, LWVCA President***

***Immigration Consensus: Part II***  
***Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.***

On December 11, the LWVCA hosted the first of two immigration consensus meetings. Twenty-five people attended and had a lively discussion about immigration policies and issues.

The second consensus meeting, to be held on Tuesday, January 15, will focus on the national questions (Questions 2, 4, and 6) outlined below. Think about these questions, read the background papers, and come prepared to participate in developing some thoughtful responses.

You can find more information about immigration by visiting our website: <http://clemsontarea.sc.lwvnet.org>. You may also want to refer to the last edition of the LWVCA Voter (pages 4-5), which included information from a study published by the Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies at the University of South Carolina: *The Economic and Social Implications of the Growing Latino Population in South Carolina*. You can find a copy of this study at the following website:

<http://moorecms.graysail.com/moore/research/presentstudy/hispanic/CMAReport0809.pdf>

If you would like a copy of the summary of this report that was included in the October/November edition of *The Voter*, send an e-mail to Catherine Mobley at [camoble@clemsontarea.sc.lwvnet.org](mailto:camoble@clemsontarea.sc.lwvnet.org) or you can access the newsletter at the following website: <http://clemsontarea.sc.lwvnet.org/files/Nov07.pdf>

## IMMIGRATION STUDY QUESTIONS:

**QUESTION 2:** Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows (rate each item as “High Priority,” “Lower Priority” or “Disagree”):

- (a.) Deport unauthorized immigrants.
- (b.) Some immigrants should be deported and some should be allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on *length of residence in U.S.*
- (c.) Some unauthorized immigrants should be deported and some should be allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on *the needs of U.S. employers.*
- (d.) All unauthorized immigrants should be allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by participating in activities such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc.
- (e.) If unauthorized immigrants are deported, assess fines before possible re-entry.
- (f.) Assess fines before being allowed to earn legal adjustment of status.

## QUESTION 4

**Question 4a: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:** In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include Social Security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for **all** persons residing in the U.S.

**Question 4b:** Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including the following (rate each item as “High Priority,” “Lower Priority” or “Disagree”):

(a.) Physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders

(b.) Increased personnel at land, air, and sea entry points

(c.) More effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country

(d.) Verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers

(e.) Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status

(f.) Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies

(g.) A program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs

(h.) Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

**QUESTION 6: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:** Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

**A reminder about the LWV consensus process:** As reported in the previous *Voter*, the immigration consensus is a major undertaking. Consensus is a process that only involves LWV members. Guests may be present at the meeting but are not allowed to participate in the discussion that leads to the formulation of a consensus, or general agreement about what our position should be. Consensus is more than majority, less than unanimity. Minority opinions will also be conveyed. When we have completed our

consensus, we will send it to the national board to be combined with similar reports from Leagues throughout the country. We will also compile state reports and host an event, possibly in conjunction with state council in April, which focuses on immigration in South Carolina.

~ Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

***Clean Elections Make Cents!***  
***A Report on the***  
***LWVCA November Meeting***

Did you know there is a way to take the corrupting influence of moneyed special interests out of our elections, and the cost per taxpayer would only be about 1¢ a day? It's called "Clean Elections." At our November meeting Brett Bursey, Director of the South Carolina Progressive Network, spoke passionately about this proposal.

According to Bursey, of the \$90 million raised by all S.C. state candidates in the last 9 years, fewer than 1 percent came from contributions of \$200 or less. The primary contributors to campaigns represented business interests, primarily banking, insurance, real estate, lawyers, health, construction, utilities, agriculture, transportation, and communication.

Publicly financed elections are those that are paid for by the people rather than by special interests. This system of funding political campaigns removes money as the driving force in determining who wins elections. While to many jaundiced voters such a proposal sounds too good to be true, clean elections have worked in the states with the vision to embrace a more equitable – and smarter – way of driving our democracy. Clean elections have already begun to take hold in a few states, including Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, Arizona, and even North Carolina.

To reduce the nearly absolute power of money and incumbency, clean elections allow any citizen wanting to run for office access to public funding, providing they agree to spending limits, pledge not to take private donations, and raise a number of small, qualifying pledges (to weed out the serious from the not so serious candidates).

Through such a system, publicly financed House candidates would get \$25,000; publicly financed Senate candidates would get \$75,000. **Constitutional (statewide) officers would get the average amount spent to win their respective seats in the last two general elections.**

The system is voluntary and constitutional. While it can apply to all elections, the proposal in the South Carolina Statehouse applies to candidates for the legislature and statewide offices only.

**How much would such a system cost to fund?** THE TOTAL COST OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS would be \$3.44 annually, per voting age citizen. This would be less than a penny a day per person, or \$10,197,192 per year.

A Clean Election Act has been introduced in the SC state legislature every session since 2000.

For more information about clean elections in South Carolina, please check out <http://scpronet.com/cleanelect.php>

*~ Submitted by Steve Johnson*

*A Report on the Town Hall Meeting  
with Dr. Jim Rex,  
State Superintendent of Education*

**"Four years is a long time in the life of a child."** These were the words of Dr. Jim Rex, South Carolina State Superintendent of Education, as he explained his comprehensive plan for reforming and improving South Carolina schools to a large crowd at Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute. The December 3, 2007 Town Hall meeting was sponsored by the Jim Self Center on the Future and the LWCA. Dr. Rex is fulfilling the promise he made during his 2006 campaign to spend two days a week outside of Columbia listening to and responding to the concerns of the State's citizens.

**Reform and Innovation** are the overarching themes of Dr. Rex's five point plan which was developed with assistance from citizen task forces. The plan contains the following components:

1. Accelerate innovation in our schools to find new answers to old problems so that we stop doing too many things that don't work.
2. Give parents, children and teachers more choices within the school system, such as single gender classes, magnet schools, language immersion schools, and Montessori schools.
3. Elevate the teaching profession with fair, results-based compensation reform, plus a statewide public relations campaign aimed at changing the image of the profession to attract new teachers who will be needed to replace those who will retire in the near future.
4. Reform accountability to ensure success by rebalancing the testing programs with less time spent testing for accountability purposes and increasing diagnostic testing.
5. Create a fair and equitable system of funding by addressing the way South Carolina raises and distributes all state revenues with a special focus on public schools.

Dr. Rex expanded on these points in his presentation, discussing the "Corridor of Shame" and the wording of the South Carolina Constitution which requires only a "minimally adequate education". Discussing his work with the legislature, he stressed that education is a non-partisan issue and that there are many pro-education legislators on both sides of the aisle. While healthy debate and discussion are important, the sense of urgency that drives Dr. Rex is not always compatible with the way the legislature works. He feels that doing the right thing too slowly can sometimes have the same outcome as doing nothing. He emphasized that our children are our sacred common ground and we must prepare them for their future with an education that will allow them to compete in a global economy.

The audience was actively involved with Dr. Rex's presentation, asking more questions and making more comments than it was possible to recognize. Dr. Rex referred to his five point plan in responding to questions about higher level thinking skills and discipline, suggesting that answers these challenges originate with innovative solutions, such as formulating teams of teachers responsible for a group of students for more than one year. Dr. Rex would prefer to see diagnostic testing that will help children be able to compete in a global economy, without sacrificing creative thinking. He believes that "No Child Left Behind" should be amended not ended. When asked what we as citizens could do to improve education in the state, especially in the "Corridor of Shame", he advised us to keep in touch with our legislators and to be aware of what is happening in Columbia.

Dr. Rex recognized our own Dr. Holley Ulbrich who is working with him on school financing.

~ *Submitted by Frances Plotnik*

*Editor's Note:* The "corridor of shame" to which Dr. Rex referred during his town hall meeting is a phrase used to describe the struggling schools located in South Carolina along the I-95 corridor. These and other South Carolina schools were recently featured in the compelling documentary "Corridor of Shame: The Neglect of South Carolina's Rural Schools." More information about the film, which can be purchased for \$20, can be found at: [www.corridorofshame.com](http://www.corridorofshame.com)

***Program and Action Notes:  
LWVCA Events and Happenings***

In addition to the immigration consensus process, there's a lot going on in program and action! Thanks to the volunteers who signed up to **visit with area legislators** to ask questions on behalf of the state league that are based on our positions. Those visits will be

taking place in the next few weeks; some have already been made. We also will be holding **national and local program planning meeting** at a potluck dinner on January 22nd. At this meeting, we will make recommendations on which national positions to continue, drop or restudy, on whether to adopt any new studies, on action priorities at the national level, and also on which of our local program items to retain or delete and whether we want any new local studies. The national priorities will be in the hopper for the national convention this summer, and the local positions will be considered at our annual meeting in April.

Soon, you will be receiving an invitation to the **40th anniversary celebration** of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. During this event we will celebrate, with local Leagues and special guests, our past, present and future as a local League. Mark your calendar to be at Calhoun Bridge from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26th for this special occasion! Wine and other refreshments will be served.

Did you know the LWVCA has initiated an informal book discussion group? We invite you to join us for the lively conversation and conviviality that occurs at our discussion group. Fifteen of you have purchased copies of the Eleanor Clift book, *Founding Sisters*. It's a quick read; if you don't have one, you can borrow one. That **book discussion** will be in February, so be sure to put this book on your reading list soon!

~*Submitted by Holley Ulbrich*

***Let's Make Sure Our 17-Year Olds  
are Registered to VOTE!***

Did you know that in South Carolina 17 year olds may register to vote and that they can vote in the primary elections, if they will turn 18 years old by November 4, 2008, Election Day? At last count, there are 11 states that permit 17 year olds to register to vote and to vote under these circumstances, and other states are considering this proposal.

This fall, a letter was sent by LWV of South Carolina to every high school principal in the state, encouraging the school to conduct a voter registration drive for students who are 18 or will be 18 by November 4, 2008. The LWVCA volunteered to assist Anderson, Oconee and Pickens schools in any way they needed our help.

These schools went to work and we now have hundreds of new voters in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties! Elaine Epstein, League member in Anderson, reports that the Anderson County Voter Registration and Elections office has facilitated the registration of students from every high school in Anderson, except for one private school. The Pickens County Office of Voter Registration and Elections reports that at least one high school, Liberty High, conducted a voter registration drive. In Oconee County, all high schools in the county brought eligible students together for an event to which all Presidential candidates were invited to attend. One candidate, John Edwards, appeared and encouraged the students to exercise their right to vote. He cited the contribution that young people made in the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War and movement against apartheid in South Africa. The event was held at Walhalla High School and was sponsored by the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship. The purpose of the event was to promote voter registration and to encourage active citizenship.

The Oconee County Office of Voter Registration and Elections reported that voter registration applications were received from 456 students who attended this event! The League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area was invited to participate and was represented by Charlotte Holmes, Lyn Norton and Janie Shipley.

*~Submitted by Janie Shipley*

***Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Session 2***  
***January 29, 2008***

“Secrets and Myths: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sexuality and Reproduction” is the next topic in the *Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* series. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Self Auditorium at the Strom Thurmond Institute. Door prizes for students and refreshments for all will follow the program.

The primary speaker will be Sharon Rachel with the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. Rachel is a consultant for reproductive and sexual health education for the Emory University Regional Training Center and is the Program Coordinator for the Center of Excellence for Sexual Health in Atlanta, GA. She will lead a discussion about widely held myths and misconceptions related to sexuality.

In October, Clemson University’s Women’s Studies Program and Planned Parenthood Health Systems successfully launched *Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, a series of three forums addressing the reproductive health movement in our nation. The series will conclude on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, with “Finding Common Ground on Birth Control and Reproductive Choice: A Religious and Ethical Perspective”. In this program the controversial issues of birth control and abortion will be discussed from both a theological and secular perspective, exploring possibilities for an environment of understanding and respect. The public is invited to attend this series that is co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program at Clemson, Planned Parenthood Health Systems and Redfern Health Center.

For more information about the program or about the *Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* series, contact Janie Shipley at [janrel@mindspring.com](mailto:janrel@mindspring.com) or at 885-1967.

*~Submitted by Janie Shipley*

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***The South Carolina Primaries  
Coming Soon to Your Community!***

In the next month, South Carolina will be in the national spotlight as the state is among the first to hold its primary elections. The Republican Primary will occur on Saturday, January 19. In this “winner-take-all” primary (Open), 47 delegates are at stake. The Democratic Primary will be held on Saturday, January 26. In this proportional primary (Open), there are 53 delegates at stake.

As with any election, it is important that you become informed about the issues and candidates. The LWVUS publication, *Choosing the President, 2008* is an essential tool as we prepare for the upcoming election. This publication explores the voters, candidates, parties, media, and donors who comprise our election system, and walks through the process of electing a president--including everything from the caucuses and primaries to navigating Election Day.

To order a copy for \$11 plus S & H, visit: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWV\\_Store](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWV_Store)

Additional information about candidates, issues, and voter education can be found at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org), a website hosted by the LWVUS Voter Education fund.

***The LWVCA NEEDS YOU!***

Any volunteer organization depends on the energy and commitment of its members. There are many ways that you can assist us in the upcoming months. The LWVCA could use help with the following tasks:

- Interview a local legislator, using a list of questions proposed by LWVSC. We need volunteers to interview Dan Bowen, Thomas Alexander, Bill Whitmire, Bill Sandifer, David Hiott and Rex Rice.

- Volunteer for the Voter Service committee which will be sponsoring voter registration drives this spring.
- Volunteer to serve on the LWVSC Transportation Committee.

For more information on these and other opportunities, contact Janie Shipley, [janrel@mindspring.com](mailto:janrel@mindspring.com)

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***Are you receiving e-mails from us?*** Once or twice a month, the President of the LWVCA sends an e-mail to update members on pressing developments or to remind members of upcoming activities. Are you currently receiving these e-mails? If not and you would like to, or if you are receiving them at your office/home address, and would prefer to receive them at your home/office address, please let us know. Send an e-mail, with the correct/preferred address, to: Della Baker at [dbaker@clemsion.edu](mailto:dbaker@clemsion.edu) and to Janie Shipley at [janrel@mindspring.com](mailto:janrel@mindspring.com) and we will make sure you get these messages!

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A hearty “thank you!” to Debbie Dorn, Lyn Norton, Reggie Turetzky, and Ada Lou Steirer who answered the request for assistance on Primary Election Days. They have volunteered on behalf of the League, to report information from certain spots in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties to Edison Media Research during the South Carolina primaries on January 19 and January 26. Debbie, Lyn and Reggie will collect and report election results and Ada Lou will conduct exit polling.

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***Breaking news!*** At press time, we received information about the iVotronic voting machines. See our website for additional information.

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