

President's Message:

Another edition of the Directory of Public Officials is hot off the press! Copies are being distributed, and the updated versions are posted on the LWVCA website, <http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org/> under Newsletter & Publications. We are not doing a mass mailing of this issue, so you may get your copy at the March 25th general meeting or contact me. If you haven't already discovered this LWVCA publication, you should do so soon. It's an invaluable resource for contacting our local government officials! Special thanks to Dianne Haselton for her dedication to the DPO project, updating all three editions.

Save the date, Saturday, May 3 for the LWVSC Council meeting in Columbia. All members are invited to attend. Details on the meeting will appear in the Spring SC Voter. A carpool will be arranged from the Clemson area. Highlights of the day will include:

- a panel discussion on global warming and its impact and solutions for South Carolina
- a presentation on the new LWV position on immigration policy by the chair of the LWVUS study committee
- an update on what's happening on immigration policy reform at the federal level (Senator Lindsey Graham is invited to address the issue)
- a workshop on how to undertake League study and action
- a workshop on voter education and outreach

The final program in the *Sex in the 21st Century* series will be held on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Strom Thurmond Institute auditorium at Clemson University. The topic is "*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, in an effort to foster an environment of understanding and respect. Several LWVCA members are involved in the organization of this series which is being co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program at Clemson University and Planned Parenthood. The public is invited to attend.

This issue of the VOTER contains announcements that are mandated by our by-laws to be sent in advance of the Annual Meeting. Below is the proposed budget for 2008 - 2009, and elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the report of the nominating committee and the report on the 2008 - 2009 local program. Happy Spring!

~Janie Shipley, LWVCA President

**League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area
Proposed Budget for June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009**

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	3575.00	National per member payment	\$ 1918.00
Member Contributions	500.00	South Carolina per member payment	959.00
Education Fund Contributions	600.00	Voter	
		Printing	1100.00
		Mailing	500.00
		Website	160.00
Fundraising	1737.00	Convention	1000.00
TOTAL	6412.00	Board Tools	
		President	100.00
		Membership	100.00
		Voter Education	300.00
		Publications – DPO	
		Fundraising	100.00
		Miscellaneous	150.00
		Citizenship	25.00
		TOTAL	\$ 6412.00

Submitted by Elinor Baron, Fran Kaiser, Sharon Fennel and Janie Shipley

LWVCA General Meeting
Living in an Era of Mass Incarceration
Thursday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

In late February, the PEW Center on the States released a report with stunning news: ***I in 100 American adults are behind bars for the first time in history.*** For some time, the United States has been the global leader in the rate of incarceration, far outpacing nations like South Africa, Iran, China and Russia. But the PEW report documents what many of us already knew: that incarceration rates have continued to grow even though crime rates have remained stagnant, and that the growth has diverted critical dollars in state budgets from education and other services to responding to the high rate of incarceration.

The LWVSC adopted criminal justice, and specifically prisoner rehabilitation, as an action priority for 2007-2009. The League has reason to be concerned. Since 1970, the number of inmates in South Carolina prisons has increased 851%. In 2006, South Carolina incarcerated a higher percentage of its population than 43 other states (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007). During this same period, we had the highest rate of violent crime and aggravated assaults per capita among U.S. States (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007). Even more astonishing is the fact that two South Carolina communities – Sumter and Florence -- ranked 3rd and 5th respectively, behind Detroit, Memphis, and Shreveport, LA, for their rate of violent crime.

The growth in incarceration nationally has been due primarily to policy changes that have kept offenders in prison longer without probation or parole, returned offenders to prison for “technical” violations (e.g., not showing up for a counseling session), and enhanced sentences through such strategies as “three-strikes” measures. One such policy

change – a plan to eliminate parole – is currently pending before the South Carolina General Assembly. The LWVCA has been carefully reviewing Attorney General McMaster’s plan, and although it looks like the legislation will not be adopted this year, the time has arrived to identify and advocate for alternatives. On March 25, Aleta Robinson, Mary Ann McKenzie, and Robin Kimbrough-Melton will provide an overview of incarceration in South Carolina and its impact on those (children and families) left behind, discuss policy options and highlight upcoming opportunities for voicing our concerns.

~Submitted by Robin Kimbrough-Melton

Mark your Calendars for the
40th Anniversary Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.
Paesano’s Restaurant, Seneca

The 40th anniversary annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area will be held at 6:30 on Tuesday, April 15th, at Paesano’s Restaurant on Hwy 28 in Seneca. At this meeting, we elect officers, board members, and a nominating committee, approve a budget for the upcoming year, adopt our local program, thank the outgoing board members, and have a good time! Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Reservations will be required. Further details will be published in the April Voter.

A special feature at the Annual Meeting will be a presentation on *The Story on Alice Paul and the National Woman’s Party*. Thelma Spencer, a publisher in Anderson, worked for the National Women’s Party and interviewed Alice Paul shortly before Paul’s death. Alice Paul was on the front line in 1917 as she and her followers picketed the White House, carrying signs that said *Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?* Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the early movement for women’s rights, but they did not live to see women get the vote. It was Alice Paul who carried the movement to its success. This will be a fitting conclusion to our

busy anniversary year, and a perfect follow-up to the book discussion of *Founding Sisters and the 19th Amendment*.

The local program for 2008-2009 is as follows:

Current positions: Education: The LWVCA believes our schools should be adequately financed. Therefore, we support increased taxes, if necessary, for Pickens, Oconee and Anderson County schools. The LWVCA supports greater fiscal autonomy for the School Boards of Trustees in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson Counties.

Recommended new position: We support returning to the current structure of the Pickens County School Board with six area seats and three at-large seats.

Growth Management: We have recently discovered that we have a lengthy position supporting comprehensive planning that was adopted in 2004 but never got into the system. We recommend that we continue our growth management study focusing on the three-county area and revise our current position in light of that study.

~ Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

***Growth Management: A Timely Topic
A Report on the
LWVCA February General Meeting***

On Tuesday, February 19, Holley Ulbrich and Donna London presented a program on growth management to a group of 23 members and guests. They provided information on what is happening in terms of fiscal impacts and quality of life impacts in those areas of South Carolina experiencing rapid residential growth. They also described the tools available to cities and counties for directing growth into forms and areas that are less costly to serve and have less negative impact on quality of life.

Next year we will invite public officials involved in growth management in the three counties; we will then develop consensus questions based on their presentations that

will provide us with a basis for action at the local level.

~Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

***Join the LWVCA
for Conservation Lobby Day!
Tuesday, April 1 in Columbia, SC***

The South Carolina League of Women Voters' Conservation Lobby Day will be Tuesday, April 1. We invite you to join us at the State House to speak with legislators about important conservation issues. You may talk about issues that YOU are most concerned about! You are NOT expected to be an expert on issues. We will review the top legislative issues with you beforehand, and conservation lobbyists are available to answer any questions you may have. Your presence makes a dramatic impact on how legislators vote!

After we go to the State House, we will send notes in to our legislators and hopefully have time to talk with some of them before lunch. We will go to lunch around 1 pm., then return to the State House, hopefully to attend a relevant committee meeting. We aim to be finished by 3:00 p.m.

Meet us at the Nickelodeon Theatre in Columbia at 11:00 a.m. The Nickelodeon Theatre is located at 937 Main Street, on the corner of South Main & Pendleton streets behind the State House. (Parking is available on the street at green two-hour meters, or in one of two parking garages located at Lady & Assembly streets or Gervais & Sumter streets.)

Want to carpool? That is the best idea, or we can try to match people up to ride together, as we get closer to the event.

Let's form a BIG GROUP to deal with these all-important subjects affecting EVERY South Carolinian!! If you plan to attend, RSVP to Steve Johnson (johnsos05@yahoo.com) (leave your phone number, too). Business attire suggested.

The League of Women Voters is a partner with other groups in "Common Agenda 2008" on South Carolina environmental needs adopted by all the member groups last September. Other groups will be visiting the Legislature, too, but on different

Tuesdays. The “Common Agenda 2008” can be found at: www.conservationvotersofsc.org.

~Submitted by Steve Johnson

***A Report on the Oconee County
Legislative Delegation Meeting***

The Oconee County Legislative Delegation met on January 31, 2008 at Gignilliat Community Center in Seneca. Rep. Bill Sandifer, Rep. Bill Whitmire, Sen. Thomas Alexander and Rep. Don Bowen attended.

Only two groups presented concerns to the Delegation: the LWVCA and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Reggie Turetzky, representing the LWVCA, gave a statement similar to the one presented to the Pickens County Delegation which was reported in the February VOTER. However, three additional concerns were discussed with the Delegation:

1. LWVCA's desire for South Carolina Municipal Taxation Laws to be less restrictive so that cities can play a larger role in controlling growth and providing services to growing residential communities.
2. A wish to encourage adoption of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power to decrease South Carolina dependence on fossil fuel and thus reduce a major source of carbon dioxide.
3. Opposition to the use of state funds for private school tuition, and LWVCA's unease about the negative impact that school voucher/tuition tax credits would have on public schools.

The DNR requested \$78,000 from the Oconee County Water Recreational Resource Fund to purchase a Key West Boat (for \$60,000), a mobile bear trap and agricultural supplies for public dove fields. After the presentations there was an informal exchange between the Delegates and attendees.

Carol Kozma was another LWVCA member present. The meeting was announced in the media but it was unfortunate that so few citizens attended. This was their chance to

present any concerns to their Legislative Delegation for the 2008 legislative session.

~ Submitted by Reggie Turetzky

***Part II: The History of LWVCA
Memories 40 Years in the Making***

Last month, in celebration of the LWVCA's 40th anniversary, we featured the “League Stories” of several of our founding members. Last month, we learned how Ellen Reneke and Berniece Holt were inspired to join the LWVCA. This month we feature the stories of three more founding members – we hope you enjoy their reminiscing about the early days and their hopes for the future!

Ada Lou Steirer: Inspired by the League: When I arrived in Clemson in October of 1966 with a 15-month old who had learned to walk since he last saw his Dad in August, I was in cultural shock. I was a rural gal who had just spent three years in the Philadelphia urban area with all the culture, great food, and shopping opportunities. I was the breadwinner as Bill finished his PhD in History at the University of Pennsylvania.

When we moved to Clemson, I missed the rye bread, deli meats, and all my ethnic Pennsylvania German foods. And wines, spices, and favorite liquors. And the newspapers. At least we could get the Atlanta Constitution on Sunday. And since this was the time of the freedom riders, my mother, knowing my political inclinations, worried about my safety. As I explored Pickens and Oconee counties with my Pennsylvania license plates, I did draw stares.

Thank God the League came along in the form of Holley Ulbrich, and later, others like her who had been members in other places. I spent my first four years in League as secretary and newsletter editor using an old portable mimeograph machine and a purple spirit master machine in the history department with the blessing of the department head Bob Lambert. I really cherish my memories of my friendship with Dianne Haselton and neighbor Sharon Fennell when she came to town. How I loved learning about and supporting natural resource issues, including land use planning. I

hope Charlotte Holmes remembers those trips we made into Georgia while fighting the dam at Trotter Shoals (now Richard B. Russell). How excited we were when Congressman Butler Derrick changed from supporter to opponent! I often thought many of us saved lots of money on mental health services because, through LWVCA, we could turn our energies to expanding our minds on meaty subjects.

The League also led me into politics, where I served many years on the Clemson Board of Adjustments, replacing Dianne Haselton who was elected to City Council, served seven years on Clemson City Council, and was appointed to the Appalachian Council of Governments' Planning and Economic Development Council. I also served on the State Board as land use chair and had a career in editing, which began with writing training materials for water and wastewater treatment plant operators, funded by EPA under the Clean Water Act. And, finally to my position at the Strom Thurmond Institute, focusing on local government, water resources, and community and economic development issues.

What an exciting group those early women with their boundless energies were!

Eleanor Hare: Reflections on 40 years of LWV: When I came to Clemson in 1964, it was a sleepy 3-stoplight town. Like most of the women I met, I was a stay-at-home mom, entertaining myself with learning to cook interesting dishes, sewing my own clothes, learning needlepoint, and playing bridge. When my husband's department at Clemson University needed to entertain visitors, either one of the wives cooked or we went to a restaurant in Greenville.

Things hadn't changed much when Holley Ulbrich arrived in Clemson in 1967. Holley looked at Clemson and said, "There's no League of Women Voters. Let's start one."

Most of us had no experience with the LWV, but we were willing to learn.

As part of becoming a league, we were required to produce a "Know Your County" survey. We went out in groups of two, introducing ourselves to government agencies and gathering information about city government, county government, property taxation, social services, voting, schools, water districts, sewer, and more. It was an adventure in discovery! Not only did we become sufficiently informed and organized that elected officials listened to us, the city elected some of our members to council (Ada Lou Steirer, Dianne Haselton, Betty Jantzen, and, later, Holley Ulbrich).

In those early days, because many of our members were stay-at-home moms, we had identical programs in a morning meeting and an evening meeting. We also hired a baby sitter for board meetings. Those were heady days as we discovered that we had a voice that would be listened to.

Holley Ulbrich: My Story--and I'm Sticking to It!

When I was a grad student at UConn, Audrey Beck (an instructor in the economics department and president of the Mansfield League) invited me to a League lunch meeting. I didn't join, but the seed was planted. We spent a year in Ohio where I then joined the Springfield LWV. Then in 1966 we moved to Clemson, and I was ready to join the League again--only to find that there wasn't one! It took me a year and a half (during which I had my second child, revised my dissertation, and started teaching part time at Clemson) to contact Audrey, who contacted the SC state League, who sent us Keller Bumgardner (now Barron) and Dot Yaghjian to show us how to organize a local League. I recruited most of the wives of the physics faculty, we put up signs in the drugstore and notices in the Messenger, and on January 30th, 1968, we met in the upstairs meeting room (now offices) of Fort Hill Savings and Loan (now BB&T) on College Avenue (still College Avenue). Forty-three people signed the book, we

recruited Ruth Haun as provisional president and put a board together and were off and running. And we never looked back.

From those early days with a designated board babysitter (Carla Ulbrich, Stephen Reneke, Ginny Hare and Hamilton Holt were among our board members' toddlers in 1968) to today, the League has made a difference in the community, in the state, and in the lives of each and every one of us who were active and committed to civic involvement. Some of my closest friends are those I met in League. If I developed a friendship with a woman who wasn't a League member, I did my best to make her into one. Clemson is one of the pillars of the state League, a tie that binds three counties together in a common cause, and a place to meet some of the most interesting, informed, thoughtful women and men in the upstate.

***Book Discussion Group is a Success!
Join us for the Fall Discussion Group***

Last month, we had a great discussion of Eleanor Clift's book *Founding Sisters and the 19th Amendment*. Even those of us who thought we knew the story and the cast of characters learned something new from this retelling of those who secured for us the full rights of citizenship. We had a very fine blend of potluck and brownbag lunch, with ten people in attendance.

There was interest in more reading in this genre, so our next book will be Jeff Greenfield's book *The People's Choice*, a very funny novel about why we should do away with the electoral college. Holley Ulbrich has purchased 14 copies of the book. Let her know if you'd like one of her copies. We will read it in the fall when schedules are busy, so be sure to put it on your summer reading list.

In the spring of 2009, we plan to read and discuss Harriet Keyserling's book *Against the*

Tide. So, please join us, in the fall and spring, for lively conversation about these two books!

~Submitted by *Holley Ulbrich*

***A Note on the LWVCA
Immigration Study***

Participating in the LWV Immigration Study, our League held meetings on May 15, December 11 and January 15. We addressed questions dealing with legal immigration at the December meeting; in January we dealt with illegal immigration and broad policy questions.

Since there has been no national study and consensus since 1993, most of us were unfamiliar with the process. Eleanor participated in a list-serve, on which questions about the consensus process were discussed. During this process we were reminded that this is a national consensus, not a local or state consensus, so we are not to publish our local results. Stay tuned for further details about our local findings. Kudos to Holley Ulbrich, Ada Lou Steirer, Linda Gahan, and Eleanor Hare who guided us through this process.

~ Submitted by *Janie Shipley*

**We Need Your Donations!
LWVCA Plants and Books Yard Sale
Saturday, March 29, 2008
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**

As announced in last month's newsletter, we need your donations for the LWVCA's annual plant and book sale. Donations of books, plants, gardening tools and supplies and garden art needed for the LWVCA Book and Plant Sale to be held Saturday, March 29, 8:00 a.m. – Noon at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. Donations can be taken to the side porch of the UUFC Founders' House on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 26- 28. Please leave books along inside wall in case of rain. To volunteer at the sale, contact Laura Georgi, 654-8388 or georgil@clemson.edu or Ellen Reneke, 654-4803 or ereneke@clemson.edu

~ Submitted by *Ellen Reneke*

***A Story about "Exit Polling"
Something to Think About as
We Gear up For November 2008!***

Yes, fellow leaguers, exit pollers are ordinary people! On January 19 I filled that role for Edison/Mitofsky for the television networks and the Associated Press. Stationed at the Pickens County Powdersville II precinct at the Presbyterian Home in Easley, I polled about 150 voters participating in the Republican presidential primary. Almost 600 of the 1775 registrants voted. What a challenge! I was asked to approach as many of the voters as possible (usually a poller approaches every third, fifth or tenth voter). Some voters declined to participate. At three points, I took time off to tabulate and call results in to the company.

The confidential questionnaire was two-sided with about 25 multiple-choice questions, ranging from the vote cast, age, gender, income, religion, issues of importance, degree of conservatism, when the voter made the decision to support a candidate, and much more. So when you hear that analysis in the media after the polls close, there is a real person out there providing the information. And no, the information is not funneled from your voting machine to the networks, as one of my neighbors feared.

Standing outside the polls in the rain mixed with snow is a real person who is counting the minutes until she can go indoors to get warm when she makes her telephone calls. And I would do it again, because voters were eager to cooperate. I think they were genuinely eager to let the television audience to know what motivated their votes. And, those who declined to participate were pleasant, too. I was amused by one person who told me the only way he would answer was if the questions had been provided by the Fox Network, any other questions would be biased. My name tag clearly showed that the Fox Network was part of the consortium and as such, I am sure, had approved the questionnaire.

P.S. I used to run the statewide election night reporting in South Carolina for ABC when the League of Women Voters of South Carolina made money by contracting with the network. Now the networks save money by pooling their coverage and are much more interested in exit polling analysis than just reporting the number of votes.

~Submitted by Ada Lou Steirer

Nominating Committee Report

The LWVCA Nominating Committee has been hard at work seeking dedicated members to serve our organization. As stipulated in the LWVCA bylaws, the following slate of officers is presented to the members:

Officers

President - Bea Bailey (elected in 2007)
 President-elect - no candidate
 2nd VP Program and Action - Holley Ulbrich (continuing)
 Secretary - Ada Lou Steirer
 Treasurer - Sharon Fennell (continuing)

Directors - 2008-2010

Michelle Chin
 Arlene Stewart
 Reggie Turetzky

Director - 2009

Janie Shipley

Continuing Directors (elected in 2007)

Della Baker
 Steve Johnson

Nominating Committee

Elaine Epstein
 Ansley Fraser

Off-Board

Catherine Mobley - Voter Editor
 Kathy Woodard - Forum Moderator

*~Submitted by the Nominating Committee:
 Frances Plotnik, (Chair),
 Ansley Fraser, Jane Polk,
 Reggie Turetzky, Steve Johnson.*