

### *President's Message*

Our new year has gotten off to a busy start! We were happy to welcome many new faces to our first-ever membership luncheon on September 17 and to the monthly meeting on September 18. Among the new members that we have received into LWVCA membership since April include ***Bill Hare, Cindy Wilson, Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Arlene Stewart, Michelle Chin, Rachael Estep, Elizabeth Owens and Lyn Norton***. We send a warm welcome to these new members with hopes that they will find their years as members of the League of Women Voters to be very fulfilling.

How can members take a more active role in our League? The LWVCA has a number of teams which welcome input from members. Below are the teams and in parenthesis, the chair or co-chairs of each team. If you are interested in participating in one of these teams, please contact the chair. The Program & Action team (Holley Ulbrich) considers the policy issues that will be addressed by LWVCA, makes recommendation for action on these issues and plans the programs for the year. The Communication and PR team (Reggie Turetzky) is responsible for publicizing activities of our League, and helping educate the public on policy issues. The Membership and Hospitality team (Aleta Robinson and Della Baker) recruits potential members, welcomes new members and serves as host at each monthly meeting. Finance and Fundraising (Elinor Baron and Ingrid Lampe) is responsible for, you guessed it, raising money! The Voter Service team has not yet been organized, because it is usually active in an election year. We have a municipal election coming up in Central in November for which we have been asked to organize a candidate forum, so we are especially anxious to have Voter Service volunteers. In addition to candidate forums, this group is also responsible for conducting voter registration drives. So if you are interested in clean elections or writing news releases, or baking pumpkin bread to serve at a monthly meeting, or contributing previously enjoyed treasures to a yard sale, or helping register voters we have a spot for you! To get involved in one of the teams, please contact a team chair, or contact me, if you are interested in Voter Service.

Special thanks to those members who have helped ensure success with our September kick-off activities, Elinor Baron with the flea market, Holley Ulbrich with the September 18 program and especially Aleta Robinson, who has worked tirelessly for the last month recruiting potential members, organizing the September 17 luncheon and hosting the monthly meeting.

*~ Janie Shipley, LWVCA President*



LWV Board Member, Elisabeth MacNamara (l.) with Janie Shipley, LWVCA President.

***Mark your calendars for the  
LWVCA General Meeting!  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007***

**Documentary on Solutions for Global Warming: "Green is the New Red, White and Blue,"** by Thomas L. Friedman (columnist for the NEW YORK TIMES); followed by discussion on solutions for global warming at Clemson University (Bea Bailey & Steve Johnson). Coffee and conversation begin at 7:00 p.m.

"Being green, focusing the nation on greater energy efficiency and conservation is not some girlie-man issue [as our current administration in Washington would like you to believe]. It is actually the most tough-minded, geostrategic, pro-growth and patriotic thing we can do. Living green is not for sissies. Sticking with oil, and basically saying that a country that can double the speed of microchips every 18 months is somehow incapable of innovating its way to energy independence - that is for sissies, defeatists and people who are ready to see American values eroded at home and abroad."  
- Thomas L. Friedman

Friedman's documentary focuses not on the problems, but on the solutions, and there are many from which to choose. Join us on Tuesday, October 16 for this stimulating documentary on solutions to global warming.  
~ *Submitted by Steve Johnson*

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***"I don't know what your destiny will be,  
but one thing I know; the only ones  
among you who will be really happy  
are those who have sought  
and found how to serve."***

***~ Albert Schweitzer ~***

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***A Report on Elisabeth McNamara's Visit  
to the LWVCA General Meeting  
held on September 18***

Elisabeth MacNamara was our guest speaker this month and she did not disappoint! Recently, local League leaders were pleased to find that a member of the board of the LWVUS was "one of us." That is, she has a second home in Oconee County and is our neighbor from Atlanta, Georgia. So, we asked her to join us here in Clemson. During her visit to the LWVCA General Meeting in September, Elisabeth spoke compellingly to local League members, Greenville Leaguers, and visitors.

Elisabeth indicated that it is no accident that the League of Women Voters is so enthusiastic about promoting the democratic process. The organization's roots in the women's suffrage movement and the abolitionist movement have provided the framework for the focus on issues that LWV cares about today. The LWV is structured to provide an opportunity for action and input on local, state, and national policy issues.

The birth of the League of Women Voters seems inevitable to us when we think of the euphoria women must have felt in 1920, when anticipating their first trip to the polls. After women were granted the right to vote, the leaders of the suffrage movement began to focus on encouraging women to exercise the vote and to educate them about issues they would want candidates to support if elected. That vehicle for education and continued activism became the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) which, as we know, encourages voter registration and protecting the franchise and promotes activism on issues which the League has studied to form a strong consensus.

Among the strengths of the League are its grassroots process in choosing issues to promote and support and its dedication to making the election process open, clean, and ethical, said Elisabeth. Although the LWV consensus process takes time, it allows us to study, decide, and then

speak to positions that have been truly developed at the grassroots. Elisabeth emphasized that the process LWV uses to agree on support for issues is one of the strengths that enables LWV to be successful, influential, and respected. The LWV process takes time, but is our strength, a grassroots process that has given LWV an 87-year reputation and "tradition of knowing what we're talking about."

The LWVUS is continually working to maintain contact with state and local Leagues and to keep its finger on the pulse of the grassroots. If Elisabeth is typical of other national board members, our national organization is in great hands!

All the references to suffrage motivated me to add a little history to this narrative. Although the woman suffrage movement began well before the beginning of the twentieth century, South Carolina didn't get on board until 1912. By 1917, there were more than twenty women's groups promoting suffrage around the state. South Carolina women first marched for suffrage in Aiken where Eulalie Salley, a founder of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, was a suffrage leader. She received her license to sell real estate, unusual for women of the period. The Salley agency is still in business in Aiken to this day.

Sadly, the state of South Carolina did not support the suffrage amendment to the Constitution during the ratification process that was completed on August 18, 1920, when Tennessee became the 36th state to support the 19th amendment. Connecticut, Vermont, and Delaware quickly followed Tennessee. But eight Southern states lagged far, far behind. It wasn't until 1967 that South Carolina's Governor McNair signed a bill ratifying the amendment. Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina followed by 1971. The final ratification came in 1984—Mississippi.

*~Submitted by Ada Lou Steirer*

***The Immigration Consensus:  
It's a Big Job, but We Can Do It!***

The immigration consensus is a major undertaking. It has been many years since we have had a national study and consensus, and this one is particularly contentious. It calls on us to be the informed and engaged citizens we committed to be when we joined the League. All of us need to do some background reading and to further discuss the issues. Some members (in other Leagues) are saying it's too big a job, that we can't do it! Border security, farm labor, family reunification, competition for jobs, demands on public schools, national ID cards—there are just so many issues to consider. But there's also great enthusiasm, at least among South Carolina Leagues, in sinking our teeth into an issue that matters so much to so many people. Some of our sister Leagues are scheduling forums and other forms of community involvement, in addition to the LWV consensus meetings.

To allow sufficient time for discussion, LWVCA has scheduled two meetings for reaching consensus—one in December and one in January. We will divide the consensus questions between the two meetings, so if you miss one, you can participate in at least part of the process.

Since the Senate failed to act on immigration this year, it is especially important that LWVUS be able to speak to these concerns next year. We want to be able to go to our senators and representatives to support a consensus that results from careful study, in contrast to the purely emotional responses that are so frequently heard.

So, we are calling on all of you to get started on the background reading. To access the consensus questions and the background materials, visit the Immigration link on the LWVCA website: (<http://clemsonarea.sc.lwvnet.org>). There, you will find several background papers provided by the LWVUS, and the consensus questions, information specific to South Carolina and suggestions for additional reading. ~ *Submitted by Eleanor Hare and Holley Ulbrich*

### ***Update on Home Rule for Pickens County***

As of this writing, Clemson City Council is still doing its homework in preparation for a possible lawsuit challenging the local legislation that eliminates the three at-large seats on the Pickens County School Board. If any action is taken, it will be in October. Several other home rule issues have surfaced around the state, most recently in Dillon and Charleston Counties. The specific powers that county delegations did not surrender but rather retained after home rule was approved more than 30 years ago are the structure and composition of school boards, the number and configuration of school districts in multi-district counties, and a number of appointments. The county delegations can easily override the preferences or decisions of both voters and local elected officials, and often decisions on local issues are made by legislators who do not live in the county or legislators for whose seat a significant minority of a county's voters do not get to vote.

These are critical League issues. Please make your legislators aware of our concerns, not just about the local legislation on the at-large school district seats, but (especially if you live in Anderson or Oconee County) the larger issue of empowering local governments to do their work while state legislators concentrate on their heavy agenda of important state business. ~ ***Submitted by Holley Ulbrich***

### ***National LWV Board Member Attends LWVCA Luncheon***

The LWVCA held their "kickoff membership luncheon" on Monday September 17, 2007 at Season's Restaurant in Clemson University's Madren Center. The guest speaker was Elisabeth MacNamara, a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters

of the US. During her discussion, Elisabeth reminded us of the history and legacy of the League of Women Voters. She said that the LWV arose out of the Women's Suffrage Movement in 1920 and it is now going into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century stronger than ever, using advanced technology to communicate with its members. In essence, the League is a university without walls that concentrates on issues that matter to the community. As a non-partisan political organization, LWV focuses on issues which have been studied at the League grassroots level.

After 1920, the electorate more than doubled because women could cast their ballots. The LWV's major purpose is to educate all voters. The League does not believe in "sound bites" and TV slogans. Rather, LWV sponsors political debates so voters can fully understand the candidates and make informed decisions at the polls.

Ms. MacNamara stated that her career as a trial lawyer (in DeKalb County, Georgia) was successful because of her League experience. She also said that more voices are needed in the political process to ensure a healthy democracy. She noted that the League in Georgia is fighting against Voter ID because of the barrier it presents to some voters. After all, no one has been documented coming to the polls impersonating someone else. She expressed another concern about elections: the practice of certain states putting questions on the ballot, often merely to get certain people to come out and vote and skew the outcome of an election. A case in point was the "Fishing Rights" issue on the Georgia ballot.

Elisabeth encapsulated the importance of the League by quoting a *Washington Post* reporter who stated that "the world would be a better place if it was run by the LWV." Eighty-seven years ago, the League's main concern was getting the vote for women. Now the League is concerned about a lot more! ~ ***Submitted by Reggie Turetsky***

***Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and  
Other Reproductive Health Issues***

Many LWVCA members are interested in the issue of reproductive choice. A national position adopted by the LWVUS calls for protection of the “constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.” To learn more, LWV members can join a reproductive choice list serve, available through the LWVUS website. ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)). From there click on “For Members”; click on “Join the Conversation.” After creating a personal login, choose the “lwv-reprochoice” discussion list.

At the local level, several LWVCA members are serving on a planning committee for a series of forums entitled *Sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. On Wed, m October 24<sup>th</sup>, Clemson University’s Women’s Studies Program and Planned Parenthood Health Systems will kick off this series of three forums addressing the reproductive health movement in our nation:

Session 1: Wed. October 24<sup>th</sup>: “Reproductive Choices: Past, Present, and Future: this discussion will focus on the history of reproductive freedom and project future choices for today’s men and women. Featured speakers: Rev. Ralph Stutzman, Dr. Leigh Beasley, M.D. and Dr. Bruce King, Ph.D. Session 2: Tues. Jan. 29, “Secrets & Myths: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sexuality and Reproduction,” will explore widely held misconceptions and myths. Session 3: Wednesday. April 2: “Finding Common Ground on Birth Control and Reproductive Choice: A Religious and Ethical Perspective”: will focus on the controversial issues of birth control and abortion from both a theological and secular perspective, allowing open and equal discussion to foster an environment of understanding and respect.

Each session will be presented in the auditorium of the Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University at 7:00 PM. The series is free and open to the public. We encourage everyone who is interested in this issue to attend and learn more.

~Submitted by Janie Shipley

***LWVCA Yard Sale a Success!***

The LWVCA annual garage sale was held at the old Pickens County Flea Market on Wed. Sept. 12th. Thirteen members brought their treasures to the drop off point at Elinor Baron's garage during the six days prior to the event. On Monday evening, most of the items were loaded onto Aleta and Barry Robinson's truck by Aleta, Elinor, Joan Shier and Charlotte Holmes. The rest of the items were brought to the flea market by car.

Aleta, Barry, Charlotte, Elinor and Ada Lou Steirer manned the two tables from 6:30 AM until noon. We made \$364 and spent \$14 of it to rent tables. A member of the Pickens County Literacy Association picked up the remaining books; the other remaining items were dropped off at Helping Hands, Salvation Army and Safe Harbor.

This fundraiser is a fairly painless endeavor, if the weather cooperates and if there is a good truck or two available to haul items. It was great that most items were clean and pre-priced. The big items brought the big dollars and the jewelry, nicely displayed, sold well also. Thanks to the 13 contributors. We will agree to do this again if we can count on having double the number of contributors. ~Submitted by Elinor Baron

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***Healthy Women = Empowered Women***

The LWV of the Charleston Area will present a forum to explore the impact of public policy on health care disparities among women and girls in our local communities and state, the linkage to global health issues, and what communities can do to ensure all women have access to a full range of reproductive health information and services. Held on Saturday, Nov. 3, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Trident Technical College, North Charleston, SC. To register, access this website: <http://secure.vmc3.com/lcaheccenew/defaultnew.aspx?id=284>. Continuing education credits available.