

In an effort to continue our work  
filming the complete historic record  
of the  
Sarasota County Elections, 2006...

**PROSPECTUS:**  
for Citizen Journalists  
Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean

Setting the New Media Standards for Accuracy  
and Urgency in Independent Web Reporting

**WWW.SHADOWVOTE.ORG**

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**Citizen Journalists:**  
**Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean**  
Setting the New Media Standards for Accuracy  
and Urgency in Independent Web Reporting

Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean met while independently filming the absurd SARASOTA COUNTY ELECTION of 2006, in which 18,412 votes disappeared from the District 13 Congressional Race between Christine Jennings-(D) and Vern Buchanan-(R). The results from ES&S's paperless iVotronic machines left the county with a whopping undervote rate of 14.9%--roughly 1 in every 7 ballots dropped. The surrounding counties, which used optical scan machines, showed no such anomalous undervote rate.

Although Mr. Schmiede and Miss Dean didn't know it yet, both had been recruited by VIDEO THE VOTE--an independent media outlet founded by the filmmakers behind the award-winning film "American Blackout". As an empowering response to the horrific voter disenfranchisement they witnessed in 2004, directors Ian Inaba and John Ennis launched a web site dedicated to filming a public record of the 2006 mid-term elections; all made possible through the efforts of citizen videographers from all over the country, volunteering their time and tape.

As a recent Florida transplant, Miss Dean was very curious about Florida's dubious election history. Having been a professional comedy writer for years between stints with the New York State Senate, Jeannie became excited by VIDEO THE VOTE's idea to film her local Florida District 13 Election Process as it unfolded.

Meanwhile Leonard Schmiede, a computer programmer and engineering consultant, had his own reasons for traveling an hour from his St. Pete home to film the Sarasota County's RECOUNT/AUDIT madness. Prior to the Sarasota County Undervote, Mr. Schmiede had some experience with voting discretions in his own district of Pinellas County during the 2004 elections. As he witnessed the process, Leonard was shocked to learn there is no oversight governing our electoral process. As no answers from his officials would be forthcoming, Leonard arranged his own 12-hour test of the Sequoia voting equipment used in his district. Although Leonard was able to generate the same final numbers (as were input) with no anomalies, he was unable to determine whether or not the

machines the State of Florida implemented for election day were the same, certified software. Later, when local activist groups appealed to the Pinellas County Court to release the vendor's hash codes for independent verification of the software, the Judge flatly denied their request. Leonard was never able to complete his independent investigation.

Now working together, Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean have compiled a complete and ongoing historic record of Sarasota County's 2006 Midterm Election Hits. Highlights include:

- Kathy Dent and Sarasota Canvassing Board conduct the double recount procedures in direct violation of Florida State Laws/ observers point out numerous indiscretions
- Security seals snapping off of ballot boxes/ seal numbers not being recorded
- Kathy Dent, Supervisor of Elections and Vice-President of State Board of Supervisors and her numerous mistakes/ subsequent belligerent behavior/ unstable reactions during press conferences (we have many of these)/ constantly defends voting machines' accuracy
- The entire State Audit/parallel testing of ES&S machines: State officials conducting test/ anomalies presented/ resolved as 'human error' by the State/ legitimate questions about whether State Official chosen to direct the test implemented uncertified machines, a felony under Florida State Law
- Numerous S.O.E. documents from Election Day, (now shredded) including numerous incident reports from poll workers reporting having trouble with machines, phone lines were down, etc.
- Kendall Coffey/ Hayden Dempsey news conferences/ off camera interviews with lawyers from both sides
- State Officials get antsy as we film their audit: Secretary of State Spokesperson, Sterling Ivy, berates Channel 7 reporter because he didn't like the 'tone' of his report/ Leonard Schmiede chases them down in the dark and gets Ivy to open up on camera/ full interview
- The entire SARASOTA REVOTE RALLY: Over 750 people jam into Sarasota's Bayfront Park to call for a revote. Rev. Charles McKenzie speaks eloquently on the issue of electoral reform...
- Numerous interviews with such heroes of election reform as Susan Pynchon--director of the Florida Fair Election Coalition, Ion Sancho--progressive Leon County S.O.E., Clint Curtis--former Diebold whistle blower turned Congressional Candidate/ to Tom Feeney (now contesting his election before the House of Reps based on voter

affidavits), Reggie Mitchell--lead council on behalf of the voters of Sarasota County with the People for the American Way Foundation, Lowell Finley--lead attorney with VOTERACTION, etc.al

- The Evidentiary Hearings in Tallahassee/ Jdgc. William L. Gary makes an astounding decision in light of overwhelming evidence against ES&S by experts on all sides. (audio/ stills/ video pending)
- Kathy Dent announces certification of BUCHANAN as FL.13 Congressional Rep. to press/ Hayden Dempsey calls on Jennings to concede.

\*\**(All footage is carefully logged with corresponding updates re: the stats, and developments in this case from day to day. The 40+ hours compiled thus far doesn't begin to scratch the surface of what they could still potentially film.)\*\**

At the time of this writing, 1/9/07, Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean have complete documentation, on film and in writing--of all the evidence compiled in this case well beyond the range of the historical record kept by Florida State Officials, and sadly, even further beyond the range of our local media. In fact, if left to the latter, this crucial evidence falls out of scope completely.

As the Sarasota CD-13 election continues to shine a light on all the problems Americans are facing at the polls--malfunctioning voting equipment, the disenfranchisement of voters in minority districts, the dubious behavior on the part of our State and Local Election Officials--we, the voters of Sarasota County are looking to the New Congress to act with force and resolve in this matter. We hope to see the Florida lower court ordered to reverse it's strange decision and either a) release ES&S's secret source codes to independent experts, b) call for a revote altogether in Florida's District 13, or c) launch an independent Federal investigation of their own, which our footage will show is not only warranted, but imperative. We must amend this diabolical process now, whatever the cost, and restore the public's faith in the most fundamental tenant of Democracy--holding our ever-increasingly untouchable elected officials accountable, with just the power of a single, valid ballot.

Jeannie and Leonard are currently seeking sponsorship/ support to continue to illuminate this story and follow it to it's conclusion until such a time as their parent company is able. In addition, any letters of recommendation on their behalf would be greatly appreciated as they begin to apply for grant moneys sometime as a matter of priority.

**WHY SHOULD YOU HELP?** Because what our news, both local and national, DOESN'T tell us is enough to turn your weary blood to racy wine. For the record, Leonard and Jeannie don't bother with appearances. They post their on-the-spot coverage with urgency and without lip gloss.

**GOALS:** To ensure that the outcome of this election will not be in doubt as another of the dubious ghosts of Florida Elections Past. The goal is to supersede the mainstream media's access, which is easy when they're never there, and subvert them by just reporting the news. Leonard Schmiede and Jeannie Dean vow to be the first crew on scene, and the last to leave at every breaking event.

**LIVE STREAMING:** A great way to access most of these major events would be a potential application like LIVE FEEDING video directly from location of interest; this feature has virtually no overhead and is relatively simple to achieve. Anyone could log on to a channel, and find out what is the breaking news from Tallahassee State Court? What happened during the: upcoming appeals/ subpoena...indictment?

**WHERE WILL THE MONEY GO?** Leonard and Jeannie guarantee, unlike most relief agencies, that 100% of your donation will go directly to travel costs/ meals/ gas money/ camera batteries/ tapes...and only things directly relating to this story, Florida's District 13 Congressional Race. Doubt us? You can LOG ON and check our progress, around the clock! We will videotape everything we do, every last receipt.

#### **REFERENCES:**

**JEANNIE DEAN** would be happy to furnish any/all personal references from her former work as a supply coordinator for the World Trade Center Emergency Task Force.

They include:

- The New York State Senate, Martin Connor (former Minority Leader)
- The Uniformed Firefighters Association, Kevin Gallagher
- The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York, Frank Bruno
- The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Joseph J. Wing

Miss Dean received highest citizen citations/ honors from the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and the State Highway Patrol for her work at Ground Zero from Sept 17th, 2001-Jan. 2, 2002. As part of a rogue, six-member team, she worked through the New York State Senate to oversee

supplies/ coordination and logistics in and out of the Site's ever-changing perimeters. She served as an envoy and chief liaison to many of the relief organizations and state offices, often too overwhelmed by the magnitude of the attacks to respond where needed. She often thinks of the Great Men and Women she served and knew there.

LEONARD SCHMEIGE, founder/ owner of Zyvek inc., has built several computer control systems which utilize touch screens that monitor temperature, pressure, and are capable of controlling three phase motors (dc stepper motor, i.e.) to control all aspects of a machine which produces a new form of Hydrogen based gas. Two companies were involved in contracting these services from Mr. Schmiede:

- Ruggerio Santilli of USmagnegas, and
- Jose Zaraluki of Earth First technologies.  
(<http://www.opensourcecomputer.com/controls.html>) or just [zyvek.com](http://zyvek.com) then click on industrial controls.

In addition to Leonard's substantial computer experience, he also has a long history of public service/ civic dedication to his community; Leonard formed the CVVG, Citizens Vote Verification Group and is also a founding member of the non partisan Election Reform Coalition of Pinellas County. (<http://www.ercpinellas.org/>) This past year, Leonard filmed and LIVE STREAMED a three hour DEC meeting and scheduled debate in October, which had never before been done in Pinellas county. Other notable areas of interest/ references for Mr. Schmiede include:

- Bev Harris, e-voting activist, founder of [blackboxvoting.org](http://blackboxvoting.org)
- Ruben J. Hernandez, Jr. (Chairman of the Reform Party of Florida), designated Leonard Schmiede to be the Reform Party observer to observe the process of counting the votes including access to the tabulation room as allowed by Florida Law. (blue box black box corporate vote counting in america, on [youtube.com/shadowvote](http://youtube.com/shadowvote))
- Chris Hrabovski (State House Candidate for Florida district 45) requested that Leonard represent him in every capacity for monitoring his election/ video taping of all of Chris' speaking engagements and posted to the Internet for immediate release.
- Ed Helm (Chair of the Pinellas county Democratic Executive Committee during the november 2006 election)
- Arlin Briley (Vice Chair of Pinellas county Democratic Executive Committee)
- Ion Sancho (Leon County Supervisor of Elections/ featured in HBO's HACKING DEMOCRACY) has provided information to benefit Leonard's

group CVVG, and has been extremely gracious in granting Leonard some wonderful interviews. Mr. Sancho should be able to vouch for Leonard's character/ ingenuity/ dedication to this issue.

- Susan Pynchon (Director of the Florida Fair Elections Coalition/ featured in HBO's HACKING DEMOCRACY)
- Dan McCrae (council with VOTERACTION)
- Lowell Finley, (pending as needed)--lawyer for Voter Action and outspoken e-voting critic, acquired video from Leonard from the State's twelve hour Parallel Testing of ESS's iVotronic machines used in Sarasota County. Mr. Finley may be a possible reference, if it does not put him in an awkward legal/ political position.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Dean

Leonard Schmiede

Independent Citizen Journalists

