

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
2015-2016**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA 2015-2016

Officers and Board

| Officers | | Term Expires |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| President | Fran Holt | 2017 |
| Vice President/Program Chair | Nancy Williams | 2016 |
| Treasurer | Jan Billingslea | 2016 |
| Secretary | Ellen Dahl | 2017 |

Elected Directors

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| Action/Advocacy - State Issues | Patricia Montgomery | 2017 |
| Membership | Ellie Dixon/ Diane Neal | 2017 |
| Newsletter | Joan Kinne-Shulman | 2016 |
| Voter Service | Oleta Harden/ Katie Miller | 2016 |

Appointed Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------|
| Natural Resources | Sally McGarry | 2016 |
| Education | Kathy Quirk | 2016 |
| Communications | Sandy Stern | 2016 |

Off-Board Positions

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Local Issues/Observer Corps | Joan Kinne-Shulman |
| Archivist | Connie Voight |
| Budget Committee | Pamela Redmon, Chair; Jane Billingslea and Karen Wessel |
| Facebook Manager | Karen Wessel |
| Hospitality | Mary Jo Happle |
| LWVSC Healthcare | Alison Burke |
| Liaison to LWVSC Board | Sue Feutz followed by Sue Yearwood |
| Nominating Committee Statham | Elected members: Loretta Warden, Chair; Sue Feutz and Gloria |
| | Appointed Members: Katie Miller and Nancy Williams |
| Webmaster | David Rice |

ANNUAL REPORTS 2015-2016

President's Report

For the past year, it has been my privilege to be a team leader for what I believe is an outstanding organization. We have strong and committed board and off-board leaders and many other members who help in a wide variety of ways. I want to thank all our members for supporting the League in whatever way works for them. I also feel grateful to the people who support the League even though they are not members.

In addition to local support, our League owes a lot to our national and state organizations. We get a lot of information and direction from LWVUS, and this year we were thrilled to have President Elisabeth MacNamara visit our League and give us a very inspiring talk. LWVSC has been very helpful too, and it has been good to work with it especially on key legislative issues. Together I think all levels of League, here and throughout the nation, are helping to make democracy work.

Most of what we have done during the year is described in the following reports by other board members, but I want to mention a few other things which received our attention. The saddest event was certainly the mass killing that occurred in Charleston in June. There was, of course, not much we could do about it, but we publicly voiced our sympathy and concern and our support for Governor Haley's leadership in moving the Confederate flag from the Capitol grounds. We have also worked through letters to the editor to publicize our nonpartisan policy, our concern for the lack of adequate healthcare in our state and our concern for children living in the Corridor of Shame.

League activities also included opportunities to get to know each other better and to feel the bond that ties us together. During the summer, many of us had lunch at Truffles in Bluffton following a program about the history of the League at the Bluffton Library. We had time to visit with each other at the holiday luncheon and will have another opportunity at the luncheon on May 21. There was also the End of Winter Blahs Party at Sally McGarry's. Especially important in helping us feel connected to each other and the community was joining in the Martin Luther King Day marches on Hilton Head Island and also in Bluffton.

If readers want to know more about our League, I advise spending some time visiting www.lwvhhi.org. There is a wealth of information there about what we are doing and what we have done. You can spend a lot of time doing that, but read the following annual reports first!

Fran Holt

Program

National and state issues dominated our programs this year. In September, we sponsored "A Healthcare Conversation" featuring five local healthcare providers in order to gather information that will inform a LWVSC study on the adequacy of healthcare in South Carolina. In November and January, we held information and consensus meetings pertaining to the role of money in politics. At our annual local program planning meeting in February, we concurred with the LWVUS recommendation that

“Making Democracy Work” be the focus of national League activity in the next biennium. In keeping with the national theme, our consensus was that we should focus local efforts on informing and engaging the electorate and protecting voter and voting rights. (Our League’s 2016-2017 recommended plan for action will be subject to the approval of the membership at the May annual meeting.)

The highlight of our program year was the celebration of our 30th anniversary with a visit and talk by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara at our December holiday luncheon. Ms. MacNamara urged us to embrace the future while celebrating our past to ensure that the League of Women Voters is a force for change now and in the future. On the occasion of our anniversary, we also honored seven past LWWHHI/BA presidents and our current president, who were in attendance.

Other meetings focused on topics of local and state interest. In October, County Council Chairman Paul Sommerville educated us about the most pressing issues facing our county. Steve Riley, Town Manager of

the Town of Hilton Head Island, and Scott Marshall, Deputy Town Manager of the Town of Bluffton, provided perspectives on key issues facing our local municipalities at our March meeting. In April, Jane Pulling, LWVSC Director of Education, provided us with an update on education issues of interest to the League and their status in the SC General Assembly.

Our program year concluded at our May annual meeting and luncheon with speaker Ron Clifford, Chairman of the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County, who spoke to us about efforts to improve the South Carolina election system.

In order to appeal to the geographic diversity of our membership, we held meetings and luncheons at a variety of locations in Bluffton and on Hilton Head Island. Meetings were well received with 30-40 members attending each meeting. Luncheons at the Country Club of Hilton Head and Colleton River Plantation attracted about 50 members and guests. Of particular note was a growing partnership with the Bluffton Library, which was not only the site of several general meetings, but also the sponsor of a public gathering in July that featured four League panelists who provided their personal perspectives on highlights of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area’s 30-year history.

Nancy Williams, Vice President and Program Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT -JULY 1, 2015 TO APRIL 30, 2016

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PROJECTED |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Membership Dues | 7,050.00 | 3355.00 | |
| Contributions | 940.00 | 545.00 | |
| Events | 3,500.00 | 2850.00 | 1500.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 11,690.00 | 6750.00 | 1500.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Administration/Supplies | 275.00 | 349.61 | 566.37 |
| Conference/Travel | 2,250.00 | 894.00 | 684.00 |
| Education Committee | 100.00 | 0.00 | |
| Events | 3,000.00 | 1150.00 | 1500.00 |
| Forums/Programs | 125.00 | 295.26 | |
| Lighthouse | 0.00 | 27.90 | |
| Membership | 185.00 | 21.74 | |
| PMPSC | 1,568.00 | 1561.00 | |
| PMPUS | 3,568.00 | 3568.00 | |
| Voter Service | 300.00 | 127.47 | |
| Website | 200.00 | 223.98 | |
| Miscellaneous | 79.00 | 82.00 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 11,690.00 | 8,273.06 | 2,750.37 |

Checking Account Balance = 4292.50

CD Balance = 4620.26

Education Fund Balance = 475.00

- 1. The income is expected to increase, as the majority of the membership will pay dues during May – June.**
- 2. Income has been projected to be received, for the Annual Meeting Luncheon.**
- 3. Projected Expenses are due to be paid for National Conference Attendance, a new computer and supplies for the remainder of the fiscal year.**
- 4. The expenses for the State Council Meeting have not been projected in this report. They will be reflected in the End of the Year Fiscal Report which will be completed and published in July 2016.**
- 5. This report does not include many in-kind donations, travel, copying and hospitality.**

Voter Service Committee

The LWVHHI/BA Voter Services Team spent busy months during the 2015-2016 year. A number of events were scheduled and new members played an active part in those varied efforts. These included voter registration drives at Bluffton's Farmer's Market and Hilton Head High School; registration tables at monthly League meetings; forums to enable citizens to learn the views of candidates in local elections; wide dissemination of the League's **GUIDE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR BLUFFTON/HILTON HEAD AREA**; and providing information on registration and voters rights.

The League arranged for a booth to register voters at the Bluffton Farmers Market during the month of September. Other 2015 activities included a Constitution Day registration drive at Hilton Head High School, where more than 25 students were enrolled during the lunch hour, a drive at the Bluffton Public Library on National Registration Day, and a registration table at the community picnic which opened the Squire Pope Community Park Rowing and Sailing Center.

A Candidates Forum for the November Bluffton election for mayor and town council was held in October. All candidates participated. In April 2016 the League conducted a Forum for the Hilton Head Ward 3 Town Council seat which was being vacated by Lee Edwards. Other forums will be scheduled in the fall after the 2016 June primary.

In 2016 summer and fall, voter registration drives will be held the first Thursday of each month at the Bluffton Farmer's Market, and will be scheduled throughout the County until the registration deadline of October 4.

Thanks to the many members who helped as part of the Voter Services Team. Without you, the League would not have been able to cover all the ground that we did. We look forward to an active year in 2016-2017. There will be lots of work to do, especially with elections in November at all levels of South Carolina government.

Olivia Harden and Katie Miller, Co-Chairs

Education Committee Report

Throughout the year, Education Committee members have worked to educate themselves about issues at both the local and state levels. At the local level, that has meant monitoring the meetings of the Beaufort County School District (BCSD) board and the continuing controversy resulting from the hiring of a family member of the District's Superintendent; tracking the District's budget process, including the proposed 1 percent sales tax referendum; studying the proposed withdrawal of BCSD from the governance of the Academy for Career Excellence (ACE) and its impact on the career readiness of students from both Beaufort and Jasper County School Districts; and following the proposal by Rep. Herbkersman to amend Act 589 to allow candidates for the BCSD board to submit a statement of candidacy rather than signed petitions as now required. The committee has written to and met with members of the BCSD board regarding the loss of public trust resulting from their handling of the hiring controversy. In response to the proposed withdrawal from ACE by the BCSD, the committee planned a public meeting to inform the community of each district's plans to meet student needs as the transition at ACE moved forward. However, that meeting had to be postponed when the Jasper

County School District board withdrew from participation. Members of the committee will continue to follow that situation as well as possibly taking a position on the tax referendum.

At the state level, the committee has been monitoring the legislature's response to the SC Supreme Court's decision on the "Corridor of Shame" schools and its mandate to remedy the failure on the part of the state to provide adequate public education opportunities in these poor, rural districts. Neighboring Jasper County School District is one of the Abbeville districts. Jane Pulling, the League's state Education Chair, presented an update on education legislation, including the Abbeville response, to local members and guests at our April meeting. Jane's assessment of the bills introduced so far indicated that substantive solutions have not been forthcoming. LWVHHI/BA responded with a Letter to the Editor, which was carried in the Island Packet and Bluffton Sun, and with direct communication to members of our legislative delegation. During her presentation, Jane also outlined the Collaborative Agenda for PreK-12 Public

Education which was developed by seven statewide organizations, including LWVSC, to help bring focus and strength to advocacy for education at the state level. The Education Committee will be using that agenda as we continue to advocate for equitable funding and quality education in the state of South Carolina.

Kathy Quirk, Chair

Natural Resources/Land Use Committee

The Committee has been meeting regularly this year. We decided in the fall to concentrate on transportation, as an important component of land use decisions. Our speaker in January was Darrin Shoemaker, Traffic and Transportation Engineer, for the Town of Hilton Head Island. We learned a great deal about access and traffic light issues on Rt. 278, about the Bluffton Parkway and its flyovers, built to take traffic off of 278, and about priorities for a possible next sales tax referendum.

A new sales tax referendum was also of interest to Craig Forrest, former Commissioner of the SC Dept. of Transportation, who spoke to us in February. South Carolina, with 41,000 miles of roads in its bloated state system, also has the 10th highest growth rate in the nation, and needs to get realistic about increasing its transportation revenue stream. He suggested reforms both in the State Infrastructure Bank and the DOT. The State Legislature has taken steps to enact some reforms in the current session, but has not addressed the need for a dedicated revenue source to fund road and bridge repairs.

Kate Schaefer, Director of the Beaufort Office of the SC Conservation League, rounded out our look at the transportation issues of our county and state with an excellent power point at our April meeting. She brought us up-to-date on the issues raised by our previous speakers and concluded with new initiatives:

(1) devolution of state roads to local governments, to reduce the burden on the state and allow the localities to determine the size of roads needed (2) increasing the vehicle tax (but not the gas tax) to provide new funding, and (3) defining what sort of tree clearing should be done on I-95 to reduce accidents.

In our natural resources role, our League coordinated with the Leagues of the other coastal SC counties to draft a position opposing drilling for oil and gas off our shores. Before we had a chance to roll it out,

on March 15, 2016, the U.S. Dept. of the Interior announced that it was dropping plans to enable leasing for oil and gas drilling off the South Carolina coast. A victory, at least for the next several years!

There are land use and natural resource issues we have not begun to touch, so we have much to look forward to. This committee was formed with a view to concentrating on local issues on which we might make a difference. We welcome new members who also want to make a difference in our town and our county.

Sally McGarry, Chair

The Lighthouse Newsletter

The Lighthouse was published each month of our League year, from September to May. There was also mid-summer issue in early July, 2015. Wes Taylor of the HHI Camera Club helped us by arranging the articles on the pages of the newsletter formatting it). President Fran Holt e-mailed the publication to members and others who want to receive it. Sandy Stern mailed to a few who requested the service.

Occasionally, as a result of circumstances we couldn't control, we had a problem getting issues out as early in a month as we wanted.

Joan Kinne-Shulman, Editor

Observer Corps

Observer Corps volunteers attended nearly all HHI Town Council meetings throughout the calendar year. They attended most HHI Planning Commission meetings. In Bluffton, volunteers observed at most of the Town Council meetings but at only one Planning Commission meeting.

Katie Miller attended most of the Bluffton Town Council meetings. Karen Wessel observed at one. Betty McMillion and Elaine Cope attended one Planning Commission meeting.

Barbara Swift, Sally McGarry, and Joan Kinne-Shulman observed at most of the HHI Town Council meetings and a few of the HHI planning Commission meetings. Others who occasionally attended government meetings on HHI are Linda Hennessey and Janet Law. New volunteers are Sandy Dickson and Gloria Statham.

Obviously, we need to recruit more volunteers, especially individuals who are willing to attend meetings in Bluffton.

Joan Kinne-Shulman, Chair

Hospitality

Reservations were made for our monthly board meetings at Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc., Community Room, on HHI, SC on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am.

Reservations were made for several general meetings at Hilton Head Public Service District in their Community Room on Oak Park Drive, HHI, SC,

The majority of our informational meetings, which are open to the public, were held at the Bluffton Library, in the large conference room. One meeting was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bluffton. These meeting rooms were also reserved for our use.

Nancy Williams, who obtained all of our speakers, directed me to which venue to reserve. A few changes were made due to the availability of our speakers. Bottles of water were available for all of our speakers.

Our Holiday Luncheon was held on December 9, 2015 at the Country Club of Hilton Head. Forty six members attended. Our special guest was Elizabeth McNamara, current National League President. Barbara Zia, National League Board Member from Charleston, was also present. Mrs. McNamara delivered an inspiring message. Our President, Fran Holt, also spoke of the special 30 year celebration of our league this year. Several past presidents were introduced.

Our upcoming Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon is scheduled for May 11, at the Nicklaus Clubhouse at Colleton River Plantation. At this time we have 20 reservations, but expect to more than double this number by the time of the luncheon. Our speaker will be Ron Clifford, Chairman of the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County. This being a general election year, his speech will be most interesting and pertinent.

Mary Jo Happle

Communications

During the year, I fulfilled my responsibilities as Communications Chair by sending out Press Releases to local newspapers, magazines and TV media regarding our meetings, candidate forums, education panels, and voter registration information.

I've invited the public to attend and participate in these meetings.

They include:

1. Sept. 22 - National Voter Registration Day
2. Sept. 23 "A Healthcare Conversation" with David Ball, RN, LWVSC Board Member, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry
3. Oct. 7 - Bluffton Mayoral & Town Council Candidate Forum
4. Oct 14 - The State of Beaufort County - guest speaker, Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Chairman
5. Nov. 18 - "Democracy For Sale?" Part I - a consensus meeting
6. Dec. 9 - 30th Anniversary Luncheon of LWV HHI - guest speaker, LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara
7. Jan. 13 - "Democracy for Sale?" Part II - a consensus meeting
8. Feb. 10 - National & Local Program Planning for 2016-2018 Meeting

9. Mar. 9 – Town Managers of Bluffton and Hilton Head Island- (Marc Orlando, Town Manager of Bluffton and Steve Riley, Town Manager of HHI invited to speak on town issues)
10. Mar. 9 – Town Managers of Bluffton and Hilton Head Island- (Marc Orlando, Town Manager of Bluffton and Steve Riley, Town Manager of HHI invited to speak on town issues)
11. Apr. 13 – Membership Meeting: Topic: “Education Matters in SC” - guest speaker, Jane Pulling, LWVSC, Director of Education
12. Apr. 28 – Candidate Forum for Election of Town of HHI Ward 3 Council seat

I have also sent out hard copies of the *Lighthouse*, the LWVHHI/BA 's monthly newsletter to members who do not have email addresses.

Sandy Stern, Chair

Membership

The League of Women Voters Hilton Head/Bluffton area has 134 members as of April 29, 2016. Our membership includes men and women mostly from around the Hilton Head-Bluffton area. We have three 50-year members. Geographically the membership is represented by 75 from Hilton Head, 52 from Bluffton, 4 from Beaufort and one from each of the following: Callawassie Island, Ladies Island and Ohio. Our membership includes 26 men and 108 women.

Membership Co-Chairs, with significant support from League members have actively recruited and referred potential members. A program for potential members was held at the Bluffton Library in February and membership material was distributed. Membership numbers are reviewed by LWVUS on Feb. 1 of each year. While there was a decrease in our membership in 2016 due to health concerns, death or moving from the area, we added six new members to this year's roster. We have had several guests at our events and expect increased membership over the coming year.

Our League has continued to be visible within the Beaufort County area hosting forums and programs of universal and area interest. Candidate forums, programs that have included timely and pertinent topics of interest to Beaufort County and greater South Carolina, have attracted good attendance. Some of the programs that attracted potential members included well-attended sessions on human trafficking, programs on the status of both our County and State schools and a most informative program on the state of Bluffton and that of Hilton Head.

Ellie Dixon and Diane Neal, Co-Chairs

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area

Minutes of Annual Meeting May 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 by President Loretta Warden.

Minutes: A motion being made and seconded, the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

By-Laws Committee Report: A motion being made and seconded, the recommendation by the By-Laws Committee, which focused on changes related to the responsibility of the Treasurer and the timing of the election was unanimously approved.

Budget Committee Report: A motion being made and seconded, the proposed budget for 2015-2016, as published in the April Lighthouse and presented by Chair Nancy Williams, was unanimously approved. The budget contained a dues increase for the fiscal year.

Local Policy Positions: A motion being made and seconded, the recommendations, as published in the April Lighthouse and as presented by Chair Nancy Williams, were unanimously approved. The one-year

Nominating Committee: A motion being made and seconded, the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the office of President, Secretary, Action/Advocacy, Membership Co-Chairs and Chair of 2015-2016 Nominating Committee were unanimously approved, as published in the April Lighthouse and as reported by the Nominating Committee Chair, Julie Wittig. President: Fran Holt; Secretary: Ellen Dahl; Action/Advocacy: Patricia Montgomery; Membership Co-Chairs: Diane Neal and Ellie Dixon; and Nominating Committee: Loretta Warden, Chair, and members Sue Feutz and Gloria Statham.

Special acknowledgement was given to Pamela Hollinger by President Loretta Warden, for Hollinger's outstanding efforts in chairing the local planning for the LWVSC state convention held 4/25-4/26 on Hilton Head Island.

Announcements were made by President Warden which included thanking the outgoing Board members for their work and support during their tenure and recognizing the 22% increase in membership, which has resulted in the Hilton Head/Bluffton Area local League being the largest in the state.

The business part of the meeting concluded with an acknowledgement by Nancy Williams of the numerous accomplishments by this League under the exemplary leadership of Loretta Warden. Loretta Warden then handed the gavel to the in-coming President Fran Holt.

Following a social period and lunch, Brian Tolley, Executive Editor Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette, was the guest speaker.

At the close of the meeting, President Fran Holt announced that after the luncheon there would be a meeting of the new Board to act on the appointment of three new Board Directors, Natural Resources: Sally McGarry; Education: Kathy Quirk; and Communications: Sandy Stern. and four off-Board positions, Hospitality: Mary Jo Hapley; Archives: Connie Voight; Health Care: Alison Burke; and Local Government Issues/Observer Corp: Joan Kinne-Shulman.

Respectfully submitted,

Phylis Giglinto, Secretary

League of Women Voters HHI/BA 2016 - 2017 Proposed Budget

| | Proposed \$ |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Income | |
| Contributions | 1,000 |
| Grants. | 0 |
| Events. | 3,000 |
| Membership Dues. | <u>7,200</u> |
| Total Income | 11,200 |
| Expenses | |
| Administration/ Supplies. | 300 |
| Conference and Travel. | 1,200 |
| Education Committee | 0 |
| Events | 3,000 |
| Forums/ Programs. | 500 |
| Lighthouse | 50 |
| Membership Recruitment | 200 |
| PMPSC* | 1,561 |
| PMPUS* | 3,568 |
| Voter Service | 500 |
| Website. | 239 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>82</u> |

Total Expenses 11,200

*PMP is the per member payment made to LWVUS and LWVSC.

Proposed LWVHHI/BA Program Plan 2016-2017

Focus for Action

Making Democracy Work

Informing and Engaging the Electorate

Prepare and publish Voter's Guide to Candidates via LWVHHI/BA website or in collaboration with *Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette and/or Bluffton Sun, Hilton Head Sun*

Hold candidate forums for key local races

Hold issue forum/s for likely Beaufort County School District and Beaufort County capital projects/sales tax referenda

Review and consider taking a position on sales tax referenda

Partner with other organizations regarding elected positions likely to become available/deadlines for filing and the longer-term possibility of developing a database to match government positions with women seeking appointed or elective office

Utilize a variety of media to share information/communicate messages, with more emphasis on electronic media

Protecting Voters and Voting Rights

Support LWVUS/LWVSC positions on Money in Politics and Voter Rights/Protection

Expand voter registration activities/locations, with particular attention to underserved communities and youth and to partnership opportunities

Maintain relationship with Board of Voter Registration and Elections

Advocate for greater number of voter registration places and adequate number, location, and resources for polling places. Publicize on-line registration.

Protecting our Natural Resources

Study local and area-wide transportation issues as they relate to land use and natural resources, with a view to educating our members and recommending action, if warranted.

Develop Off-Shore Drilling position in concert with other South Carolina Leagues.

Monitor the expenditures and purposes of land purchases made with public funds approved by the voters by referendum.

Monitor other LWVHHI/BA natural resources positions with a view to recommending action as appropriate.

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area

Long-Term Areas of Interest and Local Positions

Adopted May 13, 2015 with Proposed Revisions for May 11, 2016

EDUCATION

1. Monitor Beaufort School District Board Meetings to gain a better understanding of local concerns.
2. Monitor the school budget process and its relationship to County Council decisions.
3. Investigate the possibility and advisability of changing the requirement for collecting signatures for school board candidates.
4. Increase knowledge base about state funding and the needed response for poor rural districts.
5. Maintain and strengthen relations with local legislative delegation to assure their support for Act 388 changes and other state funding issues.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Support the preservation and protection of wetlands, area beaches and local waterways, including but not limited to Calibogue Sound, the May River, the Colleton River and the Okatie River.

2. Support the conservation and preservation of available drinking water and monitor availability of sewer service.
3. Support the preservation of sensitive and historic land areas and tree cover.
4. Develop Off-Shore Drilling position in concert with other South Carolina Leagues.
5. Monitor the expenditures and purposes of land purchases with public funds approved by the voters by referendum.
6. Monitor decision making process of Planning Commissions, and Town and County Councils on land use issues.
7. Monitor Comprehensive Plan Reviews.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Provide Voter Information, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration Opportunities
2. Advocate for transparency in local government decisions.
3. Protect Home Rule for local governments
4. Maintain relationship with Beaufort County Board of Registration and Elections to assure voter access and accountability
5. Support LWVSC initiatives to assure open and thorough study, evaluation and selection of new voting machines.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION

1. Monitor and provide information on state and local taxation recommendations with special attention to concerns for natural resources, infrastructure and education.
2. Monitor Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue and use (the newly extended TIF, Town of Hilton Head Island.
3. Monitor use of revenue from the recent Rural and Critical Lands Referendum (note #5, Natural Resources)
4. Support comprehensive tax reform for SC; monitor local revenue and taxation. (Note Education #5)

TRANSPORTATION

1. Investigate Accommodation Tax (A-Tax) as an appropriate source of funding for public transportation.

REPORT FROM THE 2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2016 Nominating Committee, consisting of Loretta Warden, Chair, Nancy Williams, Katie Miller, Gloria Statham and Sue Feutz, recommends the following slate of officers.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Vice President: | Joan Kinne Shulman (May 2016-May 2018) |
| Treasurer: | Mary Jo Happle (July 2016-May 2018) |
| Voter Services Co-chairs: | Ruth Wilwerding/Oleta Harden (May 2016-2018) |
| Local Government/Observer Corps: | Sally McGarry |
| 2017 Nominating Committee: | Nancy Williams, Chair, Dot Law, Pat Goodman |

Loretta Warden, Chair