



Lighthouse

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 10AM NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON PRIVATIZATION

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
10 Simmonsville Road (at corner of Highway 278) Bluffton

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Join us in trying to reach consensus to help develop a National League public policy position on guidelines for privatizing government services and functions such as prisons, schools and garbage collection. The position would undoubtedly be applied at state and local levels as well as nationally.

The consensus questions we'll be trying to answer include those relating to transparency and accountability, cost and quality, and the impact on the environment, natural resources and the economy. A committee consisting of Chairman Joan Kinne-Shulman, Fred and Fran Holt, Janet Law and Karen Wessel will present background information and the six consensus questions. The full documents can be found on the National League website, LWV.org: .

Only members can take part in the discussion. Others are welcome to come and observe this most basic process of building League policy—from the grassroots up.

IN MEMORIAM

As most of our readers know, Bob McGarry, our fellow Leaguer, board member and *Lighthouse* editor/publisher, succumbed to emphysema on March 16 after a long and brave battle. He will be very much missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him.



ROBERT SAMUEL
McGARRY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Sally and all his family. To see his complete obituary, leave a message of condolence or obtain information on where to make a memorial donation, go to www.theislandfuneralhome.com.

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON MAY 16

Please mark your calendars for this event, which will take place at the Port Royal Clubhouse. Join us for the election of officers, other League business, social time and a talk by John Crangle, Executive Director of Common Cause of South Carolina, on campaign finance reform. For details and a reservation form, see page 8.



Membership renewals for 2012-2013 have been sent out by Julie Wittig and, on behalf of the Board, I hope you will take a moment to fill out the form and renew your membership. Julie and I will attend the April Council Meeting in Columbia, where she has been asked to be a member of the panel on membership initiatives.

The March general membership meeting featured Mayor Lisa Sulka, who updated us on issues confronting the Town of Bluffton. This month, we will hold a consensus meeting on Privatization on April 11. You will find more information on both of these programs elsewhere in the Lighthouse.

In this issue, you will also find important information leading to our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 16. We will vote on changes to the by-laws, board members proposed by the Nominating

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Committee, and the proposed budget for 2012-2013

Our state league has formed a task force on alternative voting technologies and continues advocacy efforts on nuclear waste management and the abolition of corporal punishment in SC schools, and has published the audit of election results. You can access this information on the LWVSC.org website.



Karen Wilber Wessel

In addition, the state league continues its involvement in the voter photo identification suit which is working its way through the federal courts. Additionally, the SC third-party voter registration bill

(H.4549), which would have restricted voter registration for groups such as the league, has been sent back to committee and is probably out of play for this legislative session.

Please take a few minutes to read through the Lighthouse where you will find more details on the events I have mentioned and information on upcoming opportunities for you to enjoy your league membership. I hope to see you at the April 11 membership consensus meeting.

And sadly, long time board member Robert McGarry has died. Our condolences go out to Sally and her family at this difficult time. It has been just a month since we were all invited into their home for our annual cocktail party which was a delight for all. We will miss him immensely.

*Karen Wilber Wessel
President, LWVHHI/BA*

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services has received a small grant from the League of Women Voters of South Carolina Education Fund to target first-time voters in the school setting. Dates have been arranged for TCL on April 18th, 11 to 2: USCB at New River, April 3rd, 11 to 3 and GED program in Beaufort on Tuesday April 10th, 9 to 11. There are other sites in the planning stage. If you would like to assist in registering students by visiting these venues, training will be provided, please contact Beth Fox, 843-681-6391, efox@aol.com or Sue Feutz, 843-415-6445, feutzs@yahoo.com. (more on next page)



Voter Services and Membership will again have a presence at the Rotary Bluffton Festival, May12, 2012 10 am to 4 pm.

We will use the booth to assist festival-goers to register to vote, change addresses and share information regarding the League. If this is an event you would like to staff for 1 to 2 hours, please contact Julie Wittig 843-706-3735, or wittig4@hargray.com or Sue Feutz 843-415-6445, feutzs@yahoo.com. The League owns a canopy so you are out of the sun and you get to visit/meet with a lot of people.

Sue Feutz, Voter Services

MEMBERSHIP

As we usher in Spring, our League continues to grow. Please join me in welcoming 3 new members to the League: Ernestine Morris, Emil Sagan and Gloria Statham. Also a special welcome back goes to Amanda Marie Stone for rejoining the League. Thank you all for your membership. We look forward to getting to know you and encourage you to become involved in areas of the League that interest you. For starters, our monthly membership meetings are a great way for members, both new and current, to stay informed on issues, learn what's going on in our communities and make new friends. Please join us and invite a friend to come with you so they too can see firsthand the great work that we do.

I'd like to thank these members for helping me to grow the membership: Jan Billingslea, Gail Kaess, Beth Krise, and Barbara Swift. A special thank you also goes to Ginny Ghirardelli for helping me reach out to our membership. If you hear a cheery voice on the phone inviting you to our next League event, it will be Ginny, who is a long time member and the immediate past co-president of our League. She has a wealth of information about LWV, so if you have a question, please feel free to ask Ginny. And another applause for Carol Possanza for helping me out of a jam by bringing the renewal letter to life on her MAC computer. DeeAnn Dowlen, Publicity Chair, deserves a shout out also for all the excellent press coverage our League has been getting. Thanks, DeeAnn, for all you are doing to increase awareness and interest in the League.

On a sad note, we lost one of our long time members and friend, Bob McGarry, who passed away on March 16, 2012. Bob was not only the editor and publisher of the Lighthouse, he was also a great help to me with membership. Bob was one of the first people I would contact with the news of a new member joining so that he could update his database with the member information in time for the next issue of the Lighthouse. Bob and his wife Sally served on the Board and attended meetings together. The McGarrys were always in the know about current issues facing the League. Bob kept the Board aware of key issues through emails and was always offering to help with fliers or announcements to the entire membership. When Bob voiced an idea or opinion, you listened because you knew it would be on target. He was an ardent supporter of League causes and will be missed by all who knew him. Bob McGarry leaves us with lasting memories. Thank you, Bob.

Lastly, our membership drive is underway with many members mailing in their dues early before the April 30, 2012 deadline. Thanks everyone and to those of you who also gave a generous donation to the League. With everyone's support, we can continue the work we started this year and tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

(more on next page)



Remember, the League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Be a voice in your government. Renew today and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our communities. Thank you for your continuing support
Julie Wittig, Membership Chair

Have League--Will Travel Caravan is a Success

In January and February 2012, a group of Leaguers delivered the news in person to some of our senior members residing at the Cypress and Seabrook retirement communities as part of the Have League--Will Travel Caravan project. On January 19, Barbara Swift hosted a lovely luncheon at the Cypress for residents Nancy Cherry and Ann Robinson with Ginny Ghirardelli, Karen Wessel and Julie Wittig also attending. We were sorry to miss Miriam Sukernek and Gloria Gleason who had also planned to attend.

At the Seabrook on February 23, we enjoyed coffee and cookies with member Peggy Downward, former Hilton Head Island League President Dorothy Anderson and 5 other guests. A mini program and discussion on the latest League news was presented by Karen Wessel, Fran Holt, Janet Law, Sally McGarry, Joan Kinne-Shulman, Ann Coffin, Ginny Ghirardelli and Julie Wittig.

The Have League--Will Travel Caravan was an opportunity to connect with members who support the League and are unable to attend our meetings. Our caravan to reach out to some of the senior members was a hit with everyone involved. We look forward to taking our caravan on the road again and next time involving more of our membership. Thank you all for supporting the League.

Julie Wittig, Membership Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2012

We nominate the following slate of Officers and Directors to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area:

Officers and Directors:

Vice-President – Fran Holt

Treasurer – Dot Law

Co-Directors, Newsletter – Joan Kinne-Shulman; Kathleen Quirk

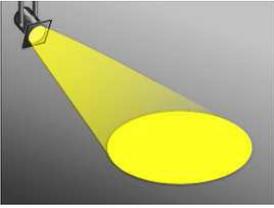
Director, Voter Services – Rita Donahue

2013 Nominating Committee:

Chair – Flo Rosse

Members – Anita Holcslaw; Sue Yearwood

*Respectfully submitted,
 Bev Benjamin, Ann Coffin, Katie Miller, Julie Wittig
 Ginny Ghirardelli, Chair*



Spotlight on Sue Feutz

Please let this narrative be a caution as to saying yes to a walk in the neighborhood with Ginny Ghirardelli. By the end of our stroll, I had been recruited to join the League and introduced to an active role in voter services. Though I am thoroughly enjoying my membership, you may bet the bank I am now wary of any exercise invitations that come my way.

My interest in community can be traced to the Civil Rights struggle of the 60's I remember taking the afternoon edition of the Detroit News, spreading on the floor of a warm summer living room and reading of Viola Liuzzo, the mother from Detroit who chose to travel to Mississippi that summer and did not return home compliments of the Klan. My world became so much larger. I was also active in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and interested in their fledgling efforts for true integration in the Catholic High Schools and teen social gatherings happening in Detroit in that volatile time. It has followed that community; politics and government have kept my attention.

Blessings in my life include husband, Joe, 3 sons with new families, 7 siblings and 2 living and very independent parents in their 90's. This provides an extended family of 65. But that can change with a day's notice. Another grand nephew is on his way from Asia as we speak.

My community commitment found a home early when I chose Public Health Nursing as my profession. Schooling seemed to be always on the run as the family moved multiple times with the Revco Drug chain. I began my Nursing education after high school at Borgess in Kalamazoo and completed my graduate degree in 1998 in Chapel Hill NC. I found Public Health to be just the ticket to find the pulse of the community; searching for resources, evaluating those in need, and seeking cooperation from those in control. Our communities are only as strong as the least among us. I was fortunate to complete my nursing career as hands-on school nurse in Bluffton, learning the local workings of Education and Health Care options in the low country. Living in multiple states has also brought awareness of the alternate solutions possible for community challenges.

Voter Services was a great step into working with the League: back in the community with candidate forums and the Bluffton Festival, back in the schools to register and instruct voters. Attending Board of Election Board Meetings provided a window into the workings of local government. I look forward to the personal growth the further activities of the League will offer.



Sue Feutz, Voter Services



BLUFFTON MAYOR SULKA'S REPORT AT MARCH MEETING

Mayor Lisa Sulka's enthusiasm for the town of Bluffton was evident on March 14, when she presented her views on the State of the Town to about 75 people, including town officials, a special assistant to Representative Joe Wilson and many other guests. She talked about the history of the town, its many attributes and also about hopes for its future, which include leading the way in economic development, a current priority for the town. She is especially pleased that the Don Ryan Center for Innovation, a business incubator, will soon be operating in partnership with Clemson University. Cleaning up the May River is also very important to the town. However, the Mayor explained that the town is limited in what it can do, because much of the land adjacent to the river is not within the town limits.

We are pleased the meeting was covered by both the *Island Packet* and *Bluffton Today*, which live streamed it, and that it now can be seen on the town's website, www.townofbluffton.sc.gov.

PROPOSED BUDGET JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

INCOME	
Dues	\$ 5,000
Contributions	
Members	1,750
Non-Members	400
Sponsors	650
Events	2,500
Miscellaneous	100
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,400
EXPENSES	
Administration	500
Education	
Publications/Public Relations	50
Voter Services & Guide to Elected Officials	650
Website Management	200
Events	2,500
Fund-raising/Development	100
Lighthouse	50
Membership Development	500
Per-Member Payments	
to LWVUS	2,600
to LWVSC	1,200
Travel	
State Convention	1,500
Other	250
Miscellaneous	300
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,400

*Submitted by Bob Ghirardelli, Budget Committee Chair;
Barbara Swift and Janet Law, Members*



BYLAWS CHANGE

We will consider and vote on the following amendment to the LWVHHI/BA bylaws at the Annual Meeting on May 16.

BYLAWS ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec. 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be payable April 30 for members joining prior to April 30, 2012. Annual dues for a member joining after April 30, 2012, shall be payable on the last day of the year's anniversary month of that member's joining. Any member who fails to pay her or his dues within three months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Any exception to when dues shall be payable must be approved by the board of directors. Dues amount shall be determined by the board of directors.

This proposed amendment will result in new members being required to renew their memberships on their anniversary date rather than on April 30. It also provides for board discretion on a case by case basis.

Submitted by the Bylaws Committee: Fred Holt, Janet Law (ex-officio), Sally McGarry, Karen Wessel and Julie Wittig

APRIL Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

All members are welcome at Board Meetings

Thursday, April 5, 9:45am at Savannah Bank
852 Wm Hilton Pkwy

Thursday, May 3, 9:45am at Savannah Bank
852 Wm Hilton Pkwy

Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are open to the public but only League members may vote on positions.

Wednesday, April 11, Privatization Consensus, 10:00am, Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton

Wednesday, May 16, Annual Meeting & Luncheon, 11:30am, Port Royal Golf Club, HHI

2011-2012 Officers and Board

Officers

President:

Karen Wessel 682-3397

Vice-President, Program Chair:

Fran Holt 837-3436

Treasurer:

Janet Law 671-4280

Secretary:

Caroline McVitty 681-6124

Board

Fund-raising: vacant

Education: Pamela Hollinger 706-9928

Government Issues/Observer Corps:
Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246

Hospitality: Katie Miller 681-6448

Membership: Julie Wittig 706-3735

Newsletter: vacant

contact Janet Law 671-4280

Public Relations/Publicity:

Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318

Voter Services: Sue Feutz 415-6445



**League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area
ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 11:30 am
Port Royal Golf Club in Port Royal Plantation
10 Clubhouse Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928**

John Crangle, Executive Director of Common Cause of South Carolina, will be our guest speaker and will talk on state and federal **campaign finance reform**.

Please make your reservation for this important and interesting event by sending a check made out to LWVHHI/BA and the following form to **Katie Miller, 17 Celosia Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926** no later than May 5. If there are questions, please call Katie at 681-6448.

Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

Enclosed payment: \$26 per person x number of reservations = \$_____

Please indicate your choice of entree

____ **“Elvis” Fried Chicken Salad** – fresh garden greens with parmesan-crusted chicken tenders, mandarin oranges, strawberries and spicy pecans served with raspberry vinaigrette

or

____ **Petite Crab Cakes** served over a bed of mixed greens with a side of balsamic vinaigrette

or

____ **Vegetarian Meal** available if requested in advance

All Entrees Served with Fresh Rolls and Whipped Butter

Key Lime Pie

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Hot Herbal Tea