

Lighthouse

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



REGULAR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

WHERE: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room
21 Oak Park Dr. (off Mathews Dr.), Hilton Head Island
WHEN: 10:00



The film *Waiting for Superman* will be shown and discussed. According to *The New York Time*, this is "a powerful and alarming documentary about America's failing school system." Pamela Hollinger, Education Committee Chair, will lead the discussion. The previously scheduled state consensus meeting on Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in Our Public Schools has been postponed. All members and guests are encouraged to attend.

Fran Holt, VP/Program Chair

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SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2,

WHERE: Palmetto Electric Coop Meeting Room
111 Mathews Drive, Hilton Head Island
WHEN: 9:30 Board Meeting – All members welcome to attend
10:45 Snacks and socializing
11:00-12:30 National and Local Program Planning

Do you know what our public policy positions are? If so, do you agree with them? Is there something new you think the League should study and on which it might take a position? For your reference, local positions are on page 5 of this newsletter. Recommendations made at this meeting will be presented to the membership for final approval or disapproval at our Annual Meeting on May 16.

To see a summary of national positions, go to the national League's website www.lwv.org and type "positions" in the search box or call 834-3436 (Fran Holt) to get a paper copy. Our League will have the opportunity to propose one new study or one review and update or one concurrence or to make no recommendation. We will also be able to advise President Karen Wessel on how she might vote at National Convention, where delegates will make final decisions on the program.

This will be a great opportunity for new members to learn more about the League and for "old" members to revisit what they learned in the past. It will also be an opportunity to voice our views. The process of planning and adopting League program is important, because it is what enables the League to be an effective advocate.

From the President



Our January membership meeting with Hilton Head Island Mayor Drew Laughlin was a great success: we had a large turn-out and plenty of interesting questions from the audience after the Mayor presented the *State of the Town*. For details, please see Fran Holt's report in this newsletter. Mark your calendars for the March 14 *State of the Town* with Bluffton Mayor and League member Lisa Sulka.

Plans are under-way to expand our voter registration drives at high school and technical school facilities. The

increased efforts are due to a LWVSC grant which is greatly appreciated. These efforts are in addition to our usual voter registration drives. Members who are interested in voter registration should contact Sue Feutz our Voter's Service Chair at feutzs@yahoo.com.

The 2012 Guide to Elected Officials will be ready in mid-February. As usual, we will deliver the informational brochures to area neighborhoods, libraries and other public spaces. The Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce has once again underwritten the cost of printing.



LWVHHV/BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

And finally, I hope to see you at the McGarry's for the Winter Blahs cocktail party on February 26th. I know we will have a repeat of last year with good food, fine drink, and great conversation.

Voter Services

The League of Women Voters Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of South Carolina have entered into a contract with the League of Women Voters Hilton Head/ Bluffton in order to support a Youth Voter Registration project. Beth Fox and Sue Feutz will co chair this late winter, spring project to present voter registration opportunities to our budding voters.

Targeted will be: TCL, Technical College of the Low Country; Hilton Head and Bluffton High Schools including the 3 private schools; Christian Academy, Hilton Head Prep and Heritage Academy. The local Hispanic community has also requested our presence and assistance as they present voter registration opportunities to their young of voting age. The General Education Program, GED, will be approached to see what services the league may offer for their night classes. If time permits we will also contact USCB - New River to promote registration. Many High school seniors will be moving to college. We may give them a good send off by lighting their path to registration in their new environment as well as an encouragement to vote!

The league is being asked to interact with the Youth to promote voting as well as offering them the opportunity to register.

Please keep our project in mind for spring action. Contact Beth or Sue now if you know this is an area you would like to assist. More details will be shared in the March newsletter.

Sue Feutz
843-415-6445

feutzs@yahoo.com

Beth Fox
843-681-6391

efox@aol.com

State of the Town Address

Hilton Head Island Mayor Drew Laughlin gave his



State of the Town address to an interested and inquiring crowd of about 65 people, including many League guests, on January 11. Having now been in office for a year, he had lots of facts and viewpoints to share. His talk covered a lot of territory, but it focused on some of the problems facing the town, primarily economic problems compounded by the state legislature's actions and inactions. He is particularly upset to know that many legislators don't like the effects of S388 and yet it has not been repealed. [S388 shifted much of the property tax burden from residents to owners of commercial property and part time residents, and it ties tax increases to inflation

and population growth.] The Mayor regrets too that the town, unlike Myrtle Beach, does not have the authority to impose a one-cent sales tax to meet local needs. He also stated that our state constitution should be revamped. As it is now, the only branch of our state government to have power is the legislature, according to the Mayor and the legislature is hostile to local control..

He expressed some concern about what the role of town government should be in making improvements or changes to the town. He is not a supporter of providing town funds to private entities to entice them to do business here. However, he does support making it easier to meet town requirements. He is pleased that plans for Shelter Cove Mall were adapted to meet goals of the town even though that wasn't necessary legally.

He also discussed possible new projects on town

owned land in other parts of the Shelter Cove area, improvements at Coligny, a performance hall, the recreation center and others. He doesn't think the town should be involved in building anything that will



require future operating costs, and he questions the public's tolerance for spending money. On a very positive note, the Mayor praised the town staff for its hard work.

A lively question and answer period followed the Mayor's address. Questions included those on the role of the town in supporting education, the role of the Chamber of Commerce in promoting tourism, the expansion of cell phone service and the expansion of recycling to commercial and rental properties. One person commented that Hilton Head Island should not be promoted as just a good place for tourists but also as a great place to live. The Mayor agreed.

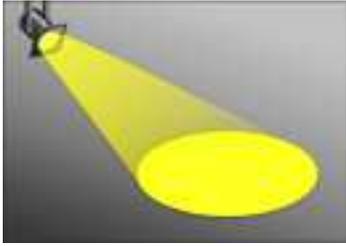


Visit our web Site

www.lwvghi.org



MLK Observance in Bluffton



Spotlight On Ginny Ghirardelli



Ginny Ghirardelli

Like many other members, my introduction to the League was somewhere else. My somewhere else was Durham, North Carolina, and it took place a while ago in the 1970's.

When Bob and I and four of our five children moved to a new neighborhood, Ruth Mary visited from her home across the street to welcome us. Not long after that she suggested I join the League. At the time the children were young and we were expecting another one, so I didn't want to join. She didn't give up, and when that youngest one went to first grade she again crossed the street to invite me into the League.

Being aware of the League, I came to respect and admire the activities and the people I met at various meetings. These were smart and caring people, and I chose to be a part of an organization whose purpose I believed in. I recognized that I could learn more about local, state, and national government.

Public Relations and Voter Service were my areas of participation. I learned to be of service to others, and I learned to write press releases for the newspaper and public service announcements for radio and television. Our publicity committee took advantage of the opportunity to use the local public access channel on television. We videotaped a series of popular League

meetings, "Breakfast With Your Legislators" which were shown later in the day, and we also created other programs for our weekly "League Update". Amateurs that we were, all of our programs were not greatly successful. One included a detailed explanation of the voter registration process, after which the station director commented, "Ladies, I'm falling asleep here."

As others have said in this space, the most treasure of my benefits of League membership has been the enduring friendships over the years. Ruth Mary more than crossed the street last Thanksgiving; she and her family came from Durham to visit us. Those League bonds can be pretty tight.

Membership

January 2012 brought us 3 new members: Lois Hoyt-Berry, Mary Ellen Hannan and Debbie Hengemuhle. Welcome to the League and thank you all for joining us. We look forward to getting to know you and encourage you to become involved in areas of the League that interest you.

I applaud all of our members again for the outstanding job you've done in recruiting new members. Our League is growing, now 97 strong. With the expansion into the Bluffton area last year we still have room to grow so keep up the great work! By reaching out to your friends and acquaintances and spreading the word about the League,

you are catching the attention of many and offering them the opportunity to become better informed citizens and to play an active role in government. Hats off to you all!

If you feel like enhancing your membership and becoming more involved this year in an area of the League that interests you, please call the committee chairs listed on the last page of this newsletter and let them know. You're in the driver's seat so you can volunteer your time as you wish. The League welcomes all levels of participation. And don't forget that the monthly membership meetings are a great

way to participate in the League by staying informed on current issues affecting our communities. You'll meet other members and find out first hand what's going on in the League.

Lastly, please save the date, February 26, and plan to attend our annual Spring mixer at the home of Bob and Sally McGarry. You won't want to miss this party and the chance to mix and mingle a bit with your League friends. For more details, please refer to the flyer in this issue and make plans to attend. See you there!

Julie Wittig
Membership Chair

**LWVHHI STATEMENTS OF
PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS
For 2010-2011**

Preservation and protection of wetlands.

The LWVHHI supports beach management projects that

are for the public good rather than for the benefit of private property;

are part of a regional beach management plan;

are designed for the specific features of each locale;

are carefully and professionally monitored over the long term;

make use of re-nourishment methods first and employ hard structures only
when nourishment alone is ineffective;

include sand re-nourishment as an integral, ongoing part of any hard structure
design;

give consideration to requiring sponsors of hard-structure projects to
demonstrate, in advance, the financial resources to pay for the detection
and correction of any negative impacts that the project might have on
down-drift beaches;

require mitigation, redesign, or removal of hard structures that adversely affect
nearby beaches;

establish clear goals and quantitatively designed measures of their success.

Preservation and protection of Outstanding Resource Waters (formerly SAA waters), including opposition to marinas
on such waters, and also the quality of other local waterways.

Transportation:

Accommodation Tax (A-Tax) monies may be an appropriate source of funding for
regional public transportation.

County Council should put a comprehensive transportation plan in place within a
reasonable time.

- V. Tax Increment Financing: Support of the concept of tax increment financing (TIF) for use on
Hilton Head Island as one way to finance public projects on the island, although it is not a
solution to all governmental financing problems and should be used judiciously. The League
believes that any future TIF programs for Hilton Head Island should pass the tests of: (a)
being fiscally responsible, (b) providing funding only for needed public projects, and (c)
complying with state law.

Issues or positions to monitor and study and act upon as needed:

Election process in Beaufort County: monitor redistricting and HAVA implementation

Beachfront and waterway management

Education in Beaufort County, including post-secondary and early childhood education through grade 12 levels,
and the school budget process

Hilton Head Island Comprehensive Plan

V. Ward 1 Master Land Use Plan

VI. Beaufort County Regional Plans, including multi-jurisdictional regional plans, and
implementation of the Southern Beaufort County Regional Plan Transportation

VII. Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan

VIII. Public Safety

IX. Home Rule

X. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals

XI. Water and sewer service



Almost Spring Party

**Join League Friends
(And our celebrity guests)
at an
Anticipate Spring Cocktail Party**

Sunday, February 26, 2012

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

At Bob and Sally McGarry's

**6 Anglers Pond Court
Hilton Head Plantation**

Please bring hors d'oeuvres or a dessert for six.

Michele Obama will bring her famous garlic, jalapeño, peanut butter crab dip
(POTUS has a golf date)

Nikki Haley will bring Madhya Pradesh

Newt Gingrich will bring grits with rattlesnake

Mitt Romney will bring money

Call if you need a gate pass or directions (342-9254)



MLK observance in Hilton Head



FEBRUARY
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2011—2012

Board Meetings

Thursday, February 2, 9:30 at
Palmetto Electric Co-op 111 Mathews Drive
followed by program planning at 11:00

Thursday, March 7, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

Membership Meetings

10:00 AM, February 8
Hilton Head PSD Building
21 Oak Park Dr.

The film ***Waiting for Superman*** will be shown
and discussed.

10:00 AM, March 14
State Of The Town Of Bluffton Meeting
Lowcountry Presbyterian Church
corner of Simmonsville Rd. and US278 in Bluffton.
The speaker will be Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka.

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: Bob McGarry 342-9254
Public Relations/Publicity:
Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318
Voters Services: Sue Feutz 415-6445