

# Lighthouse

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND



## May Membership Meeting



### League of Women Voters Annual Luncheon



Wednesday, May 11, 2011  
At the Port Royal Golf Club  
In Port Royal Plantation  
11:30 a.m.

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Guest Speaker:  
**Weston Newton, Chairman  
Beaufort County Council**

Cost: \$ 26.00 per person

Guests Welcome

Please send your check and meal choice to:  
Andrea Bhatt  
67 S. Port Royal Drive  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
843-681-7950

Reservations must be received by **May 4, 2010**

Choice of:

1. Balsamic and Honey Glazed Salmon topped with Chive Beurre Blanc and served over a medley of fresh vegetables
2. Homemade Chicken Pot Pie- Fresh chicken with vegetables and mushrooms in a baked puff pastry
3. Vegetarian Meal available upon request in advance

Served with Fresh Rolls and Whipped Butter  
Jack Daniel's Bourbon Pecan Pie, served with Whipped Cream  
Freshly brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Hot Herbal Tea

## From the Presidents



At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, the League of Women Voters of the United States approved the expansion and name change for our local League. Barbara Zia, President of the LWVSC, received the notice last week and passed the news on to us. So it's official. We are now the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area.

We will have more details later, but plans are in the works to sponsor a girls' soccer team with the Island Recreation Center. It's good to support young people in team sports, and it's good for League visibility in the community.

It's been an exciting year, and for us a satisfying term of office as your co-presidents. Sharing the job worked well for us, and yes, we do have each other's telephone number memorized. We enjoyed working with a terrific board of directors, and we extend thanks to all for their cooperation and help. League work gets done because committed people do their jobs; for that we are grateful.



LWVHHI Co-Presidents  
Ginny Ghiradelli Barbara Swift

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### Membership

I would like to welcome four new members to the League: Alice Gianni John Quirk Leslie Samuel and Kathy Lutz. We are happy to have all of you and hope you will become involved in the League as opportunities present themselves.

The membership drive for 2011-2012 is underway. Several members have renewed their memberships and several members have not only renewed their memberships but have been generous enough to give a little extra. They are as follows: Ann Coffin, Betty Pilsbury, Donna Russell, Eileen Drehwing, Robert and Ginny Ghirardelli, Janet Law, Vivian and Tom Miller, Niki and David Jordon, Andrea Bhatt, Florence Rosse, Sally and Robert McGarry, Miriam Sukernek, Joan Lemoine, Karen Wessel, Dorothy Perkins, Tom and Joan Israel, Loretta Warden, Barbara Swift, Rita Donahue, Margaret Downward, Connie and Jerry Voight, Caroline and Arthur McVitty, Fred and Fran Holt, Richard and Joan Kinne-Shulman. We thank everyone who have renewed and look forward to all our members renewing their memberships by April 30th. If, for some reason you did not get a renewal form or may have miss-placed it, you may contact me at 843-681-3096 and I will be happy to send you another one. You also may just sent me a check for \$50.00 for single membership or \$75.00 for a family membership made out to LWVHHI. My address is 6 Wing Shell Lane HHI. 29926. If you have joined the League this year, 2011, you are not required to renew your membership until 2012 so you would not have received a renewal in the mail. I encourage each and everyone to renew their membership and continue to support the League and all the important work it does. Thank you

Ellen Forwalk, Membership Chairman

## State Legislation

Since this is the last newsletter until September, it seems appropriate to try to summarize what has happened to date (4/18/11) to some of the state legislative issues of interest to Leaguers even though the work of the General Assembly is not complete. One of our main concerns has been the state budget. Along with our state League (LWVSC) and many other organizations, we tried to rally support for a moral budget. The Senate Finance Committee has come up with a \$5.8 billion spending plan that includes about \$509 million in extra cash (from unneeded reserves, growing surpluses and the increased cigarette tax and a crackdown on tax scofflaws), which would mainly go to Medicaid programs and public education.

LWVSC and our League oppose point-of-sale bills (H3713 and S647), which would end basing the assessment of properties on their value at the point of sale. A big objection of these bills is that there would be less money for local governments, including money

for schools. However, these bills are advancing. Also advancing are school choice bills (S414 and H3407), which would help parents send children to private schools by providing scholarships and tax credits. Once again we believe a negative result would be less money for public schools.

Bills providing for voter photo identification have been passed by both the Senate and House and sent to a conference committee. This is another issue which continues to concern LWVSC and our League, because we believe it would suppress voter turnout, fraud is not a problem and it would be expensive. If the conference committee comes to an agreement on this matter, the legislation, like any other state legislation relating to elections, must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice.

We are also very interested in the redistricting process and in making sure that it is done fairly and equitably. Co-President Barbara Swift

testified to that effect on April 4 when she and Vice President Karen Wessel attended a hearing in Beaufort on redistricting held by the Election Laws Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

Another matter to do with elections was reported to me by League member Sue Feutz, who observes meetings of the Beaufort County Board of Elections. She noted that no current bills under consideration by the General Assembly include four top priorities developed by the South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials (SCARE). These priorities are: (1) allow no excuse voting, (2) remove the requirement for a witness on absentee ballots, (3) permit on line registration and (4) reduce legal notice of general election in paper due to cost.

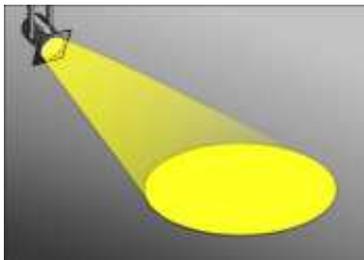
To continue following what happens in the General Assembly, go to [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

Fran Holt, Chair  
State Legislative Issues



**Visit our Web  
Site**

[lrvhhi.org](http://lrvhhi.org)



## Spotlight On

Julie Wittig



My first exposure to the League of Women Voters occurred in the

early 1960's. My mother was active in the Sacramento League and served as secretary. Because of my mother's involvement, I have always had great respect for what the League does. But my career path and life outside of work did not allow much time for joining the League. Growing up in Sacramento provided the opportunity to work in gov-

ernment and for about 20 years I did just that. When it was time for a change, I moved to the private sector and, some years later, I made a 180 degree turn and worked in the music industry. I also made time to volunteer and support various charities and causes.

From California, Kevin and I gradually headed east with stops along the way in Arizona and Iowa before moving to Bluffton in 2009. In Iowa I participated in the 2004 and 2008 caucuses. I volunteered to work on campaigns, attended rallies, met candidates up close and learned what it means to stand up and be counted on caucus night for the candidate I support. The time I devoted to Iowa's election process was an exhilarating and educational experience for me.

In November 2010, I attended my first League meeting and have been participating ever since. I joined the League because I want to know what is going on in my community. I want to become a better informed citizen and stay involved in the issues that are important to me. The exposure to new ideas and information is also a reason to join the League. Each of the monthly meetings I have attended has enlightened me with some new piece of information that I can take home and ponder. My mind is at work. Most of all, I have met wonderful people and continue to be inspired by the women and men who belong to our local League. Like my mother, I am proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters.



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## Voter Registration in Bluffton Area

This past month, I visited Bluffton Elementary and Red Cedar Elementary to offer teachers and staff an opportunity to register or to change address. I had excellent cooperation from Principals Christine Brown and Kathy Corley. Plans are being made to visit Bluffton High School before summer break to target students turning 18 as well as teachers in need of update/ change. USCB @ New River as well as Bluffton Library were suggested as good spots for traffic. Paperwork has been submitted to Bluffton Rotary Club for booth space for the Bluffton Festival on May 7th, 10 AM until 4 PM. We would use the exposure to combine voter registration and membership recruitment.

If these are areas in which you have interest, please contact Sue Feutz (fights) @ [sfeutz@roadrunner.com](mailto:sfeutz@roadrunner.com) or 843-415-6445 -to offer what time you have available.

Sue Feutz  
Voter Services



### April Membership Meeting: Mitchelville Preservation Project

Over 60 League members, guests, and interested members of our community gathered at the St. James Baptist Church on April 13 for a presentation by members of the Mitchelville Preservation Project. Fran White, Dot Law, Heather Rath, and Don Moore regaled us with the history of the town of Mitchelville, the first town built by slaves who either lived on Hilton Head Island or made their way there in the wake of the occupation by Union Troops in 1862. The ex-slaves built Fort Howell and the town of Mitchelville, comprised of ¼ acre lots with homes built individually by each family. Excavations of the historic site at Fish Haul Creek Park began in the 1980's and will continue in anticipation of the Project's planned replica of the town. A conceptual plan has been readied by Wood and Partners and the town has contributed Accommodation Tax monies and a long term lease of the land. Additionally, Beaufort County has contributed funds and provided office space at the Hilton Head Island Governmental Center. A walking tour of the site followed the presentation. Membership in the Mitchelville Preservation Project is \$25 per year. The project is a 501C3 organization. For further information visit the website [www.mitchelvillepreservationproject.com](http://www.mitchelvillepreservationproject.com) or visit their page on Facebook. Thank you to the presentation team. We received an amazing amount of positive feedback . Karen Wessel, Program Chair



### May Calendar of Events

### Officers and Board 2009—2010

#### Board Meetings

#### OFFICERS

Thursday, May 5, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

- Co-Presidents:  
 Ginny Ghirardelli 209-772-2226  
 Barbara Swift 342-3383  
 Vice-President, Program Chair:  
 Karen Wessel 682-3397  
 Treasurer: Janet Law 671-4280  
 Co-Secretaries:  
 Anita Holcslaw 686-4085  
 Caroline McVitty 681-6124

Thursday, September 8, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings

#### Fall Meeting Dates

#### BOARD

Please note that our September 2011 Board Meeting has been changed to Thursday, September 8 and the general Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Have a wonderful summer and watch for our summer Lighthouse which Bob McGarry has graciously agreed to produce once again.

- Fund-raising: Donna Russell 837-7022  
 Government Issues/Observer Corps:  
 Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246  
 Hospitality: Andrea Bhatt 681-7950  
 Membership: Ellen Forwalk 681-3096  
 Newsletter: Bob McGarry 342-9254  
 Public Relations/Publicity:  
 Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318  
 Voters Services:  
 Sue Feutz 415-6445