



Lighthouse

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

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MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

At the Port Royal Golf Club

(Adjacent to Port Royal Plantation)

10 Clubhouse Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

11:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: **John Crangle, Executive Director
Common Cause of South Carolina**

Topic: **State and Federal Campaign Finance Reform**

Cost: \$26.00 per person

Guests Welcome

Reservation deadline: May 5

For reservation form and menu choices, please see Page 6.

It would be very much appreciated if members arrive by 11:30 for the Annual Meeting. A social time with cash bar will follow the meeting. Lunch will be served at 12:30. After Mr. Crangle's talk, there will be a question and answer period.

OUR LEAGUE'S PROGRAMS

Thank you very much to everyone who helped with the programs that we had this past year. That thank you includes those of you who simply attended the meetings as well as those who helped with planning, presentation and publicity. You all have made my job much easier and more enjoyable. Please feel free to contact me (837-3436 or franholthhbl@google.com) with any suggestions for next year's programs. By the way, you might want to note that Board meetings, which are open to anyone wishing to attend, usually take place on the first Thursday of the month (September through May) at 9:45 a.m., and general membership meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday. I expect we'll continue to have some meetings on the island and others in Bluffton now that we have expanded to the Bluffton Area. All meeting times and locations are posted on our website, <http://www.lwvghi.org> as far in advance as possible. Please refer to the summer issue of the *Lighthouse*, which will also be posted on our website, for more specific information about the fall meetings.

Fran Holt, Vice President and Program Chair

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is not too late to sign up for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon, scheduled for May 16 at the Port Royal Plantation Clubhouse. Please use the reservation form in this newsletter. And while you are dealing with all things League, please take a moment to be sure that you have sent in your annual dues. Our membership chair, Julie Wittig, has done a wonderful job this year resulting in a 28% increase in our membership, to 108! We'd hate to lose anyone, so please be sure you have sent in your membership form.

Speaking of membership, Julie was a featured panelist at the League of SC Council meeting on April 14 in Columbia.

While there, the two of us learned a lot about the issues of human trafficking, the political climate in South Carolina, membership initiatives, the future of energy in our state, and heard timely reports on voting rights, education, healthcare, ethics, taxation, and nuclear waste. It was a packed day, but worth the travel time!



Julie Wittig – panelist at LWVSC Council

Thanks to Sue Feutz, Beth Fox, and their team for all the voter registration activities this past month.



Karen Wessel, President

Thanks also go out to Joan Kinne-Shulman and the entire Privatization committee who led us through the consensus process. We had one of our largest turn-outs for a consensus meeting, and though the power point was balky, we made it through the material and had some great comments and discussions.

I would also like to thank the entire board for their outstanding work this year. Without Fran Holt, Julie Wittig, Pamela Hollinger, Joan Kinne-Shulman, Sally McGarry, Bob McGarry, Sue Feutz, Katie Miller, Janet Law, Ginny and Bob Ghirardelli, Dee Ann Dowlen, Caroline McVitty, and all those who served on their various committees, I would have been up the proverbial creek.

Big thanks also to Barbara Swift, who answered all my questions with patience, and Fred Holt, Vivian Miller, Carroll Williams, and Kevin Schoneman who took on special projects for us. If I have forgotten anyone, I am sincerely sorry.

Here's hoping you have a wonderful summer. Look for the *Lighthouse* in early August and we hope to see you in September.

Karen Wessel, President



WE NEED A GURU!

We save a lot of money by publishing and distributing our newsletter, The Lighthouse, on line. The former Editor of the Lighthouse had the computer skills to do that; the new editors of the Lighthouse don't have those computer skills, so we are requesting help.

If you have desktop publishing skills and are able to help, please call one of us listed below. The editors will be entirely responsible for content and deadlines. We just need you to put the newsletter together and send it out. The League will purchase any software that you need.

If you don't have desktop publishing skills, but would like to learn, you can do so through the Hilton Head Island Computer Club. We will help locate a volunteer to teach you; (You have the summer to learn, as the first issue you would need to do is the September issue.) Again, the League will purchase any software that you need.

The League has always provided opportunities for women to learn new skills, and this could be an exciting one.

Karen Wessel
682-3397

Joan Kinne-Shulman
842-9246

Kathy Quirk
290-8423

VOTER SERVICES

Young Voter Registration Program is in full swing with the help of Julie Wittig, Kathy Quirk, David White, Loretta Warden, Gloria Statham and Beth Fox. We were welcome to hold registration efforts at USCB New River, Adult Education (GED) classes at Mink Point and just recently at TCL for their Spring Fling days at the Okatie Campus. Thirty-five new registrations have been submitted to the Board of Elections, many more questions have been answered and web sites shared. The team will present voting education/registration information to the senior government/civic classes during the school day at Hilton Head High School April 24th. Principal Amanda O'Nan has also asked us to hold a lunch time registration opportunity in the cafeteria to reach those students we do not contact in the classroom at another date.

Membership and Voter Services will team up to staff a booth at the Rotary Bluffton Festival on May 12th. We hope to be assigned the great location we enjoyed last year right at the corner of Calhoun Street and May River Road. The bright League booth was the first sight the guests pictured as they entered the festival and the last as they waited for the shuttle bus at the end of the day. Please contact Julie Wittig wittig4@hargray.com or Sue Feutz feutzs@yahoo.com if you would like to share in the fun on Saturday, May 12th in Bluffton.

Susie Feutz, Voter Services Chair

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

MEMBERSHIP



**BLUFFTON VILLAGE
FESTIVAL
MAY 12TH
HELP REGISTER
VOTERS!**

**ANNUAL MEETING
& LUNCHEON
MAY 16TH
BRING A FRIEND!**

**VISIT US ON THE
WEB AT
WWW.LWVHHI.ORG**

With one month until summer recess, there's still much news to report about membership. First, President Karen Wessel and I traveled to Columbia on April 14 to attend the LWVSC Council meeting. I participated in a panel discussion about best membership practices with three other Leaguers from the Charleston and Florence area. I shared with the group what we've been doing in the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area to grow our League. By the way, SC came in 3rd in membership growth this year among Leagues across the U.S. Congratulations to everyone for helping put SC near the top and for all your efforts to introduce 24 new members to the League. The Council meeting also renewed my reason for joining the League—to be informed on current issues. We heard from members and experts on such topics as human trafficking in SC, the future of energy in SC, renewable energy programs at Clemson University, legislative update, voter outreach efforts and more. During lunch we had time to network and share more ideas. All in all, it was a very fine day.

Second, please join me in welcoming two new members: Greg Hollinger and Diane Neal. Thank you both for your membership to the League. We look forward to getting to know you and hope you will become involved in areas of the League that interest you.

We must also say goodbye to three members who are leaving SC. Niki and Dave Jordan are moving to North Carolina and Pat Wittberger to California. Niki is a Past President of our League, a former Chair of the Education Committee and for many years the editor of the League's *Guide to Elected Officials*. She and Dave are longtime members and activists and we thank you both for your dedicated service to the League. Pat Wittberger, another dedicated Leaguer, was active in the Membership Committee and enjoyed welcoming members to our meetings. Niki, Dave, and Pat, you will be missed by your many League friends. We

wish you all the best in your new communities. Thank you for everything you did to support our League.

Third, the annual meeting and luncheon is scheduled Wednesday, May 16th at 11:30am at the Port Royal Golf Club in Port Royal Plantation on HHI and I hope you are planning to attend. Please refer to the article in this issue for more details and make your reservation. It's the last event before we break for summer and the perfect time to celebrate our accomplishments and be informed on new issues. Fran Holt, VP and Program Chair, has done an excellent job this year arranging speakers and topics that keep us well informed on a variety of issues affecting us locally and at the state and national levels. The topic on May 16th is campaign finance reform and you won't want to miss it. Invite a friend to come too.

Next, Membership will team up with Voter Services led by Chair Sue Feutz on Saturday, May 12th, 2012 at the Bluffton Village Festival in old town Bluffton (on Calhoun Street) to register voters and promote the League. If you have some time that day and would enjoy engaging the public and visiting with League friends, then please join us at our booth for this fun event. All you need to bring is a chair to sit on; we'll have everything else set up and you'll be under a canopy and out of the sun. The festival hours are 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Please contact either Sue (feutz@yahoo.com, 415-6445) or Julie (wittig4@hargray.com, 706-3735) if you'd like to help. This annual event draws a huge crowd.

Finally, if you missed the April 30, 2012 due date for sending in your membership renewal form and payment, there's still time so please mail it today. And thanks again to those of you who have already renewed and also given a generous donation to the League. We're a strong and healthy League thanks to all of you for your time, dedication and support.

Julie Wittig, Membership Chair

PRIVATIZATION STUDY CONSENSUS MEETING, APRIL 11

About 25 Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area League members gathered at the Low Country Presbyterian Church in Bluffton to take up the consensus questions related to the privatization of government services at all levels of government—local, state, and national. A few glitches hampered the beginning of the meeting. We couldn't get the Power Point presentation of the main points of the study to project onto the large screen. But we carried on and went to Plan B. Joan Kinne-Shulman, chair of the study committee, read the Power Point slides to the group. (The Denver League had prepared the presentation, which Karen Wessel downloaded from the National League's Web site.)

After the Power Point, we took up the six consensus questions. Each member of the study committee guided the discussion of the questions—Joan handled 1 and 2, Fred Holt 3, Karen 4, Janet Law 5, and Fran Holt 6. Attendees shared opinions about and personal experiences with privatization issues.

Our Board officially verified the results of the consensus, settled on the wording of the comments about the questions, and will send all off to National by May 1.

Responses to the consensus questions from Leagues throughout the country will be considered by the National Board in formulating a public policy position on privatization. The new position will be sent out to the membership later in the summer.

*Joan Kinne-Shulman, Chair
Privatization Committee*





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA

RESERVATION FOR MAY 16 LUNCHEON

**Volunteer to Drive
A Friend to the
May 16 Luncheon**

If you live in the Hilton Head Island Plantation or the Cypress and will be attending the annual meeting and luncheon on May 16 in the Port Royal Plantation on HHI and would like to give another League friend in your area a ride, please call Julie Wittig at 706-3735. She'll give you the name of a member to contact who would like to go and may need transportation. Thanks for your help.

Please make your reservation by sending a check made out to LWVHHI/BA and the following form to Katie Miller, 17 Celosia Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 by May 5. If there are questions or it is near or past the deadline, 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**



MAY
Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

All members are welcome at Board Meetings

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

Old Board/New Board TBA

Membership Meetings

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

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