



# Lighthouse

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

## Comprehensive Plan Update At November Membership Meeting

The Hilton Head Island Planning Commission has been working for the past two years on reviewing and updating the Comprehensive Plan for the Island. Commission member **Tom Crews**, an architect by profession, has chaired the Comprehensive Plan Committee and League member and Commissioner **Loretta Warden** has served as a member of the committee. They will make a presentation at our November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting on the committee's work, "**Charting the Island's Future from Here to 2030**".

The existing Comprehensive Plan was written in 1999. The law requires that it be reviewed every five years. This was done and some components were updated in 2004. The law further requires that the Plan be rewritten every 10 years, so by the end of 2009 a new Comprehensive Plan is to be completed by the Planning Commission.

The review process has included over one hundred stakeholder interviews, a community assessment survey in 2008, and a series of Neighborhood Meetings in January and February of this year. Two neighborhood Meetings are to be held again this month to gain further input from the community. They will both be held on Thursday, October 29: 10 AM at Town Hall and 6 PM at the Library.

Plan to join us for the latest news about this process, so important to life on Hilton Head Island.

Sally McGarry, Program Chair

### PLEASE NOTE

**We will meet on the third Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, at the corner of Meeting Street and Main Street.** The date and place of this meeting has been changed since the 11<sup>th</sup> of November is Veterans' Day, a national holiday.

We will be meeting in the Parish House in the Upper Room on the second floor ... there is an elevator.

Linda DeLuca will be in the parking lot directing you to the correct door and someone inside will direct you to the stairs or elevator.

If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Linda DeLuca at 681-4969. If you need help on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, call her cell phone, 384-1918.

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## From the Presidents

We are excited that our League has formed a Membership Committee and offer them our full support. Like so many local Leagues (LL's in League parlance), we seek to recruit people who are interested in what we do and we encourage whatever level of activity that suits the individual. People join the League because they want to make a difference in their communities, and because it's a good training ground for becoming informed about local affairs and issues. And for many women League membership has become a stepping stone, giving them the confidence they need to run for public office. Our favorite story illustrating the leap from LWV to public service is the story

of Kathy Neal in Durham, NC, in the 1970's. Kathy was a faithful League Observer of the Durham County School Board, rarely missing a meeting. She got to know the Board Members, and they got to know her. When a vacancy appeared and they needed to appoint someone to fill in temporarily, they chose Kathy because as one member remarked, "she knows what's going on in our system." Kathy went on to be elected and re-elected, and to serve as Chairman of the Durham County School Board for several years.

The Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics reports that there are several women on the ballot in upcoming South Carolina elections: Kathy



LWVHHI Co-Presidents  
Ginny Ghiradeli Barbara Swift

Cantrell is running for the District 48 seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives. There are three women running for the Charleston City Council: Yvonne Evans, Virginia Rosenberg, and Kathleen Wilson. Your neighbors might not want to run for public office, but they might want to be informed and active citizens. Ask them to join us

## What We Learned about the 2010 Census

Dr. Paul Shepherd, one of 12 Census Partnership Specialists in South Carolina, spoke to us at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting about his plan to reach out to as many parts of the community as possible so that residents will understand the importance of participating in the 2010 decennial census and will return the census form when it is sent to them.

South Carolina ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in participation in the 2000 Census! Dr. Shepherd and his fellow Census workers aim to make us #1 in 2010. The Census form, consisting of 10 questions, is easy to fill out and requires little time. It will be mailed to addresses, not to individuals, and every person living at the address is to be counted. Dr. Shepherd emphasized that every

resident is to be counted, not every citizen. The information gathered will be totally secure and confidential, never to be shared with anyone. He told the story that, when President Truman and his family had to vacate the White House so that necessary repair and reconstruction work could be done, he asked for some details about the people living in the neighborhood they were going to and was told that the Census information could not be shared - even with the President.

The census forms will be available in mid-March in English, Spanish, and many other languages. April 1, 2010 has been designated "Census Day". Because it is essential that the Census count be accurate, Complete Count Committees are being

formed to hold events to publicize the up-coming Census in advance and to follow up later in instances where the census form has not been returned. Every address has a number by which it can be tracked. Enumerators will be sent out to non-responding addresses. Beaufort County has appointed such a Committee. Hilton Head Island has not done so yet. This is a role our League might want to take on.

Dr. Shepherd's point was that if the community can be organized, with a plan for reaching all segments, the count has a good chance of being accurate.

The LWV of Hilton Head has signed on to be a census partner.

Sally McGarry

**"SAVE THE DATE"**  
Dec. 9, 2009.  
Holiday lunch with  
Ambassador  
Linda Tarr-Whelan  
At the Jazz Corner

## Observer Corps

Want to be “in the know”? Volunteer to be part of the LWVHHI’s Observer Corps. Observers attend the two monthly meetings of the Town Council and of the Planning Commission. We also hope to start attending on a more regular basis the monthly meetings of the County Election Commission in Beaufort.

The Town Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 4:00 P.M. The Planning Commission meets on the first Wednesday at 9:00 A.M. and the third Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. Usually, the meetings last less than an hour. Observers pick up a packet of materials the secretary has left for the League—it is marked “LWV.” After the meeting, the observer lets me know if anything came up in the meeting that the League should know about. The

packet that was picked up can be given to me later.

We observe at these public meetings to learn about issues we might want to follow the course of or comment on. It is always interesting to get to know the Council and Commission members, to see how they interact, and to learn how well town staffers handle themselves. It is also interesting to see who from the general public attends the meetings regularly.

Each month I contact everyone who has expressed an interest in being an observer to find out who is able to attend the meetings scheduled for that month. Observers let me know which fit into their schedules. We particularly need observers to attend the Planning Commission’s first

meeting of the month at 9:00 A.M. Observers do not speak at the meetings unless authorized to do so. Only the local League President speaks for our League.

Current Observer Corps volunteers are: DeeAnn and George Dowlen, Niki Jordan, Joan Kinne-Shulman, Sally McGarry, Caroline McVitty, Katie Miller, Marion Payne, Ronni Silett, Barbara Swift, Fran and David White.

Being an observer is an easy way to further the League’s aim to help make democracy work. Won’t you become part of this effort? Call me at 842-9246 or e-mail me at [rishulman@hargray.com](mailto:rishulman@hargray.com) or contact Barbara Swift at 342-3383 and [btsswift@roadrunner.com](mailto:btsswift@roadrunner.com).

Joan Kinne-Shulman  
Observer Corps Chair



## New Web Site

The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island has a new website.

At the initial meeting of the year in September, the board voted to use the League of Women Voters standard format developed by the California League of Women Voters for our website. Our website was designed several years ago, was not too professional looking and difficult to keep current because the person actually making entries was in Montana. The League of Women Voters offers a do-it-

yourself system called Easy Web to build a website.

After the vote in September, there was silence around the board table. Finally, Janet Law and Bob McGarry volunteered to take on the project.

Bob and Janet did find Easy Web very easy to use. In fact, the most difficult part of the project was getting Hargray to make a change in our domain site. The new site was completed for the board meeting in October.

Now webmasters, Janet and Bob, can make updates easily and it has a truly "LWV" appearance, very professional looking, thanks to Easy Web; it conveys an overall League of Women Voters impression..

Please take a look at [www.lwvghi.org](http://www.lwvghi.org). You will find meeting schedules, current and past editions of the Lighthouse, our Guide to Elected Officials, membership application and more.



League of Woman Voters of  
 Hilton Head Island  
 PO Box 23862  
 Hilton Head Island,  
 South Carolina  
 29925

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NOVEMBER  
 Calendar of Events

**Board Meetings**

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

Thursday, December 3, 9:45 am at Savannah  
 Bank, 852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

**Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. at All Saints  
 Episcopal Church, at the corner of Meeting Street  
 and Main Street. Note change of location.

Officers and Board 2009—2010

**OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents:  
 Ginny Ghirardelli 363- 6404  
 Barbara Swift 342-3383  
 Vice-President, Program Chair:  
 Sally McGarry 342-9254  
 Treasurer: Janet Law 671-4280  
 Co-Secretaries:  
 Anita Holcslaw 686-4085  
 Caroline McVitty 681-6124

**BOARD**

Fund-raising: Donna Russell 837-7022  
 Government Issues/Observer Corps:  
 Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246  
 Hospitality: Linda DeLuca 681-4969  
 Membership: Ellen Forwalk 681-3096  
 Newsletter: Bob McGarry 342-9254  
 Public Relations/Publicity:  
 Karen Wessel 682-3397  
 Voters Services:  
 Eileen Drehwing 681-4627