



Lighthouse

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

January Membership Meeting



Mayor Drew Laughlin

It has been our custom for many years to begin each calendar year with a report on the "State of the Town" from Mayor Tom Peeples. This year, Mayor Peeples having retired, we will be pleased to welcome his newly-elected successor, **Mayor Drew Laughlin**, on **Wednesday, January 12, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Community Room at **Hilton Head PSD, 21 Oak Park Drive**. We look forward to hearing his vision for the year ahead and for the future of Hilton Head Island. We urge all members to attend and to bring a friend. Guests are particularly welcome.

Karen Wessel, Vice President and Program Chair

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LWVHHI Receives Grant to Host Program on Judicial Selection

The LWVHHI is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a generous grant from the Brennan Center for Justice through the LWVUS to provide financial assistance in hosting a program on the Judicial Selection Process in South Carolina.

As reported previously in *The Lighthouse*, eleven

Leagues from around the State have been hosting a programs to examine diversity in the judicial selection process and to raise awareness regarding how judges are elected in South Carolina. Ideally, such an examination may lead to opening up the system in South Carolina to embrace diversity. Although previously sched-

uled for February, 2011, the Judiciary Program hosted by LWVHHI has been moved to October, 2011 to ensure that all interested parties are represented in our examination of the issues. The details will be forthcoming.

Carolina McVitty

A Reminder: Program Planning in February

At the end of the February Board meeting we will once again discuss Program Planning and we invite members to join us. In addition, this year we will also seek member approval to change our name to reflect our growing League.

The Program Planning will begin at 10:30 a. m., Thursday, February 3. Board meetings are at the Savannah Bank, 852 William Hilton Parkway.

Barbara Swift
Ginny Ghirardelli

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Presidents



A new year suggests something "new", and that's exactly what we will be asking members to consider, after many discussions about membership in our newsletter for several months. From these discussions, and the activities of our Membership Committee, have emerged an idea, and the observation of a trend.

The idea is to change our name. If we want to recruit members and develop interest and support for the League of Women Voters in areas off-island, our name needs to reflect that. Expanding our area would attract more members, increase the pool from which leaders emerge, and give us a stronger voice.

This expansion is the trend that we see. Looking over the names of Leagues in South Carolina and other states, we see, for example many like: "LWV of the Charleston

Area, or LWV of Atlanta - Fulton County, or LWV of Spartanburg County. In short, as national membership has been declining for several years, Leagues have expanded their areas in order to remain vibrant in their communities.

At its December meeting, the Board decided to begin a process of including the Bluffton area in our membership. The first step of that process is to seek member approval, then approval of LWVSC and LWVUS, and ultimately change our bylaws at the Annual Meeting.

We are aware of the implications for Program and meeting times and places, but feel there are creative and League-like approaches to any challenges that we meet. Some of our current programs are already of interest to a wider area, and meeting times and places can always accommodate



LWVHHI Co-Presidents
Ginny Ghiradeli Barbara Swift

what members want. We could bring back the Unit system, which many of our long time members will remember, with Unit meetings and General Meetings.

At our February Board meeting, we will be inviting members to join us to talk about Program Planning. This year we invite you to also let us know how you feel about "growing" your League.

Call us or email us if you have comments. Remember members are always welcome at Board meetings.

We are excited about the future.

Membership

First, I would like to welcome our three new members: Kim Likins, Julie Wittig and Pamela Hollinger. This year 19 new members joined our League and I want to welcome them again. We will continue to recruit new members and we hope that everyone will help us do this. That is why I ask

you as League members to remember why you joined the League over other organizations. When you meet someone let them know your story and how you came to become a member. The League accomplished so much this past year and everyone should be proud they are a mem-

ber. If you know a prospective member, please let me know and I will be more than happy to send them information. Call me anytime 681-3096. Last, let me wish everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ellen Forwalk
Membership Chairman

Andrea Bhatt, our Hospitality Chair, has announced her engagement to Bruce Siebold. They are planning a wedding here on Hilton Head Island in the spring.

Beaufort County Legislative Delegation Meeting Nov. 30, 2010

The Beaufort County Legislative Delegation Meeting was held November 30, 2010 at Hilton Head Town Hall Council Chambers. The State Senators and Representatives that represent Beaufort County meet every 4 to 6 months to allow constituents the opportunity to provide public comment on local issues. The location of this forum in the county rotates among Hilton Head, Bluffton and Beaufort. For this meeting public comments were heard from: Fred Washington - Education Funding, Thomas Barnwell - Mitchellville Preservation Project, Ginnie Kozak - Bus Livability Grant for North of the Broad, Elaine Lusk - Sliver Hair Legislative Delegation, Jane Upshaw - funding support for higher education, Allison Steward - Clinton Waterway project, Dean Moss - Savannah Harbor and Water Quality.

Drew Laughlin was acknowledged as new Mayor elect of Hilton Head.

It is an excellent opportunity to address leaders of the community as well as access to current items of interest to Beaufort County.

Contact person for the county is Ashley Sanders, ashleys@bcgov.net

Sue Feutz
Observer



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SITE**

lwvghi.org

Holiday Luncheon

The Hilton Head League of Women Voters and the Hilton Head Chapter of the American Association of University Women gathered on the bright but cold Twelfth of December at the lovely Harbour Town Yacht Club. After social time and a tasty lunch, our speaker, Pauline Jenkins-

Miller spoke of "Safe Harbour", a non-profit organization that helps citizens age in place by providing services for a reasonable yearly fee. Utilizing volunteers, the organization is able to provide transportation, companionship, caregiver respite, and help with household chores and projects. A great concept and

we wish Safe Harbour success in this endeavor. Thanks to Ronni B. Silett, a member of both the LWVHHI and the AAUW, for arranging the location and speaker.

Karen Wesel
Program Chair



Whereas
The League of Women Voters
works to increase understanding of major public policy issues
and to influence public policy through education and advocacy,

And whereas Thomas D. Peebles has provided 21 years of outstanding leadership and service to his beloved
Hilton Head Island.

As the Town moved from a period of development to one of maturity Mayor Peebles has been as committed to the Island's
diverse population as he has been welcoming to its visitors,

And whereas Mayor Peebles' governing style has exemplified fact-based decision making, consensus building, and a com-
mitment to open government as evidenced by clarity in both the Town's goals and its finances,

And whereas Mayor Peebles leaves a legacy of physical landmarks from Honey Horn at the north end of the island to
Coligny Beach Park at the south end. His constant efforts to provide public facilities has left the town with parks, path-
ways, beach access and scenic vistas which will enrich the lives of all members of the community as well as visitors for years
to come,

And whereas Mayor Peebles has spearheaded cooperation with local public service organizations, our municipal neighbors
and the state of South Carolina to assure the preservation of our unique natural resources and our important heritage,

And whereas Mayor Peebles has exemplified the mission of the League of Women Voters to safeguard democracy by en-
couraging citizen participation in government, we do hereby confer upon,

Thomas D. Peebles
Honorary Membership
The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island

This, the seventh day of December, 2010

Virginia Ghirardelli

Barbara Swift, Co-Presidents

**Our League presented the above to outgoing Mayor Peebles at his
last Council meeting on 7 December 2010**

Meeting With Representative-Elect Andy Patrick



On December 10, seven of us from LWVHHI met with Andy Patrick, the newly elected South Carolina House of Representatives member for district 123. Our discussion covered a lot of territory and included a few laughs. Representative-elect Patrick told us that at one point he was accused of being a carpetbagger, and another time he was tagged as a good ole boy! To us he seemed to be a bright, caring young man, who is doing his homework regarding how South Carolina government works and what must be done to make it work better.

He also made it clear that he wants to be readily accessible to his constituents.

Representative-elect Patrick has been appointed to the House Committee on Education and Public Works and to its subcommittee on grades kindergarten through twelve. These appointments seem most appropriate, because

he has five school aged children, including two adopted from Russia, one of whom has special needs. Through his children, he has experience with public, private and special schools as well as home schooling. Education is obviously very important to him. He supports school choice, but only if it does not hurt the



public schools. He also believes that it's important to examine how education funds are spent. For example, he thinks the consolidation of some of the state's many school districts should be considered as a means to save money.

When asked about the Jasper Port, Patrick stated that he thinks it is ex-

tremely important. He agrees with Senator Davis that the focus should be on non-container shipping. This would keep the port from being a threat to Savannah or Charleston. He believes a regional approach, including working closely with Georgia, is essential.

Other topics we touched on included the need to revise the tax code in a comprehensive way, a view supported by the South Carolina League. However, we do not agree on voter photo identification legislation. Having worked in the security field, Patrick believes identification theft is a big problem.

It will be good to meet with Andy Patrick again, when LWVHHI members go to Columbia on February 23 for Legislative Day.

Fran Holt
State Issues Advocacy
Chair

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SITE**

lwvghi.org

Harriet Keyserling Died December 10, 2010

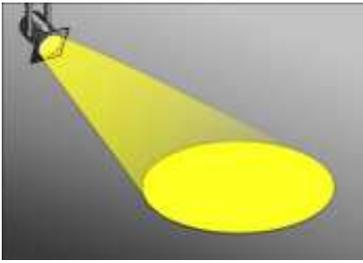
Harriet Keyserling, known and treasured by so many of us in the Hilton Head Island League of Voters, died December 10 in Beaufort, her home since she arrived there from New York in 1944 as a new bride. She is credited with helping to start



Harriet Keyserling

the Beaufort League of Women Voters and then volunteering to be an observer at Beaufort County Council meetings. Doing so, she observed the many areas that needed attention and decided to run for the office. She was

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Spotlight On

Joan Kinne-Shulman



I first learned about the League of Women Voters from a short piece in a college American government text. The author told about a League member observing the proceedings of a local government body in California. Meeting after meeting, she sat quietly knitting as she listened. Her presence caused the officials to conduct their business in a more open way.

I thought little more about the League, except during the presidential debates in the 1960s and 1970s, until about 1977. That year my husband and I moved into a townhouse on a quiet street in Queens, New York. A neighbor told us about a League yard sale nearby. We attended. She invited me to meetings and encouraged me to join the Queens evening branch of the New York City League, which I did. From the very first meetings, I felt comfortable with League issues and procedures. I

was particularly impressed by the members, who were of a variety of backgrounds. As time went on, I took on more responsibilities in the local branch, learning more and more about public issues and how the local and state governments “really” worked.

Shortly after we moved to Hilton Head Island in January 1999, I saw a notice for a League meeting and decided to attend. Everyone was very welcoming, and I soon got more involved, taking on a variety of offices over the years. Through the League, I became familiar with local and state politics and issues and the “movers and shakers” in the community. Membership has helped me be a better informed citizen. But the best thing about being in the League has been getting to know the other members. I admire all of those who keep the League going at all levels, and I hope I can continue to make a contribution for a long time.



Joan Moderated the First Candidate Forum at Port Royal Plantation

Harriet Keyserling

(Continued from page 5)

elected to the Council in 1974 – its first woman member. Two years later, she was elected to the SC House of Representatives, where she served for 16 years. She was known there for her analytical abilities and her success in bringing people together around an issue. She devoted her efforts to public education reform, environmental protection, promotion of the arts, energy policy and more. After her retirement, Harriet wrote about her experiences in “Against the Tide: One Woman’s Political Struggle.”

On February 28th of this year, at the Hilton Head Island League of Women Voters observance of the 90th Birthday of the League of Women Voters of the U.S., we honored Harriet Keyserling with the Making Democracy Work Award for her notable civic and legislative achievements. The wording of the award ended with “She is an inspiration to all of us who hope to make a difference through our participation in the work of the League. Thank you, Harriet – from all of us.”



What's In A Name?

Here are some possible names if members choose to support a plan to grow the League:

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head/Bluffton Area
League of Women Voters of Hilton Head and Bluffton
League of Women Voters of Southern Beaufort County
League of Women Voters of the Low Country
League of Women Voters of Greater Hilton Head
League of Women Voters of the Hilton Head Area

Do you have other ideas? Let us know:

Ginny 363-6404 gghirardel@aol.com
Barbara 342-3383 btswift@roadrunner.com



LWV Board makes some appointments

At the December Board meeting the following appointments were made to the Board.

Bylaws chair: Vivian Miller
Budget committee chair: Bob McGarry
Nominating committee*: Ellen Forwalk Karen Wessel

*to join members elected in May, 2010

Barbara Swift & Ginny Ghirardelli, Co-Presidents

JANUARY Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

Thursday, January 6, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

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

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

Membership Meetings

10 AM, Wednesday, January 12
Mayor Drew Laughlin.
Hilton Head Public Service District #1
23 Oak Park Drive.

Officers and Board 2010—2011

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents:
Ginny Ghirardelli 363- 6404
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

BOARD

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:
Eileen Drehwing 681-4627
Mary Francis Stahler 363-2030