

Lighthouse

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



NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10:00 a.m., November 9, 2011

Hilton Head Public Service District Building
21 Oak Park Drive (off Mathews Drive), Hilton Head Island

Members will be asked to reach consensus on the **Role of the Federal Government in Education**. Education Committee Chair Pamela Hollinger will be the facilitator of what promises to be a very interesting discussion. She will be assisted by her committee members, who have been working hard to prepare background information that should help us answer the consensus questions. If you have not already read the questions, you are encouraged to do so prior to the meeting by going to one of the following links.

<http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/StudyTaskforces/PublicEducation/PublicEdConsensusQuestions.pdf>.

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=17904&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>.

These same questions are being posed to Leagues throughout the nation. If a national consensus is reached, LWVUS will be able to advocate positions on this important issue.

We very much hope you will attend the meeting. If you need a ride, please call Julie Wittig at 706-3735. Please note that the public is welcome to attend, but only League members will be permitted to participate in the discussion.

Fran Holt, VP/Program Chair

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Judicial Diversity Panel Discussion is a Success

A Case for Diversity in South Carolina Courts, the October program for LWVHHI/Bluffton Area, was a great success, not only because it piqued the interest of those in the audience, many of whom were attorneys drawn by the promise of CLE credits, but also because members of the panel seemed enlightened by the discussions which

took place during the presentation and afterward at a public reception. The forum was part of a nation-wide effort by the National

League to demystify the judicial selection/election process in targeted states – one of which is South Carolina. The League's 3-fold purpose was (1) to educate the citizenry concerning how judges in South Carolina come to the bench; (2) to encourage legislators to take a fresh look at improving



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HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

From the President



October was a very busy month, capped by the very successful Forum on Judicial Diversity which was organized by Caroline McVitty. Many thanks go to Caroline for her outstanding efforts on behalf of our League. She assembled a distinguished panel of attorneys, legislators, and Barbara Zia, SC League Co-President. Sue Feutz has been busy with voter registration drives in Bluffton and several League members have pitched in to help. It's a great way to provide a service and enjoy time with fellow League members, so be sure to sign up to help in the future. November brings the consensus meeting on the Federal Role in Education

and the education committee, led by Pamela Hollinger, has been quite busy preparing the presentations. Please remember to look over the consensus questions before the meeting on November 9th. The consensus meeting will be followed by a special board meeting on November 14 at 10 a.m. at my home.

Our League, led by former Co-President Barbara Swift, will host a Bluffton Town Council Candidates' Forum on November 2. As you may have noticed, we are expanding our activities into the Bluffton area now that our charter includes greater Bluffton and we have managed to make our presence known, thanks to the ef-



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

orts of Fran Holt, Julie Wittig, Sue Feutz, and others.

We continue to monitor redistricting, the SC Voter Identification Law, and many other areas of local and state significance. Please check our calendar for events that interest you.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Voter Services

League has been active in the past month with voter registration opportunities in Bluffton and Hilton Head. Hampton Hall offered a newcomers reception in early October. We were visible to offer our registration services, as well as membership information. Two 6-hour shifts in the Lobby of the Bluffton Library staffed by Beth Krise, Fran Holt, Barbara Swift, Karen Wessel, Pat Goodman, Ann Cromwell, Julie Wittig, and Janet Law provided multiple applications for the upcoming Town of Bluffton election on November 8, 2011. Thank you to all that offered League services to Bluffton. Our community has a good amount

of people moving to the area, it is always rewarding to greet and meet them and assist with address changes.

Julie Wittig and Sue Feutz were present to welcome the Hilton Head High School teachers on October 11, 2011. We offered a registration and name change opportunity to the staff and returned during the lunch periods to present voting registration to the students who will attain their 18th birthday by the November 2012 election. The National League is considering an initiative grant for our state to target young voters. We will have more information at the end of the month.

During the Judicial Diver-

sity Program, a request was posed by a representative of the Latino community for our help in moving voter registration to the young adults in their arena. If this is an area that interests you, please contact Sue Feutz 415-6445 or feutzs@yahoo.com.

Wednesday evening November 2, 2011, a Bluffton Town candidates forum will be presented @ 7 PM in Ulmer Auditorium, Bluffton.

Four candidates will answer questions regarding issues that affect Town government. Please consider attending and being visible to the voters of Bluffton.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



**Wednesday, December 7, 2011
MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE
11:30 a.m.**



Guest speaker

Dr. Valerie Truesdale
Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools

“The Importance of Civic Engagement”

Cost: \$26 per person

Guests Welcome

Please send your check, made out to LWVHHI/BA and choice of entrée to:

**Katie Miller
17 Celosia Lane
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
681-6448**

Reservations must be received by December 1.

Entrée choices:

1. Salmon Florentine with Garlic, Mushroom and Spinach Topping
or
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu with a Dijon Cream Sauce

Both entrees served with Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables and Rolls

Table with assorted desserts including Pot au Crème au Chocolat with Irish Whipped Cream

Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade

Vegetarian or other special meals available if requested in advance.



Judicial Diversity Panel Discussion is a Success

(Continued from page 1)

the selection process; and (3) to show citizens how they might become more involved in the process.

Our panel consisted of the following members: South Carolina State Senator Tom Davis (from our local Senate district), South Carolina Representative Andrew “Andy” Patrick (from our



local House district), South Carolina Representative David J. Mack III (also a member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission – and representing the North Charleston House district), Judge Carmen T. Mullen (circuit court judge and local resident), Kelly Jolley, JD (local attorney and leader in various capacities in the South Carolina Bar), and Barbara Zia, co-president of LWVSC. The panel spoke to an audience of approximately 70-75 people gathered at the VPAC center at Hilton Head High School. Caroline McVitty, coordinator of the Diversity

Program, acted as moderator.

Barbara Zia first spoke to the assembly about the background of the Project and what the League hoped to accomplish. Following Barbara’s comments, our moderator began asking the panel a prepared set of questions which had been earmarked for specific panelists because of their areas of expertise. The public was then invited to pose questions to the panelists. Questions concerned how potential candidates for judge-ships are recruited, how competitive South Carolina judges’ salaries are compared with other states, and whether there are formal reviews of a judge’s performance on the bench by



the attorneys who litigate before that judge. There were also questions regarding the appointment of administrative law judges and a request for partnership with the League by a minority group interested in promoting enthusiasm for voting

among minority youth. The discussion was robust.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, Barbara Zia made three

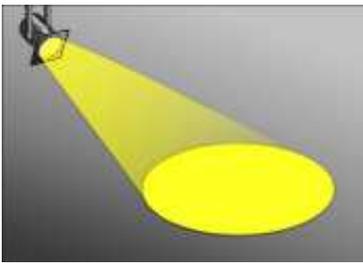


suggestions which could be implemented by the Legislature: increase the number of/change the JMSC to more closely resemble the overall diversity of the state; increase the number of applicants for consideration by the legislature; and reduce the period when candidates may campaign for support (it is presently 6 weeks). All of these suggestions appeared to be supported by the panel.

Caroline McVitty, Project Coordinator
LWVHHI/Bluffton Area Secretary
October 23, 2011

Visit our web Site

www.lwvhhi.org



Spotlight On

Katie Miller



I came late to the League of Woman Voters. Unlike many of you who arrived in Hilton Head/Bluffton as seasoned veterans of the League's positions and activities, I had long known of LWV as a respected and active organization, but never had the opportunity to join a local chapter. Partially that was because I was not aware of chapters in the cities where I lived and worked, (my fault!) and partially it was because my job required a lot of travel which limited my ability to join many active organizations.

For me, shortly after retirement came Hilton Head! I came here knowing only one person and so found, joined and became active in many groups with interests similar to mine. Still, somehow, I missed the League. Several years ago, I met Janet Law when we both were volunteers at the Celebrity Golf Tournament. We had interesting conversations over the Sunday NEW YORK TIMES while we waited for our driving assignments as the tournament wound down. Later she invited me to the League's Christmas luncheon. After that, I joined but

wasn't active until recently. Now I know what I missed! I have enjoyed learning and discussing local issues with people who are interested and informed, sharing community challenges like Voter Registration Drives, and acting decisively and effectively on issues that are important to the county, state, and country. Most important has been the wonderful people that I have met who have shared these activities.

Thank you for accepting and welcoming me. I look forward to many more years of challenge, involvement, and fun!

Membership

The League's annual Holiday Luncheon will be held December 7 at the Moss Creek Clubhouse. This is a perfect opportunity to introduce a prospective member to the League. If you know someone who may be interested in joining the League, then please invite them to come too and let them see firsthand what we do. Fran Holt, VP and Program Chair, has planned another great program for us that I know you and your guest will enjoy. Please refer to the article on page 3 for more details about the luncheon and make plans to attend.

Julie Wittig
Membership Chair



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

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

**November 16, 10 at the Wessel home, 15 Sam's
Point Lane, HHP. Special Board Meeting on
Education Consensus**

Thursday, December 1, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

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Officers and Board 2011—2012

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:
Donna Russell 837-7022
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