



Lighthouse

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

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 12, 2012
MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE
11:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Wm. Weston J. Newton

Celebrate the holidays by enjoying good food, socializing with Leaguers and guests, and listening to an excellent and knowledgeable speaker. It should be very interesting to hear what Mr. Newton has to say as he concludes thirteen years of service on the Beaufort County Council, including ten years as chairman, and gets ready to start representing the new District 120 in the S.C. House of Representatives. Members and guests are invited to attend.

For reservation information, please see page 6.

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JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10:00 A.M WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013

HILTON HEAD PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING ROOM
21 OAK PARK DRIVE (OFF MATHEWS DRIVE, HILTON HEAD ISLAND)

We will once again start the new year with a report on the **State of the Town of Hilton Head Island**. **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will report to us on what's happened in the past year and what is likely to happen in the future. He will also respond to questions from the audience. Please come and bring any friends or family members who might be interested.

A similar meeting will be held in Bluffton on March 13, when **Mayor Lisa Sulka** will speak on the **State of the Town of Bluffton**.

From the President



With the elections finally over, we are taking a deep breath and making plans for the remainder of the 2012/2013 year. Be sure to check the calendar and note the meeting dates for December and January as this is a double, end-of-the-year issue. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Holiday luncheon on December 12. A reservation form is included in this edition. It is not too late to send in your response!

I have been informed by the LWVSC of the State Convention, April 27 -28 in Duncan, SC. Topics and other details remain up in the air but our local board will most assuredly try to send a representative or two. Our immediate task is to undertake program planning in February and pass along our concerns to the state league. LWVSC continues its important voters' service work with an emphasis on educating voters regarding the

newly and mostly upheld photo identification law and ensuring easy access to voter registration and the casting of ballots for all citizens. I know our local league will be involved in these efforts in the future and I will keep you updated on opportunities to volunteer.

I would again like to thank the members of the board and other league members who helped arrange and staff the election forums this fall. And special thanks to Pamela Hollinger, Beth Fox, Loretta Warden, Ann Coffin, Fran Holt, and Flo Rosse for organizing and presenting November's education meeting. It was well attended and very informative and we are on solid footing for our Education Consensus meeting in February.

On a final note, I am looking for a few additional members to make phone calls to our newly elected officials to confirm contact



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

information. Katie Miller has graciously agreed to coordinate all information and send it to Carol Williams. The end result will be our new *2013 Guide to Elected Officials*. Give me a call (682-3397), if you have some time in January to make inquiries.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy holiday season,

Karen Wilber Wessel
President, LWVHHI/BA

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE VOIGHTS!

The generosity of Connie and Jerry Voight enabled our League to show our support for the Beaufort County land conservation referendum by placing ads in both *The Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette* and *Bluffton Today*. The referendum was approved by 62% of the voters. Great news!

The League was there!

The League was present on Canvass Day, November 9, when the Beaufort County Board of Elections met to certify the results of the November 6 General Election. Sue Feutz and I were Observers.

Voting results are not official until the Board meets, considers challenges, votes on whether to accept or deny Provisional and Fail Safe ballots, and makes public the announcement of the election results. Any one who voted a Provisional or Fail Safe ballot had an opportunity to defend their ballot.

There were 400 Provisional ballots for the Board to go over one by one. Three people were there to defend a ballot. One was an individual and the Board accepted her defense. Two others were represented by Poll

Clerks. One of those was on behalf of a woman who appeared to vote and could not present any identification at all; the board considered all the circumstances but concluded they could not accept her Provisional ballot. The other one was a Poll Clerk who had made a mistake; the voter she represented was found on the list of registered voters at the correct address and so the Board accepted the ballot.

Most instances of the Provisional or Fail Safe ballot revolved around unmatching addresses, and in some cases a change in name. There seems to be some confusion about when to offer a Provisional Ballot and when to offer a Fail Safe Ballot. This points to the importance of poll

worker training.

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m., and at 11:30 a.m. they had considered and voted on about 15 ballots. We knew it would be a long, long day, so we left when they took a break. The Board posted the official summary results on their website on November 9. You can see the details, including precinct by precinct results at: <http://www.bcgov.net/vote>.

It is important the League was there, that election officials see League members and know that we are interested in their work and their procedures.

Ginny Ghirardelli



Visit our web Site

www.lwvhi.org

Membership

In November we gained 3 new members: **Marlene Coe, and Maggie and Mike Seymour.** Welcome to the League and thank you for joining us! We look forward to getting to know you and invite you to get involved in areas of the League that interest you.

It's membership renewal time for members who joined the League last fall. Renewal notices have been mailed to members with fall anniversary dates. If you joined the League during this time and need to renew, please do so today so you don't forget. We are counting on your sup-

port as we continue our important work to achieve an informed and active citizenry and to safeguard democracy. Thank you to those members who have already renewed.

The holiday season is fast approaching and you won't want to miss our annual holiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 12, at Moss Creek. There's still time to send in your reservation to **Katie Miller** (see the flyer for more information). Bring a friend too as guests are always welcome. Members have worked really hard this election year volunteering their time to register voters, arrange and prepare for the

candidate forums, be a poll watcher and poll manager, work on a campaign and get out the vote. Bravo to you all! Now let's celebrate our accomplishments!

January 9 is our first membership meeting in 2013 so save the date and come and hear **Mayor Drew Laughlin** speak on the State of the Town of Hilton Head Island (see the details in this issue). Even though I'm a Bluffton resident as many of you are, I always enjoy the Mayor's report on the latest plans and decisions affecting Hilton Head Island. Come and be informed. We'll also discuss the League's plans for honoring **Dr. Martin Luther King**

Jr. on Monday, January 21, 2013. Please be sure to join us.

With a new year starting I hope you'll put the League events on your calendar and come and get involved in our communities. It's empowering to be informed and wonderful to make new friends. Thank you all for supporting LWV in 2012. Together we can achieve great things and make a difference in 2013.

Happy Holidays!

Julie Wittig
Membership Chair

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

In Memoriam

On October 22, 2012, Arthur McVitty, husband of Caroline, died after a brave battle with cancer.

On November 15, 2012 Carrie Amankwah died after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

As League members, Arthur and Carrie touched our lives in so many ways through their humor, friendship, fellowship and dedication. We honor their contributions and will miss them both. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Caroline McVitty and family and to Carrie's daughters, Khalisha Banks and Michelle Daniels, and family for their loss.

HOW TO EVALUATE AND RETAIN EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

Part One – November 14 Meeting

Lots of participation by the audience coupled with excellent presentations by local League Education Committee members resulted in an interesting and informative meeting. Beth Fox, a recently retired Beaufort County School District administrator and teacher, explained the current system of teacher evaluation, especially its application in Beaufort County. Committee chair, Pamela Hollinger, moderated the discussion. She also addressed questions about the frequency of evaluations, the people doing the evaluations, evaluation tools and who should receive evaluation results. Some of that information was provided by Kathy Quirk and Flo Rosse, who were unable to attend the meeting. Ann Coffin discussed how evaluations are currently funded and who should be responsible for the funding of future evaluations. Loretta Warden spoke about how evaluations can factor into the retention of effective educators. Her conclusion was that evaluations should be about what is being done and how it can be done better.

Part Two – February 13 State Consensus Meeting

The November meeting will be followed up in February by an attempt to answer specific consensus questions provided by the state League of Women Voters of SC Education Committee and approved by the state board. Assuming that consensus is reached by Leagues throughout the state, the state League will develop positions, which can be advocated in Columbia. The League wants to have a say in the changes to the evaluation system that are now being proposed.

Only League members will be permitted to participate in the discussion at this meeting, although the public is welcome to observe. Members are encouraged to prepare for the meeting by reading the following materials.

1. Consensus questions – see page 5 of this Lighthouse
2. Study Report on “How to Evaluate and Retain Effective Teachers”
3. Power Point Presentation

To see the Study Report and Power Point Presentation, go to www.lwvsc.org/teacherretention.html. Other relevant documents are also available at that site.

Fran Holt, VP/Program Chair

League of Women Voters of South Carolina
Study on Evaluation and Retention of Effective Teachers, 2011-2013

Consensus Questions:

1. There is solid evidence and widespread agreement by the education community that:
 - A. An effective teacher is the most important school-based determinant of academic achievement.
 - B. An effective teacher is critical to provision of a high-quality education.
 - C. School districts should ensure that there are effective teachers for all students.

Agree/Disagree

2. In an effort to identify and retain effective teachers, many states are adopting comprehensive evaluation policies that evaluate teachers at least in part according to student achievement. Should student achievement be a factor in rating teacher effectiveness?

Yes/No

3. If the answer to question #2 is “no”, what action should be taken to assure that every child has an effective teacher?

Please explain.

4. If the answer to question #2 is “yes”, should all teachers be evaluated?

Yes/No

5. It has been documented that many school districts fail to recognize and respond to the variations in the effectiveness of teachers due in part to rating systems that have two categories: satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

Should an evaluation system be able to distinguish between superior, average and ineffective teachers?

Yes/No

If “yes”, should the rating scale contain three or more categories, e.g., highly effective, effective, needs improvement, ineffective?

Yes/No

6. Which of the following are appropriate uses for teacher evaluations: (Check all that apply)
 - a. Provide feedback to assist teachers in developing their skills?
 - b. Inform decisions about retention and dismissal?
 - c. Make teacher assignments, e.g. lead teacher, department chair?
 - d. Inform decisions about compensation?
 - e. Other
7. What are the essential elements of a fair evaluation system? (Check all that apply.)
 - a. Clear, widely accepted standards
 - b. Trained evaluators
 - c. Consistency among evaluators
 - d. Other



DECEMBER 12 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

Please make your reservation by sending a check made out to
LWVHHI/BA with the following form to
Katie Miller, 17 Celosia Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
by Dec. 6. If there are questions, please call Katie at 681-6448.

Name(s) _____
Phone number _____
Enclosed payment: \$26 per person x number of reservations = \$____

Please indicate your choice of entrée.

___ Honey & Brown Sugar Spiced Ham
or
___ Stuffed Flounder with Spinach and Mushrooms drizzled with a gar-
lic cream
sauce

Both entrees served with Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots and
Rolls

Pot Au Crème au Chocolat with Raspberry Whipped Cream for dessert

Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade

*Vegetarian Meal or other special meals available if requested in ad-
vance.*

**League of Women Voters of South Carolina
Study on Evaluation and Retention of Effective Teachers, 2011-2013**



Continued from Page 5

8. Should teachers participate in developing and implementing the evaluation system?

Yes/No

9. Should South Carolina modify its existing teacher evaluation system to incorporate:
a. More definitive measures of student academic achievement to evaluate teacher performance?

Yes/No

b. A rating scale of three or more categories?

Yes/No

10. Who should be responsible for the cost of evaluation: (Check one)

- a. State
- b. Local School District
- c. Combination



*We wish all of you and your families
A Joyous Holiday Season
And a Happy and Prosperous New Year*



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on Thursdays at 9:45 A.M.,
Location: Coastal States Bank,
98 Main Street,
Hilton Head Island.

Dates: Thursdays. 2012—Dec. 6. 2013—Jan. 3, Feb. 7,
March 7, Apr. 4, May 2

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 12, 11:30 A.M., **Holiday Luncheon** followed by talk by guest speaker **Weston Newton**, outgoing Chairman of the Beaufort County Council and newly elected Representative in the SC House of Representatives, District 120.
Location: Moss Creek Clubhouse.
For reservation details see page 6.

January 9—10:00 A.M. **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will speak on **The State of the Town of Hilton Head Island**.
Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, Hilton Head Island.

February 13—10:00 A.M. State consensus meeting on Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers and Local and State Program Planning. Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, Hilton Head Island.

March 13—10:00 A.M. **Mayor Lisa Sulka** will speak on **The State of the Town of Bluffton**. Location: LowCountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton.

OFFICERS

President:
Karen Wessel 682-3397
Vice-President, Program Chair:
Fran Holt 837-3436
Treasurer:
Dot Law 842-5622
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: Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246
Public Relations/Publicity:
Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318
Voters Services: Vacant

April 10—10:00 A.M. **Elaine Faithful** of the S.C. Coalition for Healthy Families or **Stacie Thompson** of the New Morning Foundation will speak about **effective advocacy and state legislation affecting families**. Location: LowCountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton.

May 8—11:30 A.M. **Annual Meeting and Luncheon**. Speaker to be announced. Location: Port Royal Clubhouse, Hilton Head Island.