

# Lighthouse

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



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## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2013**

**MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE**

**Guest speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent  
Beaufort County School District  
Topic: "Global Learning"**

**It's not too late to make reservations for what should be a good opportunity to visit with Leaguers and guests, to enjoy a delicious luncheon and to hear an interesting and informative talk by our new superintendent.**

**For reservations, please call Katie Miller at 681-6448 right away. Reservations should be made by December 3.**

### Menu

Entrée choice:

1. Stuffed chicken Florentine with wild mushroom demi glaze
- or
2. Pesto baked tilapia over tomato basil cream sauce

Both entrees served with rice pilaf, asparagus and rolls  
Assorted holiday treats for dessert  
Coffee, lemonade and iced tea

*Vegetarian or other special meals available if requested in advance.*

Cost: \$26 Guests Welcome

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For information about the League's **State of the Town of Hilton Head Island Meeting** scheduled for January 8 and other future League events, please refer to **Mark Your Calendar** on Page 5 of this newsletter.

## Message from the President



### DID YOU KNOW---

This year the League of Women Voters will participate in the second annual #Giving Tuesday campaign on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. #Giving Tuesday is an annual campaign created to promote a national day of giving at the start of the holiday season.

Taking place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving – and subsequently after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday— Giving Tuesday celebrates and encourages charitable activities to support nonprofit organizations like the League. This unofficial holi-

day is an initiative that began in 2012 to help change the conversation about holiday spending. Visit the website [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org) to see the origin and success of this effort in 2012.

League members and friends of the League across the country will be participating in this giving effort and while many will direct some of their giving to the League, all will be helping to create awareness of, and support for, the needs of the non profit community .

Our Board joins me in sending holiday greetings to all of our League members and friends. I look forward to



LWVHHI/Bluffton  
President  
Loretta Warden

making that greeting personal at our Annual Holiday Luceon on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Loretta Warden

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## Report on November 13, 2013 Forum on Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area Water and Sewer/Septic Issues

WSAV reporter Ashleigh Holland was probably right to focus on salt water intrusion on Hilton Head Island, when she interviewed League President Loretta Warden for a telecast presented prior to our forum on water, sewer and septic issues. The consensus among forum panelists was that it is indeed a very serious problem. Right now remedies include supplementing the water supply from the Upper Floridan Aquifer with water from the Savannah River, encouraging water conservation by making high users pay more per gallon, using reverse osmosis, and keeping large amounts of water in special storage facilities. In the case of the South Island Public Service District (PSD), the problem is also reduced due to its having dug an extremely deep well for its water supply. How much people are willing to pay for water certainly plays an important part in coming up with solutions to salt water intrusion. Ultimately, a primary solution will

probably be desalinization. Currently, that is an extremely expensive process, but the panelists explained that technology is improving and costs should go down. The discussion worked smoothly thanks to our very able moderator, League member Kevin Schoneman and a very knowledgeable and committed panel. Panelists were Ed Saxon, General Manager of the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority; Richard Cyr, General Manager of Hilton Head PSD; Kelly Ferda, General Manager of the South Island PSD; Russell Hildebrand, General Manager of the Broad Creek PSD; Rob McFee, Beaufort County Division Director for Engineering and Infrastructure; Steve Riley, Hilton Head Island Town Manager and James Ayers, Town of Bluffton Assistant Town Manager/Director of Engineering and Public Works.

The panelists made it clear that the Savannah River is a key source of water for

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## H. 3290 a Poison Pill

On November 3, three of our members, Julie Wittig, Kevin Schoneman and I attended a meeting at Sun City Hilton Head at the invitation of Karen Arms, a member who lives in Sun City. The purpose of the meeting, called by County Council member Jerry Stewart, was to inform and alarm the public about legislation pending at the end of the last session of the S.C. General Assembly. The legislation, H. 3290, has the fairly harmless name, the "Business Freedom to Choose Act," but, in reality, it strips S.C. counties of the ability to designate where their garbage should go for disposal. It was characterized as promoting competition and, therefore, guaranteeing consumers lower costs for trash disposal. However, it would make it impossible for counties to send their trash to public landfills, where rates currently are competitive with those of private landfills. We had been alerted to problems with the bill by SCLWV Co-President Susan Richards, who advised us in the Fall 2013 Voter that the League had joined a coalition known as "Don't Dump on South Carolina" to fight passage of H. 3290.

We learned at the Sun City meeting that public landfills are a good investment because they

- provide cost savings
- can prohibit the dumping of out-of-state waste
- respond to complaints
- include recycling requirements (not required in private landfills)

Public landfills are generally financed by revenue bonds. The S.C. Solid Waste Management Plan requires franchise agreements to ensure pay back of the bonds, based on an agreed-upon volume of trash. If H. 3290 should pass and counties had no control over where their trash was disposed, the volume and the revenue could fall below the amounts needed to pay back the bonds.

We understand that H. 3290 is going to come up in the Senate at the beginning of the 2014 legislative session and may come up again in the House, perhaps as an attachment to another bill. We will keep you advised of the status as the new year approaches. In the meantime, talk to your legislators about the League's position in opposition to this legislation. Rep. Weston Newton and Rep. Bill Herbkersman voted against H. 3290 in the last session. Rep. Andy Patrick and Rep. Shannon Erickson supported it. Sen. Tom Davis has expressed his strong opposition to it. They all need to hear from us.

Sally McGarry  
State Legislative Advocacy



**Visit our web Site**

**[www.lwvghi.org](http://www.lwvghi.org)**

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our area. Fortunately, South Carolina has received the necessary permit to enable it to get the same amount of water from the river as Georgia. One big concern is that Atlanta would like to get water from the river too. South Carolina would, of course, want it to come from Georgia's share. Another concern is that the City of Savannah doesn't seem to understand the problems faced by our area.

Sewer service is provided in almost all of the south and mid island areas of Hilton Head Island. In the north end, which is served by the Hilton Head PSD, service is provided to 95% of homes, which is 15% more than just a few years ago. The remaining 600 homes without sewer service include those on small private roads as well as those in Spanish Wells and some in Port Royal Plantation. Lack of sewer service is not confined to poor neighborhoods and is a matter of choice rather than affordability in some areas.

Concerns in Bluffton about malfunctioning septic systems include pollution of the May River and contamination of the shell fish beds there and in neighboring tributaries. Fortunately, a lot of progress is being made in providing sewer service. 430 homes have

been connected in the last 5 years and another 130 will soon be connected due to a block grant. The May River Watershed Action Plan was adopted in 2011. One key result of the plan was the removal of plans for residential units close to the May River in Palmetto Bluff. There has also been a pilot project for storm water treatment, and many septic systems have been pumped and made to function properly. The use of pervious materials in construction is now promoted.

Hilton Head Island Town Manager gave some history on progress made on the island and also a perspective on how difficult it is to get grants there. He cited a case in which all the criteria had finally been met when a woman died thereby making the required population numbers fall short by one.

Among the many points made by the panelists, two that seemed especially important were that the issues are all interconnected, and that they relate to both public health and the environment, subjects of great interest to Leaguers. At its next board meeting, the League board will be asked to discuss what our League might do as a follow up to the discussion.

Fran Holt





Monthly  
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Future Board meetings will be held on  
Thursdays, Dec 5, 2013 and Jan. 3, 2014 at 9:45 A.M.  
Location: Coastal States Bank  
98 Main Street  
Hilton Head Island

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**December 11, 2013**, 11:30 A.M., Holiday Luncheon at Moss Creek Club House, Bluffton. Guest speaker **Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District**, will talk about Global Learning. See Page 1 of this Lighthouse for details.

**January 8, 2014**, 10:00 A.M. at Hilton Head Public Service District meeting room, **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will report on the **State of the Town of Hilton Head Island**.

**February 12, 2014**, 10 A.M. at Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton. League members will make recommendations on current and proposed programs and public policy positions for both the national and local Leagues and will then discuss the League's **State Legislative Agenda**.

**March 12, 2014**, 10:00 A.M. at Lowcountry Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. **Mayor Lisa Sulka** will report on the **State of the Town of Bluffton**.

**April 9, 2014** To be announced

**May 14, 2014**, 11:30 A.M., **Annual Meeting and luncheon**. **14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Solicitor "Duffie" Stone** will be the guest speaker. Location to be announced.

For more information, please refer to the League's web site at [www.lwvhhi.org](http://www.lwvhhi.org) or contact Fran Holt at 837-3436 or [franholthhbl@gmail.com](mailto:franholthhbl@gmail.com).

**OFFICERS**

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