



# Lighthouse

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

## STATE OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND MEETING

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2014  
Hilton Head PSD Building  
21 Oak Park Drive (off Mathews Dr.)

Town of Hilton Head Island **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will report on what's happening in the Town of Hilton Head Island. Please come to hear what he has to say and to ask questions, and please encourage your family, friends and acquaintances to come too. This annual event is always interesting and informative for both new and long-time residents of our area and also for visitors.

## FEBRUARY'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—A PREVIEW

On February 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., at the LowCountry Presbyterian Church in Bluffton, we will make recommendations on program and public policy positions to be adopted by the League of Women Voters of the U.S.(LWVUS) at its national convention in June. We'll also make recommendations regarding local program and public policy positions. Those recommendations will be acted on at our annual meeting on May 14. Please note that only League members can participate in making recommendations to LWVUS or to LWVHHI/BA. After we have completed those parts of the meeting, we will discuss the state League's legislative agenda and what we might do to help implement it. Non-members are welcome to participate in that part of the meeting.

More details regarding February's meeting will be available in the February *Lighthouse*.

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## We're On It . . . Voter Registration, That Is

The Voter Service Committee met in December to plan our work for the Spring. We will participate in the LWVUS Youth Voter Registration Project, going into high schools and community colleges to register eligible voters.

Committee members are: **Karen Arms, Jan Billingslea, Marlene Coe, Barbara DeNeeve, Oleta Hardin, Maggie** and **Mike Seymour**, and **Julie Wittig**. We thank them for their commitment.

Sue Feutz  
Ginny Ghirardelli  
Voter Service Committee  
Co-chairs

## Message from the President



OUR LEAGUE AT WORK---- members to share something of themselves with us..

2014 finds our local League members actively working to maintain our organizational strength. During the January-March period several committees will be meeting so that their recommendations will be ready for publication in the April Lighthouse and for the vote of our membership at the Annual Meeting in May 2014. Members with any suggestions for these committees should not hesitate to contact the Chairperson.

**Nominating Committee:**  
**Karen Wessel, Chairperson,**  
**Julie Wittig, Jan Billingslea,**  
**Julie Bell, Ginny Ghirardelli**

**Budget Committee: Bob Ghirardelli, Chairperson. Dot Law, Ginny Rice**

**By-Law Committee: Fred Holt, Chairperson, Caroline McVitty**

“**The Spotlight**” feature will return to the Lighthouse in the new year, thanks to **Sandy Stern** who will be recruiting

The LWVSC has approved a new project which aims to increase the number of women in elected office and serving on boards and commissions.

**Karen Arms** will represent our league on a statewide committee and serve as liaison to our local league for this important project.

Ethics Reform was the League focus in 2013 and will continue in 2014 as the SC legislature reconvenes. At our recent holiday luncheon, some 50 post-cards were signed advocating Ethics Reform. These have been returned to the League’s state office and will be sent to the appropriate lawmakers at strategic times in the legislative process. We will continue to do our part to eliminate the corruption that results from a lack of ethical standards in SC.

The strength of any organization is the active involvement of members. I am grateful for the involvement of all members and



LWVHHI/Bluffton  
President  
Loretta Warden

look forward to a productive New Year.

Did you know-----

**Our League of Women Voters Hilton Head Island Bluffton Area will be the Host League for the 2015 State Convention?? More info to come!**

Loretta Warden

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## Consensus on Agriculture Study

The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton has opted to participate in the National Consensus Question concerning Agriculture. This study will focus narrowly on: 1. current technology, including GMOs, water pollution, food labeling, antibiotics in livestock, and aquifer depletion; 2. Agriculture Finance issues such as crop subsidies and regulatory process.

The Study Committee is just forming to consider questions that are distributed by the National League. The questions should be out by the end of December. Links to information are offered on the Web site

[lwv.org](http://lwv.org). If you Google [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and Agriculture Update and Committee and Suggested Readings, you will find background information to increase your knowledge on this subject. Another option is to investigate on your own.

Between March and April our League will hold a consensus meeting open to the entire membership to consolidate our answers to the National Questions. Consider becoming a part of this timely study and adding your thoughts to the final draft.

Dot Law and Sue Feutz will co-chair this committee and continue to inform the membership about available information and the time line to complete the consensus.

## Global Learning and More

Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District, successfully covered a lot of territory in his talk on global learning at the conclusion of our well-attended holiday luncheon on December 11. He referred to a recent international assessment that indicated that education in the U.S. does not compare very well to that of some other countries. He then told about his own observations made during a trip to China. The Chinese students were taught in a very structured manner complete with being seated in carefully arranged neat rows, and their achievements were very impressive in many ways, but educators there wanted to know how to stimulate creative thinking. Dr. Moss also talked about education in Finland, where there are no standardized tests, no private schools, no homework, no competitive sports, and all the teachers have master's degrees. He noted that educators are highly respected in both China and Finland.

In discussing local efforts to improve education and to help satisfy the needs of employers, Dr. Moss referred to the newly formed Commission on Economic Competitiveness, a partnership between educators and business representatives recommended by the area Chambers of Commerce. Early conclusions of the Commission are that we need to keep creativity flowing and to make sure that students learn the basics such as showing up to work on time and being able to communicate orally and in writing. With four genera-

tions in the work force, there are many challenges. Making sure kids know what is expected is essential.

Dr. Moss was enthusiastic about an initiative to have a digital device for each child in grades three through twelve. He believes this will expand learning opportunities and help lessen inequality between students. He also believes that choices encourage kids to do well by keeping them interested. The involvement of parents, businesses and the community were also cited as being very important.

During the questions and answer period, Dr. Moss said that he didn't think common core standards would change things very much. Standards here have always been pretty high. However, they should be helpful to employers in knowing what to expect and they should help to create a level playing field and to encourage critical thinking.

On a personal note, I appreciated Dr. Moss's response to my question about what he hopes will be accomplished by the General Assembly in Columbia during the coming session. He said that he would welcome fewer rules and less regulation so that he can do the job for which he was hired and for which he welcomes accountability.

Fran Holt, VP/Program Chair



**Visit our Web Site**

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



From left, Ginny Ghirardelli, Fran Holt. Supt. Jeffrey Moss, Loretta Warden, Sue Feutz

## Call to Action

### Response to H. 3945

It is only a few weeks before legislators return to Columbia for the 2014 legislative session on January 14. When they do, ethics will be one of the first things on the Senate calendar. It is very important that you, their constituents, reach out to legislators BEFORE the session begins. We are asking that you call them or meet with them. If you can't do either of those, please write to them, by regular mail. The message that we need to send is simple. Tell them that you want ethics reform that fully discloses the incomes of public officials so that possible conflicts of interest are disclosed. Tell them that you support independent investigation of complaints. The League of Women Voters supports the provisions of the working group amendment to the bill H. 3945 that is now in interrupted debate in the Senate, which addresses these issues.

We hope that all of you will take a few minutes from your busy holiday schedule to do this. It is much better to reach out before legislators are embroiled in the busy work of a new session, and the calendar of the Senate gives us no leeway. Remember that you need to use legislators' phones and addresses at home in their legislative districts since the General Assembly is out of session. Those are available at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>. Just go to "Find your Legislators" and fill in the blanks, or if you already know the name of your senator and representative, click on "Senators" under "Senate" or "Representatives" under "House of Representatives." The numbers posted there are the ones that they intend for the public to have, so please don't hesitate to use them.

Thank you for your help with this important effort, and thank you for all that you do.

JoAnne Day, Co-President  
LWVSC  
[jvday@yahoo.com](mailto:jvday@yahoo.com)

Lynn Teague  
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC  
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**NOTE**—Please also remind our Legislators that we strongly oppose H. 3290, the bill that denies S.C. Counties the ability to make decisions about disposal of their own trash. LWVSC has joined the "Don't Dump on South Carolina" coalition.

Member William Bollin  
signing petition for  
ethics reform







Monthly  
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Future Board meetings will be held on  
Thursdays, Jan. 2, Feb. 6 and Mar. 6, 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**

**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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