



Lighthouse

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10 a.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – FELLOWSHIP HALL
10 SIMMONSVILLE ROAD (AT CORNER OF HGHY 278), BLUFFTON

State Senator Tom Davis and **Beaufort County Treasurer Douglas Henderson** will be our speakers. Senator Davis will talk about state tax reform. Mr. Henderson will talk about county finances, including the reassessment process. There will be a Question & Answer Period. Joining Mr. Henderson to answer questions about tax reassessment will be **Ed Hughes, Beaufort County Assessor**. This should be a really interesting and informative meeting. Please come and bring your friends.

WINE & CHEESE PARTY

5 – 7 p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013

INDIGO HALL, INDIGO RUN PLANTATION, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

This event is still in the planning stages, but it's not too early to put it on your calendar. The party committee, with board approval, has just selected the location, Indigo Hall, which has great indoor and outdoor space. Other details will be in the September *Lighthouse*. Purposes of the event include getting to know our elected officials better, for them to get to know their constituents better and to promote what the League is and what it does. That will make our job easier when we are working on a particular issue. Other purposes include socializing with each other in an informal setting and giving people who are unable to attend daytime meetings a chance to be with us. This should also be an opportunity to recruit some new members. Elected officials and other guests might decide to join.

Committee members are Loretta Warden, Katie Miller, Sally McGarry, Julie Wittig, Connie Voight and Fran Holt. Additional committee members would be welcome. If you're interested, please contact Fran Holt (see back of newsletter for contact info).

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Annual Meeting/Luncheon Recap

We were fortunate to have great weather for our Annual Meeting/Luncheon held on the patio of the Port Royal Golf Club on May 15. The one negative was a power outage, but speakers managed to get their messages across without a mike. Business included the election of Loretta Warden as president, Phyllis Giglinto as secretary, and Julie Bell and Sue Yearwood as co-membership chairs. We adopted the Statement of Public Policy Positions and amendments to the Bylaws as proposed. On a lighter note, we informed Karen Wessel, outgoing president, that, through Heifer International and in her honor, we had given a share of a "knitter's basket," containing a llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an angora rabbit to needy people. Other honored outgoing board members were Carolina McVitty (unable to attend the meeting), Julie Wittig and Dee Anne Dowlen.

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Message from the President



In Memorium

**Nancy Cherry,
February 26, 1922-
June 9, 2013**

Nancy was a Life Member in the League of Women Voters and was honored for her 50 years of outstanding service at our May 2012 annual business meeting and luncheon. According to her son Harold Cherry, Nancy was very proud of her membership and achievement in LWV. She was active throughout her entire life graduating Cum Laude from Smith College with a B.A. in history, serving in the U.S. Navy as a Lt. J.G. in the WAVES during World War II, marrying and raising a family, enjoying community work, traveling around the globe, golfing to age 86, and pursuing hobbies that included needlepoint, history and foreign affairs.

We honor Nancy for her many contributions to our country and to the League of Women Voters. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Nancy's three sons, Thomas Cherry III, Davidson Cherry and Harold Cherry and family for their loss.

Summer greetings to all of you. Travels and visitors at this time of year are often an overlay to our personal and organizational activities. For myself as your newly elected president I am spending considerable time reviewing the rich history of our local League and listening to and reading about the possibilities for our future.

As the Town of Hilton Head Island celebrates its 30th anniversary it is also a time to note that the local League of Women Voters has paralleled and been a meaningful presence in this community during this period. As I reviewed the history of our League and my almost twenty year residence on the island I realized that I have had the privilege of knowing almost all of our founders and past presidents. It is a privilege to be asked to follow in their footsteps. I will value the opportunity to confer and consult with many of them.

If local League history is inspiring it is also a model for the future. It shows that our

process for study and consensus results in positions that gain respect in our communities. And, when these positions fail initially to gain the necessary support for change in governing bodies Leaguers don't give up!

One of the most significant changes in our League has been the expansion of our organization to include the Bluffton area. During this coming year I hope that we will focus on the opportunities that come from that expanded membership. New energies and enthusiasm will increase our effectiveness in impacting public policy. Our local League positions on Natural Resources, Education, the Election Process and Regional Planning are but some of the local public policy issues with which League members on Hilton Head Island and the Bluffton Area will concern themselves.

I look forward to working with all of our members and my Board colleagues to assure that we also acknowledge issues that affect us beyond



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON
President
Loretta Warden

our local borders—state and national. We will maintain internal communication on these issues and value the information provided by LWVSC and LWVUS.

As always we recognize that our reputation is built on the fact that we are a non-partisan organization that encourages active participation of citizens in government and that we work to influence public policy through education and advocacy. We will have a busy fall – I hope that you will be rested and energized to participate in the important work of the League.

Annual Meeting Continued from Page 1

Our luncheon speaker was Scott Marshall, Executive Director of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration. In his excellent talk, he made it clear his priority is to serve the voters. He discussed several bills being considered by the S.C. legislature that he thought would be harmful to voters if passed. One would have transferred the responsibilities of the State Election Commission to the office of the Secretary of State. Like Leaguers, he is not a proponent of our new voter photo identification law. He believes election reform should be comprehensive rather than piecemeal, and more funds would help improve election services.

Following our luncheon, Scott Marshall was named Director of Beaufort County Parks and Leisure. In addition to holding this new position, he will continue as Director of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration until an interim director is named.

STATE CONVENTION NOTES

Pamela Hollinger and I were fortunate to be delegates to the League of Women Voters of South Carolina Convention held on April 27- 28 in Duncan and hosted by the Spartanburg League. It was a busy couple of days with lots of important business to conduct, but the best part from my point of view was seeing what great Leaguers our state has. They are extremely hard working, intelligent and friendly and are truly committed to what the League works to accomplish. New officers were elected. These included JoAnne Day, who spoke at our May meeting in Bluffton, and Susan Richards, who will serve as co-presidents. On a personal note, I was pleased to be chosen to serve on the state nominating committee.



One especially interesting and important session was on ethics reform. Time and again we were reminded of the importance of this issue. It is disappointing that reform is dead for this year, but it is good to know that the League will continue its commitment to try to ensure passage of meaningful reform next year.

Of great importance during the convention was the adoption of our new education position, which is presented below. Discussions leading to its wording as adopted were led with great enthusiasm and expertise by Pamela Hollinger. Along with education, priorities for LWVSC for the next two years will be ensuring citizen access to voting, reforming the state's ethics reform law, transportation, conservation and tax reform. No new studies were proposed.

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www.lwvhi.org

Our League was recognized and rewarded with a check for \$100 and an impressive certificate for being the large League with the greatest amount of growth during the last two years. We have Julie Wittig, our outgoing membership chair, to thank for that.

For more information about the convention go to lwvsc.org or read the summer issue of the *SC Voter*. By the way, our League will host the LWVSC Convention in 2015. It will be a lot of work but well worth the effort, if it's like this year's convention.

Fran Holt

New State Position on Education

The State League's position statement was modified to read as follows (with the addition of fully funded): "Support of public state-supported education at all levels which is high quality, effective, equitable, **fully funded** and accountable."

The original proposal read:

Recognizing that an effective teacher* is the most important school-based component of academic achievement, school districts should implement a comprehensive teacher evaluation. A fair and comprehensive evaluation system would:

- Assure that all teachers are evaluated on a regular basis;
- Include three or more qualitative rating categories to identify and retain effective teachers (for example, categories of: Highly Effective, Effective, Needs Improvement, rather than letter grades);
- Include student achievement as one of the factors used for rating teacher effectiveness*;
- Use clear, widely accepted standards, and consistent, well-trained evaluators;
- Involve teachers in developing and implementing the evaluation system;
- Provide feedback to teachers to help them develop skills and support decisions for retention, dismissal, and assignments;
- Be equitably and fully funded across the state's school systems.

*Note: Opinions differ regarding the definition on an "effective teacher." One frequently cited example comes from the "Race to the Top" program: an "effective teacher" is defined as a teacher whose students consistently achieve acceptable rates (e.g., at least one grade level in an academic year) of student growth. A "highly effective" teacher is defined as a teacher whose students consistently achieve high rates (e.g., one and one-half grade levels in an academic year of student growth).

The advocacy position that was ultimately adopted now reads as follows:

Recognizing that **the teacher** is the most important school-based component of academic achievement, school districts should implement a comprehensive teacher evaluation. **The** fair and comprehensive evaluation system **should**:

- Assure that all teachers are evaluated on a regular basis;
- Include three or more qualitative rating categories to identify and retain effective teachers (for example, categories of: Highly Effective, Effective, Needs Improvement, rather than letter grades);
- Include student **progress** as one of the factors used for rating teacher effectiveness;
- Use **clearly defined**, widely accepted standards, and consistent, well-trained evaluators;
- Involve teachers in developing and implementing the evaluation system;
- Provide feedback to teachers to help them develop skills and support decisions for retention, dismissal, and assignments;
- Be equitably and fully funded across the state's **public** school systems.



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Some Photos from Annual Meeting/Luncheon



Outgoing Membership Chair Wittig presents Fran Robertson with a 50-year-member plaque.



VP gives outgoing President Wessel a "knitting basket."



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2013—2014

BOARD MEETINGS

Future Board meetings will be held on
Thursdays, May 2, Sept. 5 at 9:45 A.M.
Location: Coastal States Bank
98 Main Street
Hilton Head Island

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

OFFICERS

President:	Loretta Warden	681-8450
Vice-President, Program Chair:	Fran Holt	837-3436
Treasurer:	Dot Law	842-5622
Secretary:	Phylis Giglinto	705-5866

BOARD

Action/Advocacy	Sally McGarry	342-9254
Education:	Pamela Hollinger	706-9928
Government Issues/Observer Corps:	Joan Kinne-Shulman	842-9246
Hospitality:	Katie Miller	681-8448
Membership:	Julie Bell	247-2914
	Sue Yearwood	705-3918
Newsletter:	Joan Kinne-Shulman	842-9246
Public Relations/Publicity:	Janet Law	671-4280
Voters Services:	Ginny Ghirardelli	363-6404
	Sue Fuetz	415-6445

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 18 (one week later than our usual date), 10:00 A.M. at Low Country Presbyterian Church, 10 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton. Membership Meeting with Senator Tom Davis and County Treasurer Douglas as speakers. (See Page 1 of this Lighthouse for more details.)

October 9, 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at Indigo Hall in Indigo Run, HHI. A Wine & Cheese Party honoring elected officials will replace a regular morning meeting. Details to be announced.

November 13, 10:00 A.M., Membership Meeting. Details to be announced.

December 11, 11:30 A.M., Holiday Luncheon with speaker. Location: Moss Creek Club House, Bluffton. Details to be announced.