



Lighthouse

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

September Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area will kick off its 2015-2016 Program year on Wednesday, September 23 with "A Conversation on Healthcare" led by David Ball, RN, LWVSC board Member, and expert on healthcare. Join us at 10:00 AM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry church, 110 Malphrus Road in Bluffton.

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Report on the LWWHHI/BA Annual Meeting of May 13, 2015

At the meeting, approval was given to last year's minutes, amendments to the bylaws and the budget; local public policy positions were adopted and several officers and board members were elected. The bylaws as amended and local policy positions adopted at the meeting are posted on our website, www.lwvghi.org. The amount of the approved budget was \$11,690.

Elected as officers and board members were Fran Holt as President, Ellen Dahl as Secretary, Patricia Montgomery as Director for Action/Advocacy, Diane Neal and Ellie Dixon as Membership CoChairs. Also elected were Loretta Warden as Nominating Committee Chair and Sue Feutz and Gloria Statham as Nominating Committee members.

President Loretta Warden thanked Pamela Hollinger for her outstanding work in chairing the local planning of the LWVSC convention. She also thanked all board members for their hard work and support and noted that there was a 22% increase in our League's membership during the last two years. This resulted in our League being given a \$100 award at the state convention, and it means we are now the biggest League in South Carolina. Given special recognition were those board members whose terms were ending: Secretary Phylis Giglinto, CoMembership Chairs Sue Yearwood and Gloria Statham, Communications CoChair and Webmaster Janet Law, State Issues/Advocacy Director Sally Mc Garry and Hospitality Chair Beth Krise.

Following the annual meeting and a delicious lunch, the new board members met and agreed to the appointment of additional board directors: Sally McGarry, Natural Resources/Land Use; Kathy Quirk, Education and Sandy Stern, Communications. Also appointed were offboard specialists: Alison Burke, Healthcare; Mary Jo Happle, Hospitality; Joan KinneShulman, Observer Corps/Local Issues and Connie Voight, Archivist. Later David Rice agree to be Webmaster.

Message from the President



MEMBERSHIP

The Hilton Head/Bluffton area league was recognized at the LWVSC Convention, for the second convention in a row, for the greatest percentage increase in the membership roll over the past two years. Thanks to all members for your continued support.

Welcome to New Members:

Elaine V. Cope
Karen Golden
And
Rose Willis
All of Bluffton

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this, my first letter as president of our local League. I had planned to be upbeat and to write about what I hope we can accomplish during the next two years, but that's a bit hard to do today. This is the day after nine people, including Senator Clementa Pinckney, were killed at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Although nothing can be taken from the tragedy of the situation, I hope that people will come together for the long term, not just during this initial time of shock and grief, and take steps to keep this kind of senseless event from happening again. Some of those

steps involve issues that have long been of concern to the League, gun control, better education and adequate health care, including mental health care. Leaguers can continue to advocate for effective legislation to bring about needed changes. We can make a positive difference.

I strongly believe that knowing people who are of a different race, religion, ethnic background, age, sex or political party from us is also important. People find out that they are much more alike than different. It's too bad the young man accused of the church shooting didn't learn that.

On a lighter note, I want to commend my predecessor and friend, Loretta Warden, for her excellent leadership during the last two years. I also want to thank her for the support and help that she is giving me as I start my term. Thank goodness we have an outstanding board and many other hard working and caring members who will help keep our League strong.

Fran Holt

Save the Date: July 27

Please join fellow Leaguers on Monday July 27, at the Bluffton Public Library from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon to hear a panel of League Presidents reflect on the history and growth of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island and the Bluffton Area. The panel will be moderated by Bluffton Librarian Armistead Reasoner as part of the Bluffton Library's civic literacy series. The presentation will be publicized by the library and will be open to the public.

League members and their guests are invited to gather for lunch at Truffles' in Belfair at 12:30 PM. If you would like to attend the lunch, please call or email Nancy Williams at 843-681-4212 or nwilliams125@gmail.com.

NOTE

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island and the Bluffton Area 2014-2015 Annual Reports are now available on our Website: www.lwvghi.org.

***Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette* Editor Addresses League**

Brian Tolley, Executive Editor of *The Island Packet and the Beaufort Gazette*, addressed the League on the topic of “The Role of the Press in a Democracy” at our annual meeting on May 13.

Since joining the staff in October of last year, Tolley has laid down core principles that guide the newspaper’s coverage and staffing. He is committed to developing digital products, investigative and watchdog journalism, and forging strong community bonds. Consequently, he has reorganized the staff by designating a person responsible for digital media, which he says is the future of journalism. He has also created an “enterprise team” that researches and covers, in depth, topics of local importance. Two topics recently featured were the ACE Basin and underdeveloped, rural areas on Hilton Head Island. As a result of the latter feature, the Town and the Hilton Head Public Service District planned a “sewer summit” to gather public input. Articles such as these are reflections of Tolley’s beliefs that the province of a local paper is local news and that the press has an important role to play in ensuring transparency in government. He also hopes to host community forums that encourage open discussion as a means of developing strong community bonds.

In response to questions from the audience, Tolley said that he is a “purist” when it comes to freedom of speech issues. He feels that people need to be more open to new ideas; it is painful to him that people go to sources that reaffirm their opinions. He also indicated that South Carolina is the worst state in the country for government transparency. Newspapers can’t afford to fight the state with lawsuits demanding adherence to freedom of information, so the “deck is stacked” against them.

Tolley also commented on the changes occurring in print journalism, which has seen a decline in advertising revenue and readership. He feels that the newspaper industry made two big mistakes—one: by not charging enough for its papers and thereby undervaluing its product, and two: by rushing to get on the Internet and providing free content. However, he said, it can’t be free forever.



Visit our Web Site

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

The Confederate Flag

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina made known the League’s support for removal of the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds by issuing the following press release on June 23, 2015.

“The League of Women Voters of South Carolina extends our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the Charleston shooting. We must honor the grace and dignity of those families by removing a symbol of division and pain in our state. We need to find this common ground and reconciliation to move our state forward.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina supports Governor Nicki Haley’s call to remove the Confederate flag from the South Carolina capitol grounds. We appreciate the voices of many of our state leaders and of the citizens of South Carolina in echoing the call to remove the flag and help our state move forward in the spirit of healing and social justice. The League took an active role in opposing the flying of the Confederate flag above our capitol in the year 2000 and we now support it’s complete removal from the grounds of our state government. We call on our representatives in the General Assembly to take the next step.”

As of June 25, all members of the Beaufort County legislative delegation have come out in favor of the removal of the flag. This is good news!

LWVSC Convention Elections, Program Selection and Other Business

Thanks to the leadership of local League member Pamela Hollinger, outgoing LWVSC CoPresident Susan Richards and the support of a large number of our members, the state convention held on Hilton Head Island on April 25 and 26 was a big success. In addition to enjoying a beautiful site, great food, interesting and informative talks and lots of camaraderie, delegates voted for state officers and board members, chose program items, prioritized action priorities for the next two years, adopted a budget, approved bylaws and passed two significant resolutions. Because the summer issue of the state newsletter, the *SC Voter*, and the state website www.lwvsc.org will undoubtedly provide detailed information on all this, only highlights are covered here.

- **Julie Hussey** of Charleston was elected to replace Susan Richards as copresident. The other copresident, JoAnne Day, is continuing to serve.
- **Sue Yearwood** and **Sue Feutz**, both members of our local League, were elected as vice presidents. Sue Y.'s portfolio will be membership services. Sue F. will be in charge of voter services. Having a direct connection to what goes on in Columbia will be great for our League, and both Sue's will be real assets to LWVSC.
- A new program item, **Healthcare**, was adopted, and delegates decided action priorities should be **Voter Access and the Election Process**, **Education** and **Ethics Reform**.
- Approval was given to a resolution supporting efforts of organizations focused on improving the state's **literacy** rate and encouraging the State of South Carolina to Partner with proven effective literacy programs. The focus of this resolution is to help children who lack inhome resources to prepare them for success in reading.
- A second approved resolution requests the SC State Election Commission to provide opportunities to all interested people and groups, including the League, to participate in drafting the Request for Proposal (RFP) for **voting equipment** and recommending the final purchase.
- A **budget** of \$22,073.00 was approved.

Natural Resources Committee

For many years, the Hilton Head Island LWV had a Natural Resources Committee. Its work was bolstered by good, strong positions at the national League level and good leadership. In the early 2000's the Committee ceased to exist. This year, Fran Holt felt strongly that our League, now the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area League, should take on interest in the many land use changes taking place around us and, perhaps, speak up about them when controversies arise.

Fran is moving on to become our President, and so is relinquishing the chairmanship of the new Natural Resources/Land Use Committee to Sally McGarry. Meetings will resume in the fall. Check the September [Lighthouse](#) for the next meeting date. If land use and environmental issues are of interest and concern to you, please plan to join us.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/
BLUFFTON AREA**



www.LWVHHI.org

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Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2015 - 2016

BOARD MEETINGS

September Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 10:00 A.M. at Palmetto Electric on Mathews Drive in Hilton Head

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

OFFICERS

President:	Fran Holt	843-837-3436
Vice-President, Program Chair:	Nancy Williams	843-681-4212
Treasurer:	Jan Billingslea	843-815-3743
Secretary:	Ellen Dahl	843-785-2115

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 27 - Panel on history and growth of the LWVHHI/BA. 11:00 AM at the Bluffton Public Library.

September 23 - "A Conversation on Healthcare" with David Ball. 10:00 AM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry church in Bluffton.

October 14 - "The State of Town of Hilton Head Island" by Mayor Bennett. 10:00 AM at the Hilton Head PSD.

November 18 - Making Democracy Work: LWVUS Study. 10:00 AM at the Bluffton Public Library.

December 9 - Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 AM at the Country Club of Hilton Head in Hilton Head Plantation.

BOARD

Communications	Sandy Stern	843-342-4834
Education:	Kathy Quirk	843-836-2892
Membership:	Ellie Dixon	843-705-3973
	Diane Neal	843-757-0622
Natural Resources	Sally McGarry	843-342-9254
Newsletter:	Joan Kinne-Shulman	843-842-9246
State Issues/Advocacy	Patricia Montgomery	843-707-1036
Voters Services:	Oleta Harden	843-815-6294
	Katie Miller	843-681-6448