



Lighthouse

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

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING
10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013
FELLOWSHIP HALL, LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 SIMMONSVILLE ROAD, BLUFFTON
(at the southwest corner of Hwy. 278 and Simmonsville Road)

We will once again learn about what is happening in the **Town of Bluffton** when **Mayor Lisa Sulka** reports to us on the **State of the Town of Bluffton**. After making her presentation, she will respond to questions from the audience. Please come and bring friends or family members who might be interested. Much of what happens in Bluffton affects the entire area, and so all area residents are encouraged to attend as well as those from the Town of Bluffton.

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LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING
9:45 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013
PALMETTO ELECTRIC MEETING ROOM
111 MATHEWS DRIVE, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Please join us to review our current local positions and maybe to propose new studies. Our current positions can be found at lwvhi.org under "League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area Public Policy." For your convenience, they are restated in this issue of Lighthouse on Page 5.

This important activity has been rescheduled, because we ran out of time at our February meeting. After we complete the program planning part of the meeting, everyone is invited to stay for our regular monthly board meeting.

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
10:00 AM, Wednesday, April 10, 2013
LowCountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton

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**.

From the President



Looking forward to Spring in the Lowcountry? Be sure to attend the End of Winter cocktail party at Flo and Ed Rosse's on Sunday, March 3, from 5-7 pm. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope to see you there. The food and beverages are always wonderful and the conversation enlightening!

Many thanks again to Pamela Hollinger who led us through the LWVSC education consensus meeting in February. Pamela put in many hours attending meetings and organizing her committee. Thanks too, to all the committee members and to those of you who attended the consensus.

As always, I owe a lot to

Fran Holt, who organized and executed our annual state program planning. Be sure to read the reports of these two important meetings in this Lighthouse.

March is Women's History Month so take a moment to remember those who came before us in the fight to grant women the right to vote and to participate as equal members in society. The league, as always, continues the effort to secure safe, secure, and open elections with the greatest possible participation by citizens. In that vein, the league supports a plethora of legislative initiatives to remove the barriers to voting for all qualified citizens of our country. Check out our state and national websites



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

to keep up to date on this important issue. And speaking of women, please join us for our Wednesday, March 13th membership meeting at the Lowcountry Presbyterian Church in Bluffton where we will host Lisa Sulka, Bluffton's Mayor, for her annual state of the town address.

Karen Wessel

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE **Special Election** **U. S. House of Representatives**

District 1

Counties: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester

March 19	Primary
April 2	Runoff, if necessary
April 6	Last day to register to vote in special election
May 7	Special Election

OBSERVER CORPS

Observer Corps volunteers attend Town Council and Planning Commission meetings in Hilton Head Island. We would like to find volunteers to cover similar meetings in Bluffton. Please let me know (842-9246 or rjshulman@hargray.com) if you are interested.

We hope many Leaguers will attend the Beaufort County Council meeting at the Hilton Head Island Library on March 25 at 4:00 P.M.

Joan Kinne-Shulman

Report on February's Meeting On State Education Consensus And State Program Planning



The discussion on the **Evaluation and Retention of Effective Teachers** in South Carolina public schools resulted in our reaching agreement on most of the consensus questions thanks to excellent presentations by local education members Loretta Warden, Flo Rosse, Kathy Quirk, Beth Fox, Ann Coffin and discussion leader Pamela Hollinger and the thoughtful input of other League members. Our report to the state League includes not only specific answers but also many comments explaining our answers. Of particular note are comments regarding the difficulty in defining "effective teacher" and "student achievement." It will be interesting to learn what position is adopted at the state League convention in April after answers from all state Leagues are reviewed.

The **2013-2015 program of our state League** will also be determined at the

state convention. Our League's recommendations, based on the discussion at our meeting, are to drop no positions; to retain our current positions on Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice, Natural Resources and Transportation; and to reconsider our positions on Child Welfare, Education, State and Local Government and State and Local Taxation. Concerns regarding Child Welfare included the need for an automated child support system and the problem of human trafficking as it affects children. We agreed that the education position summary should include the words "fully funded" and that the position should reference technology, especially for adult education. The State and Local Government position should be reviewed in order to reconsider what is stated about home rule. The State and Local Taxation position should be updated in regard to the tax on food. It should also be ascertained that the posi-

tion clearly allows us to work to repeal or amend Act 388.

Our League decided that action priorities for 2013-2015 should be Voter Access and the Process of Elections, Tax Reform and Education. We decided that they are all equally important.

Much appreciation goes to Julie Wittig, Caroline McVitty, Pamela Hollinger, Sally McGarry, Joan Kinne-Shulman and Fred Holt for helping with the state program planning part of the meeting. Thanks too to everyone who stayed to participate.

We ran out of time before discussing the final agenda item, Local Program Planning. This discussion has been rescheduled for March 7. Please see page 1 for details.

Fran Holt

Visit our web Site

www.lwvhi.org

Membership

In March and April it's dues renewal time for most of our membership with renewal packages being sent out soon to those members with April 30th renewal dates. If you already renewed your membership during the fall months on your anniversary date, then you are current and will not be receiving this spring package. We thank all of you for your past support and membership and hope you will continue to support the League in 2013-2014. As a member, you are a crucial part of the non-partisan, hands-on work to safeguard democracy and create lasting change. We need you.

Our League is going strong at 103 members thanks to each of you. As membership chair, it's exciting to see our League grow and more members getting involved in the work we do. LWV has something for everyone and I encourage you to explore what the League has to offer. It's easy to get involved and the League welcomes your participation. Here are some ideas: contact committee chairs (see listing on back page) and attend a committee meeting, volunteer for a community event to register and educate voters, and attend our monthly membership meetings to stay informed on current issues. Also, if you find an area of interest that suits your background then pursue it. Or leave your comfort zone and try something entirely new. Whatever path you choose, there will be opportunities to share and gain knowledge on important issues, make new friends, and make a positive difference in your community.

This month we have two events planned that are sure to draw a crowd and you won't want to miss. On Sunday, **March 3rd is our Annual End Winter Blues Party**. This is a fun party for Leaguers and prospective members. Please plan to attend and get to know your League friends better. **Flo Rosse** has graciously offered to be our host and hold the party at her home in Indigo Run. Thank you, Flo.

The March membership meeting is **Wednesday, March 13th in Bluffton with Mayor Lisa Sulka** as the guest speaker. The Mayor's report on the state of the Town of Bluffton is always very informative and well attended (see this issue for more details). Come and be informed about the latest plans and decisions affecting Bluffton. Thank you Mayor Sulka for joining and supporting our League.

Julie Wittig
Membership Chair

LWVHHI/BA STATEMENTS OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS For 2012

I. Preservation and protection of wetlands.

II. The LWVHHI/BA supports beach management projects that:

- a. are for the public good rather than for the benefit of private property;
- b. are part of a regional beach management plan;
- c. are designed for the specific features of each locale;
- d. are carefully and professionally monitored over the long term;
- e. make use of re-nourishment methods first and employ hard structures only when nourishment alone is ineffective;
- f. include sand re-nourishment as an integral, ongoing part of any hard structure design;
- g. give consideration to requiring sponsors of hard-structure projects to demonstrate, in advance, the financial resources to pay for the detection and correction of any negative impacts that the project might have on down-drift beaches;
- h. require mitigation, re-design, or removal of hard structures that adversely affect nearby beaches;
- i. establish clear goals and quantitatively designed measures of their success.

III. Preservation and protection of Outstanding Resource Waters (formerly SAA waters), including opposition to marinas on such waters, and also the quality of other local waterways

IV. Transportation:

- A. Accommodation Tax (A-Tax) monies may be an appropriate source of funding for regional public transportation.
- B. County Council should put a comprehensive transportation plan in place within a reasonable time.

V. Tax Increment Financing: Support of the concept of tax increment financing (TIF) for use on Hilton Head Island as one way to finance public projects on the island, although it is not a solution to all governmental financing problems and should be used judiciously. The League believes that any future TIF programs for Hilton Head Island should pass the tests of: (a) being fiscally responsible, (b) providing funding only for needed public projects, and (c) complying with state law.

Issues or positions to monitor and study and act upon as needed:

1. Election process in Beaufort County: monitor redistricting and HAVA implementation.
2. Beachfront and waterway management
3. Education in Beaufort County, including post-secondary and early childhood through grade 12 levels, and the school budget process
4. Hilton Head Comprehensive Plan



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

BOARD MEETINGS

The March Board meeting will be held on
Thursday March 7 at 9:45 A.M.,
Location: Palmetto Electric Meeting Room
111 Mathews Drive
Hilton Head Island

Future Board meetings will be held on
Thursdays., April 4, and May 2 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

March 3—5 to 7 P.M. Home of Flo Rosse, 6 Primrose Lane.
Annual End of Winter Blahs Party. Attendees should bring
an appetizer to share. Beverages supplied.

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

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

May 15 (Not May 8, as indicated in the Feb. issue)—11:30
A.M. **Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Scott Marshall,** Ex-
ecutive Director of the Beaufort County Board of Elections,
will speak. Location: Port Royal Clubhouse, Hilton Head Is-
land.

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
State Issues/Advocacy
Sally McGarry 342-9254
Voters Services:
Ginny Ghirardelli 363-6404
Sue Fuetz 415-6445