

Lighthouse

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



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ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
11:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014
COUNTRY CLUB OF HILTON HEAD in HILTON HEAD PLANTATION
70 Skull Creek Drive, Hilton Head Island

The **Annual Meeting** will start promptly at 11:30. It will be followed by a social time with cash bar at noon and lunch at 12:30.

Our guest speaker will be 14th Circuit Solicitor “Duffie” Stone. His jurisdiction includes Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. His office prosecutes about 6,000 cases per year and also operates a number of prevention programs. He is an excellent speaker.

Cost: \$26.00 per person **Guests welcome**

Directions: From Cypress Gate (off Squire Pope Road) take Seabrook Dr. to second left, which is Skull Creek Drive, continue less than ½ mile to Club on the right.

Reservation deadline: May 6

For more details and to make reservations, see page 3 of this *Lighthouse*.

Recap of April Meeting on Agriculture

Food, Farming and Sustainability

Our League was fortunate to have four knowledgeable panelists present a great deal of interesting and important information on April 9 at our general meeting on Food, Farming and Sustainability. This meeting was held instead of one aimed at answering national consensus questions, because our agriculture committee and board agreed that we did not have the necessary time or resources to prepare for a satisfactory consensus meeting. There were too many consensus questions and the issues were too complex given the time we had to prepare for our meeting. In addition, they did not take into account the recently passed Farm Bill. The meeting that we held instead should help us understand and advocate for the national position that is expected to be updated soon from the 1986 version. Following is some of what we learned.

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Message from the President



WHERE ARE OUR LEAGUE MEMBERS?

As you read this some six members of our League will have returned from a day long gathering **in Columbia, SC**. This State Council Meeting is held in even numbered years when there is not a State Convention. It is a chance to be informed on some of the issues, approve the LWVSC Budget and most importantly an opportunity to network and share with members of other branches in South Carolina.

Our local League will be represented at the LWVUS Convention, June 6-10, **in Dallas, TX**. Vice President Fran Holt will be our delegate to this gathering. The programs and the decisions made will provide the framework and direction for League efforts at the national level. Fran, with her ample League experience, will be a strong voice for local League interests.

In Beaufort County our Voter Service Team will be found at Hilton Head High School, Beaufort High School, Battery Creek High School and Bluffton High School, providing voter registration opportunities for HS Seniors and planting the seeds for their lifelong responsibility to vote. This effort is part of the LWVUS National Youth Voter Registration Project which has awarded a grant to our League for these efforts.

At the LWVHHI/BA ANNUAL MEETING where all of our members and their guests will gather on May 14 (see reservation info on page 3). The April Lighthouse carried the Budget Proposal, the Nominating Committee Report, the By-laws Committee Report and the Local Program Planning Document, all of which require member action at this meeting.



LWVHHI/Bluffton
President
Loretta Warden

In addition to the required business the Annual Meeting is a celebration of a successful year and recognition of those who contributed to those successes. Following lunch we will hear remarks from Duffie Stone, 14th Circuit Solicitor.

PLEASE BE THERE!

Loretta Warden

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area was pleased to welcome guests Sandra Ligon and Joe F. Fragale to our April 3, 2014 meeting. Ms. Ligon serves as Community Relations Senior Consultant at the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC) and Mr. Fragale, who lives in Sun City Hilton Head, serves on the SCHAC Governing Board.

They informed the LWVHHI/BA Board about the mission of the SCHAC and their efforts regarding the formation of a new Community Relations Council in Beaufort County. Currently the Human Affairs Commission is trying to establish Community Relations Councils (CRC's) in all forty-six South Carolina counties. A CRC in Beaufort County would consist of volunteer representatives organized on a permanent basis to work together to improve communication among disparate elements of the community.

The mission of this state agency, founded in 1972 by the General Assembly under the leadership of Governor John C. West, is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, national origin, disability, and religion, in the areas of housing, employment, and public accommodations

RESERVATION FOR MAY 14 LUNCHEON

Please make your reservation at the Country Club of Hilton Head by sending a check made out to LWVHHI/BA with the following form to Katie Miller, 17 Celosia Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 by May 6. If there are questions or it is near or past the deadline, please call Katie at 681-6448.

Suggested arrival time at the Country Club: 11:15 am. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:30 am; we will act on several reports, approve the 2014-15 budget, meet nominees for election to the League Board, and acknowledge the service of retiring Board members.

Name(s)

Phone number

Enclosed payment: \$26 per person x number of reservations =
\$ _____

Please indicate your choice of entrée

_____ **Salmon spinach salad** – Seared salmon on spinach, with pears, sundried cranberries, red onions, walnuts and apples

OR

_____ **Roasted chicken** on pilaf with seasonal vegetables

Fresh rolls and butter

Dessert—Dark chocolate mousse with chocolate stick

Coffee/ tea service

Vegetarian or other special meals available if requested in advance.



Visit our web Site

www.lwvhi.org

Voter Service Results

Beaufort High School

The voter service committee registered about 100 Beaufort High School students on April 11 in a senior assembly program. **Mike Seymour** showed a video depicting the history of voting featuring celebrities familiar to the young people, and gave a brief talk about the importance of voting.



Most of the students had filled out the voter registration application earlier in class; some registered at the assembly, and League volunteers **Maggie Seymour, Marlene Coe, Sally McGarry, Oleta Harden, Bob Ghirardelli, and Pat and Ken Goodman** checked that all were complete.

Kristina Weitz and **Vernan Kemp** from the Board of Elections took pictures of the students who did not have a photo ID, so that their registration was complete and they will receive a registration card with photo in the mail prior to election day. The other students will have to show a drivers license, a DMV ID, a passport, or a military ID when they vote. Students who will be 18 years old by November 4 can vote in the Primary in June and in the General Election.

Rachel Beach, a Senior Advisor was very helpful throughout the project, and she placed voting information on the student message board. These are web sites where the students can check on their registration, access voting information, including absentee voting for when they go to college.

The League provided a backpack carabiner as a “take away” to remember the day.

University of South Carolina at Beaufort

Bluffton Campus

We set up our table in the Atrium for about three hours in the middle of the day on April 16, and had a pleasant visit with the students, teachers, and staff that came by. **Sue Feutz** and **Pat and Ken Goodman** registered 15 individuals.

Ginny Ghirardelli

Recap of April Meeting on Agriculture

Continued from Page 1

First to speak were Dr. Gerry Dukes and Zack Snipes of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Dukes explained that Clemson University, a land grant college, has the mission of teaching and doing both research and public service and that it does much of its work through the cooperative extension service. The service has offices throughout the state that are still doing their work despite a large reduction in funding. Partnerships are at the federal, state and local levels and are with the many agencies that deal with agribusiness, the largest industry in South Carolina accounting for \$34 billion in revenue and 200,000 jobs. Zack Snipes, a newly hired extension agent, explained that the service helps farmers in many ways including workshops and direct assistance to farmers. For example, through its assistance, the service helps remove some of the risk a farmer takes when spending \$20,000 to farm strawberries on one acre. .



The third panelist was Kevin Schoneman, a member of our League and an Iowa farmer. He is the decision maker for his farms, when it comes to choosing crops to grow; fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to use and measures to prevent erosion and groundwater contamination. He told us about key points in the 959-page 2014 Farm Bill. Of particular importance are the sections on food stamps, direct payments and crop insurance. Kevin also explained that genetically engineered seeds are used extensively, especially for corn and soybeans, and are needed in order to continue to feed a growing world population that lives on a fixed amount of land with less and less water. He made it clear that the key highly respected scientific organizations have determined that genetically engineered seeds have never been found to cause illness despite what some headlines and misinformed people sometimes suggest.

Our final panelist was Teresa Wade, founder and Executive Director of Experience Green, a local organization with the mission to build sustainable communities. She advocates thinking outside the box, managing our resources for the long term and accountability. A key goal of the organization is to make landfills obsolete by encouraging recycling and composting. Among the progress being made by her organization was establishing an Earth Day for the first time in our area and making that day and other events result in zero waste. A new initiative for Experience Green last year was a 2-day conference on Sustainability in Golf. The organization is dependent on donations for funding. It receives no government funds, but it has received a grant from the Community Foundation for the Lowcountry.



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

BOARD MEETINGS

Future Board meetings will be held on
Thursdays, May 1, 2014 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	681-6448
Membership:	Sue Yearwood	705-3918
	Gloria Statham	815-5763
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

May 14, 2014, 11:30 A.M., Annual Meeting, social time and luncheon at Country Club of Hilton Head. **14th Circuit Court Solicitor “Duffie” Stone** will be the guest speaker. For details and reservation form, see pages 1 and 3 of this newsletter.

For more information, please refer to the League’s web site at www.lwvhhi.org or contact Fran Holt at 837-3436 or franholthhbl@gmail.com.