

Lighthouse

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



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FORUM ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND AND BLUFFTON AREA WATER, SEWER AND SEPTIC ISSUES

10:00 A.M., Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room
21 Oak Park Dr. (off Mathews Dr.), Hilton Head Island

This meeting will be a bit of a contrast to our October 9 Wine, Cheese and a "Bit More" Party! It may not be quite as much fun, but the issues to be discussed are certainly important and merit our attention. Water issues will include the adequacy of water sources, quality of water, salt water intrusion and the condition of existing water infrastructure. Sewer issues will include an update on the current extension of sewer service and plans for the future, problems with remaining septic tanks, information on how those problems are being addressed and the condition of the existing sewer infrastructure. Panel members are expected to be **Ed Saxon**, General Manager, Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority; **Richard Cyr**, General Manager, Hilton Head Public Service District; **Kelly Ferda**, General Manager, South Island Public Service District; **Russell Hildebrand**, General Manager, Broad Creek Public Service District; **Rob McFee**, Beaufort County Division Director for Engineering and Infrastructure; **Steve Riley**, Town Manager for the Town of Hilton Head Island and **James Ayers**, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Engineering and Public Works for the Town of Bluffton. Members of the audience will be given the opportunity to ask questions. The public is invited to attend.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

11:30 A.M., Wednesday, December 11, 2013
Moss Creek Clubhouse, Bluffton

**Guest speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent,
 Beaufort County School District**

**For more information and to make a reservation,
 please see Page 3 of this *Lighthouse*.**

Message from the President



At our Annual Meeting in May the membership adopted LWVHHI/BA Statements of Public Policy Positions. Following is our statement on Natural Resources:

“The LWVHHI/BA supports the preservation and protection of wetlands, area beaches, and local waterways, including, but not limited to Calibogue Sound, the May River, the Colleton River and the Okatie River.”

In addition the membership approved several issues for monitoring and possible action as needed: water and sewer service, Hilton Head Island, Bluffton Area and Beaufort County Comprehensive Plans, and the Regional Plans which affect multi jurisdictional areas.

At our recent event with elected officials, I highlighted the League’s continuing concern and commitment to Natural Resources as a broad umbrella topic for our low country efforts. I want to share with you the comments which several of our elected officials made to me. In general there was

recognition that the voice of the League is always an important and respected one in the arena of public policy. The League voice on Natural Resource issues is especially welcome. There was stated appreciation for our support for the Rural and Critical Lands referendum in 2012. Several officials noted that there were numerous “natural resource” issues pending and needing attention and their hope that the League might consider these.

Just one week after this event at our sponsored forum for Bluffton Town Council candidates I witnessed candidate comments on water quality of the May River. In this Newsletter you will note the General Meeting on Nov. 13th with a panel discussion on Water, Sewer and Septic Issues. Clearly Natural Resources is on our agenda and is and will be on the agenda of many of our elected officials and their staff.

I believe that we have in our membership folks for whom Natural Resources is a personal interest. With



LWVHHI/BLUFFTON
President
Loretta Warden

the widespread interest in natural resources I would welcome our interested members to contact me for membership on a Natural Resources Committee for our League. I see this group functioning much like our Education Committee: gathering for meetings as needed, sharing reading information and ideas by e-mail, determining upcoming issues and recommending to the Board appropriate study and possible action. Let me hear from you if you need further information or have an interest.

Loretta Warden

BOARD WELCOMES LWVSC VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

Keller H. Barron, Vice President, Member Services, LWVSC attended the October Board Meeting of our local League. Keller will serve as the liaison between our local group and the State Board and she was warmly welcomed by our Board. Her note following the meeting—

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend your Board meeting. It was delightful to witness the Board’s sense of purpose, attention to detail, and most of all— congeniality.”

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2013
MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE**

Guest speaker

**Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent
Beaufort County School District**

Menu

Entrée choice:

1. Stuffed chicken Florentine with wild mushroom demi glaze
or
2. Pesto baked tilapia over tomato basil cream sauce

Both entrees served with rice pilaf, asparagus and rolls
Assorted holiday treats for dessert
Coffee, lemonade and iced tea

Vegetarian or other special meals available if requested in advance.

Cost: \$26

Guests Welcome

For reservations, please send your check with names of attendees and entrée choices to:

**Katie Miller
17 Celosia Lane
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
681-6448**

Reservations must be received by December 3.



Visit our web Site

www.lwvhi.org

WE HAD A GREAT EVENT----

On October 9th the League of Women Voters Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area hosted a Wine, Cheese and a “Bit More” Party to celebrate the services of our elected officials. It was a remarkable opportunity for League members and elected officials to get to know each other, and for our elected officials to know about the League and what it does.

Some 85 people, including many elected officials, gathered at Indigo Hall where the conversation was lively, the beverages refreshing and the food most satisfying. Several League members helped out at the welcome table or the beverage table. Most importantly—Leaguers present gave a face and credibility to our organization in their conversations with our elected officials.

President Loretta Warden welcomed all and described the League’s role in influencing public policy decisions, highlighting some of our current public policy concerns—Voter Access and the Election Process, Education, Ethics Reform, Home Rule and Natural Resources.

Before her toast to our elected officials, Past President Karen Wessel, thanked them and acknowledged their service—“Most elected officials devote long hours to their jobs----elected officials often serve at great sacrifice to their families and careers.”

There were positive comments and encouragement for a repeat from League members, their guests and our elected officials. The event identified the League as a resource in our sometimes daunting challenge of making government work.

Thanks to Fran Holt, Chairman and her committee: Katie Miller, Sally McGarry, Julie Wittig and Connie Voigt.

The advance planning of this committee made this first for our League a success. Fran is very grateful to the committee, everyone who attended the event, everyone who helped and everyone who made a monetary donation.

NOTE—Several photos taken at the Cocktail Party are shown on the following page.

Photos from the October Cocktail Party



HHI Mayor Drew Laughlin with
SC Representative Andy Patrick and his son.



Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka and
Board of Education Chair Bill Evans



County Coroner Ed Allen, Julie Wittig
and Sheriff P.J. Tanner



Past LWVHHI/BA President Karen Wessel (left) with
current President Loretta Warden

Absentee Voting

In person absentee voting for the Town of Bluffton, Town of Port Royal, and Town of Yemassee Municipal Elections is open at the Beaufort and Bluffton absentee precincts between 9 am and 4 pm Monday – Friday.

On Monday, November 4 the Beaufort and Bluffton locations will be open until 5 p.m.

Beaufort: 15 John Galt Rd., 29906, 843-255-6900

Bluffton: 61B Ulmer Rd., 29910, 843-255-6940

Voters are required to present one of the following forms of a current and valid photo identification at the polls:

SC Driver's license

SC Department of Motor Vehicles identification card

SC Voter registration card with photo

US Passport or Federal Military identification with photo

For more information on the voter photo ID requirement go to <http://www.bcgov.net/vote> or call 843-255-6900.

WANT TO "BE IN THE KNOW" ?

Become a volunteer with the League's Observer Corps. We need volunteers to help the LWVHHI/BA keep abreast of what is happening in local governmental bodies. Currently, volunteers observe at meetings of the HHI Town Council (1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 4 PM) and Planning Commission (1st Wed. at 9 AM and 3rd Wed. at 3 PM). One League member attends meetings of the Bluffton Town Council (2nd Tues. at 6 PM) and Planning Commission (4th Wed. at 6 PM).

Observers take note of issues that come up at the meetings, get a sense of how council and commission members react to the issues, and become aware of who from the general public attends the meetings.

League observers do not speak at the meetings. They report to me (Joan Kinne-Shulman at rjshulman@hargray.com) what they learn about issues of importance to the League. I then report to the League Board, which determines if any action needs to be taken.

We especially need volunteers to attend the Bluffton meetings, and we hope to find volunteers to attend County Council meetings.

Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this key function of the League.

Joan Kinne-Shulman, Chair Observer Corps/Local Issues

Time Capsule

Recently our League chapter has had so much to celebrate! Just a few weeks ago, we held our first party to honor current elected officials. As part of the League's central mission, we have played a role in registering and informing voters who selected these men and women to represent and lead them. But the local League has been doing that since before the Town of Hilton Head was born. In researching the history of the LWV of Hilton Head Island, I learned that our beginnings predated the Town's incorporation and that our founders worked toward that goal partly because there could not be official League of Women Voters chapter status unless there was a town. The reason for revisiting our past was the 350/30 Celebration, which recognized the first recorded sighting of Hilton Head Island in 1663 along with the incorporation of the Town of Hilton Head Island in 1983, which was aided by some of our earliest members. The quest was to find material that could be included in 350/30 Celebration's mostly electronic time capsule, which is to be opened twenty years from now on the fiftieth anniversary of the Town.

In 1981, we were known as a LWV Member-at-Large (MAL) and this small but determined group met twice monthly. In September of 1983 the League's first meeting of the season featured the Town's first mayor, the late Ben Racusin. By 1984, we had graduated to Provisional status and had more than doubled our membership. The issues at the beginning were not very different from those that concern us today: responsible development, water quality, local government, voter education, and more. By the time our first information brochure, "Know Your Town," was produced in 1986 (and sold for \$1 a copy to raise funds), the Land Management Ordinance (LMO) was a hot topic and today, thanks to Ann Coffin, LWVHHI/BA monitors the current efforts to update the LMO. (Who in 1986 dreamed there would be such a thing as an LMO website?) And we still make water issues a high priority as our upcoming membership meeting this month shows.

Over the years we've said goodbye to many of our dedicated members, whose names are all over our history. They created a League chapter, nurtured it, fought for its credibility, participated in state and national studies as well as local ones, welcomed newer members from all over the country, and always, always kept a watchful eye on local governance and voting. Along the way, some of our members have run for elected office, served as elected officials, served on civic boards and commissions and served in other ways to inform and empower the community. A little over two years ago, we were pleased to add "Bluffton Area" to our name and to offer League membership and service to nearby mainland communities. The LWV of Hilton Head Island that started with twenty-two members is now the LWV of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area with approximately one hundred members today. We are grateful and proud and we do indeed have a lot to celebrate. And way too much to put in the 350/30 Celebration time capsule. Good thing it's mostly electronic.

Janet Law, Webmaster and Publicity Chair

PS...The time capsule offers an opportunity for all citizens, businesses and organizations to participate. Details are at <http://celebrationhhi.org/time-capsule>.



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

BOARD MEETINGS

Future Board meetings will be held on
Thursdays, Nov. 7, Dec 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	681-6448
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

November 13, 10:00 A.M., Membership Meeting. Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room. **Forum on Hilton Head Island and Bluffton Area Water, Sewer and Septic Issues.** See Page 1 of this *Lighthouse* for details.

December 11, 11:30 A.M., Holiday Luncheon at Moss Creek Club House, Bluffton. Speaker: **Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District.** See Page 3 of this *Lighthouse* for details.

January 8, 2014 10:00 A.M., Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room. **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will report of the **State of the Town of Hilton Head Island.**

February 12, 10:00A.M., Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton. Membership meeting to make recommendations on current and proposed national and state **League public policy positions** followed by discussion of **League's State Legislative Agenda.**