



Lighthouse

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

THERE WILL BE NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN OCTOBER

Members, Guests and the general public are encouraged to attend the League's candidate forums. Following is the current schedule.

Board of Education Districts

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 P.M., Hilton Head High School

District 8 Al Bischoff, Elizabeth Riordan, Mary Cordray

District 10 Joe Kopf, Mike Sanz

District 11 Reid Eikner, JoAnn Orischak

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 P.M., Bluffton High School

District 5 Ronald Speaks, Geri Kinton

District 6 Bert Walker, Paul Roth

District 7 Evva Anderson

District 8 Al Bischoff, Elizabeth Riordan, Mary Cordray

District 9 Laura Bush

Hilton Head Island Town Council

Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 P.M. Council Chambers, Town Hall

Ward 3 Lee Edwards, Andrew Jablonecki, Ryan McAvoy, Jeff Myers

Monday, October 15, 7:00 P.M., Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, 21 Oak Park Drive

Ward 6 John McCann, Jim Collett

Date and place not yet determined—Ward 1 Bill Ferguson, Marc Grant, Charles Houston, Jr.

County Council

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 P.M., Bluffton Town Hall

District 7 Forrest Dan Duryea, Cynthia Bensch

Also on the agenda, state and county referenda

National Debates:

Presidential **Wednesday, October 3, 9:00 P.M.**; Tuesday, October 16, 9:00 P.M.; Monday, October 22, 9:00 P.M.

Vice Presidential: **Thursday, October 11, 9:00 P.M.**

For information on locations, format, and topics, please go to:

www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012debateschedule

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Report On Land Conservation Bus Tour

September 12 was a perfect day to tour a small sampling of the many sites conserved, either by purchase or easement, thanks to County bond referenda passed in 2000 and 2006. The bus was almost full, our driver was very accommodating and our guide, Garrett Budds, Conservation Director of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, was very knowledgeable. Even the love bugs thought it was a great day!

Report is continued on Page 3.



Okatie River headwaters stop

From the President



Visit our
web Site

www.lwvghi.org

October is a very busy month for our league. Please note that we will not have our regular monthly membership meeting. We hope that we will see you at one of the many candidates' forum we have planned (please check the calendar). And speaking of candidates and elections, a big thank you is in order for all of you who helped register voters in September. And thanks to the board of the League of Women Voters of SC, who have awarded each local league an additional \$100 to help with voter registration costs.

Fran Holt and I attended the SC League Leaders Day in Columbia on the 15th of September. Tim O'Brien, Project Manager for the Public Advocacy of Voter Protection gave a presentation on the status of various laws that will make casting a ballot difficult for many citizens. The South Carolina voter photo identification law is being argued in

federal court and we expect a decision by the time you read this. Elizabeth McNamara, President of the LWVUS, has testified in Federal court on this matter. The SC League is helping to identify Notary Publics who would be willing to donate their time if the law is upheld. For more information, go to www.lwvsc.org.

B. Elaine Faithful of the SC Coalition of Healthy Families gave us tips for effective advocacy including building coalitions of those most affected by a specific piece of legislation by using the three P's: partners, promoters, and people.

Lynn Teague, LWVSC Advocacy Chair, gave us an overview of legislation we may see introduced in the next legislative session including bills on taxes, vouchers, Medicaid expansion, personhood, and ethics reform. Near the end of the day, we were treated to a session by Shayna



LWVHHI / BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

Howell on how to use social media to increase our league's profile in cyberspace. Look for us on Facebook soon though I am all thumbs when it comes to Twitter!

And finally, the LWVUS website Vote411.org has a wealth of information on voting rights, election laws, and responses from each of the Presidential candidates to a series of policy issue questions of particular importance to the league.

Membership

We began the new year by adding a new member to the League: **Tedi Zaryczny**. Welcome, Tedi! A special thank you also goes to **Mary Cloyd** for renewing her membership and continuing to support the League. We have a busy agenda ahead with candidate forums scheduled in October and a consensus meeting on education in November for new and current members to get involved in and support. Please see the details for these events in this issue and make plans to participate. We need you!

What would an upcoming national election be without the LWV out registering and educating voters? On September 8, 10 and 11 the League did just that at the Bluffton Library. Thank you to these members for their time and help in registering over 58 folks in our communities: **Karen Wessel, Rita Donahue, Dot Law, Kevin Schoneman, Julie Wittig, Carrie Amankwah, Kathy Quirk, Sally McGarry, Diane Neal and Pat Goodman**. Members answered voters' questions about absentee voting, polling places, lost registration cards and what ID is needed to vote on election day. The men and women who stopped at our table were glad to see us so they could register in time to vote in the November 6, 2012 election.

Is there anything on your mind about membership that you would like to share or think we should be doing? If so, please let me know (wittig4@hargray.com). I welcome your ideas. Thank you all for supporting our League.

Julie Wittig
Membership Chair

Report On Land Conservation Bus Tour, Continued

We visited Fish Haul Creek Park on Hilton Head Island, the headwaters of the Okatie River on Hampton Parkway in Bluffton, Widgeon Point on Lemon Island and the Bluffton Oyster Company. Garrett Budds made us understand the vital role these properties play in preserving what is so special about Beaufort County. Benefits include preventing contamination of our waterways caused by runoff from development, providing beautiful vistas and passive recreational areas for the public and enabling excavation of historic Mitchelville. Next year the Widgeon Point site, which includes a restored barn and beautiful water views, will probably be available to the public for such activities as hiking, biking, picnicking, art classes and special events.



Restored barn at Widgeon Point

Tina and Larry Toomer, owners of the Bluffton Oyster Company, explained that the County's land buying program coupled with the Town of Bluffton's contribution, enabled them to

continue to operate the only remaining oyster shucking business in the region, a business that has been in their family for generations. It is also clear that the benefit was not just to the Toomers but also to all of us who care about the May River and who want to enjoy the park area adjacent to their business.

For more information about the bus tour and the land conservation program, please see the comprehensive article by Carol Weir on pages 1 and 2D of the September 16 issue of *The Island Packet*. For more information, go to: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2012/09/18/2215049/its-up-to-voters.html>

As explained in that article, on **November 6 voters will be asked to decide whether or not additional funds should be provided to enable the County to purchase additional properties and/or the development rights to them.** To see the the bond referendum, please refer to Page 4 of this newsletter. To learn more about it, plan on attending the League's forum at 7:00 p.m. on October 30 at Bluffton Town Hall located at 20 Bridge Street.

In addition, Dot Law, our League's treasurer, told the group on the tour that the Mitchelville Preservation Project is celebrating its Sesquicentennial on October 13 at 6:00 p.m. with a performance at the Hilton Head High School Performing Arts Center. Natalie Daise will be featured in a one-woman show, "Becoming Harriette Tubman". For more information about this event, please go to www.MitchelvillePreservationProject.org/Freedom.



In Memoriam

On August 26, long-time member Tom Miller, husband of Vivian, died after a long illness. He was 95. For a number of years, Tom served on the Board as Director of Publicity. He was also a willing and able fundraiser for us, personally visiting potential donors and persuading them to open their wallets wider than they might ordinarily have done. Tom loved to tell stories and favored us with one at almost every Board meeting. We will miss his warm and witty personality and enthusiastic support of the League.

A contribution has been sent to VIM in his memory.

2012 Annual Meeting Action

The business portion of the Annual Meeting on May the 16th included some important actions. Information on actions to be taken by the membership at the May 16 meeting were published in the April Lighthouse and included in the materials handed out at the luncheon. The following actions were brought to the floor:

- The Nominating Committee presented the list of officers, who were approved unanimously.
- The 2012-2013 budget was approved.
- The Public Policy Positions remain unchanged from the previous year.
- The By-Laws Committee proposed an amendment that results in new members being required to renew their memberships on their anniversary date rather than on April 30. The amendment also provides for board discretion on a case by case basis. The amendment was unanimously approved.



Spotlight On The Ballot

STATE AND COUNTY REFERENDA ON NOVEMBER 6 BALLOT

State Amendment 1

Beginning with the general election of 2018, must Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State be amended to provide that the Lieutenant Governor must be elected jointly with the Governor in a manner prescribed by law; and upon the joint election to add Section 37 to Article III of the Constitution of this State to provide that the Senate shall elect from among the members thereof a President to preside over the Senate and to perform other duties as provided by law, to delete Sections 9 and 10 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State containing inconsistent provisions providing that the Lieutenant Governor is President of the Senate ex officio, and while presiding in the Senate, has no vote, unless the Senate is equally divided; to amend Section 11 to provide that the Governor shall fill a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor by appointing a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and to amend Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of this State to conform appropriate references?

Explanation—A ‘Yes’ vote will require, from 2018 onward, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run on the same ticket and be elected to office jointly. As a result, the Lieutenant Governor will no longer preside over the Senate and the Senate will elect their presiding officer from within the Senate body.

A ‘No’ vote maintains the current method of electing the Governor and Lieutenant Governor separately. The Lieutenant Governor shall continue to serve as President of the Senate.

County Referenda

Change in Form of Government Countywide Referendum

Should the form of Beaufort County’s government be changed from that of a Council Administrator form of government as set forth in S.C. Code of Laws Title 4, Chapter 9, Article 7 (1976, as amended) to that of a Council Manager form of government as set forth in S.C. Code of Laws, Title 4, Chapter 9, Article 9 (1976, as amended) and provide for the appointment of the County Treasurer and County Auditor?

Explanation--A vote of YES means the voter is in favor of changing the current form of government to a Council Manager form of government, which provides for the appointment of the County Treasurer and County Auditor. A vote of NO means the voter is opposed to changing the current form of government, and wishes to retain the current Council Administrator form of government, which provides for the election of the County Auditor and County Treasurer.

Rural and Critical Lands Program Countywide Bond Referendum

Shall Beaufort County, South Carolina issue general

obligation bonds, not to exceed \$25,000,000, representing a borrowing that at no time shall exceed 1 mill in debt service repayment, for the purpose of land preservation, by purchasing open land, development rights and conservation easements in all areas of Beaufort County, in order to alleviate traffic congestion in high growth areas and to protect water quality, natural lands, wildlife areas, farmland, parkland, recreational areas, coastal areas, rivers and wetlands, provided that all expenditures shall be prioritized based upon an official criteria and ranking system established for the County, and subject to an annual independent audit and provide that an amount not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the amount borrowed may be spent on improvements, outside the scope of general property maintenance, to those lands which have been acquired by Beaufort County, South Carolina under previous rural and critical lands programs and all such lands acquired under the current proposed borrowing?

Explanation—A vote of YES means the voter is in favor of the question, i.e., that Beaufort County shall issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the purpose of funding open land preservation. A vote of NO means the voter is not in favor of the question, i.e., Beaufort County shall not issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the purpose of funding open land preservation.

Be sure to register and vote on these important issues.



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2011—2012

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 9:45 AM, on Thursday mornings at
The Savannah Bank
852 Wm. Hilton Pkwy, Hilton Head Island

Thursdays: 2012—Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Dec. 6
Thursdays: 2013—Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4,
May 2

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October—No regular membership meeting will be held, but members, guests, and the public are encouraged to attend the League’s **candidate and issue forums**. For information on locations and times, **see page 1**.

October 23—10:00 A.M. Meeting of the Education Committee at the home of Pamela Hollinger, Bluffton. For information, call Pamela at 706-9928.

November 14, 10:00 A.M., State Consensus Meeting on **Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in Our Public Schools**. Location: Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, 21 Oak Park Drive (off Mathews), Hilton Head Island.

December 12, 11:30 A.M., Holiday Luncheon followed by talk by guest speaker **Weston Newton**, outgoing chairman of the Beaufort County Council and only candidate for Representative in the SC House of Representatives, District 120. Location: Moss Creek Clubhouse.

January 9—10:00 A.M. **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will speak on **The State of the Town of Hilton Head Island**. Tentative location at the Hilton Head Public Service District Meeting Room, Hilton Head Island.

Meetings in January through April will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 A.M., probably alternating between a Hilton Head Island location and one in Bluffton. On May 8 we will have our Annual Meeting/Luncheon and will have a guest speaker. To get updates about meeting plans, please refer to the calendar on our website, www.lwvhhi.org.

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 342-9254
Public Relations/Publicity: Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318
Voters Services: Rita Donahue 671-6656

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