



Lighthouse

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

LAST CHANCE

**TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR A
WINE, CHEESE AND A “BIT MORE” PARTY
5 – 7 p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013
INDIGO HALL, INDIGO RUN PLANTATION,
HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

If you make your reservation right away, you won't miss out on what should be a fun party that will give us all a great opportunity in a casual social setting to get to know our elected officials and each other better. We expect the food to be good too, because Two Tomatoes will be our caterer. Please note that although this is a free event for members and their invited guests, we will welcome voluntary donations.

For reservations, please call Katie Miller at 681-6448 or e-mail her at katiemillrhh@outlook.com. Donation checks should be made out to LWVHHI/BA and mailed to Katie at 17 Celosia Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

Directions to Indigo Hall: From bridge to HHI, continue east on US 278 and business 278 (do NOT take Cross Island Parkway) for about 3.5 miles, turn right at light onto Indigo Run Drive, take second exit from roundabout, pick up pass at gate to Indigo Run, go to 4-way stop, turn right, and then take first left.

FUTURE MEETINGS will include a **Forum on Hilton Head Island/ Bluffton Area Water, Septic and Sewer Issues** scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 13 at Hilton Head Public Service District. As of mid September, it looks like we will have a very good panel to answer our questions on these issues. Details will be provided in the November *Lighthouse*. For information on other meetings, please refer to *Mark Your Calendar* featured on page 6 of this *Lighthouse*.

Inside this Issue

Last Chance for Wine & Cheese Party	1
Future Meetings	1
Message from President	2
Report on September "The People's Money"	2
Voter Services—Fall 2013	3
Special Recognition	3
Conclusion of Report on September Meeting	4
Board Members & Board Meetings	5
Mark Your Calendars	5

Message from the President



Your League membership brings you important policy and advocacy information at the local, state and national level. That information provides a wealth of background and often an easy and efficient way for you to be heard by your elected representatives at the appropriate level.

I especially want to focus on the local level where study, policy recommendations, action and advocacy fall to the initiatives of our local membership. As an example of local advocacy I would remind our members of the League support for the Rural and Critical Lands Referendum which was passed overwhelmingly by Beaufort County voters last year. With our stated priority concern for Natural Resources this referendum received our very public support and the League's reputation was undoubtedly a factor in its success.

It is the involvement of our League members that provides the impetus for

League action and study at the local level. One example is the Education Committee which deals with a number of state and national studies but also is an ongoing source of alert for local educational issues. Another example of local input for possible League action are the observers who attend Hilton Head Island and Bluffton Town Council and Planning Commission meetings. When Leaguers attend these meetings they are serving a twofold purpose—they evaluate upcoming issues and determine any that should be brought to the attention of our League for study and/or action. In addition their very identified presence conveys to our elected officials that the League is ever alert to those upcoming decisions which may merit League involvement.

Some members have suggested that we should expand our League attendance to some Beaufort County Boards and Commissions since several of



LWVHHI/BLUFFTON
President
Loretta Warden

these have impact on things that the League needs to know and care about. The Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration/Elections is most frequently identified as one of these.

Manpower and womanpower is the only thing that governs our presence. If you have any interest and time to be the League presence at such meetings please contact me. We all recognize the importance of information, study and action on issues being considered by the governmental bodies closest to us.

Report on September 18 Meeting on "The People's Money"

The attendance was good, and the speakers were articulate, informative and sometimes amusing. First to speak was Beaufort County Treasurer Douglas Henderson, who was elected to his position two years ago. When he arrived on the job, there was not even a system of checks and balances. He told us that he has basically cleaned house. Operations are so much more efficient now that he has been able to reduce staff and ask for less of our money to be spent by his office.

Ed Hughes, the Beaufort County Assessor, is extremely busy now that 126,345 assessment notices have just been sent to property owners, but he took the time to speak to us and to explain the assessment process. Like Mr. Henderson, he said that he inherited a very inefficient operation, but with a lot of hard work and some additional funding, he managed to make the assessment process much more efficient and equitable. He is confident that most of the assessments are accurate, although he readily admits that 100% accuracy is not possible.

Continued on Page 4

League of Women Voters Voter Services Fall 2013

The league will provide a candidate forum for 7 Bluffton residents that have filed for Bluffton Town Council on October 17, 2013 at 7 PM in the auditorium of Bluffton Town Hall. Questions from the League as well as the community present will be offered to the participants for their responses. Plans are being made for Beaufort County Media Services to tape the program for airing at a later date.

Bluffton High School government and civics classes/clubs have been invited to serve as pages for the evening. Please join the League efforts that evening to meet and greet Bluffton Voters while watching the municipal election process in action.

To prepare for the election, the League will host 3 voter registration/ change of address opportunities in Bluffton before the October 5th last day to register. Calhoun Street farmers market will host a booth between 2 and 7 PM on Thursdays, September 26th and October 3rd sponsored by the League.

To participate in these efforts or with questions or comments, please contact Sue Feutz "fights", feuts@yahoo.com, 843-415-6445



Visit our web Site

www.lwvhi.org

Special Recognition

During the spring 2013 membership drive, members were asked to consider adding a donation to benefit the League of Women Voters at both the local and national levels when sending in their dues. Our League recognizes and thanks the following members for their generous donations to LWVHHI/BA and the LWVUS Education Fund:

Jean Caplan
Ann Coffin
Margaret Downward
Elizabeth Fox
Ginny and Bob Ghirardelli
Alice Gianni
Mary Ellen Hannan
Oleta and Philip Harden
Sally McGarry
Caroline McVitty
Vivian Miller
Kathy and John Quirk
Fran Robertson
Joan Kinne-Shulman and Richard Shulman
Andrea Siebold
Connie and Jerry Voight
Loretta Warden
Karen Wessel
Nancy Williams
Julie Wittig and Kevin Schoneman

To the entire membership, thank you for supporting League of Women Voters through your dues and donations as we continue working to safeguard democracy, improve our communities and help all citizens become active and informed participants in government.

Report—continued from Pg 2

Consequently, he knows there will be more than a few appeals. He pointed out that appeal applications must be postmarked no later than December 11. To learn more about the process, please go to co.beaufort.sc.us/departments/ and then select "Assessor" under "Real Property Services."

Senator Davis complimented the other two speakers on their work. He then said that he agreed with what the League believes are essential

elements of taxation—equity and efficiency—but he said a third important element is that taxes should encourage economic growth. As it is now, South Carolina taxes discourage businesses, especially smaller businesses that can't negotiate deals to reduce their taxes, from coming here. To reform the tax system in our state, the senator believes problems caused by Act 388 must be solved. One such problem is what Davis called the "immorality" of residents not having to pay for school operations. Al-

though he believes that the sales tax is less damaging than income or property taxes, he is against keeping most of the sales tax exemptions. He cited the tax on cars as being particularly unfair. Due to an exemption, it is the same for a car costing \$10,000 and one costing \$60,000!

Lots of good questions were asked by members of the audience following the presentations by the three speakers. Most concerned the assessment process.

We Were There

The Voter Service Committee registered voters on three consecutive Thursday afternoons at the Bluffton Farmer's Market on Calhoun Street recently.

Hats off to the following League Members who made it possible: **Karen Arms, Joan Bryan, Marlene Coe, Oleta Harden, Ginny Rice, and Sue Yearwood.** Special thanks to **Sue Feutz** and **David White** who served as coordinators.



Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2012—2013

BOARD MEETINGS

Future Board meetings will be held on
Thursdays, Oct. 3, 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 2**, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Shelter Cove Farmers Market. **350/30 Hilton Head Island Community Day**. League will have a booth.
- October 3**, 2:00 to 7:00 P.M. at **Bluffton Farmers Market**. Leaguers will do **Voter Registration**.
- October 9**, 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at Indigo Hall in Indigo Run, HHI. A **Wine, Cheese and a "Bit More" Party**. **Reservations required**. See page 1 of this newsletter.
- October 17**, 7:00 P.M. at Bluffton Town Hall. **Candidates Forum** for candidates running for two seats on **Town Council**.
- 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**. Members of panel to be announced.
- 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**. Additional details to be announced.
- January 8**, 10:00 A.M., **Mayor Drew Laughlin** will report of the **State of the Town of Hilton Head Island**. Location to be announced.

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