



# Lighthouse

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

## Update on Beaufort County



Gary Kubic

Beaufort County Executive Gary Kubic will be the speaker at our April 14 Member Meeting. Mr. Kubic was appointed County Administrator by the County Council in 2003, and is responsible for implementing the policies enacted by the Council. He deals with matters as disparate as budgets, taxes, development issues, county facilities including roads and highways, airports, libraries, and the annual county photo calendar. We will be interested in his updating us on the most important issues facing Beaufort County in these stressful times.

The meeting will commence at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, at Hilton Head Public Service District. Come and bring interested friends. Guests are always welcome.

Sally McGarry, Vice President and Program Chair

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## Lessons in Advocacy

Our March 10 panel on “The Ins and Outs of Advocacy” revealed an array of techniques for directing attention to an issue you are either supporting or opposing and achieving the end you desire.

Hilton Head Island Town Councilman John Safay described his campaign to achieve a smoking ban on our island. He began by using The Packet to start the conversation. Then, with letters to the editor and longer op-ed articles he dealt with possible objections right up front. Having researched the experiences of other com-

munities with smoking bans, he could cite positive outcomes. He also took advantage of presentations to groups in the town to build momentum. We all know the outcome of his campaign. His success in gaining a ban on smoking in public places on Hilton Head encour-



aged emulation by other jurisdictions throughout

the state.

Beaufort County Board of Education Chairman Fred Washington, whose topic was reforming state funding of education, stated that his is an effort that, so far, has failed. In the South Carolina legislature, he said, it’s not about fairness, it’s about power and that power is concentrated in Charleston right now. With 85 school districts in the state, each with its own agenda, he needed to build coalitions, network with groups with similar interests and within his professional organization, and work to achieve momentum (a concept used by Mr. Safay also). If

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### NOTICE

To be “greener”, we will deliver the Lighthouse electronically starting in September 2010. You may request mail delivery if this causes a hardship. Contact Bob McGarry 342-9254 or [bmcgarry@roadrunner.com](mailto:bmcgarry@roadrunner.com)

## From the Presidents



As we were talking to a friend about our Prospective Member Tea on April 9, the words “non-partisan” naturally rolled into our sentences. We tell people thinking about the League that we have Republicans, Democrats, and Independents among our membership. Moreover, every individual member does not agree fully with every position we take and advocate for. Our process of study first and arriving at a statement that we all can live with should enable us to keep talking, listening, and learning. Attending League meetings can broaden our minds and stretch our thinking.

We hope more people will do that. We hear expressions of dismay that our country seems to be so divided right now that it is difficult to focus on solving problems or seeking the common good. The League does seek the common good and stands as a model for presenting facts in open discussion, and encouraging civil citizen participation in government.

Because we believe the League is important, we will continue the dialogue with former members of the Bluffton League about how to include them so that we can keep a League presence in that area. Some of our current members also live off island, and they are helping with follow up and other contacts. We also will continue to seek member input. Please call or write us with your thoughts.



LWVHHI Co-Presidents  
Ginny Ghiradeli Barbara Swift

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### Membership

As membership chairman I would like to welcome six new members to the League. They are as follows: Sue Feutz, Twyla Sable, Joan Israel, Harold Hadley, Elizabeth Krise and Dorothy Landers. I hope everyone will become involved in the League as opportunities present themselves. The League always has ways for our members to become active; participation is greatly appreciated and needed. Should you wish to become involved, please call our Co-President Barbara Swift at 342-3383 and she will be more than happy to discuss open positions with you.

Just a reminder to all our members to return their 2010-2011 renewal forms. Several members have renewed their memberships. A number of members have not only renewed their memberships but have been generous enough to give a little extra. We thank everyone who has returned their forms. We look forward to all our members reviewing their membership by April 30th, thus continuing to support the league and all the important work it does.

Ellen Forwalk Membership Chairman

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### We have a coach

LWVUS is beginning a two year Membership Recruitment Initiative in which State and Local Leagues name Membership Coaches, to coordinate efforts to enhance membership.

LWVSC Membership Coach, Shayna Howell, will attend a training workshop in Memphis, Tennessee in April. And then LWVSC will hold training workshops during the summer for local Leagues.

**Kathy Quirk** will serve as our Membership Coach. Her “team” will be the Membership Committee: Ellen Forwalk, Chair, Donna Russell, and Mary Cloyd.

Ginny Ghirardelli

## Legislative Advocacy Day

Ginny Ghirardelli, Barbara Swift, Caroline McVitty and I went to Columbia on February 23 to attend Legislative Advocacy Day, a meeting of members of the League, the American Association of University Women and the South Carolina School Improvement Council. The subject of the meeting was health and environmental issues that affect student achievement. Nancy Vinson of the Coastal Conservation League talked about air pollution, especially fine particle pollution from diesel emissions and coal-fired power plants. Other speakers talked about such issues as teen pregnancy, obesity and the importance of the school nurse. Three very impressive elementary school boys from Myrtle Beach explained a program they designed to encourage their school mates to eat

healthy foods.

Following the presentations on health issues, lobbyist Dr. Michael Fleming of the Olde English Consortium gave a lively presentation titled "Getting More Blood from the Turnip." It was about tax realignment. He made it clear that removing sales tax exceptions currently given to an unbelievably large number of items would do a great deal to help fund education. He also underlined the importance of the Tax Realignment Commission (TRAC), which was created to assess the effectiveness of the current tax structure and to make recommendations for changes by November 2010.

After the meeting, we met briefly with Senator Tom Davis. He said that major changes in education

funding are unlikely to happen this year, but he is hopeful that a measure he expects to introduce during the budget process will help schools on a temporary basis. He also explained that the McNair law firm is doing preparatory work in order to be able to file, if necessary, a lawsuit to address inequities in the funding of education by the state. On the issue of giving tax incentives to the Sembler Co. for Okatie Crossings, Senator Davis said he would talk as long as necessary to try to keep that from happening. He explained that the tax incentive issue should be considered separately from environmental issues, although both are important.

Fran Holt  
Advocacy Chairman for  
State Issues



A wonderful time was had by more than 50 League members and guests on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the party celebrating the **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** of the League of Women Voters. Our guest of honor was Harriet Keyserling, who was presented with the Hilton Head Island League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Award for her notable civic and legislative achievements. What an inspiration Mrs. Keyserling is to us all!

Special thanks go to Connie and Jerry Voight for generously opening their beautiful home for the gathering and for their wonderful assistance in making the party a grand success!



**Visit our Web  
Site**

[lwhhi.org](http://lwhhi.org)



*(Continued from page 1)*

the issue is kept in the public consciousness in this way, success may eventually be achieved

The third panelist, Garrett Budds of the Beaufort office of the Coastal Conservation League, spoke of telling a story to illustrate their somewhat abstract issues of responsible development and environmental stewardship. After seeing the town of Bluffton balloon from one square mile to 55, the CCL proposed a Bluffton Township Watershed Plan, illustrating pictorially how to plan development in areas suitable for it and preserve other areas from development in perpetuity. The CCL's advocacy methods include using e-mail to inform and energize their members, peppering the media with press releases, and holding press conferences. Perseverance is key. In



McGarrys are counted

## Lessons in Advocacy

addition to the plan for Bluffton, Budds told us of the CCL's action that very day in Columbia to help defeat the bill to grant tax incentives to the Sembler Corp. for a retail mall in Jasper County.

A most interesting part of the program followed the three presentations, when the panelists were encouraged to ask questions of one another. John Safay asked Fred Washington why Beaufort County couldn't sue the State of South Carolina. In fact, Fred replied, the McNair law firm has been hired by the Board of Education and is reviewing all options, including lawsuits. Garrett Budds asked the other two speakers how they evaluate the quality of media coverage of their issues. Was it adequate, fair? Safay feels that, given the size of our community, we are well served by the media. Sometimes,

he added, you have to get "a little bit obnoxious" to make your points. Washington feels that, for his issue, the media message has to reach farther than Beaufort County to get results.

Comments from the audience included the part played by public emotions in approaching an issue, aside from what the facts may be. Claudia Kennedy sees the need for more women in public office. Fred Holt asked about the effect of campaign contributions. The panelists felt there is little effect at the local level, but that it is tremendous at the state level. The influx of money from outside the state was also mentioned, as with Sembler and previously for school vouchers.

Sally McGarry

## Our Census 2010 Job Continues

In last month's "Lighthouse" we asked for volunteers to hand out Census information at Hilton Head Island's St. Patrick's Day Parade and at both of the Island's Piggly-Wiggly's on Earth Day. Heartfelt thanks go to Beth Krise and Janet Law, who pitched in with us at the Parade, and to Joan Kinne-Shulman, Bev Benjamin, Janet and Beth again, Arthur & Caroline McVitty, and Fran Holt for staffing the tables at the Piggly-Wiggly's.

Our efforts as Hilton Head Island's Complete Count Committee can continue now as we all, individually, spread the word that the Census forms which have been received should be completed and mailed as soon as possible. For people who have not received the form yet (such as those who receive their mail in P.O. boxes), you can direct them to Census Assistance desks at Town Hall, Shelter Cove Piggly-Wiggly, VIM, HH Library, the Children's Center, Chamber of Commerce and the Island Rec Center, where they can get the form and the return envelope and reduce the necessity for home visits by Census workers. Ask your friends, neighbors, lawn care workers, store clerks, bridge group, everyone – "Have you returned your Census form?" Beaufort County needs a complete count this time.

Donna Russell

Sally McGarry

**LWVHHI BUDGET** for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011  
(as approved by Board on March 4, 2010)

INCOME

Dues	\$ 4000.00
Contributions	
Members	2000.00
Non-Members	1000.00
Sponsors	1000.00
Events	3700.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 11,700.00</b>

EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 200.00
Education	
Publications/Public Relations	50.00
Voter Service & "Guide to Elected Officials"	650.00
Website Management	250.00
Events	3500.00
Fund Raising Development	100.00
Lighthouse	1250.00
Membership Development (Includes Brochure)	500.00
Per-Member Payments	
To LWVUS	2700.00
To LWVSC	1200.00
Travel	
State Convention	1000.00
Other	250.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 11,700.00</b>



**LWVSC Council 2010**

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina holds its Convention every two years. In the year between Conventions it holds a Council. 2010 is a Council year. The Council will be held in Columbia on Saturday, April 24. Last year at Convention we adopted two new studies:

Study of how South Carolina school districts are governed including their structure and authority.

Study of South Carolina water issues, particularly interstate water conflicts affecting the quality and quantity of water in our state.

At Council there will be workshops on these two studies. Mullen Taylor will speak on the water issue, and Holley Ulbrich will talk about the school district study.

Joan Kinne-Shulman is a co-chair of the water study committee, and George and DeeAnn Dowlen have been monitoring water issues as an off-board position.

Ginny Ghirardelli

**Nominating Committee** – Rita Donahue, Chair presented the slate of candidates for LWVHHI officers for the year 2010-2011 as follows:

VP Karen Wessel  
Treasurer: Janet Law  
Voters Service co-chairs: Eileen Drehwing and Ann Cromwell  
Newsletter: Bob McGarry

Nominating Committee: Sally McGarry (Chm), Dorothy Perkins, Ann Coffin



League of Woman Voters of  
 Hilton Head Island  
 PO Box 23862  
 Hilton Head Island,  
 South Carolina  
 29925

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Mark your calendars:** Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> is our annual Spring Luncheon! It will be held at noon at the Port Royal Golf Club in Port Royal Plantation. The cost will be \$26.00 per person. Our very special and always popular guest speaker will be Holley Ulbrich. You will not want to miss this fun and informative event! Watch for details in the next Lighthouse.

APRIL  
 Calendar of Events

**Board Meetings**

Thursday, April 1, 9:45 am at Savannah Bank,  
 852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

Thursday, May 6, 9:45 am at Savannah Bank, 852  
 Wm. Hilton Parkway

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

**Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, April 14, at 10:00 A.M.  
 Hilton Head PSD, 21 Oak Park Drive.  
 "Update on Beaufort County"

**Voter Registration**

April 10, 2010, 9 AM to 1 PM  
 Hilton Head Island Library

**Visit our Web Site**  
[lvvghi.org](http://lvvghi.org)

Officers and Board 2009—2010

**OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents:  
 Ginny Ghirardelli 363- 6404 or 209-772-2226  
 Barbara Swift 342-3383

Vice-President, Program Chair:  
 Sally McGarry 342-9254

Treasurer: Janet Law 671-4280

Co-Secretaries:  
 Anita Holcslaw 686-4085  
 Caroline McVitty 681-6124

**BOARD**

Fund-raising: Donna Russell 837-7022

Government Issues/Observer Corps:  
 Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246

Hospitality: Andrea Bhatt 681-7590

Membership: Ellen Forwalk 681-3096

Newsletter: Bob McGarry 342-9254

Public Relations/Publicity:  
 Karen Wessel 682-3397

Voters Services:  
 Eileen Drehwing 681-4627