



# Lighthouse

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

## February Membership Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, February 9 at 10 a.m. at the Public Service District #1, 23 Oak Park Drive, Hilton Head. Our featured speakers are Zelfhine Smalls, Intake Specialist at the Beaufort County Department of Juvenile Justice and Melissa Lather, Bluffton High School Social Worker. These knowledgeable women will explain how the juvenile justice system works in our county focusing on the interface with our schools, resolution of cases, probable outcomes, and evaluations of troubled students.

In March, we will meet at the Hampton Hall Club House in Bluffton to hear Mayor Lisa Sulka. Watch for details of our April meeting, which will focus on the Mitchellville project, including an optional site visit, weather permitting.

Karen Wessel, Vice President and Program Chair

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Every year the League of Women Voters takes a look at Program – those areas where we have studied and adopted a position for advocacy – and decides what to do about it. Most of the time we “retain” those positions that we have worked for in the past. And sometimes we adopt new items for study so that we can develop a new position for future advocacy.

The reality is that we already have many positions for advocacy on all three levels of League. We look at Local League Program every year and vote on it at the Annual Meeting. This year we will also look at State League Program because the LWVSC Convention will be held this year. (LWVUS Convention is held in even numbered years; LWVSC, in odd numbered years.)

Come to our Program

## Program Planning

Planning meeting which will take place AFTER THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING to participate in this process. We expect to begin Program Planning around 10:30 a.m., Feb. 3, at the Savannah Bank, 852 Wm. Hilton Parkway.

Our Local League Program is online at [www.lwvghi.org](http://www.lwvghi.org). Look for “Positions For Action”. We will have copies at the meeting as well.

Two years ago, at it’s Convention, the LWVSC adopted two study items, and we are now due to take a consensus on those.

**School Governance** – Holly Ulbrich, LWVSC Board of Directors, writes on the study in the Winter LWVSC Voter ([www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)). Ann Coffin led a local “virtual” committee and made a

report in the November Lighthouse. ([www.lwvghi.org](http://www.lwvghi.org)) Look for archived issues. We will have copies of her letter to Holly at the meeting.

**Water Resources.** The committee leading the Water Resources Study concluded that we already have enough positions to cover any issues that we might act on, and therefore their report will be just an Information Report. We will not do a consensus on Water Resources.

The League of Women Voters also adopts program sometimes by a process of “Concurrence”, that is if one League does a study, other Leagues can “concur” and adopt that program item without going through the study process. The Charleston Area League has done a

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## From the Presidents



The Board of Directors has been discussing expanding our League for almost a year now, and, after a careful process, is recommending to the membership a change in name and an expansion of our geographical area of interest. At its January 6 meeting the Board voted unanimously to propose to you that we include the Bluffton Area in our membership, and that we change our name to "The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head/Bluffton Area". You will have the opportunity to vote on that after

the February Board meeting. We usually invite members to participate in Program Planning at that time, and this time we will include your vote on the proposed change as well. A change in the By-Laws would be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May.

Expanding our League and changing our name will allow us to attract members from neighborhoods off island, increase the pool of potential leaders, and result in a stronger voice for the League. Current leaders are



LWVHHI Co-Presidents  
Ginny Ghiradelli Barbara Swift

dedicated and we can meet the challenges of organizing meetings and providing programs and events of interest to our membership. We are excited about the future.

## Program Planning

*(Continued from page 1)*

study of Illegal Drugs in South Carolina and the Clemson Area League has done a study on Growth Management. They are asking other Leagues to "concur", to bring the item to the agenda at the Convention. If we support Concurrence, it means we agree to put the items on the LWVSC Convention

agenda. It does not necessarily mean that we support all the positions in the study.

For information on the Charleston Area study on Illegal Drugs read the summary at [www.lwvcharleston.org](http://www.lwvcharleston.org)

For information on the Clemson Area study on Growth Management, try

[www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvet.org](http://www.clemsonarea.sc.lwvet.org) We will also have an information sheet at the meeting on Feb. 3.

Ginny Ghirardelli

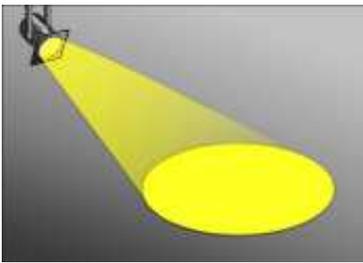
## 2010 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The Hilton Head Island League of Women Voters recognizes and thanks the following community and business leaders who have shown support for our voter registration and public programs with their generous contributions to this year's Fund Drive:

Lesley and John Gilbert  
Mary Ellen and Harold Hannan  
Kinghorn Insurance, James Rowe  
Mary Ellen McConnell  
Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Thomas Upshaw  
Thomas and Mary Peebles  
Benjamin M. Racusin

Your continuing support of the League of Women Voters is very much appreciated.

*Donna M. Russell, Fund Drive Chairman*



### Spotlight On

**Tom Miller**



Like many men who join the League of Woman Voters, I became a member because of my wife's involvement. Coming to know and respect the League's stand on various

issues, I wanted to participate in its work.

The more you put into any organization, the more you get out of it. So, I chose to be active. Few people enjoy asking for money, but I found it an interesting challenge. As a fund raiser, I met individuals in this community I would never have known. In certain cases, we developed a personal relationship. Doing publicity, I felt a bit like the newsman I used to be. Again, I made contacts that enriched me. Most of all, I have benefited from knowing the wonderful women and men in our local League. There isn't a finer group of people in this area. I count some of them among my favorite friends.

### Hats Off!

Congratulations to **Barbara Swift** who received the William T. Althoff Award for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year at the Low Country Legal Aid Celebration of Justice on January 22. Barbara was in the hospital and couldn't be present, but her brother Bob received the award for her. She is doing well and we wish her a speedy recovery.



**VISIT OUR WEB SITE**

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

### Voter Service

In the past we have registered students at the high school, but we have learned from coalition groups that teachers are underrepresented among voters. On January 12 we scheduled an early morning registration at Hilton Head High, a time convenient for the teachers. It was successful; we registered ten teachers and handled several changes of address. Thanks to Sue Feutz for helping.

Eileen Drehwing

### Martin Luther King Day

The organizers planned the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade perfectly. The rain didn't begin until the marchers returned to the high school parking lot and moved indoors for the 11 am ceremony.

The largest League contingent in our history marched under the LWV posters, with the high school band providing a background of stirring music and a steady beat. The ceremony following the parade included the Rev. Dr. Nannette Pierson, Director of the Sandalwood Community Food Pantry, as the featured speaker.



*Sponsored by—*  
*South Carolina Conference*  
*United Methodist Women*  
*League of Women Voters*  
*of South Carolina*  
*American Association of*  
*University Women of South*  
*Carolina*  
*South Carolina School*  
*Improvement Council*

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY 2011**  
**Coming Together for**  
**South Carolina's Future: Our Children**



**Wednesday, February 23, 2011**  
**Epworth Children's Home**  
**2900 Millwood Ave., Columbia, SC 29205 803-256-7394**

**9:00-9:40 a.m. Check-in**  
**NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION**  
**9:45 a.m. Greetings & Orientation**

**Morning Session—Option A or B (See below)**

**1:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch with Legislators**

**Changing Face of Childcare in South Carolina—Rev. John Holler, Jr., Pres., Epworth Children's Home**

**2:00-3:15 p.m. Presentations**

**Comprehensive Tax Reform in South Carolina—Dr. Mike Fanning, Exec. Director, Olde English Consortium, Education Advocate**

**South Carolina Education Funding—Bob Davis, Chief Financial Officer, Richland District Two Schools**

**Please invite your state legislators to attend. Indicate below if they plan to attend.**

*----- Cut & return bottom portion -----*

**Registration Fee: \$20.00 (Includes materials, lunch, parking & bus ride to & from Statehouse)**

**Postmark Deadline: February 11, 2011. Space limited to 400 attendees.**

**Make checks payable to LWVSC. Complete the form & mail with fee to:**

**JoAnne Day, LWVSC, PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC 29202**

**Questions? Email [jvday@yahoo.com](mailto:jvday@yahoo.com)**

**Please print legibly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please check and complete all that apply to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ LWVSC Member & Local League \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ AAUW Member & Local Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SC SIC Member & Local School District \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare needed for preschooler \_\_\_\_\_ Child's age \_\_\_\_\_ (Please bring lunch and snack for your child.)

My state legislators: Senator \_\_\_\_\_ Plans to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Plans to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle Your Choice of Option A or Option B for the Morning Session**

**Option A: Advocating at the Statehouse**

**\*\* 10:10-12:15 \*\***

- \_\_\_\_\_ Check to register for optional Tour of Statehouse. Tour limited to first 30 requests.
- 12:30 Buses depart Statehouse for return to Epworth.

**Option B: Work Sessions at Epworth**

**\*\* 10:10-12:45 \*\***

- HIV/AIDS: Vivian C. Armstead, SC HIV/AIDS Council
- Advocacy 101 Workshop: Jean Norman, LWV; Brenda Kneese, Christian Action Council
- Growing Up at Epworth: Rev. Ken Nelson, SCCUMC

## New Mayor Gives Inaugural “State of the Town” to Our League



Our January program featured the new Hilton Head Island Mayor, Drew Laughlin. Continuing the tradition set by long time Mayor Tom Peeples, Mr. Laughlin outlined general areas of action and concern to an overflow audience on Wednesday, January 12, at the Public Service District #1. One of Mayor Laughlin's first actions will be to receive approval from Town Council to establish a committee to recommend revisions to the zoning and land planning regulations as a necessary catalyst for redevelopment activity. Other areas of concern include improvements in island telecommunications, dredging of the Sea Pines waterways, and the status of the Heritage Golf Tournament. Jim Collette, one of the Mayor's opponents in the last election, has been asked to set up a group to study the telecommunications and cell phone infrastructure and recommend the necessary improvements. We look forward to the Mayor's address next January. It sounds as though he will have a busy year.

Karen Wessel, Program Chair



### FEBRUARY Calendar of Events

#### Board Meetings

Thursday, February 3, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

Thursday, March 3, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

#### Membership Meetings

10 AM, Wednesday, February 9  
**Juvenile Justice System in Beaufort County**  
Hilton Head Public Service District #1  
23 Oak Park Drive.

Program Planning after the Board meeting  
begins about 10:30 a.m

### Officers and Board 2010—2011

#### OFFICERS

##### Co-Presidents:

Ginny Ghirardelli 363- 6404  
Barbara Swift 342-3383

##### Vice-President, Program Chair:

Karen Wessel 682-3397

##### 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 681-7950

Membership: Ellen Forwalk 681-3096

Newsletter: Bob McGarry 342-9254

Public Relations/Publicity:

Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318

##### Voters Services:

Eileen Drehwing 681-4627

Mary Francis Stahler 363-2030