



Lighthouse

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

National President to Speak at December 9 Holiday Luncheon

The League of Women Voters of the United States President Elisabeth MacNamara will be our guest speaker at this year's holiday luncheon. Ms. MacNamara has been a League member since 1983, holding local and state leadership positions in DeKalb County and Georgia before being elected to the national presidency in 2010. Professionally, she is an attorney with special expertise in juvenile justice issues. Acknowledging our League's upcoming 30th anniversary and the League of Women Voters' 95th anniversary, Ms. MacNamara will address LWWUS's past accomplishments and future opportunities and challenges in a talk entitled "Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future."

We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for social time followed by a special luncheon at the Country Club of Hilton Head. Reservations, accompanied by payment, should be sent to Mary Jo Hapley, Hospitality Chair, by December 1. Friends and family members are welcome on this special occasion. (See reservation form on page 3 in this newsletter.)

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Democracy for Sale? Parts One and Two

At our November 18 meeting, thirty members participated in a spirited discussion of consensus questions related to the LWWUS's national study on the structures of democracy. With the helpful research of four League members, Caroline McVitty moderated debate of the pro's and con's of fifteen questions pertaining to foundational criteria for any proposed amendment to the United States Constitution and the process of amending the Constitution.

To set a context for the discussion, Nancy Williams shared an LWWUS PowerPoint presentation entitled "An Update on Money in Politics," which provided an historical overview of the League of Women Voters' and the Supreme Court's roles in campaign finance regulation, the League's current campaign finance policy, and the rationale for updating the policy. In the wake of the 2010 *Citizens United* and the 2014 *McCutcheon v. FEC* decisions that, according to dissenting Judge Breyer, "eviscerated" rulings going back to 1907, there have been plans to reverse these decisions through state legislation and—possibly—by Congressional action or a states-called Constitutional Convention to add a 28th amendment to our Constitution.

On January 13, we will continue our Democracy for Sale discussion when we consider consensus questions relating to the role of money in politics. Essentially, we will discuss the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Hilton Head Public Service District on Oak Park Drive on Hilton Head Island.

Message from the President



Last month my message focused on the League's being nonpartisan and on our welcoming diversity among our members. This month I'd like to share my views on what is involved in being a member. Unfortunately, some people choose not to join the League, because they don't want to make the commitment to give a lot of time and energy to the organization. They see what some of our very active members do, and they conclude that all members must operate that way.

That is not so. Of course, we need and would love to have more members who want to serve on the Board, join our Natural Resources/Land Use Committee or the Education Committee, help with voter service, the Observer Corps and volunteer for

assorted other positions and activities, but that is not required. In fact, we welcome all kinds of members, even those we rarely hear from or see. Just knowing that they support us by reading some of our materials and maybe occasionally responding to a call for action on proposed legislation is enough. A bit of financial support is very helpful too. Sometimes the circumstances of members change, and they become more or less active at a later time in their lives. That's probably true for quite a few of our current members. One example is our currently very active vice president/program chair, Nancy Williams, who has been a member for a long time, but could not give the organization much time until she retired a couple of years ago.

I'm hoping to see many of our readers and their guests at our holiday luncheon on December 9. It will be a great opportunity to visit with each other and to celebrate our League's thirtieth anniversary as well as the holiday season. The highlight of the event will be to meet the LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara and to hear her speak. She is a great speaker. I was fortunate to hear her and be totally inspired by what she said at the national convention in Dallas in 2014. From her, I am sure we will all learn about the League's past and, more importantly, its future.

The luncheon should be a great start to what I hope will be a joyful and peaceful holiday season for all readers of the *Lighthouse* and for everyone.

Fran Holt

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO LEADERSHIP

The 2016 Nominating Committee will gather in January 2016 to prepare its slate of nominees for elected office in our local League commencing after election at the Annual Meeting in May. The Committee will be seeking to fill the expiring terms of the following positions: Vice President, Treasurer, Voter Services, Local Government Issues/Observer Corps. While each of these positions has its own portfolio it comes with a unique and stimulating opportunity to contribute to the discussions and to make decisions with fellow members of our Board.

It is our hope that some of you will consider moving from membership to leadership. Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee to explore your possible interest. We would also appreciate your recommendation of a fellow leaguer for our follow up.

The Nominating Committee: Chairman Loretta Warden, Sue Feutz, Gloria Statham, Nancy Williams, Katie Miller



Please join your
League of Women Voter friends
 for a
Holiday Luncheon
 featuring

Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President
 on the occasion of LWVHI/BA's 30th anniversary year

Wednesday, December 9th
 Country Club of Hilton Head
 Hilton Head Plantation
 11:30 Social Time 12:00 Luncheon

Menu

Appetizer antipasto
 Chicken a la King on puffed pastry
 or a
 Vegetarian alternative
 Assorted mini desserts
 Iced and hot tea, coffee
 Cash Bar



RSVP by December 2 by sending a check payable to LWVHI/BA and this form to
 Mary Jo Happle
 3 Pine Sky Court
 Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Tell the guard at the gate that you are going to the Country Club of Hilton Head. Ask for directions if you need them.

I plan to attend the Dec. 9 luncheon _____
 I will be accompanied by these _____
 guests _____
 Number of meals @\$30* _____
 Number of vegetarian meals @\$30* _____
 Amount enclosed: _____

*Meal charge includes luncheon costs and a nominal amount to help defray 2015-2016



**LWVUS President
 Elisabeth MacNamara**

Visit our Web Site
www.lwvhi.org

Introducing Trish Montgomery



Patricia (Trish) Montgomery was born in Greenville, SC, and grew up in Washington, D. C., where she attended public schools from kindergarten through grade 12, graduating with honors. She graduated from Douglass College of Rutgers, The State University, earning a B.S. in sociology with a minor in art history. She has a masters degree in elementary education from the Urban Teachers Preparation Program of Syracuse University and a doctorate degree in education administration from Teachers College, Columbia University. Additional graduate studies were completed in the social work program at the University of California, Los Angeles, and in interior design at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Trish has over 40 years of service as a teacher, guidance counselor, child study team coordinator, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent in urban and suburban public schools and at national, regional, and state levels of public education. Her focus is on providing rigorous standards-based and relevant instruction to students for the 21st century. She has been most successful in turning around failing schools and districts.

She has served as Director of Education Leadership for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Education Laboratory at Temple University, the Laboratory for Student Success (LSS). LSS was one of ten regional educational laboratories of the U.S. Department of Education. Most recently she served as District Peer Reviewer for the "Race to the Top" competition for the USDOE.

Trish has taught education administration doctoral students for NOVA Southeastern University and masters degree candidates for Thomas Edison State College, and has served as an adjunct professor in educational philosophy and instructional strategies at Stockton College and Fairleigh Dickinson University, both in New Jersey. She was a contracted mentor for new principals during their required two-year internship for the State of New Jersey. Trish was selected as one of a select group of educators from across the nation to travel to South Africa to learn about school programs available to students after the end of apartheid and to share American systems of education.

Wherever Trish has lived, she has been involved in political life, including founding women's advocacy groups such as Shirley Chisholm's Coalition of 100 Black Women and the National Congress of Black Women in South Jersey, founding the Lawnside Education Foundation, and serving in leadership roles for the Girl Scouts of America (South Jersey Board) and at the national office of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.

After moving to Bluffton in 2013, Trish soon joined the LWVHHI/BA and served on the state convention committee in 2015. She is currently the State Issues/Advocacy Chair for the local League. In addition, she serves on the board of the Mitchelville Preservation Project.

A life member of the national organization of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Trish is a member of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Alumnae Chapter. She is in her second year as the Social Action/Political Awareness Chair.

Trish has been the recipient of numerous community and organizational awards, including the NJ NAACP Visionary Leader Award; the Woman of Achievement Award for Leadership in Education, Kappa Community Development Corp.; the Distinguished Service Award, New Jersey World Languages GAINS Project, Fairleigh Dickinson University; the Distinguished Education Award, Coalition of 100 Black Women; Education Award and the Oglatha Terry Flake Gibson Scholarship Fund Award for Educational Leadership.

She is the mother of two handsome, intelligent, and caring adult sons; is proud of her daughter-in-law, who is a middle school mathematics teacher; has a dear goddaughter now living in Abu Dhabi, teaching English to pre-school children, and has a great-goddaughter who is a freshman at Temple University.

