



Lighthouse

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

Coming in September: "A Healthcare Conversation"

Our League will kick off its 2015-2016 program year on September 23 with "A Healthcare Conversation" moderated by Charleston League member Dr. Nancy Finch. The conversation will feature a number of Beaufort and Jasper County healthcare practitioners and administrators who will share their perspectives and personal experiences on the greatest challenges in delivering healthcare in South Carolina. Our gathering is one of several being held around the state as part of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina's healthcare study approved at the state convention last April. David Ball, RN and LWVSC director and healthcare specialist, is spearheading the study and will be recording participants' observations in order to identify common areas of concern that will inform the development of a comprehensive public policy position unique to our state.

Please reserve Wednesday, September 23 and plan to join other League members from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry at 110 Malphrus Road in Bluffton. As usual, the meeting is open to the general public.

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Bluffton Library Features League History in July

At the invitation of the Bluffton Library, a panel of past and current League leaders, moderated by librarian Armistead Reasoner, shared their recollections of our League's activities in its twenty-nine-year history.

Pat Tousignant, President from 1994 to 1997, recalled the efforts of founders Virginia Sweet and Bea Chait to organize a provisional League in the early 1980's as the Town of Hilton Head Island was coming into being. She also shared a copy of a letter she had written as President to every U.S. Senator when our League adopted a policy supporting universal healthcare in 1994. In reviewing our archives, Pat recalled that the regional issue of water and a local issue of standards of decency were among the issues addressed by the League in its early days. In response to a proposed town referendum regulating "adult" businesses, our League held a forum to discuss the referendum questions, which today seem quite quaint.

Sally McGarry, President from 2001-2005, emphasized that the core mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage active and informed participation in government by providing a variety of voter services, including candidate forums and voter registration. She also highlighted the issues that occupied our League from 1997 to 2005. Among them—in addition to healthcare-- were sewers, the Hilton Head airport, shoreline issues and natural resource protection, community development and housing, education tax increment financing, and voting machines. Many of these issues continue to occupy our League. *Go to 4*

Message from the President



Whoever said that the League hibernates in the summer?! We have not had board meetings or general membership meetings, but it has been a busy time. New board and offboard Members are learning the ropes of their positions. Many of us are also learning how to carry out the many responsibilities previously held by retiring Janet Law. The observer corps has been busy, and everyone involved in producing the Lighthouse didn't take much of a summer break.

Preparation for voter service activities are underway too. Nancy Williams has been planning our upcoming membership meetings as well as a special program which took place in July (see page 1).

Nancy has also promoted the League and what we do by appearing on WHHI on July 6 and again on July 13, when I too was on the program. These programs can be seen on Youtube.*

My activities also included saying a few words on behalf of our League at the June 29 meeting of our Legislative Delegation in Beaufort. I expressed our sorrow about the tragedy in Charleston,

thanked our delegates for supporting the removal of the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds and said that I hoped the unity and good will that became apparent after the tragedy would result in more positive actions. Please note that we received a very nice letter from Jennifer Pinckney, Senator Pinckney's widow, thanking us for our condolence note.

Our treasurer, Jan Billingslea, has been busy too. To see her final financial report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, please refer to our website www.lwv.org. It is available there along with the annual reports for the 2014/2015 year. Those reports tell a lot about all that we do.

Past president Loretta Warden continues to work for the League and the community. She represented us at a meeting of the Beaufort County Human Relations Council (see page 6). I'm proud to say that she and fellow League member Dot Law are recent recipients of the Mayor's Honored Islander Award. This award is based on service to others, professional excellence, civic and professional recognition

and community activities.

Sadly on July 22 many League members got together for a memorial service for Beth Krise, who passed away on July 10. She had just gone off our board as hospitality chair and had done a great job, culminating in the arrangements made for our May annual meeting and luncheon.

The League's September meeting on healthcare should be excellent. It was difficult to find a date mutually convenient for the League members coming from Charleston and us. Unfortunately, after we finally set the date and found a suitable location, we learned that we had mistakenly scheduled the meeting on Yom Kippur. By then, it was too late to make changes. I apologize to everyone affected by this.

Fran Holt

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y40AayDOzU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nDz2h8hJTw&feature=youtu.be>

What are the League's positions that are basis for our role as advocates?

To find out, go to:

For local positions, www.lwvhhi.org and click on "League of Women Voters of the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area Public Policy."

For state positions, www.lwvsc.org and click on "Issues and Action."

For national positions, www.lwv.org and type "Impact on Issues" in the search box.

95th Birthday Celebration!!

On August 18, 2015, the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, turned 95, and it still stands as a shining moment in America's ongoing journey to meet the ideals of our country's founding. The League of Women Voters was born in the fight for the 19th Amendment's ratification.



Although the 19th Amendment was made law in 1920 with ratification by two-thirds of the states, it wasn't until 1984 that the final state, Mississippi, passed their ratification. And the League of Women Voters was there from the beginning, continuing the drive for ratification. By 1923, Connecticut, Vermont and Delaware ratified the 19th Amendment. Alabama, Maryland and Virginia officially endorsed women's right to vote in the 1950's. Florida ratified the 19th Amendment in 1969, and in the early 1970's, Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina added their votes in favor of the 19th Amendment. In 1984, 64 years after the 19th Amendment was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, Mississippi became the last state to vote for ratification.

And the League of Women Voters continues to this day to defend the voting rights of all Americans from fresh attacks today! Celebrate our progress as members of LWWHH/BA!

Elizabeth McNamara, president of LWWUS

Our archivist, Connie Voight, is sharing the above message but wants to make it clear that LWWUS President Elizabeth McNamara should be credited for most of it.

Visit our Web Site

www.lwvhi.org

Education Committee

Do you feel strongly that South Carolina should provide more equitable funding for its poor rural school districts? Are you curious about how the Beaufort County School District sets priorities and develops its budget? What kind of teacher evaluations should be used in our schools? How important are prekindergarten programs to ensuring success for all our children?

The Education Committee has been looking at these questions and other important local and state issues. If you are interested, please join us.

The first meeting of the Education Committee for this year has been scheduled.

When: Wednesday September 9 at 10am

Where: The home of Kathy Quirk, Committee Chair

Please contact Kathy for directions quirk.kathy@gmail.com or 843-836-2892.

Bluffton Library (Continued from Page 1)



Former President Karen Wessel (2011-2013) said she had become acquainted with the League because of her interest in education and her efforts to pass the first school bond referendum in 1994. She found a welcoming home in the League, which has studied and taken positions on universal kindergarten, early childhood education, teacher evaluation and retention, teaching standards, charter schools, and state and local funding of education. During Karen's tenure as president, the Bluffton League of Women Voters merged with the Hilton Head League in 2010 to form the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area, thereby expanding our membership and influence.

President Fran Holt shared some of her hopes for our future, which included continuing to press for state ethics reform, maintaining a strong observer corps in Hilton Head and Bluffton, and becoming more technologically savvy. She invited guests to join us in making democracy work.



Panel of Local League Presidents
Past and Present at July Program

Natural Resources/Land Use Committee

The Committee will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 1:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at Dunkin' Donuts. Our aim is to keep tabs on land use and development issues in the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton area, assess their possible impact on the natural environment that we prize so highly, and recommend action by our League or individual members when it seems warranted.

Keep an eye on the news media for issues that should concern us and bring your questions and suggestions to this meeting. I look forward to reconnecting with continuing members and welcome new members to the committee.

Sally McGarry, Chair
843-342-9254

OBSERVING AT GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

LWVHHI/BA volunteers attend Town Council and Planning Commission meetings on a regular basis in Hilton Head Island and have done so for many years. We would like to build up a corps of volunteers to observe at Town Council and Planning Commission meetings in Bluffton. In Hilton Head Island the Council and Commission generally meet twice a month throughout the year. Bluffton groups each meet once a month. We would also like recruit enough observer-volunteers to cover meeting in Beaufort—the Beaufort County Council, the Board of Education, the Elections Commission.

Observers listen to proceedings and report to the committee chair actions taken on issues of concern to the League, such as land purchases and use, recycling, transparency of the government process. Observers do not speak at the meetings, but their presence shows government officials that someone is paying attention to what they do.

The chair e-mails to volunteers a schedule of meetings and asks who is available to attend any. Observers can agree to go to meetings on a regular or occasional basis—whatever works for them.

Please become a volunteer observer and find out how the local governments work and who the major players are.

Contact me if you have any questions or want to become part of the Observer Corps: Joan Kinne-Shulman, chair, at 842-9246 or rssulman@hargray.com



VOTER SERVICES - September 2015

The League's Voter Services Team has arranged a drive on National Voter Registration Day, this year on Tuesday, September 22. The Beaufort County event will be held at the Bluffton Library from 11:00 am–1:00 pm and 5:00–7:00 pm. We hope to enroll people on their lunch hours as well as on their way home from work. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help us reach as many eligible voters as possible before the Bluffton Township election in November. If you can help the League for 1 or 2 hours early or late in the day, please contact Oleta Harden (843-815-6294) ojharden@hargray.com or Katie Miller (843-681-6448) katiemlrhh@hargray.com. The library is a pleasant place to spend time—and help people fulfill a civic responsibility.

The League will also have a registration table at its monthly meeting on September 23 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Malphrus Road in Bluffton.

On Saturday, September 26, the Voter Services Team will be at the "Unity in the Community Picnic and Dedication of Squire Pope Community Park Rowing and Sailing Center" on Squire Pope Rd. Sponsored by the Native Island Property Owners and NIBCAA, the event will take place from 1:00–4:00 pm. We hope many rowers and sailors will take the opportunity to sign up to vote in the coming elections. Bring your lawn chairs and join them!

Any help you can give us at these events will be appreciated, and we will always arrange your schedule to meet your needs. Thanks in advance for your help.

BEAUFORT COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL A WORK IN PROGRESS



Under the auspices of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and with the support of the Beaufort County Council, an effort has begun to establish a Beaufort County Community Relations Council. Community Relations Councils (CRC) already exist in several counties and it is the goal of the Human Affairs Commission to promote and assist councils in all counties in South Carolina.

“Community Relations” is the fostering of better relationships within a diverse community through organized efforts to bring together cross sections of people to resolve mutual issues which include, but are not limited to law enforcement, education, health care, cultural understanding, environmental issues, etc. A CRC is designed to operate at the local level to resolve problems and improve relationships locally.

On July 23, a training session was held for community members who personally or for their organizations are interested in a Community Relations Council for Beaufort County. I represented The LWV Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area at this initial meeting. Attendees brought perspectives from local government, education, human services, religious groups and civic organizations.

Discussion focused on the need to be sure that all segments of our community are represented and that priorities for action consider population, geographic and economic data for our county. The group agreed upon a Co- Chairman model and suggested or appointed Secretary, Treasurer, Recruitment Chair, By Laws Chair. There was general agreement on monthly meetings but time and place are TBD.

STAY TUNED! I believe that our League may be a resource to a CRC.

Loretta Warden

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/
BLUFFTON AREA**



www.LWVHHI.org

 [@LWVHHIBA](https://twitter.com/LWVHHIBA)

Monthly
Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2015 - 2016

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings will be held at 10:00 AM on Sept.10, Oct. 1, Nov. 15 (at Palmetto Electric on Mathews Drive in Hilton Head), and Dec. 3 (place to be determined).

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 1 - Special primary election for the SC Senate District 45 (only involves Pritchardville Precinct in S. Beaufort County.)

September 9 - Education Committee meeting at 10:00 AM at the home of Kathy Quirk. For directions and pass, call Kathy at 826-2872.

September 16 - Natural Resources/Land Use Committee meeting at HHI Dunkin Donuts meeting room at 1:30 PM.

September 22 - National Voter Registration Day, Bluffton Library, 11:00 to 1:00 and 5:00 to 7:00.

September 23 - "A Healthcare Conversation" at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 110 Malphrus Rd. in Bluffton.

September 26 - Voter Registration at Rowing and Sailing Center, Squire Pope Rd., Hilton Head 1:00 to 4:00.

October 14 - "The State of Town of Hilton Head Island" by Mayor David Bennett. at the Hilton Head PSD, at 10:00 AM.

November 3 - Town of Bluffton election.

November 18 - "Democracy for Sale" at Bluffton Library at 10:00 AM.

December 9 - Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 AM at the Country Club of Hilton Head in Hilton Head Plantation.

OFFICERS

President:	Fran Holt	843-837-3436
Vice-President, Program Chair:	Nancy Williams	843-681-4212
Treasurer:	Jan Billingslea	843-815-3743
Secretary:	Ellen Dahl	843-785-2115

BOARD

Communications:	Sandy Stern	843-342-4834
Education:	Kathy Quirk	843-836-2892
Membership:	Ellie Dixson	843-705-3973
	Diane Neal	843-757-0622
Natural Resources/Land Use:	Sally McGarry	843-342-9254
Newsletter:	Joan Kinne-Shulman	843-842-9246
State Issues/Advocacy:	Patricia Montgomery	843-707-1036
Voters Services:	Oleta Harden	843-815-6294
	Katie Miller	843-681-6448

Off-Board Positions

Healthcare:	Allison Burke
Hospitality:	Mary Jo Happle
Observer Corps:	Joan Kinne-Shulman
Webmaster:	David Rice
Archivist:	Connie Voight
Nominating Committee Chair:	Loretta Warden