



# Lighthouse

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

## April 13<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting

Please join your fellow League members on April 13 when we visit St. James Baptist church and the Mitchelville historic site. We will meet at our usual 10 a.m. time at St. James (at the corner of Beach City and Dillon Roads). Our featured speakers are officers and members of the Mitchellville Preservation Project: Ben Williams, PhD, Fran White, and Dot Law. The Mitchellville Preservation Project has been granted a 99 year lease by the town of Hilton Head Island to commemorate the 1862 founding of one of our nation's first freedmen towns. Please join us and learn of the history and future plans for the site. Mark your calendars and remember that we will meet on Wednesday, April 13 at 10 a.m. at St. James Baptist Church near the intersection of Beach City Road and Dillon Road on the north end of the island.

Karen Wessel Program Chair

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## Membership Recruitment

Plans to expand our League and change our name to the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area have given the Membership Recruitment team an excellent opportunity for publicity. The team targeted the March 9 public meeting with the Mayor of the Town of Bluffton as a chance to spread the word about our expansion and to draw in potential new members from the Bluffton area. Letters of invitation to the meeting and flyers were mailed to a selected group of Bluffton residents, and personal contacts were made by

League members. In addition to the usual newspaper announcements, flyers were emailed to both the Democratic and Republican Party membership lists. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting with Mayor Lisa Sulka, which was held in the Hampton Hall Community Clubhouse in Bluffton. Members of the membership team worked to welcome visitors and engage them in conversation about the League. Mayor Sulka's presentation and the following question period

were lively. There seemed to be strong interest in the kind of community involvement the League does so well. Team members are now planning the follow-up to encourage those who attended the Bluffton meeting as well as other Hilton Head residents and "friends across the bridge" to join us for the April Mitchellville meeting. Our hope is that the next step will involve joining us in League.

Kathy Quirk

Please mark your calendars for our **Annual Meeting and Luncheon, May 11, 2011** at the Port Royal Clubhouse in Port Royal Plantation. You will find reservation information and menu options on **page 6**. Weston Newton, the Chairman of the Beaufort County Council, will be our speaker. Please join us for social time, the election of 2011-2012 officers, and Mr. Newton's update on the important work of our County Council.

## From the Presidents



After our expansion into the Bluffton Area and a very well attended March meeting, we now turn our attention to follow up and planning. Committees are at work on both of those and kudos are in order for Membership Recruitment Coach, Kathy Quirk, and the Membership Committee: Ellen Forwalk, Fran Holt, Julie Wittig, and Pat Wittberger. With Karen Wessel's help, Janet Law produced a beautiful flyer.

We are exploring meeting places that would be convenient for all of our members, planning voter service activities in the Bluffton Area, and scheduling meetings with anticipated key new board members. We are grateful for the enthusiastic response we have received from members and for the support of the media, especially Frank Morris of "Bluffton Today."



LWVHHI Co-Presidents  
Ginny Ghirardelli Barbara Swift

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### Public Meetings

1. State Senate, House, and Congressional districts are redrawn every ten years after the census is taken. The South Carolina Senate Redistricting Subcommittee has scheduled ten public hearings at various locations in the State. The purpose of the hearings is to receive testimony and gather information about how people see the areas in which they live and what factors need to be considered when the Senate districts are redrawn and the Congressional districts are redrawn to add a seventh district.

**The one near us will be 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Monday, March 28, at Technical College of the Low Country in Beaufort.**

**Senator Tom Davis will hold a "Talk to Tom" forum at 6:30 pm April 7 in the Beaufort City Council Chambers.** A question and answer session will follow a presentation by Davis about issues being considered by the state legislature.

Ginny Ghirardelli

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### Bylaw Change

We will consider and vote on the following amendment to the HHILWV by-laws at the General Meeting on May 11. (See page 6 for info on meeting.)

#### BYLAWS ARTICLE I

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.

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Following discussion and on a motion duly seconded, the LWVHHI board found that such a change and the expansion underlying it were in our best interest. Members at a general meeting registered approval. The board urges adoption of this amendment.

Submitted: Vivian Miller

## 2011 Guide to Elected Officials

No sooner are the revised "Guides" off the press, than changes must be made. First, the special election for Ward 3 of Hilton Head Town Council was held Feb. 15, and the new council member is:

Lee Edwards  
5 Nautilus Rd.  
PO Box 6569, HHI, SC 29938  
(O) 686-9020 (no e-mail address listed)

Also some e-mail address errors should be corrected:

SC Senate - Tom Davis – [tdavis@harveyandbattey.com](mailto:tdavis@harveyandbattey.com)

SC House – Bill Herbkersman – [schsdistrict118@aol.com](mailto:schsdistrict118@aol.com)

All SC Legislators can be contacted via e-mail through web forms at the Assembly's web site: [scstatehouse.gov](http://scstatehouse.gov)

Publication of the "Guide to Elected Officials" was again made possible by the graphic artistry of **Caroll Williams**. **Joan Kinne-Shulman** helped with editing, and the **Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce** covered the printing cost. Many thanks.

Niki Jordan

### Support of a "Moral Budget" for Our State

Our state League board recently signed a petition in support of a "moral budget" for our state. The petition was offered in conjunction with a rally of approximately 2,000 participants at the Statehouse in Columbia on March 12. Our local League promoted the rally and petition by sending a special e-mail to our members and by writing to our legislators. The League was one of many organizations involved in this effort. The purpose was to tell our political leaders that the alternative to further cuts in essential state services is to reform our tax system. For more information, please refer to <http://tiesthatbindsc.org> and be sure to read Holley Ulbrich's article, which is referenced there. For information on other state advocacy efforts by the League, refer to the last *SCVoter*, which is available under "publications" at [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org). To track legislation, go to [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

Fran Holt  
State Advocacy Issues Chair

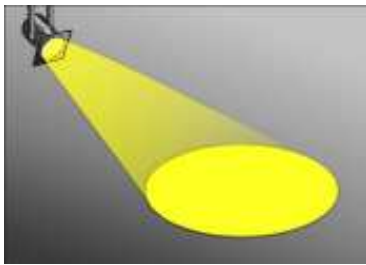


Visit our Web  
Site

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

### Welcome to Spring





### Spotlight On

#### Caroline McVitty

In 2007 my husband Arthur and I moved to Hilton Head.



Having just retired from a demanding and absorbing career as a corporate lawyer, I was seriously interested in

continuing to flex my intellectual muscles. My friend Ginny Kasey invited me to a League tea where I met the most fascinating women and men. They all seemed to have wonderful minds and

interesting perspectives on life, politics and community involvement. Better still, they often mirrored my own. I joined the League on the spot. And before I knew it, I was recruited to serve on the Board as co-secretary – a good start for a novice like me.

This was my first experience with the League, although I have always been active in civic affairs and have been a supporter of many causes and charities. In my family, my dad was one of the founders of the Democratic Party in our New Jersey community – and he was more than willing to voice his opinion on all the politics of the day. He was a local merchant and believed in a strong community and was active in many local and state civic and political organizations. As a result, I was always willing to

voice my opinion at public meetings and work diligently on various community efforts. I served as a planning commissioner and chair for many years, served on the board of my community associations, organized the first women's network in law school, served on church boards and committees, campaigned for candidates for political office – including my husband's daughter who is a state legislator in Pennsylvania.

In the League I have found wonderful friendships with people who are selfless, creative, tenacious and always inspirational. I am so proud to be counted among them.



## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers and board members for approval by the membership at the May 11 Annual Meeting:

President	Karen Wessel
Vice Pres./ Program Chair	Fran Holt
Secretary	Caroline McVitty
Fund-Raising Chair	Donna Russell
Membership Chair	Julie Wittig

Nominating Committee for 2012  
Ellen Forwalk, Chair  
Katie Miller, Bev Benjamin, Members

This year's Nominating Committee members were Dorothy Perkins, Ann Coffin, Karen Wessel and Ellen Forwalk. I thank them all for their contributions to the work of the Committee.

Sally McGarry, Chair

A brief memo:  
Please refer to the LWVHHI statements of "Public Policy Positions for 2010-2011" in the March issue of The Lighthouse. These will be presented at the annual meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

## PROPOSED LWVHHI BUDGET for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012



<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Dues</b>	\$ 5,000
<b>Contributions</b>	
<b>Members</b>	1,000
<b>Non-Members</b>	1,000
<b>Sponsors</b>	650
<b>Events</b>	2,500
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	100
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 10,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 100
<b>Education</b>	
<b>Publications/Public Relations</b>	50
<b>Voter Service &amp; A Guide to Elected Officials@</b>	650
<b>Website Management</b>	200
<b>Events</b>	2,500
<b>Fund-Raising/Development</b>	100
<b>Lighthouse</b>	50
<b>Membership Development (includes Brochure)</b>	500
<b>Per-Member Payments</b>	
<b>To LWVUS</b>	2,500
<b>To LWVSC</b>	1,200
<b>Travel</b>	
<b>State Convention</b>	1,500
<b>Other</b>	500
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	400
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$10,250</b>

This year's Budget Committee members were Fran Holt and Janet Law.

Bob McGarry, Chair



**League of Women Voters  
Annual Luncheon**



Wednesday, May 11, 2011  
At the Port Royal Golf Club  
In Port Royal Plantation  
11:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker:  
Weston Newton, Chairman of the Beaufort County Council

Cost: \$ 26.00 per person

Guests Welcome

**Please send your check and reservation to:**

**Andrea Bhatt  
67 S. Port Royal Drive  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
843-681-7950**

**Reservations must be received by May 4, 2010**

Choice of:

1. Balsamic and Honey Glazed Salmon topped with Chive Beurre Blanc and served over a medley of fresh vegetables
2. Homemade Chicken Pot Pie- Fresh chicken with vegetables and mushrooms in a baked puff pastry
3. Vegetarian Meal available upon request in advance

Served with Fresh Rolls and Whipped Butter  
Jack Daniel's Bourbon Pecan Pie, served with Whipped Cream  
Freshly brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Hot Herbal Tea



## Membership Meeting Features Mayor Lisa Sulka of Bluffton

Our March 9<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Kathy Quick, Julie Wittig, and the subcommittee on membership initiatives.



Over 60 people gathered in the meeting room at Hampton Hall to hear Mayor Lisa Sulka of Bluffton. She is a South Carolina native and long-time resident of Bluffton and her enthusiasm for the town of Bluffton and the surrounding area was on display.

After a brief history lesson and a walk through the annexation process (did you know that developers and/or property owners must request annexation and that 75% of the residents must sign the petition to the town?),

Mayor Sulka outlined the 2010 Strategic Plan. The five goals are: to celebrate the May River, maintain and increase a livable and sustainable community, maintain and improve town government excellence, upgrade infrastructure, and expand and diversify the economy. Efforts to meet the goals include neighborhood stabilization utilizing federal stimulus monies for low to moderate income neighborhoods, improvement in sewer, drainage, and source pollution control, business license procedures review, public/private partnerships, new signage and green space, and exploration of expanded opportunities for health care facilities.

Thanks to Mayor Sulka for a lively presentation and question and answer period. We look forward to hearing from her again next year.

Karen Wessel

### APRIL Calendar of Events

### Officers and Board 2009—2010

#### Board Meetings

Thursday, April 7, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

Thursday, May 5, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,  
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings

#### Membership Meeting

10 AM, Wednesday, April 13 2011

Visit St. James Baptist church  
and the Mitchellville historic site.

11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 11, 2011

**Annual Luncheon**  
At the Port Royal Golf Club  
In Port Royal Plantation

#### 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