

Lighthouse

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

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

As in previous years, we will start the new year with a report on the State of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Mayor Drew Laughlin will speak on **January 11**, at **10:00 a.m.** in the community room at **Hilton Head PSD, 21 Oak Park Drive**. We look forward to hearing about what has happened in the past year and what Mayor Laughlin hopes will happen in the future. We urge all members, their guests and any interested persons to attend. Please note that we will have a similar meeting in Bluffton on March 7, when **Mayor Lisa Sulka** will speak on the State of the Town of Bluffton.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership Meeting January 11 | 1 |
| Holiday Luncheon Reminder | 1 |
| From the President | 2 |
| Report on November Consensus Meeting | 2 |
| Calendar Changes | 3 |
| Calendar | 6 |



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON REMINDER



When you read this, there still may be time to reserve a place at the **Holiday Luncheon**, which will be on December 7 at Moss Creek Clubhouse. The featured speaker will be Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools, **Dr. Valerie Truesdale**, and honorees will be **Loretta Warden**, Chair of the Hilton Head Island Planning Commission, and **Laura Bush**, member of the Beaufort County Board of Education. They are being honored for their willingness to either run for election or volunteer to be appointed to their positions and for their long-time and outstanding service. For more information about the luncheon, please contact Katie Miller at 681-6448.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing you a joyous Holiday season

From the President



Many thanks are due to your fellow League members who made November such a productive time for us. Sue Feutz, our Voter's Service Chair, organized a televised forum for the Bluffton Town Council election. Barbara Swift moderated, and we received many expressions of gratitude from citizens of the Town of Bluffton. Pamela Hollinger and the entire education committee presented us with a thought provoking and deeply detailed consensus meeting on the role of the federal government in education. We are so very lucky to have such knowledgeable women in our League.

On the national level, LWVUS President MacNamara testified in Washington on the effect of recent voting legislation passed by several states (including South Carolina).

You can access that video and another composed of LWV state representatives discussing methods to provide voter education and service under the new legislative rules at the LWVUS.org website.

At the local level, we have sent letters to the County Council Chairman expressing our support for a November 2012 referendum to authorize the borrowing of \$20 million for its land-buying and conservation program. LWVHHI/BA supports the view that the voters should be given the opportunity to make a decision on this important matter. We have not yet taken a position for or against the \$20 million dollar proposal. We have also contacted the Mayor of Hilton Head outlining our concerns and priorities in anticipation of the Town Council retreat early this



LWVHHI/ BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

month. We have urged the Council to expand the recycling program to commercial establishments, consider a referendum on funding land acquisition, and to promote thoughtful, environmentally sensitive redevelopment plans. Don't forget to sign up for our Holiday Luncheon at Moss Creek Club on December 7. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Karen Wilber Wessel

Report On November's Consensus Meeting On Education

At our League's November meeting, members were led by Education Committee Chair Pamela Hollinger and committee members Ann Coffin, Loretta Warden, Kathy Quirk, Niki Jordan, Karen Wessel and Fran Holt in discussing and answering the national League's fifteen consensus questions about the role of the Federal government in public education. Some questions were of a general nature, while others pertained to Common Core Standards and to Funding and Equity. Among the participants in the discussion were Beaufort County Board of Education Chair Fred Washington, who is also a League member, and Beth Fox, a newly retired Beaufort County educator who recently joined the League and the Education Committee. Recorder Caroline McVitty carefully kept track of the responses to the questions along with commentary, thereby enabling the board at a special meeting on November 16 to prepare what was then sent to LWVUS on its official consensus response form. We look forward to learning the results of this study when all the responses from throughout the nation have been compiled. Because LWVUS has discouraged local Leagues from publicizing their individual results, we are not including them in this newsletter.

Fran Holt Vice president and Program Chair



CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note that there have some changes in our calendar. The meeting on February 8 will be a consensus meeting on the state issue, "Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in Our Public Schools." Local and national League program planning will not be done on that date, as previously planned. Instead, it is now scheduled for February 2 immediately following the board meeting. The exact time and place will be publicized later. For calendar and other useful information, please don't forget to refer to our website www.lwvghi.org.

December Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

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

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

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

Membership Meetings

11:30 Wednesday, December 7
Holiday Luncheon

Superintendent of Beaufort County Schools,
Dr. Valerie Truesdale
MOSS CREEK CLUBHOUSE

10 AM, Wednesday, January 11
Mayor Drew Laughlin

The State of the Town of Hilton Head Island
Hilton Head Public Service District #1
23 Oak Park Drive.

Officers and Board 2011—2012

OFFICERS

President:
Karen Wessel 682-3397
Vice-President, Program Chair:
Fran Holt 837-3436
Treasurer:
Janet Law 671-4280
Secretary:
Caroline McVitty 681-6124

BOARD

Fund-raising:
Donna Russell 837-7022
Government Issues/Observer Corps:
Joan Kinne-Shulman 842-9246
Hospitality: Katie Miller 681-6448
Membership: Julie Wittig 706-3735
Newsletter: Bob McGarry 342-9254
Public Relations/Publicity:
Dee Ann Dowlen 341-2318
Voters Services: Sue Feutz 415-6445