



Lighthouse

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

Membership Meeting Wednesday, September 21

9:30 Member Appreciation and Welcoming Party with refreshments

10:00 Panel discussion followed by Question & Answer Period

Low Country Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall

10 Simmonsville Rd. (corner of Hwy. 278 and Simmonsville Rd.), Bluffton

Saving Our Rivers and Lands will be discussed by panelists **Garrett Budds**, Director of Land Protection of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust; **David Harter**, Board Chairman of the Port Royal Sound Foundation (successor to Friends of the River) and **Fran Marscher**, author, environmentalist, former editor of *The Island Packet* and Bluffton native. Mr. Budds' presentation will include information about the proposed 2012 county bond referendum to fund the purchase of additional lands. Mr. Harter will discuss efforts to save our rivers, and Ms. Marscher will give a historical perspective. A **question and answer period** will follow the presentation. This meeting should be of interest to members both on and off the island and to the public. Please refer to the article on page 3, if you need a ride or are willing to give one.

For information on future membership meetings, please refer to the Summer edition of the *Lighthouse* available at www.lwvvhhi.org, and don't forget to put 7 p.m., October 12, Hilton High School Visual Arts Center on your calendar. That important meeting will be on **Judicial Diversity in South Carolina**.

Fran Holt
VP/ Program Chair

Inside this issue:

Membership Meeting September 21	1
Member Appreciation	1
From the Presidents	2
Membership	3
Spotlight On	4
What To Do (Education Commit-	4
Volunteers for Bluffton Event	5
Honoring Those Who Serve	5
Calendar	5

Celebrate Member Appreciation With a "Welcome Party"

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Come and celebrate with us as we start the new League year with a morning welcome party on Wednesday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. The festivities will take place at our meeting site, the LowCountry Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Bluffton, and will be held prior to the start of the membership meeting. Refreshments and goodies will be provided.

After the long summer break, get reacquainted with your familiar League friends and make some new friends. Invite a friend to come too. Visitors are always welcome. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our League.

From the President



Welcome back! Our meetings resume with a September 8th meeting of the Board at the Savannah Bank, 852 William Hilton Parkway, Hilton Head Island at 9:45 a.m. As always, members are encouraged to attend. Our first general membership meeting is Wednesday, September 21 at the Low Country Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. We are celebrating a new year with refreshments and social time at 9:30 a.m. followed by a panel discussion on *Saving our Rivers and Lands*. Please see Fran Holt's article and the boxed announcement on page 1. Other September events include the afternoons of September 8 and 15 at the Bluffton Farmer's Market. League members will hand out membership information and register voters.

As we start a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's Co-Presidents, Barbara Swift and Ginny Ghiradelli, for their outstanding efforts toward maintaining, expanding, and improving our league. Thanks also to last year's board members who worked hard for the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area League.

And, yes, in case you missed it, we now

officially include the Bluffton area in our charter. This is a great opportunity which will require outreach to the Bluffton area in voter's service, programs, observer corps, and expanded membership drives. If you can help in any of these areas, please let me know.

Voter's Service Chair Sue Feutz has planned a November 2 Candidates forum in Bluffton and voter registrations on Saturday, October 1 from 11-5 and Monday October 3, from 2-8 pm at the Bluffton Library and October 13 at Hilton Head High School, in addition to the September dates referenced above.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina has joined in a comment letter to the Department of Justice regarding the Voter Photo ID Bill. A decision on the legality of certain provisions in the bill is expected in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, the LWVSC is developing a campaign to educate voters and help them obtain the photo IDs, if and when it becomes necessary. In any case, it is highly unlikely to impact this year's elections. The South Carolina elections calendar can be seen at <http://www.scvotes.org>. The



LWVHHI/BLUFFTON
President
Karen Wessel

State League study "Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in Public Schools" is in the works. Additionally, the national league has requested that local leagues try to reach consensus on "The Role of the Federal government in Public Education". Pamela Hollinger and the education committee are busy planning our consensus meeting on November 9.

So, as you've just read, the LWVHHI/Bluffton Area has a very busy fall planned. We hope to see you at our meetings and events and look forward to a very productive and exciting year. And, as always, thanks to the Board and committee members for all the work they have done over the summer.

Membership

We have some fun League events planned in September to kick off the new year in addition to the September 21 Membership Meeting at the Low Country Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. For starters, on two consecutive Thursdays, September 8 and 15, the League will have a booth at the Bluffton Farmer's Market in old town Bluffton (on Calhoun Street) where we will spend each afternoon registering citizens to vote, promoting our upcoming meetings and inviting folks to join the League. On September 15, we will recognize Constitution Day and celebrate the ratification of the Constitution by registering as many citizens as we can to vote.

We will be at the market from 2p.m. to 7p.m. and need volunteers to staff our booth each afternoon. If you would like to join us for a half hour or an hour on either Thursday, please call me (843-706-3735). It would be nice to have League members coming and going throughout the afternoon and a show of support at our booth as we engage the public. This is a great opportunity to interest folks in the League and to expand our membership into the Bluffton area. I hope you will come out and join us. Besides enjoying the camaraderie of your League friends, you will also have time to shop the market for fresh produce!!

On Wednesday, September 21, you are invited to a Welcome Party starting at 9:30a.m. with coffee and cookies and social time before we start the Membership Meeting at 10:00 a.m. This celebration gives us time to mix and mingle a bit and get reacquainted with familiar League friends and to make some new ones. I encourage you to reach out to someone new whom you have not met before and welcome them to our League. A warm welcome goes a long way in making everyone feel connected.

The meeting that day is a panel discussion about the environment and saving our rivers and lands. This is a topic of interest for everyone who lives in the Lowcountry and appreciates the beauty that surrounds us. It is a meeting you will not want to miss.

While on the subject of saving the environment, we as League members can all do something now to help the environment by carpooling to our meetings. Since our expansion into the Bluffton area we will be alternating meetings between Bluffton and Hilton Head Island. Sometimes some of us will be driving a little bit farther to attend a meeting. Because of the added distance and time, this is a perfect opportunity for members who live near each other to think about forming carpools and sharing the driving. Carpooling

is good for the environment, good for the pocketbook, and a good way to visit with your League friends. If transportation is an issue with you and is preventing you from attending our meetings, please call me and I will do my best to find someone who lives nearby that could give you a ride.

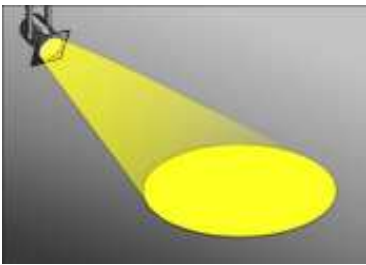
Finally, I wish to thank two of our members, Caroll Williams and Carol Possanza, for their help in getting Membership back in business in time for the new fall season. Caroll Williams did a fabulous job updating the membership brochure that we use at events and meetings throughout the year and coordinating all the printing efforts. The finished product is perfect and we now have an ample supply to last us quite a while. Carol Possanza was a wiz at creating some new memberships forms that we will be using at our monthly meetings. Besides the new forms, Carol, who recently joined the League, has jumped feet first into helping the Membership Committee recruit new members. Thank you both for your time, talent, and efforts.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon in Bluffton.

Julie Wittig

Membership Chair





Spotlight On Sally McGarry



In 1970, when I was a new resident of Montgomery County, MD, two of my neighbors invited me to go with them to a League of Women Voters meeting, with the intention of becoming members. We went and were impressed with the members and their programs and objectives. However, I was the only one of the three of us who joined! I joined, I became active in the Natural Resources Committee, and I learned the ways of the League as we prepared for a major presentation to all of the “units” on water issues and the Chesapeake Bay. The knowledge I gained from my environmental studies as a League member were of value to me as a Board mem-

ber of The Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay for many years and, later, when I was appointed a Commissioner of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

We don’t have “units” in this League because of our relatively small size. In a large League the size Montgomery County’s was at that time, “units” were a way of dividing the membership into groups by geographic area, by day of the week, or by time of day, to meet the needs of all members. We had a “baby-sitting unit” for mothers of young children who craved intellectual stimulation. When a

monthly presentation was to be made, the Committee responsible for the subject matter, had to program their members to cover all the units as “resource persons.” Each unit was responsible for providing a discussion leader and a recorder for these monthly meetings.

When Bob and I moved to Hilton Head Island, I searched out the League of Women Voters and discovered members who, like myself, have valued their League experience over the years and want to continue to be involved. I have enjoyed every minute.

What to do? What to do?

Scandal in Atlanta: *“Teachers fill in answers to increase achievement results on state-mandated tests. Too many principals look the other way.”*

New Alert: *Beaufort County Council votes against an increase in funding for schools.*

To ensure we have a productive meeting on November 9, 10:00 a.m., at the Hilton Head Public Service District Building, 23 Oak Park Dr., HHI, the Education Committee (Chair, Pamela Hollinger) is requesting that ALL members be prepared to reach consensus for LWVUS regarding the role of the federal government in education by becoming an “educated citizen” (to paraphrase John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*).

Therefore, sometime between now and the November 9th meeting, please access, read, and reflect on the documents and questions posted on the LWVUS website. Instructions are as follows:

1. Go to www.lwv.org
2. Go to the **For Members** section
3. Go to Projects and Programs
4. Go to **Taskforces and Studies**
5. Go to **Public Education Study**
6. Keep reading until you get to **Consensus Guide** and then read some more until you get to the **Questions**.

If you have any concerns, questions, or problems with what is on the agenda for our November 9 meeting, please call Pamela at 843.706.9928 or email her: pamelahollinger@yahoo.com.

Honoring Those Who Serve in the Hope of Encouraging More to Serve

This is a repeat of a Summer issue article. To date, only one nomination has been received! I'm hoping for more.

In an effort to encourage more capable women to serve in government, our League plans to honor several outstanding women from Hilton Head Island and the Bluffton Area, who are currently serving in government in either elected or appointed positions.

We will honor them at our December 7 holiday luncheon at the Moss Creek Clubhouse. We would like you, the readers of the *Lighthouse*, to submit your nominations for candidates to be honored. Please send your nominations to franholthhbl@gmail.com no later than September 15. Thank you.

Fran Holt



Volunteers Needed for Bluffton Event Thursday, September 8 and 15 Bluffton Farmer's Market in Old Town Bluffton

Please join us at the Bluffton Farmer's Market (on Calhoun Street) on September 8 and 15 as we register citizens to vote and hand out information about the League. Since our expansion into the Bluffton area, this is a great opportunity to introduce citizens to the work that we do and to recruit new members. We will also be promoting our upcoming Membership Meeting on September 21 and inviting citizens to attend and become better informed on what is going on in their community. Our booth will be set up from 2 p.m. to 7p.m. on both afternoons. Please call Julie Wittig (843-706-3735) if you would like to help out for a half hour or hour on one of these afternoons.

SEPTEMBER Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

Thursday, September 8, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

Thursday, October 6, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

Membership Meeting

September 21 at the **Low Country Presbyterian Church**, 10 Simmonsville Road (corner of Hwy. 278 and Simmonsville Rd.), **Bluffton**

9:30 Member appreciation social time
with refreshments
10: 00 Panel discussion on **Saving Our
Rivers and Lands**

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