



Lighthouse

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

IT'S A NEW LEAGUE YEAR!

We hate to see summer come to an end, but we always enjoy getting together again with friends we haven't seen for a month or two.



Senator Tom Davis

Our September membership meeting will take place, as usual, on the second Wednesday of the month, September 9th, at 10:00 a.m. We are pleased to welcome as our speaker State Senator Tom Davis. He will report on his first legislative session and will probably comment on a project dear to his heart, the proposed Jasper Ocean Terminal. While our monthly meetings have traditionally been held at Palmetto Electric Cooperative, finding a new location was made necessary this fall because of extensive renovation being done at Palmetto Electric.

We will meet instead at HILTON HEAD PSD, 21 Oak Park Drive.

Oak Park Drive is a left turn off Mathews Drive shortly after you pass the shopping center and before the turn into Palmetto Electric.

As always, guests are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

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League Leaders Day

Early on August 15, Co-President Barbara Swift, Co-Secretary Caroline McVitty, Treasurer Janet Law, and Observer Corps/Government Issues Chair Joan-Kinne-Shulman headed for Columbia to attend League Leaders Day. It was held at Swearingen Engineering Center to take advantage of available electronic aids.

The day started with a panel discussing "The basics of how to ensure a fair, informative, and interesting [candidate] forum—organizing to moderating to publicizing." The presenters were Leaguers from Sumter, Spartanburg County, the Charleston Area, and the Clemson Area.

The second panel focused on "Women in the Corrections System and Their Children: What Are the Issues?" The panel consisted of the LWVSC Criminal Justice Director, also a professor at Clemson University, an assistant professor in the USC Department of Criminal Justice, the deputy warden of Camille Griffen Graham woman's prison near Columbia, and the domestic violence coordinator at the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. (Sad facts: the number of female offenders is rising faster than the number of male offenders; nationally, more than one million children have mothers in prison.)

At lunchtime, we each

attended a different networking session. Barbara was part of the "Leading Your League as President/Chair" group; Caroline chose "LWVSC Advocacy Priorities and Tips"; Janet, "Money Matters"; Joan, "Growing Your Membership."

In the afternoon, we learned about "Web-Based Communications—Tech Tools for Local Leagues." Websites was presented by the Clemson Area Webmistress and the LWVSC Webmaster and professor in the USC Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Social Networking (Facebook-type sites) was presented by the Charleston Area Community Relations VP and a PR, mar-

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From the Presidents

As we begin a new League year we are trying something new: Co-Presidents. It's new for us, but not new for the League; others have tried it and it seems to work. At LWVSC Convention in April we met with the Co-Presidents of the Columbia League who were very helpful in sharing their experience with sharing the job.

Our thanks go to past Presidents, Joan Kinne-Shulman and Sally McGarry, for their service to our local League, and for their continued guiding hands. Sally is midway through her term as vice president and Joan will remain on the board. Finer examples of League leaders could not be found.

We belong to the League because we believe its mission is important, and we believe an informed citizenry is a safeguard for our democracy. Our organization has active

members in every state and we do make a difference. Each local League has its own unique characteristics, but what we all have in common is that we are a volunteer organization that does a professional job. Throughout League history member involvement has generated positive outcomes in League affairs, and enhanced leadership skills for individual members.

Here in South Carolina there are eleven local Leagues, representing 700 + members. Locally, we have 90 members, we are strong and healthy, and we serve our community well with our traditional activities of voter service and public meetings.

To keep our League strong and healthy we need to pay attention to membership. For that reason we will make membership recruitment and retention a priority this



LWVHHI Co-Presidents
Ginny Ghiradelli Barbara Swift

year. Unique to our resort/retirement community is that our membership includes women and men who have served the League in other towns and wish now to be in the category of "supportive member", an absolutely essential role. The segment of our membership that needs enhancement is "active member". We will review our recruitment and retention methods and materials, and call upon all League members to be a part of keeping the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head a vibrant and respected organization.

Ginny Ghirardelli
Barbara Swift

**"SAVE THE DATE:
Dec. 9, 2009.
Holiday lunch with
Ambassador
Linda Tarr-Whelan"**

2009 Annual Fund Drive

The Hilton Head League of Women Voters recognizes and thanks the following community and business leaders who have shown support of our voter registration and public programs with their generous contribution to this year's Fund Drive:

Jeremiah J. Barkie
Kinghorn Insurance
Carole & Bill Mottel
Benjamin M. Racusin

Bill & Linda Ferguson
Jack & Mary Ellen McConnell
Thomas & Mary Peeples
Mr. John Safay

Your continuing support of the League of Women Voters is very much appreciated.

Donna M. Russell, 2009 Annual Fund Drive Chairman Aug. 4, 2009

Officers, Board and Off Board 2009-2010

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: '09-'11

Ginny Ghirardelli 209-772-2226

gghirardel@aol.com

Barbara Swift 342-3383 btsswift@roadrunner.com

Vice-President: '08-'10

Sally McGarry 342-9254 smcgarry@roadrunner.com

Treasurer: '08-'10

Janet Law 671-4280 fussbudgethi@cs.com

Co-Secretaries: '09-'11

Anita Holcslaw 686-4085 amholcslaw@roadrunner.com

Caroline McVitty 681-6124 carolinemcivitty@gmail.com

BOARD

Fund-raising: '09-'11

Donna Russell 837-7022 Russdon@hargray.com

Government Issues/Observer Corps:

Joan Kinne-Shulman
842-9246 rjshulman@hargray.com

Hospitality:

Linda DeLuca 681-4969 lindadeluca@hargray.com

Membership: '09-'11

Ellen Forwalk 681-3096 frankforwalk@aol.com

Newsletter: '08-'10

Bob McGarry 342-9254 bmcgarry@roadrunner.com

Public Relations/Publicity:

Reni Kuhn 705-6711 stormking@hargray.com

Voters Services: '08-'10

Eileen Drehwing
681-4627 erdcaz@att.net

OFF-BOARD

Action/Advocacy: Education:

Niki Jordan 681-5664 jordannah@mindspring.com

State Issues:

Fran Holt 837-3436 fholthhi@yahoo.com

Nat'l Issues:

Vivian Miller 682-3339 twmvam@aol.com

Archivist:

Connie Voight 681-2286 connievvh@aol.com

Budget:

Bylaws:

Natural Resources/Environment:

DeeAnn Dowlen 684-6625 ddowlen@aol.com

George Dowlen 684-6637 ddowlen@aol.com

Nominating: '09-'10

Rita Donahue, Chair
671-6656 donahuehhi@aol.com

Karen Hasara 363-5018 hasgot28@aol.com

Dorothy Perkins 681-7011 dgp@hargray.com

Donna Russell

Sally McGarry

Parliamentarian:

Voters Guide:

Niki Jordan
Caroll Williams: 363-6601 Caroll.Williams@mac.com

Web Liaison:

Janet Law

Board Orientation

Co-President Barbara Swift hosted an orientation session for all officers and directors on Monday, August 17, with LWVSC President Barbara Zia and Vice President for Community Relations Peggy Appler "orienting" us to



Peggy Appler and
Barbara Zia

League policies, procedures, and lingo. No matter how long one has been a League member, sessions of this sort are helpful to remind us of the importance of our mission and the respect the League enjoys because of our non-partisanship and our objectivity. Three of this year's newly-elected members are new to the Board, so they were able to benefit from the experience and anecdotes of seasoned members. It is also valuable to gain an understanding of the relationship we here at the local level have with the State and National Leagues. This was a very good morning for all of us, and we appreciate Barbara and Peggy's taking the time to meet with us.



Annual Meeting, May 14, 2009



Our League year traditionally ends with the Annual Meeting, as required by the bylaws, and luncheon with a special speaker. Last May's Annual Meeting was held at the Port Royal Golf Club on the beautiful terrace which we had discovered and enjoyed in 2008. New officers and directors were elected (see page 3), the coming year's budget was approved, and policy positions were ratified by the membership.

We heard a very good speech from The Honorable Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education. We were inspired by his enthusiasm and optimism about the changes he has made in South Carolina's public school system and the improvements that are envisioned in the months ahead for students and for teachers. He spoke of the need for a comprehensive revision of



Jim Rex
State Superintendent of Education

the S.C. tax system to ensure equity and shared responsibility and urged the League to be an effective force for moving forward on this important issue. Dr. Rex was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Sue Rex, also a respected educator.

Sally McGarry

Candidates Forum

The LWVHHI held a forum on June 11th at the Hilton Head Plantation Clubhouse for the candidates running for Hilton Head Town Council District #2, moderated by Barbara Swift, co-President. The six people running for the seat presented their positions to an attentive audience of over 100 and answered questions from the League of Women Voters and from the public. The race went to a runoff, and was won by Bill Harkins on July 14th.



League Leaders Day

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keting and strategic-planning businesswoman.

The wrap-up session, called "As Good as We Are, Could We Be Better?", put us through a series of exercises to determine whether we are maximizing our available resources and "investing our efforts in the right issues with the right strategies at the right time." The session emphasized the value of building coalitions with like-minded organizations. The facilitator was a retired corporate executive who is the husband of our LWVSC President.

We took in a lot of information and ideas to energize our local League. We will share them with the Board and the general membership as the League year progresses.

Joan Kinne-Shulman

Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) is Offering Rain Barrels at a Discount.

A 60-gallon barrel is available for \$105, as opposed to retail value of \$144. An 80-gallon barrel is available for \$125, as opposed to retail value of \$165. Customers can view a demonstration rain barrel at the Hilton Head PSD Customer Service Center, 21 Oak Park Drive, off Mathews Drive. Customers can order barrels using their credit cards by calling Hilton Head PSD at (843) 681-5525 Monday through Friday. Order forms also are available online at www.hhpsd.com and www.lcrainbarrel.com. Barrels ordered now can be picked up between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the week of Aug. 31 through Sept. 4, 2009, at the Hilton Head PSD Customer Service Center.

League Urges Action on America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009

July 16, 2009

To: Members of the House of Representatives
From: Mary G. Wilson, President
Re: Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation

The League of Women Voters welcomes the introduction of America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 in the House of Representatives and we urge you to support quick action on this essential legislation. We believe that it is imperative for Congress to send real health care reform to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. According to a study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine, 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.

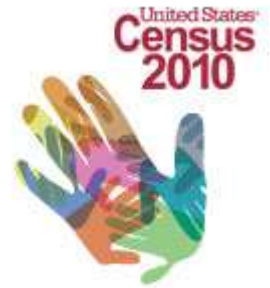
All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. We believe that health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. The League of Women Voters is ready to work with you to reach this goal.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

**LWVUS is a 2010
Census Partner**



League of Woman Voters of
Hilton Head Island
PO Box 23862
Hilton Head Island,
South Carolina
29925

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER
Calendar of Events

LWV Web Sites

Board Meetings

Thursday, Sept. 3, 9:45 at Harbourside Bank,
[852 Wm. Hilton Parkway](#)

Thursday, October 1, 9:45 at Harbourside Bank,
[852 Wm. Hilton Parkway](#) .

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

Membership Meetings

Wednesday, Sept 9th, 10:00 AM at HILTON HEAD
PSD, 21 Oak Park Drive. Speaker State Senator
Tom Davis

League of Women Voter of the U.S.

www.lwv.org

**League of Women Voters of South
Carolina**

www.lwvsc.org

**League of Women Voters of
Hilton Head Island**

www.lwvhhi.org