



Lighthouse

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

November Membership Meeting

“Safeguarding Our Drinking Water” is the topic for our regular membership meeting on Wednesday, November 10, at 10:00 A.M. at the PSD meeting room on Oak Park Drive.

Richard Cyr, Hilton Head PSD General Manager, and Pete Nardi, Hilton Head PSD Community Relations Manager, will talk to us about how the quality of the drinking water supplied to Island and Greater Bluffton area residents is safeguarded. How are water supplies tested and for what? Who does the testing? How often? What happens if a problem shows up? They will also talk about how users of Savannah River water affect the local area water supply.

In April 2009, delegates to the LWVSC Convention adopted a two-year study of water issues in South Carolina. Safeguarding water quality is one of the issues being studied. The final report is due out in early 2011.

Joan Kinne-Shulman, Co-Chair
LWVSC Water Study Committee

Inside this issue:

November Membership	1
October Candidate Forums	1
From the Presidents	2
Membership	2
Holiday Party Information	3
LWVSC Education Study	4
Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary	5
Absentee Voting	5
Calendar	6

If It's October, It Must be Candidate Forums Time

In the month leading up to the November 2 election, our League's principle activity has been centered on forums to bring the candidates for Hilton Head Island Mayor and Town Council together with future voters in an effort to ensure that those voters will make informed choices.

Last spring, long be-

fore all the candidate filings were complete, Co-President Barbara Swift reserved the high school's Visual and Performing Arts Center for the signature event of the season, the League-sponsored Mayoral Candidates Forum, to be held on October 12. A planning committee met to assign responsibilities for media coverage, co-sponsors, candi-

date contacts, staffing, and content of questions to be asked.

We were fortunate that Hilton Head Monthly magazine and the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce agreed to co-sponsor the event with us and help cover

(Continued on page 2)



From the Presidents



It's been a very busy fall so far and, after a lot of work by members and great visibility for the League, we will, after the election, turn our attention to Program. Our November meeting will focus on Water Resources, which will give us information for our State study of that issue. We do try to arrange programs to appeal to a broader range of people, especially as we reach out to Bluffton members. Joan Kinne-Shulman is serving as Co-chair of the LWVSC Water Resources Study. We hope to see you at the November meeting.

For the first time in fifteen years, Hilton Head Island has a heavily contested race for mayor. The League has been conduct-

ing forums for all voters featuring the mayoral candidates and the various Town Council candidates. The focus of our involvement is the education of voters. There are three contests for Town Council and seven candidates running for mayor. The ballot, of course, also has races at the state and county levels, and four ballot measures. However, each of us needs to VOTE and to encourage our friends and neighbors to VOTE!!!

We use electronic means to communicate among ourselves and to gather information. With the need to be informed about candidates and ballot measures, web sites present easy access. In addition to our own: lwhhi.org, here are



LWVHHI Co-Presidents
Ginny Ghiradeli Barbara Swift

some we have found informative:

lwhsc.org - general information

SCVotes.org - general information including How To Vote

Vote411.org - Click on "On Your Ballot" - includes some candidates' responses to questions, and the ballot measures

And while you're doing the electronic thing, how about reminding people to vote in all your e-mail correspondence from now until Election Day?

Membership

When I watched the Oct. 12th Mayoral Debate at Hilton Head High School, it made me proud to be a member of the League of Woman Voters which sponsored this debate. When I was asked to join the League I had recently relocated to Hilton Head Island and had never belonged to an organization like the League. A friend had encouraged me to join and as soon as I joined I was asked to be membership chairman. Believe me I was quite surprised. Since becoming a League member I have learned and experienced so many new things. I hope my story will encourage you, as a member of the League, to take a chance and ask a friend to join our League. We have a League that everyone can be proud of and sometimes all you need to get someone to join is to ask. Please contact me if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining and I will be more than happy to send them information.

Ellen Forwalk 681-3096 Membership Chair

If It's October, It Must be Candidate Forums Time

(Continued from page 1)
expenses. (See the banners of our three organizations in the accompanying photo.) At our April membership meeting, County Administrator

Gary Kubic had committed the resources of the County's TV channel to record it. As the time neared, the Savannah station WSAV also advised us they would televise the forum.

The October 12 forum served as our October membership meeting. Marc Frey, CEO of the Monthly, welcomed the audience and the candidates. Barbara

(Continued on page 4)



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010
****Reservations Due by December 2nd****



The December 8 Holiday Luncheon being held jointly by the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island and the American Association of University Women, Hilton Head Island Branch, will be held at the Harbour Town Yacht Club starting at 11:30 a.m. with socializing and a credit card bar for those who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages. Lunch will be served at Noon.

Our speaker is Pauline Jenkins-Miller, whose topic will be "Safe Harbor: Staying Home for the Holidays". Ms. Jenkins-Miller is the former Resident Services Director and Home Health and Clinic Administrator of the Cypress, a continuing care retirement community. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers and holds Master's Degrees in Counseling and Counseling Services. Her current focus is matters concerning the present and future state of the aging population in America, specifically Aging-in-Place.

Holiday Luncheon Menu

New England Clam Chowder

Cajun Salmon

OR

Chicken Salad with honey lime glaze, gorgonzola cheese, walnuts, grapes and Ranch dressing

OR

Brandied Pork with Wild Mushroom Risotto

Tiramisu with Mango Glaze

Coffee and Tea, Soft Drinks, Iced Tea

\$25.00

Please make checks payable to LWVHHI and send to:

Karen Wessel

15 Sam's Point Lane

Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Please indicate your choice of entrée on the memo line of your check.

Thank you. We hope to see you Wednesday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Harbour Town Yacht Club.

For further information or directions to the club, please call or email Karen at 843-682-3397 or karenw41352@gmail.com

LWVSC Education Study

Our state league is half-way through a two-year study of School District Structure and Authority in South Carolina. We have recently participated in that effort.

The study mainly addresses issues that aren't a problem for us in Beaufort County since our school board and county council boundaries are the same. School districts in other areas of the state have problems with local control that we don't have because their school districts, county councils and legislative delegations overlap with different con-

stituencies. So people who have no relationship to a school district can make vital decisions for that district, such as number of school board members, their district lines, their budget etc. with the district having no local control over those decisions.

However even though we don't have these problems, as a member of the state league we are participating in the study. We were asked to send suggestions for topics for consensus questions. In October we sent our thoughts, emphasizing

that we hope the consensus questions will be worded so that people in districts who desire change will have that option without forcing others to change also.

We will be participating in member consensus in early 2011. For background you can go to the state league website, www.lwvsc.org, click on LWVSC STUDIES, then click on School District Structure and Governance in South Carolina.

Ann Coffin



**VISIT OUR WEB
SITE**

lwvhi.org

If It's October, It Must be Candidate Forums Time

(Continued from page 2)

Swift, who moderated the forum, then laid out the rules of procedure. Rita Donahue was the timekeeper, and League members, as well as a Chamber of Commerce staffer, circulated to collect written questions from audience members and prioritize them for Barbara to ask the candidates, if time allowed.

This major forum was preceded and followed by 12 others. The League was asked to moderate most of them and Barbara, Joan Kinne-Schulman and Sally McGarry shared the hon-

ors. Rita, Katie Miller and Dot Law served as time-keepers. These forums gave the seven Mayoral candidates a platform for presenting their proposals and their qualifications for the office and an opportunity to distinguish themselves one from another. They have served to give members of the public the opportunity to evaluate this large number of candidates, to question them, and to formulate their opinions as to whom they will give their vote on election day. The benefit to the Hilton Head Island League of Voters has been enormous. Organizations

and citizens who never thought about the League before are now familiar with us and our mission. We receive mention in The Island Packet for every forum we sponsor or staff as moderators and time-keepers. Often, members of the audience will come up to one of us and express interest in becoming a League member. We are complimented over and over for "running a tight ship" in keeping the candidates from running over their allotted time. This election year has, indeed, been a banner year for the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island.



Joan Kinne-Schulman moderated the first at Port Royal Plantation



Turn out for all forums has been very high



Sally McGarry moderates a Council forum in Ward 5

Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary



Did you know that ???

Most judges in SC are selected by a judicial selection committee and then voted on by the General Assembly

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission (JMSC) has exclusive power to nominate candidates for the judiciary

The JMSC consists of 10 members – 5 appointed by the Speaker of the House – 3 must be serving in the General Assembly and 2 from the public at large. The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate appoint the other 5 – 3 of whom must be serving in the General Assembly – and 2 from the public at large

Of the 10 members serving on the JMSC, one man is an African-American and one commissioner is a

woman whose husband once served in the General Assembly

SC is one of only 3 states with such a selection process

There are only 17 women currently serving in the General Assembly – all of whom serve in the House – there being no women in the Senate

Given the above statistics, it is not surprising that our appointed judges more generally reflect the makeup of the General Assembly than they do our citizenry.

On October 8, more than 100 League members and attorneys from across South Carolina met in Charleston to launch **Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary** – a statewide campaign focusing on the importance of diversity and independence in ensuring fair and impartial courts. The event ran for the entire afternoon and concluded with a reception at a local

café. Following a keynote address, there were three impressive panels of experts from around the country in the field of judicial selection, including two men who sit on the SC Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

Concluding in July, 2011, all Leagues from around the State will be hosting a variety of programs to examine diversity in the judicial selection process and to raise public awareness regarding how judges are appointed in South Carolina. Ideally, such an examination may lead to changes which enhance the legitimacy of our system of justice in the eyes of an increasingly diverse public. This statewide program follows similar programs which have been advanced by the LWVUS in other states across the nation.

In February, 2011, the LWVHHI will host one such program. The details will be forthcoming.

Caroline McVitty
Judicial Project Coordinator
LWVHHI

**VISIT OUR WEB
SITE**

lwvhhhi.org

Absentee Voting

The Board of Elections has opened a satellite voting location at 61B Ulmer Road in Bluffton. If you qualify for absentee voting, then you can vote at this location **immediately**. In our state, you can vote early only if you qualify to vote absentee. (Absentee qualifications are shown at the end of this message.)

If you have applied for an absentee ballot, then you can still vote electronically at this location. Also, the Bluffton location seems to be adequately staffed and has a number of voting machines. The hours are M-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

You may be surprised to find four constitutional amendments on the ballot. You may want to look into these at the website <http://scvotes.org/> before going to vote. The LWVHHI does not have a position on any of these amendments.

(Continued on page 6)

Absentee Voting

(Continued from page 5)

You can reach 61B Ulmer Road by turning left from 278 (as you head away from HHI) onto Burnt Church Road, proceeding 1.7 miles to Ulmer Road, turning left [just after passing MC Reilly Elementary School on the right] onto Ulmer Road and proceeding 0.3 miles to the recreation center. The voting location is on the left side of the road and is marked with a sign indicating Board of Elections. The location is handicap accessible.

Acceptable reasons for absentee voting in South Carolina are the following:

- Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, government employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Students, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- For reasons of employment will not be able to vote on election day
- Physically disabled persons
- Persons on vacation
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on day of election or at least four days prior to the election
- Electors with a death or funeral in the family within 3 days before the election
- Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
- Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons
- Certified poll watchers and poll managers

You must be a registered voter in South Carolina. To check the status of your registration

1. visit <http://scvotes.org/>
 2. click on "Voters",
 3. click on "Check your voter registration",
 4. click on "Check your voter registration information"
- enter your first name, last name and birth date

NOVEMBER Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

Thursday, November 4, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway

Thursday, December 2, 9:45 at Savannah Bank,
852 Wm. Hilton Parkway .

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

Membership Meetings

10 AM, Wednesday, November 10
Discussion of Water Issues.
Hilton Head Public Service District #1
23 Oak Park Drive.

11:30 AM, Wednesday, December 8
Harbor Town Yacht Club
Holiday Luncheon
See page 3

Officers and Board 2010—2011

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