

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND - BLUFFTON AREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

June 2020



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND-BLUFFTON AREA

2019-2020 Leadership

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Connie Voight, Archivist

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In 2019 – 2020 The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area continued, as in 2018 – 2019, to achieve significant results in advancing our mission while growing our membership and enhancing our League’s visibility, impact, and capacity.

In the past year, under the leadership of our Board of Directors, we have:

- Achieved a 31% net gain in membership, exceeding our goal of 5 percent;
- Strengthened connections with African-American and Hispanic organizations and communities; especially the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition.
- Sponsored and moderated three public forums, including one for Bluffton Town Council candidates; one for Redistricting and Gerrymandering Reform; and one for educating the public about the Beaufort County School District’s bond referendum. The referendum passed by 69%, the first in 11 years, with LWVHHI-BA as a lead organization for community support.
- Received a LWV High School Voter Registration Grant for \$800.00; the first such grant by LWVHHI-BA. Eighty-seven students had been registered prior to the close down of schools.
- The State Issues/Advocacy Committee grew to 137 members, an increase of 28% from last year because of community education and League actions on redistricting, gerrymandering, and legislative issues.

Held four showings of the documentary *Equal Means Equal* to educate the public on the need for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (H.3391) by the South Carolina legislature, with an average attendance of 40 viewers. As a result of LWVHHI-BA postcards, letters, emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings, our League’s ERA Coordinator was invited to attend the formal announcement in Columbia by Senator Tom Davis of the companion bill he was putting forward (**S 901**) to show support for **H 3391**.

- Changes to our website resulted in increased traffic and more subscribers to our League updates, and in a separate statistic, our e-communications rose to 13,000. Overall subscribers now total over 500; a 15% increase this year and the current open rate of 64% far exceeds the industry standard of about 40%.
- Facebook posts about our 100th anniversary reached 785 readers and a post about gerrymandering reached 411 readers.
- The Education Committee followed League guidelines for a local study of school district facilities, including visiting schools north and south of the Broad, to determine whether the League could support the bond referendum and shared the results with the public; the bond referendum passed by 69%, the first such approval in 11 years.
- Augmented our operating income by raising over \$9,000 in contributions; an increase of 170%
- As part of leadership development efforts, sent 7 members to LWVSC’s 2020 LEAD Day in Columbia.

We also found time for socialization—as well as education-- at our holiday luncheon, with Atty. Charmaine P. Clowney, the LWVSC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator as our keynote speaker. Unfortunately, our May annual meeting and luncheon had to be cancelled because of COVID-19.

More about what we’ve accomplished this year appears in the following report.

-- Patricia Montgomery, President

We organized monthly programs from September 2019 through May 2020 that furthered the priorities of the national League as well as those of LWVSC and LWVHHI-BA. One program had to be cancelled because of a mandatory evacuation order to escape a hurricane. Two were cancelled to comply with rules set forth to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We had good attendance at all programs that were held. The topics and speakers for each meeting follow.

September 2019 - Planned topic: Presentation of plans for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the LWV by the 100th Anniversary Committee. Cancelled because of evacuation orders.

October 2019 - Topic: Public information session on the referendum bond for Beaufort County public schools to be voted on in November. Panel: Dr. Frank Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools; representatives from the Community Project Review Committee; representatives from the LWV Education Committee Study Group.

November 2019 - Topic: Legislative Redistricting Forum. Speaker: Max Saltzman, LWVSC Director for Redistricting, assisted by Mary Ann Bromley, LWVHHI-BA State Issues and Advocacy Chair.

December 2019 Holiday Luncheon - Topic: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. Speaker: Charmaine Clowney, LWVSC Coordinator of Diversity.

January 2020 - Topic: Census 2020: Everything You Wanted to Know. Speakers: Ernest White, census partnership specialist for Beaufort and Jasper counties, and James Bradley, recruiter for Beaufort and Jasper counties.

February 2020 - Cocktail party celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the national League. Invitees: League members, regional public officials, and prominent citizens of the area.

March 2020 - Topic: Beaufort County Issues and Challenges. Speaker: County Administrator Ashley Jacobs.

April 2020 - Topic: Immigration and the Lowcountry: An Update. Speaker: George Kanuck, co-chair of the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition. Cancelled because of the guidelines for combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. An article in our April *Lighthouse* highlighted the key points of what would have been his presentation.

May 2020 - Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Cancelled because of the pandemic guidelines. Planned program: Honoring women leaders in the community and showing a video the local League made: The League of Women Voters: Founding and Continuing the Mission.

--Joan Kinne-Shulman, V.P. of Programs

LWW MEMBERSHIP

Membership has had an outstanding year due especially to on-line registration, member recruiters, ERA Equal Means Equal showings, the Centennial donor event, and the general meeting that we had last June.

Our membership numbers are as follows:

- 197 members in total, 14 of which are household, 3 life members and 16 men.
- In June, July and August 2019, we gained 21 members and in September through April, 2019/2020 we gained 50.
- We lost 14 members between June 2019 and April 2020. The losses were due to relocation, death, poor health and loss of interest.

In January, Lisa Pease became the co-chair of membership. She has mailed welcome letters with a gift Gerrymandering bumper sticker and thank you letters to new and renewal members, respectively. A new member reception was planned for the end of March 2020. This event was canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak and will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so.

--Ellen Dahl, Membership Chair

LWW COMMUNICATIONS

A July brand work up/strategy session with Bragg Media Marketing, to include identification of intended outcomes with area marketing analyses, helped focus Communications Committee efforts for the 2018-2019 membership year. Among Heather Bragg's recommendations, changes to the website resulted in increased traffic and more self-subscribers to League updates. Overall subscribers now total over 500, a 15% increase this year. Other enhancements included new online options for membership enrollment, renewals, donations, and event registrations.

Capitalizing on community enthusiasm for *Equal Means Equal* documentary events and the need for the Equal Rights Amendment ratification, the League created opportunities for both armchair and in-person advocacy. During the November 2019 election season, the League crafted a series of 21 visually-imaged voting/ election e-blasts designed to be forwarded to friends, relatives, and organizations, as well as promoted to Social Media. In summary, this year the League sent 46 e-communications, from action alerts, monthly updates, and event invitations to quarterly newsletters. With over 500 subscribers

(members, friends, organizations, political and press contacts, SC League Leaders), this effort resulted in over 13,000 e-communications. Analysis of email open rates prompted progress toward shorter, tightly-written e-blasts with more in-depth newsletters quarterly. League e-blast open rates continue to exceed the industry standard with a current member open rate of 64%. All these increases in e-communications were made possible by the expertise, creativity and efforts of Mary Agnes Garman. She was also the creative brains behind the new LWV banners and business cards.

The League maintained an active Facebook presence with 163 unduplicated followers. Mary Ann Bromley was instrumental in posting updated information on our FB page. Since July 1 of this program year, several League posts generated a broad response. For example, the League reached 785 readers with a post about our 100-year anniversary, mission, vision, and priorities. A post about gerrymandering and the need for voters to elect their representatives, not the representatives picking their voters, reached 411 readers.

Visibility in print media continued to be critical to the League's mission and priorities. Initiatives included four Letters to the Editor, four press releases, ten press mentions in print/digital editions of *The Bluffton Sun*, *The Hilton Head Sun*, *The Island Packet*, the state League's *SC Voter*, and regional news outlets, as well as multiple posts to the Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce online event calendar. Topics included LWVHHI-BA members elected to LWVSC, the Census2020 public forum, results of our League's study group for the Beaufort County School District bond referendum and our leadership in supporting citizen approval of the bond, ERA movie showings, a public meeting on Civic Engagement and Advocacy: on Redistricting/Gerrymandering, support of no-excuse absentee voting, and League member participation in the LWVSC Lobby Day. Full-page feature articles in *Hilton Head Monthly* and *Pink* magazine, televised interviews on WSAV and WTOC, and a League display at the Hilton Head Library, highlighted the League's 100^{year} anniversary of advocacy.

Keeping our website (www.lwvghi.org) current and relevant was a main focus this year. Our new web master, Judy Dunning worked on redesigning the format and making it easy-friendly, adding buttons to Join and Donate. Links were added for visitors to read about featured articles, updated events, and Action Alerts.

Support for committees and League priorities, included such activities as the annual MLK Jr. Memorial Day Program on January 20, 2020, in which our members marched in 1920's attire and where our president, Patricia Felton-Montgomery, was invited as the keynote speaker to present a LWV historical Power Point program. Furthermore, as our LWV Centennial Committee planned its celebration, a Communication Committee member, Mary Ann Burgeson worked on preparing the program and invitation for the event.

The Equal Rights Amendment, People Powered Fair Maps, School Bond Referendum, VOTE411, and Voter Services, remained a committee focus. In addition to e-communications, outcomes included website content and event updates, posters, fliers, rack cards, invitations, event programs, business cards, and vinyl banners. Designs and imagery intentionally reflected the League's emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion; new VOTE411 branding; and the use of purple and gold identified by LWVUS focus groups to distinguish League visibility from other organizations of similar intent.

A sincere thanks to everyone on the Communications Committee for finding innovative ways of getting the word out about the League's mission, policies, and issues and for working hard with other committee members to ensure yet another successful program year.

--Sandy Stern, Communications Chair

The Education Committee had an early and quick start this year when it became clear during the summer that the Beaufort County School District (BCSD) would present a bond referendum proposal in the upcoming November 5 election. It had been eleven years since the last successful bond referendum to fund new construction and necessary improvements in the district. The last two referendum proposals had failed to obtain voter approval. Issues of poor governance and lack of trust in the school board were concerns raised during those failed attempts. Growing districts of the size of BCSD typically need a bond referendum every four to five years to meet capital needs. With a new superintendent in place and new recently elected school board members, this seemed a critical moment for the district.

Therefore, in August, the Education Committee proposed to undertake a local study to determine whether we could recommend that our League support this referendum and then recommended a YES vote to the community at large. We began by reviewing the work of the Citizens' Project Review Committee (CPRC), the group of community members who had worked January through April 2019 to set out priorities for this referendum. Members of our committee met with CPRC members, district staff and parent/teacher representatives and also made site visits to key schools in both the north and south of the county. The committee was able to present its report to the board in time for its September meeting. Key findings were:

- Real needs would be addressed in this referendum and they could not be adequately met except by raising the needed funds by this referendum.
- The school district had sought and received input from the community that reflected the diversity of the community and targeted concerns of parents and community members, including school safety and security, overcrowding, equity in school facilities and Career and Technical Education needs.
- There were significant safeguards in place in the specificity of the projects listed in the referendum proposal and in the district's commitment to develop an Oversight Committee of community members to monitor post referendum expenditures and to make regular public reports.

The board voted to support the November 5th referendum at its September meeting and to recommend a YES vote to the community at large. Our League was critical to the union of other community groups in the **Better Schools Now** effort to advocate for the referendum. A public meeting to provide information to the community was planned for October 16 at the Bluffton Library. The panel included Dr. Frank Rodriguez, BCSD Superintendent, two members of the

CPRC citizens' committee and the chair of the Education Committee. This meeting was well advertised through flyers and social media, was carried on Facebook and had a strong attendance of about 60 people. Members of the committee and of the League helped to distribute informational flyers at key places. An Op-Ed piece detailing the League's position in recommending the yes vote was carried in *The Island Packet*. The referendum received a 69% voter approval.

The Education Committee has continued to closely follow issues of governance on the local school board. The committee chair spoke during public comments at the school board's November 11 meeting to thank the superintendent and board for their efforts to establish trust and transparency during the lead up to the referendum. We are tracking the meetings and reports by the Citizen-Led Oversight Committee (CLOC) that was appointed to monitor project expenditures following the referendum and has been meeting since January 2020.

In January, the committee began to pivot from our local focus on school board issues to the state level issue of funding reform for SC public schools. We had presented a public forum on the need for adequate state funding in the spring of 2019 and were following proposals for funding reform in the present legislative session. Both the House and the Senate each had passed their own version of an education bill. We were also following an effort to try to pass a school voucher program in SC, **S.556**. However, when the legislature had to move to addressing the coronavirus situation in early March, it became clear that most action on education would be deferred until next year's session of the General Assembly. We will continue to follow these bills.

As a committee, we have worked to increase new member participation in our League by inviting new members to our committee meetings, most recently to an *Open Committee Meeting* at the Hilton Head Library in February. Melanie Barton, Senior Education Adviser to SC Governor Henry McMaster, joined us for that meeting to outline educational needs and trends in the state.

In submitting this report, I am including all the names of our hardworking and capable committee. Every member of this committee was engaged in work on the study, the informational forum and our advocacy. Newsletter Editor, Mary Agnes Garman, was an ad hoc member of the committee, providing colorful and well-designed fliers for all our efforts. We had excellent support from all Board members, the Communications Committee and our Board president, Patricia Montgomery, who is always an advocate for public education.

Members of the Education Committee include: Karen Arms, Carol Barker, Carol Beck, Joyce Emmett, Diana Heitman, Fran Holt, Patricia Felton-Montgomery, Barbara Nielsen, Loretta Warden.

--Kathy Quirk, Education Committee Chair

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in South Carolina and, ultimately full implementation of this Constitutional amendment throughout the country have been the overarching goal for our committee this past year. Objectives for achieving this goal are as follows:

1. Create awareness of the status of the ERA ratification in South Carolina (Part 1)

Actions to support achievement of this objective include: the creation of printed materials describing the history of the ERA, current status in the South Carolina legislature (**H 3391** authored and put forth in 2019 by Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and in receipt of bi-partisan co-sponsorship by 9 representatives at the start of the January, 2020 legislative session.) Materials were distributed at several small and large group gatherings including 5 gatherings in homes, 4 showings of the *Equal Means Equal* documentary (see #2), and presentations to specific groups upon their invitation. Print materials were also available on the LWV ERA web page. Over 200 **ERA YES** buttons were printed, sold, and worn throughout the community. As much as possible, awareness activities were aligned with LWV 100-Year Anniversary activities.

Outcomes of this awareness campaign: increased LWV membership, individuals who signed up to receive regular ERA email updates and Call to Action number more than 70, 2 presentations on the ERA were provided by this Coordinator to 2 groups whose memberships number more than 500.

A letter to the editor of *The Island Packet* was printed and received positive comments.

2. Increase awareness of the ERA (Part 2)

Multiple showings of the documentary *Equal Means Equal* provided opportunities to further the understanding of the need for constitutional protections for women's rights. Four showings were presented in total, with the first one at USCB being the only one that was not free as it was part of the kick-off to the 100th Anniversary of the LWV celebration. Attendance ranged from over 100 to 15 for these events; a discussion with a question and answer session followed each showing. The 5th showing was being planned for students at USCB in cooperation with four faculty members in an attempt to create broader understanding among young voters as well as the importance of exercising their right to vote. This event had to be postponed as on-campus classes were cancelled due to COVID 19.

Outcomes from the showings of this documentary include, new members joining the LWVHHI-BA and additional people signing up to receive the CTA emails. Subjective outcome: this community is talking about women's EQUALITY.

3. Increase contact with House and the Senate state legislators (Part 3)

The primary action focused on asking that **H 3391** (ratification of the ERA in SC) be moved forward for a vote, first and foremost in the House Judiciary Committee. Contacts included postcards, letters, emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings.

Outcomes of increased contact with SC legislators include many responses of self-reports (although there was no formal means in place to track outreach contacts.) In follow-up conversations with our local Representatives and Senator, they let it be known that HH/Bluffton constituents were reaching out to them. In mid-December, 2019, our League was invited to attend the formal announcement in Columbia by Senator Tom Davis of the companion bill he was putting forward (**S 901**) to show support for **H 3391** (note: that a similar bill, **S 918**, co-authored by Senators Bright Mathews, Senn McLeod, and Frye Shealy, were also up for consideration.)

4. Increase awareness of the ERA in the U.S. Congress (Part 4)

Once the state of Virginia became the 38th and last state needed for ratification of the ERA, our objective to increase awareness of and take action on the forward movement of implementation of the ERA in Congress went into full drive.

The main action has been to support efforts toward removal of the ratification deadline. The House of Representatives passed the resolution to remove the ratification deadline in March 2020. **Senate Res. 6** still awaits action by the Senate Judiciary Committee (SJ).

Outcomes pending. A letter-writing campaign, phone calling and social media alerts are underway to the SJ Committee, especially the Chair, Sen. Lindsey Graham. Activity has slowed because of COVID 19.

--Barbara Hammes, ERA Specialist



The League Year 2019-2020 was a challenging one for observing government meetings. A mandated hurricane evacuation for local residents in early September 2019 cancelled some meetings. Then, starting in early March 2020 and continuing through the League year, the general public could not attend government meetings in person in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Hilton Head Island Town Council and Planning Commission meetings could be seen on the county television channel.

The three Corps members (Joan Kinne-Shulman, Barbara Swift, and Sally McGarry) attended most of the meetings. No current local town issues were deemed to directly relate to our local priorities.

We continue to try to interest some members to observe at the Bluffton Town Council and Planning commission meetings. All LWVHHI-BA members are invited to join this Committee.

--Joan Kinne-Shulman, Observer Corps Chair

The major focus of the committee this program year has continued to be on education and advocacy around redistricting and gerrymandering (**H.3054** to establish a S.C. Independent Redistricting Commission.) Thanks to the efforts of committee members and other League members we were also able to provide education and advocacy efforts on other important state legislative issues such as working to defeat a resolution in support of a federal constitutional convention (**H. 3125 and S. 125**) which could have been a major threat to our democratic ideals; opposition to **H. 3020**, the “fetal heartbeat” bill and several “dark money” bills (**H. 4203 and H. 3045**). With regard to this legislative session which has in essence drawn to an end, Lynn Teague, LWVSC Vice President for State Issues/Advocacy best summed it up with the following statement, “The bad news: the good bills are mostly doomed. The good news: the bad bills are mostly doomed.” When the COVID-19 outbreak came to our shores, the committee immediately shifted its focus to advocate for voting alternatives to in-person voting, including universal vote-by-mail and if that is not feasible with the SC Legislator adjourned until 5/14/20 and the down ballot primary scheduled for 6/9/20, then changes to state law to allow for “no-excuse” absentee voting and more time to count absentee ballots. Due to our efforts, on 5/13/20 SC lawmakers expanded absentee voting for all registered voters for the June primary.

Our kick-off event this program year was a League Forum on 11/13/19 featuring Dr. Matt Saltzman, Director of Redistricting from LWVSC. An eye-catching video on gerrymandering and a power point slide program on redistricting and gerrymandering were used to focus the presentation and discussion led by Matt Saltzman and MaryAnn Bromley. *The Bluffton Sun* and *Hilton Head Sun* (11/5/19) carried an informative article by John Riolo on redistricting and highlighting our Forum. Approximately 80 people attended the forum.

Our second major event was participation by seven LWVHHI-BA members in the LWVSC Lobby Day (February 12, 2020); the largest local League delegation sent to this state event. Also, this program year, in addition to the monthly legislative update phone conferences held by Lynn Teague, a LWVSC Redistricting Work Group was created with representation from most of the local Leagues around the state, including from our LWVHHI-BA. This group has been a great support and an invaluable resource supporting our committee efforts at the local level.

In our efforts to obtain a hearing on the SC House Bill (**H. 3054**) to establish a S.C. Independent Redistricting Commission, we were in constant communication with our League members and community supporters about what was (and was not) happening with the bill and urging everyone to contact their representatives via the state website, email, phone, letter and text. We also kicked off a major post carding effort focused on the state League’s *People Powered Fair Maps* campaign. Over 100 post cards were mailed out to our state representatives by LWVHHI-BA members and over 200 rack cards were given out, emphasizing the importance of people powered fair maps. Our *Lighthouse* newsletter, website and Facebook page carried regular updates about redistricting, the need for an independent redistricting commission, and urging members to act. We were also in regular contact with other community contacts, urging them to contact their members as well. Over 100 “Stop the Gerrymander” bumper stickers and mini

stickers were sold and others were given to new members of LWVHHI-BA to provide them an incentive to learn more about this important state issue.

Other activities

During this program year we have also continued to update and distribute copies of our fact sheets on the need for an independent redistricting commission; how to speak with your legislators; the S.C. Legislative Process; and, our *Legislative and Redistricting Resource Guide*. In addition to using our League newsletter, Facebook page and website to get out our good government messages, several committee members also shared our information through other community group newsletters, emails and meetings. Each time a good government bill was scheduled for a hearing or some other action, we used e-blasts to communicate information on the issue to all committee and Board members, columns in our *Lighthouse* newsletter as well as Action Alerts, as needed, with the assistance of the Communication Committee, to reach our full League membership and supporters.

Our committee now has 137 participants on our email list – a 50% increase since last year.

Going forward

The coronavirus outbreak has essentially brought a halt to the legislative agenda for this year's S.C. General Assembly. We do not expect any further action on the bills that we have been tracking and based on the data from the 2020 Census, redistricting will begin in earnest in 2021 without a S.C. Independent Redistricting Commission. However, our *People Powered Fair Maps* campaign is far from over.

During the upcoming program year, our focus will be on continuing to advocate with our state representatives and senators for a transparent selection process in the drawing of our SC Voting Districts with meaningful public input. Criteria for the map-drawing should exclude partisan and incumbent protection. Fair maps can reduce political polarization by promoting competitive districts in which legislators must then consider a wide range of perspectives and reduce voter apathy by showing citizens that their votes matter. A public education campaign is needed in order to accomplish our fair maps goals. We will need to “hit the ground running” as soon as we can get out in the community with our messaging about fair maps and the redistricting process.

Spring, summer and fall have always been filled with good opportunities in both Bluffton and Hilton Head to set-up an informational table at the many outdoor fairs and events that are held. These events provide excellent opportunities for us to educate and dialog with a broad range of community members and visitors. In the meantime, however, we need to listen to the health experts and stay safe.

I'd like to thank all of the committee members who helped with programming, education and advocacy during this program year. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Lynn Teague, Shayna Howell and Matt Saltzman from LWVSC for their leadership and guidance this year. Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the LWVHHI-BA Board and most especially, the Communications Committee members, for all their assistance.

--MaryAnn Bromley, State Issues and Advocacy Chair

The committee's first goal was to continue to work with the three high schools south of the Broad to register seniors before they graduate. One hundred fifty students registered during this time. The Academy for Career Excellence was a new, successful site for us this year with 15 students registered. We also registered 24 students at the Technical College of the Low Country and USCB.

Our League was the recipient of a National Grant for Voter Service. Kay Roshnow was the writer of the grant. In January and February our committee worked on the requirements of the grant that included an official script written to the young voter and letters prepared for principals and parents. Because of the money provided by the grant, our committee worked with our *Lighthouse* editor, Mary Agnes Garman, to design a new business card for the use of League officers and chairs. We were also able to order tripod banners that can be used at League events.

On February 19th, Patricia Montgomery gave a presentation to a meeting of all the principals in the Beaufort County School District about the requirements of the National Grant for Voter Service. The principals were given a packet of information about the League and a copy of a letter that could be sent home to the parents to inform them about the assemblies for voter registration. Parents were also informed that students would need to know the last four digits of their social security number. Patricia had prepared an informational Power Point program and shared selected You Tube videos about the importance of youth voting that the Voter Services Committee could use at the planned high school voter education and registration assemblies.

Voter Service Committee members contacted the schools to calendar school registration events. The key contacts for the Technical College of the Lowcountry and USCB were Sharon Butler, Kay Roshnow, and Jill Ford. Ilene Schwartz worked with Bluffton High and Diana Heitman and Michael Lewis worked with May River High School. I have always worked with Hilton Head Island High School. This group of volunteers has been together for the last 4 years. Principals approve our events and we register students during their lunch periods. This year, a new model was being implemented/tested at two of the high schools. The model used student leaders to register their classmates as required by the National Youth Registration grant.

Members of the Voter Service Committee were present at 27 community events during the 2019-2020 program year or twice as many as last year. This number includes high schools. Furthermore, because of LWVHHI-BA's support of the referendum, we handed out voter education and registration literature to parents at six elementary and middle school open houses. Seventy-five volunteers helped with all these events, with quite a few working more than one event.

Another Voter Services goal was to talk to voters about absentee voting. Over 200 informational fliers on absentee voting were handed out to voters. In addition, handouts were distributed on

Vote 411, a valuable resource for learning about candidates' views on issues. Last fall, the mayor of Bluffton and Town Council candidates responded to local league questions on Votes 411 and voters were able to preview the Beaufort County Schools Bond Referendum information.

Minerva Castro-Hernandez is our League's webmaster for Vote411. She has worked diligently with the chairs of our committee as well as other local Leagues on the posting of questions for county and local candidates running in the June 2020 primary and the November general election so that voters have a better understanding of candidates' views on major issues confronting our communities.

-- Ruth Wilwerding, Voter Service Chair



LWV 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR REPORT

The 2019-20 fiscal year has been an incredible time of wonderful events to celebrate the LWV Centennial Year with very generous donations in funds and in kind. Our membership is growing rapidly, but the coronavirus pandemic this spring has meant the cancellation of our annual luncheon, as well as the LWVUS Conference and a new member reception. Thus, the budget items reflect many changes.

Income 7/1/19 – 4/30/20	YTD	Budget	Budget %
Donations/Fund-raising	\$12,968	\$6,682	148%
Dues	8,629	7,860	109%
Events * *	2,073	3,000	69%
LWVUS Youth Voter Grant	525	N/A	N/A
Total Income	\$23,995	\$17,542	137%

Expense 7/1/19 – 4/30/20	YTD	Budget	Budget %
Advocacy	\$ 397	300	132%
Ad/Admin/Supplies	543	850	64%
Conference/Travel * *	0	2,650	---
Events * *	9,025	6,000	150%
Forums/Programs	96	300	---

LWVUS Youth Voter Grant	424.	N/A	---
Membership * *	0	300	---
Miscellaneous	306	100	306%
PMPSC & PMPUS	3,816	5,842	65%
Voter Service	245	300	82%
Website	448	500	90%
501c3 fees	40	400	10%
Total Expenses	\$15,340	\$17,542	87%

Total Assets, as of April 30, 2020 **\$17,350**

Total Assets, as of July 1, 2019 **\$10,123**

A general estimate of the increase in funds by July 1, 2020 is \$7,500, so I will be recommending the purchase of an additional CD or bond.

*Donations/Contributions include Fundraising events and donations

** Impacted by the COVID -19 shutdown.

--Barbara Swift, Treasurer