



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND - BLUFFTON AREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



2020 -2021 LEADERSHIP

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND – BLUFFTON AREA

2020 – 2021 Leadership

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Joan Kinne-Shulman, Vice President

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Sally McGarry, Natural Resources Chair

Sandy Stern, Communications & Publicity Chair

Ruth Wilwerding and Kay Roshnow, Voter Services Co-Chairs

Off-Board Specialists

Heather Bragg, Marketing & Media Design Consultant

Minerva Castro-Hernandez, VOTE411 Coordinator

Judy Dunning, Webmaster

Barbara Hammes and Donna E. Williams, ERA/DEI Co-Chairs

Dorethea Kennedy, Meeting & Events Planner

Dot Law and Sandy Stern, Nominating Committee Chairs

Lisa Pease, Fundraising Development Chair



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020 – 2021 The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area continued to achieve significant results in advancing our mission while growing our membership, using new approaches and technology platforms in our activities and communications, 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 21.3% net gain in membership, exceeding our goal of 10 percent for 2020 – 2021 and 57.7% the last two years, resulting in HHI-BA being awarded \$200.00 at the 2021 LWVSC State Convention for the largest numerical gain;
- Strengthened connections with African-American and Hispanic organizations and communities; especially the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition, Campbell Chapel AME Church in Bluffton, the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Hilton Head Island MLK Justice Committee;
- Sponsored and moderated five candidate forums, including races with those running for the SC State Senate, the SC State House of Representatives, the Beaufort County Council, the Hilton Head Town Council candidates, and the Beaufort County School District Board of Education;
- Seen growth in the State Issues/Advocacy Committee from 137 to 151 members, an increase of 10% from last year because of campaigns in collaboration with LWVSC to expand absentee voting during the Democratic and Republican primaries and the general election;
- Also made changes to our website resulting in increased traffic and more subscribers to our League updates, and in a separate statistic, our e-communications rose from 13,000 in 2019 – 2020 to 16,000 this year. Overall subscribers now total 577, another 15% increase this year as was true last year, and the current open rate of 57% far exceeds the industry standard of about 40%.
- Had a questionnaire prepared by the Education Committee for the Board of Education candidates running in November, 2020. Since candidates were running both north and south of the Broad, our League sponsored a joint Candidates’ Forum with the LWV of Beaufort on September 17, 2020 on Zoom with all candidates participating.
- Augmented our operating income by raising 29% more dollars from contributions, grants and memberships and our assets including increases in our CD investments resulted in 55% growth;
- Become eligible to have 15 delegates to the LWVSC Convention in May 2021; the largest delegation we have ever had to attend and second only to LWV of the Charleston Area;



2020 -2021 LEADERSHIP (cont'd)

- Opened our own League Bookstore --- the first known one among local SC Leagues --- at <https://bookshop.org/shop/lwvghi-ba> with selected Woman's History Month, Black History Month, Racial Justice & Equity, the Immigrant Experience, and Children's & Young Adults books and games.

Unfortunately, we were not able to meet in-person or socialize because of the COVID pandemic, however we stayed in touch with each other as much as possible, extending wishes for the health and safety of our members on a regular basis. We look forward to being with each other face-to-face for our 2021 – 2022 program year.

~ Patricia Montgomery, President



PROGRAMS

During the 2020-2021 League year all general membership meetings were held virtually on ZOOM because of the restrictions imposed on public gatherings by the Covid-19 virus. Almost all of our programs promoted the League's emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Videos of the programs were posted on our website. The list of the monthly meetings follows.

September 2020: We held several virtual candidate forums, including forums for the campaigns for SC State Senator, State House of Representatives, Beaufort County Council, Hilton Head Island Town Council, and Beaufort County Board of Education;

October 2020: George Kanuck, co-chair of the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition, and Aimee Deverall, Esq., presented an update of Immigration and DACA issues.

November 2020: Dr. Gloria Holmes, professor at USCB, presented "Courageous Conversations: How Americans Experience Race, Power, and Privilege."

December 2020: Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, fifteenth president of the LWVUS, spoke on the theme of "Just the Beginning" based on her book [The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters](#).

January 2021: Lynn Teague, the LWVSC's, lobbyist in the South Carolina state legislature, spoke about bills in the legislature that are of interest to the League and what their status is.

February 2021: Charmaine Clowney, Esq., immediate past DEI coordinator for LWVSC, presented "Case Studies in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. After Clowney's talk, we held a session on State and Local program planning.

March 2021: Ahmed Ward, Executive Director and CEO of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, brought us up to date on how the park's master plan is being carried out.

April 2021: David Ames, member of the Hilton Head Island Town Council from Ward 3, spoke on "People, Planning, Projects," which included the need for workforce housing, land use, and the status of the 278 Corridor/Bridge Project. Kevin Icard, Planning and Community Development Manager for the town of Bluffton, presented an update of the Bluffton ten-year Comprehensive Plan.



PROGRAMS (cont'd)

May 2021: Dr. James Stritzinger, the new SC State Coordinator of Broadband Services and founder, president, and CEO of Revolution D., Inc., spoke on "The Next, Next Greatest Thing: Crossing the Digital Divide."

~ Joan Kinne-Shulman, Vice President and Program Planning



MEMBERSHIP

Membership has had an exciting year due mainly to the hard work of member recruiters and the presidential election.

Our membership numbers are as follows:

- 232 members in total, 21 of which are household members, 3 lifetime members, 3 students, and 26 men.
- We have gained 39 members from July, 2020-March 2021.
- We have lost 20 members due to relocation, death, poor health and loss of interest.

In February, due to the illness of Lisa Pease who had served most capably as co-chair from July through the end of 2020, Joyce Emmett volunteered to assist the chair. When COVID restrictions are lifted we plan to organize some kind of gathering for new members.

~ Ellen Dahl, Membership Chair



COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

What a year it's been. With the pandemic, we all had to learn new ways to stay in touch and communicate our messages to our membership and to the public at large. The League, just as most clubs/organizations, became resourceful and innovative, turning to Zoom meetings and webinars, and in many cases increasing participation and reaching a far greater audience. Members of the Communication Committee were instrumental in publicizing these meetings online.

The increased print-visibility of the League this past year, was evidenced by the 8 *Letters to the Editor* printed in local papers on such issues as Voters' Rights, Mail-in Voting, Expansion of Absentee Ballots, Primary Election Information, Recruitment of Poll Managers, the Equal Rights Amendment, 2020 Census Day, Registering for Candidate Forums, For the People Act, and Hate Crime legislation. Members took a stand on numerous issues related to empowering voters and promoting democracy in both local and state elections. Thanks to those who sent in LTEs, namely, Patricia Montgomery, Joan Kinne-Shulman, Ruth Wilwerding, Barb Hammes, Carmen deCecco, and Risa Prince.

During the fall of 2020, four *Communication Bulletins* prepared by our president in collaboration with the Director of the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County, Ms. Marie S. Smalls, were distributed by LWVHHI-BA Voter Services Committee members to voters during early voting days in the Hilton Head Island and Bluffton area in both gated and un-gated communities. The Winter 2020 issue of the **LWV SC Voter** magazine, highlighted the work with pictures and text that our LWVHHI-BA League volunteers did to not only register new voters, but also to inform them about mail-in voting, deadline dates of absentee voting, and voting location sites.

In January 2021, as part of the virtual Hilton Head Island MLK Committee for Justice *Good Trouble* program, our League's President, Patricia Montgomery, along with two other League members, Cathy McClellan and Risa Prince gave virtual presentations via Zoom and YouTube to a very large audience on topics of Civic Engagement, Raising Your Voice to be Heard, and Driving Out Hatred.

During the winter of 2021, the Communications Committee grew in numbers when we recruited new members to serve as Newsletter Editor (Eileen Durkin), eBlast Coordinators (Nancylee Landi & Carol Horowitz), Facebook and Social Media Coordinator (Carmen deCecco), Tech Support (Isabella Miller), VOTE 411 Coordinator (Rosemary Staples) and YouTube Channel Administrator (Judy Dunning.) Training sessions were held via Zoom by Minerva Castro-Hernandez, to teach members as a group and one-on-one, about how to share and store documents on Google Docs. Mary Agnes Garman created "how to" documents and provided coaching to acquaint and support new users of the Mail Chimp platform.



COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY (cont'd)

Welcome and thanks to all these new volunteers who stepped up to serve and learn new skills to advance the mission of the League. It is our goal to not only support and but to retain these new recruits by holding quarterly Committee meetings. Another goal is to collaborate with members to develop a document, *Tips & Best Practices*, to provide guidance for all members, content contributors and e-news publishers alike.

This past year we also saw an increase in collaboration with other SC Leagues, mainly those of Beaufort, Charleston and Columbia, in which we shared information online about programs, speakers and Action Alerts. Thanks to MaryAnn Bromley, our State Issues and Advocacy Director, for posting countless legislative updates and at least 11 Calls to Action to engage members and league supporters to contact their SC representatives, senators or governor regarding specific legislation of concern and as identified by LWVSC. These calls to action were shared with our members via MailChimp and/or email and posted on our League's Facebook page. In addition, our members participated in monthly phone or zoom legislative update calls by Lynn Teague, LWVSC Vice President for Issues & Action, in which she asks us all to "vigorously advocate" **for** or **against** certain bills.

Our Webmaster, Judy Dunning, has done a yeoman's job in maintaining and updating our website (www.lwvhhi.org.) Keeping it current and relevant has been her main focus. She redesigned the format, making it reader-friendly. Links were also added for visitors to read featured articles, about updated events, and Action Alerts. Designs and imagery continued to intentionally reflect the League's emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion; current VOTE411 branding; and the use of purple and gold identified by LWVUS focus groups to distinguish League visibility from other organizations of similar intent. The library of League event videos expanded to include our webinar meetings.

MAIL CHIMP - By the numbers:

During the November 2020 election season, the League crafted a series 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 52 e-communications, from Action Alerts, monthly updates, and event invitations to quarterly newsletters. With 577 subscribers (members, friends, organizations, political and press contacts, SC League Leaders), this effort resulted in over 16,000 e-communications. The average OPEN rate of our quarterly newsletter is about 36%. League e-blast open rates continue to exceed the industry standard with a current member open rate of 57%. Since July 1 of this program year, several



COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY (cont'd)

League posts generated a broad response. For example, a post about gerrymandering and the need for voters to elect their representatives, not the representatives picking their voters, reached 411 readers. As for our Facebook followers, the average number of visitors to our Facebook page during the months of September and October 2020 was 57, with 353 readers, 128 engagements and 225 LIKES.

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



EDUCATION

The Education Committee began this year without someone in the chair position so the committee adopted a plan for shared leadership, with committee members rotating as acting chairs for specific time periods. The first task was the preparation of a questionnaire for the candidates running in the November election for the four open Beaufort County School District (BCSD) board seats. Responses to the questions were posted on the LWV VOTE411 site as part of our voter education effort. Since candidates were running both north and south of the Broad, our League sponsored a joint Candidates' Forum with the LWV of Beaufort on September 17, 2020 on Zoom with all candidates participating.

Throughout the year, committee members have continued to monitor the meetings of the BCSD board, with particular attention to governance issues and to the concern about the existing achievement gap between white students and students of color. Members have also been tracking the work of the Citizen-Led Oversight Committee which is monitoring the BCSD expenditures and project timelines following the 2019 referendum.

Members of the committee responded to the request from the State Education Working Group to review and comment on their recommendations regarding changes in state League positions. These were sent on to LWVSC. We continue to follow proposed state legislation and are particularly



EDUCATION (cont'd)

concerned about bills potentially affecting the teaching of social studies/civics and the creation of Education Scholarship Accounts allowing taxpayer dollars to cover private tuition under certain conditions of need.

Currently the following areas of focus are being discussed as priorities for study and action in 2020-21: 1.) The pandemic's impact on student learning and mental health in the BCSD; 2.) Monitoring and supporting the BCSD Diversity and Equity Task Force; 3.) Broadband accessibility within the district; and 4.) Civics education in our public schools.

~ Carol Barker and Kathy Quirk, Co-Chairs



DEI ADVOCACY & ERA RATIFICATION

This past year attention was given to a new area of focus; namely, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), an area for change mandated by our national organization. Having completed the required DEI Plan of Action and submitted it to LWVUS by the spring 2020 deadline --- one of only four of the 12 local Leagues in SC to do so --- our League was called on by LWVSC to work with the remaining eight Leagues to develop their plans of action and submit them to the national office. Our League with support from the LWVSC was also the developer and sponsor of a series of four Racial Justice programs and accompanying resources:

- *The Face of DACA Dreamers and Our Hispanic Neighbors*, October 14, 2020 with George Kanuck, Co-Director of the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition and Aimee Deverall, Attorney at Law of Deverall Immigration Law, LLC.
- *Courageous Conversations: How Americans Experience Race, Power, and Privilege*, November 11, 2020 with Dr. Gloria Holmes, Professor Emeritus of Quinnipiac University and Adjunct Professor, University of South Carolina, Bluffton.



DEI ADVOCACY & ERA RATIFICATION (cont'd)

- *Just the Beginning: The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, December 11, 2020 with Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, 15th National President of LWVUS, and
- *An Honest Dialogue About Diversity and Inclusion*, February 10, 2021 with Charmaine Clowney, Esq., President, Clowney Consulting Group, and past Coordinator of DEI for the LWVSC.

Turning to another important area of focus in 2020 – 2021, Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) activities have been in 3 major areas:

1. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in South Carolina

South Carolina did not become the 38th and last state needed for enactment of the amendment. vertheless, Virginia ratified this Constitutional Amendment in January, 2020. This required benchmark for ratifications by the states was reached, almost 50 years after passage of the amendment in Congress.

In the state legislature, H 3391, sponsored by Gilda Cobb-Hunter, was never brought up for discussion in the House Judiciary Committee. The time limit for this proposed piece of legislation expired in April, 2020. A companion bill, S 902, had been put forth in the State Senate and had bipartisan support, but was never voted on. The South Carolina legislature indirectly sent a message that many of our elected officials do not support women's equality.

At the beginning of the 2021 winter session, a new ERA bill (H 3258) was co-sponsored by Representatives Cobb-Hunter and Wetmore. The companion bill (S 262) was put forth by Senator Bright-Mathews. No activity has been noted at the time of this writing.

2. Passage of the ERA in Congress

The primary focus on the ERA in Congress during the 2020 winter session was to vote to remove the deadline for ratification. HJ Res 79 received widespread bipartisan support. On February 13, 2020 the House of Representatives passed HJ Res 79. The companion bill, SJ Res 6, however, never made it to the floor for discussion. These bills expired at the end of the 2020 session.

Two new bills were put forth at the start of the 2021 session to remove the ratification deadline. HJ Res 17 was co-sponsored by a republican and a democrat and has received 209 bipartisan sponsors. It is hoped that an approval vote for this bill will be taken before the close of the 2021 legislative setting. SJ Res 1, also co-sponsored by a republican and a democrat, presently has no other sponsors.

But, what will the Equal Rights Amendment really do?

- The legislative capacity of Congress to support gender equality in America will be enhanced.



DEI ADVOCACY & ERA RATIFICATION (cont'd)

- Section Two of the 28th (Equal Rights) Amendment says: “The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article,” explicitly providing Congress the ability to enact appropriate legislation for gender equality.
- The Constitution limits the powers of what laws Congress can pass. Because we do not explicitly guarantee gender equality in our Constitution (yet) many federal laws needed to protect gender equality do not have a constitutional basis.
- After the 28th Amendment is enforceable, gender discrimination cases should achieve a success rate similar to race, religion, and country of origin discrimination cases.

3. Election 2020

Providing information about candidates running for public office during the 2020 elections was imbedded in all League activities leading up to the elections. Using a DEI lens, (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) as a means to dismantle systemic inequality, we emphasized that equality for all people must be a priority for policy makers and candidates in 2020 and beyond. Our ERA activities included reaching out to candidates asking them to stand up for women’s equality. If they declined to support the ERA, we asked that they put their reasons in writing. “Equality is on the ballot this year. Voters have the right to know where candidates stand on equal rights before casting their ballot,” said Dr. Deborah Turner, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

SUMMARY

Given the 2019-2020 world-wide pandemic, LWV- HHI/Bluffton ERA in-person activities to promote ratification and passage of the ERA were restricted and dependent on what could be done through Zoom gatherings, letter writing and phone calls. Despite this, the number of members and non-members in the community working on equal rights for women continued to grow. It would appear that wide-spread support for women’s equality is affirmed and needed now more than ever. We will continue to work toward passage and implementation of the 28th Amendment nationally and in South Carolina. The overarching focus of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will guide our policies, practices and activities.

~ Barbara Hammes, Co-chair Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Equal Rights Amendment Specialist



STATE ISSUES & ADVOCACY

In 2019 -2020, the focus of State Issues & Advocacy was in three main areas:

1. A Safe Voting Campaign during the Pandemic

Our first major program this year was an education and advocacy campaign around state legislative bills to expand absentee voting for all eligible voters. We ran two awareness and advocacy campaigns around this issue – both of which contributed to the success in getting the SC State Legislature to extend absentee voting for all for the primaries. A second campaign was necessary to advocate with our legislators to extend absentee voting for the General Election. We created a contest for the first campaign in which members and supporters could earn “credit” toward prizes for taking the most actions. This contest was very popular and over 60 members and League supporters participated and received a prize. The top three prizes were a LWV stainless steel water bottle, an LWV tumbler and an LWV license plate frame. All other participants in both the first (primary elections) and second (general election) *Call to Action* received an LWV button *I Believe in the Power of Women*. Feedback from the participants was very positive with increased engagement from members in later advocacy *Calls to Action*. While we did not get everything we wanted in the safe voting legislation, extending absentee for voting for all eligible SC voters during the Covid-19 pandemic was a first step that we are now building on. We had a Facebook reach of 2,121 readers with 259 engagements during the fall general election campaign. We had a combined total 564 of Mail Chimp subscribers for both the primary and general election safe voting campaigns.

2. Committee Activity for the SC General Election

The State Issues & Advocacy Committee took responsibility for developing candidate questions for Vote411 for both the SC State Senate and SC House of Representatives. We also developed questions (different from those asked in Vote411) for both groups for the candidate forums.

3. Legislative advocacy

Based on the information about LWVSC legislative priority bills provided by Lynn Teague, Vice of the LWVSC and our state advocate with the legislature, coupled with committee members’ interests, our State Issues & Advocacy Committee chose policy areas and legislation which we would target for advocacy with the SC Senator and three SC Representatives for our catchment area. Those areas include redistricting, voting suppression, hate crimes, firearms, employment equity, paid medical leave, health issues, racial justice, criminal justice reform, environmental and consumer protection regulations, ethics, dark money issues and education legislation (in conjunction with our League’s Education Committee). To date, we have targeted (or are targeting) Senator Davis and/or Representatives Bill Herbkersman,



STATE ISSUES & ADVOCACY (cont'd)

Weston Newton and Jeff Bradley with letters, emails and phone calls on the following bills, Fetal heartbeat bills (H1), House and Senate hate crime bills (H3620), Expansion of State Election Commission powers & duties (H3444), Constitutional Convention Resolution (H3205), Open Carry bill (H3094), voter suppression bills (S113 & S236), and a Paid Parental Leave bill (H 3560). We have also just begun work on Senate bill S499 which has been introduced as an alternative to H3444; several education bills (H3976, H3589 and H3445) and two bills dealing with ethics with regard to campaign spending and dark money (S187 and S174). In each of these policy areas and their accompanying bills, one or more committee members volunteered to take a leadership role in following up on the bills and pulling together information for the committee to use when we contact our General Assembly delegation.

To date we have 151 committee members. Last year we had 137 members and two years ago we reported 61 members. Members have also become more active than they were last year or two years ago.

~ MaryAnn Bromley, Director



VOTER SERVICES

As we entered spring, 2020, it became clear that our typical LWV processes and activities to register new voters and distribute voter information was not going to work as a result of COVID-19. In the past we have focused on registering seniors in the local high schools, conducting voter registration events at school open houses and youth clubs, participating in the local festivals and events to register new voters, and distributing voter information, such as absentee voting and VOTE411 access for candidate research. With all the associated restrictions and closures, registering voters in the midst of a pandemic needed new thinking.

So, under the leadership of our Voter Service Chair, League President, and our dedicated Voter Service Committee members, we identified many new and creative ways to reach our intended audiences. This included:



VOTER SERVICES (cont'd)

1. Community outreach to target populations. In combination with the Campbell Chapel AME Social Action Committee, our League contributed to a postcard campaign that was sent to 3500 African American registered voters who had not voted since 2008.
2. Flyers with Census and Voter Information were printed and handed out at food bank distribution and school food deliveries sites to food insecure families.
3. Postings on social media and Facebook were increased, with frequent updates to our website.
4. Five Candidate Forums were successfully conducted for all local and state election candidates via Zoom with large audiences.
5. Voter Registration and Information events were conducted in gated and non-gated communities resulting in Voter Services registering 50 voters registered, and 100 more completing change of address forms, gaining VOTE411 access information and information for absentee voting.
6. A “car parade” was held on September 22, 2020, National Voter Registration Day with 20 cars loaded with 33 volunteers. Door hangers were deposited on over 500 residences on Hilton Head Island and Bluffton. There were six new voters registered in the Habitat for Humanity communities in Bluffton as well.
7. Two thousand door hangers were placed on homes and apartments in the area and voter information placed in over 55 businesses and public access locations.
8. Four *Voter Communication Bulletins* were published and distributed to inform voters of the requirements, locations and processes to register, vote absentee by mail or in-person and the dates and locations for early voters. The SC State Legislature changed the laws several times so voters were very appreciative of the most current and accurate information.
9. Additionally, voter support was provided for the month of October at early voting locations. There were long lines in the warm weather, and over 25 League volunteers handed out 1200 bottles of water and answered questions at two Voter Registration and Board of Elections locations over four weeks in October. For example, over 500 voters waited in long lines for 4-5 hours on Friday, October 30, 2021 at the Bluffton voting site.
10. Over 300 voters were registered at public events such as Juneteenth, a local dealer free carwash with registration event, USCB, gated community events, and a GOTV rally at Bluffton’s Eagle Field.
11. Supported LWVGA in its new voter registration and for GOTV efforts, in Georgia, for the Senate Runoff Election on January 5, 2021.
12. Currently working on a strategic 2-year planning horizon to:
 - Re-energize Student Voter Registration by going directly to students



VOTER SERVICES (cont'd)

- A letter was sent to Dr. Rodriguez, Superintendent, requesting his support for the high school principals and teachers to work with us, and to nominate student leaders for League membership and our Student Advisory Council (as below)
- Establish a Student Advisory Council to:
 - Recruit students and young adults to LWV HHI-BA free memberships
 - Hold meetings that conform to student schedules;
 - Renew efforts to launch a social media campaign with student leaders, with possible professional assistance for social messaging
 - Go to where students are - Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat;
 - Establish peer-to-peer communications to encourage and energize the youth voting and registration;
 - Engage local youths at churches and other community organizations.
- 13. Support the re-emergence of local festivals and public events with voter registration table(s) as COVID levels permit.
- 14. Continue to place literature and voter information in libraries, businesses and other public locations

Due to the challenges and restrictions from COVID, we spent money in new ways for door hangers, *Voter Communication Bulletins* and placing voter information at more locations at an estimated cost of \$1300, as compared to a projected \$500 budget. Since we had few other League expenses, this was justified, and easily covered by the membership dues, donations and fundraising.

Summary

The new ideas and activities have proven to be a huge success and greatly contributed to the record voter turnout in our area for the November 3rd elections. We also greatly increased our presence and recognition throughout our community and collaboration with other community organizations such as the Low Country Immigration Coalition and the Hilton Head MLK, to name only 2 organizations. We have pioneered new and creative avenues to reach voters and prospective voters, and we will continue these activities in the future, along with our proven methods of the past, when conditions permit.

This work would not have been possible without the advice and continuous commitment of Sharon Butler, Jill Ford, Diana Heitman, Michael Lewis, and Ilene Schwartz. Thanks to all our wonderful committee members and over 120 passionate volunteers that made this success possible.

~ *Ruth Wilwerding, Chair and
Kay Roshnow, Co-chair*



2020 – 2021 FISCAL YEAR REPORT

The 2020-2021 fiscal year has been an incredible, and challenging, time amidst a pandemic. We overcame obstacles, and were able to raise money through donations and contributions, and will exceed the budget by the end of our fiscal year. We had to cancel our luncheons and in person candidate forums, defaulting to Zoom for meetings, webinars and forums. As such, the budget items reflect many changes and adjustments. A general estimate of the increase in funds by June 30, 2021 is \$6,000 for a cash total of approximately \$15,000; accordingly, the Board has approved a recommendation to purchase an additional \$10,000 CD.

As of April 30, 2021

| | YTD | Budget | Budget % |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Income 7/1/2020-- 4/30/2021</u> | | | |
| Donations/Fund-raising | \$ 9,085 | \$7,680 | 118% |
| Dues | 10,673 | 7,860 | 136% |
| LWVSC DEI Grant | 600 | 175 | 243% |
| Lunches/Events | --- | 3,500 | --- |
| Sales/Misc | 260 | 160 | 163% |
| Total Income | \$20,618 | \$19,375 Revised | 106% |
| <u>Expense 7/1/20 -- 4/30/21</u> | | | |
| Administration/Supplies | \$ 695 | \$ 600 | 116% |
| Communications | 70 | 500 | 14% |
| Conference/Travel | --- | 900 | --- |
| Education | --- | 200 | --- |
| ERA | --- | 300 | --- |
| Fundraising | 401 | 500 | 80% |
| Lunches/Events | --- | 4,125 | --- |
| Forums/Programs/Grants | 600 | 675 | 88% |
| Liability Insurance | 954 | --- | --- |
| Membership | 176 | 700 | 24% |
| Miscellaneous | 233 | 100 | 233% |
| PMPSC & PMPUS | 7,682 | 7,682 | 100% |
| Sales/Products | 60 | 100 | 60% |
| State Issues & Advocacy | 80 | 970 | 6% |
| Voter Service/VOTE411 | 2,335 | 1,175 | 199% |
| Website | 454 | 448 | 101% |
| 501c3 fees | --- | 400 | --- |
| Total Expenses | \$13,740 | \$19,375 Revised | 71 % |



2020 – 2021 FISCAL YEAR REPORT

Summary of Assets

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| Coastal States Bank Checking | \$15,807 |
| Coastal States Bank CD | 3,018 |
| Coastal States Bank CD | 7,500 |
| LWVUS Ed Fund | 1,000 |
| Total Assets, as of March 31, 2021 | \$27,325 |
| Total Assets, as of July 1, 2020 | \$20,729 |

--Karen Arms, Treasurer and Kay Roshnow, Budget Committee Chair