

Lighthouse

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



Hispanic Concerns to be Focus of April 12 Membership Meeting

In April, we will learn about "Issues of Concern to Hispanics" from Aimee Deverall, a local immigration lawyer, who is fluent in Spanish. Before moving to the Lowcountry in 2014, Aimee practiced immigration law in Chicago. This program is part of the League's ongoing series "A Conversation on Race and Ethnic Relations."

Come and participate in the conversation on Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 AM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Church, 110 Malphrus Road in Bluffton. The event is open to the public.

Water Issues Plumbed at March 8 General Meeting

According to Pete Nardi and Ed Saxon, General Managers of the Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) and the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) respectively, Beaufort and Jasper County residents and residents served by the Hilton Head PSD have a safe and abundant supply of clean water.

Serving the northern and mid-island areas of Hilton Head Island, the Hilton Head PSD provides water, wastewater treatment, and recycled water to about 17,000 customers. On a daily basis the Hilton Head PSD provides 5-6 million gallons to its customers; 10 million during the peak summer season. The PSD annually treats about one billion gallons of wastewater at its recycled water plant, returning treated water for use in golf course irrigation and wetlands nourishment. Forty-five percent (45%) of its water supply comes from a reverse osmosis plant, 26% from BJWSA, and 29% from the Upper Floridan Aquifer and an aquifer storage and recovery plant. The PSD is able to keep expenses lower by banking cheaper treated water underground and drawing on it in peak periods. The PSD has good capacity for future island build-out at 10 million gallons of projected usage per day.

BJWSA, which relies on treated Savannah River water for its water supply, serves 53,000 retail water customers and seven wholesale customers in two counties (including HHI PSD and Moss Creek). It has 37,000 sewer customers, operates two plants, employs 170 people, and is the fifth largest water utility in the state. As the area has grown, so has the customer base and demand for water and sewer service. According to Saxon, the Savannah River is a "robust" source of water, generating 5B gallons a day, way beyond the 40M gallon need in peak periods.

Nationwide water consumption is down 22 percent due to water-efficient fixtures and increased public awareness. As consumption declines, prices go up to cover fixed expenses. According to Nardi, we don't pay enough for water, which is only \$.0014 per gallon, delivered.

Although everyone on Hilton Head Island has water, not everyone has access to sewers. As a result, the PSD has adopted a five-year Master Sewer Plan to bring sewer access to all northern and mid-island property owners. The Town of Hilton Head Island will pay for all new sewer lines, and the PSD will pay for additional pumping stations. However, there are costs for residents to connect. Project Safe, a charitable fund of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, has provided funds to connect 400 families since 2001. It currently has a \$3M campaign to connect remaining families. The PSD also provides long-term, low-cost financing of connection. *(Continued on page 3)*

Inside This Issue

April 12 Meeting	1
Water and Sewer Issues	1
Message from President	2
Water and Sewer cont.	3
May 10 Speaker	3
Beaufort League	3
Annual Meeting & Materials	4
2017-2018 Proposed Budget	6
Mark Your Calendars	7
Officers and Board	7

Message from the President



*Making
Democracy
Work*

April in our area means spring, lots of visitors, a big golf tournament and, for many of our League members, the time to pay dues. Our dues, along with donations from members and friends of the League, are needed in order to do our work.

Although we have neither an office nor a paid staff, our work costs money. The biggest expense is payment per person (PMP) to the national and state Leagues, which leaves only \$14 of a \$60 dues payment, or \$7 of a secondary member's \$30 dues payment, for local League expenses. To see just what our expenses are likely to be for the next League year, please see the proposed budget on page 6 of this newsletter. To see what we hope to accomplish take a look at the Focus for Action on page 4.

The bottom line is that your dues are important to the League. Also important are donations from members and friends of the League. An easy way to make a donation is to add something extra on your dues check. Another option is to write a separate check made out to the LWV Education Fund. Please note that donations made to the LWV Education Fund are tax deductible, but other donations are not.

Since there has been some confusion about when dues are due, please note the following.

- Everyone (with one or two exceptions) who belonged to our League on or before April 30, 2012 has a yearly renewal date of April 30 each year. If payment is late one year, the renewal date for the next year does not change. It continues to be April 30.
- Everyone who joined our League after April 30, 2012 has a renewal date of the last day of the month when they initially joined. For example, someone who joined on December 1, 2016 will owe dues again by December 31, 2017. If payment is late one year, the renewal date will still be December 31.
- Members who are more than 90 days late in paying their dues are removed from the list of active members.

You can expect to receive a renewal notice each year. If you don't receive one and are wondering if your dues are due, please contact one of our membership co-chairs. Their contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Let's keep our League strong by giving it the financial support needed to continue our efforts to make democracy work. Our work seems more important than ever!

—Fran Holt



League members Trish Montgomery, Catherine Forrester, Sue Yearwood, and Fran Holt were among those socializing at our Greeting Spring party at the home of Fran and Bill Bolin.

Water and Sewer Issues continued from page 1

BJWSA has had challenges installing sewer lines in developed communities, where costs are about \$15-20K per lot.

BJWSA and its customers have drawn indirectly and directly upon three sources to help subsidize sewer and water expenses—community development block grants received by local government to install water and sewers in low to moderate-income areas, and the Thad Coleman Fund and the United Way Hardship Fund, which help pay for connections and help pay monthly bills, respectively. There is limited sewer service on St. Helena and Lady’s Islands. In fact, St. Helena doesn’t want sewer service, and utilities are not required, but must be asked, to provide services.

In answer to audience questions, Nardi and Saxon said that our water is safe. Both utilities conduct extensive testing and treat water well above industry standards. To illustrate the safety of tap water, both Nardi and Saxon pointed out that most bottled water available in grocery stores comes from treated municipal water in large cities such as Atlanta. The audience was disconcerted to learn that the Town’s water ordinance requiring property owners to irrigate their lawns on odd or even days of the week is not being observed or enforced.



**Making
Democracy
Work**



A diverse, engaged crowd gathered at the Hilton Head PSD to hear Pete Nardi and Ed Saxon address water and sewer issues in Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

Visit our Web Site
www.lwvghi.org

Status of Women to be Addressed at May 10 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Jane Perdue, the former president of the Board of Directors of the Center for Women in Charleston, will be the featured speaker at our League’s annual meeting and luncheon on Wednesday, May 10 at the Country Club of Hilton Head. She will address the status of women in South Carolina. Social time will begin at 11:15 AM, followed by the annual meeting at 11:45 and lunch at 12:15. Please save the date. Guests are welcome.

The Beaufort League is Back

The League of Women Voters of Beaufort, originally founded by Harriet Keyserling and very active for many years but dormant recently, is back. Thanks to the leadership of several energetic and enthusiastic women, there have already been two successful meetings, one on February 28 and the other on March 16. For information about this local League, please contact Catherine Forester at cfgardengirl@yahoo.com or go to League of Women Voters of Beaufort, SC on Facebook.

Annual Meeting Agenda and Materials



At the LWVHHI/BA annual meeting on May 10, members will approve the 2017-18 Focus for Action, Long-Term Areas of Interest and Local Positions, and the 2017-18 budget as well as elect new officers and board members. The recommended Focus for Action, Long-Term Areas of Interest and proposed budget appear on this and the following pages. The proposed slate of officers will be sent separately, at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Please review the materials and plan to attend this important meeting.

Recommended LWVHHI/BA Focus for Action 2017-2018

Making Democracy Work

Informing and Engaging the Electorate

Hold candidate forums for key local races.

Hold issue forums as needed.

Partner with other organizations regarding elected positions likely to become available, the deadlines for filing and the longer-term possibility of developing a database to match government positions with women seeking appointed or elective office.

Utilize a variety of media to share information/communicate messages, with more emphasis on electronic media.

Continue having programs related to our January 2017 meeting on "Creating the Beloved Community: A Conversation on Race Relations."

Protecting Voters and Voting Rights

Support LWVUS/SC positions on Voting Rights/Protection and Money in Politics.

Expand voter registration activities/locations, with particular attention to underserved communities and youth and to partnership opportunities.

Maintain relationship with Board of Voter Registration and Elections.

Advocate for greater number of voter registration places and adequate number, location, and resources for polling places. Publicize on-line registration.

Protecting Our Natural Resources

Study local and area-wide transportation issues as they relate to land use and natural resources, with a view to educating our members and recommending action, if warranted,

With other South Carolina Leagues, monitor efforts in regard to off-shore drilling proposals and take action when needed.

Monitor the expenditures and purposes of land purchases made with public funds approved by the voters by referendum.

Monitor other LWVHHI/BA natural resources positions with a view to recommending action as appropriate.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA
PUBLIC POLICY**

Recommended as Amended Long-Term Areas of Interest and Local Positions



EDUCATION

1. Monitor Beaufort School District Board Meetings to gain a better understanding of local concerns
2. Monitor the school budget process and its relationship to County Council decisions.
3. Increase knowledge base about state funding and needed response for poor rural districts
4. Maintain and strengthen relations with local legislative delegation to assure their support for Act 388 changes and other state funding issues.

(Note: Original No. 3—approved in May 2016—was deleted because the requirement for collecting signatures for school board candidates was changed.)

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Support the preservation and protection of wetlands, area beaches and local waterways, including but not limited to Calibogue Sound, the May River, the Colleton River and the Okatie River.
2. Support the conservation and preservation of available drinking water and monitor availability of sewer service.
3. Support the preservation of sensitive and historic land areas and tree cover.
4. Monitor the expenditures and purposes of land purchases with public funds approved by the voters by referendum.
5. Monitor decision-making process of Planning Commissions and Town and County Councils on land use issues.
6. Monitor Comprehensive Plan Reviews.

(Note: Original No. 4—approved in May 2016—was deleted because a position on off-shore drilling was developed with other South Carolina Leagues.)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Provide Voter Information, Candidate Forums, Voter registration Opportunities.
2. Advocate for transparency in local government decisions.
3. Protect Home Rule for local governments.
4. Maintain relationship with Beaufort County Board of Registration and Elections to assure voter access and accountability.
5. Support LWWSC initiatives to assure open and thorough study, evaluation and selection of new voting machines.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION

1. Monitor and provide information on state and local taxation recommendations with special attention to concerns for natural resources, infrastructure and education.
2. Monitor Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue and use (the newly extended TIF, Town of Hilton Head Island).
3. Monitor use of revenue from the recent Rural and Critical Lands Referendum. (Note # 4 Natural Resources)
4. Support comprehensive tax reform for SC; monitor local revenue and taxation. (Note #4 Education)

TRANSPORTATION

1. Investigate Accommodation Tax (A-Tax) as an appropriate source of funding for public transportation.

2017-2018 LWVHHI/BA Proposed Budget



INCOME

Contributions	\$ 2,000
Grants	0
Events	3,392
Membership Dues	7,200
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,592

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$ 900
Administration/Supplies	500
Conference/Travel	1,800
Events	3,000
Forums/Program	450
Lighthouse	100
Membership Recruitment	50
PMPSC	1,500
PMPUS	3,392
Voter Service	500
Website	300
Miscellaneous	100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,592

—Submitted by Katie Miller, Chair, Karen Wessel, and Mary Jo Happle

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/
BLUFFTON AREA**



www.LWVHHI.org

 [@LWVHHIBA](https://twitter.com/LWVHHIBA)

Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2016- 2017

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM at Palmetto Electric Cooperative on Mathews Drive on Hilton Head Island, unless otherwise noted.

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 12—Membership Meeting, Issues of Concern to Hispanics, Aimee Deverall, speaker, Unitarian Universalist Congregation Church, Bluffton, 10 AM

April 26—Natural Resources/Land Use Committee Meeting, Coastal States Bank, Hilton Head, 2:00 PM

May 10—Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Jane Perdue speaker, Country Club of Hilton Head, 11:15 AM

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @

League of Women Voters
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area

OFFICERS

President:
Fran Holt 843-837-3436
Vice-President, Program Chair:
Joan Kinne-Shulman 843-842-9246
Treasurer:
Mary Jo Happle 843-689-3952
Secretary:
Ellen Dahl 843-785-2115

BOARD

Communications:
Sandy Stern 843-342-4834
Education:
Kathy Quirk 843-836-2892
Membership:
Ellie Dixon 843-705-3973
Diane Neal 843-757-0622
Observer Corps/Local Issues
Sally McGarry 843-342-9254
State Issues/Advocacy:
Patricia Felton Montgomery 843-707-1036
Voter Service:
Ruth Wilwerding 843-671-5562

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Archivist:	Connie Voight
Facebook	Karen Wessel
Healthcare:	Alison Burke
Meeting and Events Planner	Jan Billingslea
Natural Resources/Land Use	Sally McGarry
Newsletter/Nominating	Nancy Williams
Webmaster:	David Rice

Our membership directory is available to members by request to one of our membership chairs.