

Lighthouse

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

National and Local Program Planning Meeting February 14, 10 AM, Bluffton

Our February 14 general membership meeting will be devoted to National and Local Program Planning. The meeting will be held at 10 AM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry, 110 Malphrus Road, Bluffton. Members are urged to attend and voice their views about what our focus should be in the 2018-2019 League year. (Nonmembers are welcome as observers but may not participate in the discussion.)

To quote the League of Women Voters of the US (LWVUS), "The program planning process is one of the important ways through which the League focuses its grassroots work to align each part of the organization with the others and with the League's mission. Program planning will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at LWVUS Convention 2018 in Chicago. The input of League boards will help shape the proposed program of study and action that will be submitted to convention delegates for debate and adoption."

Local Program Planning will focus on refining our local public policy positions and directing our priorities for the next League year. Our current public policy positions, adopted at the May Annual Meeting, can be found on our website (lwvwhi.org) in the April issue of *Lighthouse*.

Join in the discussion on the 14th. We need your input.

~Joan Kinne-Shulman, Vice President, Program Chair

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Then and Now

The League was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. Since then, Leagues across the country have continued **Making Democracy Work** by educating, engaging, and protecting voters and voters' rights.





Making
Democracy
Work

Message from the Co-President

2018 is shaping up to be a year of opportunity for our League.

This November, Beaufort County voters will go to the polls to fill 29 elected positions. Our League has a special interest in 17 of these races: state representative (3 positions: Districts 118, 120, and 123), County Council (5 positions: Districts 6,8,9,10, and 11), Board of Education (3 positions: 7, 8 and 10), Hilton Head Island Town Council (3 positions: Wards 2,4 and 5), mayor of Hilton Head Island, the county probate judge, and the county sheriff. June primaries are expected in many of the partisan races, which can in effect be the general elections if there is no opposition from the other party.



Nancy Williams

This spring and fall, voters will also be asked to consider two bond referenda-- a \$76 million school bond referendum in the spring and a \$120 million sales tax referendum in November for transportation improvement projects.

Our League will be working to register, educate, and turn out voters, holding candidate forums for key races and, possibly, ballot issue forums so that our citizens can make informed decisions at the polls.

Seismic testing and off-shore oil and gas drilling are once again an area of concern to the League given the Trump administration's draft plan to open sensitive coastal waters to exploration and drilling. At the request of Mayor David Bennett of Hilton Head Island, our League will be working with the Coastal Conservation League during the public comment period to educate our residents about the economic and environmental threats posed by this plan.

In addition, we will be continuing our local efforts to raise awareness of the need for fair and equitable redistricting in the wake of the 2020 Census.

On February 14, our membership will be considering these and other areas of interest as we identify our education and advocacy priorities for 2018-2019 in our annual program planning meeting. February 14 also marks the 98th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and 98 years of the League's empowering voters and defending democracy. I hope to see many of our members then!

~Nancy Williams, Co-President

Thank You!

We thank the following individuals who have made donations to help our League "Make Democracy Work." We invite others to join their ranks and will publish a growing list of donors each month.

Carrie Chapman Catt Society (\$300+)

Defender of Democracy (\$200-299)

Connie and Jerry Voight

Patriot (\$100-199)

Friend(-\$99)

Karen Arms
Barbara Catenaci
Eileen Drehwing
Sarah Harris
Linda and Tom Hennessey
Myla Lerner
Sally McGarry
Caroline McVitty
Karen Wilbur Wessel
William Westmaas
Nancy Williams

Your support goes directly to our local League's work to protect and defend democracy.

Together we can educate, engage, and protect voters and voters' rights.

Donations may be mailed to LWVHHI/BA, P.O. Box 23862, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925.

Note: We are only able to acknowledge donations made by check. If you have been left off this list in error, please notify our Treasurer.

H.4456: Independent Redistricting Commission Bill Needs a Subcommittee Hearing

Redistricting lines will not be drawn until 2021, but making certain our national, state and local legislative district lines protect voters and not politicians needs to begin during the 2018 South Carolina Legislative Session, which starts on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Contact your state House of Representatives member. In your phone call, email, conversation, or letter, tell them:

- You want an independent commission.
- You want criteria that doesn't protect parties or incumbents.
- You want a subcommittee hearing as soon as possible to move H.4456 forward!

H.4456 establishes an independent commission to define district boundaries and prohibits the protection of parties or incumbents as criteria for making decisions about boundaries. H.4456 is sponsored by Representatives Gary Clary, Laurie Funderburk, Beth Bernstein, Jason Elliott, William Wheeler, William Cogswell, and Neal Collins. It was assigned to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and **now it needs a subcommittee hearing.**

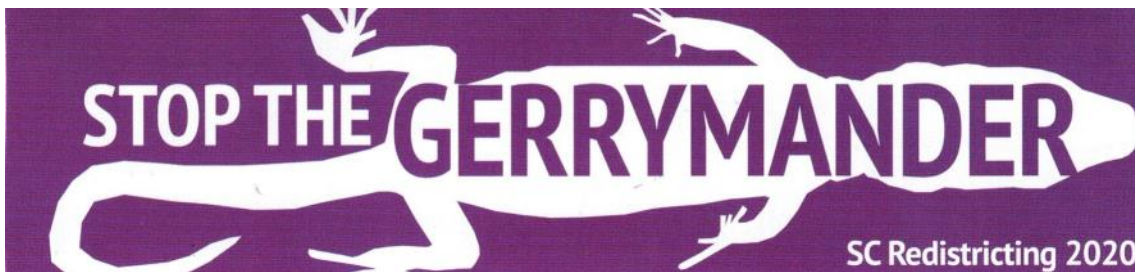
Every 10 years our legislative district boundaries are redrawn, with far-reaching effects on our political process. The next redistricting process occurs in 2021, but **we must start working on the process NOW to ensure that the rules protect voters, not politicians.**

What do we mean by nonpartisan redistricting? We don't seek an advantage for one party or the other, but a fair deal for voters. With our current system, Senate and House members pick winners and losers by the way that they define Congressional House and General Assembly House and Senate districts. **Voters should pick their representatives, not representatives their voters.**

Stopping the Gerrymander cannot happen without citizen voices across the state. We need you now!

~MaryAnn Bromley, State Issues & Advocacy Chair

Note: A reproducible flyer is included as the last page of this newsletter. Print, copy, and post it. Help spread the word!



Bumper stickers \$3 each, free with \$10 donation to League redistricting. Contact MaryAnn Bromley.



Welcome, League New Members!

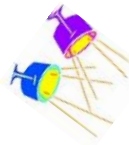
Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We're delighted recognize those who have recently joined the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area. Please help us welcome:

Myla Lerner Cathy McClellan Emily Oetjen Joyce Patterson



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Member Spotlight: Sue Yearwood



Making
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How did you end up in the Lowcountry?

It was a fluke that I moved to the Lowcountry. Prior to my move I was living in Chicago. I had started thinking about retirement and where I would live. A friend happened to introduce me to his sister, who was visiting from Texas. A year later, I asked how his sister was doing and he told me that she had moved to Sun City Hilton Head. I was aware that there was Sun City in a suburb just outside of Chicago. A week later, I visited the Chicago Sun City. I fell in love with the concept, but not the cold weather.

Two weeks later I was on a plane to look at Sun City Hilton Head. When the plane arrived in Savannah, I looked around the airport and said, "I'm home." The next day I put a deposit on a home that was being built. I had never been south in my life. I returned to Chicago, called my manager, and told her that I wanted to discuss my exit strategy. I moved permanently a year later... and the rest is history.



It did not take long for the Lowcountry to tap the talents of Chicago transplant Sue Yearwood! Here Sue is named a Lowcountry "Hero of the Year" for her mentoring of under-served students in Beaufort/Jasper Counties and securing student scholarships.

What sparked your interest in civic engagement?

I have always been involved in civic engagement. One of the first things that I did when I moved to the area was to enroll in the Beaufort County Senior Leadership Program. This program is sponsored by Clemson University. I wanted to learn as much as I could about the history and the makeup of Beaufort County. As a result of this program, I was able to identify opportunities where I felt that I could be value-added. I would recommend that any person new to the area participate in one of the Leadership programs.

Why the League?

Very simply, Barbara Swift recruited me. I felt at home immediately. Since becoming a member I have held two positions: Co-Membership Chair for League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area and Vice President for Membership, League of Women Voters of SC. Both local and state positions were tons of fun!!! I recommend all to get involved; it's a great way to make friends.



"Both local and state League positions were tons of fun! I recommend all get involved. It's a great way to make friends."

Sue Yearwood

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of ML King Jr, January 15



The League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area was well-represented at January 15 community events honoring the life and legacy of ML King Jr. At left, an energetic group on Hilton Head Island; at right, other spirited members in Bluffton.

LWVSC Urges State-wide Action on Coastal Issues

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) has urged state-wide involvement in two natural resources often viewed as primarily coastal concerns. According to Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Director, Natural Resources, LWVSC, "Everyone throughout the state should be contacting Governor McMaster about the off-shore drilling issue, and everyone in the state should be concerned about encroachments on home rule." Christe has urged the following actions.

Off-shore Drilling -- Since the Federal government has now declared the Atlantic coast open to off-shore drilling, LWVSC is fiercely engaged, again, in the battle we thought we had won.

The 60-day **public comment period ends on March 9**, but do not wait. Please **act now** to tell the Federal Administration to remove South Carolina from its proposed program. You can [review the proposal and make your comment here](#).

As Eddy Moore, of the Coastal Conservation League, points out: *"If President Trump, Interior Secretary Zinke and Big Oil get their way, drilling will start in 2020. Seismic testing, sonic air gun blasting that endangers marine mammals, will begin sooner than that. Both threaten our environment and economy, including one in 10 jobs in South Carolina and our \$20 billion tourism industry. Offshore drilling for oil is a dangerous detour from clean, renewable energy, and our state would take a serious hit from a spill like 2010's Deepwater Horizon."*

For excellent writing tips, read *The Post and Courier* editorial, "[Go on Record Against Offshore Oil.](#)"

Also, **call, email, write** [Governor McMaster](#). This fight will be fought to a large extent at the state level. Also, sign the Coastal Conservation League's [petition to Governor McMaster](#) if you agree with its position opposing off-shore drilling. Similarly, make your [state representatives](#) know how you feel.

Finally, put **Tuesday, February 13** on your calendar. On that day, federal officials will be visiting the SC capital to hear reactions regarding off-shore drilling, and a rally in Columbia is planned. Please plan to take part if you can.

Plastic Bags. -- Any day now, the House will vote on H.3529, which would **prevent local governments from regulating plastic bags** and other waste products through local ordinances. South Carolina is a home rule state, which means that whenever possible, local communities are allowed to govern themselves. Passage of this bill is not only bad in the view of those who want to see plastic regulated for environmental reasons; it also violates the principle of home rule and thus would set a precedent for further encroachment on local governing rights by the state. **Please contact [your state representative](#) asap and ask him or her to oppose H.3529.**



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[League of Women
Voters of Hilton Head/
Bluffton Area](#)

Local Legislator Honored

The League congratulates Rep. Weston Newton (R-Beaufort and Jasper Counties), recipient of the David H. Wilkins Award in Legislative Leadership. Rep. Newton was honored at the 13th annual awards ceremony on January 9, the first night of the 2018 SC legislative session.

Elected to the SC House of Representatives in 2013, Newton is known for working across the aisle on legislation that improves the lives of South Carolinians. He is the chairman of the Legislative Oversight Committee and also serves on the Judiciary Committee. Astronaut and naval aviator Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr. received the Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership.



Rep. Weston Newton

"At a time when civility in public discourse and cooperative bipartisanship are critical to making progress, South Carolina's citizens look to their leaders to put aside differences and work together for the good of our state," said Don Gordon, executive director of Furman University's Riley Institute. "Weston and Charles exemplify the kind of leadership that moves our state forward."

The League Way

January 10 Meeting with Julie Hussey, LWVSC Co-President



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With the welcomed interest in civic engagement, how does the League of Women Voters distinguish itself? Julie Hussey, current Co-President of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina and a past president of the LWV of the Charleston Area, shared her formative experiences in the League and its impact state-wide. As the League approaches its 100th birthday with a well-established reputation for “Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy,” other movements are seeking the League’s partnership in accomplishing their goals.

The League Way? “You’re in,” said Julie, “whether you’re young, old, male, female, citizen, or noncitizen. It’s not a club.” Action, opportunity, awareness, a commitment to wrestling with governing and acknowledging how challenging governing is--these values unite us. The more diverse we are, the more representative we are. Whether one leans left, middle, or right, “The League Way” is getting your feet wet in policy and insisting, “I am a League member and I have something to say.” The League Way is often a noisy one, but intentionally so.

Julie also highlighted key issues for League attention during this legislative session.

Redistricting: The LWVSC has been involved in crafting the language in the proposed H.4456. An independent committee is important; districts must be drawn in a way that does not protect incumbents or political parties. “We have a bill, now we want a hearing,” said Julie, “rather than letting the bill languish.” She urged the audience to contact [our state legislators](#) to convey, “We support a hearing on H.4456 this session. And where do you stand on the proposed plan to draw fair districts?” (**For specifics about H.4456 and how to best contact your legislator, see page 2 and the flyer attached to this newsletter.**)



Julie Hussey urges support for redistricting. Buy a bumper sticker!

Ethics Reform: Long a priority, the League cares very deeply about ethics reform. Several bills have been proposed. Lynn Teague, LWVSC Vice-President, Issues and Action, is monitoring the wording as it evolves so that the League can take an informed position on these proposals.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

How does—or will—the legislation affect you, someone you know, or your community?

“When writing your legislator, tell a story,” urged Julie Hussey.

“They need—and want—examples to strengthen their positions.”

Base Load Review Act: In 2007 the SC Legislature passed the Base Load Review Act that allowed a utility building a new nuclear power plant, VC Summer, to raise customer rates to pay for construction financing costs. Even then, LWVSC insisted the policy was not good government. The League’s voice continues as two LWVSC members have filed as petitioners who have been harmed by this legislation.

The audience mentioned Off Shore Drilling and the Plastic Bag Ban as two issues of interest to the Lowcountry. Julie emphasized the important roles of [our state representatives](#) in these issues, as the legislature wields even greater power than the governor. She encouraged the audience to vote in local elections, as well as elections at the state and national levels. “Remember that Primaries are also important,” Julie emphasized. “In South Carolina, you do not register as a Democrat or Republican. Consider, ‘Where will my vote count the most?’”

Making Democracy Work by educating, engaging, and protecting voters and voters' rights.



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

www.LWVHHI.org

@LWVHHIBA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/BLUFFTON AREA

Monthly Calendar of Events

Officers and Board 2017- 2018

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 10 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

February 1 —Board Meeting, 10 AM, Palmetto Electric, Hilton Head Island

February 14— National and Local Program Planning Meeting for League members, 10 AM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 110 Malphrus Road, Bluffton. See page 1.

February 14—LWVUS Birthday

March 1 —Board Meeting

March 14—Membership Meeting re education, open to the public, 10 AM, Hilton Head Island Public Service District, Oak Park Drive, Hilton Head Island. Details TBD.

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

**The Public Forum: Breaking Down Barriers
Orientation/Registration Jan. 30, 10 AM or Feb.1, 5:30 PM**

Held at the Bluffton Library, a new series of four-week sessions guided by the belief that democracy functions best when ideas are shared. Nonpartisan, unaffiliated with any advocacy/interest group. First topic: "Political Labels: Voting Triggers." Attend an orientation/registration session to learn more.

The Opioid Crisis, Who Is at Risk? Feb. 22, 7-9 PM

Moderated panel discussion of informed experts with various roles impacting the containment of the opioid crisis in Beaufort County. Social Action Committee of Congregation Beth Yam, 4501 Meeting Street, HHI. Public welcome.

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents:	
Dot Law	843-842-5622
Nancy Williams	843-681-4212
Vice-President, Program Chair:	
Joan Kinne-Shulman	843-842-9246
Treasurer:	
Barbara Catenaci	843-837-4507
Secretary:	
Jan Ferrari	303-916-9583(c)

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Heather Bragg, Asst. Chair	843-415-3490
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Sally McGarry	843-342-9254
State Issues/Advocacy:	
MaryAnn Bromley	843-298-2320
Voter Service:	
Ruth Wilwerding	843-671-5562

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Meeting and Events Planner:	Jan Billingslea
Natural Resources/Land Use:	Sally McGarry
Newsletter:	Mary Agnes Garman
Nominating:	Fran Holt
Webmaster:	David Rice

Know a Potential New Member?

A League Membership Form is attached to this newsletter. Forward this newsletter, print out the membership form, or bring a prospect to the next League event. Better yet, do all three!

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area
Membership Form 2017-2018

New Member

Current Member/Membership Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dues: Individual* \$60

 Household* \$90

Donation** to LWVHHI/BA (optional)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

*\$60 for one year, one member; \$90 for one year, two or more members of the same household. Please make checks payable to LWVHHI/BA.

**If you would like your donation to be tax-deductible, please write a second check made out to LWVUS Education Fund, which is a 501c(3).

Please check your areas of interest:

Voter services

Education

Natural resources and land use

State government issues and advocacy

Local issues/Observer corps

Programs

Membership

Fund-raising

Communications (newsletter, publicity, Twitter, Facebook, website)

Other (specify) _____

How many years have you been a member of the League of Women Voters? _____

Please mail this form along with a check for your membership to:

Ellen Dahl 3 Saddlewood Ct. Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

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Designed by Clemson LWV member & ad graphic designer, Christine Prado

From: The League of Women Voters of South Carolina, 1/5/2018. For more information go to www.lwvsc.org.