

Lighthouse

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

May 10 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Our annual meeting and luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 10 at the Country Club of Hilton Head in Hilton Head Plantation. It starts at 11:15 AM with socializing and a cash bar; at 11:45 the annual meeting will begin. Lunch will be served at 12:15 PM.

After lunch, Jane Perdue will update us on the "Status of Women in South Carolina." Jane is a former president of the Board of Directors of the Center for Women in Charleston.. Thanks to a Making Democracy Work grant from our state League, we will also be honoring local female elected officials with the hope that they will inspire other women to run for elected office

At the annual meeting we will act on the report of the Nominating Committee as well as approve the budget, program plan, and public policy positions for 2017-2018. The 2016-2017 Annual Report and other meeting materials will be sent by email prior to the meeting. Please review them before you come and bring them with you. A limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting.

Reserve your place by May 1 by sending a check payable to LWVHHI/BA for \$30 per person to Jan Billingslea at 5 Lansmere Place, Bluffton, SC 29910. Include your choice of meal--chicken, salmon, or vegetable strudel. Email Jan at jjbill12@aol.com with questions.

Immigration Issues Discussed at April 12 Meeting

"My remarks will not be unbiased," declared immigration lawyer Aimee Deverall as she began her talk about current issues of concern to Hispanics in our area. Particularly troubling currently are the increased number of raids by ICE (Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in housing complexes inhabited by large numbers of Hispanics. The raids have become more frequent in South Carolina since President Trump took office.

Early in February, ICE raids were carried out throughout the state, many in Beaufort County (Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Beaufort, St. Helena). Eleven arrests were made in our area. In Bluffton, at Avalon Shores Apartments, around 7:00 one morning large black vehicles pulled up just when residents were going to work or taking their children to school buses. Enforcement agents asked about specific people and knocked on apartment doors. (Opening your door gives officials the right to come in. But you do not have to open your door if a warrant is not shown.)

Such actions cause fear and anxiety. Hispanic workers live in a constant state of fear—fear that they may not return home in the evening from their jobs because of raids on workplaces. It is not known how this constant state of stress is affecting the mental and physical health of Hispanics.

Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner has precipitated additional concerns because of his willingness to set up a local force to carry out the work of ICE. Section 287G of the federal Immigration and Nationality Acts of 1986 authorizes this type of program. The sheriff's department would receive federal money to create and train such a force. Tanner was one of a small handful of sheriffs across the country to request funds.

According to Deverall, ICE actions lead to racial profiling and due process violations. U.S. citizens of Hispanic origin are often detained. If detained, a person's fingerprints are taken and may be shared with many organizations. If suspicions crop up, the detainee may be held even longer.

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Message from the President



**Making
Democracy
Work**

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as president of our League during the last two years. Of course, there were some frustrations, and I do have a lot more gray hair, but overall it has been a very satisfying experience. I credit that to an excellent board, a supportive membership and a patient and helpful husband along with my long-held commitment to what the League does and how we do it. I truly believe we make a positive difference in making democracy work at the community, state and national levels through both essential functions of the League, voter service and advocacy. I also believe that what we do is especially important at this contentious time.

What makes me really happy is that I will be passing the gavel to two outstanding women, Dot Law and Nancy Williams, who will serve as co-presidents. I know they will have great support from Joan Kinne-Shulman, a very competent and congenial past president, who will continue for one more year as vice president/program chair. They will also have the support of an excellent board and the membership, including quite a few new members who seem very interested in being involved in what we do. I hope we have a good turn-out at our Annual Meeting/Luncheon, where we will be electing Dot, Nancy and other board members. For information about that event and to make a reservation, please refer to page one.

I thank you very much for your support during the last two years.

- Fran Holt



Immigration continued from page 1

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The question is often asked, "Why not get a green card or seek legal status?" It is difficult to do either and usually takes a long time to accomplish. It is not widely known that if a person without proper documents needs a green card, the person must go back to his/her home country. But if the person leaves the country, that person cannot come back to the United States for as long as ten years. Even if a person marries an American citizen, that individual still has to go through a difficult process to get a green card.

Undocumented people who want to obtain higher education (elementary to high school education is a right) must pay out-of-state tuition rates in South Carolina.



Undocumented Hispanic workers are often subject to wage theft—not being paid for their labor. They have little recourse to get the money due them.

When Deverall was asked what the League could do to help, she suggested:

- Urge Sheriff Tanner not to create the local special immigration force
- Work to correct misconceptions about Hispanic residents—perhaps by creating, publicizing, and distributing a fact sheet.



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www.lwvhi.org



Spotlight on

Eleanor Weiler Lightsey Appointed to South Island Public Service District



League Member Eleanor Weiler Lightsey was recently appointed by the Governor, on unanimous recommendation of the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation, to the Board of Commissioners for the South Island Public Service District. The District serves approximately 25,000 residents and businesses in the southern portion of Hilton Head Island.

An MBA graduate of Winthrop University, Lightsey was CEO for the HH Realtors Association from 2000 to 2008 and is now owner and Broker-in-Charge of Real Estate Counseling Services. She is also an owner and Business Manager of LowCountry InsideTrack, a government reporting service that operates in Jasper and Beaufort Counties. She is a native of South Carolina and a property owner on Hilton Head Island since 1975.

In Memoriam: Margaret Downward

Margaret "Peggy" Downward died on March 22 at age 102. A graduate of Vassar College, Peggy was an National Institute of Health trained mental health counselor who worked with disadvantaged children. Peggy had a wide range of interests, ranging from the environment to American architecture. She was a generous donor to a number of charitable organizations.

A long-time member of the League of Women Voters, Peggy was awarded lifetime honorary membership on the occasion of her 100th birthday by the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area.

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



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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

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

May 24—Natural Resources/Land Use Committee Meeting, Coastal States Bank, Hilton Head, 2:00 PM

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @

League of Women Voters
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area

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

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