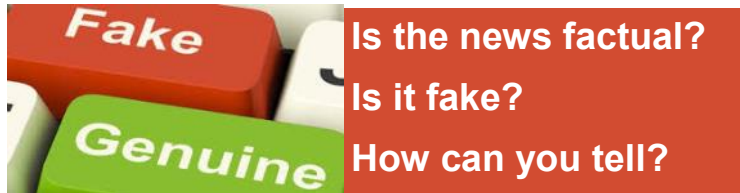


# Lighthouse

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



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## December 14 League Holiday Luncheon Country Club of Hilton Head

11:30 AM Social, Noon lunch, 1 PM Speaker

Sign up to join the festivities and celebrate the season at our annual Holiday Luncheon. This year it will be held at the Country Club of Hilton Head in Hilton Head Plantation on Thursday, December 14. Reservations are due by December 5. Social time begins at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served about noon, and the speaker will begin his talk about 1 PM.

Special guest James Mallory, a writer and retired editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, will help us "Evaluate the Media: Fake or Factual News?" The public is invited.

\$30 per person includes salad, entrée, dessert, iced tea and coffee. A cash bar will be available. Please select one of the following menu options: chicken, white fish or vegetarian pasta.

By December 5, please mail your check to Jan Billingslea, 5 Lansmere Place, Bluffton, SC, 29910 and indicate your luncheon selection. The event flyer is attached.



**James Mallory** is a retired executive with 30 years of management, editing and writing experience in the fast-changing print and digital newspaper business. Mallory spent 24 years at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* where he retired as Senior Managing Editor/VP News, creating a multi-platform newsroom considered one of the most innovative in the nation.

Mallory joined the paper in 1988 as a business reporter. His other newspaper experience includes editing and reporting at the *Detroit News*, business reporter at the *Grand Rapids Press*, and reporter at the *Lansing State Journal*.

During his career he has served as teacher, coach and mentor to professional and student journalists across the country. A long-time advocate of newsroom diversity, he received the AP-ME Robert G. McGruder Award for Diversity Leadership in 2012.

Mallory earned his Master of Arts in Journalism at Michigan State University. He completed his Bachelor of Business Administration at Western Michigan University. Mallory is an avid golfer and a model railroader currently residing on Hilton Head Island.



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## Message from the Co-President

Let's talk!

The holiday season is here, with family and friends gathering together to enjoy the company of others. We look forward to seeing those we may not have seen for a year—those who may have traveled far and near to sit around the Thanksgiving or Christmas table, sharing our recipes, diet plans, work challenges or maybe even those delicate areas of relationships or even, *God forbid*, politics!



Dot Law

With the strongly divisive tones of the political airwaves, have we established the ground rules of civility, *before* the guests arrive? In today's world, whether family or friends, one must surely consider whether to allow "fools to rush in where angels fear to tread."

- Do we forget manners and the simple rules of engagement we learned in kindergarten?
- Has the "communication age" completely gripped our senses?
- Are we so quick to make a response that we don't even hear one word of the other speaker?
- Are we too eager to get in another word, shutting out all voices except our own?
- Can you repeat one idea the other speaker gave?
- Did you listen for validation of their point of view?
- Did you allow interaction?
- Did you seek common ground?

To disagree is natural; to be disagreeable is rude.

Being civil is more than graciousness and polite manners, yet those qualities are necessary in any dialogue. If one expects to engage in a meaningful exchange of ideas, then graciousness, good manners, good listening skills, respect for all speakers, and seeking common ground should always be the end goal.

Enjoy the holiday gatherings with old and new friends but also savor the good feelings deep down in your spirit knowing that the time was well spent with kind and caring fellow travelers along life's journey.

~Dot Law, Co-President

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### Natural Resources/Land Use Committee Update: The Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force

In October, the committee welcomed League member and Planning Commissioner Caroline McVitty to speak to our members. Caroline chose, as her subject, the Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force, of which she is a member. The Task Force was formed in June by the Town Council to assist in identifying and ensuring the recognition and preservation of Gullah-Geechee culture on the island and to take another look at the status of Native Islander properties -- a topic which has been visited many times by the Town, but never satisfactorily resolved. The nine-member Task Force is chaired by Lavon Stevens.

Caroline told the committee that 3,057 properties have been identified, 1,000 native acres in 900 some parcels. Some properties have as many as 85 to 100 owners! Any one of these owners can force the sale of the property. The properties are taxed at the maximum because very often the land is titled in the name of a deceased person. The Planning Commission has been tasked with advising the Native Islanders on how to get clear title to their properties. They will draw on the experience and assistance of other areas, including The Center for Heirs Property, an organization in Charleston working on heirs property issues.

The Town Council has put the heirs property issue at the top of the agenda for its annual workshop this year. The Task Force will recommend that the Town hire a staff person with responsibility for Gullah-Geechee land and culture preservation. The Task Force has one more meeting scheduled before the end of the year. They will meet on December 4 at 7 PM at the Public Service District on Mathews Drive.

~Sally McGarry, Natural Resources/Land Use Committee Chair

Visit our website

<http://www.lwhhi.org>



# We Need YOU!



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Please consider volunteering in one or more areas below that interest you. Click and email the committee chair! Get a jump start on your New Year's resolution to help make a difference.

### Membership

Help develop and execute programs to recruit, welcome, orient, and engage members. Contact Ellen Dahl, [ewdahl@earthlink.net](mailto:ewdahl@earthlink.net), ph. 834.785.2115

### Observer Corps

Attend Hilton Head Island or Bluffton Town Council and Planning Commission meetings to keep abreast of local issues that may be of interest to the League. HHI: Town Council 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 5 pm, Planning: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 9 am, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 3 pm. Bluffton: Town Council: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6 pm, Planning: 4th Wednesday, 6 pm. Contact Sally McGarry, [smcgarry@roadrunner.com](mailto:smcgarry@roadrunner.com), ph. 843.342.9254

### Voter Service

Help register new voters, plan and execute candidate/issue forums, and prepare voter guides/questionnaires. Contact Ruth Wilwerding, [Ruth.Wilwerding@yahoo.com](mailto:Ruth.Wilwerding@yahoo.com), ph. 843.671.5562

### State Issues and Advocacy

Keep abreast of state issues such as redistricting, and mobilize voters in support of League positions. Contact MaryAnn Bromley, [mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com](mailto:mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com), ph. 843.298.2320

### Communications

Help increase visibility of the League via the media, Facebook, Twitter, our website, newsletter, and/or graphic design. Contact Sandy Stern, [aestern1@gmail.com](mailto:aestern1@gmail.com), ph. 843.342.4834

### Natural Resources/Land Use

Keep abreast of natural resources and land use issues by participating in monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 2 pm, Coastal States Bank on Hilton Head Island. Contact Sally McGarry, [smcgarry@roadrunner.com](mailto:smcgarry@roadrunner.com), ph. 843.342.9254

### Education

Are you interested in how educational funding works in South Carolina, progress in eliminating the achievement gap between white and African-American and Latino students, tax credits and tuition vouchers, and other issues affecting our state and local schools? Help monitor local and state education issues by participating in monthly meetings. Contact Kathy Quirk, [quirk.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:quirk.kathy@gmail.com), ph. 843.836.2892

### Wanted: Membership Co-Chair

An enthusiastic, personable, well-organized individual is sought as Membership Co-Chair with responsibility for member recruitment and engagement.

For more information and a job description, contact Nancy Williams at [nlwilliams125@gmail.com](mailto:nlwilliams125@gmail.com).

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



## Member Spotlight: Sandy Stern



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*“Since joining the League, I have met so many women who are focused on making a difference, and it is my mission to do the same.”*

*Sandy Stern*

My parents immigrated to the United States before I was born. I was taught as a child to be a proud American living in a country where people had so many freedoms and rights. Actually, the earliest picture I have of myself is one where I am waving the flag at a parade.

### How did you end up in the Lowcountry?

Beginning in 1990, my family and I vacationed every Thanksgiving week at a timeshare on Hilton Head Island. We loved it so much, that my husband and I decided that when we retired we would move here permanently from Brooklyn, New York. And, that's what we did in 2006.

### What sparked your interest in civic engagement?

As a reading specialist in New York City, I would always select material for my older students to read that highlighted important events and people in history. I wanted to instill in my students the idea that each and every one of them could make a difference. I enjoyed teaching them about civic responsibilities, community service, our form of government, and the importance of every person's vote. But, while living in Brooklyn, I did not get involved in any organizations to promote democracy.

### Why the League?

It was only after I moved to Hilton Head Island and began volunteering and joining various clubs that I became interested in the League as a means to educate the public on a host of issues and promote democracy for all.

Being retired, I now found the time and freedom to pursue my interest in learning more about how government should work for the people. I was moved by the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* about the women's suffrage movement in the US, and realized I had taken my right to vote for granted. It changed the way I felt and I became more of an activist. I began making calls and writing to my elected officials. Then in January 2017, I marched for the first time in my life in the Women's March on Washington, D.C. (see photo)



Inspired by the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*, League Communications Chair Sandy Stern steps forward to make a difference!

Since joining the League, I have met so many women who are focused on making a difference, and it has been my mission to do the same.

# Legislative Redistricting & Gerrymandering

Highlights from the November 8 Information Session

Presented by the

League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area



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On Wednesday, November 8, MaryAnn Bromley, LWVHHI/BA State Issues and Advocacy Chair, presented a program on Legislative Redistricting and Gerrymandering. With the help of her tech adviser husband (John), MaryAnn used PowerPoint slides and a short video to help explain the process of redistricting and gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing voting district lines in a way that influences the outcome of elections. It has been around since the early days of our democracy but it reached new heights as an aggressive and transformational partisan tool in redistricting outcomes following the 2010 census.

And, since then, refinements in computer technology and modern software have taken gerrymandering to a whole new level. So much so, that in states where the legislature is controlled by one party and that same legislature draws the voting district maps, as in the case of South Carolina, then there is a high probability that the party in power at the time the districts are drawn, will stay in power until voting maps are redrawn with the added likelihood that the same party will again control the mapping of districts.

During the redistricting process, district maps can be manipulated through tactics known as “cracking” and “packing” whereby the maps are configured in such a way as to either pack the opposing party with “extra” voters, making it more likely that the party in control of the mapping can win more districts than would occur without gerrymandering; or, the minority party’s voters can be “cracked” among a number of districts making their votes ineffective against a now majority party stronghold in each “cracked” district. A short [video](#) from *The Washington Post* showed examples of gerrymandering.

MaryAnn called attention to two maps of the U.S. House of Representatives districts in South Carolina reproduced in the November issue of *Lighthouse*. One shows the districts, in 2001 and the other in 2011 after South Carolina gained a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, giving us a total of seven U.S. Congressional districts. The current breakdown of South Carolina voters hovers around 55% Republican and 45% Democrat; however, Republicans hold six of the seven Congressional seats (86%).



Thirteen states, including South Carolina, meet the criteria of being “extremely gerrymandered” when analyses are done using instruments such as the “Efficiency Gap”. The “Efficiency Gap” can be used to create voting district maps that convert to seats in a politically equitable manner.

In the past the U. S. Supreme Court has acknowledged that partisan gerrymandering exists, but is it extreme? One question before the Court in the current partisan gerrymandering case out of Wisconsin is: By what measures can we say that “extreme gerrymandering” exists? For more information, go to [“How the New Math of Gerrymandering Works”](#) in *The New York Times* and [“Can Computers Fix Gerrymandering?”](#) from *Time* magazine.

LWVHHI/BA Co-President Nancy Williams, above, and State Issues & Advocacy Chair MaryAnn Bromley, below, address a “full house” on November 8.



(Continued on page 6)



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The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) is leading the statewide effort to develop a coalition to support nonpartisan, voter-centered redistricting in South Carolina. As stated by Lynn Teague, LWVSC Vice President for Program and Action, “We are emphasizing a nonpartisan approach to redistricting reform and we want district lines drawn by an independent commission and we want criteria that do not include protecting the interests of incumbents or parties” ([LWVSC Voter](#), Winter 2017, p.4).

Several states, including Iowa, Missouri, Arizona and California already use independent, bi-partisan, or nonpartisan redistricting commissions so we do not have to “invent the wheel.” Examples of criteria for voting district boundaries that we may want to consider include:

- Substantially equal populations in the districts for each elected official
- Effective representation of racial and linguistic communities
- Partisan fairness
- Maintain communities in single districts (e.g. municipalities and counties) to the maximum extent possible
- Disregard protection of incumbents and political parties.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) has developed a plan to reach our redistricting goals of fair and equitable voting districts, competitive elections, making every vote count, having voters pick their representatives instead of the other way around as currently happens, and restoring our trust in government and trust in the electoral process.

Interested in learning more and/or working for fair and equitable voting districts? Contact MaryAnn Bromley at [mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com](mailto:mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com) or (843) 298-2320.

Interested in learning more and/or working with our League toward attaining our goal of fair and equitable voting districts? Contact MaryAnn Bromley at [mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com](mailto:mary.ann.bromley@gmail.com) Phone: (843)298-2320.

*~Joan Kinne-Shulman, Vice President, Program Chair*



## Welcome, New League Members!

### Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

As we update our database, we’re delighted to officially recognize those who have joined the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area since last May. Welcome aboard!

Barbara Catenaci  
Ginger Caporal  
Ella Davis  
Catherine Erdman

Carol Horowitz  
Jennifer Jenkins  
Rose McHale

John Riolo  
Kay Roshnow  
Ellen Walton



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND/  
BLUFFTON AREA

[www.lwvhi.org](http://www.lwvhi.org)



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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

**December 7** —Board Meeting, 10 AM, Palmetto Electric, Hilton Head Island

**December 14**—Holiday Luncheon, Hilton Head Country Club, 11:30 AM social time, noon lunch. “Is the News Factual? Is It Fake? How Can You Tell?” See page 1.

**January 10**– Membership Meeting, 10 AM, Hilton Head Public Service District Community Room. Julie Hussey, Co-President, League of Women Voters of South Carolina, will inform us about issues the League will follow in the 2018 state legislative session. The meeting is open to the public.

### Know a Potential New Member?

A League Membership Form for new members is attached to this newsletter. Forward this newsletter, print out the membership form, or bring him/her to the next League event. Better yet, do all three!

Questions? Contact Membership Chair Ellen Dahl, shown at right. As a reminder, current League members renew according to anniversary dates.

### OFFICERS

Co-Presidents:	
Dot Law	843-842-5622
Nancy Williams	843-681-4212
Vice-President, Program Chair:	
Joan Kinne-Shulman	843-842-9246
Treasurer:	
Mary Jo Happle	843-689-3952
Secretary:	
Jan Ferrari	303-916-9583(c)

### DIRECTORS

Communications:	
Sandy Stern, Chair	843-342-4834
Heather Bragg, Asst. Chair	843-415-3490
Education:	
Kathy Quirk	843-836-2892
Membership:	
Ellen Dahl	843-785-2115
Observer Corps/Local Issues:	
Sally McGarry	843-342-9254
State Issues/Advocacy:	
MaryAnn Bromley	843-298-2320
Voter Service:	
Ruth Wilwerding	843-671-5562

### Off-Board Positions

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

**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**





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

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

*Annual Holiday Luncheon*

SPEAKER: JAMES MALLORY  
TOPIC: FAKE AND REAL NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017  
11:30AM TO 2:00PM  
COUNTRY CLUB OF HILTON HEAD,  
70 SKULL CREEK DRIVE, HILTON HEAD, SC 29928

\$30 per person includes: salad, entrée, dessert, iced tea and coffee.  
Cash bar will be available.

Please select one of the following menu options:  
Chicken, white fish or vegetarian pasta

Please mail your check to Jan Billingslea at  
5 Lansmere Place, Bluffton, SC and indicate your luncheon selection.

RSVP BY 12/5/2017.