Reflections from the Chair
Barbara Hammes

Dear Members,

As 2018 draws to a rapid close and I complete my fourth and final year on the LLL Steering Committee, I reflect on the growth, evolution and astonishing accomplishments of this organization. When I started with the organization, we had a 90-member roster, luncheon group size was anywhere from 12 to 60, and we paid at the door. I note that no two years thereafter have looked the same, neither in the world around us nor in the activities of the LLL. This year alone we have undertaken many feats not previously attempted or, perhaps, not previously necessary:

- A fully-functional website, (including the ability to pay for lunches, special events and dues online & event registration with an automatic reply & a Member To Member page for member announcements),
- Sharing of information with other liberal organizations through the Lowcountry Leadership Summit,
- Participation in the Blue Wave Rally at Shelter Cove in May,
- Hosting a luncheon meeting panel of liberal candidates running for Governor, Secretary of State and Congress,
- A year-long focus on GOTV (Get Out The Vote)
- Featuring a nonprofit Organization of the Month at every luncheon meeting
- Hosting an evening member social event that included a local candidate Meet and Greet.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have served as the Chair of the Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry this past year. Throughout the past 4 years, I have met amazing women who have accomplished much before they came to this community and continue to contribute to the Hilton Head and Bluffton communities in so many different ways. My thanks go out to all of the Steering Committee members with whom I have collaborated for your tireless work. Finally, thank you to the marvelous women whose acquaintances I have made, some of whom will be my friends for life.

Wishing you all peace and good health!

Lynn Cordy will be announcing the members of the 2019 Steering Committee at the December luncheon.

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2019

| January 11    | Monthly Luncheon, Billy Wooton, Savannah LGBT Director |
| January 30    | Book Group  |
| February 27   | Book Group  |

Check our WEBSITE for updates, programs and special interest group information.

2018 STEERING COMMITTEE – A Note of Recognition and Appreciation

Thank you to the 2017 and 2018 Steering Committee:

- Barb Hammes: Chair, 2018
- Lynn Cordy: Newsletter, 2017
- Tricia Higgins: Chair-Elect, 2018
- Florry Gibbes & Megan Sisson: Communications, 2017 & 2018
- Diane Polevoy: Programs 2017 & 2018
- Gale Bottoms: Membership, 2018
- Suzi Huisman: Treasurer, 2018
- Donna Morris & Linda Sheets: Website, 2018

Lynn Cordy will be announcing the members of the 2019 Steering Committee at the December luncheon.
October Joint Meeting Recap
Maggie Garrett on
Americans United for Separation of Church & State

The annual Joint Meeting of the Liberal Ladies and the Liberal Men was fortunate to have Maggie Garrett, from Washington D.C., speak to the group. Maggie is the Legislative Director for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She has been working on church-state separation issues for nearly 20 years and represents Americans United before Congress and the Trump Administration; oversees state legislative programs; has spoken about church-state issues in television and radio appearances; has participated in Congressional briefings; has testified numerous times before state legislative committees; and much more. A good portion of Maggie’s work focuses on ensuring that public funds are used to fund public schools.

Americans United (“AU”), founded in 1947, is a nonpartisan educational and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the First Amendment Constitutional principle of church-state separation as the only way to ensure freedom of religion, including the right to believe or not believe, for all Americans. Currently, AU is heavily involved in opposing President Trump’s efforts to “get rid of and totally destroy” the Johnson Amendment, which is the 1954 provision in the U.S. tax code that prohibits all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (such as churches, universities, and other non-profits) from endorsing or opposing political candidates. The AU’s position on this is supported by 106 religious organizations, 5,800 non-profits, 4,600 faith leaders and 70% of the public. They must be vigilant in their efforts, as Trump has signed an executive order and has tried to sneak this provision into spending and tax bills. Maggie encouraged us to talk to our legislators about this and other First Amendment matters and assured us that even though it may appear as if this might be futile, our efforts make more of a difference than we think. While our representatives might not publically embrace a position, public pressure often makes an important difference behind the scenes. A copy of the entire AU slide presentation is available on our WEBSITE (Log in, Activities, 2018 in Review).

The Liberal Ladies and Liberal Men each contributed $500 to present Maggie with a $1,000 check to Americans United to thank Maggie for her wonderful and informative presentation and to assist in furthering this important work. If you would like to know more about Americans United, make a donation, or become an annual member, you can visit their website.

November Meeting Recap – Bob Donelson on Energy and the Environment

At our November 9th luncheon, Robert (Bob) Donelson spoke to us about energy and the environment – both past, present, and future. Bob retired to Sun City after a 32-year distinguished career with the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management. He and his team were honored by President George W. Bush with the Presidential Award for Energy Conservation for developing programs that reduced the amount of energy used by the Bureau by 30+% and which served as a new benchmark for all federal facilities at the time. These programs continue to be improved upon and implemented throughout the government and private sector. Bob remains a zealous advocate of how we can use less energy and switch to forms of energy that are less harmful to the environment and people.

Although the current administration’s roll-backs of President Obama’s energy programs have been discouraging, Bob remains confident that market forces will continue to drive us towards the use of more renewable energy sources and less pollution. For example, if everyone switched to utilizing LED light bulbs, enough energy would be saved to cause the closing of 44 coal power plants.

Bob is a Solar Homeowner and co-authored the Sun City Solar Guidelines. The Sun City POA was originally hostile to allowing solar panels. However, Bob persisted in his appeal and now about thirty homes in Sun City utilize solar panels to generate electricity. He strives to be a “net zero home” and to be able to function “off grid.” Bob said he would be happy to assist anyone who wishes to install solar panels in working with their POAs. If anyone would like to contact Bob for more information, his email is rob-ert.donelson1@gmail.com.

- Linda Sheets
MEMBERSHIP

As of November, the Liberal Ladies of the Low-country has 488 members, 39 of whom joined in September, October and November. We welcome all new members.

We suggest that everyone check their profile to ensure all contact information is complete and correct. If you need to make any changes to your profile information, follow these easy steps:

1. Access website
2. Log In
3. Under the “Membership” tab, click “Your Profile”
4. Edit contact info
5. Save All Changes

Please spread the word about our website by sharing our address (https://liberalladieslow-country.org/) with anyone who might be interested. If you have any suggestions on how we can get out the word about our organization please feel free to contact Diane Polevoy via EMAIL.

- Diane Polevoy

WEBSITE

To access the Member’s area of our website, you must be a Member in good standing, meaning your dues are current.

Please follow these instructions:

♦ On the top blue line, click on Log In
♦ If this is your first time here, and you wish to become a Member, you will need to Join Us in order to create a new account.
♦ Fill out the form.
♦ Be sure to hit the Paypal checkout button (for credit card or Paypal payments; you do not need to have a PayPal account) to complete your registration
♦ After completing your registration, you will receive an email with instructions for setting your password and logging in to the website. NOTE: the system will generate a strong password. You may wish to keep that OR you may type over it with a password of your choice. Then select the Reset Password button.
♦ If you are a current member and you do not remember your password, please click on Forgot password. This will take you to a page that will ask you to enter your email or user name. Then click on get new password. You will receive an email with a link to change your password.

- Suzi Huisman

COMMUNICATIONS

From small beginnings of casual lunches our organization has blossomed to well attended events with dynamic speakers. Accordingly, our website is now over a year old, yet enhancements are continuing.

Registering a Guest: After registering for an event such as a luncheon, members may sometimes find they wish to bring a guest. If you are already registered, simply revisit the website event under Activities/Calendar and re-register yourself as paying $0, input your guest name and complete their payment (currently $22.00) via credit card.

Cancelling Your Luncheon Registration: Our events are planned with the staff at Indigo Run Golf Club. We take particular care to provide Indigo with an accurate headcount based on online registrations. If you register and then find you cannot attend please notify us within 48 hours of the event date and we will refund your money. In addition, this may allow another member to attend in your place, particularly when we are close to capacity.

Since early 2018, all events are pre-paid and 98% of the registrations utilize credit card payments. Therefore, in 2019 all payments will be by credit card.

Membership renewals have historically been handled en masse by calendar year in January. With our new membership program, 2019 renewal notices will be sent throughout the year on the anniversary date (or close to it) of your LLL membership. For example, if a member joined in June 2018, she will receive a notice of renewal in 2019 ten days prior to her initiation date. Payment for renewals will be by credit card.

Need Help with LLL Website? Don’t struggle! We are just an email or phone call away. Go to the Contact Us link on the top blue line, select the subject of your enquiry (e.g., Website) and type in your question. Also, check our FAQ page --- you most likely will find your answer there.

- Tricia Higgins
VERY IMPORTANT: 2019 Member Needs Assessment Survey

It’s ready for your participation! Please take the time to complete this brief survey. Your input on programs, special events, special interest groups, and other areas helps to make our group reflective of you and your interests. Your input guides us in shaping the year ahead. As I said above, this organization’s offerings and formats have not looked the same from year to year.

You may complete the survey online at THIS LINK, then press SUBMIT. If you prefer paper, please print the survey and mail to the address provided. All responses must be received by Friday, December 7. All responses will be tabulated, reviewed and prioritized as best as possible. Thank you for your participation.

Special Interest Groups

Book Group

The book group will be meeting at the Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way just outside of Hilton Head Plantation. This new location provides ample parking and reduces the need for gate passes. The November 2018 and January 2019 meetings will be held there. For information on the book group please contact co-coordinators Nancy Nienstedt (via EMAIL) or Suzanne Knight (EMAIL).

Book selections for the next three months are:

- November 28, White Rage: the Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson;
- January 30, Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and One Man’s Fight for Justice by Bill Browder;
- February 27, My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor.

We hope you will join us. Please register in advance by going to the calendar on our WEBSITE. On the odd chance a session is canceled or relocated, we want to notify you.

Members may read a summary of our previous book discussions by clicking HERE.

- Nancy Nienstedt, Suzanne Knight

Tennis Group

Check the calendar on our WEBSITE for tennis activities.

From Chair-Elect

Lynn Cordy

Special Interest groups are an enjoyable way to meet other Liberal Ladies. Currently, there are 3 active groups: The Book Group, The Media Discussions Group, and The Tennis Group. In these small groups, women are getting to know one another in a smaller relaxed environment. The Steering Committee (“SC”) wants to encourage the creation of more of these groups. Are you interested in coffee with conversation on the morning’s headlines? Or maybe “vino and venting” is more your style? Perhaps a second book group that meets during the daytime or one for the Bluffton area members? Anyone for liberal golf? Bridge or another card game? If you have any interest and are willing to take the initiative to get the group going, contact Lynn Cordy, liberalladieschair@gmail.com. The SC will help you “market” the new group and provide any logistics needed to get started. The successful strategies of the established groups will be available for you. We hope to hear from you.

Media Group

The next meeting is December 17 at Hickory Tavern, at 5:15 pm when we will discuss “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” The film is playing at Coligny Theater in November. Check Coligny website for dates and times. You can register for the meeting on the website under “Activities” or contact the Coordinator: Anita Loeser HERE.

- Anita Loeser
Lowcountry Coalition Against Hate (LCAH)
The Lowcountry Coalition Against Hate (LCAH) is a nonpartisan alliance of organizations committed to working against hate speech and prejudice by supporting impacted communities and fostering acceptance, compassion, and justice for all in the Lowcountry. Our first venture was a Mayoral forum addressing positive leadership and civil discourse. Please support LCAH by visiting and liking our Facebook page. While there, send a message with your email address and you will receive our newsletter and updates. The most recent newsletter may be seen here.

Submitted by Donna Morris

Lean Ensemble
Bad Dates by Theresa Rebeck. “Confessions of a single mother and self-described restaurant idiot-savant abound in this thoroughly charming, intoxicating and slyly sweet one-woman show. This idiosyncratic journey of self-discovery involves the Romanian mob, a Buddhist rainstorm, a teenage daughter, shoes, and quite a few bad dates.”

Performances: December 12-16, 2018. Wednesday-Saturday, 7:30pm. Sunday matinee 2:00pm. Join us in the new HHSO performance space, Sound Waves, 7 Lagoon Rd. HHI. Bring your friends. Group rates available. Tickets at leanensemble.org

Volunteer opportunities (community awareness, community collaborations, PR, house management or ushering) abound with this theater group. Contact: innercircle@leanensemble.org with your name, email and phone number.

Submitted by Cathy Nairne

Osprey Village
Osprey Village is a South Carolina nonprofit corporation founded by parents of adults with developmental disabilities who want to be assured their children have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy community that will enrich their lives with friendship and social interaction. Executive Director Jerry Manuel spoke to the LLLc about the need for this type of community and Osprey Village’s vision. Land has been donated for a residential development in Okatie, and the organization is currently raising money in order to begin construction. In addition to donations, the group raises money through two thrift stores, including one at 2600 Main Street on Hilton Head Island. Anyone who wishes to learn more about the organization, make a donation, or volunteer to work at the thrift store, can visit their website. Donations of goods and shoppers are also always welcome at the Osprey Village Thrift Stores.

Submitted by Jill Brooke
2018 Steering Committee

Chairperson: Barb Hammes  
liberalladieschair@gmail.com

Chair-elect: Lynn Cordy  
liberalladieschair@gmail.com

Communications: Tricia Higgins  
liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com

Membership: Diane Polevoy  
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Newsletter: Lynn Cordy, Donna Morris, Linda Sheets  
liberalladiesnewsletter@gmail.com

Programs and Special Events: Florry Gibbes, Megan Sisson  
liberalladiesprograms@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gail Bottoms  
liberalladiestreasurer@gmail.com

Website Coordinator: Suzi Huisman  
liberalladieswebsite@gmail.com

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2019 Luncheon Meeting Dates

Please note the meeting dates herein as you plan ahead. All meetings fall on the second Friday of the month with the exception of October and December. This schedule was developed based on venue availability.

- January 11
- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July  NO MEETING
- August 9
- September 13
- October 4
- November 8
- December 6