



The Voter

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President's Message

As you will see, this issue is devoted to League meetings - our Annual Meeting, LWVC's Leadership Council, and LWVUS Convention 2014. These are important milestones in League history, propelling us forward to carry on the mission of the League to make democracy work. And since we did not have time at our Annual Meeting to get your commitment to help us achieve all we want to do in the coming year, I'm hoping you will consider what you can do to help.

We will need members who want to be on committees such as Membership, Action, and Voter Service. We anticipate doing education and advocacy on Civic Learning in the Schools, Library Funding, and Charter Reform/Revision. We would like to put together a new committee on Communications that includes using technology and tapping into the power of the internet. We have just begun partnering with San Bernardino schools, but we need to build on the momentum that has begun, so that's another area of interest you might consider. We have copies of the new Guide to California Government to distribute to the high schools, for example, and posters describing how to become president of the United States, similar to How a Bill Becomes a Law. Statewide Mock Elections are coming up in October, so we need help with that. We will be distributing a survey to bring our membership files up to date, so look for that, and think about what you can do for your League.

Your board will be planning the year's activities this summer, so we welcome your input. You can e-mail me or call if you have questions or comments.

Gloria Anderson
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Annual Meeting Edition

REPORT ON LWVUS CONVENTION 2014

I just spent 5 days in Dallas, Texas, as your delegate to the 51st convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Just about every waking hour is scheduled for plenary sessions, caucuses, and workshops, but we accomplished a lot.

Thus year's convention had a challenge to Elizabeth MacNamera's re-election to a third term as President from a member from Florida, complete with a candidates meeting, electioneering, a meet and greet, and a secret ballot election. After the votes were counted, Elizabeth prevailed and the recommended slate was elected.

We passed a budget that includes keeping the same PMP for the coming year (\$31), and raising it to \$32 for the following year. The attempt to keep it at \$31 for both years failed. The recommended bylaws amendments we passed were noncontroversial, but adopting program for the next two years proved to be a little more difficult. We approved concurrence with the position of LWV New Jersey on Human Trafficking and a 3-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures American democracy, consisting of

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LWVSB Annual Meeting

Following is a summary of our 59th Annual Meeting held on May 4 at the Arrowhead Country Club:

At the Annual Meeting, Val Lichtman, as Treasurer, made the budget report. Our League's operations have been vastly improved through the bequest left to LWVSB by League member Nancy Davis. It gave us the space to examine our operations and focus on our priorities. That examination contributed to the decision to close the League office. The space was being used for storage and the new owners of the building were raising our rent!) The furniture and office supplies went to Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, the files and records to Shirley Harlan's home. We did some soul-searching about the purpose of the reception for Citizens of Achievement and lowered the ticket price. We still need to recover our costs and it will be nice if it raises some funds, but the \$10 ticket price inaugurated last year, partly in response to the bequest, supports attendance by friends and family. (Each person being honored receives free admission and one free ticket, but they sometimes have scores of relatives and friends who purchase tickets to attend.) The new low ticket price underscores that the purpose of the reception is to celebrate the commitment, dedication, and talents of our Citizens of Achievement.

Money from the Davis trust also allowed us to work with other organizations on a city wide contest designed to encourage students to design materials to promote voting. The money was for scholarships for the contest winners.

Val reported that the principle is being invested (conservatively) by David Smith of Painter, Smith, and Gorian.

Membership approved our new, pared down budget for 2014-15.

The current positions of LWVSB were reviewed. (You can find them in your Annual Meeting Kit. If you can't put your hands on the kit, then look at the website for League of Women Voters of San Bernardino for Annual Meeting Kit and open the Annual Meeting kit document.) The positions are developed through a rigorous process to ensure that they are non-partisan and well-informed. A study must be formulated, conducted, and then reported out to the League membership. At that point the Membership votes on a position

to be taken by the League. Each year all positions are reviewed and either affirmed as revised, eliminated, or re-affirmed as they stand.

The League has positions at the National, State, and Local levels. The positions are the foundation of League action. A leader in the League cannot speak for the organization unless their statement is grounded in the positions of the League.

All of the positions of the LWVSB were re-affirmed. The Board was instructed to make several minor editing changes and corrections and to make two substantive changes:

- 1) In recognition of the fact that LWVSB's geographic area is not limited to the City of San Bernardino, change the language regarding the League's position on education to reflect support of oversight by the "local" School Board rather than the "San Bernardino" School Board.

2. Remove or revise the sentence in the Urban and Regional Planning position that refers to redevelopment planning since the agency responsible for such planning no longer exists.

Members had questions and comments on some of the positions. When we discussed our local health care position the LWVUS Health Care position that supports a single payer system of health insurance was mentioned, and it was pointed out that LWVSB can make statements or take other action on the basis of local, state, or national LWV positions. The discussion of Equality of Opportunity for Women brought up the issue of access to reproductive healthcare for women, which is also covered by the LWVUS Health Care position. One of our members believes that groups whose faith forbids abortion are being funded to buy hospitals in some areas. Discussion of our Mental Health and Homelessness positions included the question of whether there is a one-stop place where people can go for help, as is mandated by the Mental Health Services Act. The mandate was to create a clearinghouse where people could go for help or referral. Someone said that San Bernardino's had been located on Gilbert St. until the funding ended.

During the discussion of LWVSB's position on Libraries, we were told by one member that, at a recent City

Council meeting, a budget increase was given to public safety departments, most department heads were asked to present reports on the effect a 10% cut in their budgets would have on services, and the library was told that its budget would be cut by 50%. We were told that the President of the Library Board (Milton Clark) had stood up to lodge a complaint that the library was being treated in an unequal fashion. He was heard, but there was no response. One of our members pointed out that the library has undergone extensive cuts year after year and stated that the few staff they have left are making heroic efforts to provide services, but that they are desperately underfunded, even before this proposed cut.

During the discussion on LWVSB's positions on the Charter and on Libraries the positions were re-affirmed, and the membership asked that the Board use these positions as the basis for taking actions. If you would like to be part of acting on these positions, please contact Gloria via email at glorand@juno.com or by phone (909-338-4163).

The next item on the agenda was approval of the 2014/15 program. The emphasis for this year is on Civic Learning and Civic Engagement because California is in the process of re-writing the K-12 Civics curriculum. We have a better opportunity to be part of shaping Civics education in California this year than we are likely to ever have again. Similarly, San Bernardino's charter is being either re-written or repealed. If we want to have some impact on charter reform, this year is the time to educate and take action in support of our position.

Members approved two bylaws amendments. One was to have all memberships renew July 1. (Tracking all the various anniversary dates, each member having a different renewal date, has become overwhelming. The Treasurer will pro-rate everyone's dues to have them pay up to July 1, 2015. After that, everyone's membership will be due for renewal on July 1.

The second proposal was to change our name from League of Women Voters of San Bernardino to League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area to more accurately reflect the fact that our League includes a number of communities. This proposal excited quite a

bit of debate about what name would best convey the idea of the communities we cover, considering that we include both the mountains and some valley areas in our sphere of influence. There were alternate proposals for a new name: League of Women Voters of San Bernardino County, League of Women Voters of East San Bernardino County, and Arrowhead League of Women Voters were suggested, along with several other possibilities. People asked if our members in Ontario would see their community as part of East San Bernardino County. Would anyone have any idea what geographic area was meant by "Arrowhead?" If we were the League of San Bernardino County, how would that impact the nascent League of the High Desert? There was a series of votes, and eventually the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area won.

The Nominating Committee recommended this slate:

TWO-YEAR TERMS - 2014-2016
VICE PRESIDENT Michelle Markel
TREASURER Valerie Lichtman
DIRECTORS Kathy Ervin
Gloria Macias Harrison
Mary Saxon Hobbs
Barbara Sokloff

The call for nominations from the floor was met with silence and the Slate was approved.

Continuing for the second year of two-year terms are:

PRESIDENT Gloria Anderson
SECRETARY Jill Vassilakos-Long
DIRECTORS Rachel Clark
Shirley Harlan
Susan Nieblas
Marilyn Patterson

Michelle Markel told me that she appreciated everyone's hard work last year, and particularly mentioned the work of our last Vice President, Dennis Baxter. The committee put forth a special nomination - recognizing Ruth Petrucci for her many years of work on the Board of the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino with a nomination as Board Member Emeritus. There was general acclaim and much applause!

We wish you could have been there. Maybe next year...

SAN BERNARDINO CHARTER REFORM: ANNUAL MEETING PANEL DISCUSSION

San Bernardino's City Charter is housed in the City Clerk's office. There is an informational copy < <http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=2375> > on the city's website. It is 46 pages in length.

The League of Women Voters of San Bernardino have studied the Charter numerous times (1955, 1959, 1960, 1966... most recently in 2001 and 2004). Knowledge gained through these studies was utilized in the creation of our position on the city charter (recently re-affirmed at our annual meeting):

LWVSB CITY CHARTER POSITION:

Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified San Bernardino City Charter, with provisions that enable the Mayor and the Common Council to deal with city problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibilities and authority clearly defined. The City Charter should:

- A. provide a framework that allows details to be placed in ordinances passed by the Mayor and Common Council.
- B. provide a government that is responsible, representative, accountable, and responsive to the citizens.
- C. address ethics in government.
- D. provide for succession of elected officials.
- E. contain fair, understandable election procedures.
- F. be written in lay language.
- G. be accessible to all.

In April and May 2014 the Volunteer Citizen Based Charter Committee, appointed by the Mayor and City Council, developed recommendations for charter reform. The LWVSB Annual meeting included a panel of two members of the Committee (Committee Chair Phil Savage and Committee member Dennis Baxter) and one member of the City Council (Ward 7 Representative Jim Mulvihill).

It was interesting to hear that so many of the Committee's conclusions mirrored our League's position. For instance the committee stated that the Charter should set forth guiding principles and standards, not detailed rules and procedures and that to support transparency it should be written in language that is

clear to a well-informed lay person, not excessively legalistic. They pointed out that the Charter provides the means by which the public understands how the City operates, and the powers and limitations of those who govern it. (So the public should be able to understand it!)

Phil Savage spoke about the limitations under which the committee worked. They had six meetings to devise recommendations. He praised the dedication and the collegiality of the volunteers who served on the committee. (They came to meetings prepared and treated all ideas and people with respect.) In theory they were to consider every provision in the charter in the six meetings. This was clearly not possible. They agreed upon a process that would solicit input from diverse sources, including city workers, to gain input from a number of perspectives. They examined the charters of other cities since those cities have weighed, considered, and analyzed many of the issues confronting San Bernardino, while they agreed that San Bernardino's Charter must be uniquely adapted for this city and its needs.

These efforts led to a long list of possible reforms. The committee set guidelines to focus on recommendations that would draw wider support from the community than that which is normally required to win an election, and on items that would help the city survive its fiscal crisis. The remainder of the list has not been discarded, it is hoped that the other items on it will be addressed over time. It was simply not possible to do everything in six meetings.

Dennis Baxter mentioned that he was ready to go for the "nuclear option" in the second meeting (revoke the charter and become a general law city). There have been 184 City Attorney opinions on the provisions of the current Charter. The city's business has been bogged down by the restrictions and limitations imposed by the Charter. He feels that the bottom line is that the city needs a whole new Charter, but that the 5 provisions sent to the City Council by the Committee would greatly improve the working of the City.

Phil Savage stated that the hot button issue has been section 186, but that dealing with the controversy is necessary. The committee affirmed that public safety is the responsibility of the city, but that the city also has an obligation to treat all city employees fairly.

Jim Mulvihill pointed out that most of the issues surrounding section 186 came up fifteen years ago. If the Measure M had passed fifteen years ago, the city would not be in its current difficulties. He stated that Measure M's fatal flaw was that it put all the reforms in one Measure. People who objected to any one provision voted against it, and that sank the entire measure.

He mentioned that he has concerns about the recommendation that the Charter provisions be treated as directive but not legally mandated.

There was speculation that the Council may not have expected the Committee to be able to meet the tight deadline. The recommendations have been delivered to the Council. They are not comprehensive, but they are a solid start.

Next steps:

The City Council will decide whether or not to put the recommendations on the ballot, and will work with the City Attorney on putting them into legal language.

The Committee has been asked that they be charged to meet in the next two months to do further work, they have not yet been so charged.

The Committee has provided a short rationale for each proposal, so it is possible to determine the hoped-for effect of each element.

Everyone expects a hard-fought (and possibly dirty) campaign against the recommendations. The League's current position on Charter reform supports work on these measures. Jim Mulvihill suggested that the League could serve the community by either developing impartial educational pieces on the proposals, or by creating carefully fact-checked Pros and Cons on the measures.

David Baxter stated that he hopes that the League is at the forefront of advocacy for the reforms. Shirley Harlan said that the voters need information on how the reforms will affect their quality of life. Phil Savage believes that passage of the reforms will require an intelligent political campaign. There are a number of groups in San Bernardino, created in response to the financial crisis' threat to the city, who may work for these reforms.

Dissemination of the League's opinions on the measures could be difficult. One mailer sent out to the citizens of San Bernardino costs \$17,000. If the League wishes to do a mailer we will need to partner with others.

PROPOSED CHARTER REFORMS:

(In no particular order. This is the sense of the reform recommendations, final language will be developed by the City Attorney)

- Add a section saying that the charter should be interpreted in a way that enables the mayor, City Council and city manager rather than restricting them, if any of its provisions can be read either way.
- Remove language from the city charter that purports to regulate the San Bernardino City Unified School District, although the district is run independently from the city and isn't subject to the charter.
- Remove the requirement that terminated employees continue to be paid until they have an opportunity for the Civil Service Board to hear an appeal of the termination. Employees who previously had that right — generally, everyone except management — can still appeal and recoup lost wages if they convince the board they were wrongfully terminated.
- Replace three sections on the procedure for referendums, initiatives and recalls with a single paragraph saying the city will run those according to state election code. Last year the city lost more than \$200,000 in legal fees when it and recall proponents had conflicting interpretations of the charter's language. A Superior Court judge sided with the recall proponents.
- Replace Section 186 — which sets police and firefighter pay as the average of 10 like-sized cities — with a short section saying those employees' compensation will be set by resolution after collective bargaining. (As is the compensation of all other city employees.)

LWV California (LWVC) Council 2014

This year's Council was held May 17-18 at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose. More than 60 delegates from 50 chapters were in attendance. Saturday morning began bright and early with a session on storytelling, and how this art can be used to inform and persuade, often better than presenting dry facts and data alone.

Caroline de Llamas presented on behalf of the LWVC Nominating Committee for the State Board, as nominations are now being accepted for the 2015-2017 term. The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2014. Interested parties may request further information or a nomination form at: nominating@lwvc.org

Group sessions on Saturday covered "Conversation Mapping," an innovative communication/brainstorming technique that encourages maximum participation and creativity; Leadership Planning, including discussion on growing and retaining chapter membership; and "Ignite Talks," a powerful presentation style that is short yet effective.

On Sunday, the budget for FY 2014-2015 was adopted. Preliminary information regarding the May 15-17, 2015 LWVC Convention in San Diego was presented,

including the possibility of a border tour, if enough people are interested, on May 14. (If you are interested in the border tour, please email to: jhisten.brown@gmail.com)

The closing session included a summary of the Conversation Mapping project, a repeat presentation of the winning Ignite Talk on civil discourse (or the absence thereof) in politics, and how to customize and use local chapter websites to best effect.

Before adjourning, LWVC President Jenny Waggoner announced her intent to resign effective July 1, 2014, at which time current VP for Program and Advocacy Helen Hutchison will assume the role of President.

This LWV newbie was dizzied by the wealth of information and experience present at Council, and returned home looking forward to opportunities to put rubber to road for the good of our LWV San Bernardino chapter.

– Michelle Markel

REPORT ON LWVUS CONVENTION 2014 - *continued*

1. A study of the process of amending the Constitution, including constitutional conventions;
2. A review and update of the League position on campaign financing, and;
3. A review of the redistricting process for the US Congress

Resolutions that passed were on restoring voting rights in federal elections for felons, and supporting a price on carbon emissions.

Our banquet speaker was NPR's Wade Goodwyn, who gave us entertaining insights into his coverage of Texas politics, and I thoroughly enjoyed a show based on the wit of Molly Ivins, another commentator on Texas politics.

I gathered a sheaf of handouts from the workshops and caucuses I went to. They included using partnering and coalitions to have a bigger impact, building League

visibility, building effective League leadership, money in politics, and effective voter registration. Unfortunately, the two sessions on attracting younger voters were so popular I couldn't get into those rooms. Fortunately, we can access the information online.

One of the best things about the convention is getting together with former state board members like Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer and Marlys Robertson, who were LWVC presidents when I was on the state board, and former board members Roberta Holliman and Kalah Bumba. It's always nice to meet new people, too.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be a part of moving the League forward to our 100th year - only 4 years away!

***League of Women Voters of San Bernardino
1955-NOW!***

League of Women Voters of San Bernardino

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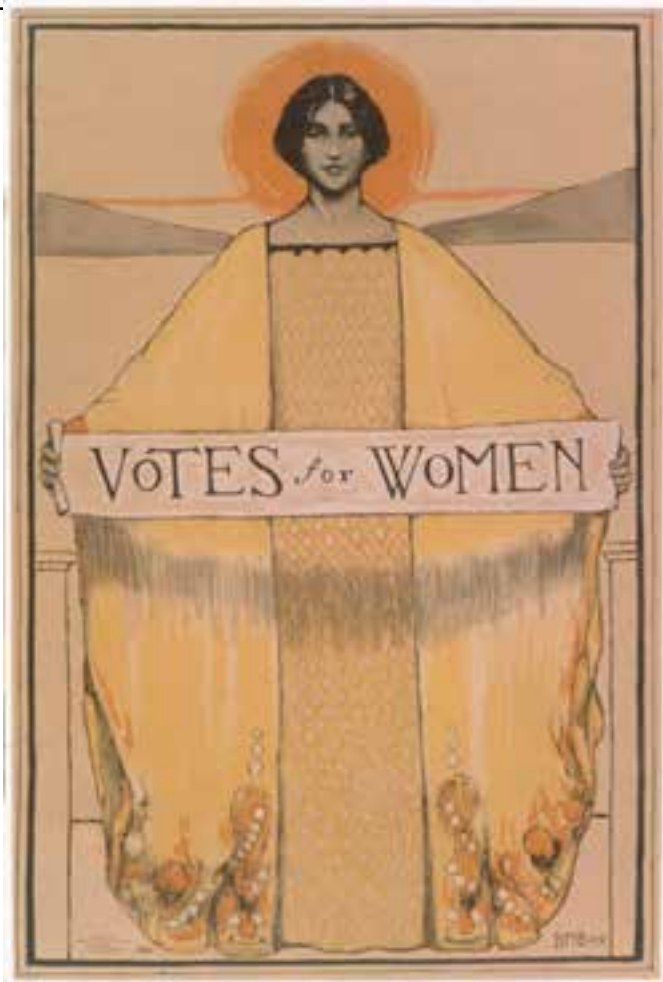
Upcoming City Council meetings will include discussions on the San Bernardino City Charter:

June 17: 4 p.m. at the City Council Chambers. The posted agenda includes a discussion of proposed ballot items for Charter Amendments to be Placed on the November 2014 Ballot.

Agendas are not yet posted for post-june 17 City Council meetings, but the dates for the rest of June and July are June 23, July 7, July 17 and July 21. The agendas will be posted on the website for the council calendar at <http://sanbernardinocityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Calendar.aspx>.

League of Women Voters:

Because democracy is not a spectator sport!



This poster was created by artist Bertha Margaret Boye for the 1911 campaign for women to get the vote in California.,

This is probably the most popular poster produced during the American suffrage movement. Boye's design, featuring a draped western suffragist posed against the Golden Gate as the sun sets behind her, won first place in a contest sponsored by the College Equal Suffrage League in San Francisco. The image was later reproduced on cards, fliers and publicity stamps.