

The VOTER

League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long

JULY, 2015 VOTER Editor, Dotti Garcia

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

First Board Meeting of the New League Year

It began with thunder and lightning!

Hi, Everyone,

Our first Board meeting of the year was held on July 18th, to the accompaniment of thunder, lightning and rain! We went over the draft minutes of the San Bernardino Area League of Women Voters' Annual Meeting, held on May 30th, to identify instructions to the Board.

The Board discussed the position statement on charter schools that had been adopted after the study was done 3 years ago, amended the first time last year, and again amended at this Annual Meeting. The discussion gave rise to two ideas:

- 1) Create and make accessible a list that identifies the governing agency responsible for each tax-payer supported school.
- 2) Explore the status of each school, regarding appropriate accreditation and make that available.

We are starting work on those two goals.

On LWVSB finances:

Inform members of changes in the Per Member Payments (PMP) to State and National Leagues:

Currently, of the \$60 dues we pay to LWVSB, we pay State and National the total amount of \$57.50 per member, which leaves \$2.50 per member with our local League. In the next fiscal year, the dues to State will increase by \$2.50.

Last year, we brought all our membership dates into synch, so now everyone's membership is due at the beginning of July. Those who have not paid by September 1st will be taken off the membership list, so that when we do the count for active members in January of next year, the list will include only members who have paid their dues.

If there were other instructions from the Annual Meeting that you meant to give to the Board, please email me with the information!

Other business at the Board Meeting included:

Betsy Starbuck agreed to coordinate the Civic Learning Committee. Susan Longville agreed to coordinate the Program Committee. Thank you, Betsy and Susan!

There was discussion about the San Bernardino City Charter Committee, and the need to alert San Bernardino residents and business owners about the survey that the Committee has developed. If you haven't already, you are urged to access the survey and send it in. The link to access it is www.ci.sanbernardino.ca.us On the home page, you will see Charter Review Committee. Click on that and complete the survey. The Charter Committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Committees that need volunteers:

- Membership (maintain current and attract new members), chaired by Mary Saxon Hobbs
- VOTER (volunteers would write a half-page report on one governing body for each VOTER newsletter), chaired by Dotti Garcia
- Voter Services (take Voter Registration training and sign up voters, or train to speak publicly on pros and cons of ballot propositions.), chaired by Rachel Clark.
- Civic Engagement (engage and energize voters (chaired by Vanessa Perez)
- Civic Learning (help in activities designed to educate new voters) chaired by Betsy Starbuck
- Finance/Fundraising (raise funds for the work of LWVSB).
- Action (help with League studies to develop League positions, identify and help address areas in which LWVSB has positions in place and should take action).
- Publicity/Public Relations (website administration, develop and maintain social media presence for community), currently chaired by Jill Vassilakos.
- Program (develop programs of interest to League members and to the community), chaired by Susan Longville.

If interested, please contact me at jvlong@csusb.edu or 909-649-1310

Jill Vassilakos-Long, Co-President, League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUE STUDIES

July 1st was the beginning of the new League year, and as Jill says in her article, at the first meeting of the new Board, we started organizing for the coming year. In addition to the things that Jill mentioned, we will also be considering whether we will be taking part in studies proposed by LWVC and LWVUS. Higher education in California is the state study and the deadline for our input is April, 2016. Nationally, Leagues will be looking into Amending our Constitution and updating the Campaign Finance position relating to Money in Politics. The good thing about state and national studies is that material and resources are prepared for local Leagues to use. There will also be a webinar in the national topic on July 29th. The deadline for our input is December 1st. Interested in being on either of these committees? Contact Jill.

We realize that League members are busy people, but we hope that you will consider becoming involved in these and other activities of your League.

Gloria Anderson, Co-President LWVSB

ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 30TH

The Annual Meeting of May 30th was the occasion for much discussion, and the best attendance in some time. Elected to the LWV San Bernardino Area Board were: Co-Presidents Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long, and Board members Dennis Baxter, Dotti Garcia, Susan Longville, Vanessa Perez and Betsy Starbuck. Continuing on the Board are: Secretary Kathy Ervin, Treasurer Val Lichtman, and Board members Rachel Clark, Gloria Harrison, Mary Saxon Hobbs, and Barbara Sokoloff.

Your Dues are Due



As Jill mentioned in her article, dues for the 2015-16 year are due as of July 1st, and delinquent as of September 1st. If you haven't paid yet, you can send your \$60 to LWVSB, P.O. 3394, San Bernardino, CA 92413.

