



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

January / February 2015

Calendar 2015

Wednesday Jan 14	Board Meeting 12 Noon	Nell Mirels' 3 Seahurst Rd, RHE
Sunday, January 25	Program Planning 5 -8 PM Souper Supper <i>Call Pat Rome for menu needs (310-952-0533)</i>	Arlene Block's 29927 Avenida Anillo, RPV (310-541-7176)
Saturday, Jan 31, 2015	Winter League Day	CANCELED
Wednesday, Feb 11	Board Meeting 12 noon	Nell Mirels'
February TBA	Rolling Hills City Council Candidate Forum	
Monday Mar 23	Tri-League Event	TBA
Saturday, Mar 28	LWV LACounty Convention	Carson Community Center
Fri - Sun. May 15 - 17	LWVC Convention	San Diego
Fri-Sun, June 19-21	LWVUS Council	Washington DC

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

We hope you have all had a very happy holiday season.

Our Elected Official's Party went well and we thank all who helped and also thank the Chamber and our local food donors who made this event a success. We are fortunate to have the Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor this event with us.

Our tax status is now changed. This will allow dues and other fund raising to be tax deductible for you. We thank Tom Carson of Glendale for helping us through this process.

Our traditional "souper supper" for program planning again is back-- thanks to Arlene Block for offering her home. If you have a special project or study you would like to see the League implement -- please come to this meeting on Sunday Jan. 25 at Arlene's house. We continue to encourage anyone so inclined to join in our studies -- the state education study is coming up, a county voting study is in process and our local lands committee continues to be active. There are plenty of concerns for all of us and some local leagues are starting to present programs on human trafficking, climate change (including our drought problems), and concerns about the continuing division of our population into a more divided group of "the haves and the have-nots".

Also coming up this year the State Convention will be held in the middle of May in San Diego. The San Diego Leagues have been busy preparing for this for the last year. Judith Webb of our league has been involved in helping with this event and attending meetings in San Diego.

While we continue to have a small loyal group of leaguers who are active, we are approaching a membership crisis. As our members age and slow down, we have not been gathering enough new members to replace those who were active in the past. We need your help and thoughts on how best we can revive our local league. Our world and country are changing fast and many people are dropping out of trying to have a say as citizens. The league is one of the few places that train members to lobby for laws that improve our society rather than increase the profits or personal goals of a small but powerful class with their professional lobbyist. This influence over governments for their personal gain is smothering our government from working for the public good and is as big a danger for us as anything on the horizon. The league has the potential of having a bigger impact than its individual members would suggest through its studies and lobbying efforts. We thank all of you for your past efforts but if we are to continue this work, we also need your help in recruiting new blood and members. Where else can you find an active **non-partisan** effort to keep democracy living up to its highest promise?

Vi Jungerich and Jo-Anne Waller

Co-Presidents

Tried and Tested Ways of Reducing Jail Overcrowding

by Selena Teji, California Budget Project

On November 4, California voters approved Proposition 47, a measure that downgrades certain low-level offenses to misdemeanors, thereby limiting the sentence for those crimes to a maximum of one year in county jail. [CBP's analysis](#) of Proposition 47 concluded that this reduction in length of stay could not only lessen the harm that incarceration causes to an individual's physical and mental health, but could also alleviate jail overcrowding by thousands of beds each year.

This potential for reducing jail-capacity needs should come as good news to state officials, given that California has invested \$1.7 billion since 2007 to build new jails or replace and expand old ones, in part to address jail overcrowding. Indeed, the 2014-15 budget agreement provides an additional \$500 million for jail construction, despite concern expressed by the [Legislative Analyst's Office](#) that such added capacity may not be necessary.

While passage of Proposition 47 is expected to help address jail overcrowding, counties could potentially build on this key advance by more fully using several other alternatives to incarceration that reduce jail populations while fostering public safety:

- **Counties could employ validated risk-assessment tools to ensure that only individuals who pose a high risk to public safety are detained in their jails.** Contra Costa County has been able to manage its jail population through a combination of several strategies, including use of a risk-assessment tool to determine what level of supervision and services people in their jail require. According to a [recent study](#), Contra Costa

County has achieved lower rates of incarceration than the rest of the state along with a decrease in crime that mirrors the statewide trend.

- **Counties could reduce the number of people detained in jail prior to their court date by providing alternative supervision in the community.** Santa Cruz County created the [Jail Alternatives Initiative](#) in 2004 to address a grand jury report pointing to unsafe conditions in the local jail due to overcrowding. The initiative established a pretrial services program that uses five different types of release based on the needs of the individual. This has allowed the county to maintain lower numbers of people in jail awaiting their court date compared to the rest of California.
- **Counties could perform a comprehensive analysis of who is serving time in their jails to identify populations that would be better served through community-based programs.** The City and County of San Francisco Sheriff's Department has been collaborating with local nonprofit organizations since the 1980's to develop [alternatives to detention](#) for populations with specialized needs. In particular, a growing number of homeless individuals were not eligible for release from jail while they were waiting for their court date because they did not have an address. Additionally, homeless populations are particularly vulnerable to high-risk health factors, such as infectious diseases, problematic drug use, and mental health issues. A local nonprofit created the [Homeless Release Project](#), which

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identified transient individuals who were detained pretrial for misdemeanor crimes and linked them with housing, medical care, mental health and drug treatment, and other necessary services. A preliminary study of the program found that participants were less likely to re-offend or to commit more serious crimes, and the project was subsequently consolidated into a larger scheme of pretrial services.

Now that Proposition 47 has passed, counties will have to consider what effect it may have on their jail populations and determine whether they really do need further construction funding. But at the same time, the [state board](#) that will administer the new state funding for added jail capacity should consider whether counties have fully embraced available population-management strategies when evaluating applications for construction dollars.



New Safety Laws For 2015

The California Legislature has recently passed some new regulations and laws that impact citizen safety.

Drones:

Small, low cost drones are the focus of new laws. If they are used for commercial purposes they must be authorized by the FAA. Owners of privately owned drones may be prosecuted for invasion of privacy if they are flown over others personal property.

Sex Offenders:

Sex offenders on parole must wear GPS monitoring devices or face a mandatory 180 days in jail.

Toy Weapons:

Manufacturers must make toy weapons in bright colors to distinguish them from real firearms.

Victims of “revenge porn”

People can seek a court order to remove sexually explicit photos from the Internet and can also seek damages from anyone posting such pictures.

Internet Information:

School Districts cannot obtain information from social media about students other than for the purpose of student or school safety. Parents can review any material collected by schools and can correct information.

PREDICTIONS

Vi lungerich

In 1988 the LA Times published a prediction of what life would be like in a fictional Los Angeles family in the year 2013 or twenty-five years later. This article has now been dissected and studied in university and countless articles. What did the article get right and what was wrong?

The article or actually a series of stories was written by Nicole Yorkin who had interviewed more than 30 experts and futurists. Ms. Yorkin has since gone on to become a writer-producer in Hollywood but her peek into a time to come has made a surprisingly thought-producing reflection on our lives. Titled "L.A. 2013: Techno-Comforts and Urban Stresses" the article had a surprising number of predictions which turned out to be true in spirit, if not in fact.

The article predicted the smart car that would have computers and drive itself. While the smart car exists - it is not on the market yet - but almost all new cars contain a variety of computers from the GPS maps and directions to chips that keep track of the motor or other parts of the car like tire pressure. Her prediction of robots in the home to cook and clean was off, but timers that turn on and make coffee or devices that turn on heat and cooling from outside the home are now common. Today, most schools have computers for their students and online education is readily available.

Predictions about population increase actually underestimated the increase in our Hispanic population. But the increase in traffic is all too true. It was estimated that crime would increase but for the most part, that is not true. However, smart phones have made the prediction of a smart card you can hold in your hand, nearly true and credit cards/debit cards can hold a variety of information. It was also predicted that our stress levels would increase due to increases in our already fast-paced lives. This, unfortunately, has proven true.

So what of the future now? A short review of predictions on the web lets you find a variety of futures. There are predictions that 2015 will be the year the world economy collapses as the banking interests continues to manipulate laws and risk taking increases. Intrusion into privacy by the Internet and government, as well as by tracking devices seems to growing. On the other hand, some predictions foretell of a time when social contact continues to grow, entertainment is easily obtainable and tailored to your interests and time, shopping online is more accurate and easier, and smart devices are becoming more common. Medical research is moving in the direction of replacing body parts tailored to your genetic makeup and nanotech is fast coming of age—from roof and house paint that contains nanobots to capture energy from the sun to pills that can be swallowed to fix your ailments. What will really happen — only time will tell!



Thank You! Thank You! And Thank You Again!

League-A-Thon 2013 - 2014

As you all know, we rely upon our yearly League-A-Thon to raise the funds which support our Voter Service activities. A big thank you is due to those of you who have already replied, and have brought us to 100% of our goal. Those generous supporters include the following persons:

**Terry Arnush
Mary Ellen & Phil Barnes
Arlene Block
Pat Colby
Julie Craemer
Connie Davenport
Clarisse Geduld
Barbara & George Gleghorn
Kathy and Don Gould
Linda Herman
Joan Hogan
Cynthia & John Kondon
Nancy Mahr
Nell Mirels
Judy Mitchell
Peggy Pages
Betty Paul
Irma Remstein
Ann Shaw
Jo Woods
Joan & Steve Zuckerman
Judith Mishkin
Judith Webb**

Thanks also to **Linda Herman, Terry Arnush** and **Nell Mirels** who covered all the costs of the mailing, so that all donations will be used for League expenses.

For anyone who still has the League-a-Thon material sitting on her desk, it is never too late to participate!

Elected Officials Party - November 2014

We would like to extend our thanks to the following businesses for their contributions to the LWV PVP / PV Peninsula Chamber of Commerce event honoring our 2014 Elected Officials:

**The Admiral Risty
Asaka Sushi & Grill
Avenue Italy
Bristol Farms
Giorgio's Italian Restaurant
Maui Chicken
The Original Red Onion
Ralph's
Trader Joe's**

Thanks also to **Mary Ellen and Phil Barnes** for their contribution supporting the fine wines we served.





Join The League!

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWW PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWW PVP*

Membership Form

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day/cell) _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$65.00 one member

\$32.50 additional member in the same household.

LWW PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:

Co-Presidents:	Viola Iungerich	310-541-5092	violaiungerich@gmail.com
	Jo-Anne Waller	310-544-9263	jo-annewaller@cox.net
1st V.P. (Program)	Katy Watkins	310-408-6211	kathleen6068@att.net
2nd V.P. (Voter Service)	Nancy Mahr	310-377-0735	nlmahr@verizon.net
3rd V.P. (Co-Membership)	Judith Webb	310-833-5864	jwebb@usc.edu
Secretary	Nell Mirels	310-377-9468	hmirels@aol.com
Treasurer	Terry Arnush	310- 375-9337	terry@ghoti.net

Directors

Natural Resources	Arlene Block	310-541-7176	goarlene@cox.net
Education	Pat Colby	310-514-8886	pacolby@gmail.com
Co-Webmaster	Linda Herman	310-541-3373	lhermanpg@cox.net
School Board Observer	Diana Halderman	310-377-0564	rhalder@cox.net
Co-Membership	Peggy Pages	310-831-5096	
Land Use	Pat Rome	310-952-0533	pjwrome@yahoo.com
Voter Editor (off Board)	Mary Ellen Barnes	310-833-8083	mebarnes@aol.com

