

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

CALL TO CONVENTION



ANNUAL CONVENTION 2014
SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2014

PORTS O'CALL RESTAURANT

1200 Nagoya Way
San Pedro, CA
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

SPEAKER: DINA ARYAN-ZAHLAN, PE, PMP
Harbor Engineer, Chief of Design, Port of Los Angeles

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AGENDA/ORDER OF BUSINESS

10:15 am	Call to Order Welcome Introductions Parliamentarian of the Day	JoAnne Waller Linda Herman
10:20 am	Credentials Report	Terry Arnush
10:25 am	Adoption of the Rules of the Convention Adoption of the Order of Business Appointment of the Committee to Read Minutes	JoAnne Waller
10:30 am	Presidents Report	Vi Iungerich
10:40 am	Treasurer's Report	Terry Arnush
10:50 am	Presentation and Adoption of Budget	Linda Herman
11:15 am	Adoption of Local Program	Katy Watkins
11:25 am	Nominating Committee Report Election of Officers and Directors (JoAnne Waller)	Shirley Borks
11:30 am	Activity Reports	Officers and Directors
11:50 am	Directions to the Board	
12:00 pm	Lunch	
12:10 pm	Recognition and thanks to current Board members	JoAnne Waller & Vi Iungerich
1:00 pm	Speaker Dina Aryan-Zahlan	
1:50 pm	Announcements	
2:00 pm	Adjournment	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

CONVENTION RULES

VOTING: To vote at the Local Convention, a member must have joined the League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula thirty (30) days before Local Convention.

DEBATE: A speaker, upon recognition by the chair, shall stand, announce name, and address remarks to the chair. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker, unless the time is extended by a two-thirds vote. No person shall speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity. Speakers should limit their remarks to the question

QUORUM: Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum.

MOTIONS: A motion to move the previous question must be made following recognition by the chair. It is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote. For points of information or clarification, delegates should use a card provided at each table to receive immediate attention

Amendments may be made by adding, inserting, or striking out or by any combination of these. An entire section may be amended by substitution. All amendments must be germane to and consistent with the intent of the main motion. Only one amendment to the main motion may be under consideration at a time. An amendment may be made to an amendment, but an amendment may not be made to an amendment of an amendment.

VOTING METHOD: Every eligible member has a duty to vote. The chair may decide which method should be employed: voice (AYE or NO), show of hands, standing, ballot. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

PROGRAM: Board recommended program requires a majority vote of adoption. Non- recommended program items may be considered by the Local Convention provided that the Local Convention shall order consideration by a majority vote and the Local Convention shall adopt the item by a three-fifths vote.

BYLAWS: Bylaw amendments require a two-thirds vote for adoption and will take effect immediately upon adoption when feasible.

BUDGET ADOPTION: A balanced LWV/PVP budget must be adopted by the convention. A recommendation to increase or decrease income must be accompanied by a corresponding increase or decrease in expenditures. A recommendation to increase or decrease expenditures must be accompanied by a corresponding increase or decrease in income. A majority vote is required for adoption.

CONVENTION RULES: Rules are adopted by a majority vote, but may be altered at any time in the convention by a two-thirds vote.

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be used as a basis of procedure.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

**League of Women Voters PVP
Budget FY 2014-2015**

	Budget FY 13-14	Actual FY 13-14	Budget FY 14-15	FY 14-15 Remarks
Operating Expenses:				
Phone Service	204.00	153.00	204.00	
Nonprofit Filing	20.00	20.00	0.00	alternate years
P.O. Box Fee	140.00	144.00	140.00	
Insurance	137.00	168.00	168.00	Liability Insurance
League Financial Support:				
PMP National	1695.00	1,751.50	1534.50	47 full 5 half 6 Hon. \$31.00 PMP
PMP State	1299.50	1,543.16	1138.50	\$23.00 PMP
PMP County	90.00	87.00	78.00	\$ 1.50 PMP
Community Organizations:				
Coordinating Council	25.00	25.00	25.00	
Chamber of Commerce	235.00	265.00	265.00	
Environ . Action Dues	25.00		25.00	
Board:				
PRESIDENT	100.00		100.00	
Secretary	25.00		25.00	
Treasurer	50.00	18.40	50.00	
FIRST VP-Programs	50.00		50.00	
Study Committees	300.00	90.00	300.00	
Community Forums	500.00	375.00	500.00	
South Bay LWV Meetings	600.00		600.00	
SECOND VP- Admin.				
Board Tools	25.00		25.00	
Board Retreat	250.00		250.00	
Nom/Budget committees	10.00		10.00	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

**League of Women Voters PVP
Budget FY 2014-2015**

	Budget FY 13-14	Actual FY 13-14	Budget FY 14-15	Remarks
THIRD VP-Voter Service				
Voter Information	1,000.00	218.00	1,000.00	
Smart Voter	400.00		400.00	
Conventions				
State/National Conventions	2,000.00		2,000.00	State Conv. '15
President's Council	500.00		0.00	Alternate years
County Convention	100.00		100.00	
Local Convention	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	
Other				
Local Action	25.00		25.00	
Membership	200.00		200.00	
Roster	400.00		400.00	
Voter	400.00		100.00	
Postage	300.00		300.00	
Income Projects:				
League-A-Thon	100.00		100.00	
Theatre Parties	800.00	999.00	1,000.00	
Elected Officials Party	700.00	996.70	800.00	
Miscellaneous	100.00	130.80	100.00	
TOTAL	<u>13,805.50</u>	7,184.56	<u>13,013.00</u>	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

**League of Women Voters PVP
Budget FY 2014-2015**

Income:

	Budget FY 13-14	Actual FY 13-14	Proposed Budget FY 14-15	
Dues	3672.50	3443.00	3218.00	47 full; 5 half
Contributions	150.00	300.00	150.00	
League-a-thon	1500.00		1500.00	
Theatre Parties	1000.00	1420.00	1250.00	
Interest Income	5.00		5.00	
Local Convention	1000.00		1000.00	
Elected Officials Party South Bay LWV Meetings	400.00	647.50	600.00	
Community Forums	0.00		0.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00	
From Ed fund	900.00		500.00	
From Reserves	4178.00		4190.00	
TOTAL	<u>13,805.50</u>	5810.50	<u>13,013.00</u>	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee submits the following slate of nominees in accordance with the Bylaws. Following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014

Two Year term:

2nd Vice President	Nancy Mahr (Voter Service)
3rd Vice-President	Judith Webb (Action/Advocacy, Health Care, Co-Membership)
Secretary	Nell Mirels
Director	Diana Halderman (School Board Observer)
Director	Peggy Pages (Co-Membership)
Director	Pat Rome (Land Use)

The following were elected in 2012 and are continuing in this Board position for one year:

Co-Presidents	Jo-Anne Waller & Vi Iungerich
1 st VP	Katy Watkins (Program)
Treasurer	Terry Arnush
Director	Arlene Block (at large)
Director	Pat Colby (Education)
Director	Linda Herman (at large)

Off Board

Publicity	Julie Creamer
Voter Editor	Mary Ellen Barnes

Nominating Committee for 2015

Elaine Asch (Chair)
Joan Hogan
Judith Webb

Submitted by 2014 Nominating Committee

Shirley Borks (Chair)
Linda Herman
DeDe Hick

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

LOCAL PROGRAM 2014-2015

I. CURRENT PROGRAM POSITIONS

Language to be deleted is indicated by double brackets [[]]. New language is indicated by underling.

COOPERATION AMONG JURISDICTIONS

Support cooperation among all local jurisdictional bodies serving the Peninsula.

EDUCATION — Support for reduction in class sizes,[[, for increased number of periods at intermediate and high school levels,]] Support for increased teacher salaries to achieve a competitive level and for additional counselors. Support for better maintenance of buildings and landscaping. (2014)

- Support of adequate financing for public education and for building needs. Support for the use [[and/or sale]] of excess District Real estate for the maximum benefit to the District, taking into account the needs and interests of the community and the principles of good land use planning. [[Priority should be given for the alternative use of all school sites.]] Support for local school district financial accountability.
- Support for improved communication between the District and the Greater Community. (1971, 1975, 1983, 1987, 2006, 2014)

PENINSULA CITIES & SAN PEDRO — **Support for Cities to continue to be** responsible for traditional services such as roads, storm drains, landslide stabilization, police and fire protection, health and safety regulation, animal regulation, parks and recreation, transportation, collection of solid waste, planning and zoning.

- **Oppose** reduction in basic services; support additional taxes if necessary to maintain the present level of services.
- Strong support for representative government and for decision-making by elected officials.
- Encourage the annexation of unincorporated areas.
- BUDGETS - Support a formalization of city policies with periodic re-evaluation as a goal to future action; adequate revenue to meet the needs and desires of the local community; early public knowledge of all public meetings on budgets and policies. (1997)
- General agreement that it is appropriate for the LWV to take action on its local positions in any of the four cities. (1987, 1989, 1993, 2006)

LAND USE PLANNING - Support of comprehensive land use planning and its implementation at all levels of government. Use of all available tools including tax incentives, zoning, traffic analyses, easements and implementation of existing and new legislation to achieve the following goals: cooperation among existing governmental jurisdictions; preservation of natural features, local ecology, and environmental quality; low density; reservation of shoreline view and public access; preservation and expansion of green areas, open space, and parks; and preservation of public lands for public use. Development on ancient or active landslides is opposed.

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Long range view for continuation of Peninsula uniqueness and usefulness for living, work and recreation for all ages in the family in accord with its significant land forms and natural features in order to have more sustainable and environmentally responsible patterns of growth. Encourage the concept of Smart Growth in all development and land use planning as defined by the LWV/CA. (1960s, 2001, 2006, revised 2011)

TRANSPORTATION - Support for a frequent, reliable, and consistent multi-mode Peninsula public transportation system. Provide door-to-door service; mesh with other transportation systems, serve special needs of senior citizens and youth. (1974)

RECREATION, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY –

- **Support** preservation and expansion of public recreational facilities, trails and programs to benefit all ages and interests. Support the concept of developing a strong, diversified recreation program with a central clearinghouse for information using existing facilities and organizations.
- **Support** a community centers concept. Support availability of information on laws for youth and a counseling service for young people. Support cooperation among existing Peninsula jurisdictions for recreational purposes and in areas that benefit youth in any manner that is politically feasible. (1970, revisions in subsequent years)

LIBRARY — Support the continued existence of a locally governed, independent Palos Verdes Library District at a level which meets the needs of the community for effective and efficient library service and which reflects the demographic, educational geographical, and cultural diversities within the District. (1978, 1987)

SOLID WASTE — Support an educational program for the Palos Verdes Peninsula concerning solid waste and recycling; **support** for a community recycling center; support for trash collection with recycling (1982, 1987, 1989)

ISSUES FOR LOCAL EDUCATION/ACTION/ADVOCACY

- Monitor plans and activities related to the Port of Los Angeles.
- Monitor ongoing local land use issues on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in San Pedro

Portfolio Reports

Education Portfolio 2013

The League of Women Voters, Palos Verdes, completed a study of the Common Core Standards (CCS), grades K-12, in 2010. Much of the information presented through the study and a League-sponsored panel discussion of CCS sought to educate our members and the public about an educational plan that had not as yet been implemented in most California Schools. By 2013-2014, federal money for the training of K-12 teachers, selection of instructional materials, and even the revision of college entrance exams to reflect the critical thinking emphasis of the CCS made Common Core a subject of interest in California and across the nation.

Though the CCS has been accepted in many regions, it also has its detractors. Parents, in particular, feared that as had happened in New York, students would be tested before they were thoroughly grounded in the CCS. In California, the test will be given this year but not counted; its purpose--to examine the effectiveness of the test and to make test improvements where needed. Parents in school districts where students have traditionally excelled and gained acceptance to select universities upon high school graduation also say that if their kids' K-12 system is working, why change it?

The implementation of the Common Core Standards across 45 states will be a hot topic for years to come. **A League-sponsored "Coffee and Conversation" presentation on the Common Core in early 2014 was proof of this.** The panel presentation drew many interested parents and members of the public in search of information and assurances that CCD would sustain and enhance student learning; that students with disabilities would be included in CCD planning; that future computerized CCD testing would not discourage their children's progress. Will children rise to the demand for higher standards of learning in all grade levels? Will teacher preparation and classroom instruction ensure that this new educational plan strengthens student achievement? The nation will be watching Common Core outcomes as the program swings into action into 2015-16 and beyond.

Currently, the California State League is preparing a study on higher education. Borrowing money to complete college course work has placed a tremendous burden of debt on recent college graduates. Once universities were recipients of generous state subsidies, but with shrinking state contributions, universities and colleges have been forced to charge staggering student tuition fees. Governor Jerry Brown is urging institutions of higher learning to provide more on-line classes thus allowing students the opportunity to take classes for less cost and to graduate in four years. The State League will be examining this concept and many others as it prepares to consider a revised framework for students wishing to attend college/university with less debt and more "learning" options than their present day counterparts have had.

The urgency of the current plight of student costs at the university level, may lead to a study that provides short and long-term implementable actions and serves as a model for institutions of higher learning nationwide.

- **Pat Colby (Education)**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

Jails/ Social Policy (Mental Health, Poverty, Children)

Jails: With the retirement of Sheriff Baca and the on-going investigation of the County Jails by the FBI, the election in June promises to be carefully watched by many interested parties. This last year the prisons came under increasing pressure from a court order to lower the prison system to less inmates and to increase health services to those inmates. This order resulted in many state prisoners being sent back to the county. The county responded by putting many of them on probation and increasing the jail population. This resulted in more scrutiny of the jail system and an undercover operation by the FBI to discover if the violence of the jails was being escalated by the treatment of inmates by deputies. The administration soon found the undercover agent and this resulted ultimately in the resignation of the Sheriff and the removal of some of his top aides. The shake-up of the department has resulted in an open race for Sheriff with five candidates having current or recent positions in the sheriff's department running for office and only two outsiders in a seven-man race. There will be plenty of problems for the new sheriff to solve including how to adequately monitor those inmates who have been released.

Mental Health: Last May the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, DSM 5, was released to mixed reviews. There were many complaints that the new manual had changed its format to be less useful and the process of compiling it used too many researchers, was too secretive and did not include enough practitioners. Apparently the Manual is trying to shift its diagnostic criteria to make more use of scientific evidence, however, there is little scientific evidence for the causes or treatment of mental illness that can be proved at this time and drug treatment is still very poorly understood.

In Los Angeles County with the advance of the Healthy Families Program, more mentally ill people have access to a local clinic and help. Since California agreed to participate in the program for federal aid, more money is now in the system for the poor and those who need coverage. One new program for mentally ill mothers with children has just opened at Didi Hirsch. This program houses 60 mother and children for six months followed with guaranteed housing to help stabilize them and get them under treatment. This program builds on a demonstration program for 50 homeless people that saved the county a great deal of money and showed that if the mentally ill homeless have housing and then services, they can be stabilized and their lives are greatly improved while they need much less in emergency medical services that are so costly.

Poverty: In general poverty is still an issue in the county with over 20% listed as poor. The local area is not especially affected. In general the poverty rate is climbing and jobs are still too few.

Children Issues: There has been more state money and federal money made available for children both for covering their health and their education. An adoption of Common Core in Education for the state schools starts with kindergarten. Early childhood education is now available to a variety of poor working families or for those parents in educational programs. There is also a program for immigrant children of farm workers for services to follow them as they move area to area, covering their needs for schooling. In spite of an increase in funding there are still more children who need services and who cannot get them.

- Vi Iungerich (Social Policy)

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Voter Service

Voter Service conducted two candidate forums in October 2013: Rancho Palos Verdes City Council and Rolling Hills Estates City Council. Both forums were videotaped and aired for public viewing on local cable.

I responded to numerous telephone questions regarding voter registration and the voting schedule. We encouraged voters to use Smart Voter for election information.

I participated in the Registrar/Recorder's advisory committee for the project to develop a new voting system for LA County. This is on-going.

In March 2014, I attended a conference on voting held in Los Angeles. Voting systems and voting patterns were discussed, along with ways to encourage more citizens to register and vote – especially among diverse ethnic populations and young voters.

- Nancy Mahr (Voter Service)

SmartVoter® www.smartvoter.org

As your local league's liaison to the LWVC website titled Smart Voter, I am pleased to report that thanks to our League's support and many others, Smart Voter provided California voters with information on elections occurring over a noteworthy 23 different weeks last year.

Now Smart Voter is gearing up to cover the important 2014 election cycle. When voters are looking for information on candidates for school boards, city councils, county supervisors, or special districts – they visit Smart Voter. For 2014 we will be there to cover the local races that tend to impact us most directly. And we'll cover state ballot initiatives and legislative races too.

What's new for 2014? As part of the work we have been doing to deliver the Next generation of Smart Voter, **an exciting new pilot Partnership with MapLight is being launched.** MapLight is a national nonpartisan research organization whose goal is to reveal money's influence in politics. Through this collaboration, SmartVoter and MapLight's VotersEdge plan to serve more California Voters with expanded content and resources. Despite being in the early stages, the state team is working hard to have an initial pilot in place for the June election.

- Linda Herman (Smart Voter)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

Health Care

The Affordable Care Act of 2012 (**ACA**/"OBAMACARE") has been a major step in the League's national effort to support Health Care For All. Despite problems with the implementation and sign up, not to mention a continual barrage of criticism from opponents, approximately 8 million people have signed up under either the state exchanges or federal programs.

Expanding Medicaid (Medi-Cal in CA) is the final battle of the **ACA**. Included would be 10 million of the poorest uninsured Americans many of whom are childless adults with earnings up to 138% of the poverty level-\$16,000. Many states opted out of this federally funded expansion but are rethinking their response as they realize how many of their constituents are uninsured. California has signed up 10.5 million under Medi-Cal, with another 1.5 million expected to enroll in Medi-Cal by July 2015.

Problems will continue as our country adapts to this new health advance, just as it did with Medicare at the time it was undertaken in 1966. After 50 years, Medicare is a proven asset to the ordinary retiree; most of the problems that continue to exist are related to over- and fraudulent-billing. In May of this year, the Justice Department charged 90 Medicare providers with \$260 million in false claims. With additional billing through new Medicaid suppliers, the country needs to reinforce the oversight of both Medicare and Medicaid programs.

An upcoming discussion by our Congress on the enforcement of the business mandate is anticipated, a discussion that is supported by many on both sides of the Affordable Care Act. As league members, particularly, be aware of this discussion. The national League will be listening carefully to the last truly debatable issue of the **ACA**.

The national League continues to support single payer (in California we began with the support of sb2123 in 1998). Our members are supportive of any changes to expand healthcare coverage to all, but the ultimate goal is to have single payer for the entire country. As the **ACA** is carried out over the next few years, many adjustments will occur, and many of the solutions may gradually morph into single payer as the most efficient and economical solution for our nation's health.

The League's focus will be on the protection and implementation of the **ACA** and the support of reproductive rights for women.

- **Judith Webb (Health Care Portfolio)**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA

Local Land Use

The local land use committee has been following several projects.

Rancho Plains LPG Storage Tanks:

These storage tanks are of concern because any serious accident with them could impact residences in Palos Verdes Peninsula. They are privately held and contain volatile chemicals. Although we took a tour of the tanks it is unclear what the emergency measures would be and who would be responsible for taking care of any accident. It appears that so far no-one is taking responsibility. The company stated that they were meeting all necessary laws and the local fire department was in charge of any emergency—however, they have no plans. Representative Waxman had a meeting about these tanks that we attended. We also went to a States Land Use meeting—also contacted EPA. We went to the Coordinating Council Meeting but so far we have yet to determine who is in charge and of what each agency is responsible for.

Deep Valley “trash-bag” Project

The Deep Valley Land-slide has a pending proposal to develop the property into residences. To stabilize the land very deep piling would be placed along the back of the slide and then the dirt removed so that building could take place. We continue to monitor these plans. Many people are upset because of the amount of work involved which would shut down several parts of Deep Valley Drive for a considerable time.

Via Panorama Site

We are trying to figure out the Via Panorama Site. How did Mr. Luglani manage to encroach 1.5 acres? Where was the transparency in this?

Ponte Vista Project

This large development off of Western Ave. has broken ground. The project is for 676 residences and this will impact traffic into and out of the 110 freeway when the project is completed.

- **Pat Rome (Local Land Use Portfolio)**

Natural Resources

I basically joined the National Agriculture committee study because I had volunteered for Natural Resources. The major issue regarding Natural Resources in California is our drought. Nationally, the League responded to the EPA proposal to cut carbon pollution for all new power plants built in the USA. Locally, the Land Use Committee has been following the concerns of San Pedro residents regarding the Rancho LPG propane and butane tanks on Gaffey Street.

- **Arlene Block (Natural Resources)**

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OF THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
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www.lwvpalosverdes.org

www.smartvoter.org

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