



League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula

Voter

lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

February/March 2018

CALENDAR 2018

Wednesday	Feb 7	County Board Meeting	9:30-1:00	Pasadena Bank
Saturday	Feb 10	Voter Registration	9:30-11:30	Iungerich Law Office (see flyer)
Wednesday	Feb 14	PVP Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
Wednesday	March 7	County Board Meeting	9:30-1:00	TBD
Wednesday	March 14	PVP Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Muriel's House
Saturday	March 24	County Convention	9:00-12	Carson Center

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Message from your Co-Presidents

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and are ready to enter in what promises to be a politically eventful year. With the 2018 elections coming up we want to help with the vote by helping to register as many voters as possible. Nancy Mahr, our Voter Service person, is ready to train as many people as possible to form a pool of those who can register voters. This training will be held Feb 10. See the flyer in this issue. If there is enough interest we might arrange for another day. The last day to register voters for the June 2018 election is May 31. The populous needs to know how important it is to vote and getting people to participate is a core value for the League.

New voting procedures are also in the works in California, with the hope that more Californians will vote. Although these new procedures will not impact us yet in Los Angeles County, it is important to keep abreast of these changes. Soon we will be having several days to vote at voting stations using electronic machines. The County has been working on this since 2009.

Our current voting system was started in 1968. You will still be able to vote by mail if you so choose.

Also coming up shortly is the County League's Convention at the end of March. We encourage all members to participate in the Convention. The conventions are where the work for the League at this level is being decided. As a member of our local League, you automatically are also a member at the County level as well as at the state and national level. The League needs your support and more importantly your interest and activity. It is not difficult to support League actions at a higher level – just open the state or national site and find the legislative page. You can usually just click to send a message to our legislators- that may already be prepared for you. Of course – writing something yourself is always powerful.

We want to thank Karen and the Palos Verdes Chamber for a spectacular Elected Official's Party, as well as all of our helpers and our members who attended. Those attending know it was one of our best. Look in this Voter for a write-up and photos from the event.

Our Annual Program Planning meeting was held in January. While many of you did not attend, we are putting the minutes from this meeting in this issue so that you may see the results of our meeting. Program planning is an important activity for all leagues and shapes our activities throughout the year. We urge all you to participate next year.

Karen Buresh and Vi Jungerich

Co-Presidents

Problems in Our Charter School Systems

43 states and Washington D.C. have enacted charter school laws. Charter schools are semi-autonomous and operate under a written contract (charter) with a state, district or other entity. This charter details how the school will be organized and managed, what students will be expected to achieve and how success will be measured. Charter schools enjoy freedom from laws and regulations affecting other public schools as long as they continue to meet the terms of their charter.

In the 25 years since the charter school movement began, both Democrats and Republicans have supported their expansion, believing that in exchange for freedom from regulations, charters would be more accountability and maintain higher standards. Yet the safeguards that regulations provide for public schools have often been circumvented by charters resulting in fraud, mismanagement and less transparency.

Last September, the Inspector General of the Department of Education issued an audit report entitled: “A Nationwide Assessment of Charter and Educational Management Organizations.” The report assessed “the current and emerging risk” that is posed by charter management organizations for fraud, waste and abuse.

The sector, in general, operates more like businesses than schools. One in five are for-profit schools and still others turn over the majority of their funding to for-profit management companies (authorizers). Many are run as chains. Unlike businesses that start up with personal investment, the risk is assumed by taxpayers. If the charter fails, the taxpayers are the “investors” who are on the hook. Some examples include:

- Covenant Academy, a charter school in Arkansas, has never achieved academic proficiency, yet it was recently allowed to keep its autonomy, despite financial weakness and a deficit that was bailed out by the Walton Foundation.
- Ohio is notorious for weak charter governance. The Ohio Charter School Accountability Project found that more than one-third of the charter schools that received federal grants between 2006-2016 either closed or never opened. There is no record that the \$4,000,000 in grants given to the unopened schools was ever returned to the taxpayers.
- In Arizona, if a charter shuts down, the property of the charter becomes a parting gift to the charter operator. It is not returned to the taxpayers who paid for it.
- The Taylor International Academy in Michigan, ran out of money and recently closed its school 12 days early, after the charter’s management company suddenly pulled its staff, including the principal.
- Last fall, 500 students fled the Livermore Charter School in California after it was alleged the school illegally charged foreign exchange students tuition and transferred them to a school in Stockton. The management team is under investigation for conflict-of-interest relationships as well as diverted, commingled and/or misappropriated public funds.

Pat Colby

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LWVC Legislation....Action Is The Name of the Game

Haven't you wondered how to look up the list of bills the LWVC supports and opposes, including up-to-the-minute status, links to our letters sent to legislators, along with other details. Take a moment to access the LWVC website titled <https://lwvc.org>. On the opening page, click on Take Action on the title bar followed by the Legislation category and you will come upon the Bill Status Report. It provides a list of bills LWVC supports and opposes, with their up-to-the minute status, links to our letters to the appropriate committee and/or author of the bill as well as a brief explanation of what the bill would do. At this time of year, the [Bill Status Report](#) page also lists the bills that have been passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor for his signature as well as whether each has been approved or vetoed. Also take a look at [Bills of Interest](#) which includes those being "followed" by the League on which no formal position of support or opposition has been taken as well as those on which the state League has taken a position and recommends action.

Of note, 34 LWVC Supported Bills were sent to the Governor as of 1/17/2018. Check out the Bill Status Report to see which ones were approved or vetoed.

Linda Herman lhermanpg@cox.net

Government Chair

Palos Verdes – San Pedro LWV – Program Planning Meeting – Saturday January 13, 2017

Attendance: Terry Arnush, Arlene Block, Karen Buresh, Pat Colby, Caitlin Craemer, Julie Craemer, Vi Iungerich, Cynthia Kondon, Nancy Mahr, Janet MacLeod, Nell Mirels, Pat Rome, Jo-Anne Waller

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM

The Current Local Program was discussed. Consensus is to form a committee to review and update our local position on Recreation. Arlene volunteered to be chair. Consensus to change the words "recycling center" to "recycling centers" in the Solid Waste position. Consensus is to accept the other positions in the local program.

The County program was accepted by consensus.

Concerning the National Program, the following items were accepted by consensus for Education and Advocacy:

- Abolition of the Electoral College in favor of direct election of the President.
- Education position
- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
- Gun Control position

Support for the Campaign to Make Democracy Work was accepted by consensus. Recommend a new study on Artificial Intelligence, with emphasis on the economic impact, taxation and ethics. Accepted by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BEACH CITIES

**AN EVENING WITH
CONGRESSMAN TED LIEU**

Presentation on
Immigration
and other issues, including
Off-Shore Drilling, North Korea, Russian Interference
in our Elections and
the Mueller Investigation
Q & A

**Thursday, February 1, 2018 @ 7:00 pm
Hermosa Beach Community Theater
710 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach**

All Welcome • Free

For additional information (310)266-1241 www.lwvbeachcities.org

New Member Profile - Ramona Gifford (Mona)

Mona was born in Forest Grove, Oregon during the Depression and grew up on her family's farm. After high school, she attended Pacific University and then graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland where she was a music education major, then changed her major to elementary education. She taught third grade in Portland, Oregon and then moved to Anchorage, Alaska to teach for another two years.

Mona moved to SoCal in 1960 after meeting a native Californian while skiing. He was an engineer at Hughes Aircraft. After marriage and starting a family, they bought a house in Rancho Palos Verdes where she still lives.



When Mona returned to teaching, she followed her first passion and became a traveling music resource teacher in Los Angeles Unified. During the span of her career, she taught in a total of 38 elementary schools. Saving school music was the important action during those years.

Since her retirement, she has been actively involved in her music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon, the Peninsula Symphony, her church choir and in Friendship Force International which fosters international goodwill with travel and home stays. Her interest in the League of Women Voters involves women's rights, voting rights, climate change, conservation and keeping performing arts in the public schools.

We're fortunate to have Mona as a member of LWV.

Please Add These New Members to Your Roster

Virginia Butler
2125 Via Rivera
PVE, CA 90274
310-849-1779
virginiabutler@hotmail.com

Ardith Morningstar
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RHE, CA 90274
310-377-0530
Ardith_Morningstar@msn.com (there is an underscore between her first and last names)

Linda Reid
708 Avenida Mirola
PVE, CA 90274
lindareid@aol.com

Training on ballot measures presentation will be on April 28, 2018

June 2018 Ballot Measures (from LWVC)

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a "The League Recommends" (aka Vote with the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League positions on each measure.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiencies and poor decisions. The LWVC opposes this measure.

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provides for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establishes a new fee on zero-emissions vehicles, and raises vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes – repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed service, including safe roads and good public transportation. The LWVC supports this measure.

Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is- and what is not- California law. The League supports this measure.

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change. The League supports this measure.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HOSTS ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION



The League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro once again teamed with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to host the Annual Elected Officials Reception. On November 17, 2017, League members gathered at the Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center in Rancho Palos Verdes to meet state and

local elected officials and to thank them for their time and their service to our community. It was standing room only!

The League was honored to welcome

- State Senator Ben Allen
- State Senator Steve Bradford
- State Assembly member Al Muratsuchi
- County Supervisor Janice Hahn



and elected officials from the cities of Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates, the Palos Verdes Library District and the Palos Verdes Unified School District.



This event is a very special opportunity for our community to say “Thank You” to our elected officials for their service. Each one of our elected officials gives their time, their energy and their talents to make our community a better place to live and work. They sacrifice personal time, family time and economic opportunities to serve us. We

are honored to the opportunity to have them join us for this special event, and we are honored to have them as our representatives.



Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi



The City of Palos Verdes Estates

The League would like to thank the PVP Chamber of Commerce for its continued partnership to bring this important event to our community.

We would also like to thank the following Chamber members who donated food and beverages for the event:

- ❖ Malaga Bank
- ❖ Trump National Golf Club
- ❖ Terranea Resort
- ❖ New York Food Company (LaVenta Inn)
- ❖ Admiral Risty
- ❖ Suzy Zimmerman State Farm Insurance
- ❖ PrimeSource Project Management



City of Rolling Hills Estates



Senator Ben Allen



Senator Steve Bradford



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:

LWV PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
90274. Please make checks payable to *LWV 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 \$ _____

\$80.00 one member

\$40.00 additional member in the same household.

Dues are tax deductible. LWV PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

LWV PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:

Co-Presidents:	Viola Iungerich	310-541-5092	violaiungerich@gmail.com
	Karen Buresh	310-544-8272	karen.buresh@primesourcepm.com
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