



# ***The Beach Voter***

League of Women Voters Beach Cities  
Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

---

## **ANNUAL MEETING AND SALAD LUNCHEON**

Saturday May 7, 2016

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

1534 Ruhland Avenue, Manhattan Beach

This is our annual event to wrap up the year. *Please bring a salad to share* and ideas for what you would like to see our League focus on for the coming year. It is your ideas and participation that make up our direction and focus. We are a grassroots organization and now is the time to plan for the coming year. Penny Markey has graciously offered to host us at her house.

Our speaker will be LWVBC member Dr. Don Brann. Dr. Brann has had a long and varied career in education, including as a teacher, Superintendent of the Wiseburn school district and, most recently, state-appointed trustee of the Inglewood Unified School District. He has also served on the El Segundo City Council.

A kit will be sent by email to all members who have an email address, and by U.S. mail to those who do not. Please print the kit and bring it to the meeting.

You are encouraged to bring a guest. Guests do not have to bring anything other than their interest in learning about League, who we are, and what we do.

If you would like to carpool please contact Susan Grebe at [regrebe6072@aol.com](mailto:regrebe6072@aol.com) or (310) 545-2097.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Annual Meeting & Salad Luncheon	1
Inside This Issue	2
Non-Event Recognition	3
Higher Education Consensus Meeting	4
Legislative Interview - Ben Allen	7
Legislative Interview - Ralph Hall	12
El Segundo Candidates Forum	12
Tri-League Breakfast	13
LWV LA County Convention	15
Calendar	18

The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

<p>The Beach Voter</p> <p>President: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Editor: Ruth Hart</p> <p>Copy Editor: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Production: Mignon Thiem-Murphy Peggy Bartlett Susan Grebe Sunhee Park</p> <p>Labels: Ann Martin</p>
---

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$60.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

*Thank you to all our generous members who have contributed to the Non-Event.*

*Martha Andreani  
Joan Arias  
Barbara Arlow  
Peggy Bartlett  
Don and Sari Brann  
Mary Lou Busch  
Paulette Caudill  
Harriet Chase  
Christine Cronin-Hurst  
Marilyn Dubas  
June Eicher  
Susan Grebe  
Elizabeth Jensen  
Joann Kennelly  
Joan LeSage  
Lillian Lunt  
Fatima Malik*

*Ann Martin  
Penny Markey  
Henrietta Mosley  
Jane Munson  
Michelle Murphy  
Jan Nathanson  
Sunhee Park  
Barbara Paulsen  
Wendy Phillips  
Gail Runk  
Jim Stewart  
Margaret Thelen  
Mignon Thiem-Murphy  
Susan Volmer  
April Halprin Wayland  
Elaine Wiener  
Lance Widman*

*Your donations are so appreciated. If you have not sent your check yet, not to worry, the event is still in progress and accepting all donations. All donations made to LWVBC are now tax deductible with our new 501 (c) 3 charitable status.*



---

## STUDY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

Joan Arias

On Monday evening, February 22, 2016, speaking to a full house at the Manhattan Beach Library, Jackie LaBouff, Education Director of LWV Torrance Area and Member of the LWVC Public Higher Education Committee, introduced the Higher Education study and its importance in allowing League members to take positions on higher education issues. She emphasized that we are looking at the state system, not private colleges and universities. As a representative of the League of Women Voters of California, she explained the consensus process. She acknowledged the contributions of Dr. David Leveille Research Associate, Center for Higher Education, who had participated in meetings and provided the committee with valuable information and guidance. Although he was unable to be with us for the consensus meeting, we thanked him with an honorary membership to the LWVC.

The committee broke the higher education issue into 5 focus areas: affordability, preparedness, equity, opportunity, and barriers. In her introduction, LaBouff pointed to the importance of the public education system in preparing Californians to work in our State.

JoAnn Kennelly then introduced the other committee members who were to be active participants in the evening's meeting: Diane Wallace, Joan LeSage and Eliza Davis. JoAnn explained the consensus process and how we were going to operate at this meeting. We all had a copy of the consensus questions and sub-questions.

Diane Wallace provided background information on the focus areas, beginning with equity and emphasizing that equality does not mean equity. She reviewed a bar chart on California demographics 1980-2060 that showed that over time California is growing more diverse. She also noted that the majority of young children in California are people of color. There has been a dramatic increase in the ethnic diversity of California college students. Over time college enrollment is becoming increasingly diverse throughout the state. She reviewed the history of the 1960 master plan and the enrollments showing that the Community College enrollment had dramatically increased from 1960 to 2009. 20% are enrolled in UC and CSU with 70% enrolled in community colleges. (Private colleges accounted for 6% of the enrollment) She pointed to the difference between 1960 in which a high school diploma enabled students to get good jobs whereas now that is no longer true. Charts included projected earnings of people with and without college degrees and projections into the future.

JoAnn then introduced the discussion and rules that were to govern the discussion.

We began with a discussion of Equitable Access, which asked generally if everyone, regardless of preparation for college, should have access to higher education, and what issues should govern such access. (For the complete language and question list, consult the League of Women Voters web site

(continued on p. 5)

---

(Higher Education Study – continued from p. 4)

at: <https://lwvc.org/sites/lwvc.org/files/downloads/studies/Higher-Education-Study-Consensus-Questions.pdf>)

During the discussion, several members questioned the focus on completion rates since that really does not affect access. The words were removed from the original question. Another question arose about the meaning of “regardless of preparation for college.” A member of the committee clarified that that might have more to do with the Community Colleges than with the UC/CSUs. There was quite a bit of discussion about the wording of the questions and the appropriateness for the question of Access. Following the discussion, we moved through the questions looking for consensus one by one.

We moved on to FUNDING and AFFORDABILITY noting that tuition costs have risen since the Master Plan was implemented and support from the state has fallen and has become unstable. Many students leave college with enormous and long-lasting debt.

Following each of the section presentations, the group discussed and worked on the consensus questions. We made some changes to the language, for example, adding “progressive” to a statement that highlighted “a broad based tax should be levied to specifically increase state funding for public higher education,” and the group agreed with the statement.

PREPAREDNESS (related to remediation requirements)

A study showed that approximately 90% of the students entering community colleges need remedial education. A huge readiness gap exists for students who are graduated from high schools. Again, we discussed each question in turn.

In this area, a question on programs focusing on high school seniors drew responses that the senior year is way too late; the focus should be much earlier.

Discussion included a question that listed specific targets for services (at-risk, low income, underrepresented minority students), should propose that the services be available for all students; we asked why so much attention was devoted specifically to those groups. This is just one example where some editing might have resulted in consensus. Another issue was the meaning of “appropriate” career opportunities. Discussion ensued on many of the questions based on wording that we felt needed editing.

(continued on p. 6)

---

(Higher Education Study – continued from p. 5)

## OPPORTUNITIES/BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

One comment in this area was the need to support career technical education, which is expensive but necessary.

Many of the questions drew comments about difficult to understand and interpret wording. For example, the statement about new technologies (including online education) drew comments about the need for teacher training and extension of technology to students from disadvantaged families who do not have access to computers at home.

The meeting continued until 8:45 with participants seriously discussing each of the questions. Joan LeSage will record and transmit the responses to State League.

The committee, led by Harriet Chase, represented the three local Leagues: Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula and Torrance Area:

MaryLou Busch, LWVBC  
 Harriet Chase (Chair), LWVBC  
 Pat Colby, LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula  
 Eliza Davis, LWVBC  
 Joann Kennelly, LWVBC  
 Jackie LaBouff, LWV Torrance Area  
 Joan LeSage, LWVBC  
 Janet MacLeod, LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula  
 Penny Markey

## KUDOS

## KUDOS

## KUDOS

A big thank you to the Tri-League Higher Education Study Committee for their time, input, and enthusiasm in conducting a successful Consensus meeting. It ran like clockwork. The members included: Jackie LaBouff (LWV Torrance Area) Introduction; Joann Kennelly, Discussion Leader; Diane Wallace, Slide Presenter; Eliza Davis and Joan LeSage, Recorders; Pat Colby (LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula), Mary Lou Busch, Marge Thelen, Penny Markey, Jan Nathanson, Janet MacLeod (LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula), Debra Estroff and Joan LeSage, Resource.

Harriet Chase, Chair

---

## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW – BEN ALLEN

On Friday, January 29, 2016, California State Senator Ben Allen (SD 26) met with five League of Women Voters members as part of the League annual Legislative Interview program. Senator Allen began by talking about his recent efforts to put in place Theater and Dance teacher single-subject credentials since the California Education Code provides standards for these subjects but there is no credential for them. California and West Virginia are the only states without a single-subject credential for Theater and Dance for middle and high-school teachers. He introduced SB916 – the Theater and Dance Act (known as TADA!) on January 27, on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the California Arts Council. He noted that the California Federation of Teachers supports the bill along with dozens of dance and theatre associations throughout the state.



Left to right: Joan Arias (LWVBC), Katie Watkins (LWV PVP), Athena Paquette (LWV Torrance Area), State Senator Ben Allen, Barbara Inatsugu (LWV Santa Monica), Pamela Thornton (LWV Torrance Area).

(continued on p. 8)

(Ben Allen Interview – continued from p. 7)

Following that discussion, Torrance Area League of Women Voters president Athena Paquette introduced the League of Women Voters legislative interview process and the interview participants. Athena conducted the interview and Senator Allen answered the three key questions and talked about his legislative priorities. The questions and Mr. Allen's responses follow. Despite the half-hour limit for our discussions, Senator Allen's rapid responses provided considerable information!

**1. Voting and Elections – What legislative proposals would you support to improve the number of California citizens who register and turn out to vote? Are there other steps that government should take to engage more California residents in elections?**

- a. Senator Allen serves as chair of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee as well as the legislature's Joint Committee on the Arts. He is a member of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Budget Subcommittee on Education, the Natural Resources and Water Committee, the Transportation and Housing Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee. He is Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Defense and Aerospace, and serves on the select committees on California-Mexico Cooperation, Passenger Rail, Ports and Goods Movement, Refugio Oil Spill, and AB 32 and Climate Change Implementation. (information from his web site and his comments). He believes in a responsive democracy and is very proud to say that AB1461 was passed (in April, 2015), enabling the DMV to use information from license renewals and newly issued licenses to automatically register voters. He informed us that registration is a major barrier to voting especially for younger people and he was glad to have helped shepherd that bill through the Legislature.
- b. SB450 and SB 439 are major focus areas for him. Inspired by the Colorado model, the essence of which is that voters may choose to vote at home using a ballot that will be mailed to every voter, or visit any of the several vote centers within their county when it is convenient for them -- whether that is on election day itself or any of the days leading up to it, including weekends. SB450 and SB439, authored by Mr. Allen focus on voting. SB 450 will authorize counties to switch to a vote center system rather than our current polling place system. SB 439, which was signed into law last year, would establish an approval process for ballot on demand printing systems and electronic poll books which will make the vote centers that much more convenient (for additional information, see <http://sd26.senate.ca.gov/news/2015-06-10-senator-ben-allen-statement-modernizing-california-elections>). The modernized process would send every eligible voter a ballot and

(continued on p. 9)



---

(Ben Allen Interview – continued from p. 8)

offer four voting alternatives and provide a paper trail for voting using technology as an “assist tool”:

- Mail-in
- Drop Box
- Voting Centers
- In-person voting beginning 10 days before Election Day.

- c. He noted the challenge within Los Angeles County based on their concern about the difficulties of ramping up. Despite the fact that this process has been shown to increase turnout and decrease costs, Mr. Allen is optimistic that once LA County officials realize the cost savings, they will move forward. SB450 enables current prototypes to be folded in and may be tweaked based on our existing technologies.
- d. Senator Allen also talked about SB439. California’s statewide voter turnout in the November 2014 election was just 42%, a record low. Los Angeles County’s turnout was the lowest in the state at 31%. This legislation will modernize how elections are conducted, making it more convenient for voters. Based on similar landmark reforms implemented in Colorado, these changes are expected to revolutionize California’s voting systems, and vastly increase turnout.
- e. In his discussion about public financing he pointed to the current absolute ban on public financing. He noted that Cal-Access needs to be updated but funding is difficult. He noted that we are the only state out of compliance with the Help America Vote Act (From the web site: The **Help America Vote Act** (HAVA) of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's **voting** process. HAVA addresses improvements to **voting** systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election.) He concluded by saying that “once funded, we can get this done,” enabling us to understand who is funding campaigns and other important information related to financing campaigns.
- f. He sees two big issues right now:
- Repeal the ban on public financing for campaign purposes
  - Modernize Cal-Access
    1. Will take an estimated 13 million to upgrade
    2. Currently, system not in compliance with the California Voting Act

(continued on p. 10)

---

(Ben Allen Interview – continued from p. 9)

- 2. Housing – What will you do to ensure that your constituents are not displaced from their homes, and what steps would you take to increase the supply of housing – especially housing that is affordable to people of modest means? Do you agree this would require a stable and dedicated source of funding?**
- a. He agreed that this issue is critical and requires funding. This is a real priority for him. He pointed out that California has the worst housing affordability in the nation based on the percentage of income Californians – especially in Los Angeles – spend on their housing. One fourth of all Angelenos spend one half or more of their income on housing costs. The fact that so much money is tied up on housing is a huge problem.
- b. He is focused on two areas related to housing:
- Getting more funding for affordable housing
  - Homeless issues – revamping Proposition 63 funds to provide money for housing for the homeless. Proposition 63 was a proposition that passed on the November 2, 2004 ballot. Its official name and title on the ballot was the Mental Health Services Act. He would like to find ways for matching funds so that local communities can get federal funding to help with this issue.
- c. Senator Allen is working with Senator Holly Mitchell on a bill that follows the Utah model and focuses on “Housing First” which means first and foremost providing supportive housing for the homeless. This program is based on the idea that keeping a homeless person on the street costs more per person than providing that person with supportive housing. “Leaders at various levels of government are starting to take this seriously,” he noted, citing Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as an example of a local leader focused on this issue. Mayor Garcetti recently announced a State of Emergency on the homeless matters within the City of Los Angeles.
- d. Mr. Allen supports Senator Kevin de Leon’s work on revamping Proposition 63 funding to provide housing first. Allen supports the statewide taskforce for homeless, which has been introduced, but a bill number has not been assigned. He noted that he may go to Utah to see how supportive housing is working there and invited League members to go as well.
- 3. Climate Change – What are your priorities for state legislation and policies on climate change? Are there other related issues that you feel need to be addressed?**

(continued on p. 11)

---

(Ben Allen Interview – continued from p. 10)

- a. This is an enormously important issue and “I am passionate about this issue.” Mr. Allen noted that he is active with many of the environmental groups. He was co-author of SB350 (Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015) and although “we had to remove an important provision,” it passed.
- b. He is co-author of SB32 to limit greenhouse gas emissions, which got out of the Senate but was not able to get through the Assembly. “But it is still alive,” he noted.
- c. Senator Allen emphasized that the Porter Ranch disaster (methane gas emissions which put more “bad stuff” into the air than 7 million cars) “knocked out all our short term work on climate change.” He talked about the impact of the Porter Ranch disaster and the repercussions of that “total disaster.” SB380 places a moratorium on the injection of additional gas to that installation. “I am authoring a bill to get Gas Company SHAREHOLDERS (he emphasized this), rather than rate-payers to pay for greenhouse gas mitigation and prevention. I am working with Senator Pavley on this issue, co-authoring SB876 and SB877. “ He introduced a bill to set a renewable gas standard so that a certain percentage of our gas will come from renewable sources such as organic waste from dairies which produce a great deal of methane that might be harnessed into low emission energy. He noted that the utilities were (surprisingly) supportive although the dairy owners would like more funding for “dairy digesters.” He is working to make this happen and to get them on board.

In the few remaining moments, when asked about Proposition 13, Senator Allen stated that he supported efforts to reform Proposition 13 and to make it fair but he cautioned that “we have to think outside the box and we must be open to possibilities. This must be a compromise; we are not even close to getting a 2/3 majority to get on the ballot and we need to put something together that will actually win.” Allen suggested that 2018 doesn’t seem to be a favorable year for this. He emphasized that the only process that will be successful involves pulling together all interested parties and hammering out a consensus, and noted that “there is a reason why Proposition 13 is called the third rail of California politics.”

Attendees:

League of Women Voters Members:

Athena Paquette Cormier, President, LWV Torrance Area  
Pamela Thornton, Environmental Director, LWV Torrance Area  
Barbara Inatsugu, VP Program for Education PreK-12, LWV Santa Monica  
Katie Watkins, President, LWV PVP  
Joan Arias, LWV Beach Cities Secretary

## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW – RALPH HALL

League members also conducted a legislative interview with State Senator Ralph Hall. A full report will appear in the next *Voter*. Here is a picture of Senator Hall with the participants, including LWVBC members Jan Nathanson (second from left) and Jamila Jabulani (left of Senator Hall).



## EL SEGUNDO APRIL 12TH ELECTION – Barbara Arlow

On March 7th Beach Cities and the El Segundo Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a city council candidates forum. The event drew a large number of concerned citizens. The five candidates shared with the audience, in their opening and closing statements, why they believed they were the most qualified for the three positions. All the candidates responded to the questions submitted by the audience.

---

## TRI-LEAGUE BREAKFAST – Joan Arias

Martha L. Gomez, staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), informed 37 members of the Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula and Torrance Area Leagues at their annual breakfast on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at The Depot restaurant in Torrance. Ms. Gomez specializes in employment and civil rights litigation that affects the Latino community. Her cases include constitutional challenges to anti-immigration laws, and employment challenges to race and national origin discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, and wage and hour violations of low-wage earners, among others. Born and raised in Compton, Martha earned her law degree from UCLA School of Law in 2010, served as co-chair of *La Raza* and as an associate editor to the *UCLA Chicana/o-Latina/o Law Review*. Prior to law school, Martha worked as a high school teacher in the greater Los Angeles area.

She acknowledged that immigration is a sensitive issue, noted that she has always wanted to fight for justice, and commended the League of Women Voters for its comprehensive and detailed position on immigration. She pointed out that too many people seem to want “easy answers to complex questions,” and expressed the hope that her presentation would clarify at least some key immigration issues.

Ms. Gomez told us that there are about 11 million undocumented aliens in the United States today and since the early 90’s budget increases for border control and enforcement have reached billions. Despite all that, there are no fewer undocumented individuals in the United States. She asked if we were being smarter in this country by spending all this money on border control when most undocumented aliens today came originally with Visas! That is, they never entered the country illegally but overstayed their visas.

She noted that in law school she learned to ask what works and to be “unsentimental and rational.” She pointed out that we in the United States need many of these people and that the United States has not updated their quotas for many years. Not only are there many companies who need skilled people especially in the sciences, mathematics and technology areas but that we have practically no visas for unskilled labor, yet we need those people as well for jobs in construction and in the services sector. Many companies favor immigration reform because of these needs. Our economy would be seriously hurt without these people

She dispelled the notion that immigrants are taking jobs from Americans; immigrants are taking jobs we do not want to do in agriculture, for example. We want to protect our self-interest and we could make sure that the employee sector has protection – minimum wages, required breaks, overtime. She works to ensure that companies cannot compete unfairly by hiring undocumented individuals for

(continued on p. 13)

---

(Tri-League Breakfast – continued from p. 12)

lower-than-minimum wages or by mistreatment of employees. She pointed to an article by Gerald Lopez in the 2012 UC Davis Law Review, “Don’t we Like them Illegal” and urged us to be honest about what we need. “We need to shape the law because it is not always equitable and it should be,” she said, pointing to the Independent Contractor exceptions to laws written for the undocumented. She pointed to the history of immigration to the United States and how every time a wave of immigrants arrives, there are new laws that attempt to control the flow of immigrants and favoring the “in-group.” “Becoming a ‘nativist’ happens very quickly,” she noted.

But people around the world still have the American Dream. Newcomers and their attachment to their heritage do not frighten Ms. Gomez even as they become Americans. “There are so many economic reasons why we should support these immigrants.” She called temporary work programs (like the Bracero programs) like “indentured servitude” and noted that statistically, Latino work is the most high risk work and that the workers need access to health care and social services. If they are denied access to safety networks, the need becomes catastrophic. “Enforcement should be accompanied with relief” and today there is no clear, speedy way for “illegals” to become legal. She cautioned against e-verify and recounted a number of cases of bureaucratic error, identity confusion and other problems.

In 2015 more undocumented people have left than have entered. Without demand, people will go home unless returning is made so difficult and dangerous that they are prevented from the easy flow to and from their home countries. Our economy used to be more circular but now crossing the border has become much harder and we are spending resources in ways that are unproductive. Increased enforcement has led to decreased community policing and creates vulnerability.

Using a mix of personal stories and professional experiences she gave a history of immigration politics focusing on, as an example of some of the unintended consequences of political action, President Ronald Reagan’s Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). IRCA provided amnesty for 3 million illegal immigrants, in return for increased border security and penalties for companies “knowingly” hiring illegal immigrants. Aside from creating the H-2A visa for seasonal employment, IRCA failed to create new avenues for legal immigration. The combination of amnesty and inadequate avenues for legal immigration exacerbated the problem of illegal immigration. She discussed the President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (“DACA”), under which illegal alien “Dreamers” (children brought into the US) can request a two-year deferral of any action to remove them, along with employment authorization documents.

When asked what might happen if the Supreme Court ruled against President Obama’s Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), she affirmed that the “next president and Congress would have to do something more permanent because both parties want immigration reform but will not work together because of the issue of who gets credit!”

---

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA COUNTY**  
**54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION – Joan Arias**

51 people (42 voting delegates) representing 9 Leagues – including 7 LWVBC members - attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Los Angeles County League of Women Voters on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Carson Center in Carson, California.

President Nancy Mahr opened the meeting by introducing guests and past presidents as well as State and National Board members who attended. During the morning the group heard 2016-2018 program presentation and motions to reaffirm current County positions on Government, Natural Resources, Population Impacts on a Sustainable Future Position and Social Policy as well as motions to adopt recommended and non-recommended programs (debate took place in the afternoon session-see below for that information). Nancy also announced that the next President of the National League of Women Voters would be our own Chris Carson!

Following the business part of the meeting, Nancy introduced the keynote speaker, Jacki Bacharach.

Jacki Bacharach, former Mayor and Councilmember in Rancho Palos Verdes and member for 12 years on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission as well as a member of the LA-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency overseeing area Amtrak service. Ms. Bacharach is currently Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments operated through her company, Jacki Bacharach and Associates. She was a charter member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority dealing with landside access to the Ports of LA and Long Beach and served as Founding Chair of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority that operates the Metrolink commuter rail system. She also served on the State Commission on Local Governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and a member of the National Commission on Intermodal Transportation.

Following that introduction, Ms. Bacharach began by telling us what she learned from the League: to be thorough, to understand and appreciate all sides of an issue, to speak what she believed in and to be informed! Also, she noted, voting is a responsibility and requires work!

During her service, Ms. Bacharach was responsible for the Blue and Green lines and then for Metro Link and clearly, she said, her passion is transportation. She gave the group a history of the local transportation issues through the 80's, 90's and to the present day. She pointed out that it became impossible to keep expanding roads, to keep growing the system and not evaluating. She provided significant data about the enormous challenges in providing transportation and mobility to Los Angeles County. We have the second busiest Amtrak corridor in the United States! The system is expansive and dynamic and the challenge is to provide not only goods movement (what she called the principal use of roads) but also people mobility where they need it most. Some of the points of interest in her talk were:

(continued on p. 16)

---

(County Convention – continued from p. 15)

- We are not going to get high-speed rail any time soon!
- Monies will be given to MetroLink and existing rail systems; we are outgrowing all our systems.
- The South Bay is not really affected by public transportation.
- Commute trips in the South Bay only represents 3% of all trips! Most trips within the South Bay are short, presenting a challenge to meet the need for very local travel.
- Transit-oriented development won't work in the South Bay and indeed, may cause more problems as housing density increases.
- People don't understand their own mobility patterns and there have been many grants to study transportation patterns.

Over the years voters have approved various taxes that helped fund rail (she pointed to people's love of rail projects, not always the most beneficial type of transportation!). There will be a new ballot measure that would provide monies for highways, local transport and additional mobility programs such as para-transit, bike path development and other projects including an increase in toll lanes on highways everywhere.

One major flaw in many of the measures has been the lack of funding for maintenance. We are so busy building that we are not maintaining our rails. She feels that a key reason ridership is down around the country is because of maintenance problems that creates an unreliable system.

She challenged League Members to do what we do best – ASK! She asked us to ask about maintenance when taxes are proposed, to encourage long-range planning and ask about such planning, ask about current commitments, especially for maintenance, ask about fare increases.

Following her talk, she engaged in a lively exchange with attendees about security, connections to Torrance and future projects that will serve the South Bay. Attendees all commented on her knowledge, experience and her understanding of the data used in developing transportation projects.

After her talk and a luncheon, we resumed the business of the Convention, reviewing the treasurer's report and recognizing the Current Board including LWV-BC member Fatima Malik who has been the appointed Director of Communications and the Website. The outgoing board gave Nancy Mahr, outgoing President, special recognition for her 8 years of dedicated and graceful service.

There were no nominations from the Floor and the group affirmed the new board members:

- President – Kimberly Ritter-Martinez (Long Beach Area)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lola Ungar (Torrance Area)
- Treasurer – Thomas P. Carson (Glendale/Burbank)
- Directors for a 2-year term – Vi Iungerich (Palos Verdes Peninsula), Marge Nichols (Pasadena Area) and Sandra Trutt (Los Angeles)

(continued on p. 17)



---

(County Convention – continued from p. 16)

- 2016-2018 Nominating Committee: Lois Ledger, Chair (Long Beach Area), Caroline de Llamas (East San Gabriel Valley), Barbara Inatsugu (Santa Monica)

We then discussed the program for 2016-2018, adopting the following:

- Existing LWV/LAC positions were continued
- No new study was recommended
- After some discussion, two issues for education and advocacy will be continued:
  - Election procedures with emphasis on continued and increased voter education to encourage maximum voter participation
  - Homelessness in LA County: meeting basic human needs; data on homeless population; shelter distribution; County/City plan to address homeless issues
- A non-recommended study topic to review and update the National Resources Position proposed by the Pasadena Area League was not approved.
- Two non-recommended issues for Education and Advocacy proposed by LWVBC – Climate Change and the Port Authority – were not approved although it was made clear that individual groups could always take action based on National, State or County positions as demonstrated by the LWVBC action on the Hermosa Beach Oil Proposal action of last year.

Following announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

<b>CALENDAR</b>			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Thursday April 14, 2016	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Joan Arias 720 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Hermosa Beach
Saturday May 7, 2016	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Annual Meeting and Salad Luncheon	Home of Penny Markey 1534 Ruhland Avenue Manhattan Beach
Thursday June 16- Sunday June 19, 2016	All Day	LWVUS National Convention	Washington DC



**League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities**  
**629 19<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**