

"LEAGUE LINGO"

ACTION / ADVOCACY – Steps taken to influence public policy consistent with League positions. Techniques used to achieve League goals include lobbying, legislative testimony, monitoring, public statements, media campaigns, public forums, coalitions and litigation.

ANNUAL MEETING – A general meeting of the membership of a local League held once a year to make decisions affecting local League goals and operations. The annual meeting elects officers, amends bylaws and adopts a budget, local positions and studies.

BRIEFING – A discussion leader and resource person training session held prior to unit meetings to prepare them for the presentation and discussion of the program at unit meetings. "Briefing" is also used for meetings held to prepare for convention, legislative interviews and ballot measure presentations.

CALL TO ACTION / ACTION ALERT – A carefully timed request from a national, state, or local League board asking members to take action on behalf of a League position. A request for legislative action is referred to as a "call to action" by LWVC and an "action alert" by LWVUS.

"COLLAGE" – The quarterly newsletter from the ILO. It is inserted in the "Voter."

CONCURRENCE - Substantial member agreement reached through group discussion based on information presented by a study committee or through other methods of member response. Members are asked to concur, or agree with, a statement, rather than to answer a question as with consensus. A concurrence statement may be a position held by another League or a decision statement recommended by a League board or study committee. The statement must be approved or rejected as written.

CONSENSUS – Substantial member agreement preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. Discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions. Consensus questions, prepared by a study committee, are to be approved by the appropriate League board.

COUNCIL – A biennial meeting of the ILO, LWVC, and LWVUS at which a few delegates (mostly Presidents) adopt a budget. It provides an opportunity to exchange ideas in a less formal setting than convention.

DISCUSSION LEADER – The person who guides the deliberations at a League meeting, often when it is aimed at reaching agreement on an issue; usually a person trained to encourage maximum participation and exchange of ideas.

DUES – The annual fee required for membership in the LWV. Dues for League of Women Voters San Diego (LWVSD) is currently \$65.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for additional household and confers membership at all levels of League—San Diego, Inter-League Organization (San Diego County) (LWVSDC or ILO), LWV California, LWV United States. Dues monies are divided among all levels of League to support programs, operations and publications (see per-member payment). The distribution of the annual \$65.00 dues is:

\$26.30 LWVUS
\$21.00 LWVC
\$ 2.50 ILO (LWVSDC)
\$15.20 LWVSD

EDUCATION FUND – The tax deductible "arm" of League; this fund underwrites educational projects. Formerly only a LWVUS body, now many states (including California) also have Ed Funds. Tax-deductible contributions may be deposited in this fund for disbursement back to the contributing Leagues upon application and approval for educational purposes.

League Lingo, (continued)

ELECTION EXTRA - A League publication containing the pros and cons of ballot measures and other relevant information for voters. May include candidates' responses to League questions.

EVERY MEMBER TOOL (EMT) – Background material prepared by a study committee and distributed to members before consensus-seeking discussions.

GENERAL MEETING – A meeting to which all members are invited. League business requiring member approval can be conducted only at general meetings.

INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION (ILO) – A group of local Leagues with shared interests organized as a separate League to coordinate activities within a county, metropolitan area or region. The ILO consists of a board only, its members are the members of the local Leagues. For example, The League of Women Voters of San Diego County has as its members the San Diego League, the North Coast League, the Escondido League, and the East County League. ILOs hold conventions at which they adopt bylaws, elect officers and directors, choose studies and adopt a budget.

ISSUE FOR EMPHASIS – An issue/topic, adopted by Convention delegates, as a program item on which state and local Leagues will mutually focus their efforts. It may include concerted action on an existing position, and/or a new study or update, and/or education.

NONPARTISAN – The policy (as set forth in the bylaws) that the League is an organization that does not support or oppose any candidate for office or political party. League members, however, are encouraged to work as individuals for the political party or candidate of their choice. Each League board adopts its own nonpartisan policy which interprets for its members and the community any restrictions it places on the political activities of its board members.

NONRECOMMENDED PROGRAM – Issues of interest to members, but not recommended by the appropriate Board. The LWVSD does not use this term anymore, but other levels of League do.

OBSERVER – A League member who regularly attends meetings of governmental bodies for the sole purpose of listening (not speaking) and reporting back to the League.

PER MEMBER PAYMENT (PMP) - An annual assessment for each local League member that is paid (usually quarterly) by the local League to LWVC, LWVUS, and to the ILO (if one exists). (see Dues.)

POSITION – The stand upon which the League may take action on a public policy issue and is the one and only basis for action. We cannot act if we do not have an applicable position. There are national, state and local positions. The position statement includes a position summary as well as specific positions established and any changes must be re-adopted by the convention or annual meeting. The appropriate board approves and may act on a new position pending adoption by the convention or annual meeting.

POSITION UPDATE – A study of limited scope to reevaluate an existing League position in light of new information, changed circumstance and/or conflict with another position, with a view to considering a position change. Any new position resulting from an update is approved by the appropriate and adopted by the convention or annual meeting. Action may be taken on the existing position while the update is in process.

League Lingo, (continued)

PROGRAM – Those governmental issues chosen for study and action at each level of government at conventions or annual meetings.

PROGRAM PLANNING – One or more meetings of the membership where input is gathered on their recommendations for program. Program Planning is usually done early in the calendar year for the levels of League who have a Convention the following spring. It is done every year for LWVSD. The deadline for program ideas is 2-3 months before the Convention or Annual Meeting.

RECORDER – A participant at a Unit meeting who takes notes on the discussion and **records** the consensus the group reaches. It is then added to the consensus of the other Units.

RESOURCE PERSON – A knowledgeable member (often a study committee member) who provides impartial factual material to members, usually for discussion. The member serving as resource person does not express her/his opinion on the subject so that members participating in the discussion can reach their own conclusions.

REVIEW – Members ask the board for evaluation of a current position for clarity, relevance, and effectiveness. No change is made in the position statement.

SCOPE – Definition of the limits of a study and possible areas of exploration, developed by the study committee and approved by the appropriate board.

STUDY – The process of gathering information for discussion by members with a view of reaching consensus for the purpose of establishing positions on a subject adopted by convention or annual meeting. Studies are conducted at all levels of League. A study usually takes one to two years.

THE “VOTER”- Newsletter from the local LWVSD – comes out monthly. The State “Voter” is a newsletter from LWVC. The “National Voter” is from LWVUS.

UNITS - Units are the backbone of the League of Women Voters. Unit meetings are regularly scheduled meetings of small groups of members to obtain and discuss information. Study presentations and consensus discussions are usually held at unit meetings. In the San Diego League, these meetings are generally held in the second week of the month at different times and locations. Members may attend the unit meeting most convenient for them and guests are always welcome.

VERTICAL POSITION – National, State, or ILO positions that may be used as the basis for action at lower levels of League without prior permission.

YEARBOOK and MEMBERSHIP ROSTER – A booklet produced by LWVSD which has the calendar, Unit meeting schedule and Unit chairs, Mission Statement, Vision and Beliefs, Diversity Policy, History of the League, Nonpartisan Policy, Local Positions in Brief, Contacts for Other levels of League, Internet Resources, Board lists for LWVSD and the ILO, and League Lingo.