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## **League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> Annual Conference Brings Together City Officials for Education, Recognition, Networking and Resources**

Over the course of three days last week, 2,000 California city officials joined together at the League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> 117th Annual Conference & Expo in San José. The event featured approximately 50 educational sessions, 265 exhibitors, engaging keynote speakers, recognition of excellent work by cities, along with individual recognitions the adoption of several resolutions and the swearing in of new League's executive officers and board of directors.

*For more, see Page 2.*



## **Three Legislators Recognized with 2015 Legislator of the Year Award during League Annual Conference**

*Assembly Member Alejo, Assembly Member Cooley, Sen. Beall Honored Last Friday*

California cities have three very strong champions in the three state lawmakers honored on Oct. 2 with the League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> Legislator of the Year Award. Typically only one individual is selected for this award, but the extraordinary contributions made this year by Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-Watsonville), Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) and Sen. Jim Beall (D-San José) all deserved commendation.

*For more, see Page 4.*



## **Mayor L. Dennis Michael of Rancho Cucamonga Takes Helm as League President**

The League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> new executive committee and board of directors took their oath of office on Friday afternoon during the closing general session of its annual conference in San José. The board represents the League's 16 regional divisions, nine professional departments, California's 10 largest cities, and at-large directors. Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael assumed the role of League president, replacing Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar, who held the position for the past year. Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce was elected first vice president and Palos Verdes Estates Mayor James Goodhart joined the officers as second vice president. *For more, see Page 6.*

League President and Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar welcomed attendees on Wednesday afternoon during the opening general session. "I am extremely proud to be part of an organization that has worked since 1898 to protect local control for California cities and connect city officials from every corner of the state so we can share our experiences and become better public servants for our residents," President Aguilar remarked. "Public service is more than a job. It is something we are called to do because we are inspired to dedicate ourselves to making our communities stronger."

### **Helen Putnam Award for Excellence**

The session included the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, given to cities for their outstanding efforts to deliver services and engage residents. This year's winners are the cities of:

- La Mesa: CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award for its Intergenerational Safe Routes to School Program;
- Salinas: Community Services and Economic Development for its Steinbeck Innovation Cluster;
- Santa Clarita: Economic Development through the Arts for its Old Town Newhall Arts and Entertainment District ;
- Rocklin: Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics and Community Involvement for Rocklin Cares;
- Cathedral City: Health and Wellness for its Cathedral City Garden Program;
- Brea and Fullerton: Internal Administration for its Brea and Fullerton Fire Resource Sharing Program;
- Sanger: Excellence in City Business Relations for its Sanger Job Training Initiative;
- Clovis: Planning and Environmental Quality for its Dry Creek Trailhead;
- Menlo Park: Public Safety for its Belle Haven Community Engagement;
- Reedley: Public Safety for its Reedley Peace Building Initiative;
- Palmdale: Public Works, Infrastructure and Transportation for its Season of Service; and
- Menifee: Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government for its Menifee Youth Advisory Committee.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award and Special Recognition**

Two individuals were also recognized during the session for their dedication to California cities.

League Immediate Past President and San Francisco Treasurer José Cisneros presented the League Past Presidents' Council Lifetime Achievement Award to Anna Caballero, secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Secretary Caballero previously served as both mayor and council member on the Salinas City Council. In 2007, during her tenure in the Assembly from 2006-2012, the League also recognized then Assembly Member Caballero as its Legislator of the Year.

League Immediate Past President Cisneros congratulated Secretary Caballero on this achievement. "Anna is a true leader and dedicated public servant who has devoted her professional and personal life to improving conditions for those in her community. She has been a strong voice for those without one and continues this mission in the Governor's cabinet. I am truly honored today to present my friend and colleague Anna Caballero with this recognition."

Clovis Council Member Harry Armstrong was also recognized for his decades of service to cities. As California's longest serving city council member, Council Member Armstrong's involvement in the Clovis city government dates back to 1966 when he was appointed to the Clovis Planning Commission. First elected to the Clovis City Council in 1970, he has been re-elected 11 times and has served his city as mayor five times.

Council Member Armstrong stepped down from the League of California Cities board of directors on Thursday, after having served a combined total of 27 years on the board. He has been a member of the League's Transportation, Communications and Public Works Policy Committee since 1984, and active in the South San Joaquin Valley Division.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie honored Council Member Armstrong for his dedication, leadership and service to the League.

“Harry’s dedication to the cities of California is unsurpassed. He has brought incredible integrity and focus to his decades of service not only on the Clovis City Council but to the League of California Cities and all the other local government related organizations and agencies he has served,” said McKenzie. “The League of California Cities is eternally grateful for Harry’s 27 years of service on our South San Joaquin Valley Division, Transportation, Communications and Public Works Policy Committee, and countless task forces on important policy issues for cities.”

Council Member Armstrong expressed his gratitude in accepting the award. “The League has played such a critical role in improving and protecting all of our city’s interests over the years. I hope that by my participation on League committees, as a member of the board, and as a League president, that I’ve been part of that success. As I look back over the last 45 years, I can relish in all the friends that I have made, and the accomplishments that we have all achieved. I’ve been truly blessed.”

State Librarian Greg Lucas was Wednesday’s keynote speaker. The former *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Capitol Weekly* reporter spent years covering the Capitol and now serves as the head of California’s library system where he is responsible for the oversight of an archive with artifacts that date back to the 1500s.

Thursday’s general session featured demographic expert Cam Marston, who has studied generational trends in the workplace and marketplace for close to 20 years.

Attendees on Thursday also heard from National League of Cities President and Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker who reported on the nation’s oldest and largest municipal association representing cities.

### **Latino Caucus Anniversary Celebrated**

Latino Caucus President and Redwood City Council Member Alicia Aguirre celebrated the 25th anniversary of the League’s Latino Caucus during Thursday’s general session. After her remarks on the organization’s first diversity caucus, attendees viewed short video about the caucus. The video is available on the [Latino Caucus website](#).

### **Institute for Local Government Beacon Award**

Thursday’s general session included the recognition of the four recipients of the Institute for Local Government’s (ILG) [2015 Beacon Award](#), which honors local governments that lead the way on climate, energy and sustainability through voluntary action.

The four winning cities are:

- Redwood City;
- Hayward;
- South Gate; and
- Brisbane.

ILG, the nonprofit research affiliate of the League of California Cities, launched the Beacon Program with support from the California Public Utilities Commission, in 2009 to mobilize voluntary local action to achieve energy savings and reduce GHG emissions. To date, 76 local agencies have passed resolutions pledging their commitment to sustainability and their participation in the program.

### **League Honors Three Legislators of the Year, New Offices and Board Sworn in for 2015-16**

Annual Conference concluded on Friday with the last general session and the annual General Assembly. The two-hour meeting began with the recognition of the League’s three legislators of the year: Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-Watsonville), Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) and Sen. Jim Beall (D-San José).

The League recognized Assembly Member Alejo for his commitment in passing legislation that would restore a redevelopment tool for disadvantaged communities and establish a 25 percent set-aside for affordable housing.

Assembly Member Cooley was honored for his leadership in passing the League-supported Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

Sen. Beall was recognized for his long-term commitment to transportation issues and his efforts in the most recent legislative sessions to provide a new, sustainable source of funding for California's state highway and local streets and road system. He has been particularly helpful in ensuring that the critical maintenance needs for the network of local streets and roads remains prominent in these discussions.

For more information about the award and the 2015 Legislators of the Year please see, "Three Legislators Recognized with 2015 Legislator of the Year Award during League Annual Conference."

### **New League Officers and Board of Directors**

Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael assumed the role of League president, replacing Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar, who has held the position for the past year. Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce was elected first vice president and Palos Verdes Estates Mayor James Goodhart joined the officers as second vice president.

Under the League's bylaws officers serve a one-year term with the outgoing president, Council Member Aguilar becoming immediate past president and participating as an active member of the League's executive committee. Mayor Michael advances to his current position after serving the past year as the first vice president and Council Member Mounce becomes first vice president after serving her past term of second vice president.

For more information about the new League officers, please see, "Mayor L. Dennis Michael of Rancho Cucamonga Takes Helm as League President."

### **Resolutions**

The General Assembly approved three resolutions:

- League Bylaw Amendment;
- Overconcentration of Alcohol and Drug Treatment Facilities; and
- Residential Rentals, Support for SB 593 (McGuire).

More information is available at [www.cacities.org/resolutions](http://www.cacities.org/resolutions).

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### **'Legislators' Continued from Page 1...**

League President Stephany Aguilar presented the awards to each of these outstanding legislators during the concluding general session of the League's 117th Annual Conference & Expo in San José.

### **Assembly Member Alejo**

The League recognized Assembly Member Alejo for his commitment in passing legislation that would restore a redevelopment tool for disadvantaged communities and establish a 25 percent set-aside for affordable housing.

Assembly Member Alejo has consistently championed policies and legislation that improve California's most struggling communities. Gov. Jerry Brown on Sept. 24 signed AB 2, which is supported by a wide coalition of business groups including the California Chamber of Commerce and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, authorizes the creation of a new entity at the local level called a Community Revitalization Authority. This will provide a redevelopment option for the

most disadvantaged and poorest areas of the state and the newly created entity would be empowered to invest the property tax increment of consenting local agencies (other than schools) and other available funding. The result will be greater employment opportunities, lower crime rates, more affordable housing and the repair of deteriorated and inadequate infrastructure.

League President and Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar presented Assembly Member Alejo with the award. "I want to thank Assembly Member Luis Alejo on behalf of California's cities for his incredible dedication to our state's most disadvantaged communities. He understands how tax increment financing can be effectively used to transform communities and revitalize the areas that need the most investment."

Assembly Member Ajejo's upbringing shaped his views and inspired his public service. Through this background, he brings perspective on the challenges poor communities face and what the redevelopment tool meant for them.

"I'm truly honored to receive this award from the League of California Cities," states Assembly Member Alejo. "For the past three years I have been working diligently to create policy that will serve as a new effective tool to help and uplift disadvantaged communities throughout the state. I am grateful to have had the support of the League of California Cities and work side by side with them to help the state's most disadvantaged communities."

### **Assembly Member Cooley**

Assembly Member Cooley was honored for his leadership in passing the League-supported Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

Assembly Member Cooley, a former League first vice president and Rancho Cordova mayor and council member, agreed in late 2014 to serve as author of AB 266, the League and California Police Chiefs Association's sponsored medical marijuana regulatory framework legislation. AB 266 ultimately became authored by Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-Alameda) and became part of a legislative package that comprises AB 243 (Wood) and SB 643 (McGuire). This package is known as the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act and is on Gov. Jerry Brown's desk awaiting action.

League President and Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar helped present the award to her former colleague on the League board of directors. "I am honored to recognize Ken for his vision and leadership in crafting such a solid framework for medical marijuana. His work on this critical issue was instrumental in ensuring that the framework contains strong provisions that protect the public, local control and patient safety and access."

Assembly Member Cooley: "I'm honored to be named League of California Cities' Legislator of the Year. When I agreed a year ago to author the League's medical marijuana bill, my aim was not simply to support strong local control. I also felt that I could help bring this issue to a successful end after its repeated failures and such a breakthrough would strengthen the institution for future challenges. With the support of the League of California Cities we were able to meet both of those goals this year and I am so very proud of what we have accomplished."

Steering AB 266 through the various committees of the Assembly with energy and vision, Assembly Member Cooley played a significant role in the drafting and amending of this legislation to ensure it retained the strong local control and public safety provisions that were absolutely imperative for the League's and California Police Chiefs Association's continued support. He never wavered in his support of the legislation or in his desire to collaborate with his fellow legislators on this important issue.

### **Sen. Beall**

The League also presented the Legislator of the Year Award to Sen. Beall for his long-term commitment to transportation issues and his efforts in the most recent legislative sessions to provide a new, sustainable source of funding for California's state highway and local streets and road system. He has been particularly helpful in ensuring that the critical maintenance needs for the network of local streets and roads remains prominent in these discussions.

Sen. Beall in 2015 introduced SB 16 in the regular legislative session and SBx 1 1 in the Special Session on Transportation Funding to provide up to \$4.3 billion in new transportation revenues divided evenly between the state and cities and counties. He is chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and has been appointed as chair of the Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Transportation Funding, which will continue to work on a transportation funding proposal this fall. In addition, his SB 321 this year seeks to provide more stability to the variable gas tax; last year his SB 628 contained the Governor's new tax increment tool, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts.

League President and Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar presented Sen. Beall with the award in his hometown of San José. "As a former city council member and county supervisor, Sen. Jim Beall understands the importance of the local streets and road network, along with our state highways, to California's overall mobility, economy and quality of life. We thank him for his efforts, and look forward to continuing to work with him to develop sustainable funding sources to improve the quality of our state and local transportation network."

Sen. Jim Beall: "As a state senator and a former San Jose city council member, I have witnessed the League of California Cities' impressive ability to shape progressive legislation that enables our cities to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I consider it a great honor to be chosen as the League's Legislator of the Year, and I look forward to continue working with the League to make our communities livable, healthy and sustainable."

### **League Board of Directors Creates Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award to Recognize Six Legislators for Leadership in Authoring Medical Marijuana Legislation**

The League board of directors on Thursday, Oct. 1 voted to create a new award for legislative leadership. It will be given for the first time in 2015 to the six legislators who worked together this session to secure the passage of a trio of bills to provide for the comprehensive regulation of all aspects of the cultivation, sale and use of medical marijuana with strong local control provisions, including dual state-local licensing and a provision empowering local governments to unilaterally shut down a marijuana business for non-compliance with local licensing requirements.

The package includes AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Wood); AB 243 (Wood); and SB 643 (McGuire).

The award will be presented locally to these legislators for their tremendous leadership and collaborative efforts resulting in the development and approval of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act:

1. Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-Alameda);
2. Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova);
3. Assembly Member Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles);
4. Assembly Member Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale);
5. Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg); and
6. Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg).

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#### **'Officers' Continued from Page 1...**

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Mayor L. Dennis Michael has served on the League of California Cities board of directors since 2010 and is the past president of the League's Inland Empire Division. He began his career as a firefighter with Rancho Cucamonga Fire District in April 1976, promoting through the ranks as Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Division Chief. In 1984, he was appointed fire chief and guided the organization through its growth and development as the city grew from a small town to

a city of nearly 160,000 residents. After his retirement in 2003, he won a seat on the Rancho Cucamonga City Council in November 2004 and was elected mayor in 2010.

Mayor Michael was also recently elected president of San Bernardino County Associated Government (SANBAG) and is a member of SANBAG's General Policy, Metro Valley and Commuter Rail/Transit committees. He received the James Thalman Award in 2013 in recognition of his dedication to advancing the principles of local government.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie congratulated Mayor Michael on his appointment as League of California Cities president. "Dennis brings a long professional history in public service to his League presidency and a commitment to helping shape policies that strengthen California cities. His expertise as a fire fighter and emergency responder will be instrumental as California communities deal with the great challenges brought by the drought and the predicted historic El Niño weather pattern this winter."

McKenzie also recognized the dedicated service of Aguilar as League president. "We have had an outstanding president in Stephany Aguilar. She has brought incredible integrity and a wealth of experience to the office and has had a strong presence throughout California in the League's regional divisions. I congratulate Stephany on all that she has helped our organization accomplish this year."

As outgoing president, Ms. Aguilar also congratulated Mayor Michael on his new role of president saying, "Dennis cares deeply about California cities and working on behalf of our member cities to ensure that the city voice is heard in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. I leave the League presidency in good hands and look forward to the work Dennis will do in the upcoming year on behalf of our League."

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### **City of Monrovia Wins \$3,000 U.S. Communities Voucher for Grand Prize during League Annual Conference**

The city of Monrovia won the grand prize drawing on Friday, Oct. 2, during the closing general session of the League of California Cities® 117th Annual Conference & Expo. For the second year in a row, the League sponsored [U.S. Communities](#) program offered a \$3,000 voucher as the grand prize to be used with any of the program's 40-plus suppliers to purchase a wide range of products or services.

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, an important strategic partner of the League of California Cities®, is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits.

Through U.S. Communities, state and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers. Participating in this cooperative is easy, efficient and especially helpful for the small and medium sized cities because it allows them to get the same cost-saving discounts that are often available to larger cities.

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