

Renters Write



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Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights
Serving the Needs of All Santa Monica Residents Since 1979

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October 2015

Open Letter to SMRR Members

By Co-Chairs Patricia Hoffman and Denny Zane

On November 1 we are having our annual meeting to choose the members of our Steering Committee for the coming two years.

This is a crucial moment in SMRR's history. We urgently need SMRR members to attend and vote for a steering committee that will uphold our commitment to renters' rights, affordable housing and controls on development.

Groups that support luxury hotels, market rate housing and bigger development in Santa Monica are organizing, hoping to elect a pro-development SMRR Steering Committee. We need SMRR members to turn out and turn back this challenge and to help elect true neighborhood oriented, pro-affordable housing, thoughtful leaders to the SMRR steering committee.

Here's the background: The SMRR Steering Committee acts on behalf of the SMRR Membership between annual meetings of members. The

Committee is important so we can mobilize quickly to maintain protections for tenants and protect the character of our City, such as our opposition to the Hines project.

For almost 40 years, SMRR has been an open membership organization, relying on members like you to join us at our annual conventions to adopt our platform, elect our steering committee and endorse candidates for Santa Monica City Council and other local offices. And we have been remarkably successful, more successful than any comparable local organization in the nation.

For a number of years, other Santa Monica organizations have recruited their members to join SMRR. Our open membership policy meant that any Santa Monica resident could pay \$25 and become a member, come to conventions and vote. Usually, the efforts of allied organizations strengthened SMRR. But before the last City election **something important changed.** (see page 3)

Attend the SMRR 2015 Convention

On November 1, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights will hold its Annual Membership Convention at the Lincoln Middle School Auditorium starting at 1:00pm.

We will elect a Steering Committee to guide SMRR for the next two years. You must be present to vote, and your 2015 dues must be paid. SMRR members who joined prior to August 3, 2015 are eligible to vote.

Members from 2014 who still owe 2015 dues may renew by mailing a check in time to be received by 10/24, to 2633 Lincoln Blvd., #513, Santa Monica, CA 90405 to vote at this meeting. Renewing asap is encouraged and will facilitate the check-in procedure.

If you would like to run for a Steering Committee

Sunday, November 1

Sign in 12:30 PM

Begin 1:00 PM

**Lincoln Middle School Auditorium
(15th & California Ave.)**

seat, please call 310-394-0848 or send an email to steeringcommittee@smrr.org for nomination papers and info. The rules are simple. You must be a resident of Santa Monica, have paid your 2015 dues, and have been a member of SMRR for at least two years. You will need supporting signatures of 10 current SMRR members on an official nominating petition, which must be returned to 2633 Lincoln Blvd., #513, Santa Monica, CA 90405 no later than 6 PM on 10/24.