



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

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HAPPY NEW YEAR !!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:



Election Year 2016, let the excitement begin!! This year promises to be an interesting and stimulating year as we are called upon to run candidates forums and present Pros and Cons throughout the County. With voters looking to the League to provide unbiased, factual information about the candidates and issues, it will be a great opportunity to recruit friends, family and acquaintances to join in and participate in the process.

In the meantime, start the year off right by making it your goal to attend (and bring a friend) to all of the informative thought provoking events we have planned over the next several months before the election forums and pros and cons begin in earnest.

Plan on attending the Board meeting on January 14, at which time we will be discussing what local issues we would like to focus on for 2016. The more minds that work together the better when it comes to brainstorming about what issues in our county need monitoring and advocacy.

Plan on attending a discussion and sharing of what the national league has shared with us about Money in Politics on January 23. Following the discussion we will attempt to reach consensus on the questions presented to us by the National Study Committee. There have been so many changes and new developments in campaign finance since our earlier studies, it should be a very absorbing and provocative meeting.

Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, a spouse, or yourself attending or planning on attending college in California? If so be sure to make time on February 27 to learn what our Public Higher Education Committee has learned about higher education in California. Following the presentation we will check for consensus on the questions posed by the state PHE Community. Your input is important!

Attend the Transportation Infrastructure Forum planned for April 30. There will be an expert panel of knowledgeable people in the field of transportation infrastructure, roads and bridges in particular. You will learn about what is predicted for the next 25 years and the problems that exist and what is being done to meet current needs. Bring friends and become informed and ready to lead.

I hope you have had a refreshing holiday and are ready to dive in to 2016. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

As we begin a new year it is time once again to begin the Program Planning process in anticipation of LWVUS' National Convention in June. We encourage all members to come to our next Board meeting on Thursday, January 14 to give your input on where you would like our National League to focus its attention in the next couple of years.

Yours in League,
Pat Essick - President

Money in Politics - Mark Your Calendars !!!

• campaign season highlights need for review •

National League Needs Our Input on Money in Politics

The national league's study committee on **Money In Politics** has provided us with a wealth of materials on the laws, court cases, and regulations that govern contributions to political parties, candidates, and other political organizations. Come learn and participate in answering the consensus questions posed to us. Collectively these responses will guide the LWVUS in advocating on campaign finance issues. Click [here](#) to read review materials.

➤ SPECIAL EVENT ◀

Saturday, January 23 - LWVVC Meeting on Money Politics - 9:00 am. Location: E. P. Foster Library, Topping Room, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, free parking in the back. **Discussion and Consensus** on LWVUS Money in Politics study. Given where we are in the Presidential election cycle, if ever there were a time to learn about and discuss the effects of money in politics, it would be now.

Holiday Luncheon Was One of the Best

• friendship, food, flowers •

It must have been a success because everyone was talking and laughing. In what was one of the loveliest settings in recent memory for our holiday luncheon, LWVVC members gathered at the Pierpont Inn in December to celebrate the year and share stories and good cheer as well as a bit of self-congratulatory back slapping for all we accomplished during 2015. A very special thanks goes out to Helen LaMonte for the absolutely beautiful floral arrangements, they gilded the lily.



Gus Andrews and Frank Pecarich discuss world peace...



...while Barbara Doyle and Pat Butler debate the existence of Santa Claus.

(LWVVC Consensus: World peace needs a lot more work and the whole Santa thing is still very iffy)

LWVVC Public Higher Education Committee Update

- January 19 in Ojai for next meeting •

Committee Forges Ahead With Plans for Public Meeting

The Public Higher Education Committee is meeting again on January 19 at the Cafe Emporium in Ojai at 11 am. Anyone who is interested may attend. We will be eating lunch as we meet. We will be reviewing the information we plan on presenting for discussion later this year including whether we want to invite an outside speaker to join our presentation. We will also be deciding whether we want to hold our public presentation of the material including consensus meeting following it at the E.P Foster Library or go for a bigger venue. The presentation is currently planned (but not confirmed) for February 27, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with lunch at Noon before the consensus meeting. Lunch and publicity arrangements will be discussed at our January 19 meeting.

Submitted by Pat Essick, PHE Committee

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

- all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

▶ **Thursday, January 14** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). **Open to all members. Come to participate in Program Planning for the LWVUS, in preparation for the Convention in June.**

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Barbara Doyle

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

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Pamela Pecarich

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler
Suzanne Harvey
Helen LaMonte
Steve Lattimore
Carol Lindberg
Jennifer Matos
Pat Murray

▶ **Saturday, January 23** - LWVVC Meeting on Money in Politics - 9:00 am. Location: E. P. Foster Library, Topping Room, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, free parking in the back. **Discussion and Consensus** on LWVUS Money in Politics study is due by February 1.

▶ **Thursday, February 11** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.

▶ **Wednesday, February 24** - Thousand Oaks area LWVVC members will meet to prepare materials for the annual Teen Voter Outreach Program of the Thousand Oaks Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) - 9:00 am to Noon. Announcements, voter registration cards, and a congratulatory letter from Thousand Oaks's mayor will be sent to graduating high school seniors in the area. Participants will meet at the CVUSD office at 1400 Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks.

▶ **Saturday, February 27** - Consensus Meeting on LWVVC Higher Education Study. Location and time TBA. Study will be presented and consensus conducted. See link at end of VOTER for study materials.

- ▶ **Thursday, March 10** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, April 14** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE! April 29** - LWVVC Forum on Transportation Infrastructure with invited panelists - 9 am to 1 pm. Location: Ventura County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Road.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 12** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 19** - Tour of the port in Port Hueneme - 10 am to Noon. Location: TBA. Following the tour we will hold a catered lunch including speaker. We will provide more detail in the next few months.
- ▶ **Thursday, June 9** - LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 am to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law, Classroom #1 located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **June 16 - 19** - LWVUS National Convention. Location: Washington DC. The 2016 LWVUS Convention will be held June 16-19, 2016 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC , 20008. Additional information can be found by clicking [National Convention](#).

CURRENT LEAGUE STUDIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ LWVC study this term is <i>Public Higher Education: Access and Affordability</i>- study materials available here. Consensus due April 1, 2016. ▶ LWVUS 2014-2016 program on Key Structures of Democracy includes two studies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>U.S. Constitution</i>: Committee studying process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the | <p>gaps and challenges in those methods. LWVVC Consensus Submitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Money in Politics</i>: Committee is updating League's position on campaign finance in order to address the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. Consensus due February 1, 2016. <p>Information on LWVUS studies can be found here.</p> |
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