



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

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CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

We held our annual Program Planning meeting, Saturday, January 24 at the E. P. Foster Library. We were pleased to start our meeting with a very informative presentation by Jill Sarick Santos, an Environmental Specialist for the City of Ventura. She gave us many practical ideas and suggestions

for ways to conserve water in our daily lives in light of the drought.

Following her presentation and a question and answer period, Barbara Doyle and Pam Pecarich presented information about possible topics to be considered for study for this year - a lively discussion followed. Be sure to read the article below for more information. Thank you Carol Lindberg for arranging for the speaker and meeting room at the E. P. Foster Library, and thank you Pam, Barbara, and Judy for your "topic" presentations for our consideration.

The new 2015 Membership Directory is complete and you should have received yours by now. It is chock full of information. One particularly useful feature of the directory is the List of Members by City. Now, when you want to attend a meeting, you can contact a fellow member in your area and arrange to carpool. Or, if you need to check out a place for a meeting in a city other than your own, you can call someone in that area for assistance, saving you an extra drive. For your convenience you will also find the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of Ventura County city halls, county government contacts, members of the Board of Supervisors, state elected officials, U.S. Senate and Congressional Representatives, and President and Vice-President. Kudos to Suzanne Harvey, Pam Pecarich, Judy Murphy, and Barbara Doyle for creating such a valuable resource.

Women's History month is in March and we are in the midst of planning a corresponding program. If you have suggestions, please let Steven Lattimore, our Program Chairperson, know. He can be reached at lattimor@humnet.ucla.edu or by calling 805-525-6088.

Yours in League,

Barbara Doyle and Pat Essick
Co-Presidents

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PROGRAM PLANNING DE-BRIEF

• a few decide for the many..•

RESULTS FROM JANUARY PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING



Eleven stalwart members attended our annual Program Planning meeting in January. The meeting kicked off at 9:30 AM with a (very) “valued added” presentation by Jill Sarick Santos, an Environmental Specialist for the City of Ventura. Jill gave a delightful and informative presentation on ways to conserve water both inside and outside of our homes, with references to several helpful websites (see below). She even provided 2 goodie bags full of equipment to help conserve water and lower your water bill – the bags were auctioned off at the end of her presentation. Thank you, Jill!

We then moved on to program planning. Introductory remarks were made by co-President Barbara Doyle who gave an overview of the program planning process. This year’s program focused on our review of current State league positions, in anticipation of the

LWVC State Convention in San Diego in May. A handout was provided to meeting attendees with a summary of current LWVC positions - consensus was reached on retaining all of them.

Before deciding what LWVVC’s recommendation would be as to what State League should focus on for the next 2 years, Barbara reviewed the current National studies that are currently in the formation process: U.S. Constitution and Money in Politics. In addition, there is a current State study underway on Higher Education (UC and CSU systems). LWVC anticipates that study materials will be available in August, with consensus due by April 2016. These studies, along with our local League’s regular activities such as voter registration, candidates forums, programs for members and the public (like our Water Forum in December), mean our plates are full!

Our next task was to consider what issue(s) we would like to recommend that State league pursue: study a new issue, update an existing issue, focus on community education on a particular issue, or

advocate for an issue? As an example of updating a position, Judy Murphy and Pam Pecarich spoke about our Elections System position, specifically electronic voting and how, in the wake of the passage of SB 360, each county in California will be choosing *its own* electronic voting system.

This was followed by presentation of an example of a potential new study topic. Barbara outlined for the audience a proposal by LWV of San Diego supporting a study on Death with Dignity. As we all know, the press has recently published editorials in favor of a new bill introduced by state Senators Monning and Wolk that would closely follow the Oregon law passed 20 years ago.

After a lively discussion, members reached consensus on the following recommendations to State league:

- a new study on Death with Dignity and;
- advocacy in monitoring the implementation of SB 360.



LWVVC’s Judy Murphy (l) and Barbara Doyle (r) Outline Program Topics

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents:

Barbara Doyle
Patricia Essick

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Pamela Pecarich

Program Vice President:

Steve Lattimore

Directors at Large:

Pat Murray
Carol Lindberg

When our LWVVC Board meets on February 12, members will ratify sending these suggestions to State League. Should sufficient other leagues in California concur, these proposals will be presented to delegates at our 2015 State Convention.

Next January we will review National positions prior to the LWVUS Convention in June 2016.

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, co-President

Useful websites for learning about ways in which we can all conserve water including gardening and landscaping tips & watering guides and resources



Waterwise Gardening in Ventura County: <http://www.venturacountygardening.com/>



City of Ventura Environmental Sustainability: <http://sustainableventura.tv/>



City of Ventura Water Efficient Landscapes: <http://www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape>

GEARING UP TO REGISTER TEENS

• lwvvc, city of thousand oaks, and conejo school district join forces..•

Happy 18th Birthday to Conejo Students



On Wednesday, February 25, volunteers from LWVVC and staff members from the Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) will be stuffing envelopes and preparing to mail the Mayor’s annual birthday letter and voter registration cards to 18-year-old students in the Conejo Valley area. As its name suggests, the Teen Voter Outreach Program is designed to encourage local 18 year olds to become registered voters. The program is sponsored each year by the LWVVC in conjunction with the City of Thousand Oaks and the CVUSD.

According to LWVVC member and Thousand Oaks City Clerk Linda Lawrence, the program has successfully reached over 16,000 students among Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Westlake Village, Conejo Valley, La Reina, and Christian Oaks high schools. If you would like more information about the program or would like to participate in the February 25 event, please contact Pat Murray (see Calendar below for details and contact information).

Submitted by Pat Murray, Director at Large

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below for the when's and where's. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from January Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Treasurer's Report – Pam Pecarich reported that the LWVVC Scholarship money is now in a separate LWVVC Education Fund account. In 1980, when state law changed, LWVVC was misclassified as a "mutual benefit organization" rather than a "public benefit corporation". Getting it changed will require a change to our Articles of Incorporation, something we will address at our Annual Meeting in June. A LWVVC Budget Committee was formed.
- Program – Steve Lattimore provided a recap of our Water Forum and spoke about putting on an April program on transportation and infrastructure. The Board decided that a Pros and Cons program on SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources) would be better next year when it is on the ballot. There was discussion about a Women's History Month program on human trafficking or problems facing female field workers.
- Voter Service - Pat Murray spoke about teen voter registration efforts in the Conejo Valley School District and asked for volunteers on February, 25.
- Membership – Barbara Doyle reported that we have 96 members.
- New business - The LWVVC convention is May 15-17 in San Diego. We are entitled to 3 delegates (or 4 if we get 5 more members by Jan. 31). A few Board members expressed interest in attending the convention and there is money in the budget to cover some of their expenses. LWVUS will celebrate its 95th birthday on February, 14 – no action planned by LWVVC. We will try to get a nominations committee together next month but we really need help.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Updates to Membership Directory

- Diana Goodrow, Oak View- goodrowdh@aol.com
- Helen Myerson – new email address: hmbridge26@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

• lwvvc needs you! •

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested in getting involved, send an email to lwv@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do. Someone will contact you to follow-up.

The official League Board is down to seven members. This is the smallest board in the history of this League and therefore your participation as a member has never been more important. Several of you have stepped up to help – thank you.

Each of us needs to volunteer to do what we can, large or small, once or often, to keep this League vital.

- Barbara Doyle & Pat Essick

▶ I would like to hear from League members who would be interested in **working on a committee to plan an April public forum** dealing with the interrelated topics of Ventura County transportation issues and infrastructure. If you have not served on the Program committee nor previously worked on a forum: Welcome!! Contact Steve Lattimore 805-525-6088 if you have some time to give.

▶ **Articles for the VOTER** from other websites: You don't have to write it but if you are willing to check into state and national news, especially the state League's website, for relevant stories to include in the VOTER, please contact Suzanne at gray.harvey@verizon.net. Do it for us each month or for one month – we need the help.

▶ We (still) need people who would be interested in **servicing on a committee that shares the load** of getting the following jobs done:

- Member of Nominating Committee -
- Membership Vice President or, Member of Membership Committee
- Voter Service Vice President or, join as a Member of the Committee - we really need you here
- Program Assistant
- VOTER Production
- Smart Voter "Manager" - election season is hot time.

Please contact either Barbara Doyle (gregnbarbara@yahoo.com), or Pam Pecarich (ppecar@aol.com) for more information about the above 5 committee positions- phone numbers can be found in latest Membership Directory. The League needs you! Volunteer yourself or recommend a member whom you think would be able to serve – we'll take it from there.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to gray.harvey@verizon.net and tell us what you need and we'll include it in the next Voter. Please include dates, location, time of day.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

- all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

- ▶ **Thursday, February 12** – LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 AM to 1 PM (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law Conference Room, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Wednesday, February 25** – Teen Voter Outreach Program envelope preparation – 9:00 AM to Noon. Location: Conejo Valley Unified School District, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. Contact Pat Murray for further information (805-522-4231 or jspymurray@sbcglobal.net).
- ▶ **March, Date & Time TBA** – Program in honor of Women’s History Month - Light refreshments will be served.
- ▶ **Thursday, March 12** – LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 AM to 1 PM (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law Conference Room, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, April 9** – LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 AM to 1 PM (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law Conference Room, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 14** – LWVVC Board Meeting – 11:00 AM to 1 PM (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law Conference Room, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.
- ▶ **May 15 thru 17** – LWV California Convention. Location: San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter.

Monday, March 9 – AAUW Women’s History Project - 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Location: Thousand Oaks Library Community Room. Come “meet” these five notable women as presented by Lori Peters’ students from One Spark Academy: Maya Angelou (1928-2014), Jane Goodall (1934-), Wilma Mankiller (1945-2010), Yoshiko Uchida (1921–1992), Malala Yousafzai (1997-). The presentations will be followed by a short video about Malala Yousafzai. Refreshments will be served.

