



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

February, 2016 Volume 58 No.7

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:



The League of Women Voters’ priorities are right-on at the national level. They are focused on voter rights and fair elections. To that end, on Saturday, January 23, LWVVC held its “Money in Politics” (National’s program topic) consensus meeting to educate ourselves and come to consensus on issues affecting campaign finance. It was a stimulating and eye-opening morning which included three presenters, Pam Pecarich, Judy Murphy and I, and approximately 15 League members and interested guests. I was at first daunted by the complexity of the material to be covered but was pleased that in the end it was

comprehensible and felt well worth our time. Thanks to all of you who attended and shared your thoughts while we worked through the consensus process.

Did you know that among the state’s most highly prepared high school graduates, their enrollment rate in college has declined from 67% to 55%? Or, that in spite of increasing industry and business demands for more college graduates, high school graduates are less likely to enroll in 4-year colleges today? If you are curious and –want to find out how that could be, plan on coming to our Public Higher Education Seminar being presented by LWVVC’s Public Higher Education Committee and, the Ventura Community College on February 27. Steve Blum of the Ventura Community College Board will join committee members in sharing their observations on the state of public higher education today including ramifications and suggested fixes. Following the seminar, League members will be asked to stay and help answer the consensus questions posed by the LWVC Public Higher Education Committee. Lunch will be provided so be sure to RSVP. Don’t miss out, save February 27 on your calendar. This would be an excellent League event to invite parents of high school students, grand parents concerned for their grandchildren’s education, active PTA members, business owners, teachers, or education minded friends to attend. They will be interested to learn of the changes that have been taking place in higher education in California and why.

With election season fast approaching David Maron, member and moderator extraordinaire, has offered to come to our February 11th Board Meeting to assist us in planning for the election season. We encourage all members to come and learn about opportunities to be involved; campaign forums, pros and cons presentations, voter registration efforts, and serving at the polls. If there is enough interest we could plan a workshop to provide training on how to be a moderator and conduct a candidates forum. It is fun to be involved in the democratic process and really makes you appreciate our government and League mission. We need you!

Yours in League,
Pat Essick - President

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SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday, February 27 - Plan on coming to the Public Higher Education Seminar being presented by the LWVVC Public Higher Education Committee and Ventura Community College. Seminar will begin at 9:30 am and include lunch. Location: Ventura County Community College District Office, 255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 150, Ventura (see Calendar below for location and parking details). Steve Blum of the Ventura Community College Board, and Celina Zacharia of CSUCI will join committee members in speaking about the state of public higher education today including access and student preparedness. Following the seminar League members will be asked to stay and help answer consensus questions. **Education affects all of us so be sure to come and bring a friend!**



Friday, April 29 - LWVVC Public Forum on Transportation Infrastructure with invited panelists - We will gather at 9:30 am for coffee and the program will begin at 10:00 am. Location: Ventura County Office of Education, Salon C, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, 93012. A group of expert panelists will discuss the critical need to repair, maintain and improve our Ventura County roads and bridges including ideas on possible funding options. This Forum promises to be especially interesting and enlightening. **Invite friends and help us get the word out! We are lining up fantastic speakers and plan on a really terrific Forum.**

Decisions Made @ Program Planning Meeting

- this year we're focusing locally •

Program Planning Accomplished at January 14 Board Meeting:

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Barbara Doyle

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Pamela Pecarich

Directors at Large:

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

Instead of our usual league-wide meeting in January, program planning for our League was performed at our recent Board meeting, open to all members of LWVVC and the public. Program planning alternates annually between State and National positions, with 2016 being the year LWVUS positions were to be considered. The purpose of the program planning session is to review existing positions to determine if our League would like to update any and also to decide if our League would like to work on a brand-new study.

After a lively discussion it was the consensus of those present that our League not advocate for a new study or update. Instead, we plan to use current positions, broadly interpreted, to advocate and take action in our local community.

Our League's recommendation has been filed with LWVUS, along with the recommendations of all the other Leagues through the US. It is the job of the LWVUS board to consider the recommendations and present them to the delegates at the 2016 LWVUS convention, which will be held in Washington DC in June.

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, Vice President

In Search of Nominating Committee Members

• we need you •

We Really Need a Nominating Committee

We are looking for 2 members to join the Nominating Committee to form a Board for next year. Cheryl Collart has agreed to serve and the current Board will appoint two members to help the committee. Contact Cheryl or send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org if you would be interested in helping.

For Example, Critical Function of Treasurer Will Need Filling

A Treasurer – one office we know will be open for the 2016-2017 League year is that of Treasurer. While Pam Pecarich will help the new Treasurer get off to a good start in July, and will be available to help during the year, she is resigning from that office as of June 30. Following is a brief job description.

The Treasurer makes deposits, writes checks, and prepares a monthly Treasurer's report for the Board. In addition, this officer does the annual on-line tax filings and periodically requests reports from the LWVC on the Education Fund. Another task is to help the Budget Committee and Board assess our financial status and prepare a new budget by compiling income and expenses to date by account (usually after 6 months and at the end of the year). All recordkeeping and reports can be easily accomplished on Excel.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in taking on the role of LWVVC Treasurer, contact Cheryl Collart, Pam Pecarich, or send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Treasurer

Public Higher Education Committee Update

• critical issues to be discussed at public meeting •

Committee Planning Update

LWVVC's Public Higher Education Committee met on January 19 at Ojai's Café Emporium to share study materials and plan for our upcoming public presentation and consensus meeting in February. Steve Blum, Ventura Community College Board member, joined the committee and suggested that we share sponsorship of the event with Ventura Community College. Celina Zacarias, assistant to CSUCI President Dr. Rush, has agreed to participate as well.

Committee member Steve Lattimore shared his ideas for possible fixes to our current public education system and identified a few of its problems; increased numbers of students (due to population growth) and the limited number of campuses. One proposed solution was to enable some community colleges to offer 4-year degrees so that students could get their undergraduate degrees while still living at home (less expensively), and without being hindered from getting their degrees due to impaction at typical 4-year colleges.

Pat Essick reported on the major problem of the “defunding” of public higher education. She reported on the effects of California’s fiscal crises on its financial commitment to public higher education including competing state priorities. California now spends more on corrections (think prisons) than public universities.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 pm on February 2 at Pat Essick’s house in Ojai. All are welcome. For directions, call 701-0109.

Submitted by Pat Essick, Committee Member

Heavy Election Season Coming Up

• lwvvc planning on very busy few months •

Ready for Election Season – May/June and October/November?

Apart from the interesting Presidential race, we in Ventura County are facing an exciting and unpredictable election season locally as well. Join in the fun! Contact Helen LaMonte at 805-495-1600 if you are willing to participate in LWVVC candidates forums and other programs in any capacity.

Submitted by Pat Pecarich, Treasurer

LWVVC Forum on Transportation Infrastructure

• a “must come” for anyone interested in our roads & bridges •

Forum on the Status of our Aging Transportation Infrastructure

The critical need to repair, maintain and improve our Ventura County roads and bridges will be explored at a LWVVC Forum on Friday, April 29th. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee at the Ventura County Office of Education Services Center in Camarillo. The panel presentations will begin at 10 am following introductory remarks by a member of the California legislature. A question and answer period with the audience will follow the formal portion of the program.

At present, two panel members have accepted our invitation to speak. We look forward to hearing from David Fleisch, Director of Ventura County Transportation Department and Keith Millhouse, Moorpark Councilman and member of Southern CA Association of Governments.

The program committee will meet again on Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. in Santa Paula at the Mupu Grill, 930 E. Main Street. Please feel free to join us. For more information, contact any committee member: Pat Essick, Steve Lattimore, Carol Lindberg, Suzanne Harvey, Pam Pecarich.

Submitted by Carol Lindberg, Committee Member

Tour of Port Hueneme's Port

• lwvvc organizing spring tour •

Port of Hueneme tour, Thursday, May 19

LWVVC has organized a free tour of the Port to be led by the Port's Public Information Officer, Will Berg. Leaguers will meet at the Port (carpooling suggested) before 10:00 am for a 2-hour tour by bus. The tour will be followed by an optional catered lunch on site at the Port for \$20 which will include a PowerPoint presentation with further information about the Port during lunch.

More information will be available in the April Voter. Anyone interested in participating should email Barbara Doyle (gregnbarbara@yahoo.com). Barbara will keep a list of those who want to participate and will email you with more detailed information as it becomes available.

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, Vice President

March is Woman's Month

• we're working on something slightly different •

Women's Month is March 2016

Instead of listing one or two famous women and their contributions to civilization, we are asking each of our members to bring a brief statement about a woman who inspired you and how, to a meeting we are planning for March. It will be great fun to hear about her at the March meeting. She may be from modern times or ancient times. She can be a public figure, a family member or a friend. You may dress in a costume if you like and might even want to see if participants can guess who she is. See our website or next month's VOTER for the where's and when's.

Submitted by Pat Butler, 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:

- Committee members discussed progress being made by both the LWVVC Public Higher Education and Transportation Infrastructure committees on plans for their respective upcoming programs.
- The Board discussed the pros and cons of applying to change from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(C)(3) organization.

- Program Planning for 2016 – Barbara Doyle reviewed the program planning process and Pat Essick reviewed the 2014-2016 League studies. She spoke about how thin the LWVUS resources (staff and money) have become. The Board decided that we should focus on advocating for current positions in our local situation and focus on the election year activities.
- Cheryl Collart reported on progress being made by the Ventura Charter Review Committee - Committee filed its final report with the Ventura City Council. Further action is on hold until the Council can fit it into its agenda, probably in February.
- Ideas were posited regarding LWVVC’s plans for Women’s History Month.
- Pat Essick suggested that we look into the Interview Our Representative program.
- In as much as this year’s Membership Directory would not have (m)any changes to the legislative portion, the Board decided to create a PDF file of our membership and send that out in lieu of printing a whole new directory.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

We welcome our new member.

- Dorothy Jones - Oxnard.

Donors -

Thank you to our Donors !!

- Connie Baer
- Katie Fellows

LWVVC Scholarship Fund:

- Carmen Hurd

*To make a tax deductible contribution to our scholarship fund make checks payable to “LWVVC Education Fund” with a note that contribution is for the scholarship. Mail donations to:
LWVVC, PO Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Thank you.*

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

- all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

▶ **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.

▶ **Saturday, February 20** - Throw Your Hat Into the Ring: Politicians Discuss the Realities of Campaigning - 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Location: Lundring Hall on the Campus of CLU. Free Admission and Open to All. Hosted by the AAUW Thousand Oaks and California Lutheran University, the program will consist of a panel discussion between elected officials, campaign staff and future candidates as to the real issues facing someone running for office. Invited participants: Julia Brownley, Dianne McKay, Jacqui Irwin, Henry Stern and Carla Castillo. Contact Jeanette Hosek for further information (jhosek@roadrunner.com).

▶ **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 Oak'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** - Seminar & Consensus on LWVC Public Higher Education Study. Location: Ventura County Community College District Office, 255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 150, Ventura. They share an office with the Ventura Unified School District. Guest parking is in the front parking lot nearest the flag pole/fountain. Parking passes/permits are not necessary. Enter through the single door to the right of the double doors (look for the signs at the sidewalk). Seminar will include lunch. 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.

▶ **Friday, April 29** - LWVVC Forum on Transportation Infrastructure with invited panelists - 9:30 am to 1 pm. Location: Ventura County Office of Education, Salon C, 5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, 93012. We will gather at 9:30 am with coffee and the program will begin at 10:00 am.

▶ **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 have permission to use a room at the Port for a catered lunch (arrangements will be made after the March board meeting). Mr. Berg of Port Hueneme will be our guest at the luncheon and he will show a short power point presentation with additional information about the Port. We will need to RSVP to him with a **firm head count by May 5**. There is no charge for the tour, but the lunch will be about \$15-\$20 per person.

▶ **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

▶ LWVC study this term is *Public Higher Education: Access and Affordability*- study materials available [here](#). Consensus due April 1, 2016.

