



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

February, 2017 Volume 59 No.6



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! A **Call to Action** for all LWV VC members:

On **Saturday, February 11, 2017**, from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon, we invite you to join us for our **Program Planning Session for 2017-2019**. We will discuss and select "Issues for Emphasis" for our local and state leagues to pursue over the next 2 years. The approach to these issues may take the form of a study of an issue (or an update of an issue on

which the League has taken a position), community education about an issue, or legislative advocacy on an issue - or a combination of any of these approaches.

Last June the LWVUS convention adopted a national program called "Campaign for Making Democracy Work," which included:

- ▶ Protection and mobilization,
- ▶ Election reform, and
- ▶ Money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting.

Work continues on these issues.

At our Program Planning Session on February 11, our discussion will include:

- ▶ Where should we engage and where can we make a difference?
- ▶ What are the issues of most concern to our members and how can we address them, locally as well as statewide and nationally?
- ▶ Are there current positions taken in the past by LWV that need to be revisited and updated?
- ▶ What are our priorities for issues to present to the state League for study, education of our communities, and develop for legislative advocacy?

By the end of our session we will select our recommendations to be sent to the State League Board. The Board will review responses from all local leagues and develop a Recommended Program for 2017-2019 which they will send back to local leagues for review. At the State Convention in Sacramento June 1-4, 2017, the delegates representing local leagues will discuss and adopt a statewide program.

Join us - democracy only works if its citizens participate.

Yours in League and with deep appreciation,

Betsy Patterson & Pat Essick
Co-Presidents

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SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday, February 11 – PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING - 9:30 am to 12:00. Location: Ventura College of Law, Community Room located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura

Early in the calendar year the membership meets to do program planning in preparation for the upcoming convention, state or national. This year it is for the California state league. We will discuss and decide on input to provide them regarding suggested topics for study or issues on which to focus their attention

for advocacy. This year we no longer are asked to review each state position for concurrence but rather to focus on where we think greatest attention is required.

Watch this space – for information about LWVVC sponsored public program on Climate Change.

Program Planning on Steroids?

Program Planning in a Fast-Paced World

Folks, our world is changing in several important ways. That message is from Tom Friedman in his latest book, Thank You for Being Late. Friedman claims that there are three worldwide forces that are accelerating exponentially. They are:

- globalization of the world economy
- climate change including loss of biodiversity and certain population increases
- technological advancements which have simply exploded since 2007

In his book, Friedman describes each of these changes and outlines the ways in which they are affecting our day to day lives. He points out that since the changes are happening faster than most people can adapt, we need to change how we teach students and become lifelong self-motivated learners. He discusses how important community support and inclusiveness will be to that effort.

All this naturally brings me to the League’s state planning program. I have been a member of the League on and off for over 50 years and am well acquainted with our process of study, consensus and action, a process that takes at least two years. After reading Friedman’s book, I propose that we step out of the box and figure out how we can still study and advocate, but at the speed that today’s world is moving.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Ojai

Board of Directors:

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Robert Lowe

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Suzanne Harvey
Helen LaMonte
Steve Lattimore
Carol Lindberg
Jennifer Matos
Pam Pecarich
Karen Savitt

Morning After the Women's March

LWVUS Has Some Ideas on Next Steps

On January 21, 2017 millions of women and men around the world turned out to make our voices heard. The Women's March was an historic day that brought attention to important issues - but our work is just beginning. Here are some actions you can take RIGHT NOW to make a difference in your community and beyond.



1. Encourage People to Join the LWV!

The League is working to make a difference and actively engaging people in more than 700 communities around the country. Attend a local League event to get involved in our work to engage with elected officials, empower new voters and to learn about issues that impact your community.

2. Call Congress – and call them often!

Elected officials work for the people and need to hear from concerned citizens like you. Whether you marched to protect voting rights, healthcare or the environment, make sure Congress knows YOUR priorities.

3. Help Register Voters!

It might not be an election year where you live – but it's never too early to make sure your registration is up to date. The League works year-round in hundreds of communities to prepare eligible voters. Check out www.VOTE411.org for more information.

4. Make a Donation to Defend our Democracy!

Your support makes it possible for the League to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

5. Become an e-Activist!

Read updates from the League and take action by holding your elected officials accountable on the League's key priorities like voting rights and money in politics.

Source: LWVUS (with a little touching up from LWVVC VOTER)

LWVVC Represented at VCRRN Annual Event



L to R, Karen Savitt and Carol Lindberg represent LWVVC at annual event

We Were There

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County had a public presence at the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network annual event on January 15th. We staffed a table and answered questions about League activities and distributed brochures and membership forms.

Submitted by Pat Butler, Membership Chair

LWVVC Scholarship Committee Update

Moorpark College Students Invited to Apply

This year's LWVVC Scholarship will be awarded to a student from Moorpark College. A flyer designed by one of the College's students and inviting students to apply for the scholarship have been sent out. Students have until March 3, 2017 to apply. LWVV will receive a call sometime in April letting us know about the winner.

As in year's past, we will be invited to attend the awards ceremony.

Submitted by Geri Loe, LWVVC Scholarship Committee

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 – Bob Lowe reported that our application to the IRS for 501(c)3 non-profit status has been submitted. We expect to hear back sometime in February.

■ Program – Steve Lattimore and his committee are planning a public forum on climate change. They are working on contacting the first of possible speakers:

■ New Business – Betsy Patterson updated the Board reported that LWV California has asked for an evaluation of our study process (what is working and what is not) and asked if we favor consensus on general principles or specific stands. The Board discussion included:

- Do we want another study or just advocacy/education on current positions?
- Where should LWVC and LWVVC focus their efforts and what form should those efforts take?
- What advocacy/lobbying is actually being done on our positions, i.e., Higher Education?
- What is the legislature going to be working on and will the League be a player on the subject?
- In a world that is changing exponentially, is our LWV study process working?
- How can we take advantage of the desire for grassroots actions following the November election (local action on national and state issues)?

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

We are especially happy to have these members dispersed around the county.

- Peachie Maher Hytowitz, Westlake Village
- Juli Farley, Ventura

Donors – Thank you to our donors !!

- Len Shulman
- Pat Essick

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you

- Melanie Ashen

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to “LWVVC Education Fund” with a notation “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line of the check. Send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786 Ventura, CA 93006. Contributions are tax deductible.

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 info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

▶ **Advocacy Committee.** This group will be particularly important regarding when and if LWVVC endorses ballot measures including initiating League deliberations as soon as ballot issues are determined. LWVVC can advocate on subjects on which the League has a position. We cannot disagree with state or national

endorsements however we can decide not to take any action. Chelsea Sutula – Ventura, and Carol Lindberg – Ventura are looking for other members to join them in this effort.

▶ **Members for a Program Committee** to help identify topics of interest and plan meetings, forums.

▶ **In Search Of Someone to Take Over as LWVVC's Representative to the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network.** We need someone who will keep our Board and members (via the VOTER) informed of the doings of the organization and serve as our liaison. For example, they hold one or two events each year where we typically have a presence.

▶ **Articles for the VOTER. We are always looking for articles** to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members should send it to info@lwvventuracounty.org. **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org 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

▶ **Tuesday, January 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).

▶ **Saturday, February 11 - Program Planning Meeting** – 9:30 am coffee & pastries, 10:00 meeting. Location: Ventura College of Law, Community Room located off the Courtyard, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear). In preparation for LWVVC state convention.

▶ **Tuesday, February 7 - 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).

▶ **Tuesday, March 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).

▶ **Tuesday, April 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).

▶ **Tuesday, May 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).

▶ **Thursday, June 1 thru 4 - 2017 LWVVC Convention** - Location: Sacramento. For California Leaguers, attending the state convention in our capitol city is not to be missed. And, the 2017 LWVVC Convention will continue that tradition. We will include more information as it becomes available.

▶ **Tuesday, June 13 - 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).

