



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VENTURA COUNTY

# VOTER

April, 2015 Volume 57 No.8

## CO-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

We live in exciting times and have much for which to be thankful including living in the United States of America where we are guaranteed equal rights, the right to vote (thanks, in no small part to the founders of the League of Women Voters), and the freedom to express ourselves. We are also citizens of a country that believes in the power of law and justice. Of course, for our system of

government to flourish, we, the citizens, need to be educated and active in standing up for what we believe is ethical and correct. The League provides just such an opportunity.

Education is key, the foundation of democracy. Public higher education in California is in the news a lot with calls for reform to ensure accessibility including changes in funding, and concerns about affordability, student preparedness, and other barriers to entry. The League would like to be able to weigh in on these topics but we lack a position on higher education in California.

Toward that end, I am pleased to share that eight members of LWVVC have stepped up to participate in LWVC’s upcoming study of public higher education. We will appoint a committee chair and begin meeting after the April Board meeting. If you would like to join the study committee, send us an email to: [lwv@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:lwv@lwvventuracounty.org) - this would be a great way to learn about the League!

In keeping with the League’s mission to encourage an informed electorate, the LWVVC Board has been hard at work preparing for what will be a most informative and moving forum on the problem of human trafficking here in Ventura County. It will be held on April 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Topping Room at the E. P. Foster Library in Ventura. Speaking will be Gary Pentis, Undersheriff of Ventura County, and Sarah Godoy, spokeswoman for a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing child victims of sex trafficking. This is a serious and hidden problem in the County and impacts our most vulnerable citizens - you don’t want to miss this program.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to learn by joining us at these and other exciting events. Bring a friend and invite them to join the League if they’re interested in learning and want to be involved with like-minded people - we look forward to seeing you.

Yours in League,

Barbara Doyle and Pat Essick  
Co-Presidents

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## Did You Know This About Human Trafficking???

On Saturday afternoon, April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, you can learn about human trafficking here in Ventura County, how it affects so many young people and our community, and how you can help. Our speakers will be Gary Pentis from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office to address law enforcement efforts on this crime, and Sarah Godoy from Saving Innocence to tell us about the victims and the help they need.

### For example, did you know...?

- ✚ The League has a position on human trafficking adopted recently?
- ✚ Of the cities in our county, Ventura and Oxnard have the most trafficking?
- ✚ No cities in the county have targeted law enforcement resources or task forces to address it?

This program will fill in the blanks for all of us, teaching us how to recognize it when we see it and what we can do about it. **Bring a friend, support the League and its programs.** The program will be held in the Topping Room, EP Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura, parking in the rear. Light refreshments will be served.

## STATEMENT OF POSITION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*As adopted at the LWVUS 2014 National Convention*

The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Board Member

### 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

## LWVVC GOVERNANCE

- thoughts about changing board structure •

### At-Large v. Director-with-Portfolio

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Barbara Doyle made a presentation to the LWVVC Board at the board's meeting on March 12 to request that it consider restructuring the way we have been electing Directors. Currently, board members hold portfolios such as Program, Voter Services, Action etc, but over the past few

years, these challenging positions have become difficult to fill.

Under LWVVC Bylaws, the only "titled" officers required are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Instead, the new approach approved by the Board (and being used successfully at other local leagues in California) is to have all other Directors designated as "at large." This leaves board members free to pursue their personal areas of interest or to spend more time working on events to be held in their local communities (such as candidates forums or voter registration).

As a result, the Nominating Committee is currently soliciting nominations for several Directors "at large" to serve one-year terms beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016.

Prospective board members are encouraged to attend the upcoming April 9 Board Meeting to "check it out." The Board meeting is held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in Room 1 at the Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market Street in Ventura. Can't come that day? How about the May Board Meeting on May 14?

Please contact Barbara Doyle at 805-765-9302 or [gregnbarbara@yahoo.com](mailto:gregnbarbara@yahoo.com) if you know someone who might be interested or if interested yourself.

**Your Board needs YOU!**

Submitted by, Barbara Doyle, Co-president

## CITY OF VENTURA CHARTER REVIEW

• committee eyes possible changes •

### Ventura City Charter Review Committee Up-date

The Ventura City Council appointed Charter Review Committee (CRC) has met four times since its initial meeting in November 2014, to discuss and develop recommendations for action by the city council related to a review and possible changes to the charter. Any changes to the charter require a vote of the public.

The CRC is specifically tasked with researching five areas of the charter:

1. Direct election of the Mayor
2. Term limits
3. Council member compensation
4. Removal of the Board of Education from the City's Charter
5. Consideration of the election process (districts, at large, options)

The CRC's monthly meetings are open to the public and are held the second Wednesday of every month at 4:00 pm at Ventura City Hall. Past meetings have involved all members of the committee. Meetings conclude at about 5:30 pm.

The city attorney's office provides staff support for the CRC. Dennis Orrock is chair and Lynn Jacobs is vice-chair of the 11 member CRC. Thus far, the committee is taking one subject a month for discussion, with staff keeping notes that will be formatted into a draft and ultimately final report. To date, council member compensation, term limits, and removing the board of education from the charter have been discussed.

The upcoming meeting scheduled for April 8th is expected to include the topic of direct election of the Mayor and applicable term limits. This discussion will also include debate over the role/relationship of the deputy mayor. It is anticipated that the May 13th meeting will cover discussion of city council districts and voting options.

While each CRC meeting has a focus topic, discussion has been somewhat fluid because any single action can have consequences that are both intended and unintended. All agendas, meeting minutes, and related documents can be accessed by going to: <http://www.cityofventura.net/page/public-meetings>.

LWVVC member Cheryl Collart serves on the CRC and is available, should you have any questions or comments, at 805-644-2923 for further conversation.

Submitted by Cheryl Collart, Ventura

## 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 March Board Meeting

#### Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Budget committee presented a budget for the Board to consider.
- President reported that there has been nice response from LWVVC members to our request for Higher Education Study committee members. Thank you to the following people for stepping up and agreeing to participate:
  - Betsy Patterson
  - Carol Smith
  - Judy Murphy
  - Pat Essick
  - Steve Lattimore
  - Beth Cohen
  - Donna Schwartz
  - Pat McCart /Malloy
- Report was made on plans for the April 30 Thousand Oaks City Council Candidates Forum.
- Nominating Committee will try to attract enough candidates for a full board. It was decided to try having everyone be an "at large" member except for the required positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Board discussed the LWVVC Annual Meeting
- Program discussion about our upcoming event, "The Local Face of Human Trafficking" (see Calendar for details of the program).

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

## 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](mailto:lwv@lwvventuracounty.org) and let us know what you would like to do. Someone will contact you to follow-up.*

▶ **We need Greeters** for our April 18, Program on Human Trafficking in Ventura County – 2:00 to 4:00 pm (see Calendar for location and program details). Send us an email at [lwv@lwventuracounty.org](mailto:lwv@lwventuracounty.org) if available to help.

▶ I would like to hear from League members who would be interested in **working on a committee to plan a 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.

▶ It is time once again when Leagues around the country are asked to interview local politician and report back to state League on the results of those interviews. Interview questions are provided by LWVC. **We need a chairman ASAP to coordinate our interviews** with Hannah Beth Jackson, Julia Brownley, Jacqui Irwin, and Das Williams (shared with Santa Barbara).

▶ Your local Board is putting together a **study committee for LWVC's higher education study** so that we can fully participate in this important project (see article above for information on the study). We have a good start but can always use more help. Please email us to let us know you will join the committee and want to be advised of its initial meeting.

▶ **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](mailto:gray.harvey@verizon.net). Do it for us each month or for one month – we need the help.

*Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to [gray.harvey@verizon.net](mailto: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, April 9 – **LWVVC Board Meeting** – 11:00 am to 1:00 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, April 18 - **Program on Human Trafficking in VC** – 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Location: E. P. Foster Library, Topping Room, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura. Free parking in the rear.

### Speakers include:

✚ **Gary Pentis – Undersheriff of Ventura County.** A 30+ year veteran of the Ventura County Sherriff's Office, Pentis will comment on the current state of human trafficking here in the County. He will also speak about the signs of trafficking and what we as citizens should look for and do to protect ourselves and communities against this scourge.

✚ **Sarah Godoy – Spokeswoman from Saving Innocence.** Saving Innocence is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing and restoring child victims of sex trafficking through strategic partnerships with local law enforcement, social service providers, and schools. Ms. Godoy will focus her comments primarily on child victims of trafficking.

▶ Thursday, April 30 – **Thousand Oaks Candidates Forum** – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Location: Thousand Oaks City Council Chambers, Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, 91362. Forum will include candidates running to fill the vacancy left by Jacqui Irwin’s resignation. It will be moderated by LWVVC member David Maron.

▶ Thursday, May 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, May 15 thru Sunday, May 17 – **65th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California**. Location: Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, 910 Broadway Circle, San Diego, phone: 619-239-2200. Convention begins 10 am, Friday, May 15 and runs through 3 pm, Sunday, May 17, with special pre-convention events on Thursday, May 14. Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts. For further details including program specifics go to: <http://lwvc.org/announcement/2015/jan/first-call-convention>

▶ Saturday, June 13 – **LWVVC Annual Meeting** - 9:30 am. Location: Courtyard by Marriott Hotel on Esplanade Drive in Oxnard. The meeting will take place in the morning followed by luncheon and a presentation by Dr. Richard Rush, president of CSU Channel Islands. Dr. Rush's presentation will be the first in a series of community forums on public higher education that LWVVC will sponsor as part of LWVVC’s study on access to public higher education in California.

**Agenda:**

- 9:30 – 11:30 am: Business portion of meeting
- 12:00 pm: Luncheon followed by speaker Dr. Richard Rush, President, CSU Channel Islands

## CURRENT LEAGUE STUDIES

▶ LWVVC study this term is *Public Higher Education: Access and Affordability*. Study materials will be available in August 2015, with consensus due by April 2016.

▶ LWVUS 2014-2016 Program on Key Structures of Democracy includes two studies:

1. *U.S. Constitution*: Committee will study process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the gaps and challenges in those methods.

2. *Money in Politics*: Committee will conduct an update of League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment.

Both LWVUS studies are in the formation process with no timetable yet provided.

