



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

May, 2016 Volume 58 No.10



Dates to Remember

- May 23: Last Day to Register to Vote.**
- May 31: Last Day to Request Vote-by-Mail Ballot.**
- June 3: Last Day to Mail Vote-by-Mail.**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

I encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities to be involved in this year’s presidential election. You can help register new voters as Carmen Hurd has been doing with her band of volunteers. Volunteer to help with the candidate forums that we are organizing. Plan to work a shift at the Poll we are adopting for the Primary Election, June 7 and again for the Presidential Election, November 8. Not only will you be serving the causes of the League and helping it fulfill its mission, but you will enjoy sharing in a very memorable election. For specific ways to participate see the articles below and check out the Volunteers section at the end of this issue of the VOTER.

The Board is hard at work planning for the June 11 Annual Meeting. We have some new people to introduce to you, business to take care of, and look forward to an interesting speaker, Scott Frisch, Chairman of the Political Science Department at California State University Channel Islands. Please mark your calendar now to save the date. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick - President

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SPECIAL EVENTS



LAST CHANCE, RSVP by May 1 !!!

Anyone who has ever toured the Port of Hueneme will tell you that it is a pretty impressive place, from cars to bananas our local port handles it all. **LWVVC is hosting a tour of the Port of Hueneme on Thursday, May 19.** We will meet at 9:45am to be picked up by the tour bus at 10:00 am. Our tour will be led by Will Berg, the Port's Public Information Officer. Following the 2-hour tour, lunch will be available by pre-

paying \$20. Reservations for the tour and lunch may be made by phone to Barbara Doyle (805)765-9302 or via email at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com no later than May 1. Your check for \$20 for the optional lunch must be received by May 5 at PO Box 6787, Ventura, CA 93006. Checks should be payable to LWVVC and note that your payment is for the Port of Hueneme lunch. **You MUST RSVP to ensure a space on the tour bus.**



Saturday, June 11 - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 10:00 am.

Location: Marriott Courtyard, Ventanas Room, 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard.

Details will follow on entrée choices but lunch will be \$30 per person, RSVP by June 3rd with a check to the PO Box 6786, Ventura 93006 or email Pam

Pecarich at ppecar@aol.com for late registration and to pay at the door. You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch. Following is the day's agenda:

- 10:00 Registration and Coffee
- 10:30 Business Meeting
- 12:30 Luncheon
- 1:15 Speaker. Professor Scott Frisch, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Cal State University Channel Islands, will give us his take on the June election results and where we go from here as a state and county.

VOTER SERVICE GOING STRONG

- a long tradition of candidates forums •

56 Years of Voter Service in Ventura County

In April 1960, the newly formed League of Women Voters Ventura County held one of its first Candidates' Forums for Ventura City Council candidates. The Voter Service spokesperson for the League said, "After looking at the sample ballot for Tuesday's city council election, we feel that the only way voters can make an intelligent decision on the 12 candidates running for office is to see, hear and question them." An article in the local newspaper urged citizens to attend the forum to combat "voter apathy".

Forward 56 years and the League of Women Voters Ventura County is still providing candidates' forums to combat voter apathy and provide citizens with an opportunity to "see, hear and question them". The LWVVC has announced the following schedule of candidates' forums for several cities around the county. Citizens are urged to attend the forum in your community and meet the people seeking office.

-  Thousand Oaks Forum for the State Senate District #27 to replace Fran Pavley on Tuesday, May 3rd, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the City Council Chambers, Scherr Theatre, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks. The 27th district includes Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Simi Valley.
-  Camarillo Forum for the Ventura County Supervisor District #3 to replace Kathy Long on Friday, May 6th, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Camarillo City Hall, City Council Chambers, 601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo.
-  Fillmore Forum for the Ventura County Supervisor District #3 to replace Kathy Long on Thursday, May 12th, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Ave, Fillmore.

Submitted by: Helen La Monte, Voter Service

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 7

- recommendation based on league position •

(The LWV California) take(s) positions on ballot measures based on current program positions and/or on League Principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus.

The League of Women Voters of California Recommends...

Proposition 50 Suspension of Legislators.....

SUPPORT

The Question

Should the state Constitution be amended to authorize the Legislature to suspend its members, with or without salary and benefits?

The Situation

The state Legislature consists of two houses: the Senate and the Assembly. The state Constitution provides that each house of the Legislature may expel one of its members who is accused of wrongdoing by a 2/3 vote of that house's membership. The Constitution does not provide for suspension; however, each house of the Legislature may, by majority vote, suspend one of its members. In 2014, three Senators were accused of felonies, and the Senate voted to suspend them. Under this suspension, they were not allowed to vote on bills or take other legislative actions, but continued to receive their salaries and benefits while suspended, because there was no mechanism to prevent this.

Board of Directors:

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Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Barbara Doyle

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Pamela Pecarich

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Suzanne Harvey

Helen LaMonte

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Pat Murray

The Proposal

The Constitution would be amended to authorize the suspension of a member of a house of the Legislature, with or without salary and benefits, by a 2/3 vote of the members of that house. The reasons for the suspension and rules for when the suspension would end would have to be set forth. The rules would require that either the suspension end on a specific date, or that a vote be taken in the future to end it.

Fiscal Effect

Because suspension of legislators is so rare, in most years Prop. 50 would have no effect on state or local finances. In the event of any future suspension, there could be minor savings to the state.

A YES Vote Means

A YES vote on this measure means: The State Constitution would be amended to require a two-thirds vote of the Senate or Assembly in order to suspend a state legislator. The Senate or Assembly could eliminate that legislator's salary and benefits during the suspension.

A NO Vote Means

A NO vote on this measure means: the Senate or Assembly could still suspend a legislator with a majority vote. The suspended legislator, however, would continue to receive a state salary and benefits.

Supporters Say

There should be a mechanism short of expulsion for suspending members without pay who have been accused of wrongdoing.

Prop. 50 sets a high bar to prevent lawmakers from unjustly punishing each other.

Opponents Say

Expulsion is the correct punishment for members accused of wrongdoing. Suspending a member leaves his or her constituents without representation.

Under Proposition 50, members of the Legislature could vote to suspend a member who supports unpopular issues.

Our Scholarship Fund

In 2014, the League of Women Voters of Ventura County established a scholarship fund and generous donors made it possible to offer \$1000 scholarship to a student in the Ventura County Community College District.

A scholarship committee was formed, and it decided to offer one scholarship each year to students in Ventura, Oxnard and Moorpark Colleges, in that order. Last year our first recipient was Megan Bograd of Ventura College. This year we have two recipients from Oxnard College. That was made possible because Oxnard College Foundation matched the \$1,000 given by the League. Read about this year's recipients in the following piece.

We invite league members to join the committee to help in communicating with the college foundations, contacting the recipients, attending the awards ceremonies, and offering encouragement as students pursue their college careers.

If you wish to join the committee or have questions, please contact the chair, Geri Loe, at info@lwvventuracounty.org.

Donations of any amount to the Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated by League Board - see Membership section below for information on how to contribute.

Submitted by: Carol Lindberg, Director

LWVVC 2016 Scholarship Awarded

• oxnard college students receive award •

Scholarship Winners Chosen

Oxnard College Foundation has informed us about the winner of our scholarship award of \$1,000 as well as the student who received the matching award from the Foundation. See below for their bio's. We are most hopeful that one or both of them can join us at our Annual Meeting Luncheon to meet us and hear our speaker's analysis of the June primary results. President Pat Essick and Scholarship Committee member Carmen Hurd attended the award ceremony in late April, representing the League.



Carmen Hurd (l) and Pat Essick
 Congratulate Ernest Stein at Oxnard
 College Awards Ceremony - well done
 everyone.

The Winners –

Ernest Stein is a tough fellow to summarize. The basics? He is a continuing student majoring in Political Science and Economics and will be in a position to transfer soon to a 4 year University. With a 3.74 grade point average he plans to graduate with honors from Oxnard with AA degrees in Political Science, Economics and Social & Behavioral Science. His educational goals include a Master’s degree, and perhaps law school. Ernest is accomplishing these goals with disabilities due to injuries suffered in two car accidents. He was persuaded back to college after an extended absence by several significant figures who believed in him. Inspired by his immigrant grandfather who had a career in government service, he has learned first- hand that hard work and persistence pay off, as his unease with college has diminished. Over the years and in addition to his college classes Ernest has been involved with an impressive array of volunteer organizations, work he continues to this day. He is particularly proud of his work with Oxnard City Corps where he persuaded a Juvenile Court Judge and other law enforcement agencies to integrate low-level juvenile offenders into community projects with City Corp. His numerous accomplishments speak to his desire to be of service to the public in order to “deliver positive outcomes in the local community and in society.”

Ernest depends on scholarships to continue with his education. He works when he can get jobs and is otherwise without financial resources or parental support.

Aysha Scott is also a continuing student, majoring in Addiction Studies and Social & Behavioral Science. With a grade point average of 3.56, she is planning to transfer to a CSU campus and secure a degree in Sociology. She plans on pursuing an advanced degree and hopes to work as a clinical supervisor or social worker once her academic studies are over. While she has parental support from her mother, Aysha relies on the scholarship to cover costs of books and supplies. As an older student with 3 years of recovery from drug addiction, Aysha is focused and motivated to build a good life for herself through education and career success. Her grade point average improve every semester, a record she wants to continue. Her career goal is “to help people in my field of study.” Aysha was unable to attend the awards ceremony.

AND WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR?

A new and renewed scholarship committee needs to be formed to plan and execute the steps for approaching Moorpark College for an award to be given Spring 2017. Those interested in serving on the committee, please contact info@lwvventuracounty.org so that an initial meeting can be set.

Submitted by: Pam Pecarich, Director

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 April Board Meeting

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- Treasurer’s Report/Budget Committee - Committee submitted a proposed budget which includes increased funding for Voter Service among other things.

- President's Report and Action items – Barbara Doyle updated on the LWVVC Annual meeting in June. Carmen Hurd reported that the Oxnard High School Student registration project will be April 19th
- Scholarship Committee - Carol Lindberg advised us on the status of our scholarship awards to 2 students from Oxnard College.
- Voter Services Report – Helen Lamont went through the planned schedule for LWVVC sponsored candidate forums.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

- Nell and Ed McCombs

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.

▶ **Candidate Forums - May 3, May 6, May 12 (see Calendar above):** Helpers needed for forums now and in the fall. Greeters, collecting questions, question sorters, timers. Contact Helen LaMonte at hlamonte@hotmail.com immediately.

▶ **LWVVC Scholarship Committee.** A new and renewed scholarship committee needs to be formed to plan and execute the steps for approaching Moorpark College for an award to be given Spring 2017. Those interested in serving on the committee please contact info@lwvventuracounty.org so that an initial meeting can be set.

▶ **League Adopts a Voting Poll...Can You Help?**

Once again, the Ventura LWV will host the election poll at Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. The League has been staffing this poll for many years and the funds normally paid to individual poll workers are directed to the League's budget.

Poll workers are trained by the County Elections Office and generally work in a team of four, including one inspector and three clerks. The League has divided up the work so that as many as a dozen members have participated. Workers are helpful in the early morning, 6 a.m. equipment and poll set-up then work through the day to check in voters and make sure the election is operating smoothly until the ballots are collected and returned to the elections office by 10 p.m.

League member Cheryl Collart will serve as 'inspector' for this polling effort and is seeking league members to work with her. If you have interest in working a shift of four or more hours, please contact her. Email: cheryl.collart@gmail.com or phone: 805.644.2923.

▶ **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, May 3** - Thousand Oaks Candidates Forum for candidates running in State Senate District #27 to replace Fran Pavley - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Location: City Council Chambers, Scherr Theatre, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks.

▶ **Thursday, May 5** - 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 6** - Camarillo Forum for the Ventura County Supervisor District #3 to replace Kathy Long - 7:00 pm to 9:00. Location: Camarillo City Hall, City Council Chambers, 601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo.

▶ **Thursday, May 12** - Fillmore Forum for the Ventura County Supervisor District #3 to replace Kathy Long - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Location: Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Ave, Fillmore.

▶ **Thursday, May 19** - Tour of the port in Port Hueneme - 10 am to Noon. Although the tour is free, **you MUST RSVP today (by May 1) to ensure a space on the tour bus**. We will meet at a to-be-determined location at the Port at 9:45 am to be picked up by the tour bus at 10:00 am. It is important to be on time or we will have to leave without you! Our tour will be led by Will Berg, the Port's Public Information Officer. Following the 2 hour tour, a lunch of sandwiches, salads, ice tea and cookies will be available by pre-paying \$20.

Reservations for the tour and lunch may be made by phone to Barbara Doyle (805)765-9302 or via email at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com no later than May 1. Checks for \$20 for the optional lunch must be received by May 5 at PO Box 6787, Ventura. Make your check payable to LWVVC and note that your payment is for the Port of Hueneme lunch. We hope to see many of you at the Port on May 19!

▶ **Saturday, June 11** - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 10:00 am. Location: Marriott Courtyard, Ventanas Room, 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard, CA 93036. Details will follow on entrée choices but lunch will be \$30 per person, RSVP by June 3rd with a check to the PO Box 6786, Ventura 93006 or email Pam Pecarich at ppecar@aol.com for late registration and to pay at the door. You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.

10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:30 Business Meeting

12:30 Luncheon

1:15 Speaker. Professor Scott Frisch, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Cal State University Channel Islands, will give us his take on the June election results and where we go from here as a state and county.

▶ **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](#).

