



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

May 2018, Volume 60 No.9



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Civil discourse, voter registration, candidate forums, climate change, signature gathering for the California Schools and Communities First campaign (Proposition 13 reform effort), and planning for the upcoming Annual Meeting are the things we have been working on in April and will continue with in May.



Following the tragic high school shooting at Parkland in Florida it has been inspiring to watch students stand up and speak out so powerfully and convincingly for changes in gun laws and to demand that the senseless loss of life be stopped. The league was invited to register 16, 17 and 18-year-old students at the Ventura City High School Walkout Demonstration, April 20, and at Julia Brownley's Town Hall meeting to address high school students and gun control on April 21. I would especially like to thank Carmen Hurd, Carol Lindberg, Matty Parks, Betsy Patterson, Teresa Camarillo, Melanie Ashen, and Karen Savitt for rising to the occasion and taking advantage of these young people's desire to become active politically. Their determination to vote and fight for what they believe in is encouraging as well as their awareness of the League of Women Voters as a trustworthy, non-partisan organization that encourages voting and registration of voters. It's been inspiring to work with these eloquent and focused young people.

April 24, we co-sponsored the Ventura College Climate Action Summit. It was well attended and loaded with good ideas of what we could do to help reduce greenhouse gasses and reduce our carbon footprint. It was good to see so many people there who were anxious to do more to help turn things around environmentally.

Be sure to mark your calendars to reserve June 16 to attend our Annual Meeting & Luncheon and to hear our interesting speakers on Community Choice Energy - see you there!

Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

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June 5 is California Primary Election day!

For information regarding this year's propositions, check out the League's Voter Guide or click on Pros & Cons icon above.

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀

Saturday, June 16 - LWVVC Annual Meeting, Luncheon & Speaker - 9:30 am to 1:30



pm. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr. Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch with a menu choice of Cobb Salad with rolls and butter, Veggie Sandwich with pasta salad (vegans should request no cheese or mayo) and Santa Fe Chicken Wrap with pasta salad. All lunches are served with choice of coffee, iced tea, water and include Champagne Cake for dessert. Cost for the lunch is \$30. Luncheon attendees must send their checks no later than June 9 to LWVVC at the address below - write your menu choice on your check.

You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.

9:30 am	Coffee/tea/pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting.
Noon	Luncheon
12:40 to 1:30	Speakers: Linda Hillman and Don Dame on community choice energy

Community choice energy (CCE) is a new way to get cleaner electricity to consumers at competitive prices and with greater local control of how electricity is produced. Ms. Hillman and Mr. Dame will provide an update on current central coast and statewide trends in CCE. Linda is an attorney and CPA whose career includes federal and local public service including accounting, law and operational management as well as private sector financial management. Don spent nearly 40 years working in the natural gas, electricity and water utility industries. He currently consults on direct access, community choice power assessment and governance matters with cities and counties throughout California.

LWVVC "Works" Local Homeowners Election

LWVVC Oversees Local Homeowner's Association Election

One of the ways our local league raises funds is to oversee the election process for local homeowners' associations (HOA). Working with the HOA's management, and sometimes their legal counsel, we review the association's bylaws, list of eligible voters and ballots. According to state law that regulates HOA elections (Davis-Stirling Act), ballots must be mailed to the homeowners at a certain time and in a certain way.

This month we are helping the Cabrillo Cooperative Housing Corporation with its election, something we have done for several years. First, we receive the mailed ballots and, without opening them, use the return address information included on the envelope to verify that they come from an eligible voter. We collect the ballots and bring them to Cabrillo's annual meeting at which time we open, count and tally the ballots and announce the election winners according to Cabrillo's bylaws. The actual process takes about 2 hours. This year we will conduct the election on Thursday, May 24, from approximately 5:30-7:30PM.

If you are interested in assisting with this process or in learning more about HOA elections, please contact Board member Barbara Doyle at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com or by phone at 805-765-9302.

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, Director

LWVVC Committee Reports

▶ Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair

Committee members and others have been collecting signatures in an effort to include a proposition on the ballot that, if passed, would amend Proposition 13 and close some loopholes for certain large commercial real estate holders. The deadline for the Schools and Communities First campaign to gather enough signatures has been extended to June 30. So, *if anyone is still gathering signatures, keep it up! Turn completed petitions in to Pat Essick or mail them, postmarked no later than June 30,* to LWVC, 921 11th Street, Ste. 700, Sacramento, CA 95814. - Submitted by Pat Essick.

▶ Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair

▶ Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair

▶ Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair

▶ Scholarship Committee - Melanie Ashen, Chair

Melanie Ashen and Pat Essick will be attending the May 12, Ventura College Scholarship Awards Gala together with the recipient of the LWVVC Scholarship. We look forward to sharing more about our recipient at the Annual Meeting in June. - Submitted by Pat Essick.

▶ Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Betsy Patterson

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Karen Savitt

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Barbara Doyle

Suzanne Harvey

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Chelsea Sutula

LWVVC has been approached by Patagonia to come to their work campus to register their employees in time for the June 5, Primary Election. We are going on May 2, and May 9, from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. Carmen Hurd and many volunteers helped register student voters at Channel Islands High School and Oxnard High School in April. The League is doing its part to get people ready to vote. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time. - Submitted by Pat Essick.

▶ Voter Service Committee

Plans for a candidates forum in Simi sometime in May are in the works. It will be for two different races. The first will be for candidates running for County Board of Supervisors District 4 (Moorpark/Simi) with three candidates running. The second forum will be for the Congressional District 25 covering Simi, with five candidates running. In addition, we may try to give a combined presentation for three local ballot measures: the Oxnard Union High School District Measure "A", Hueneme Elementary School District Measure "B", and Pleasant Valley School District Measure "C". We will be looking for help for the Simi forum and the combined local ballot issues one in Camarillo. Dates and details are still being arranged so look for an e-blast sometime soon and let

us know if you would like to assist. - Submitted by Pat Essick.

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members or anyone else interested in learning about the League 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:

- Voter Service Report – David Maron presented the potential candidates forums for the June primary election.

- Treasurer's Report - Karen Savitt ran through this year's budget and the Board discussed and voted to approve the proposed budget for next year. Note: the proposed budget was later amended and a new vote taken to approve the amended version for presentation to and a vote by the full membership at our Annual Meeting in June.

- Annual Meeting – Barbara Doyle ran through plans and arrangements for our upcoming annual meeting.

- Program – Steve Lattimore reported that League has been asked to co-sponsor an upcoming Climate Action Panel. After some discussion the Board voted to proceed.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

CALIFORNIA DISCLOSE ACT

California Disclose Act

AB249, known as the California Disclose Act, became law last October. State and local campaign advertisements for ballot measures and independent expenditures will now have to identify the name of the committee paying for the advertisement and list the top 3 donors of \$50,000 + to that committee. [Click here](#) for more information.

Redistricting

Ventura and Oxnard will be voting for City Council members according to the district in which they live. If other cities wish to divide their cities into voting districts, it is recommended that a citizens' independent redistricting commission be set up, or a demographic research company may be contracted, to assist citizens in drawing the district maps. For more information visit: www.localredistricting.org

Submitted by Carol Lindberg, Director

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

- Sukran Sir - Oxnard
- Doris Simmelink - Ventura

New Associate Members:

- Teresa Camarillo - Oak View
- Kitty Durich - Westlake Village
- Michelle Hickman-Aeh - Ventura
- Garrett Humphrey - Buellton
- Sage Intner - Ojai
- Anthony Mendola - West Hills
- Helen Myerson - Camarillo
- Michelle Neal - Oxnard
- Steve Offerman - Ventura
- Shelby Rahimzadeh - West Hills
- Katie Rempert - Port Hueneme
- Dillon Rose - Ventura
- Kate Russell - Ojai
- Albert Stroberg - Ojai
- Roberta Thieme - Ventura
- Jade Young - Camarillo

Donors – Thank you to our donors

- Betsy Patterson & Albert Stroberg
- Bob Braitman
- Robert & Mary Ann Lowe
- Todd & Cheryl Collart
- Melanie Ashen
- Sharon Shou
- Nell & Ed Mc Combs
- Eunice Koch
- Teresa & Chano Camarillo
- Diana & Francis Sparagna
- Geri Loe

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

- Melanie Ashen

If you would like to donate to the LWVVC Scholarship Fund, please make your checks payable to “LWVVC with a notation “Scholarship Fund” on memo line of the check.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC 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, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do, someone will follow-up.

Why Volunteer?

We know you want to be a part of it. We know you want to make a difference; that's why you joined the League of Women Voters! Take the next step and volunteer.

▶ **VOTER Editor and publisher.** We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking over putting together our monthly newsletter, the VOTER. We publish 9 times per year and copy is distributed to our members via email. Content is provided by others as well as resources provided by LWV California and LWV United States. Plenty of training is available so no worries about starting from scratch. If interested, send an email to [Suzanne Harvey](#)

▶ **LWVVC Webmaster.** We are in search of someone who would be interested in assuming responsibility for maintaining our website. Our website matrix allows for a fair amount of creativity should one be so inclined however at a minimum the position requires monthly posting of our newsletter and maintenance of our on-line calendar. If interested, send an email to [Suzanne Harvey](#).

▶ Searching for a **League member to take part in the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network (VCRRN) committee** (this is a VCRRN committee, not a LWVVC committee). This committee meets once a month on a Tuesday evening for an hour. It is composed of wonderfully friendly, like-minded supporters of Planned Parenthood. We work on the same 2 projects each year: the Roe v Wade event and the annual Write For Your Rights event. This committee is composed of representatives from a number of different non-profits. It doesn't take a lot of time and it is very rewarding. Please contact [Geri LeVine Loe](#) if you think you might be interested.

▶ Needed, a **Voter Service Chairperson** to work closely with League member David Maron, city government offices and volunteers to help oversee our candidates forums including arranging location sites, organizing volunteers to run the forums, and inviting candidates to participate. This is a very important job and an important role for the League, especially in election years. Usually the person who fills this position becomes a member of the Board. If you have questions or would like to take on this position, please contact [Pat Essick](#).

▶ **Climate Change Task Force.** Needed, a member to serve as LWVVC's liaison to the LWV California Climate Change Task Force. This job can be done by anyone who is concerned about Climate Change and is willing to get information and updates on what the Task Force is up to and report back to our membership via brief articles for the VOTER. Learn more by visiting the [Climate Task Force](#) website. Let us know if you're interested in climate change or would like to become more engaged in action. Contact [Pat Essick](#) if you are interested.

▶ Soon we will be laying the groundwork for a **possible forum on artificial intelligence and up-coming candidates forums**. Start thinking about whether this is something you could participate in.

▶ **Advocacy (e.g. Electoral College Reform), Voter Registration, Program, join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved. Here's a list of current committees:

- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Voter Registration Committee
- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee

▶ **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 can email it to [us](#). If needed we may edit your pieces for length or in instances where language is "un-league-like" - we're all about civil discourse. **VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.**

CALENDAR

- all league meetings are open to the public •

(Calendar Can Also Be Found On Our Website)

▶ **Thursday, May 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 or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month.

▶ **Thursday, June 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 or anyone interested in learning more about the League. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month.

▶ **Saturday, June 16** - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 9:30 am to 11:45 followed by luncheon. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch for the price of \$30. All lunches are served with choice of coffee, iced tea, water and come with Champagne Cake for dessert. Luncheon attendees must send their checks no later than June 9 - write your menu choice on your check. Menu Options are:

Class Cobb Salad with rolls and butter
Veggie Sandwich with pasta salad side (vegans should request no cheese, no mayo)
Santa Fe Chicken Wrap with pasta salad side

Checks/reservations should be sent to PO Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. *You may attend the meeting and listen to the speaker without purchasing lunch.* Following is the day's agenda:

9:30 am	Coffee/tea/pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting.
Noon	Luncheon
12:40 to 1:30	Speaker: Linda Hillman and Don Dame on community choice energy

Community choice energy (CCE) is a new way to get cleaner electricity to consumers at competitive prices and with greater local control of how electricity is produced. Ms. Hillman and Mr. Dame will provide an update on current central coast and statewide trends in CCE. Linda is an attorney and CPA whose career includes federal and local public service including accounting, law and operational management as well as private sector financial management. Don spent nearly 40 years working in the natural gas, electricity and water utility industries. He currently consults on direct access, community choice power assessment and governance matters with cities and counties throughout California.

▶ **Thursday., June 28 thru Sunday, July 1**- LWV United States 53rd National Convention. Location: Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. National Convention is for members of LWV. Click [here](#) for further information.



PO Box 6786 • Ventura, CA 93006 • web: www.lwvventuracounty.org • email: info@lwvventuracounty.org

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