



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

June, 2017 Volume 59 No. 10



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Mark your calendars! Save June 24, from 9:30 to 1:00 for the LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon. Besides taking care of the yearly business of electing new officers for the 2017-2018 and approving our new budget, we have an interesting program planned for you. Professor Herb Gooch will address us regarding what happens to California if and when it is State of California vs. Trump. In addition, our own David Maron will share highlights from the new Civic Alliance, 2017 State of the

Region publication. Don't miss a great opportunity to catch up with all your League friends, make suggestions for the coming year, have a tasty lunch, and the chance to bring a friend along for the interesting program.

The League of Women Voters of California is holding its 2017 Convention in Sacramento from June 1-June 4th. So far, several members of the Board including Betsy Patterson, Pat Butler and Pat Essick are planning to attend. The Convention is a great place to be inspired by all the incredible members from all over the state, sharing local concerns, successes they are having in growing their membership and involving their members and others in their communities in League activities. We will also be voting to help set the state program direction for 2017-2018. It is not too late if you would like to register and join us in Sacramento. If you can't attend, don't worry, we will share what we have learned at our (LWV Ventura County) Annual Meeting later in the month...another good reason why you should attend.

Thanks to all who helped make our (together with our Ventura College co-sponsors) May 6, "*Climate Change Is Here to Stay... What Now?*" forum such a success. Carol Lindberg worked closely with Marie from Dr. Gillespie of Ventura Community College's office to ensure a flawless setting, even providing a shuttle to make it easy for all to have access. Dr. David Lea, Dr. Sangwon Suh, both from UCSB, and Jim Hines of the Sierra Club, Los Padres area, gave superb, clear, informative presentations covering how we know that climate change is real, what the costs are and what we can do. The audience was very engaged and asked wonderful questions which the speakers weighed and answered with great clarity. Thanks also to the LWVVC Program Committee (Steve Lattimore, Karen Savitt, Maria Runyon, Carol Lindberg and Pat Essick) for all your work!

Yours in League,

Betsy Patterson & Pat Essick
Co-Presidents

Inside This Issue...

- President's Message
- Special Events
- Climate Forum Lessons Learned
- LWV California Call to Action
- Advocacy Committee Update
- Scholarship Committee Update
- Cannabis Regulatory Update
- Membership News
- Board Meeting Notes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Calendar of Events

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Saturday, June 24 - 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, veggie sandwich with pasta salad, or club croissant with pasta salad. Lunch includes desert of "strawberry daiquiri cake" and coffee or iced tea. The cost for the lunch is \$30. Checks should be sent to LWVVC. RSVP by June 12, to Barbara Doyle gregbarbara@yahoo.com.

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

9:30 am	Coffee/tea and assorted muffins and pastries
10:00 to Noon	Business Meeting followed by David Maron updating us on the "State of the Region Report 2017" published annually by the Civic Alliance
Noon	Luncheon
12:30 to 1:30	Speaker: Dr. Herb Gooch of California Lutheran University will talk about "California v. the Nation"

Lessons Learned From Climate Change Forum

• and there were lots •

LWVVC Forum Addresses Climate Change Realities

- by Robert Chianese, Ph.D.
Ventura, CA 805-643-5034, rlchianese@gmail.com

The LWVVC forum on climate change on Saturday, May 6, at Ventura College, brought together two climate scientists and a local environmental activist. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Ventura College, presentations were revealing and provided new insights into how to understand and reverse climate change

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Essick
Betsy Patterson

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Judith Murphy

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Directors at Large:

Pat Butler
Barbara Doyle
Suzanne Harvey
Helen LaMonte
Steve Lattimore
Carol Lindberg
Jennifer Matos
Pam Pecarich
Karen Savitt

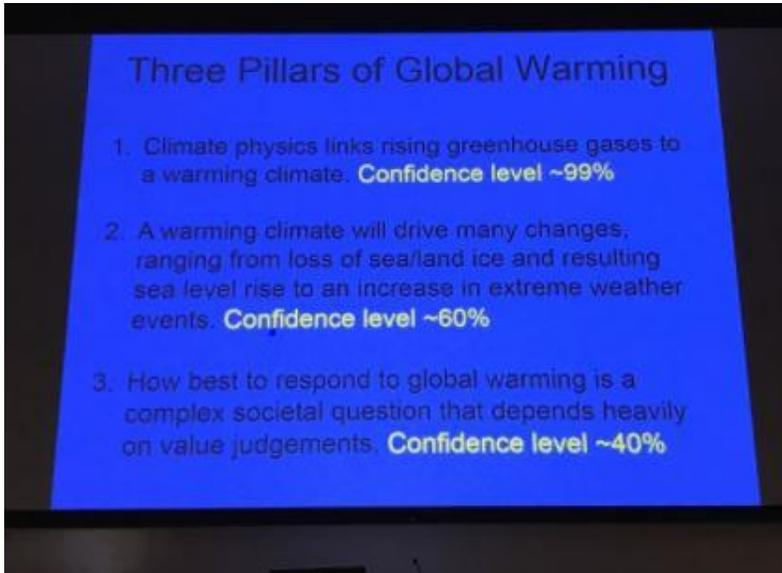
Professor David Lea of UCSB laid out the convincing arguments for the human sources of global warming through the burning of fossil fuels. If anyone in the audience came as a skeptic, they would have been hard put to maintain their position. Of course, outright climate change deniers will unlikely be persuaded even to look at any evidence let alone have a mind change about climate change when faced with overwhelming scientific data about what we are doing to the planet.

Lea began with the claim that scientists are 99.9% sure that we are the source of global warming—that's a huge consensus. Then scientists are 60% confident that global warming will cause loss of ice, sea level rise, and extreme climate events, but they are only 40% confident that we will be able to respond to these challenges due to their basis in social and value arguments.

Through a series of very clarifying slides, Lea revealed that 91% of atmospheric CO2 comes from fossil fuels and 9% from deforestation. Less known were his figures that 44% of that goes into the atmosphere, while 31% gets taken up by green growing things, and a final 26% settles into the ocean, causing a chemical reaction that acidifies it. He explained the "Keeling Curve" that exposes the steady rise of atmospheric CO2 from the 1960s to the present, even though there

are up-and-down variations each decade. He presented the very simple and persuasive analogy that adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere is like increasing the intensity of the sun itself.

The global land and ocean temperature index for which there is data dating back to 1880 shows that there may be highs and lows of temperature change and even the so-called hiatus in the 2000's, but that long rise has continued precipitously since 2014, with ocean and land temperatures spiking up. There are key points along this timeline that are influenced by such things as high industrialization in the late 19th century, and a huge rise during wartime and postwar production. The atmosphere does indeed follow our economic and social trends.



The key moment recently in controlling climate change is the signing by 195 nations of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. It enables individual countries to commit themselves voluntarily to lower levels of CO2 output, rather than having to follow a UN global mandate. Trump, as we know, would like to pull the United States out of the agreement, even though we have contributed over time more CO2 than any other country.

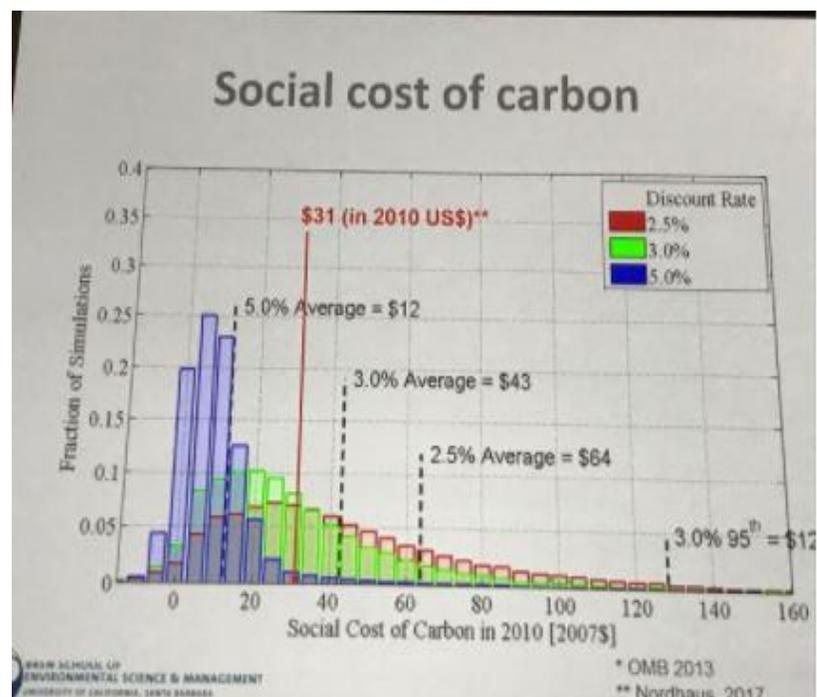
Professor Sangwon Suh, also of UCSB, dealt with the economics of climate change, the costs to countries, societies, as

well as individuals. We need to understand that we personally will not escape economic whipping from our damage to the planet. He showed on the chart of the United States that, when asked, a significant majority of Americans believe that climate change will have real negative effects on our country and its people. But when asked if they think that they themselves will experience any deleterious consequences, a very large majority says no. Why is this cognitive dissonance so pronounced?

Suh explained that the whole discussion of climate change is very abstract, a 2% rise in atmospheric CO2 seems like no big deal, people are confronted with conflicting information, and there's a lot of misinformation that confuses those even trying to find out what's going on.

Suh made it personal when he recounted the story of a property owner on the coastal shore of Norfolk, Virginia. She originally paid \$360,000 for her house, but many frequent floods due to sea level rise reduced its value to \$180,000 while her insurance went up to \$6,000 per year. We may experience such increased costs along the California coast, but sea level rise is less dramatic here since our shoreline expands out into the wide Pacific, while she was inside a narrow bay. We learn from that that seas rise to different levels in different areas due to land shape, tides, currents and other factors.

I'd add that we might very well experience economic impacts from global warming as Californians have to pay for dam repair, levee improvements,



and increased fire insurance costs—all consequences of the planet heating up—both the long drying out and the intense year of rain.

Finally, Jim Hines, a local Sierra Club environmental expert and political activist, gave a detailed overview of the environmental threats facing us locally—there are plenty. We are having to fight the proposed Puente Power Plant which would burn cleaner natural gas, but still create pollution and also would be subject to sea level rise sited on Oxnard beaches. There are also threats by the Trump administration to override the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act and open the Santa Barbara Channel to new oil drilling. Hines reminded us that we should call our members of Congress and local elected officials about stopping fracking, staying in the Paris Climate Agreement, and issues like new off shore oil rigs. Call, tweet, and attend public meetings, and Hines informed us, don't hesitate to call an office holder out of your own district since climate issues affect all of us.



So many questions so little time. Pictured from l to r: Pat Essick, LWV, David Lea & Sangwon Suh, UCSB; and Jim Hines, Sierra Club.

A lively Q & A followed. Here are some highlights, some of them quite novel:

- While it's true that the climate is always changing, usually over time scales of a 100,000+ years, and that a warmer climate is not in itself bad, we and plants and animals have adapted to certain temperatures for food production and living strategies and areas that are hard to give up or modify in a short period of time.
- It might be possible to geo-engineer the whole planet to reduce global warming, by, for instance, making clouds out of particles that block sun light, or by sucking out the carbon and sinking it somewhere.

- Current technology to reduce warming needs to advance, such as electric vehicles, as long as that electricity is generated by alternative sources, such as solar and wind and not by power plants running on coal or gas.
- If you are planning a vacation trip to Washington DC, be sure to drop in on your representatives, and if they are not there, meeting with staff members might be more productive since they are likely to be more knowledgeable than members of the House or Senate. Meeting face to face locally with representatives is key to getting your message across.

(Note: Rep. Salud Carbajal, with Rep. Julia Brownley's co-sponsorship, has authored a bill, The California Clean Coast Act, that can keep our coast free of new oil development. Hines again urged us to support them though they are already on our side.)

LWV California Call to Action

Dear Friends,

Are you disgusted by the influence of big money in politics? Did you know that in most California local elections, there are no limits on the size of campaign contributions to candidates?

[Tell your Assembly Member to support AB 1089 to end unlimited money in our local elections!](#)



California is one of only four states that limit campaign contributions to state candidates, but not local candidates. And in about two-thirds of counties and a whopping 78 percent of our cities, wealthy special interests can give unlimited amounts of money to candidates. In some cases, a candidate for local office has taken \$100,000—or even more—from a single wealthy donor. That's outrageous!

Act Now

AB 1089 would safeguard democracy by ending that local loophole. It provides a general contribution cap to stop the worst abuses, while respecting the autonomy of our counties, cities, and districts to set their own limits tailored to their communities' needs.

[Please tell your Assembly Member to vote YES on AB 1089 to prevent corruption, curb undue influence, and protect local democracy!](#)

Sincerely,
Helen Hutchison
President, LWV California

LWVVC Advocacy Committee Update

LWV Advocacy Committee Selects Two Issues

The Advocacy Committee held its first planning meeting on May 19th. Present were Carol Lindberg, Chelsea Sutula, Pat Spence and Barbara Carr. Karen Savitt and Maria Runyon are also members.

After some discussion and a review of issues suggested by attendees at LWVVC's recent climate change forum, the Committee selected two issues on which to act based on positions held by LWVC and LWVUS.

The first topic is an important, often overlooked issue between heated elections—the electoral college. Our first action item will be to educate ourselves on the process and how it might be amended or abolished. As this is a national issue, it will involve reaching out beyond our local group. Pat Spence expressed an interest in making contacts with other groups. We are researching other groups that have laid groundwork in this area such as FairVote, National Popular Vote, and Citizens for True Democracy.

The second position our Committee will advocate for is defending the environment because of the recent intention by the Trump Administration to drill for oil off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura, and fracking concerns throughout the county. Click [here](#) for more information.

Carol Lindberg is reaching out to Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson and to Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas to see if there are ways we can work together to effect positive results on this issue.

We plan to reconvene on June 9, in the Renfrew Room at the E. P. Foster Library. The Elections Reform Sub-Committee will meet at 10 am followed by the Environmental Protection Sub-Committee at 11am. If you want to get involved in advocating for either of these issues, please attend the meeting and bring your ideas! If you can't attend but want to help, send [us](#) an email, indicate your preference, and one of us will contact you.

Submitted by: Chelsea Sutula, Ventura

Here's one member's reason for joining the Committee.

Hey! My vote for president wasn't counted! No taxation without representation? Disenfranchised! How could this happen in America? The Electoral College system, that's how. What do I do? Shout out the window: "I'm damn mad...."! Senator Birch Bayh worked fifty years working from the top down, to no avail. Maybe a grassroots approach might work? LWVUS has taken a stand against the Electoral College. "One man, one vote." Check the Voter for advocacy committee meetings and contacts to join the fight. If not now, when? - Pat Spence.

LWVVC Scholarship Committee Update

This Year's Scholarship Recipient Announced & More

Samuel Curren of Moorpark College is this year's recipient of the LWVVC Scholarship. An invitation has been sent to him to attend our annual meeting on June 24th. We are hoping to get a confirmation soon so we may get to know more about this ambitious young man.

Next year, the scholarship award will be going back to Ventura College where we started three years ago. This project is well received by the community colleges, particularly the students. As the LWVVC Scholarship program evolves and secures more funding support, the Committee is planning to expand outreach to the recipients and chronicle their educational path to success.

League members who are interested in joining this worthy project are welcome. We will have a display table at our annual meeting offering additional information, raffle tickets and wonderful prizes courtesy of our local merchants around Ventura County. Please stop by and check us out. Again, thank you to all league members who are always willing to support our youth and future leaders of tomorrow. See you at the annual meeting.

Submitted by: Carmen Hurd, Scholarship Committee

Local Cannabis Regulatory Update

Local Jurisdictions Continue Their Review

Proposed licensing regulations from the state are now available from the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation (Bureau), the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Food and Agriculture. The bills mandate comprehensive regulations on medical marijuana, with requirements for all marijuana businesses to be licensed under strict criteria by the start of 2018. Any interested person may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Bureau. Comments must be received by 5pm June 13, 2017. Visit to see the [full text](#) of the proposed regulations, the public hearing calendar, or for guidance on how to comment.

Locally, here's a summary of what's been happening in the past month:

Ojai: Interviews for the three delivery service permits and three non-storefront dispensary permits were conducted May 24. Those permits are expected to be issued soon.

Port Hueneme: A special public hearing was held May 22, to present the first reading of a new ordinance to regulate some medical cannabis business activities within the City. Visit for updates and the [full text](#) of the draft cannabis ordinance.

Thousand Oaks: The City published the results of the recent community attitude survey on marijuana, with 56% of residents responding that they would support a limited number of medical marijuana dispensaries. 63% were in favor of allowing delivery of medical pot to local homes. The results do not include figures from the online portion of the survey—open to all city residents 18 and over—that are still being processed. The City Council is scheduled to meet June 27, to discuss possible new policies. The City has paid consultant HdL Companies \$30,000 to aid local officials in writing the new ordinance.

Submitted by Chelsea Sutula, Ventura

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donors – 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.

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below or check out our web site 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 - Bob Lowe reviewed the financials.
- Pat Essick presented the nominating committee report for our new board.
- Carol Lindberg reported on the Climate Change Forum evaluations which were almost entirely positive. It was decided to add arranging for taping of educational forums for the future educational forums.
- Pam presented the budget committee report. Among other things we are slowly drawing down our reserves. Of the \$70 dues, \$32 goes to LWVUS and \$28 to LWVVC.
- Voters Service - Pat Essick reported for Carmen Hurd that our League has approval to “teach the teachers” how to register their students (16 years and up) from the Oxnard Curriculum Development Committee.

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

► **LWV Nominations Committee has one opening for a general member.** The committee is composed of three general members and two board members. The committee meets in the spring of the year for the purposes

of putting together a slate of officers and board members to be adopted by the membership at the annual June meeting. Please email us or contact Cheryl Collart if you have questions or are interested in serving.

▶ **Advocacy (Electoral College Reform etc.), Voter Registration, Program Committee, join a Committee and get active.** Send us an email and let us know if you'd like to get involved

▶ **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

▶ **Thursday, June 1 thru 4 - 2017 LWVC Convention** - Location: Sacramento. For California Leaguers, attending the state convention in our capitol city is not to be missed. And, the 2017 LWVC Convention will continue that tradition. See our Calendar on the LWVVC website for links to more information.

▶ **Friday, June 9 - LWVVC Advocacy Committee Meeting** - 10:00 am - Noon. Location: Renfrew Room at the E. P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street, Ventura.

- 10:00 am Elections Reform Sub-Committee will meet followed by,
- 11:00 am Environmental Protection Sub-Committee.

If you want to get involved in advocating for either of these issues please come and bring your ideas! If you can't attend but want to help, send us an email, indicate your preference, and Pat Spence or Chelsea Sutula will contact you.

▶ **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.). Open to all members.

▶ **Saturday, June 24 - LWVVC Annual Meeting & Luncheon** - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Location: Marriott Courtyard, 600 E. Esplanade Dr, Oxnard. The meeting will be followed by a plated lunch (Special Events above for details including where and when to RSVP). *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. David Maron will update us on the "State of the Region Report 2017" published annually by the Civic Alliance.
Noon	Luncheon
12:30 to 1:30	Speakers: Dr. Herb Gooch of California Lutheran University will speak on "California v. the Nation".

