



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

July, 2016 Volume 59 No.1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

Attending the LWV National Convention in Washington, DC in June was a once in a lifetime experience for me. Being in our nation's capital, visiting the House of Representatives and the Senate where our laws are made, visiting the White House with the flag flying (which I learned meant that the President was home), walking the National Mall where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I've got a dream" speech, and visiting the Library of Congress are just a few of the inspiring things I witnessed. Thank you for sending Sage Intner and me as your representatives!

Just as inspiring was being surrounded by League members, male and female young and old from all parts of the country. We are a powerful, lively, purposeful and well informed group. We started our days at 7:15 a.m. with caucuses and workshops, followed by plenary sessions where we heard fascinating, expert speakers and conducted the business of the LWV, with a 75 minute for lunch and networking, followed with more plenary work and speakers. The evenings entailed dinner/networking, more caucuses and workshops and an exhausted retreat to our rooms by 10:00 p.m.

Our charge for the next two years is "Making Democracy Work for All." With that in mind, we will be preparing for many candidate forums, registering as many voters as possible and looking for ways to increase voter turnout and participation. Please offer your help with forums, planning, and voter registration. The next few months until after the November 8 election will be a whirlwind of activity. We will need everyone's help to accomplish our goals.

Now is a great time to invite friends and family to join the League. September is Membership Renewal Month. You will receive a reminder letter in the mail. September 16 is going to be our Membership meeting and potluck luncheon at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club. We will add a little bit of drama and levity to the meeting by asking willing attendees to portray, in writing, speech, or riddle, an important woman in history. Save the date!

Saturday, July 16, 10:00-12:00, the In/Out Meeting of League Board members and interested parties is scheduled to plan for the 2016-2017 term. If you are interested in attending contact me for directions. All are welcome.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick - President

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➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Saturday, September 17 - LWVVC Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Lunch - 10:30 am to Noon. Location: Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai. Last year's potluck was a huge success. We enjoyed several exciting new dishes. This is a great meeting for prospective

members to attend. Invite your friends!

The main meeting activities will be:

1. Selecting the topics on which to focus our efforts in the coming year. Members are encouraged to provide topics of importance to them. It's your opportunity to direct our actions and have your voice heard.
2. In addition, we will be honoring Women's Month. Who Inspired You? Who helped make you the person you are today? Please share with us. Tell us about a woman who enlightened, inspired or changed you in some way. It can be a person from history, a person from your family, or someone you know. You may share in several ways, bring photos, read a brief biography, or play "Who am I?" Wear a costume if you like. Let's make it fun. Want some inspiration, click [here](#) for ideas. If you plan to participate, please let Pat Butler know by September 3rd. She can be reached at pbutler10@msn.com.

LWVVC Annual Meeting

- soup to nuts outline •

Members Convene to Review the Past & Plan for the Future

The meeting got started on time with Barbara Doyle, the Parliamentarian, reporting that the quorum requirement was met. President Pat Essick then welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Once the Agenda was adopted and certain administrative matters were addressed, the meeting was off and running.

▶ **2016-2017 Budget:** The proposed budget was presented by Cheryl Collart. She described the Budget Committee process and recognized Committee members including herself, Bob Braitman, Elizabeth Moore, Suzanne Harvey and Pat Butler. (See Treasurer's Report below).

▶ **Nominating Committee:** Cheryl Collart thanked her fellow Committee members including Nell McCombs, Bob Braitman, Pam Pecarich and Barbara Doyle, and introduced this year's proposed slate of officers.

- Co-Presidents - Pat Essick & Betsy Patterson
- Secretary – Judy Murphy
- Treasurer – Bob Lowe

The slate of Directors and at Large Directors for the Board include:

- Pat Butler, Membership
- Suzanne Harvey, Digital Communications
- Carol Lindberg, At-Large
- Pam Pecarich, At-Large
- Helen LaMonte, Voter Service
- Barbara Doyle, At-Large
- Jennifer Matos, At-Large

Anna Bevens volunteered to be an off Board publicity assistant focused on social media.

► **Review of 2015-2016 Program:**

■ Voters Edge - Sage Intner reported on the new on line site for election and candidate information called Voters Edge. It is a collaboration with the state League and Maplight which included political contributions and spending information. Sage and Elizabeth Moore have volunteered to take the project on for Ventura County.

■ Voters Service - Helen LaMonte reported on Candidate Forums held during the Primary Season and thanked David Maron for his crucial support in setting them up and moderating. Forums were held for Pavley's Senate seat and two forums for County Supervisor District 3 seat (Kathy Long's). We had nice cooperation from the cities. Each forum had TV coverage and in Fillmore, the forum was streamed live. Helen acknowledged all the volunteers who helped including the AAUW in Thousand Oaks and Camarillo. Preparations are underway for forums starting in mid-September to mid-October.

■ High School Voter Registration Project - Helen LaMonte reported for Carmen Hurd and Pat Murray. In Thousand Oaks, a team consisting of Pat Murray, Jeri Andrews and Melanie Ashen sends birthday cards to graduating seniors with instructions on registering to vote.

In Oxnard and Port Hueneme, Carmen Hurd, Pat Essick, Pat McCart-Malloy, Frances Gagola, Kay Giles and Melanie Ashen registered students.

■ Membership – Pat Butler reported that we have a 13% increase in membership since September for a total of 95 members. She described her efforts at growing membership including setting up tables at all events, passing out our mission statement and welcoming people at forums. She has developed an easy form for joining.

Pat Essick then recognized those members who have been members of LWVVC for 25 years or more and passed out certificates. She also acknowledged our 4 lifetime members, two of whom were in attendance, Frances Gagola and Marian Tothoroh. The other two are Joyce Carlson and Bee Ellisman.

Board of Directors:

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Essick
Betsy Patterson

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Robert Lowe

Directors at Large:

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

► **Program:**

■ LWVC Study on Public Higher Education - Betsy Patterson reported on the scope of the study and the program we held which was well received with 75+ people attending. At the end of the program LWV consensus questions were discussed and answered by League members and submitted to state league. No new policy position has yet been adopted to our knowledge as a result of the study although one should be forthcoming once the LWVC study committee consolidates the consensus responses and drafts a position for consideration by the LWVC Board.

■ Money in Politics/Constitutional Amendment Studies - Pam Pecarich described the purposes of these two national studies as addressing different aspects of a response to the Citizens United Supreme Court case. *The Constitutional amendment study* looked at the process of amending the constitution and the criteria a constitutional amendment should have to meet. The result of the consensus process has already been reflected in two new positions to guide the LWVUS Board in determining whether to support a Constitutional Convention to amend the constitution and secondly in determining their position on any amendment under consideration. *The Money*

in Politics study required review of a lot of material that addressed the freedom of speech issue in the context of campaign giving and spending, as well as the regulatory process. The consensus questions revealed disagreement as well as agreement, illustrating how difficult it will be to reach a national consensus on "reforms". No new position has yet been announced. Public financing found wide support as an answer.

■ Transportation Infrastructure Forum - Steve Lattimore described the panel members who spoke at the forum and gave the gist of their remarks, which favored increased spending and funding on infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

■ Tour of Port Hueneme - Barbara Doyle described the presentation by the Port's top manager, a woman, and remarked on the fact that she is only one of three female port managers in the nation. Following a power point presentation at the Port, participants were taken on a bus tour of the facilities.

■ Homeowner Elections - Carol Lindberg provided background information on the Ventura Housing Authority election including the process we used with agency staff to prepare them for elections in four resident areas. The elections were a success as they completed a mail in ballot election for four new resident councils in a cost effective manner. We also conducted an election for the Cabrillo Housing Coop in Saticoy, something we have done before. We have not done any private homeowner association elections in several years but remain available. This is now our one fundraising effort.

■ Upcoming (sic) LWVUS Convention - Pat Essick reported that she and Sage Intner will attend the convention on our behalf. She ran through the agenda for the Convention.

▶ **Review of 2016-2017:**

Pat Essick described the Incoming/Outgoing Board meeting scheduled for July 16th, Pat Butler described plans for the Fall Membership Meeting, scheduled for September 17th and Steve Lattimore is pursuing a "futurist" as a speaker for us next year.

LWVVC Scholarship Awardee was introduced by Melanie Ashen. Ernest Stein, our Oxnard College winner of this year's scholarship thanked us and stressed that financial need is so critical these days with expenses at 4 year colleges and universities as high as \$36,000 at public ones and over \$50,000 at private one. He encouraged us to continue our scholarship program.

▶ **Recognition of Current President and Board:**

Barbara Doyle recognized Pat Essick for her gracious and effective year as President and gave her a gift certificate from the Board. Pat Essick thanked the current Board members for all their work and recognized outgoing Board member Pat Murray for her many years of service on the Board. Barbara recognized two long time Ventura County Board members as being effective mentors to her and the other Board members, Pat Murray and Pam Pecarich. They were each presented an engraved vase filled with flowers.

▶ **Discuss, Amend, Vote:**

■ Budget: - Questions and/or amendments were solicited. Hearing none Pat called for a vote, which was unanimous in approving the Budget as presented.

■ Board: - Calling for any further nominations from the floor, Karen Savitt volunteered to serve on the Board as an At-Large Director. A vote was taken on the slate of officers and directors including Karen, and the vote was unanimous in approval.

The business portion of the meeting complete, luncheon was served and participants settled in to listen to our keynote speaker Professor Scott Frisch's thoughts on the election.

Keynote Speaker Shares His Thoughts on Election

Professor Scott Frisch: Observations on the Election

Scott Frisch, Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department at California State University at Channel Islands, was the keynote speaker at our annual meeting on the topic of “The Political Landscape, Post Primaries.” He gave an interesting and entertaining talk, dissecting the outcomes, describing trends, and sharing his views on changes in the election rules and parties. He noted the surge of registrations in the last two months of the sign up period, with California voter registration at an all-time high during primary season. In California it has become easier to register both on-line and at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The current breakdown among parties is 44.8% Democrats, 27.3% Republicans, 23.3 % Independents, and 2.5% American Independent party. Frisch observed that a convincing Democratic plurality will prevent Trump from winning the state.

Primary turnout was initially undercounted due to a large number of mail-in ballots still to be counted. The number of provisional ballots also increased this time due to confusion over party registration rules (e.g. Independent versus American Independent party). Younger voters vote late and don't turn out in such large percentages. Redistricting has not accomplished the aims of reducing polarization and increasing competition in part because our state is geographically correlated with partisanship - most races are not competitive,

Professor Frisch is not a fan of the top two primary system whereby candidates receiving the most and second-most votes become the contestants in the general election noting that it has not made a big difference in outcomes – races are still largely non-competitive and incumbents win.

Regarding the upcoming Presidential race, Professor Frisch referred to his recent article in the VC Star in which he made the case for super delegates. He thinks the case for leadership and moderates to have a check on voters' primary results is strong but noted it was adopted only by the Democrats.

And finally, he observed that the November General Election will be dominated by liberal initiatives, such as legalizing marijuana and extending the so-called millionaires tax.

At the outset Scott announced his intention to limit his prepared comments so as to allow ample time for Q&A, viewing this as the most important part of his presentation. Following are a few of the points made in response to questions from the audience:

He projected the Senate could lose up to 9 Republican seats. The House will see Republican losses too but they will retain the majority.

Asked about the growing percentage of independents, his research finds that those registering with no party preference are expressing anger with the parties, but most still vote consistent with one party or the other. Professor Frisch believes in the party system because he believes parties help a low-information voter base make identifications. The caucuses, on the other hand, evolved from the 1968 Democratic Convention when a change in the rules gave states the ability to have an open primary or a caucus. States that want to stay in control have caucuses as only the hard core show up.

Asked about the initiative process he declared that it has gotten completely out of hand and is not furthering democracy, it being easier to buy an initiative than to buy a legislator; it reflects all of the bad and none of the good of direct democracy.

In conclusion, Professor Frisch stated that we need to force the media to do a better job. The media are failing to educate voters and local media are the worst. It would be a great improvement to restore equal-time practice, but corporate interests are an obstacle to this.

2016 Treasurer's Report

League Budget Approved – Includes Changes from Past Years

The budget approved at the Annual Meeting on June 11th contains adjustments from past years to reflect changes occurring as well as some that will be considered by the incoming Board:

- Income is reduced due to a reduced membership and diminished fundraising through adopt a poll;
- Expenses are increased to allow more mailings to members, including the VOTER;
- Funds are set aside for Voter Service to permit spending on forums and for wider distribution of Pros and Cons, given the large number of propositions expected on the November ballot.

As approved, the budget contemplates deficit spending. However, last year's budget also contemplated that but we are ending the year with a positive net income. Further, we have substantial assets in both the General Fund and the Education Fund, as illustrated in the Treasurer's report below.

Summary Treasurer's Report Annual Meeting 2016

Assets as of May 31, 2016

General Fund:

Checking	\$12,760.62
Reserves	<u>21,676.89</u>
Total	\$34,437.51

Education Fund-General: \$20,946.10 *

Scholarship Fund:	<u>2,550.00</u>
Total	\$23,496.10

Assets as of June 30, 2015

General Fund:

Checking	\$11,369.06
Reserves	<u>21,666.92</u>
Total	\$33,035.98

LWVC Education Fund:

Education Fund-General	\$ 1,679.10
Scholarship Fund	<u>\$ 1,850.00</u>
Total	\$3,529.10

* Reflects bequest from Winnie Hirsch of \$18,500 posted to our Education Account 6/30/15 but not reported to us until the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Submitted by Pamela Pecarich, Treasurer

Meet Our New Co-President & Treasurer

Betsy Patterson – LWVVC Co-President

A physician, Betsy has been an Ojai resident since 1992, and has worked in the Emergency Department of the Ojai Valley Hospital since 1993. I joined LWV 4-5 years ago (actually more like 6-8 years ago probably) but

only became actively involved last year as part of the task force looking at the future of Higher Public Education for California as well as a candidate forum during the last election. I realized there were a lot of great people involved in LWV so I wanted to be more involved. I am married to Al Stroberg and we have 2 grown sons (Ragnar and Wylie). We grow Ojai Pixie Tangerines as well as Valencia oranges in the East End of Ojai.

Bob Lowe – LWVVC Treasurer

Bob is a native Californian having grown up in Compton and Alhambra. In 1961, he finished his degree in Engineering, got married to Mary Ann and entered the Air Force in Waco Texas. By 1982, he had served all over the US plus one tour in Thailand. Bob then retired from the military and moved to Simi Valley with his family. Since 1982, he has participated in several volunteer activities such as K thru second grade teacher's assistance, English as a Second Language tutoring and the Conejo Valley Unified School District's We The People program. Bob just completed twelve years working as a tax professional. Bob and Mary Ann have four children and four grandchildren.

Observations on LWVUS National Convention

- what we saw and learned •

LWVVC Report on National Convention 2016, Sage Intner Reporting

As a first time delegate to a LWVUS National Convention I wasn't sure what to expect. I'm glad to report that the 52nd National LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC was a very exciting experience.

Some interesting statistics:

- 780 attendees
- 724 +/- voting delegates
- 220 Leaguers from California
- 35 hours spent on LWVUS Convention activities June 16th-19th
- 14 hours 45 minutes of time spent sitting in Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions were informative and at times confusing. I have a new appreciation for the parliamentarians who worked to keep things running smoothly and got us back on track when things went off the rails. As delegates, we voted on "Making Democracy Work," the program for the next two years, and some by-laws changes. In addition to the regular business of the convention (refer to the article from the LWVCA for more specific information), our plenary sessions included addresses from new LWVUS CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, new LWVUS President Chris Carson, and others. We learned from a very entertaining speaker, Celinda Lake, who is President of Lake Research Partners, that we should no longer use the term "non-partisan," but instead replace it with "The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties." This is because, after much polling, it is clear that people do not know what "non-partisan" means and believe that it means the League is in fact partisan. I recommend watching her speech; it is very informative and entertaining.

When not in plenary session we attended caucuses, workshops and information sessions. I attended the following breakout sessions:

Nominating Committees: Pros, Cons, Alternatives – LWVC

A lively discussion was held about the current nominating process and changes participants would like to see in the nominating process. No consensus was reached.

Making Voter Information Work for All – LWVC

This was an informative presentation about the work being done by the LWVC and the Center for Civic Design to help election officials with best practices on communicating voter information to voters. They handed out the *Best Practices Manual* they have developed and discussed how to engage local election officials. Voters Edge was also discussed.

Budget Q&A – LWVUS Budget Committee

This was a heated discussion as this year's budget revealed significant investment losses, reserves at half of that required, and many unanswered questions.

Making Democracy Work with Ranked Choice Voting - LWV Maine and LMVC

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is being used in Oakland and San Francisco. This session included a demonstration of RCV and discussed the advantages of RCV. With RCV, voters rank candidates instead of voting for just one. If no candidate receives a majority after the 1st count, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated and your vote goes to your second choice. The candidate with the majority of votes wins. Click [here](#) for more information.

501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4): Which to Be, or Both? - LWV Colorado and LWVUS

Over the last five years three state Leagues and more than 50 local Leagues have converted to non-profit status. Attendees received information on the process. It is an option worthy of discussion.

The LWVUS Convention was an educational and meaningful experience, though admittedly a bit exhausting! I was honored to meet so many smart, passionate and hardworking members from all over the U.S. Learning about the issues that face League members in other states was eye-opening: Voter's rights, education and local government to name a few. I returned to California impressed with the work of our State League on such impactful initiatives as League Easy Web, redistricting, Voter's Edge, and improvements to voter guides. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the LWVVC.

Submitted by Sage Intner, Ojai

LWVC Leaders Update on National Convention

- Helen Hutchison, President, LWV California on the Convention •

Report from the President of the League of Women Voters of California

(Please note, this is a redacted version of the full report)

I spent four days in June in DC talking with Leaguers from all over our country. I left feeling inspired to continue our fight for voting rights and educating Californians about elections and government. Congratulations to the first Californian elected as LWVUS President, Chris Carson of LWV Glendale Burbank!

Local League leaders will be especially interested in the [bylaws amendments](#) ...and the information on [media relations in the upcoming election season](#).

Convention Summary

At the LWVUS Convention, delegates:

- Adopted the [national program for 2016-2018](#), Campaign for Making Democracy Work, as proposed
- Adopted a [bylaws amendment](#) that removed the citizenship requirement for League membership
- Adopted a modified [bylaws amendment](#) that, instead of removing the age requirement for League membership as proposed, reduced the age requirement to 16 years old
- Adopted the proposed [LWVUS budget](#) and elected a new [president and board of directors](#)
- Approved [six resolutions](#): two on gun safety, one on statehood for the District of Columbia, and three on climate change

New Leadership at the LWVUS

The convention was the first chance for League members to meet and talk with the new LWVUS Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris. Her speech was a kickoff for a year of discussions about what we—the League of Women Voters—are going to do to be able to thrive in the next 100 years.

Special California congratulations to newly elected LWVUS President Chris Carson of LWV Glendale Burbank, who continued the theme of growth and change. The text of her speech is [here](#), and a video [here](#).

NEW! Stop using “nonpartisan” to describe the League

We all need to stop using the word “nonpartisan” when speaking about the League. Instead, describe our policy; say “we never support or oppose candidates or parties.” “Nonpartisan” is a misunderstood concept; we need to make it clear for our audiences.

New LWVUS Positions

The program as adopted by the convention delegates includes two new positions: [one on Behavioral Health](#), by concurrence with the LWV Colorado. This new position is consistent with the LWVC position.

The second position adopted was a [concurrence on redistricting](#). This position was proposed by the LWVUS Redistricting Taskforce, appointed after the 2014 LWVUS Convention. The position does not supersede positions held by any state League, including California. It does provide a position for the ten state Leagues with no position on redistricting so that they can begin to advocate on redistricting immediately.

Convention of States

Several local Leagues have received invitations from the [Convention of States Project](#) to have a presentation at one of their meetings. You are welcome to hear from any group, but please remember that the League position is that we oppose the constitutional convention they are calling for. You can read [our letter](#) to know more about why we oppose this proposal.

Helen Hutchison, President, LWV California

Our Aging Roads & Bridges

• [lwwvc forum on infrastructure packed with info](#) •

Transportation Infrastructure Forum Worked

On April 29, the Ventura County League of Women Voters held a public forum addressing problems of transportation infrastructure in Ventura County: “Our Aging Roads and Bridges: Ventura County’s Way Forward.” The event took place at the Ventura County Office of Education and featured three speakers.

The first speaker was Keith Millhouse, a member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Metrolink Board of Directors, and Moorpark City Council. He began his presentation by noting that the county’s transportation needs have traditionally been funded by the California gas tax (\$.18 per gallon), which has not changed since it was first adopted in 1993, despite a 66% cumulative inflation rate during that same time period. In addition, tax revenues have decreased substantially because of improved mileage per gallon, while needs have increased significantly. In addition, Federal funding is allocated according to counties’ efforts to help themselves, and Ventura County has lagged behind other counties in the state. Consequently, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is working to place on the November ballot a measure to increase the Ventura County sales tax by ½ of 1%, passage of which would make us eligible to receive additional government funds. It is estimated that this small tax increase would raise \$7,000,000. annually. There

has been public concern about resulting population growth and corresponding pressure on our roads and air quality, but Supervisor Steve Bennett has pointed to Ventura County's good record on the environment. The measure needs a 2/3 majority vote to pass and will require an informed public. Any added revenues cannot be taken from the county by the state or federal government. An oversight committee will insure spending accountability.

The next speaker was Darren Kettle, Executive Director of VCTC since 2007. He noted that congestion has been getting worse and that bad roads are at "epidemic" levels. Assistance from the state's general fund is not available to Ventura County because of the absence of local matching funds. Recently, however, voter support for matching funds has grown. The 1/2 of 1% measure's investment plan gives most of the revenues to local roads, then to freeways. Freeway 101 would receive two additional lanes for carpooling. Bus fares will be kept low for the neediest users and there will be additions to the schedules during later hours. Environmental concerns include attention to roads and bridges in areas near the Matilija Dam after the dam's removal.

The final speaker was David Fleisch, Director of the Transportation Department of the Ventura County Public Works Agency, which is responsible for the planning, building, maintenance, and transportation on county roads in unincorporated areas. Ojai, Oxnard, and Santa Paula roads are the worst; over half of the bridges are more than fifty years old. Funds are a critical problem.

The event closed with a Q&A.

Submitted by Steve Lattimore, Director at-Large

Registering Students

Increasing Demand for High School Voter Registration-2016

High School graduation season opened with a bang when LWVVC received urgent requests from Oxnard and Pacifica High Schools to come and register their seniors to vote. Neither school had participated in our voter registration program before so the requests required real hustle on the part of our volunteers, especially because we did not know what sort of accommodations we would be working with nor, the number of students involved. Not surprisingly our League members were up to the challenge. A call for additional help was circulated and members responded favorably. Oxnard High School was done on April 19th followed by Pacifica High School on April 26th. The total number of students registered from both schools was 448. Credit goes out to our members for their commitment to serve our community and help prepare our young people to be effective and responsible citizens of tomorrow. Thanks go to Pat Essick, Carol Lindberg, Judy Murphy, Frances Gagola, Jeri Loe and friend, Kate Hoffman and Mike Hurd.

In May we received requests from Frontier High School to register students during their graduation picnic at Freedom Park in Camarillo, and from Channel Islands High School to come register their seniors during the student's lunch break. Dates were picked and arrangements made with both schools.

Submitted by: Carmen Hurd, Port Hueneme

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 May Board Meeting (the Board did not meet in June)

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- Pat Essick reported on the Oxnard College Scholarship presentation.
- Voter Services Report – Helen La Monte distributed Easy Voter Guides for Board members to distribute to libraries, churches, voter forums, etc. She and reported on our candidates forums in Thousand Oaks, Camarillo and Fillmore.
- Plans were made for our upcoming Membership Meeting on September 17th.
- Steve Lattimore reported on his efforts to contact J. Diamond as speaker for a possible futurist program early next year.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

- Anna Bevens - Camarillo
- Steve Offerman - Ventura
- Betsy & Patrick Connolly - Thousand Oaks
- Dora & Michael Prihar – Camarillo
- Matty Park - Ventura

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

Donors

- Betsy & Patrick Connolly

Thank you to our Donors!

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.

In Memorium



Dot Engel: Dot recently passed away. She is survived by her husband Howard, a fellow League member, and 3 adult children. Dot was very active in the League for decades, serving twice as President, each for two year terms (1983-85 and 1993-95), along with many other officer and volunteer roles. She chaired the Thousand Oaks unit of League members for several years, hosting meetings at her home and serving lunch with Howard’s help. Dot was a masterful organizer whose achievements attest to the many local and county-wide issues she presented at League meetings. As local League leader in the Thousand Oaks area, Dot found important community topics and issues to address and invited interesting speakers. Education and action resulted from her League meetings.

Dot was a mentor and teacher to many of us newer to League, and she initiated the Board binder concept of having all the important information in one place. Some newly recruited members found places in city and county-wide League work, the direct influence of one of Dot's local League meetings and her persuasive powers. In 1999, she and Linda Lawrence, the Thousand Oaks City Clerk and League member, conceived of the Teen Voter project to encourage graduating high school seniors to register to vote. That project continues to this day, its growth a testament to the commitment the project engendered in the Thousand Oaks members. They plan improvements to the program next year.

In her years of residing in Ventura County, Dot was recognized for many achievements outside of League. She was an original member of the Ventura County Commission for Women (1981-1989) and received many honors for her service of 'faithful representation for the women of Ventura County', for serving as Co-Chair, for her contributions as chair of the child welfare project, and culminating in a Board of Supervisors Resolution in her honor and being named the County's Woman of Achievement in 1991 for Community Service. She was also recognized for her efforts in Mental Health volunteer leadership by the California Association for Mental Health with a certificate of appreciation and an outstanding service award.

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.

Watch this space cause even though it is Summer and things are slow, come early Fall we'll have a lot of projects that could use your help. Did someone say local elections and candidate forums?

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

▶ **Saturday, July 16** - Incoming/Outgoing Board meeting – 10 am to Noon (followed by potluck lunch). Location: Pat Essick's house, 2955 Hermitage Road, Ojai. **Please RSVP to Pat** at pessick@hotmail.com and she will send you a map (GPS and Mapquest sometimes a little iffy to this address). All members welcome.

▶ **Saturday, September 17** – LWVVC Annual Membership meeting and potluck luncheon – Location: Ojai Women's Club, 441 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai. Last year's potluck was a huge success. We enjoyed several exciting new dishes. This is a great meeting for prospective members to attend. Invite your friends! See Special Events above for more details.

