



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VENTURA COUNTY

# VOTER

September, 2017 Volume 60 No.2



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

With Summer coming to a close and Fall fast approaching, we are gearing up once again for a busy League year. This month we are holding an event that I hope all of you will attend.



I want you to be sure to save September 23, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm for our annual Membership Meeting and Potluck lunch to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ventura. This year we are very lucky to have Chris Carson, President of the LWV United States and her husband Tom, long time leader and member of the Burbank League, be our speakers for the day. Come learn how to successfully affect public policy. They are pros and will teach us strategies for designing and implementing an effective advocacy campaign. I know many of you are writing letters and trying to effect change, come learn from very experienced, successful advocates. Of course, another big reason to come is to catch up with your League friends and enjoy a delicious and always bountiful potluck lunch. Bring a friend or two who you think might be interested in joining us in advocacy work.

And lastly, as we head in to the final weeks of the legislative year, a lot of people will want to know the current status of bills, and where the League stands on them. We have a Bill Status Report on the LWVC website, here's a [short cut](#).

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours in League,

Pat Essick  
President

### Inside This Issue...

- President's Message
- Special Events
- Goodbye from a Friend
- Action Alert - Housing
- Urgent Legal Appeal
- Board Meeting Notes
- VCRRN Annual Event
- Membership Renewal
- Membership News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Calendar of Events

# ➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



**LWVVC Membership Meeting & Potluck Lunch - Saturday, September 23 - 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston Street, Ventura.**

Come learn about the League and join us to hear Chris Carson, President of LWV United States, and Tom Carson of LWV Glendale/Burbank discuss strategies for designing and implementing an effective advocacy campaign. Learn how to affect public policy.

Agenda:

9:30 am - Coffee & Danish

10:00 am - Noon - Membership Meeting and Speakers

Noon - 1:00 - Potluck lunch. Make it a surprise, bring whatever you'd like. We'll have plates and drinks.

## "Goodbye" from a Good Friend



### Goodbye and Thank You

As I pack to leave California and Ventura County for Washington state, I'm reminded of all the experiences I've had here with the League -- the friends I've made, the issues we've explored, the debates we've had. It has been enriching, and my overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude for the experiences and the relationships formed. Thank you all for these last years here, and for the gift that will continue to keep you in my heart and mind, a Golden Moon Maple purchased for my new Japanese Garden still being formed.

It is with great pleasure that I witness the VC League energized by new leadership and new members to carry on the impressive legacy of this league, one formed and guided by the likes of Wini Hirsch, Jeanne Harvey, Roma Armbrust, Jean Harris, Ann Levin, Sue Kelley, Dot Engel among others. Your Board and off board leadership is balanced with experience along with the new, and I'm confident you will thrive and continue to make wise decisions based on informed discussion.

Pam Pecarich

*(Note from VOTER. By now Pam and her husband are already in Washington and unpacking in their new home).*

## HOUSING ACTION ALERT F/LWVC

• here's a chance to make your voice heard •

### Take Action for Affordable Housing

The housing crisis is crushing California communities, driving families into homelessness and forcing them to choose between housing, food, and medical care. Today over 1.7 million families are paying over half of their incomes for housing. Nobody should go broke or hungry just to keep a roof over their head.

You can help create more affordable housing and keep families afloat. Your Assembly Member is preparing to vote on an important housing package that will begin tackling this crisis. **Please take a minute to urge your lawmakers to support affordable housing and vote YES on SB 2 and SB 3. (Click on "Act Now" button on the right).**



Act Now

This housing package includes a permanent source of state funding for affordable housing (SB 2), a bond measure for the 2018 ballot (SB 3) that will provide a significant jump-start for building affordable homes, and other reforms to speed approval and construction of affordable housing.

**Tell your Assembly Member it is imperative that this package is passed and signed before the housing crisis worsens. Vote YES on SB 2 and SB 3.**

Source: LWV California

## Urgent Appeal from LWV California

### This is an urgent appeal to California League members.

For a number of years, the LWVC has actively worked to make voter registration at the DMV as simple and accessible as possible and in accord with the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA, or Motor Voter).

We are a plaintiff in litigation to ensure that the DMV complies with the NVRA requirement that they offer an integrated process of voter registration to those renewing their licenses, whether in person or via mail. The court has ordered that we must show that at least one of our members falls into the category of those harmed

by the DMV's current process in order for us to remain a plaintiff in this important public interest suit. We are looking for League members who:

- renewed their driver's license by mail, or are going to renew in the next 8 months **and**
- wanted/want or needed/need to register to vote or update their voter registration before next year's elections — i.e., either moved, or changed party preferences, or changed vote-by-mail preference.

It doesn't matter if you actually did the registration or not — just that you wanted to (or will want to).

If you or another League member you know meet both of these criteria, please contact us at [advocacy@lwvc.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvc.org) or 916-442-7215. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Helen Hutchison  
President, LWVC

## LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. See Calendar below or check out the calendar on our website 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 August In & Out Board Meeting

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

President Pat Essick called the meeting to order and the Board got down to business.

- Treasurer's Report – Karen Savitt ran through the numbers. It was pointed out that we have been running a deficit budget for years. We operate very bare bones but programs, candidates forums, voter services, all of these cost money.
- President's Report – Pat Essick welcomed Chelsea Sutula to the Board
- Betsy Patterson updated the Board on conversations she has been having with a CSUCI Political Science Professor and some students on the fine (lost?) art of engaging in civil discourse. She will recruit a group of League members to be trained on facilitating civil discussions with an eye towards organizing small group discussion meetings for LWVVC.

## **Board of Directors:**

### **President:**

Patricia Essick

### **Secretary:**

Judith Murphy

### **Treasurer:**

Karen Savitt

### **Directors at Large:**

Pat Butler

Barbara Doyle

Suzanne Harvey

Helen LaMonte

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Rita Neumeister

Chelsea Sutula

- Betsy also updated the group on the upcoming “How to be Good Allies” meeting scheduled for August 30, in Santa Paula. See Calendar below or check the calendar on our website for specifics.
- Board decided not to sponsor a large community educational forum this year, focusing instead on small meetings to educate (i.e., on cannabis and the electoral college) and utilize the civil discourse lessons.
- Our upcoming Membership Meeting & Potluck Lunch, scheduled for September 23, was discussed. It will be held in Ventura at the Unitarian Church.
- Carmen Hurd is holding a Scholarship Committee meeting/National Voter Registration Day Campaign committee luncheon - contact her directly or send us an [email](#) for the where’s and when’s.
- Voter Services – Helen LaMonte reminded us that we will need to begin scheduling candidates forums next April for the June 2018 primary election, and later in the fall for the November elections.
- Membership – Pat Butler gave a report on our current membership. It was decided to create a non-voting associate membership for \$25 to enlarge and diversify the group both ethnically and by age.

■ Due to increased costs, it was decided to increase our dues to \$75 for an individual and \$125 for a family. The decision was not taken lightly. It was also decided to add a charge of \$5.00/year for members who request a hard-copy of the VOTER. This will only cover postage.

■ Advocacy - Chelsea Sutula presented the wording of the Cannabis Study Scope and Pat Essick reported that Pat Spence is working to coordinate a local march on October, 7 in support of one person/one vote.

The scope of the cannabis study will be to review the factors impacting the development of appropriate government regulation of medical cannabis in Ventura County. Through member research and discussion we hope to come to a consensus position regarding appropriate medical cannabis regulation in Ventura County.

As part of the study process we will “consider the use of cannabis in medical treatment, the bases for the existing government policies for regulation in Ventura County, the development of government regulations on this topic from other states/cities/counties that have been or are regulating the medicinal use of cannabis and the position of the Federal government, which has not legalized any use of marijuana. Part of this research may be done through public forums with panels of appropriate expertise, together with league member research and discussion”.

The Board approved the wording with the understanding that the study group could come back at a later date to expand the scope to include recreational cannabis use. The Board requested quarterly reports including a goal that we be prepared to present our findings at the next LWV California convention in 2019.

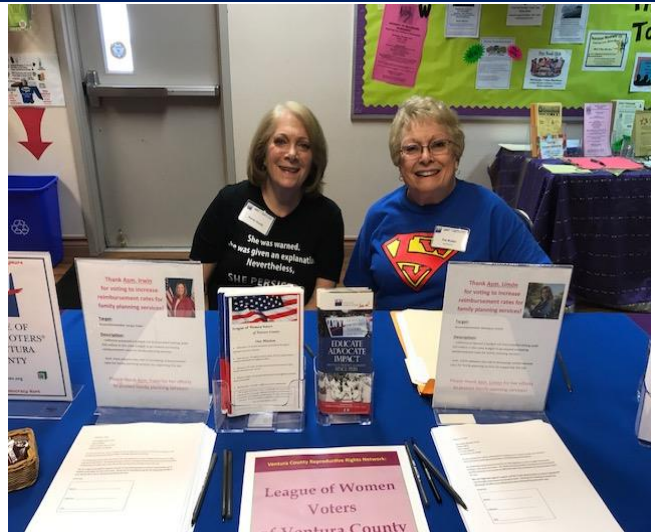
Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

## LWVVC Shows Up for Reproductive Rights

LWVVC members turned up to support the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network's (VCRRN) annual Write for Your Rights event on August 27, in Ventura.

VCRRN sponsors an annual letter writing campaign to protect a woman's right to choose including access to reproductive medical health services.

This year's event was a great event. Good turnout and lots of friendly faces.



The Intrepids: Karen Savitt (l) and Pat Butler show the flag at VCRRN Annual Write for your Rights event.

## Remember to Renew Your Membership

It's Membership Renewal Time!

By now you should have received a revised membership form in the mail. **PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE AND COMPLETE IT AND RETURN.** Many-long-time members assume we have their latest information however that isn't always the case. Please help us keep our records up-to-date. Also, please notice that the membership fee has increased slightly. And, if you would like to receive The VOTER by mail, please add \$5.00 to your dues to cover the cost of postage. If you would prefer to pay on-line, click **HERE** to pay dues via PayPal or go to our **website** and click on "membership dues" on our homepage.

Thank you for your continued support of the League of Women Voters of Ventura County. Now, more than ever, "Making Democracy Work".

Pat Butler, Membership Chair

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New Members - Welcome!

- June Lovell - Ventura

### LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you

- Melanie Ashen
- Geri Andrews

*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](mailto: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.*

*Your voice is crucial. What you bring to your local League is priceless.*

*If you think you’re not ready – you’re ready!  
If you think you don’t know enough – you’re enough!*

*Help out with a single task or event, or sign on to something long term. Work remotely or in-person. We’ll find the perfect fit for you.*

► Tired of the screaming heads, the insults without productive communications? **Join our Civil Discourse group** and learn how to recognize and participate in respectful communication to find solutions to contentious issues. Work with other members, reach out to college students, engage in small discussions and social LWV get-togethers. The long-range goal of the group will be to have frequent social hours with larger groups to discuss, civilly, issues that concern all of us. A program will be offered to LWV members who would like to participate on campus with students or would prefer to work with other LWV members in our

communities, in small social hour groups and then larger community groups. The goal is to plan multiple small social gatherings to discuss a “controversial” topics, not to find THE solution but to practice listening and understanding the other points of view.

If interested, email [Betsy Patterson](#). See Calendar below or check our website calendar for date and time of our first meeting. We will be training a small group of LWV volunteers later in September (time and place TBD). We will post the details on our website as they become available.

▶ We need someone who would like to **handle public relations for LWVVC**. We have a very good press list, we just need someone who can write press releases (we have the matrix) and **help us get the word out about our events and general doings - print, television, online event calendars etc.** Send [us](#) an email and we can answer any questions or, if you would prefer, meet with you.

▶ We are looking for members who might be interested in **joining the Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation**. The Committee holds a STANDING meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. Check out our website calendar for scheduled meetings through 2017.

▶ **Advocacy (Electoral College Reform etc.), Voter Registration, Program, Join a Committee and get active.** Send [us](#) an email and let us know if you’d like to get involved. Following is a list of our current committees:

- Study Committee Local Medical Cannabis Regulation
- Advocacy Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Budget 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.**

▶ **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 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 send [us](#) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested in serving or have further questions about the committee.

*Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send us an email to [info@lwvventuracounty.org](mailto:info@lwvventuracounty.org), 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

▶ Wednesday, September 6 - Civil Discourse Committee Planning Meeting - 11:15 am. Location: California State University Channel Islands, 1 University Dr., Camarillo, 93012, Cafe on the 1st Floor of the John Spoor Broome Library.



Planning session with CSUCI faculty and students will be to discuss 1) how to engage students and faculty, 2) when to do a small training session for students and faculty, with the goal of planning multiple small social gatherings to discuss “controversial” topics. We will be training a small group of LWV volunteers later in September (time and place TBD). We will post the details on our website as they become available.

From University Ave., turn left onto Santa Barbara Ave, then right onto Camarillo St. Parking on campus is limited and rules are strictly enforced. Visitors may park in metered parking zones and pay metered rates; in designated areas in Lots A1, A2, A5, A10 and R (watch for time restrictions); or may purchase daily parking for \$6 to park in general parking areas.

▶ **Thursday, September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Following is the schedule for all Board meetings for the 2017 - 2018 League year:

- October, 12
- November, 9
- January, 11, 2018
- February, 8
- March, 8
- April, 12
- May, 10
- June, 14

▶ **Tuesday, September 19 - Study Committee on Local Medical Cannabis Regulation** - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Location: Panera Bread, 2720 Portico Way, Oxnard. The Study Committee has a **STANDING** meeting scheduled the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Panera. Following are Committee meeting dates for 2017:

- October 17
- November 21
- December 19

▶ **Wednesday, September 20 - LWV Santa Barbara Community Forum - Protecting Our Elections and Voting Rights: how safe was our last election?** - Noon - 2:00 pm. Location: Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara.

▶ **Saturday, September 23 - LWVVC Membership Meeting & Potluck Lunch** - 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, 5654 Ralston Street, Ventura. Come learn about the League and join us to hear Chris Carson, President of LWV United States, and Tom Carson of LWV Glendale/Burbank discuss strategies for designing and implementing an effective advocacy campaign. Learn how to affect public policy.

Agenda:

9:30 am - Coffee & Danish

10:00 am - Noon - Membership Meeting and Speakers

Noon - 1:00 - Potluck lunch. Make it a surprise, bring whatever you'd like. We'll have plates and drinks.

▶ **Saturday, October 7 - Demonstration to Change the Electoral College** - 10:00 am. Location: The corner of Victoria and Telephone Roads, Ventura. The League of Women Voters supports the National Popular Vote movement (which canceled its march in DC!!!). LWVVC's "One Person, One Vote" committee knows this issue is the root of many of the current problems in the U.S. Please join us or drive by to show your support while on your way to the many events in Ventura on this holiday weekend.

▶ **Sunday, October 15 - Leading from Wherever You Are - A Woman's Way Forward in Times of Change** - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Location: Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai, 93023.

