



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

October, 2017 Volume 60 No. 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

It was great to see some of you at our annual membership meeting and potluck, Saturday, September 23. It is always nice to catch up. We were especially lucky this year to have Chris Carson, President LWVUS, and her husband Tom speak to us about strategies for constructive advocacy and pending changes at National League.

Chris offered us lots of good tips and shared how exciting and rewarding it was for her to participate in the campaign that succeeded in getting the redistricting process in California changed. One of the things that Chris really brought home was the awareness that the League cannot change things just by throwing money at it. Our real strength is in our volunteers and the trust and respect the League has earned through years of thoughtful, balanced, non-partisan and engaged participation in government.

One sure, simple way each of us can advocate for issues that are consistent with League's positions is to sign up for Action Alerts. They keep you up to date on bills that are being considered and suggest ways you can support or resist their passage. Action Alerts also outline how our positions support or do not support the bills. I urge each of you to sign up for LWV Action Alerts today.

- ❖ Click [HERE](#) for LWV United States Action Alerts.
- ❖ Click [HERE](#) for LWV California Action Alerts.

If you have time on Saturday, October 15, come to a program we are co-sponsoring entitled "Leading from Wherever You Are-A Woman's Way Forward". It should be an interesting meeting. See details below.

Yours in League,

Pat Essick
President

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Renew now



The 2017-18 membership renewals are due now. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so promptly. Be sure to include the Membership Form with your check as we are verifying everyone's information as they renew. Your cooperation is appreciated. - Pat Butler, Membership Chair.

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀



Leading from Wherever You Are - A Woman's Way Forward in Times of Change

Sunday, October 15 - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Location: Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai, 93023. LWVVC is co-sponsoring this event with Ojai-NOW (National Organization for Women) and the Ventura County Women's Political Council. Never before in our nation's history has the need for new leadership been so clear. Many of us are uncertain about how to make our desired impact. This event is for those eager to create change in their lives, communities and the world. Speaking will be Kathleen Schafer who has created an innovative approach to leadership development that enables individuals and organizations to experience transformational shifts in their leadership impact and the ability to achieve their goals. Click [here](#) to pre-purchase tickets.

Tickets

\$15 General

\$10 Students and Seniors (62+)

If You Missed the Membership Meeting

LWVUS President Chris Carson Offers Primer on Advocacy

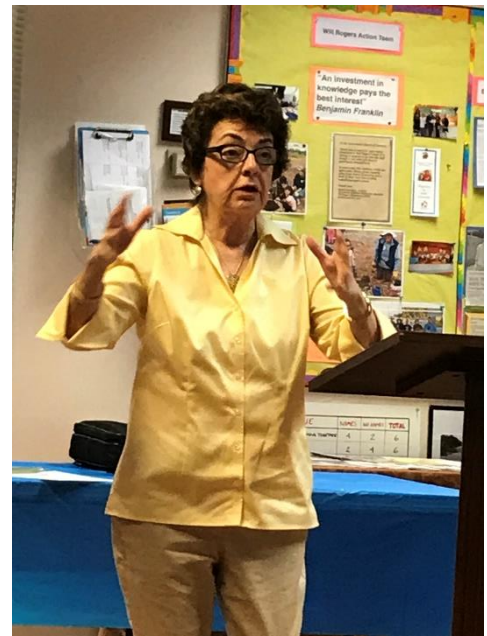
Stalwart members came together on September 23, in Ventura for LWVVC's annual Membership Meeting and luncheon. We were very fortunate to have LWVUS President Chris Carson and her husband Tom speak to us about how to develop and implement an effective advocacy program.

Tom Carson began their presentation by running through the process by which the League creates positions on which to base advocacy efforts in the name of the League:

First, in instances where there is no current position, identify an issue of concern and study it. Make sure to have adequate membership participation and be sure to include study participants with diverse positions in order to ensure a balance of ideas.

Second, present the study group's findings to membership and proceed through the consensus process. Once consensus is reached, craft your position statement and you're ready to go.

Next it was Chris' turn. She began her remarks by cautioning that where you live - red state, blue state, purple state - says a lot about what you can expect to accomplish advocacy-wise. Clearly one can



Learning at the Knee of the Master: LWVVC members take advocacy lessons from LWVUS President Chris Carson.

"do" anything however she focused her remarks on advocacy opportunities with the potential for a successful outcome. She pointed out that it fell largely to a local League's board to understand what its community would be receptive to advocacy-wise and to be judicious when choosing what cause to take up.

She counseled that in the event a local League is unsure as to whether or not there is an existing position (local, state or national position) that supports the issue it is interested in advocating for, it should contact the relevant League for clarification. *All advocacy efforts in the name of the League must be based on a League position derived as part of the normal consensus process.*

She cautioned that in instances where local Leagues want to contact state or national legislators directly, they are to check first with the relevant League (LWVUS for federal legislators, LWVC for state legislators) for its sign-off before proceeding.

Chris then walked us through, step by step, the process by which one would create and launch a successful advocacy campaign. Specifically:

- Research what is happening locally on an issue we are interested in advocating for - get the lay of the land and identify the players (for and against). Make sure we are up to speed on where things stand.
- Confirm that local, state or national League already has a position that supports the issue on which we want to advocate.
- Be sure to have a specific goal in mind - be clear about what we are advocating for.
- Find local partners and form a likeminded coalition - you can't do it alone. She cautioned that working as part of a coalition can be tricky so be sure that the agreement between coalition members is very clear, write it down. Make sure everyone is on the same page. As part of the agreement:

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

Helen LaMonte

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Rita Neumeister

Chelsea Sutula

- 1) clarify how resources - money and people - will be used including where it/they will come from. Who does what, who pays for what.
- 2) be sure that LWV gets credit as one of the coalition members.
- 3) be transparent about leadership and everything you do and be especially clear that no one is getting paid.
- 4) establish a timeline.
- 5) put together a well-crafted, 3 or 4 sentences top, set of talking points which clearly state what it is you are trying to accomplish e.g. this coalition wants X because of X. In drafting your talking points consider what your opponents are saying, that will help a lot in coming up with an effective statement.
- 6) makes sure the coalition agreement states that all participants run their press and media releases past the other coalition members to assure that the group is carrying a consistent message.

Create a media campaign by, among other things, writing letters to the editor and op-ed pieces. Media will publish letters from the League because they know we are a responsible and reasoned organization. When drafting media pieces first identify your audience and remember, there is no such thing as "the general public." Craft one message targeted to groups that will agree with you and another for those that won't. Each coalition member can do their own media pieces and the coalition can also issue joint releases.

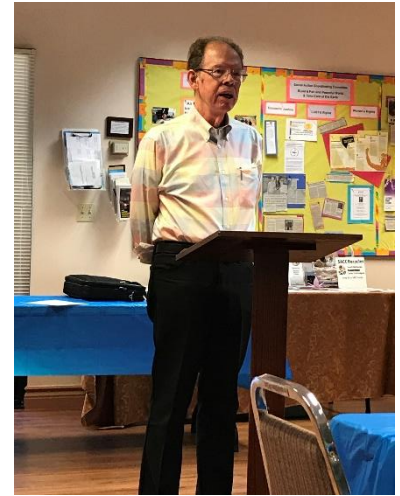
In the event a coalition partner "goes rogue" and issues publicity that is inconsistent with the stated understanding of the coalition, local League should promptly address the problem with its members and then the public. It is important to do this in a timely manner to avoid damage to the League's reputation.

Chris also pointed out that it is a great idea to put together public forums on the issue for which we are advocating. Forums get the word out that League is a "thought leader." It is important to have speakers that represent pro and con points of view on the issue - balanced presentations with all sides represented.

She then closed her remarks with some personal observations about advocacy campaigns she has worked on over the years. They can be a whole lot of fun, and with a good group of people there's really nothing like it. Good advocacy campaigns get the juices going and they really mobilize the membership. They are also a great way to attract new people and enhance the League brand. As a former surfer (who knew?) she wrapped up her remarks by observing, "a well-run advocacy campaign is like catching a good wave." Pretty cool.

She and Tom then answered member's questions on a variety of topics and with that, the meeting broke and people got down to lunch.

All in all I think it more than fair to say that all who attended would agree, we were very fortunate to have Chris and Tom join us and heaven knows, they packed a great deal of very useful information in to a relatively short period of time. Now, to work.



Tom Carson lays the groundwork for a thoughtful campaign.

Submitted by Suzanne Harvey, VOTER

Immigration Forum - Be a Good Ally

How to Be Good Allies

On August 30, on a particularly hot evening in Santa Paula, 70 plus people gathered at the Universalist Unitarian Church to attend the "How to be Good Allies" forum co-sponsored by the LWVVC, Cause, CLUE, Santa Paula Latino Town Hall, Santa Paula Ministerial Association and the Social Concerns Action Committee of the Universalist Unitarian Church. At least 8 members of the LWVVC were in attendance. The program focused primarily on what is happening with the immigrant community in Santa Paula during this stressful very difficult time and what each of us can do to help them.

Aracely Preciado of CAUSE started off the evening by sharing the experiences of two local community members who are undocumented and now find themselves constantly afraid and stressed out while simultaneously hopeful that a solution will present itself with a way for them to become citizens.

Santa Paula's Chief of Police Steven McLean shared that the Santa Paula Police Department, in the interest of local citizens, does not work with the Immigration Crime Enforcement agency (ICE). He went on to say that his Department does not want community members to be afraid to call the police or seek help when they need it out of fear that they will be deported. He noted that the Santa Paula Police Department does not share office space with ICE.

Santa Paula Unified School District Superintendent Alfonso Gamino described that before the inauguration of President Trump, the School District passed a resolution barring ICE from school property and designating the schools as "safe zones" where students and their families need not be afraid. The School District took these steps in order to assure family members and children that it was safe to come to school.

Elvia Hernandez, founder of Project Esperanza, outlined what health care and other resources were available to the poor and under employed, immigrant or not.



League members learn what it means to live in fear of deportation at "Good Allies" immigration forum.

had a much clearer appreciation for the stresses under which undocumented immigrants are currently living, fearing that at any minute they might be arrested. Tragically this stress often keeps them isolated and too afraid to participate in regular community life.

Submitted by Pat Essick, President

LWVVC Committee Updates

LWVVC Scholarship Committee:

The Committee met in August to review our scholarship giving policy and available scholarship funds. The LWVVC Scholarship Fund netted \$522. at the LWVVC Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, this year's scholarship recipient was unable to attend our Annual Meeting. The Committee took note of comments from the Board and other League members about the scholarship award and student eligibility policy. Our policy has been refined based on that input. Following is our updated policy.

- Financial need-not necessary
- Eligibility will be gender neutral
- Must be working on an AA or AS degree
- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Student must be continuing or transferring to an accredited public or non-profit college or university
- Scholarship award may be used for tuition or other school fees or educational materials
- Criteria of student's major subject: "Currently working towards or having declared to major in Political Science, History or Government"
- Attendance at the LWVVC's Annual Meeting strongly requested
- Request that the Ventura County Community Scholarship Foundation (non-profit organization that administers the scholarships) provide us with a copy of the awardee's application form and other qualifying documents, e.g. essay, letters of recommendation etc. for our records
- Photo-op of the recipient with League member(s) for the VOTER and record of the committee

Submitted by Carmen Hurd, Committee Co-Chair

Advocacy Committee:

Local Medical Cannabis Study Group

The local medical cannabis study group cancelled its regularly scheduled September meeting in order to allow time for members to do some background reading. The Committee/Study Group will reconvene in October to begin planning some forums - see Calendar below for dates and times or check LWVVC's website calendar for updates.

Submitted by Chelsea Sutula, Committee & Study Group Chair

Electoral College Reform Subcommittee

Electoral College/One Person One Vote Committee representative Pat Spence attended LWV Santa Barbara's September forum where LWV California President Helen Hutchison spoke about full voting rights, participation in coalitions, direct advocacy, and problems of implementation of existing law including issues with the DMV's voter registration effort (the American Civil Liberties Union is suing the DMV for non-compliance).

Ms. Hutchison also spoke about redistricting (vs. gerrymandering "packing or cracking" of districts), SB450 (California Voter's Choice Act), 2020 census issues e.g. prisoners being included in their home area census counts and a number of other relevant topics.

Submitted by Pat Spence, Committee Member

Civil Discourse Committee:

The Committee is working on getting themselves trained in the art of "civil discourse. Pat Essick, Sharon Shou and Betsy Patterson attended a facilitator training session in Orange, California entitled "*What Kind of Talk Does Democracy Need?*" presented by Martha Cox and Mary Thompson, co-chairs of the Civil Discourse Group of the LWV, North County San Diego. We learned about what the roles of participant, facilitator and note-taker are and participated in a "hands-on" discussion session with each participant having an opportunity to fill each role in the discussion. We are looking forward to sharing and improving these techniques with other LWVVC members and anyone else who might be interested in participating in our efforts to begin holding "civil discourse gatherings." The Committee's intention is to work towards better understanding between people of disparate opinions with the hope of coming up with solutions to some of the more "wicked" (difficult and controversial) issues we face today. Please join us as we grow together in learning about civil discourse. Keep your eye out for "Sips & Civility" events soon - check our Calendars.

We have also launched a partnership with California State University Channel Islands' students and faculty and have the support of the Dean of Students in developing a civil discourse program on campus. If you are interested in helping or learning more about what the Committee is doing, contact Betsy Patterson.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, Committee Chair

Voter Registration Committee:

The Committee is working to confirm dates and the schools wanting to do voter registration for October. So far, the Committee has lined up three high schools: Frontier, Channel Islands and Hueneme High schools. See Volunteers section below for currently scheduled opportunities to get involved in this very rewarding effort.

Submitted by Carmen Hurd, Committee Chair

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 September Board Meeting

Topics Covered and "To Do" List:

- Board discussed final plans for the LWVVC Membership Meeting on September 23rd. LWVUS President Chris Carson and her husband Tom Carson will do a presentation on advocacy.
- National Voter Register Day on 9/26 – LWVVC will partner with CSUCI (the Gen Action Club) and Planned Parenthood to register students.
- Arrangements are being made for our annual Holiday Party on December 16 (see Calendar for the particulars).
- The Board decided that for the next 3 years we would offer two \$1,000 scholarships per year (if the funds are available).
- Pat Butler, Membership Chair, reported that she has received 48 membership renewals so far, not quite half.
- VOTER/web site – Work will begin soon on our new website via MyLo, LWV California's new website product offering. We are looking for iconic photos from around the county for the new site.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donors – Thank you to our donors !!

- Dixie Adeniran
- Barbara Doyle
- Pat and Roger Essick
- Jeanette Hosek
- Mary Ann and Bob Lowe
- Pat and John Murray
- Betsy Patterson

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you

- Pat and Roger Essick
- Geri Loe

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. All contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Ready to get involved and unsure who to contact at LWVVC? Here's a list to get you started. You can also check your Membership Directory for committee assignments and contact information. Send us an email if you have questions.

COMMITTEE/GROUP

CONTACT PERSON

▶ Advocacy Committee:	Chelsea Sutula, Chair
Electoral College Reform - One Person One Vote	Pat Spence
Medical Marijuana Regulation in Ventura County Study	Chelsea Sutula
▶ Budget Committee	Cheryl Collart
▶ Community Outreach	Pat Essick
▶ Civil Discourse	Betsy Patterson
▶ Membership & Recruiting	Pat Butler
▶ Nominating Committee	Cheryl Collart
▶ Program Committee	Steve Lattimore
▶ Public Relations	Maria Runyon
▶ Scholarship Committee	Carmen Hurd, Melanie Ashen
▶ Social Media:	
Facebook	Chelsea Sutula
Website	Suzanne Harvey
VOTER Newsletter	Suzanne Harvey
▶ Voter Registration Committee	Carmen Hurd
▶ Voter Services	Helen LaMonte

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.

▶ Voter Registration in October (Monday, October 16 and Monday, October 23). Carmen Hurd is gearing up for this year's **LWVVC effort to register high school students around the county to vote**. She is beginning initially with schools in the Oxnard School District. If you have 1 or 2 hours or more, either day, to help, contact Carmen directly or send her an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org.

▶ 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.

▶ 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. 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, not to find THE solution but rather to practice listening and understanding other

points of view. 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 locally, in small social hour groups and then larger community groups. If interested, email [Betsy Patterson](mailto:Betsy.Patterson@lwvventura.org). See Calendar or check our website calendar for date and time of meetings.

▶ 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](mailto:us@lwvventura.org) 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](mailto:us@lwvventura.org). 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](mailto:us@lwvventura.org) an email or contact Cheryl Collart if you are interested in serving or have further questions about the committee.

Working on a project and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventura.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

2017

▶ **Wednesday, October 4 - Planning Meeting: Equal Means Equal for Women** - 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
Location: VCCF Nonprofit Center, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd. Camarillo, 93012. Please save the date for a planning meeting organized by Junemarie Justus to screen the film, *Equal Means Equal* and be a part of the national media campaign to raise awareness for the need for women’s equality under Federal law. Click [here](http://www.equalmeansequal.com/) if you would like to attend. If you plan on attending, please try to review the resources below prior to the meeting:

- Equal Means Equal: <http://equalmeansequal.com/>
- Press Kit: <http://equalmeansequal.com/EMEPressKit.pdf>
- Official Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK9AV6Uffro>
- Rent on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Equal-Means-Patricia-Arquette/dp/B01LG6IL34>

▶ **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.

▶ **Thursday, October 12** - 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. Following is the Board meeting schedule for the 2017-2018 League year:

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

▶ **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. LWVVC is co-sponsoring this event with Ojai-NOW (National Organization for Women) and the Ventura County Women's Political Council. Speaking will be Kathleen Schafer who has created an innovative approach to leadership development.

\$15 General

\$10 Students and Seniors (62+)

Click [here](#) to pre-purchase tickets.

▶ **Tuesday, October 17** - 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 3rd Tuesday of every month at Panera. Following are Committee meeting dates for 2017:

- November 21
- December 19

▶ **Saturday, December 16** - LWVVC Holiday Luncheon - 11:30 am (lunch will be at Noon). Location: Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S. California Street, Ventura 93001. Cost is \$30. Please RSVP by December 12, by calling Carol Lindberg (check the membership directory for her number) or sending an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org. Mail check payable to LWVVC for \$30 per person to the League's PO Box 6786, Ventura 93006 so it will arrive by December 12.

2018

▶ **Saturday, January 13** - Facilitator Training for LWVVC Civil Discourse Project - Time and Location to be determined but it will be in West Ventura County. This will be a presentation by Martha Cox of the LWV of LWV of Northern San Diego, and others. If interested, contact [Betsy Patterson](#).

