



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

November, 2014 Volume 57 No.3

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

We are so pleased and proud of you, the members of the LWVVC, for the extraordinary job you have done in providing assistance to voters this month. October is truly the month of Voter Services.

Since the last newsletter we have successfully registered voters, put on eight forums for candidates in seven different cities, co-hosted Pro and Con presentations, and volunteered to run the Marina Mobile Home Park polling place for the November election. This couldn't have happened without so many of you stepping up to help organize and to volunteer your time and services. Thanks to all of you who have made calls, set up information tables, registered voters, made speeches, acted as timers, question sorters, moderators and greeters. Thanks especially to Suzanne Harvey who worked closely with us all to make sure that the forums and pros and cons meetings were publicized. Together we are doing just what the League was founded to do almost 100 years ago. We are working to keep our government strong by encouraging an informed electorate.

Besides all those great Voter Services, another exciting development the board and the new Scholarship Committee have been working on is setting up an annual scholarship fund to be used to give a yearly scholarship to a deserving student at one community college a year. You can help make this a big success by donating to the fund. (More details inside.)

Don't think we are all finished for the year; we are planning a great December meeting in which we will have Das Williams and one or two other experts in groundwater and water issues speak to us post election, as we continue on in a state of drought. The public will be invited. The Panel will be held at Cal Lutheran University, from 10:00 am -12:00 pm. Followed by the above event, our League has scheduled a lovely Holiday luncheon at Ottavio's in Camarillo, from 1:00 pm -2:30 pm (see Calendar for details). We hope to see you all there. As always, the most important part of our plans is you and your participation in them.

We are pleased to welcome two new members, Beth Cohen of Ojai and Lacy Moes of Ventura. Remember to reach out to them and invite them to attend a meeting with you or to help you with a League function. Also, if you have not sent in your own dues to renew for LWVVC this year please do it today. We are in the process of making our directory and don't want to leave you out.

Yours in League,

Barbara Doyle and Pat Essick
Co-Presidents

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Board of Directors:**Co-Presidents:**

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Judith Murphy

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Pamela Pecarich

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Steve Lattimore

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Pat Murray
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A Testimonial from Pat Essick

Attending and assisting with the Forums in Santa Paula, Ojai, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and Simi has been a very rewarding experience for me.

As a new Co-President and just recent, active board member in the League, I have been learning the League way of doing things. I have had the privilege of meeting League members from all parts of the county. I have enjoyed learning about which issues are important in different communities. I have even gotten good at using my phone to direct me to parts of the county I have never before visited. I have enjoyed talking to people who have shared with me their interest--what they always want to know what the League thinks--and that they really appreciate the way the League remains so fair and unbiased.

I encourage anyone who has not volunteered to help with a forum to do so next election season. You will be energized by it and proud to be involved in such a meaningful service.

DID SOMEONE SAY RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

- getting your dues in allows us to focus more time on voter education •

Renew Memberships NOW If You Want To Be in the New Directory!

We still have around 40 members who have not renewed. We update the directory in December in order to include new information about elected officials and to add new members, so you will have it early in January if not before. Please send your renewal check to LWVVC, P.O. Box 787, Ventura, CA 93002. The dues are still \$60 per individual, \$90 for a household, \$25 for a student – a great bargain for three levels of League service.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Treasurer

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

- lwvvc's recommendations based on league positions •

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4!

(The LWV California) take(s) positions on ballot measures based on current program positions and/or on League Principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus. We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items? For information on the decision making process, go to:

- League of Women Voters of California, **Issues** (LWVC position statements and action policies as well as our current priorities for education and advocacy)
- League of Women Voters of California, **Legislative Priorities**
- League of Women Voters, **Issues** (LWVUS statements of position and priorities)
- League of Women Voters, **League Basics**

The League of Women Voters Recommends...

Proposition 2 Rainy Day Fund—State Budget Reserves

SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of California supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay

down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund.

Proposition 47 Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act

SUPPORT

Proposition 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

Proposition 1 Water Bond

NEUTRAL

The LWVC could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by Prop 1, such as the cleanup and prevention of polluted groundwater; drinking and wastewater treatment projects; and water recycling, rainwater capture, conservation, and water-use efficiencies that will help reduce demand on water resources over the long term. However, we have serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects and gives control over that spending to a commission composed of political appointees with no budgetary oversight by the legislature. Balancing the positive and negative aspects of the measure, we remain neutral.

Proposition 45 Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes

Proposition 46 Drug & Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits

Proposition 48 Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 45, 46, and 48, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures. For more on the reasoning behind these recommendations, go to: <http://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations>. For a balanced analysis of each ballot measure, read our [Pros and Cons](#) publication on line.

Source: LWV California

LWVVC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

• help lwvvc help deserving students •

Ventura County League Scholarship Makes the Grade

To further our mission of educating citizens to make informed decisions when casting their ballots, the LWV of Ventura County is pleased and proud to initiate a scholarship program for students attending our local Ventura Community Colleges.

Beginning with Ventura College, the League is offering a \$1,000 scholarship this academic year to either a continuing or transferring student. We plan to offer scholarships annually on a rotating basis to Moorpark College, then Oxnard College, and back to Ventura College.

Jeri Andrews, our long time member, has spear-headed the funding of our first scholarship, and gotten this program off to a promising start. Following suit in generosity are Melanie Ashen and Frances Gagola who have each made generous donations to be placed in our scholarship fund for future awards. (Ventura College's minimum scholarship offering is \$1,000. The other two colleges may have different standards.)

The League hopes members will take note of the exemplary behavior of the key members backing this program and consider making their own tax deductible donations. Donor checks should be made out to "LWVVC Education

Fund” with a notation “League Scholarship Fund” on the bottom. Send these checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 787, Ventura, CA, 93002.

There is no minimum as to the amount League members (or anyone else) may donate. Because of the present high cost of obtaining post high school education, most students are in dire need of financial aid, and every bit toward a scholarship is important. A significant plus in scholarship donations is that the entire amount goes to the recipient--there are no administrative or service fees, and the amount is tax deductible.

This is an exciting endeavor for the Ventura League, especially engaging with the youth of our community. We hope you feel the same.

League Scholarship Committee: Mary Dodd, chairperson, Jeri Andrews, Melanie Ashen, Carmen Hurd, Frances Gagola, Carol Lindberg.

Submitted by Mary Dodd, Oxnard

PROS & CONS on PROPOSITIONS

• a great deal was learned by all •

Pros and Cons Session Well Attended

On Sunday October 19th, our League co-sponsored a Pros and Cons presentation on the ballot propositions with the United Methodist Church on Santa Clara Street in Ventura. Pat Essick delivered a welcoming statement from the League as Co-President. The speakers were two judges, Steven Perren and Melinda Johnson(Retired), who have performed this non-partisan service for the community in previous years. They advised the audience on the factors to consider when deciding how to vote on propositions, and noted that there is one constitutional amendment placed on the ballot by the Legislature (Prop 2), one placed on the ballot by the Legislature after near unanimous approval there (Prop 1), one referendum (Prop 48) which is a vote to approve or disapprove what the Legislature has passed, and three placed on the ballot by initiative (Prop 45, 46, 47).

There were 60-70 in attendance and all present learned a lot. Many agreed these propositions were more difficult than usual to analyze and the assistance received was much appreciated. Carol Lindberg and Pam Pecarich handed out League materials, contact information, and membership brochures to most of the attendees.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Board Member

BROWNLEY V. GORELL

• lwwvc forum a huge success •

Congressional Debate at CSU Channel Islands – Congresswoman Brownley v. Assemblyman Gorell

A record crowd turned out on October 12 to hear the competing candidates for the 26th Congressional District seat. This district is one made competitive under the reformed redistricting process California voters approved several years ago. Congresswoman Brownley has served just one term and the seat is considered winnable by Republicans. This event was sponsored by the LWVVC, the VC Star and the University. It was recorded and is available on the VC Star web site. It was held on the campus in Camarillo. Over 500 attended.

Initial questions were submitted by the University: “How can you help us educate students on the requirements of the just-passed act addressing violence against women?” and the VC Star: “What is your position on the idea of



Assemblyman Gorell and Congresswoman Brownley address constituents at LWVVC Forum on CSU Channel Islands Campus

retirement plan access for those who have no employer sponsored 401(k)?” Then audience questions were sorted and passed to the moderator Timm Herdt. The questions ranged from Social Security, to how to combat ISIS, to climate change and everything in between – immigration, women’s right to choice, the new health care system, the economy and taxes, voting rights, minimum wage, the threat of Ebola.

On many issues, the candidates had points of agreement as well as nuanced differences. As to fracking, both supported the approach taken in

the Pavley bill, but still managed to sound as if they disagreed. The most clear disagreements were over (1) the health care system, with Mr. Gorell arguing to repeal it and Ms. Brownley stating that it needs work but we can’t start over, and (2) closing Guantanamo with Mr. Gorell strongly arguing that it should not be closed, no trials should be held in the U.S., and no prisoners should be released to other countries or within the U.S. Brownley seemed to follow the President’s policy, but was not explicit.

Thanks go to question sorters Jeanette Hosek and Judy Murphy, timers Helen LaMonte and Carol Lindberg, Pat Essick, who represented the League in welcoming remarks, and floater, Pam Pecarich.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Board Member

CAMARILLO CANDIDATES FORUM

Terrific Showing at LWVVC’s Camarillo Forum

LWVVC, with great help from the American Association of University Women of Camarillo (AAUW), sponsored a City Council Candidates Forum with the City of Camarillo on September 30. The forum took place at the Camarillo City Hall with a full room (100+) audience. David Maron was our moderator and did his usual great job. Thanks to AAUW members Diana Dinger, Judy Gill and Shirley Randall, as well as Leaguers Melanie Ashen, Carol Lindberg, Roger Essick, and co-Presidents Pat Essick and Barbara Doyle for staffing the forum.

Submitted by Barbara Doyle, Board Member

OJAI HOLDS 2 CANDIDATES FORUMS

Candidates for School Board and City Council Get Own Forums

The League's Ojai Candidate Forums were held October 8th and 9th for the School Board and City Council, with the assistance of Rhonda Basore, our City Clerk, who arranged for a free room and television technicians.

Both forums were well attended, especially the School Board forum which had standing room only! We had fourteen candidates running for six open seats. My thanks go to Barbara Doyle and Jeanette Hosek who both, as first time moderators, handled the evenings like pros!



Ojai School Board Candidates Respond to Audience Questions

My thanks also go to Pat and Roger Essick and Suzanne Harvey who worked both evenings. Also assisting were Carol Lindberg and Betsy Patterson. The League received several compliments for handling the events so professionally! Many voters are definitely better informed because of these forums.

For those who missed out, they can be viewed on the City of Ojai's web site.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Board Member

PORT HUENEME FORUM & PROS AND CONS

Port Hueneme Holds Pros and Cons on Measure M - Candidates' Forum Too

The LWVVC was on hand to assist voters in learning more about the issues involved with Measure M which would allow the city to impose business license fees on port businesses and contractors. A spirited candidates forum followed with four of the five candidates in attendance. David Maron moderated; Carmen Hurd and Susan Hernandez welcomed the public and managed the question card process; timing was done by Mary Dodd and Frances Gagola while Bob Braitman and Pam Pecarich sorted questions.

Measure M is very controversial with claims and counter claims which confuse as much as clarify the facts. Doug Breeze, member of the Hueneme City Council, represented the City and Mike Jacob, attorney, represented the coalition opposing the measure. The City was criticized by the opponents for not being more collaborative in its process of developing the Measure and deciding to put it on the ballot. The City argued it had to be put on the ballot because of the provisions of Proposition 218 which require cities to have voter approval to increase fees. Spokespersons for the measure did not explain or defend the lack of consultation, although they said the contractors would not meet with them. The City's position is that the port, its businesses and contractors should have to have a Port Hueneme business license just as other businesses do. The actual costs of those licenses and thus the resulting revenues are unknown as the City has not committed to the license amounts. The likely economic effects on those subject to the measure and the city were debated. It seems likely, if passed, there will be litigation over its legality.

The candidates participating in the forum were Ellis Green, Tom Figg, Jim Hensley, and Jon Sharkey. Messrs. Figg and Hensley are challengers; the others incumbents. One incumbent candidate did not appear due to a death in the family. The candidates continued to debate aspects of Measure M during the forum part of the meeting. Issues raised included the adequacy of city recreational facilities and programs, the funding of crossing guards at the schools, how to increase city revenues, and representation for the City on the Oxnard Harbor District Board.

Submitted by Pam Pecarich, Board Member

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CALLS LWVVC

• last minute call to register students yields rewarding results •

Channel Islands High School Calls on LWVVC to Register Senior's

A last minute request from Channel Islands High School in Oxnard to register the graduating seniors was finalized October 15, 2014.

Susan Yslas, the school liaison for the League brought the students in groups accompanied by the class instructors to the cafeteria. I cannot say enough how helpful this method is for the league members and as a result made our task less challenging this year. In spite of the league's busy schedule with the local candidates forums around the county, six league members came to help and spent time with the students to explain the importance of voting.

Thanks to our dedicated league members: Kay Giles, Susan Hernandez, Cheryl Collart, Mary Dodd, Frances Gagola, Carol Lindberg and Mike Hurd, we enrolled 74 new voters for Ventura County.

Submitted by Carmen Hurd, Port Hueneme

LEAGUESPEAK

• primer compliments of lwvc •

As LWVVC recruits new members we thought now might be a good time to dedicate space in the next few issues of the VOTER to including definitions of some of the lingo used by the LWV. For help we turned to a publication put out by LWVC entitled “League Lingo: a Glossary of Terms and Definitions.” Here are this month’s terms, understanding them will help you understand the League:

- **Member Agreement** – Substantial agreement League-wide on a public policy issue. May be elicited through various decision-making techniques. Member agreement is an essential basis for establishing a position.
- **Position** – The stand of the League on a public policy issue and the basis for action. It includes a position summary as well as specific positions established through the study and consensus process. Positions are subject to regular review and the position summary must be re-adopted by the convention or annual meeting. The appropriate board approves and may act on a new position pending adoption by the convention or annual meeting. The League is said to “have a position,” “act on a position,” “take a stand” (based on a position). Note: The expression “The League takes a position” should be avoided since it could be interpreted by the public as an ad hoc opinion without prior study and member agreement.
- **Position Review** – Participation by members, as a preparation for convention or annual meeting, in an evaluation of the League’s current capacity to influence public policy. League positions at each level are reviewed for clarity, relevance and effectiveness. Review may result in proposals to the appropriate board to clarify or drop a position. Changing the substance of any position requires a new or update study or concurrence process with a board recommended change accompanied by background material. Local League members may ask the appropriate board to undertake such a study or concurrence press if a position appears outdated or inconsistent with other positions.

Submitted by Suzanne Harvey, The Voter

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. Much is happening with even more that we could be doing if people get involved.

Notes from October Board Meeting

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- Scholarship Committee – Mary Dodd introduced Norbert Tan, Executive Director of Ventura College Foundation, and Ann King, Director of Planned Giving. They gave an overview of how the Foundation works. The LWVVC scholarship committee will finalize the application form and agree on the recommended amount of our scholarship for presentation to the Board in November.

- President's Report – Pat Essick reported on plans being made for a water program in December She also gave an update on arrangements being made for the annual LWVVC Holiday luncheon.
- Voter Service – Barbara Doyle reported on the 8 LWVVC candidates forums, almost all of which were very well attended. She also reported on our various voter registration efforts around the county.
- Membership – Barbara Doyle briefed the board on the status of membership renewals – we are (very) roughly 2/3 there.
- Program – Barbara Doyle, reporting for Steve Lattimore, gave a status report on upcoming water tour in November. We will email our membership once tickets become available as they go very quickly.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Lost: Could whoever has the LWVVC digital projector please let us know by either contacting Barbara Doyle or Pat Essick or, send an email to the LWVVC email address at the bottom of this newsletter?

New Members

We are especially happy to have these members dispersed around the county (and our new student member in NJ).

- Lacy Moes - Ventura
- Beth Cohen - Ojai

Donors – Members & Non-Members

- St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Oxnard
- Katie Fellows

Donors to New LWVVC Scholarship Fund

- Jeri Andrews (Pledged)
- Frances Gagola
- Melanie Ashen

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 lwv@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know what you would like to do. Someone will contact you to follow-up.

The official League Board is down to seven members; producer of our e-VOTER Suzanne Harvey, attends if she can ex officio to help her keep the VOTER current. This is the smallest board in the history of this League and therefore your participation as a member has never been more important. Several of you have stepped up to help – thank you.

Each of us needs to volunteer to do what we can, large or small, once or often, to keep this League vital.

- Barbara Doyle & Pat Essick

► December, 13 at California Lutheran University to help **set up, greet attendees and direct them to the room, staff membership table, etc.** for our upcoming Water Program “*Post Water Bond, What Now?*” Those wishing to help should

be at CLU no later than 9:15 am on the 13th. To sign up to help, please contact Barbara Doyle at gregnbarbara@yahoo.com or 805-765-9302.

► **Articles for the VOTER** from other websites: You don't have to write it but if you are willing to check into state and national news, especially the state League's website, for relevant stories to include in the VOTER, please contact Suzanne at gray.harvey@verizon.net. Do it for us each month or for one month – we need the help.

► We (still) need people who would be interested in **servicing on a committee that shares the load** of getting the following jobs done:

- Member of Nominating Committee
- Membership Vice President or, Member of Membership Committee
- Voter Service Vice President or, join as a Member of the Committee - we really need you here
- Program Assistant

Please contact either Barbara Doyle (gregnbarbara@yahoo.com), or Pam Pecarich (ppecar@aol.com) for more information about the above 5 committee positions- phone numbers can be found in latest Membership Directory. The League needs you! Volunteer yourself or recommend a member whom you think would be able to serve – we'll take it from there.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to gray.harvey@verizon.net 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

2014

► **Thursday, November 6 - LWVVC Board Meeting** – 11:00 to 1 pm (please be prompt). Location: Ventura College of Law Conference Room, 4475 Market Street, Ventura (parking in the rear.). Open to all members.

► **Thursday, November 13** – The Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's 6th annual all day-bus tour of VC water facilities- 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tour includes the Freeman Diversion in Saticoy, the Lake Bard Reservoir, the Oxnard Groundwater desalinization plant, and Lake Casitas. Cost is \$30 per person on a first come first serve basis - cash and checks only. Payment due to "AWA" on or before event date. No-shows will be billed. If your reservation was accepted you should have received an email confirmation. You must print the confirmation and bring it with you to board the bus. Overflow names will be placed on standby waiting list and will be notified in the event of cancellations.

Itinerary:

7:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast—5156 McGrath St. Ventura 93003
12:15 pm	Boxed Lunch Provided
4:00 pm	Tour Concludes at 5156 McGrath St. Ventura

► **Note: There will be no LWVVC Board Meeting in December**

► **Saturday, December 13th** – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - LWVVC Water Program “*Post Water Bond, What Now?*”. Location: Cal Lutheran Campus, Roth Nelson Room, 3391 Mountclef Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, 91360. LWVVC is sponsoring a 3 person panel discussion on implications for the county of November’s vote on the water bond initiative. Speakers will include Assemblyman Das Williams (D., 37th District) and 2 others TBA. Directions around the campus can be found at: www.callutheran.edu/map/ - click on building #7 for specific location details including parking.



► **Saturday, December, 13 (following Water Program) RSVP Required - LWVVC Holiday Luncheon** – 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Location: Ottavio's Italian Restaurant, 1620 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo (482-3810). Cost is \$20 per person includes salad, entrée, dessert and beverage with choice of entrée. **RSVP by December 6** by calling or emailing Pam Pecarich (ppecar@aol.com) or by mailing a check payable to LWVVC for \$20 per person to the League's PO Box 787, Ventura 93002 so it will arrive by December 6. Please include a note indicating your entree choice from the following list:

- Capellini con pollo Franco
- Penne al Pomodoro con Pollo
- Lasagne with meat sauce, meatballs, or sausage
- Manicotti

Directions: Take the Carmen Drive exit from 101 and turn left onto Ventura Blvd; restaurant is on the right. Parking on-site.

EVENTS IN THE WORKS FOR 2015

May 15 thru 17 – LWV California Convention. Location: San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter.

