



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

November, 2015 Volume 58 No.4

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

In keeping with the League’s founding members, we have been busy this past month registering voters and ensuring fair elections. Long time League member Carmen Hurd and her merry band have been active registering new voters in senior high school government

classes. Other volunteers, Pam Pecarich, Judy Murphy, Suzanne Harvey, Carol Lindberg and I have been busy working with the Housing Authority of Ventura to coordinate and run elections for four different housing locations and their residents. The voting is being done via mail-in ballots. Ten LWVVC members have volunteered to help opening and counting ballots in front of the Ventura Housing Authority resident voters on November 10th. Please consider volunteering and joining us in future voter registration efforts, you will have fun and feel rewarded with a sense of accomplishment as you introduce 17 and 18 year olds to the benefits and satisfaction of voting.

Besides voter registration and running elections our members have been busy working on several of our committees. For example, our Scholarship Committee has begun arranging for a 2016 scholarship at Oxnard College, and the Public Higher Education Committee continues its work studying and making preparations for a LWVVC sponsored forum in February, 2016. Most recently, members got together on October 29 to share what they have learned from National’s study on the Constitutional Amendment process and to respond to the Consensus questions put out by LWVUS.

Check out our Volunteers section below to see if there is a job that is just right for you and, if you haven’t yet renewed your membership for the 2015-2016 year, please help support LWVVC and renew your membership now. We want to be sure to include you in our new Membership Directory, so don’t delay, we need you as a member.

Yours in League,
Pat Essick - President



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LWVVC STANDS WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

LWVVC Submits Letter to the Editor In Support of Planned Parenthood

The following is a Letter to the Editor submitted by LWVVC President Pat Essick to the VC Star.

October 20, 2015

Board of Directors:

President:

Patricia Essick

Vice President:

Barbara Doyle

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Pamela Pecarich

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Suzanne Harvey

Helen LaMonte

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Jennifer Matos

Pat Murray

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County has long supported Planned Parenthood and its mission to improve women's health. We decry the vandalism at the facility in Thousand Oaks on Oct. 1 and ask the community to join us in the outrage we feel at such intolerance.

The LWV has a national position in support of a woman's right to choose, based on the constitutional right of privacy of the individual. The League also adopted an extensive position on health care in 1993, supporting a basic level of quality care for all residents, including primary care that covers prenatal and reproductive health care.

We hope others will join us in supporting this community-based organization that does so much to serve the women in our county.

Pat Essick, Ojai

The writer is president of the League of Women Voters of Ventura County. —
Editor (VC Star)

CONSENSUS MEETING ON AMENDING CONSTITUTION

• lwvvc members work through questions •

Consensus Reached on LWVUS National Study

On October 29, a stalwart group of LWVVC members gathered to discuss and come to consensus on questions given to us as part of LWVUS' national study on key structures of democracy - U.S. constitutional amendment process (see end of VOTER for study information and links).

As part of LWVUS' study, Leagues around the country have been asked to come to consensus on how and when to amend the U.S. Constitution - "Many believe the Constitution to be a near-sacred document, only to be amended in the most serious circumstances. Do we agree? Under what circumstances is it appropriate to amend the Constitution? What makes a sound and well-crafted amendment proposal?"

Although some of those who participated in the meeting were concerned that the subject matter and consensus questions would be overly nuanced, such was not the case and participants were able to work their way through the questions with a surprising level of agreement.



**Barbara Doyle and Carol Lindberg
Consider Consensus Questions**

MEMBERS REGISTER HS SENIORS

- league continues work registering voters •

Hueneme High School Seniors Get Registered to Vote

On October 19, a group of volunteers organized by LWVVC member Carmen Hurd register seniors at Hueneme High School. Volunteering were Mike and Carmen Hurd, Susan Hernandez, Patricia McCart-Malloy, Frances Gagola, Mary Dodd, Geri Loe, Carol Lindberg, Pat Murray, and Pat Essick. Carmen worked closely with the head of the Social Sciences department so that volunteers could visit each government/economics/civics class to register students. During some periods there were as many as three classes to visit which necessitated a certain amount of hustle. In the end, 110 seniors were successfully registered to vote although many more were educated about the history of voting rights in the U.S. and why it is important to register and vote when they are old enough, including the benefits of citizenship. Volunteers were impressed by the politeness and interest they witnessed among students and faculty and all agreed that it was time well spent.

Submitted by Pat Essick, President

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donors -

Thank you to our Donors !!

General Fund Operations:

- Barbara Doyle
- Pat & Roger Essick
- Leah Harris
- Jeanette Hosek
- Helen LaMonte
- Bob & Mary Ann Lowe
- David Maron
- Pam Pecarich
- Mary Schwabauer
- Roberta (Sandy) Thieme
- Marian Totheroh

Education Fund:

- Dixie Adeniran
- Ellen Davis
- Dot Engel
- Pat & Roger Essick
- Frances Gagola
- Ann Gardner
- Sara Hadley
- Jennifer Matos

LWVVC Scholarship Fund:

- Melanie Ashen
- Pat & Roger Essick
- Frances Gagola
- Eunice Koch
- Geri Loe
- Jennifer Matos
- Pat Murray
- Helen Myerson

LWVVC BOARD DOINGS

All members are encouraged to attend monthly LWVVC Board meetings. Come and see what your Board is doing and learn about projects that are in the works.

Notes from October Board Meeting

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- President’s Report - Pat E discussed plans for LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Consensus Meeting and the Higher Education Committee is, among other things, working on dates sometime in February for a public forum.
- Board decided to organize a public forum on Transportation/Infrastructure sometime in April - Forum Committee members will meet to nail down strategy.
- Plans were discussed regarding our annual Holiday Luncheon.
- Pam Pecarich reported on status of Housing Authority of Ventura election. Election will be November 10 and we need volunteers.
- LWVVC Scholarship Committee – Committee liaison Carol Lindberg reported that Jennifer Matos has agreed to chair the Committee.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

VOLUNTEER A LITTLE TIME

● lwvvc needs you! ●

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If interested in getting involved, send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and let us know, someone will contact you to follow-up.

- ▶ We would like to hear from League members who would be interested in **working on a committee to plan a public forum** dealing with the topic of infrastructure. If you have not previously worked on a forum, welcome!! Contact us at info@lwvventuracounty.org or feel free to just show up at our first planning meeting scheduled for this coming Monday, November 2 (see Calendar above for meeting details).
- ▶ **Volunteers needed to open envelopes, tally votes, etc.** on Tuesday, November 10th - Election for the Housing Authority of Ventura. Four area Resident Council Boards of Directors will be elected that day, starting at 10 am at the Community Center on West Vince St., Ventura. Contact Pam at 805-797-4757.
- ▶ **Register High School Senior at Channel Islands High School in Oxnard.** If interested in helping LWVVC members register students on Thursday, November 11 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. , send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org.

▶ We are searching for a few good people who would be interested in **servicing on a committee that shares the load** of getting the jobs following jobs done:

- Voter Service
- Program
- Smart Voter

▶ Leagues around the country are being asked to interview local politician and report back to state League on the results of those interviews. Not to worry, interview questions are provided by LWVC. **We need a chairman ASAP to coordinate our interviews** with Hannah Beth Jackson, Julia Brownley, Jacqui Irwin, and Das Williams (shared with Santa Barbara).

▶ **Articles for the VOTER.** We are always looking for articles to include in the VOTER. Anyone who has a piece they think would be of interest to our members should send it to info@lwvventuracounty.org. VOTER deadline is one week prior to ending of every month.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

- all league meetings are open to the public •

CALENDAR

2015

▶ **Monday, November 2** - Transportation Infrastructure Forum Committee Meeting - 10:00 am. Location: Parish Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Paula, 740 E. Main, on the SW corner of Main and 8th, Santa Paula. Meeting to plan a public forum on transportation infrastructure issues affecting Ventura County.

▶ **Tuesday, November 3** - Higher Education Study Committee Meeting - 3:30 pm at Marie Callendar's on Victoria in Ventura.

▶ **Thursday, November 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

▶ **Saturday, December 12** - LWVVC Holiday Luncheon – Noon. Location: Pierpont Inn, 550 Sanjon Rd, Ventura 93001. Luncheon will include choice of 5 entrees. Cost is \$20 including beverage and dessert. RSVP with payment to LWVVC by December 7, or pay \$25 at the door. Checks should be payable to LWVVC.

▶ **December** - LWVVC Board will not meet.

2016

▶ **January**, date and details TBA - LWVVC Meeting on Money in Politics.

▶ **Thursday, January 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.

- ▶ **Thursday, February 11** - 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.
- ▶ **Wednesday, February 24** - Thousand Oaks area LWVVC members will meet to prepare materials for the annual Teen Voter Outreach Program of the Thousand Oaks Conejo Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) - 9:00 am to Noon. Announcements, voter registration cards, and a congratulatory letter from Thousand Oak’s mayor will be sent to graduating high school seniors in the area. Participants will meet at the CVUSD office at 1400 Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks.
- ▶ **Saturday, February 27** - Consensus Meeting on LWVC Higher Education Study. Location and time TBA. Study will be presented and consensus conducted. See link at end of VOTER for study materials.
- ▶ **Thursday, March 10** - 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.
- ▶ **April**, date and details TBA. LWVVC Forum on Transportation Infrastructure.
- ▶ **Thursday, April 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.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 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.
- ▶ **Thursday, June 9** - 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.
- ▶ **June 16 - 19** - LWVUS National Convention. Location: Washington DC. The 2016 LWVUS Convention will be held June 16-19, 2016 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC , 20008. Additional information can be found by clicking [National Convention](#).

CURRENT LEAGUE STUDIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ LWVC study this term is <i>Public Higher Education: Access and Affordability</i>- study materials available here. Consensus due April 1, 2016. ▶ LWVUS 2014-2016 program on Key Structures of Democracy includes two studies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>U.S. Constitution</i>: Committee will study process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the | <p>gaps and challenges in those methods. Consensus due December 1, 2015 - preview questions here.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Money in Politics</i>: Committee is updating League's position on campaign finance in order to address the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. Consensus due February 1, 2016. <p>Information on LWVUS studies can be found here.</p> |
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