



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VENTURA COUNTY

VOTER

July/August 2018, Volume 61 No.1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Friends of LWVVC:

I would like to introduce the 2018-19 LWV Ventura County Board members. We have a few new faces among the familiar. Pat Essick, Past President, has taken on the Voter Services Chair this year. Judy Murphy will continue as our Secretary; Karen Savitt will continue as our Treasurer; and Pat Butler will continue as our Membership Chair. Other Board members-at-large include Kay Armstrong, Barbara Doyle, Steve Lattimore, Carol Lindberg, Matty Park, Jane

Spiller, Chelsea Sutula. We had a very productive In & Out Board Meeting on July 15 and we have lots of great plans for the League this coming year.

We are going to change a few things. We will be publishing the VOTER newsletter quarterly instead of monthly. We will time publication of the newsletter to allow us to tell our stories of what we are doing around the County as well as keep you informed about upcoming events. Since this will be a very busy Fall (it's an election year), we will be sending out a "3 Months at a Glance" calendar every month to keep you posted on what is coming up in the near future so you can plan on joining whatever activity appeals to you. You can also follow us on Facebook at (www.facebook.com/LWVVC) and check out our webpage (<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>) for updated events.

We are looking forward to a very active and productive year. The League of Women Voters is moving into the 21st century. We have a new Mission Statement:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We will be involved in voter registration, educating voters about the candidates and the ballot initiatives, getting out the vote, working the polls, and working to assure fair access to all voters throughout our county, state and nation.

Yours in League,

Betsy Patterson
President

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➤ SPECIAL EVENTS ◀

Ojai Pub Nights, 1st Monday of each month, at various locations in Ojai. Next event: Aug. 6, 5:00-6:00 pm, Majestic Oaks Tasting Room. For more information about Sept event, contact Jane Spiller (info@lwvventuracounty.org).

Meet the Members, 1st Tuesday of each month, at Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill, [3449 E Main St., Ventura](#), 6:30 -8:00 pm, for conversation and engagement. No-Host Bar, half-price wine. RSVP to Pat Butler, pbutler10@msn.com.

Board Meeting, 2nd Thursday of each month (except Dec, July, Aug), at Colleges of Law [Ventura, 4475 Market St., Ventura](#), 11 am - 1 pm with lunch to follow. Open to anyone interested; if you would like to attend, let Betsy Patterson know at info@lwvventuracounty.org.

Sunday, August 26 - Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network will host Write for Your Rights 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston Street, Ventura.



VCRRN will have letters on a range of reproductive healthcare topics for you to sign. By bundling these letters, a strong message from our community to our elected leaders is sent. The event is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments served. Please join us!

For more info, including about this event, email VCRRNetwork@gmail.com or call 805-212- 0702 or visit online at www.bit.ly/VCRRN or facebook.com/VCRRN.

“Get Out the Vote” Kick-Off Brunch - Sept 15, 2018 at Los Robles Golf Club

On Saturday, September 15 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, join us for a delicious brunch and hear about some of the voting issues we face: cyberattacks, Russian (or other) "bots," toxic talk on Twitter, Facebook and other social media, voting restrictions, and more.

Our guest speakers: Dr. José Marichal, Professor of Political Science, California Lutheran University, author of *Facebook Democracy*, specializes in the role that social media plays in restructuring political behavior and institutions as well as the role of diversity and multiculturalism in civic life, and Dr. Tim Allison, JD, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, California State University, Channel Islands, specializes in Constitutional law, civil rights, voting rights in our society.

For tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/ya5tmn4m> For more info: Pat Butler at info@lwvventuracounty.org or <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>.

Save the Date! February 24, 2019, from 4:00-6:30 pm at Los Robles Golf Club

There are so many things to celebrate in February: LWV Ventura County 60th Anniversary (1958 founded), Women’s History, Black History Month, Valentine’s Day, Rosa Parks Day, Susan B Anthony’s birthday (Feb 15), and more. Let’s have a party! And raise some money for our mission.

Let’s bring together the League and members of the communities of Ventura County to promote all the League does with regards to women’s rights, voters’ rights, civil rights, and much more.

Love the League! Our mission: **Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

League of Women Voters US Convention

The League holds its annual convention in Chicago, IL – June 28 through July 1, 2018

President Betsy Patterson, Membership Director Pat Butler, and Director at Large Matty Park represented Ventura County at the 2018 LWV National Convention. It was a whirlwind four days for action-packed meetings, caucuses and workshops. We attended about 50 hours of events all together, meeting competent, hardworking, impressive people from all over the county.

We started with **“Developing and Mobilizing Skills to Win in 2018”** directed at making the League a “winning” organization. We learned about the “power over,” the “power to,” the “power with,” and the “power within,” - four kinds of power to get things done; the difference between power and privilege, between organizing and mobilizing; and to how to write an effective “Ask” letter and the different kinds of “No”.

One of the main topics throughout the convention was **“Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.”** No more just talking about diversity; it is time for the League to become a reflection of our communities. We learned that to be a successful organization we must recognize our individual unconscious biases, reflect on ourselves, become comfortable with uncertainty, engage with people who are different from ourselves and be open to feedback from them on how we are doing. More training to come....

At **“Promoting League Work – Guide Creation and Fundraising”** we learned some successful fund-raising techniques that we think may be doable here. More on that later too....

We heard from Leagues involved in **high school voter registration** projects. We heard a panel of three experts talking about **“Election Day: Are We Ready?”** in terms of security, efficiency, accessibility and integrity. We voted on the 2018-2020 National Program which includes support for the Equal Rights Amendment, the National Popular Vote for President Compact, as well as programs for “Making Democracy Work,” like Voter Protection & Mobilization, Election Integrity, Campaign Finance Reform, and Redistricting issues.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, President, Pat Butler, Director
and Matty Park, Director

Look to the Past to Grow Voters’ Engagement

How to Excite Voters With a Deep Dive Into History

Voter apathy often comes from not understanding our nation’s history and how the institutions we take for granted, and even consider carved in stone, came to be. One of the sessions at the LWVUS convention in Chicago was from the League in Greenwich, CT, which had piloted a successful civics education program in partnership with area high schools, using cases from Harvard Business School Professor David Moss’s recent book, *Democracy: A Case Study*.

Survey results from the pilot showed significantly increased interest in voting, political engagement, and constructive political dialogue. These case studies bring our history to life and humanize the struggles of our founding fathers (and other change-makers, like the suffragettes), and the compromises they made, to give us the government we have today.

Dr. Moss has a generous private donor through 2019 to create and promote the project, so educating teachers to be facilitators in this method in Cambridge, or having him travel to our location, is subsidized. This seems like an ideal opportunity to help both students and adults better understand the vibrancy of our system and how important their participation is.

If you're intrigued you can read Dr. Moss's book, but I suggest getting the kindle version – I bought the hardcover and boy, it weighs a ton!

Submitted by Matty Park, Director

LWVVC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ▶ Advocacy Committee - Chelsea Sutula, Chair
- ▶ Budget Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair
- ▶ Civil Discourse Committee - Betsy Patterson, Chair
- ▶ Membership Committee – Pat Butler, Chair
- ▶ Nominating Committee - Cheryl Collart, Chair
- ▶ Program Committee - Steve Lattimore, Chair
- ▶ Scholarship Committee - Melanie Ashen, Chair
- ▶ Voter Registration Committee - Carmen Hurd, Chair
- ▶ Voter Service Committee - Pat Essick, Chair

Contact the Committee Chairs if you have questions or are interested in participating.

Board of Directors:

President:

Betsy Patterson

Secretary:

Judith Murphy

Treasurer:

Karen Savitt

Membership Chair:

Pat Butler

Voter Services Chair:

Pat Essick

Directors at Large:

Pat Butler

Barbara Doyle

Steve Lattimore

Carol Lindberg

Chelsea Sutula

Kay Armstrong

Matty Park

Jane Spiller

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 June LWVVC Annual Meeting

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

■ 2018-2019 Budget - Cheryl Collart presented the budget to the membership. After notice of a budget error related to Voter Services Publications as presented in the CALL was discussed, budget as amended and approved.

■ Nominating Committee – Slate of officers and Board for 2018-2019 presented and approved by the membership. Slate for officers includes: President – Betsy Patterson; Vice-President – open; Secretary – Judy Murphy; Treasurer – Karen Savitt. The slate of Directors for the Board includes: Membership – Pat Butler; Voter Service – Pat Essick; Digital media – Chelsea Sutula.

At-Large Directors are Barbara Doyle, Steve Lattimore, Carol Lindberg, Kay Armstrong, Matty Park and Jane Spiller. Maria Runyon will handle the VOTER and publicity off-board.

- Review of 2017-2018 – Betsy Patterson presented a slide show of the VC League’s year in review. Pat Butler also presented on our current fundraising efforts and new state and national League policies on membership.
- Preview of 2018-2019 – Pat Essick presented a preview of items to be discussed at the In/Out Board Meeting to be held on July 15.
- Scholarship Report – The \$1,000 recipient of our scholarship reward is Ventura College student, Sterling Langford. Scholarship Committee Chair, Melanie Ashen announced plans to create an album memorializing our scholarship winners.
- Election of officers and Directors – Nominations were called. None received. Slate of officers and Directors for the Board was unanimously approved.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

Notes from July LWVVC In/Out Board Meeting

Topics Covered and “To Do” List:

- President’s Report – Betsy Patterson welcomed new board members. Determined Executive Committee will make emergency decisions between regular board meetings. Board notebook, current schedule and location of board meetings discussed. Board concurred with the Budget subcommittee’s guidelines on the budget. Board encouraged to donate to the League.
- Membership Committee – Pat Butler stated membership stands at 94. Subcommittee to begin plans for September membership meeting. Distribution of fees to state and national leagues discussed as well as getting new members involved, and fundraising.
- Voter Services Report – Pat Essick stated National Voter Registration Day is September 25 and efforts to get students registered were discussed. Pat and David Maron are working on a list of possible voter forums and the Pros and Cons presentation for upcoming elections.
- Programs and Events – Items discussed were the Holiday Luncheon, Spring Event, Annual Meeting, and Ojai Pub Nights..
- The Voter – Will now be published quarterly with 3-month calendars emailed to the membership.
- Scholarship Committee – Melanie Ashen will continue as Chair. Recruitment efforts to secure one more person for the committee.
- Advocacy Committee – Will commence after election.

■ Media – Website will be administered by Betsy Patterson. Chelsea Sutula and Matty Park to handle our Facebook page. Directory responsibility by Barbara Doyle and Judy Murphy. Press releases handled by Maria Runyon, and calendar updates by Betsy Patterson.

■ New Business – Matty Park presented on an idea from the convention regarding using history/civics to engage the electorate and training for “classes” available in September. Write-up of Caucus seminar distributed by Betsy Patterson.

Submitted by Judy Murphy, Secretary

Summary of Budget Philosophy Meeting held on June 20, 2018

Because we found ourselves discussing repeatedly whether an item should be covered by the budget or not, we decided the Board needed to have a subcommittee discuss the philosophy of how our budget should work. We began with three possible approaches:

- #1: Spend only as much as is received each year, leaving the Reserve funds untouched.
- #2: Attempt to spend only as much as is received, knowing that the Reserve funds provide a source of funds for unexpected expenses; there should be a basic Reserve maintained at all times.
- #3: The budget is a guideline which can be reviewed and revised during the year as needed; new expense items will be considered in the following year’s budget to determine if they should be included or if a new source of income needs to be developed to cover new items.

We discussed the pros and cons of each approach, including having funds available to meet our mission and goals for each year, the need for fund-raising if we fall short of budget, limitations on beginning new programs not included in the annual budget, and the risk of running out of funds and being able to continue as an organization.

We concluded that our best approach would be to assure we maintain a basic reserve to assure continuation of our organization, but that we should be able to fund new activities as they arise during the year. We felt it would be wise to try and stay within our budget but agreed that we could afford to use up to \$2000 per year from our reserve funds to support unanticipated needs. We agreed that this approach should be reviewed and discussed on a yearly basis.

In addition, we adopted a “time-adjusted” budget, following expenses month-to-month in the itemized budget and making adjustments with Board approval. Again, we set the limit of \$2,000 to cover unanticipated expenses. We also want to track actual costs, including “in-kind” donations, so that we can better plan the following year’s budget. We continue to encourage minimizing our expenses, for example, trying to find free venues, keeping refreshments simple, and collaborating with other organizations to save costs. However, we also recognize the importance of fun and engaging events to attract new members so there will be expenses that are necessary.

We have varying expenses depending on whether it is an election year or not. We will attempt to be thrifty but we will always defer to our mission:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

If you have questions, please contact a Board member at info@lwvventruacounty.org.

Submitted by Betsy Patterson, President

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

- Sandra Ikeda – Port Hueneme
- Marianne Ramos – Camarillo
- Phyllis Johnson – Thousand Oaks

New Associate Members

- Alex Rothwell – Ventura
- James Churchill – Ojai

Donors – Thank you to our donors!!

- Jennifer A Matos and D. Craig Rudolph
- Catherine A. Schoenheer and Roberta A. Schoenheer

In Memory of Nell McCombs

- Daniel Wakelee
- Tami and Steve Brennana
- Mary Newman
- Dora Crouch

LWVVC Scholarship Fund Donors – We thank you and so do the students

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 memo line of the check.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization, all contributions to LWVVC are tax deductible

In Memoriam

Nell Quigley McCombs, April 26, 1933 – July 14, 2018

We regret to announce the passing of a former volunteer with the LWV Ventura County: Nell McCombs was a member of the VC LWV for many years, and served in many capacities. As another volunteer stated, “if you wanted something done efficiently, you asked Nell to head up the committee. She was a gourmet cook and thanked those on here committee with a luncheon.”. We are always grateful for the time that people like Nell generously contributed throughout their lives. She will be missed!

To read her lovely obituary:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ventura-ca/nell-mccombs-7935674>

“Nell’s inspirational life is remembered, celebrated, and honored by her husband of 63 years, Ed; her daughters Kathy, Linda, and Allison; sons-in-law Wayne Mark, and Tom; and 6 grandchildren”.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Ventura County’s Food Share or the League of Women Voters would be appreciated.

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.

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.

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.

Working on a project for the LWVVC and need some help? Send an email to info@lwvventuracounty.org and tell us what you need. We'll include it in the next VOTER. Please include dates, location, time of day.

CALENDAR

• all league meetings are open to the public •

THINGS ARE HAPPENING

Check out the CALENDAR and our new 3-Months at a Glance available on the website at <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county> or <http://tinyurl.com/yda4tuef>



PO Box 6786 • Ventura, CA 93006 • web: www.lwvventuracounty.org • email: info@lwvventuracounty.org

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