

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter

*The official newsletter of the League of Women
Voters of Ventura County.*

January 2023

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



New Year, New Goals!

Join us in January and February as we set our priorities for the LWVVC 2023-24 year and send our recommendations to the California League for what their priorities 2023-25 should be. Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy and more. We will share more information during January in advance of our meeting for all members in February.

LWVVC Priorities voted on for 2022:

1. Making Democracy Work: Voting and Fair Elections
2. Recognizing mis/dis-information and restoring trust in facts & science.
3. Improving civics education for students and beyond
4. Racial & Criminal Justice Reform - membership education and collaboration with local organizations working on these issues (CLUE, CAUSE, NAACP, etc.)
5. Climate Change, especially issues in Ventura County
6. Housing/Homelessness & Civil Discourse (on hold pending membership interest)

LWVVC 2022 Activities:

January: "Lunch & Learn with the League" - a 7-week series of interviews with Ventura County elected officials. Also, we conducted our annual Legislative Interviews with State Assembly & State Senate representatives, collaborating with LWV Santa Barbara when we shared officials.

February: "History and Current State of Voting Rights in the US" presentations to community groups, such as Democratic Women Council Conejo Valley and Chalice Community Forum. We ended February with our annual Program Planning meeting with guest speaker Regina K. Crawford, NAACP-Ventura County President, sharing ways to encourage young people to become involved in their communities.

March: Voter Registration training for volunteers to lead high school registration drives, expanding our reach to more schools. The Budget Committee began its review and planning for the following year's budget.

April: Voter Services committee held candidate forums, including Assembly District 38, Ventura County District Attorney, VC Clerk-Recorder/Registrar and more. We initiated a voter registration/update project at assisted living facilities around the county. An ad hoc committee was formed to research Measures A & B - a referendum on the oil drilling regulations passed by the VC Board of Supervisors - to determine if the LWV had positions to support one side or the other. Our Civics Education/Media Committee began exploring the current state of local journalism in the US. Our table at the Social Justice Arts & Film Fest in Oxnard helped register and educate voters about the new process of voting in Ventura County.

May: Scholarships were awarded to students at Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges. High school voter registration events were held. Candidate forums were completed. The ad hoc committee presented its findings to the LWVVC Board and the Board voted to support a YES vote on Measures A & B; we gave presentations to community groups on our research and decision to support a YES vote. Voter registration updates in the assisted living facilities continued.

June: Our Annual Meeting at Spanish Hills Country Club featured guest speakers Kevin Davis and Bret Bradigan discussing the current state of local journalism and some options for supporting it. We elected our new Board, including our new president Kathy Morgan and new VPs Susan Roth and Chelsea Sutula. We participated at the Juneteenth event in Oxnard and ended the year with several members attending the LWVUS Convention virtually.

July: In & Out Board Meeting was held to plan for the coming year.

August: LWVVC Bylaws and Board Notebook review and update done. Voter Registration training resumed. VC Superintendent of Education Dr. Cesar Morales was asked to support our voter registration program in the schools.

September: We were invited by the VC Office Of Education to participate in their annual Constitution Day event for teachers at the Reagan Library, where we shared the League's efforts to encourage voting and civics education. Candidate forums for the November election started and continued into October, as did high school voter registration events.

October: Our Fall Luncheon, held at the Poinsettia Pavillon, featured with guest speaker Clerk-Recorder-elect Michelle Ascencion and a presentation of the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures. Candidate forums and voter registration concluded and community presentations on the Pros and Cons of the ballot



Kudos and many thanks to Betsy Patterson for her collaboration on this message.

propositions commenced.

November: LWVVC members delivered THANK YOU snacks to the election workers at all 50 Vote Centers in the county. We also delivered pizza and snacks to the Election Office workers. A New Member Orientation program was held on November 12th via Zoom. We also conducted reviews of our candidate forums, Pros & Cons presentations and high school voter registration program to consider ways to improve.

December: The Holiday Luncheon was held at Ottavio's Italian Restaurant in Camarillo - nice to see friends in person again, plus Santa and Ms. Claus visited our party.

That was last year. Now we ask all our members what next year should look like. We need your input on what our priorities for 2023 should be. LWV is a grassroots organization, so the state and national leagues ask for our recommendations for their activities in 2-year cycles. This year we are asked to give up to three recommendations to the state League. Every year we also look at our local activities and decide where our focus should be for the coming year.

In January we will be sending emails with information about what the California League has done in the past year. We will include a survey to get your input on what the areas of focus for both the state league and our local league should be. We want to work in areas that are important to our membership.

And, we will be calling "Program Planning" by a different name: "New Year, New Goals" seems more fun and better conveys what we want to do. Stay tuned and please give us your ideas.

Happy New Year!

Kathy Morgan, President

Upcoming Events

Stop Human Trafficking Awareness Event and Walk

Saturday January 7th, 1:00- 4:00pm

Knights of Columbus, 36 S. Figueroa St., Ventura



January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The LWVVC has been invited to join with Soroptimist International of Oxnard, Ventura, and Camarillo to participate in a "Stop Human Trafficking Awareness Event and Walk" on Saturday Jan. 7th, 1:00-4:00pm - Knights of Columbus, 36 S. Figueroa St., Ventura. Check-in at 1:00pm. Walk at 1:30pm. Speakers at 2:30pm: Rikole Kelley,

VC Deputy District Attorney and Dr. Allison Santi, Emergency Medicine Physician
Los Robles Hospital.

Human trafficking includes both forced labor and sex trafficking. It not only represents a threat to international peace and security but also undermines the rule of law, robs millions of their dignity and freedom, enriches transnational criminals and terrorists, and threatens public safety and national security everywhere.

There are estimated to be more than 24.9 million people — adults and children — subjected to human trafficking around the world, including in the United States. Traffickers often take advantage of instability caused by natural disasters, conflict, or pandemics to exploit others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, traffickers are continuing to perpetrate crime, finding ways to innovate and capitalize on the chaos.

For more information, please see source material on this website: [National Human Trafficking Prevention Month - United States Department of State](#).

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Monday, January 16, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00 pm

Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC) 800 Hobson Way Oxnard, CA 93030.

Admission is \$10.00.

[**LEARN MORE & REGISTER**](#)

“In the Darkness Be the Light Striving for Freedom”



The 37th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration and observance will be held on Monday, January 16, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00 pm. Location: Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC) 800 Hobson Way Oxnard, CA 93030. Admission is \$10.00. Prior to that, there will be a free walk starting at 8:00am.

Keynote Speaker Lorrie Brown, MPAA
Former Ventura City Councilmember

If you are interested in volunteering with LWVVC,
email info@lwvventuracounty.org or call (805) 303-1476.

ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOP

Presented By The League of Women Voters of LA County

Saturday, January 28, 2023

9:30 am – 12:30 pm Virtual on Zoom

[**LEARN MORE & REGISTER**](#)



The League of Women Voters of LA County is conducting a workshop designed to sharpen your advocacy skills using the housing and homelessness action policy. Hear from League advocacy practitioners as they describe successful campaigns to support affordable housing and to end homelessness.

Click on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/477660494397> to register on Eventbrite. The ZOOM link will be sent out on January 27th, so please **register by noon on the 26th**.

Gloria Chun Hoo, LWVC Vice President for Advocacy/Program, will kick off the morning!

Webinar: Know Your Rights: Public Meetings in California



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Noon to 1pm Virtual on Zoom

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of California, the First Amendment Coalition's open-government experts will provide an in-depth presentation on your rights to access public meetings in California. The presentation will be 45 minutes, reserving 15 minutes at the end for questions.

The presentation will focus on the Ralph M. Brown Act's open-meeting requirements for local legislative bodies, including recent legislation that affects teleconferencing and decorum rules. It will also address:

- your right to give public comment and what restrictions government bodies can place on the public;
- what government business can be done behind closed doors;
- common complaints from members of the public about accessing and participating in meetings; and

- where First Amendment speech protections intersect with the government's ability to manage proceedings.

Please share this invitation! Everyone is welcome.

From Jennifer "JDub" Waggoner jdublww@gmail.com
Know Your Rights: California Public Meetings



MARCHING TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION

Saturday, January 21, 2023

11am – 1pm

Plaza Park, Ventura

Our country faces serious threats to our environment, social equity and even to our democracy. We cannot wait until the next election to do something. That is why Justice For All Ventura County and Planned Parenthood Central Coast are organizing a rally and march on Saturday, January 21, 2023, in Plaza Park, Ventura, from 11am to 1pm. We expect around 30 organizations to participate.

Set-up can begin at 9am with take-down after the marchers return to the park, around 1:30.

The message we want to get across is that we need to protect our constitution if we are to create a more perfect Union. Several prominent local and state officials will be present to share their agendas for the coming year. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet and talk with them.

The LWVVC will have a table with voter registration and membership information available. Contact: info@lwvventuracounty.org or leave a message at (805) 303-1476

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & COMING ACTIVITIES

Monday, January 1st – New Year's Day. Happy New Year to All!

Wednesday, January 4th, 6:30 pm - Happy Hour on Zoom hosted by [Matty Park](#).
[Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Saturday Jan. 7th, 1:00- 4:00pm -"Stop Human Trafficking Awareness Event and Walk" Knights of Columbus, 36 S. Figueroa St., Ventura Presented by Soroptimist International of Oxnard, Ventura, and Camarillo.

Thursday, January 12th, 4:00pm - Board Meeting
[Members and guests are welcome.](#) To join us, please email [Kathy Morgan](#) for the Zoom invitation.



Monday, January 16th, 8:00am – Martin Luther King Jr. Day Freedom March.

Monday, January 16th, 9:00am – Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance. Get tickets here [MLK Day 2023 - Oxnard, CA - 1/16/23 at 9AM \(mlkventuracounty.com\)](#)

Wednesday, January 18th, 5:30pm -Happy Hour on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#)- [Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Thursday, January 19th, 4:00pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Saturday, January 21st, 11:00am-1:00pm – Justice For All March. LWVVC will have an information table at Plaza Park.

Thursday, January 26th, 3:00pm – Climate Change Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Saturday, January 28th, 9:30 am–12:30 pm – "Sharpen Your Advocacy Skills" hosted by LWVLA. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/477660494397>

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 12:00-1:00pm Pacific Time
LWVC presents "Know Your Rights: California Public Meetings" Register here: https://firstamendmentcoalition-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xbxRIJTzSD-tq2ctma83IA

May 18-21, 2023 - [LWVC Statewide Convention in San Francisco](#). The Convention will be in-person at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Downtown Soma. (Soma means south of Market Street.) Mark your calendars!

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



Climate Committee

4TH Thursday of the month

3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

The new year is starting. What actions can we take to save our planet? What are the new laws that affect climate change? What incentives are there for reducing emissions? What are ways to save money in the new year? These are questions we will be exploring in the next climate change committee meeting.



Racial and Social Justice Committee and DEI Committee

3rd Thursday of the month

4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

We will be reviewing our goals and making plans for the new year at our January 19th meeting.



Government 101

Contact: [Patty Chan](#) or [Cheryl Collart](#)

The new year is a great time to be a LWVVC Observer. New city council members and new members of the County Board of Supervisors are taking their positions and beginning their work. Let them know the League is paying attention.

Observers are asked to wear their blue League shirts (available from [Karen Savitt](#)) and LWVVC "Observer" buttons (available from [Pat Butler](#) or [Karen Savitt](#)). Election Observer Guidelines are available on our website [HERE](#).

Voter Registration Committee - High School, College & Community Events



Contact: info@lwvventuracounty.org or leave a message at (805) 303-1476.

This month we will begin planning for high school voter registration events in February and March instead of waiting until April and May.

This past fall we interacted with over 1,800 students in 12 schools around the county and registered over 600 new voters.

With each semester we are growing the future voting community - empowering voters & defending democracy.

Communications Committee



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact: [Chelsea Sutula](#).

We coordinate local media relations and public outreach, including press releases, letters to the editor, social media, television, radio, and website to communicate to the members and the public. We could use your help! If you have graphic design expertise, website administration background, or if you love to engage on social media, please contact the chair, [Chelsea Sutula](#).

HAPPY HOUR ON ZOOM

1st Wednesday @ 6:30pm, hosted on Zoom. Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

3rd Wednesday @ 5:30pm, hosted on Zoom. Please RSVP to [Kay Armstrong](#).

Not just for new members – **everyone is welcome, including guests.** Join us for an informal conversation about all things LWVVC. Interested in becoming more involved in our mission of "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy"? Come, learn about what we're doing and how you can help.



You don't have to be a League member to join. Come for five minutes, the whole hour or anywhere in between. We hope to see you there! **You are welcome to**

attend either or both Happy Hours. Please register with the host in advance.

There are two opportunities to attend. Choose one or both. If you would like to have an in-person Meet the Members in your area, please let us know.

MEMBERSHIP



WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS: We warmly welcome our newest members, Julie Ward of Westlake Village and Karen Towner of Ventura. (Correction, Terrence Towner's name was displayed incorrectly in the November Voter. Apologies.)

ALL NEW MEMBERS: Please contact any officer, board member, or committee chair to volunteer for the activities that spark your interest. You can be partnered with an experienced member if you like. We will help you learn what you need to know. And please sign up for whatever committees you would like to participate in by contacting the committee chair to be invited to meetings. Do as much or as little as you like. We look forward to your participation.

RENEWING MEMBERS: Many thanks and gratitude to our members who have renewed their membership and to those who have made an additional contribution toward the expenses of operating the LWVVC.

To join or renew your membership you can find our membership form and online payment option [here](#). Or you can send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical!

INFORMATION ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

For all relevant news about Ventura County, go to: <https://www.ventura.org/>. Find out how to view Board of Supervisor agendas, documents, broadcasts, and videos. Connect with County services.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

[Join or Renew Form | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#)

The dues rates for 2022-2023 are:

Individual Membership \$75.00
Family Membership \$125.00

Student Membership \$25.00
Associate Membership \$25.00

Join at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here>

OR make your check payable to LWVVC and send it to
P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Membership Scholarships available with the approval of the Board of Directors.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

[Donate | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#)

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

- General Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Voter Education Fund
- Ann Gist Scholarship Fund

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [here](#). If you wish to donate in remembrance of someone, please include their name and a few lines about their life. Please specify the fund you want to support. Thank you.

RAISE AWARENESS of the LEAGUE

Wear a **LWVVC Shirt** to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested. For shirts, please contact [Karen Savitt](#).

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## Making Democracy Work...

*Please join us!*

**Membership Form Available online [HERE](#)**

Website: [LwvVenturaCounty.org](http://LwvVenturaCounty.org)

Email: [info@lwvVenturaCounty.org](mailto:info@lwvVenturaCounty.org)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVVenturaCounty>

Mailing Address: LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Phone Number: (805) 303-1476



Facebook: [@lwvventuraco](https://www.facebook.com/lwvventuraco)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LwvVentura>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lwvofventura/>



Find candidate funding and proposition information on:  
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

**All contributions are tax deductible.**

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The League of Women Voters, a grassroots non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.