

The Voter

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

May 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring! I hope you are enjoying the lovely spring weather. It's nice to have sunny days.

Save the date for our 2024 Annual Meeting: June 1st at 10:30am! This is our most important meeting of the year. LWVVC members will affirm our local League's positions and programs, vote to elect the new officers and board of directors, adopt the 2024-2025 budget. Your attendance is important! It is imperative that we have a quorum to conduct business. In

addition, Professor Kathleen Bruhn will speak about "Democratic Backsliding and How to Fight It". There is no charge to attend this event. Sign up today!

At the last board meeting the board of directors authorized a **new committee**, Community Outreach, to coordinate tabling activities throughout Ventura County. If you hear of any upcoming events in your area, please let me know right away. We have been approved to participate in the Ventura July 4th Street Festival and are hoping to participate in the Thousand Oaks Street Fair on October 20th.

Several of us are looking forward to attending the LWV Convention in Washington D.C. next month. You can still register to attend on Zoom. The hotel is fully booked. Breakout Sessions will soon be listed here: [Agenda - 2024 LWVUS National Convention \(cvent.com\)](#).

Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President



Congratulations Are in Order!



Pictured left to right: Carol Lindberg, Matty Park, Pat Butler, David Maron, Carmen Hurd, Karen Savitt, Kathy Morgan, Pat Essick, Betsy Patterson, Susan King Roth.

Many of us had the privilege of seeing David Maron be recognized as **Non-Profit Leader of the Year** for VC Civic Alliance on April 25th. The Ventura County Leadership Academy Journey to Leadership Awards luncheon is the premier Ventura County event, recognizing leaders in the business, education, non-profit, and public sectors who have made an exceptional impact in our community. Thank you, David, for your tireless efforts to improve our community. Congratulations to our own David Maron!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **May 1st**, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm – **Happy Hour, IN PERSON** at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. RSVP to [Matty Park](#). Members and guests are welcome!

Thursday, **May 9th**, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm - **LWVVC Board Meeting** in person at the Ventura Law College, 4475 Market Street, Ventura, CA 93003.

Wednesday, **May 15th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#). Members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, **May 15th**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee** on Zoom (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Thursday, **May 23rd**, 3:00 pm – **Climate Change Committee** on Zoom (4th Thursday of the month). Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Saturday, **June 1st**, 10:30-2:00 – **Annual Meeting**, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003. Keynote speaker: Professor Kathleen Bruhn, PhD; will speak to us on “Democratic Backsliding and How to Fight It.” **[REGISTER HERE](#)**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Call to Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 1, 10:30am
Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, CA 93003

We're hosting a luncheon, and we'd love to see you there. Join us for the LWVVC Annual General Membership Meeting. Register soon because space is limited. We hope you're able to join us!

Please join us for an enlightening presentation by our guest speaker, Professor Kathleen Bruhn, UC Santa Barbara Professor of Political Science and Department Chair, who will address us on "Democratic Backsliding and How to Fight It".



[REGISTER HERE](#)

This is a no cost event. Register by May 29th.



2024 LWV Biennial Convention

June 27, 2024 - June 30, 2024

The LWV National Convention is exciting and informative. There are plenary (general) sessions where the work of adopting a budget, updating the bylaws, and electing new officers takes place. There are also inspiring speakers. But the part that educates and informs us is the many breakout sessions where we learn how to do new things or how to improve things we have been doing. And we learn what leagues from all over the county are doing; what their problems are; what their successes are. And we bring back ideas to present to our members. It's a great experience. If you attend virtually, please submit receipts to [Karen Savitt](#) for reimbursement.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



Be a Part of the Greater League

Participate in LWVUS and LWVC. Sign up for Updates and League Groups: For all League Members

LWVC Google and Facebook Groups - The LWV California has several different interest groups. They include Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homelessness, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting, Schools and Communities First, and Water.

Join by signing in at: [Join an Online Discussion Group](#).

This is *your opportunity* to work with other leagues, LWV California staff and LWV US staff.



Climate Change Committee

4TH Thursday of the month, 3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Earth Month (April) was filled with events advocating for protecting the Earth's biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change. If during your travels during Earth month you found actions that you think are unique or impactful, bring them to the next Climate Change Committee meeting which is Thursday, May 23rd, at 3:00 pm.

For the upcoming LWV National Convention in June, many of the teams in the Climate Interest Group (CIG) are preparing materials that are meant to be shared with local Leagues. Below are some links to those materials.

Here is a link to a video from the Renewable Energy CIG:

<https://groups.io/g/lwvclimateteam/wiki/27229>

Here is a 3 minute video from the group:

<https://youtu.be/17LgG346NAY>

The Climate Change Committee focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation and meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm on Zoom. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com.

Budget Committee

Cheryl Collart, Chairperson, cheryl.collart@gmail.com



There is a need for one or two general members to step up and serve on the League's Budget Committee. The committee meets only a few times each year in the Spring months with the primary purpose of reviewing annual expenses and preparing the organization's budget for the new program year. The committee is composed of the Treasurer, one additional Board member and up to three general members; a general member must serve as the chair of the committee.

If you have some experience with budgets and would like to help as a member of the Budget Committee, please contact Cheryl Collart (cheryl.collart@gmail.com), Chairperson of the Budget Committee.



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors Become an Observer

At its April 9, 2024, meeting, the VC Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a recommendation to contract a polling service to determine the feasibility of a November 2024 Ballot Measure for a Local Affordable Housing Bond.

Each month it is informative and uplifting to observe presentations to various organizations for the positive support they give to Ventura County residents.

Proclamations were presented:

National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Honoring Migrant Education Program Speech and Debate.
Cesar Chavez Day in Ventura County.
National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Ventura County.
National Library Week in Ventura County.
April 6-12, 2024, Week of the Young Child in Ventura
April 22, 2024, as Earth Day in Ventura County

The LWVVC invites all members to participate in democracy by being an Observer at any government meeting in Ventura County pertaining to relevant issues affecting the public. Contact [Carol Lindberg](mailto:Carol.Lindberg@lwwvc.org) if you'd like an agenda prior to the meetings. Choose your own time and topic to observe and bring a friend to the meeting! Please submit a brief report of your observations to lwwvc.info@gmail.com.

Dates for upcoming 2024 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are May 14th and 21st.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

We are awaiting the decisions from our three colleges on our scholarship awards.

If you have questions or would like to join our committee, please contact Kay Armstrong. We are always happy to receive contributions to our scholarship funds! If anyone has questions for us about our meeting or would like to join us, please contact [Kay Armstrong](#).



DEI/Race & Social Justice Committee

3rd Thursday of the month, 4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#)

DEI Committee

Ventura College "Diversity in Culture Festival," April 10-11, 2024

The LWVVC participated in the annual Ventura College Cultural Diversity Festival.

It was well attended, with people stopping by

the table to learn about what the League does, and some signed up to receive monthly information related to the League's activities. We had the opportunity to provide outreach to our community.



Race & Social Justice Committee

We are continuing our focus on low level stops and are outreaching to other leagues who are also addressing this issue. Recently the Pasadena League joined with the ACLU to present a program to their local area. We are gathering information!

If anyone would be interested in joining us, please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:00 -5:00 pm.



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#)

We were fortunate to have two Ventura County Grand Jurors speak with us about the purpose and responsibilities of the Grand Jury during our April Lunch & Learn with the League. We also learned about how one applies for and is selected to become a Grand Juror and what a Grand Juror's workload looks like. Both Grand Jurors stated that it was a rewarding and enriching experience for them. It was an interesting and informative session. If you missed the session you can watch the recording on our website at:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>

We are hoping to have another Lunch & Learn with the League towards the end of May and are working to finalize the details. Keep an eye out for information on that.

Although the November election is months away, we are already in the planning stages for our Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons Presentations. We expect them to start occurring mid-September through October. We are hoping to have as many of these events as possible in-person. This will require many volunteers. If you would like more information on volunteering to help at Candidate Forums or to help with the Pros and Cons presentations please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#).



Voter Registration Committee

High School, College & Community Events

Contact: Betsy Patterson, Co-Chair lwvvc.info@gmail.com
or leave a message at (805) 303-1476

This Spring we visited 17 classrooms in 7 high schools, talking with 487 students; to the 81 students already registered, we added another 219, making 62% of the students we met now registered to vote. The final event was a student training of 25 students at Rancho Campana HS, led by Carmen Hurd and Cathy Trevino. The students were engaged and enthusiastic in anticipation of their student-led voter registration drive on Wednesday, April 24.

Feedback from the students and teachers was mostly positive with some great suggestions from the students as well as the teachers: more about political parties, electoral college, how to find out about candidates and propositions, using tools like Kahoot! and iSideWith, have a pro/con debate on an issue, younger presenters, and more. We will try to incorporate some of these suggestions in the fall presentations.

We had 25 volunteers helping this Spring - 17 were League members: Melanie Ashen, Pat Belt, Mary Bergen, Bob Braitman, Randall Edwards, Pat Essick, Carmen

Hurd, Carol Mack, Kathy Morgan, Judy Murphy, Gladys Ochanga, Betsy Patterson, Doris Simmelink, Maria Teran, Adela Trainor, Cathy Trevino, Laura Ziff. Next season will begin with trainings and updates in August and early September. We need more volunteers to cover all the schools. Please email us if you are interested: lwwvc.info@gmail.com.

Membership

We heartily welcome our newest members – Betti Mentzer of Oak View, Barbara Hilburn and Eileen Reimers of Ventura, Pamela Lopez-Weisman and Matthew Weisman of Westlake Village, Kate Russell of Ojai, Kay Wilson Bolton of Santa Paula and Katherine Yant of Thousand Oaks.

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 and towards the scholarship fund.

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



Happy Hour – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON

Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

3rd Wednesday @ 5:30pm, 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.

Ventura County Information

For all relevant news about the County of Ventura: <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 \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org)

The dues rates for 2023-2024 are:

Individual Membership	\$75.00
Student Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$125.00
Associate Membership	\$25.00



Join: <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 \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org)

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

- General Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Voter Education 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 our public functions! Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL.

Donation of \$20.00 or more requested.

To purchase blue or black T-shirts, please contact: [KarenSavitt](#).



Making Democracy Work...

Please join us!

Membership Form Available online.

Website: LwvVenturaCounty.org

Email: 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/>



Vote411: [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org)

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

All contributions are tax deductible.

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.