

The Voter

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

In This Issue:

- [President's Message](#)
- [Save the Date](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar](#)
- [Committee Activities](#)
- [Happy Hour](#)
- [LWVVC Information](#)

August 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A good time was had by all at the Ice Cream Social. The ice cream was delicious. The games were especially fun. How many Citizenship Questions could you answer? Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day relaxing and visiting. Thanks to Betsy Patterson, Matty Park, Judy Murphy, and Karen Savitt for their work making it a success.

There is no Board meeting this month, but that doesn't mean we are idle. Coming up on August 19th is Ventura's Diversity Festival in Plaza Park downtown, 11:00am-6:00pm. We will have a table there. We have new handouts and buttons to give away. Our pop-up will be festooned with bunting. We will need a set-up crew, people to staff the table, and a take-down crew. I'll be calling for volunteers soon.

Betsy and Carmen will be kicking off Voter Registration training this month. Everyone interested should look for more information contained below.

This past month we finished the review of our Work Instructions. Work Instructions are a part of our Board Notebook and help people transition into new positions by providing detailed information about a position, what needs to be done, and how to go about it. Many thanks to Betsy Patterson, Matty Park, Kathy Morgan, Judy Murphy, Pat Essick, Carol Lindberg, and Doris Simmelink. It was a big job, and I'm grateful for your help.

The Observer Corp has been going strong observing the County Board of Supervisors. Thanks to Carol Lindberg for organizing it, and to all the participants who submitted Observer Reports. Please see the separate publications for this month's Observer Reports. You too can be an observer! I encourage each of you to become an observer at your city council meetings, online or in person.

Thank you all for your support and participation. Have a lovely summer.
Warm regards,

Pat Butler, President

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! And, indeed, the ice cream sundaes were served up by Bluebird Ice Creamery, LLC, on Sunday, July 16 from 1:30-4:00 pm at Camarillo Grove County Park, where a lovely breeze and moderate temperatures allowed League members and friends to socialize and play games and learn a bit about famous people and what it takes to become a US citizen.



Photos: LWVVC President Pat Butler welcomes guests to the Ice Cream Social; Lawn games offered were fun & competitive. Wayne Morgan plays golf putting; Betsy Paterson provides Citizenship Quiz questions to attendees with Bluebird's Ice Creamery in the background.

SAVE THE DATE

This year the LWVVC Holiday Party will once again take place on December 2nd at Ottavio's restaurant at 1620 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, 93010. Join the League in celebrating and socializing while enjoying great food! More information to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 2nd, 5:30 pm - Happy Hour, *IN PERSON* at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Please note the earlier time. RSVP to [Matty Park](#). [Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Thursday, August 10th, 10:30am-1:00pm – Board of Directors **Dark**.

Wednesday, August 16th, 5:30pm – Happy Hour on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#)- [Members and guests are welcome.](#)



Thursday, August 17th, 4:00pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Saturday, August 19th, 11:00am-6:00pm – Tabling at Ventura’s Diversity Festival in Plaza Park downtown.

Thursday, August 24th, 3:00pm – Climate Change Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Saturday, August 26th, 11:00am-12:30pm – Voter Registration Training in Ventura in person. You will receive the location upon sign-up.

Monday, September 11th, 5:30-7:00pm - Voter Registration Training) in person (location TBD)

Thursday, September 14th, 11:30 am-1:00 pm via Zoom (link provided later)

Saturday, December 2nd – Holiday Luncheon - Ottavio’s restaurant at 1620 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, 93010

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 LWVC 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](#). Work with other leagues, LWV California staff and LWV US staff.



Climate Committee

4TH Thursday of the month

3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

The Climate Change committee is focused on climate policy, mitigation, and adaptation. Come join our monthly discussions to learn more about the IRA, decarbonization, local climate events and how we can help to create a more sustainable planet.

Come join in the conversation to learn more about the IRA, electrification, climate mitigation, adaptation and how you can help to create a more sustainable planet.

The big story is that July may be the hottest month in recorded history. Climate change is here now, and we need to take decisive action to limit its effects on our planet. Come join our monthly discussions to learn more about the IRA, decarbonization, local climate events and what we can do to create a more sustainable planet.

The climate change committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 3pm on Zoom. To join in the meeting, contact Wayne Morgan.
waynemorgan1@yahoo.com



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

July 25, 2023

Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

Observers: Kathy Morgan, Judy Murphy

Reports from Observers who attended the meeting on are provided below.

Four Supervisors were present; Matt LaVere was away on business. The Moment of Inspiration was provided by Dani Anderson, the Disability Access Manager for Ventura County who spoke on Disability Pride Month which occurs in July. New ambassador to the Mexican Consulate in Oxnard, Consul Ricardo Santana Velázquez, spoke during public comment to offer his co-operation to the Supervisors and expressing his wish to empower the Mexican Community.

The Supervisors presented Proclamations to three entities including the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month, the Month of August as Child Support Awareness Month, and August 26th as Women's Equality Day in Ventura County. Our County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, Michelle Ascencion, spoke eloquently about Women gaining the right to vote on that day in 1920.

The Supervisors voted unanimously to name the New Family Justice Center in Oxnard in honor of Carmen Ramirez. – Kathy Morgan

The Board of Supervisors approved authorization for the County Executive Officer to sign an agreement with the cities of Santa Paula and Fillmore to provide \$1,620,000 for the 2024-2025 operation of a permanent, year-round shelter serving the homeless of Santa Clara Valley. Kay Wilson from the Spirit of Santa Paula, a non-profit shelter that has been providing 49 beds for the last 4 years, thanked the BoS. County matching funds are in the amount of \$979,500. – Judy Murphy

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The LWVVC invites all members to participate in democracy by being an Observer at any government meeting in Ventura County or pertaining to issues affecting Ventura County. Please submit a brief report of your observations to lwvvc.info@gmail.com

Our League observes the VC Board of Supervisors' meetings on a regular basis. We have a few volunteers, but we need more. Please consider attending a meeting. You'll be pleased to learn what's going on in the county, and the supervisors will appreciate knowing that the League is interested. Please contact Carol Lindberg for more information. It is our hope that members will take an interest in their own city councils and will send reports so that we all know what is happening in the various cities.



DEI/ Race and Social Justice Committee

3rd Thursday of the month

4:00pm on Zoom

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

Our last meeting was on Thursday July 20th. We are beginning the process of choosing an action plan. Currently two topics are been up for discussion: pretextual stops and pretrial detention. We had a lively discussion and have research to do! Please join us.



Voter Registration Committee - High School, College & Community Events

Contacts: Betsy Patterson

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

A new season starts in the Fall with September 18-29 being designated CA High School Voter Education Weeks.

Voter Registration is offering volunteer training before our high school registration starts in late September. The August training is for new volunteers. Two training opportunities in September will be for all volunteers and will include information on student-led voter registrations.

Contact Betsy Patterson at lwvvc.info@gmail.com to sign up for any of these dates:

Saturday, August 26 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in Ventura in person

Monday, Sept 11 5:30 - 7:00 pm (location TBD) in person

Thursday, Sept 14 11:30 am - 1:00 pm via Zoom (link provided later)

Carmen Hurd will be coordinating high school events in Oxnard Union HS District, and Betsy Patterson & team will coordinate events in Ventura, Ojai and any other school districts that would like our help. Cindy Garcia will work with the Ventura HS Leadership Class to develop student-led registration events.

Please join us - these are future voters!



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick.

In July Pat Butler and Kathy Morgan attended a meeting with adult and youth representatives from Swap Meet Justice. This is an event that occurs once monthly in Oxnard and provides information and services to residents seeking help with applying for citizenship as well as other legal and health services. The LWVVC was asked to collaborate with the group providing the following to the youth activists:

- Training on nonpartisan voter registration
- Training on levels of government (local, city, county, state, federal) and how they interact and affect the lives of youth and families.
- Encouraging attendance at city council and/or the Board of Supervisors meetings as well as League sponsored Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons events.
- Tours of the County Elections Division and similar offices to build understanding.

This is an exciting opportunity to train youth activists who will in turn, recruit and train other youth. To better inform our work some of us will be attending a Youth Organizing Summit in Santa Barbara in August as adult mentors to help us learn effective strategies for engaging with youth. There are also sessions for the youth.

Also in August some of us will begin meeting to discuss the possibility of another series of "Lunch with the League" speakers.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#).

Happy Hour – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays



1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

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

Not just for new members – **every-one 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, new members – David, Grace and Lena Stephenson, family members of Kim Stephenson of Camarillo and Andrei Bobrow, family member of Sabrena Rodriguez of Ventura.

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: 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!

Ventura County Information

For all relevant news about Ventura County, see: <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 2023-2024 are:

Individual Membership	\$75.00
Student Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$125.00
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](#).



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/>



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.

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.
