

The Voter

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

November 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we gather with friends and loved ones over the holidays to reflect on our good fortune, let's pause and remember the good things the League brings to our lives. It gives us purpose, focus, accomplishment, and new experiences. It also brings us good friends and colleagues - all the things we need and that help us flourish. I am truly grateful for the League and what it brings into my life.

The Fall Voter Registration program has wrapped up. Our dauntless Voter Reg Team, led by Carmen Hurd and Betsy Patterson, has done a phenomenal job; interacting with a record number of students at a record number of schools. Kudos and thanks to the entire team.

Congratulations to Laura Hernandez on her appointment to Chair of the LWV California DEI Committee.

There are some changes coming our way from the LWV US. We will no longer have *Voter's Edge* as of January 2024. Instead, LWV of California will move to using *Vote 411*. There will also be new membership software. We don't have all the details yet, but as we learn, we will keep you informed.

Just a reminder: If you don't have your reservation for the Holiday Luncheon, please get it right away. Seats are limited. First come, first served.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with love and laughter and good times. Warm regards,

Pat Butler

President

SAVE THE DATE



Annual Holiday Lunch

12:00 Noon

Saturday, December 2nd

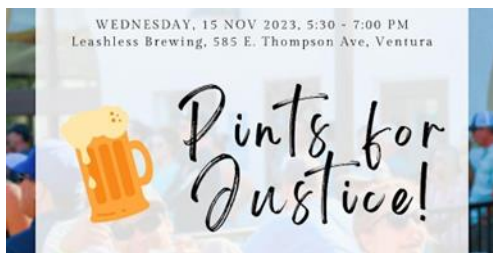
Ottavio's Italian Restaurant

1620 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo

To all LWVVC members: you are cordially invited to attend our League's Annual Holiday Lunch on Saturday, December 2, at Ottavio's Italian Restaurant, 1620 Ventura Blvd in Camarillo, just off the 101 Freeway at the Carmen Drive exit, with plenty of onsite parking. We have reserved a private room for our group. We will meet at 12 Noon for socializing, with lunch served at 12:30 PM. The meal includes a beverage and dessert. We will be offered a choice of four entrees, including meat lasagna, angel hair pasta with fresh tomato sauce (vegetarian), Salmon with fresh vegetables, and Tortellini pasta with chicken in spinach and sun-dried tomato sauce. Is your mouth watering?? If so, read on for how to reserve your seat....

Please mail your check for \$40.00 per lunch, payable to LWVVC, to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, 93006. Or you may pay online at our website:

www.lwvventuracounty.org/donate -- please be sure to put "Holiday Lunch" in the special instructions line. Deadline to RSVP is Monday, Nov. 27. **Space is limited so secure your seat today!** We hope to see you on December 2nd!



JUSTICE FOR ALL event "Pints for Justice"

Wednesday, November 15th, 5:30 pm.

Leashless Brewing

585 East Thompson Blvd., Ventura, CA
93001.

Justice For All Ventura County invites you to meet new friends, connect with other social justice partners and help support our Youth Activist Scholarship fund. Before the holidays and before the next election year gets started, join us! Please share with friends. Suggested donation: \$20, includes appetizers and your first pint.

Get tickets [HERE](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **November 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, **November 9th**, 4:00 pm – Board meeting on Zoom.

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

Wednesday, **November 15th**, 5:30 pm. – JUSTICE FOR ALL event “Pints for Justice” will take place at Leashless Brewing, 585 East Thompson Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001 in Ventura.

Thursday, **November 16th**, 4:00 pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Thursday, **November 16th**, 3:00 pm – Climate Change Committee (normally held on the 4th Thursday of the month, but moved to the 3rd Thursday this month due to Thanksgiving). Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Wednesday, **November 29th** at Noon - Lunch & Learn with the League - Details to follow.

Fall Membership Meeting Recap



Paul Copley

Our Fall Membership meeting was held at the Poinsettia Pavilion on Saturday Oct 7th with 35 attendees. The meeting started out with a spirited game based on Bingo which was envisioned as a way of encouraging our members to learn more about our league, its members, and issues in women’s history. The winner was member Karen Flock who interacted with the most people to get the answers to fill her card. She won a \$20 gift card to Cafe Ficelle. Go Karen! She had a lot of competition as many others completed their cards. We were all winners as we had lively interactions with each other.

We then enjoyed tasty appetizers and desserts while listening to an informative presentation on Ranked Choice Voting given by Paul Copley of the California RCV Coalition. We heard about the reasons that ranked choice voting is considered by some to be superior to our current system, and then had the opportunity to participate in a mock election. It was very interesting to go through the process of ranking the candidates and learning how candidates are eliminated or move up. It was

fun to elect the "Mayor of Candytown" and I for one am pleased to announce that Snickers won!

Thanks to the committee who planned the meeting: Kathy Morgan, Karen Savitt, and Betsy Patterson. A good time was had by all. If you were unable to attend the meeting and wish more information about Ranked Choice Voting, check out our website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county>
You will find a link for more information under Fall General Meeting.

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 focuses on climate advocacy, policy, mitigation, and adaptation. To find out the latest about local events, county climate policy and climate news, plan on attending a climate committee meeting.

The Climate Change Committee usually meets at 3:00 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month, but we will meet on the 3rd Thursday, **November 16th** at 3:00 pm because of Thanksgiving.

For more information, contact Wayne Morgan at: waynemorgan1@yahoo.com



Observer Reports

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Contact: [Carol Lindberg](#)

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 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 lwvvc.info@gmail.com.
Dates for 2023 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are:

November 7th

December 5th and 19th



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Each of our three schools will receive \$2500.00 to give to our scholarship recipient/recipients. The three community colleges have or will soon be opening scholarship application portals.

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 Report

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee continues to focus on creating more diversity among the LWVVC's membership. While we have made some small strides, I encourage League members to help build more diversity in everything we do. DEI meetings are held at 4 pm on Zoom, the third Thursday of every month, in conjunction with the Social Racial Justice Committee (SRJ) chaired by Kay

Armstrong. We welcome all to attend!

For November, I ask that you join us in celebrating Fannie Lou Hamer's birthday and remember her contributions as an African American civil rights activist and leader in the voting rights movement. Fannie was born on October 6, 1917 and was one of the most influential figures in the struggle for civil rights. Her legacy is still relevant today. Happy Birthday Fannie and thank you for your dedication to ensuring Black Americans of their right to vote.

Meanwhile, I would like to humbly announce that I have been appointed as Chair of the LWV California DEI Committee. I am following in the footsteps of Adena Iishii, a LWVC Board member and founder of the State DEI Task Force. Adena is moving on to run for Mayor of Berkeley and, if successful, will be the City's first Asian Pacific female to hold that position. Please join me in wishing Adena the best in her future endeavors! I also invite you to send me your thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve our DEI efforts not only locally in Ventura County, but Statewide.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the award recipients of this year's NAACP Ventura County Branch Freedom Funds Awards. The banquet was an inspiring event and I was happy to see and share a table with our fellow league member Cathy Trevino. We can both attest it was a fun and inspiring evening of speakers and I hope we can increase our showing next year!

Until next time, let's apply the DEI lens in all we do!

Sincerely, Laura D. Hernandez, DEI Chair



LWVVC Chair Laura Hernandez congratulates fellow Councilmember Dr. Martha McQueen Legohn, recipient of the 2023 NAACP Pioneer Award.



LWVVC member Cathy Trevino and Gladys Ochangco Zulueta, AAUW enjoy an inspiring evening.

Race & Social Justice Report

Congratulations to Laura! We also had two wonderful speakers at our last meeting on October 19th. They were Robert Bland, and Damon Jenkins, an attorney with Ventura County Public Defender's Office. They are both members of the Ventura County Public Safety Racial Equality Advisory Committee and spoke to us about pretextual stops and other potential race-related issues in our community. If any would like to join us at our next meeting on November 15th, please contact either [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#)

– Kay Armstrong



Voter Registration Committee High School, College & Community Events

Contact: Betsy Patterson, Co-Chair

lwwvc.info@gmail.com or leave a message at (805) 303-1476.

As of Oct 25th, 2023, our voter registration volunteers have presented to 2,162 students, registering 692 with 94 already registered. We had 20 volunteers attending 86 classrooms plus 3 tabling events (Oxnard High School quad at lunch). On Oct 31, we had a review and wrap-up session to discuss what went well and how we can improve our presentation and events. We hope to have more student-led events in the future with the League being the support team.

Our Spring 2024 season will start in March after the Primary since we have reached the students who will be 18 years old by March 5. If you are interested in helping, please email Betsy or Carmen at lwwvc.info@gmail.com to let us know. We will provide a one-hour training in March.



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick

At our October 11th Lunch & Learn with the League we were very fortunate to hear from Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. Vanessa spoke passionately about all the ways the VCCF works to serve our county and the benefits it provides the community. It was easy to discern the dedication Vanessa brings to her work. The reach of VCCF and the multitude of ways that the foundation is involved is impressive. If you missed the meeting here is a link to the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEtull-owVU>

We are planning another Lunch & Learn with the League, to be presented at Noon on Wednesday, **November 29th via Zoom**. More details to come. If you have any ideas about topics for future Lunch and Learn with the League please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#)



New! Ventura County Election Education Series

Michelle Ascencion, VC Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, will present a five-part Election Education Series at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors meetings. Over the next few months, Ascencion will be covering election topics

that are of interest to the Ventura County voting and candidate community. You can attend or watch video online after the meeting. On

November 7th she will present information about the upcoming March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. [Get more information](#)

The Board of Supervisors' schedule for the Election Education Series is as follows:

- October 17, 2023 Candidates and Campaigns
- November 7, 2023 Voter Registration and Primary Election Voting
- January 23, 2024 Vote Centers and Vote By Mail
- February 6, 2024 Election Technology, Security, and Observation
- February 27, 2024 Canvass/Certification, Recounts, and Fraud Prevention



2023 State of the County: Celebrating the County's 150th Anniversary

Don't miss the **2023 State of the County**, celebrating the County's 150th Anniversary! Keynote speaker and County Executive Officer Dr. Sevet Johnson will share an update and unforgettable message followed by a networking reception under Air Force One. The 2023 State of the County will be held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Thursday, November 2. **(Sold out!)**

FREE Livestream available November 2 at 5:30 pm.

<https://stateofthecounty.ventura.org>

Keynote Speaker: DR. SEVET JOHNSON, County Executive Officer

Presenter: MATT LAVERE, Chair of the County Board of Supervisors

Emcee: ELENA BROKAW, Executive Director at Museum of Ventura County

CA TRUTH Act (AB 2792) Forum on November 7th



Ventura County has scheduled its 2023 TRUTH Act (Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds Act) Forum at the County Board of Supervisors meeting at **3:00pm on November 7th**. The TRUTH Act defines rights of immigrants held in local jails and requires that collaboration between local police and federal immigration enforcement is made transparent to the community. The TRUTH Act Forum is a public hearing where Ventura County public safety agencies are required to report details of their collaboration with immigration enforcement and to receive and consider public comments. The county's announcement of the event, with details about providing public comments in person or by Zoom can be found here: [Truth Act – County of Ventura](#).

TRUTH Act Forum webinar on Nov 1st



A local Coalition called "ICE Out of Ventura County" is holding a **Virtual TRUTH Act Teach-Out on Nov 1 at 7:00pm**. The teach-out will address the TRUTH Act and related laws that have been passed to provide protection for immigrant communities who interact with law enforcement, how Ventura County public safety agencies collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), how that collaboration im-

pacts our community, and preparing public comments for the TRUTH Act Forum. Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish, and Mixteco.

Register here: <http://www.bit.ly/TRUTHACT>

Facebook event: [TRUTH Act Forum Teach-Out / Ley VERDAD Foro Seminario | Facebook](#). If you have any questions, please contact@iceoutofvc.org

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 – **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

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County has 130 members, with 4 new members – Tracy Valdez, Paul Copley and Melissa Pack all of Simi Valley, and Stephanie Wilder of Ventura.

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 the County of Ventura, 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 \(lww.org\)](#)

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.lww.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 \(lww.org\)](#)

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.

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.