

The Voter

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

December 2023

In This Issue:

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*May You Have the gladness of Christmas
which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love.*

By Ada V. Hendricks

To all of our League Members and friends,
I wish you a season of joy, merriment, and reflection.
Happy Holidays to All,

Pat Butler

President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, **December 6th**, 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.

Wednesday, **December 20th**, 5:30 pm – **Happy Hour** **Dark.** We will meet again in January.

Thursday, **December 21st**, 4:00 pm – **Race and Social Justice Committee**
(3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by Kay Armstrong.

Thursday, **January 11th**, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – **Board meeting.** *No meeting in December.* In person meeting at the Law College, 4475 Market St., Ventura, CA 93003.

Thursday, 3:00 pm (4th Thursday of the month) – **Climate Change Committee.**
No meeting in December; next meeting on **January 25th**. Contact: Wayne Morgan

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 Change 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 will be taking December off for the Holidays. But next year should be a good year for climate mitigation -- The long-awaited rebates

for the IRA will become available! So, check in with the climate committee to get the latest on the rebates for appliances and to get help on how to go about reducing your carbon footprint.

The next Climate Change Committee meeting will be on January 25, at 3pm. For more info, contact Wayne Morgan at waynemorgan1@yahoo.com



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Contact: [Carol Lindberg](mailto:Carol.Lindberg@ventura.gov)

Observer Report from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors Meeting,
11/7/2023.

Submitted by Kathy Morgan

The Board of Supervisors voted to pass the proposed Use of Arts Community Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 with some modifications. The modifications included directly providing the Rubicon Theater and New West Symphony with \$250,000 each and distributing the rest of the funds as per the staff plans.

Ventura County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, Michelle Ascension, gave a presentation on Voter Registration and Primary Election Voting as part of a series she is presenting to the BOS and the public. She discussed voting in the Presidential primary, specifically as some parties have Closed Primaries (The Green, Peace and Freedom, and Republican parties) in which only registered party members can vote in the Presidential primary. No Party Preference Voters (NPP) can request a "crossover ballot" for the American Independent, Democratic and Libertarian Parties. This month all NPP Voters (20% of registered voters in Ventura County) will be mailed postcards to inform the Registrar of Voters if they want a ballot (American Independent, Democratic or Libertarian). NPPs can also visit Vote Centers (when open) or go online to request a crossover ballot or to re-register for a party of their choice. There were a few public comments after her presentation expressing concern regarding mail-in voting, drop boxes and multiple days of voting.

Later in the day the Truth Act Forum took place. This is a community forum to provide information to the public concerning Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to individuals housed in our county jails. Ventura County Assistant Sheriff Jose Rivera spoke on current practices related to the Sheriff's Office co-operation with ICE. In 2022 ICE picked up 15 individuals after they were released from jail and received 144 inmate release notifications from the Sheriff's Office. Following his presentation there were many (approximately 30) public comments made in support of ending the Sheriff Office's collaboration with ICE, which is voluntary. Many California counties have ended the practice.

Rationale for ending the collaboration included data on the positive economic impact of the undocumented work on the county economy, public safety research showing that counties that have eliminated co-operation have decreased or stable crime rates, and the inhumane conditions in ICE detention and the lack of legal protections for individuals housed there, as well as the impact on families and children of undocumented workers.

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 upcoming 2023 meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors are December 5th and 19th



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

Each of our three schools will receive \$2,500.00 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](#)

At our last meeting we formulated a plan to be presented to our board in January 2024. We are exploring pretextual stops and are wanting to do some further research and outreach to other community groups.

We will be dark in December.



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 month Adela Trainor and Betsy Patterson presented our Fall High School Voter Registration report to the Ventura and Conejo Valley School Boards, respectively, noting that 20 League volunteers spoke to 2,162 students in 89 classrooms and registered 692 new voters. We hope to present the same report to the Ojai and Oxnard Union School Boards in December.

On November 28th Betsy Patterson spoke at the Brown Bag Lunch series at Royal High School, invited by student Cynthia Ha, who had run a peer-led voter registration drive, and John Downey, one of the Social Science teachers who has been running this lunch series since 2010. The topic was "A Cause That Is Greater Than Self" and she spoke about how she had come to get involved in the League of Women Voters and how the League benefits the community. She was recognized with a medal welcoming her into the "Ronald Reagan Citizen Scholarship Institute" as a "Guardian of Democracy."



In January we will begin our training and refresher for volunteers who want to help with High School Voter Registration/Education. Training will be in-person but we will offer one virtual training for anyone who cannot attend in person.

Contact Betsy at lwvvc.info@gmail.com if you would like to join a training.
All volunteers need to be trained and updated.



Voter Services Committee Report

Contacts: Kathy Morgan or Pat Essick

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

On November 29th we were fortunate to have Dan Meisel and Ashley Myers from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as speakers for our Lunch & Learn with the League presentation. The topic was "Reporting Hate in Ventura County and Beyond." The discussion focused on the difference between hate crimes and hate incidences, how to report the occurrences of either and what can be done in response.

Resources were also provided to:

- learn more about the subject: <https://santabarbara.adl.org/>
- learn how to report: <https://www.adl.org/report-incident>
- learn how to have difficult conversations:
<https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/tis-season-difficult-conversations-guide-online-and-offline-discourse>

If you missed this interesting and timely Lunch with the League, please go to our website <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura-county> to watch the recording – you will be glad you did!

If you have any ideas for future Lunch with the League topics please contact [Kathy Morgan](#) or [Pat Essick](#)

Ventura County Election Education Series



Michelle Ascencion, VC Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, is presenting a five-part Election Education Series at 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 the video online after the meeting. On November 7th she presented 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
- December 2023 No presentation scheduled for December
- 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



Happy Hour – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1st Wednesday @ 5:30, 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](#). (Dark in December.)

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 131 members with two new members this month. We welcome Julie Ward of Westlake Village and Karen Towner 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: <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 an 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.
