



Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

Village TV is every Wednesday in June from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

JUNE 22 BRUNCH! VOTING FOR A MORE PERFECT UNION

By: Nancy Hensel

The Laguna Woods Democratic Club summer event is just a month away on June 22 in Club House 2*; doors open at 9:15 a.m. with the program starting at 10:00 a.m.

Come and enjoy conversation with fellow Democrats, a lovely brunch, and expand your knowledge about the U. S. Constitution by playing a card game at each table. Mimosas will be available for \$5 for two with proceeds going to World Central Kitchen. Tickets for the brunch are \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. Look for the flyer accompanying this newsletter for more details, including the menu, and a tear off registration form. You can also sign up on Act Blue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/june2024>

Our guest speaker is Senator Toni Atkins, President Pro Tem Emeritus of the California Senate and candidate for Governor in 2026, and represents the 39th Senate District, which includes San Diego. Atkins was born and raised in rural southwestern Virginia, the daughter of a miner and a seamstress. She was the first San Diegan and first lesbian Speaker of the Assembly, and the first woman and openly LGBTQ person to lead the California State Senate. She is the first person in 150 years, and the third person in California history, to lead both houses of the Legislature. From her eight-year tenure on the San Diego City Council to her years in the Legislature, Atkins has dedicated her career to serving as a champion for civil rights, gender equity, and for the LGBTQ+ community. Atkins has authored landmark legislation promoting equality for transgender Californians by ensuring they can have their true gender identification listed on driver's licenses, birth certificates, and death certificates. She has led the charge to expand HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services, and secure funding for housing homeless LGBTQ youth. In partnership with the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus, Atkins has worked to remove

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- June 22 Brunch 1
- Officers & Directors..... 2
- Welcome New Members..... 2
- Opportunity Drawing..... 3
- It Will Take All of Us 4
- New Leadership Needed- 4
- Notes On Food Drive 4
- Donate to Dr. Marquez 5
- Brainstorm “Fresh Ideas” ... 5
- O.C. Income Limits..... 6
- SB 907—Why It Matters 7
- Village TV—June..... 8
- What's Up at the DPOC 8
- 4th Annual Juneteenth 9



Toni Atkins

HOSPITALITY

By: Kate Van Camp

We Welcome New Members Alyssa Jarpe & Valerie McIntyre.

Thank you to all attendees for their continued participation in the clean up!

We are ready to welcome sponsors for 2025 meetings.

Contact Kate Van Camp at cvc4joy@gmail.com to sponsor meeting refreshments for a \$65 donation to the club.

*Clubhouse 2 is located at:
24112 Moulton Pkwy.
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

LAGUNA WOODS

Democratic Club

Welcome to the Laguna Woods Democratic Club. We promote Democratic values through education and activism.

The Democratic Club serves as the meeting and gathering place for registered Democrats and friends of the Democratic Party in Laguna Woods.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Phyllis and Terry Clark
- Laurie Fitzgerald
- Marjorie Gauley
- Adriana Greisman
- Sandra and John Maliga
- Marie Peck
- Robert Shapiro
- Carol and Terry Venz

CONTACT YOUR Representatives



[Click this Link](#)



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

- President — Sue Dearing, African American Committee
- 1st V.P. — Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- 2nd V.P. — Mary Ribando, GOTV & Voter Registration
- Secretary — Allan Feldman, Central Committee Associate Member
- Treasurer — Pat Leftwich, Budget

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS:

- Jonathan Adler — Legislative Action
- Janice Burstin — Activism
- Ray Dapp — Fundraising
- Debra David — Membership
- Pat Freeman — Nominating & Club Elections
- Jeanne Lepowsky — Field Organizing & Voter Education
- Carol Melton — Website
- Debo Orrill — Publicity & Newsletter
- Kate Van Camp — Hospitality & Facebook

NON-DIRECTOR CHAIRS:

- Joel Goldstein — Program
- Sue & Richard Snyder — SCO Food Drives



JUNE 22 BRUNCH *(Continued)*

gendered language from our state laws. She authored the constitutional amendment that created Proposition 1, which was passed by the voters, to enshrine the right to reproductive freedom in the State's Constitution. Atkins lives in the South Park community of San Diego with her spouse, Jennifer, and their dogs, Joey and Mia.

Find out more about Toni Atkins by attending the June brunch, which is replacing the summer picnic and will be the club's main fundraising event for the year. Look for the article about the Opportunity Drawing elsewhere in this issue.

In September, rather than the fall fundraiser, we will host a forum with our local political candidates. Put Saturday, September 22 on your calendar for the forum in Club House 2. More details closer to the date.

"It's about freedom ... If Roe v. Wade can fall, anything can fall. Social Security can fall. Medicare can fall. Voting rights can fall. And God help us all, but Democracy itself can fall."

— Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (60 Minutes)



BRUNCH BUFFET OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

JUNE 22, 2024

By: Kate Van Camp

Our June Brunch promises great food, old and new friends, and a spectacular speaker, Toni Atkins.

There is another special highlight: our big prize drawing for gift cards. This year, several excellent political books can also be won if you place your lucky ticket in the "opportunity bag" designated for a book. It's totally up to the ticket buyers where they place tickets in hopes of a win. Last year tables went a bit wild, cheering for the lucky winners. Remember you no longer need to outbid others to win—now anyone can win if their ticket is the lucky one. You will want to bring those extra address labels to identify your tickets, so you don't have to put your name on each ticket. One more thing: this year there is no live auction, so don't save your precious dollars for lunch with a candidate! This is not an option this year.



**Please consider obtaining a gift card right now for our sensational drawing.
The deadline for donations is June 15th!**

We need your immediate help to procure the prizes! YOU are the key to making this event truly fantastic!

This is the ONLY fund-raising event Laguna Woods Democratic Club holds before the 2024 election! We're fighting hard for our democratic values and our candidates are working hard to win. That takes donations.

We only have two weeks to collect gift cards. Please do not procrastinate.

We are looking for local gift cards, primarily to restaurants, markets, big box stores, or gift shops, in values of \$25 - \$50 each. All local restaurants are very popular. We will accept a couple more current new books, if you want to donate one, but check first.

Contact by email, text, or telephone: Kate Van Camp (773) 841-0287, or cvc4joy@gmail.com to check the list of gift cards already received. Remember all donations must be received a week in advance, that's by June 15th!

IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US

By: Ray Dapp

Thank you for your continuing donations to our Nifty Sixty Fundraiser in support of our local Democratic candidates working to preserve our democracy. Due to your generosity and recognition of the importance of the upcoming election we are just a few hundred dollars shy of our recently revised, reduced goal of \$16,000. But we would be thrilled to come closer to our original goal of \$20,000!

The Republican Party has made it painfully clear that they do not care about governing, policy, the rule of law, democracy and certainly not character. They do care about forcing their minority hypocritical ideologies on the majority that truly love this country and its citizens.

It will **take all of us** to save the freedoms we hold dear and which many have given their lives to preserve.

In short, VOTE! and encourage your likeminded family and friends to VOTE! Thank you again.



NEW LEADERSHIP NEEDED FOR LWDC

By: Sue Dearing

When we retired from teaching in 2006 my husband David and I moved to Laguna Woods to be near my mother who had Parkinson's. My other goals for retirement included reading more, watching more movies, learning Spanish and getting involved with Democratic politics. I guess I succeeded in that last one at least.

I started by stuffing envelopes for Congressional candidate Steve Young. In 2007 Jonathan Adler convinced me and Linda Nearing to run for the board. Linda started as publicity chair, and I as special events. Two years later I became president of the club and since then have been either president or vice president--that makes 16 years! I have never regretted a single moment of it. It is a challenging, exciting, sometimes frustrating, but very rewarding volunteer position. I have learned so much about Orange County and California politics, about people and about myself.

Now it is time for new leadership, as I intend to step down in January 2025. This is an amazing Democratic Club, and we want it to stay that way. We are looking for candidates who are interested in learning what it takes to run a successful Democratic Club. I learned through experience, and you can too. So many of you have the skills and background necessary! I am willing to stay on as an advisor and to attend board meetings without voting to provide institutional memory. If you are interested in being president or being on the board or just want to learn more, please contact me or the nominating chair Pat Freeman at pfreeman92604@gmail.com

Thank you for considering this exciting opportunity!

NOTES ON FOOD DRIVE - MAY 6, 2024

By: Sue Snyder

Today, May 6 was LWDC Food Drive Day at Staters Bros. market up on El Toro. A bit after 9:00 a.m., I arrived at South County Outreach Food Bank to pick up the barrels in our bright red Pacifica van. Sonny, cheerful loader and unloader, squeezed 10 barrels in the van and off I went to yet another wonderful food drive.

Greeting me a few minutes before 10:00 a.m. was long-time volunteer Ray Pearlstein. Together we assembled the barrels outside the two main doors. Michelle Labrador and Gina Hall arrived at 10:00 a.m. ready to hand out flyers with the SCO's list of "most-needed" food items. Having missed the bus, Sharon Davidson arrived a few minutes later, having walked all the way from Gate 1 area! Everyone was in good spirits, and all were dismissed at 12:30 p.m., having cheerfully collected food and money from shoppers! At 12:30 p.m. Maureen Mehler arrived. She has volunteered for at least 10 years and knows the routine and exactly how to hand out the "most-needed" flyers and smiles at everyone. Flora Nishikawa and Sue Model, also worked, oops! volunteering their precious time to collect food for "needy families". Then there was that cute, bearded, hippy guy scooting around in his Rascal, smiling at all the folks heading into the market and handing out "most wanted" flyers. All in all 10 barrels were over-flowing with food and the little brown envelope contained money collected from shoppers.

Sonny arrived at 2:45 p.m., loaded up the barrels of food, and accepted the little brown envelope, which contained \$249.00. Total poundage of food: 931 pounds! Good job everyone. Thank you. Thank you.

P.S. The "cute, hippy guy" is my husband Richard.

DONATE TO DR. FRANCES MARQUEZ FOR SUPERVISOR BEFORE JUNE 30 DEADLINE

By: Sue Dearing

Cypress City Councilmember Dr. Frances Marquez is running for Orange County Board of Supervisors in District 1. Laguna Woods is in District 5, but it is important that we support her candidacy. Why?

- She is the only Democratic candidate for Board of Supervisors in any district to come through the March primary!
- Democrats would gain a solid majority and chair the board for the first time in the history of the county!
- Dr. Marquez would be the first Latina ever elected to the BOS in the history of the county!



Dr. Frances Marquez

Frances helped Gloria Molina be the first Latina elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1991, so she is hoping that assistance will now come full circle in Orange County.

Frances needs to raise as much money before the June 30 deadline as possible. She knows it's not only about the money, but also about door-to-door and voter contact. So if you have friends in District 1 area, please urge them to vote for her: Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Westminster, and the Unincorporated Communities of Midway City and Rossmoor.

The club contributed \$250 previously to her campaign and just sent \$500 more. Here is the link to find out more about Frances and to consider making a personal donation, as I did: <https://www.francesmarquezforsupervisor.com/> Thank you!

BRAINSTORMING SOCIAL THE FRESH IDEAS INITIATIVE

BRING YOUR OWN EVERYTHING (BYOE)

By: Kate Van Camp

Do you have ideas that would improve our club and its activities?

We will have a good time brainstorming and socializing about all things Democratic Club on:

June 4, 2024, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Clubhouse 2, Los Olivos Room.

— *Bring your own food and beverage.* —

During our 60th year, we are searching for brilliant fresh ideas so that our club stays vital and relevant. We will have a good time talking regardless of our ability to think outside the box.

Email: Kate at cvc4joy@gmail.com for a reminder or questions.

See you in the Los Olivos Room, down the hallway on the right (north) side of Clubhouse 2.

ORANGE COUNTY INCOME LIMITS HIGHLIGHT POVERTY

By: Kate Van Camp

As seniors, we have spent a lifetime where earning \$50,000 was manageable, an \$80,000 salary was solid, and six figures implied significant success. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently released updated State Income Limits for each county. They became effective May 9th. The HCD explains “State Income Limits are used to determine applicant eligibility and affordable housing cost for designated state, federal, and local programs that are required to comply with household income levels and area median incomes as defined in Health and Safety Code section 50105, 50106, 50079.5 and 50093.”

You may be surprised at the low-income levels in Orange County. Below is a portion of the new Orange County table.

May 9, 2024, Orange County, CA State Income Levels:

	FAMILY OF 1	FAMILY OF 2	FAMILY OF 4
Acutely Low Income	13,550	15,500	19,350
Extremely Low Income	33,150	37,900	47,350
Very Low Income	55,250	63,100	78,900
Low Income	88,400	101,000	126,250
Median Income	90,300	103,200	129,000
Moderate Income	108,350	123,850	154,800

Any household that falls below the LOW-INCOME limit qualifies for Low Income Housing which would limit rent to 30% of income. Sadly, such housing is almost impossible to find.

An individual who makes \$15 per hour earns \$31,200 gross annually before deductions. Many take home half that amount or less. A household earning \$25 per hour earns \$52,000. It is easy to see how rent, utilities, fuel, insurance (health, car, renters), food, supplies, repairs, and a few gifts are simply not going to fit into the family budget. When a single parent is also paying child support or daycare, the family may live in a tiny room. Interestingly, only \$15,800 is added to the two person amount to support two children at the Very Low Income level. Note that when two parents find the time to work three full-time \$15/hour jobs (a common solution), they only accumulate \$78,000 in income.

We need to support higher safety nets as poverty spins out of control in California. Currently, qualifications for county assistance do not match these HCD income limits and eliminate help for millions.

To see more on the HCD publication follow the [link](#).

SB 907 – WHY IT MATTERS TO ORANGE COUNTY

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

On January 4, 2024, State Senator Josh Newman introduced [SB 907](#), coauthored by State Senator Dave Min. This bill specifically addresses problems with the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE).

OCBE has shown by their actions over the past several years that they do not hold public education in high regard. They have wasted millions of taxpayer public education dollars for frivolous lawsuits, not only [against Governor Newsom](#), but also against the [Orange County Department of Education's \(OCDE\) Superintendent Al Mijares](#). In the latter case, taxpayer dollars had to be spent to defend OCDE as well as to fund OCBE's lawsuit.

The priorities of our OCBE Trustees is accurately described as follows by the [OC Independent](#):

“[T]he Orange County Board of Education is one of the few boards controlled by trustees who are strongly supportive of expanding school choice and parental oversight and opposed to the seepage of radical critical theory and transgender ideology into school curriculum. All five-members [sic] of the OCBE are pro-charter school conservatives – which is particularly significant since the board is charged with hearing appeals for charter school applications denied by local OC school districts.”

Because OCBE rubber-stamps these appeals, a whopping 58% of all Orange County's charter schools are authorized by OCBE. The next highest authorizer of charter schools is Capistrano Unified School District, with 14% of the county's charter schools. (See graphic).

In June of 2022, and again in March 2024, highly qualified Democratic candidates sought to replace OCBE Trustees. All of them lost. Several factors played into these losses:

- Turnout is always low in primary elections
- Voters are often uninformed about down-ballot races
- Incumbents have the benefit of name recognition, which can be a deciding factor among uninformed voters
- Voters assume that they will have a chance to make their voices heard in the general election, and do not realize that the results of the OCBE races are final in the primary election

These are the problems that SB 907 aims to correct. It would change the composition of OCBE, by expanding the number of trustees from five to seven, and it would change the timing of OCBE Trustee elections to the general election so as to maximize voter turnout for these races. For more information, see [this article in the OC Register](#).

Who Authorizes Charter Schools in Orange County?

Authorizer	How Many?	Percentage
Huntington Beach City	1	2%
Irvine Unified School District	1	2%
State Board of Education	1	2%
Anaheim Elementary	2	5%
Orange Unified School District	2	5%
Santa Ana Unified School District	5	12%
Capistrano Unified	6	14%
Orange County Board of Education	25	58%

VILLAGE TV IN JUNE

By: Sue Dearing

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB (Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.)

Public Education advocates Teri Sorey and Billie Joe Wright speak out about the OC Board of Education, charter schools and the importance of school board races.



Teri Sorey



Billie Joe Wright

BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS (Sundays at 3:30 p.m.)

Allan Feldman interviews Dom Jones, candidate for California Assembly District 72, about her life, her work background and her journey to running for political office.



Dom Jones

WHAT'S UP AT THE DPOC

By: Allan Feldman

The big event at last month's DPOC Central Committee meeting was the announcement from DPOC Chairperson Ada Briceño that she would not be seeking another term as DPOC Chair. She is running to be a Democratic National Committee Member from California.



Ada Briceño

Ada grew into her job and her job is not easy. She led the DPOC through unprecedented times, with no guidebook as to how to do it during a pandemic. Central Committee meetings run smoothly. There are now time limits as to the length of any debate and for how long each person can speak. Everyone is treated fairly.

Ada has been an articulate spokesperson for the DPOC, as evidenced by her last appearance at our club in January of this year. She has prioritized recruitment of candidates for local offices, which is no easy task. During Ada's leadership there has been conflict within the DPOC, but no fracturing. We don't know what the November election will bring, but under Ada Briceño the DPOC remains strong today.

While Ada was leading the DPOC, she was also Co-President of Unite Here Local 11, the hotel workers union, which was on strike against various hotels in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Most of those labor disputes have been successfully resolved with new contracts.

Although we will miss Ada, we look forward to working with the new leadership at the DPOC.



THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUB'S 4TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Celebrating African American Women Who Changed History

By: Annie McCary

Anticipation is building as the African American Heritage Club prepares for its 4th annual Juneteenth celebration. The excitement reached new heights with the news that the woman known as the “grandmother of Juneteenth”, Ms. Opal Lee, received a most prestigious honor on May 3, 2024: the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which was presented to her by President Biden at the White House.



Ms. Opal Lee

Lee is a retired teacher whose family home in Texas had been burned down by an angry white mob when she was a young girl. In 2016 Lee, then 89 years old, walked from Fort Worth, Texas to D.C. to deliver 1.6 million signatures in support of making Juneteenth a national holiday. Her effort was successful in 2021 when President Biden signed the bill doing exactly that.



Dorothy Mulkey

AAHC celebrates Miss Lee’s tireless advocacy for Juneteenth and her unwavering dedication to preserving African American heritage. In Miss Lee’s honor, AAHC will present an award to Orange County resident Dorothy Mulkey, an African American woman whose family was denied a rental in a new Santa Ana apartment complex in 1963. With the help of the NAACP the family took its case to the judiciary, eventually reaching the Supreme Court. There, in a landmark 1967 decision, Byron White and four other justices ruled in favor of the Mulkeys, striking down California’s Proposition 13, a referendum that sought to not only undo the protections of CA’s Rumford Act, passed

in 1963, but also previous fair housing provisions passed in the late 1950s. Dorothy Mulkey’s journey to the Supreme Court is a testament to her courage and conviction in the face of adversity and changed the course of fair housing in California and the entire country. The award being presented by AAHC to Dorothy Mulkey is signed by Miss Lee.

At the Juneteenth Celebration the African American Heritage Club will honor both Ms. Opal Lee and Dorothy Mulkey for their remarkable contributions, which changed history. In addition the club will pay tribute to a diverse array of women who have left their indelible mark on history. From the pioneering achievements of Mae Johnson in science to the bold activism of Josephine Baker in the arts, each honoree represents a different facet of the African American experience. Rebecca Lee Crumpler’s groundbreaking work as the first African American woman to earn a medical degree, Wangiri Maathal’s leadership in the civil rights movement and Gwendolyn Brook’s poetic brilliance all will be acknowledged.

Against the backdrop of Ms. Opal Lee and Dorothy Mulkey’s inspiring stories, the Juneteenth Celebration offers the vision of a vibrant tapestry of history, showcasing the extraordinary contributions of African American women who have changed the course of our journey.

For information on attending the Juneteenth Celebration, see flyers in the clubhouses and contact Sharon Peavy at (714) 931-7637. **The deadline is June 12.**