



# ELEPHANT TRACKS

## CONEJO VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Editor: Mary Genstil

### CVRW January 2026

**1st New Year's Day**

**8th CVRW Board Meeting**

**12th Planning Commission  
Mtg 6 pm**

**13th Board of Supervisors**

**13th T.O. City Council  
Meeting**

**14th CVUSD Board Meeting**

**14th Central Committee  
Mtg**

**15th CVRW General Mtg  
6 pm Sunset Hills CC**

**19th Martin Luther  
King Day**

**26th Planning Commission  
Mtg 6 pm**

**27th. Board of Supervisors**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Michelle Spencer who assembled all the auction baskets for the Christmukkah party and provided name tags for our board members & renewing members. Thanks also to Marie Doherty for providing the candy game (guess how many in bowl) and Chris D'Alonzo for the special music playlist. Thanks to Marie Chowdowski for collecting all the donations for the baskets and **TO ALL WHO DONATED!**

Also thanks to Jennifer Mc Carthy who helps me tremendously with newsletter and with so much in club!



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Michelle Spencer*

Updates, News, and Insights from the Conejo Valley Republican Women

### Welcome to the CVRW Newsletter

Dear Ladies,

I want to thank everyone who attended the Christmukkah Party making it a successful event. It was a full evening with Swearing in our new executive board for the 2026 – 2027, silent auction, dinner, and dancing. Holiday fun was had by all.

Thank you to all who volunteered to serve the next two years. Thank you to all who have served multiple terms and continue to serve.

All the Baskets received bids and made their way to new homes. Thanks to all the bidders and congratulations to all the winners. The money raised will go to opening a Republican Headquarters to support our candidates and voter initiatives for the 2026 election cycle.

I want to thank Chris for again being our music director. It made the evening festive. I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to what the coming year has in store for the M.A.G.A. movement.

As usual Governor Newsom is going to take the financial benefits from the Trump policies of no tax on tips, overtime and social security and put it back into his corrupt pocket. Hopefully, that will mean defeat at the ballot box for the democrats. In the coming months leading up to the primary election our goal will be to get Jeff Gorell re-elected in the June primary with fifty percent of the vote plus one. We also need to focus on Ted Nordblum's run to win the open seat vacated by Jacqui Irwin. That is one of the 26 for 26 seats we need to win to break the super majority in the state house. We will still need to focus on Voter ID. These are heavy lifts, but I think if we work together with the other Republican Women's groups in the county, we can claim victory.

As I write this, I have yet to see the ruling for prop 50, which was supposed to come out on December 22, 2025. I'm praying that the reason is that careful thought and debate is happening by the panel of judges.

Thanks to Jennifer McCarthy that Steve Hilton, who is running for Governor, is our speaker for January. Please have your RSVPs in ASAP. Please invite your friends and family.

#### **January's General Meeting is**

**Thursday January 15, 2026 at 6:00pm .....Sunset Hills Country Club**

4155 Erbes Road Thousand Oaks CA 91360

Happy New Year,  
Michelle Spencer  
President CVRW



## **2026 Officers and Committee Members**

### **President**

Michelle Spencer

### **Membership VP**

Jennifer McCarthy

### **Treasurer**

Nicole Perry

### **Recording Secretary**

Marie Chodkowski

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Amalya Oppenheimer

### **Co Programs VPs**

Brandee Sisting &  
Lindie Nelson

### **Ways & Means VP**

Donna Strull

### **Appointed positions:**

**Hospitality** - Liz Priedkalns

**Newsletter** - Mary Genstil

**Parliamentarian** - Marie Doherty

**Americanism** - Suzanne Toton

**Legislation** - Gina Libby

**Press & Publicity** - Open

**Campaigns** - Jennifer McCarthy

**Fundraising** - Open

**Caring for America & Military**

Jill Delaney

**Website** - Lola Bush

**Communication and Social Media** -

Colleen Doran

**Historian** - Elisa Meissner

**Ballot Harvesting** - Open

**Voter Registration** -Open

As we enter 2026, PLEASE remember to **RSVP to the January meeting with Steve Hilton** on January 15th. And forward this flyer to everyone you know in our area who might be interested in hearing him. We do want to fill that room.

If you haven't sent in your renewal, why don't you send it with AND payment for Steve Hilton together?!?

**Conejo Valley Republican Women**



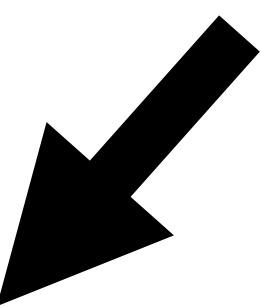
**Welcomes**

**Candidate for California Governor**

**Steve Hilton**

**January 15, 2026**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**\$60 Members**  
**\$70 Non-Members**  
**(includes dinner)**



**VENUE**

Sunset Hills Country Club  
4155 Erbes Rd  
Thousand Oaks, CA



**PLEASE RSVP by JAN 8**

ConejoValleyRepubWomen@gmail.com

Preferred Payment: Zelle

Or Mail check to CVRW  
PO Box 7151, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Please be sure to attend our January general meeting, which will feature Steve Hilton, candidate for California governor. Steve is the former host of the show, *The Next Revolution* (2017-2023) and a current contributor on Fox News, and the author of such books as Positive Populism and Califailure. Come hear how Steve has a plan to fix CA's problems! And bring a friend or two!

## Christmukkah Party – December 17th



### CVRW Board –

Lindie Nelson; Marie Doherty; Amalya Oppenheimer/Corr. Sec'y; Marie Chowdowski/Rec. Sec'y; Jennifer Mc Carthy/VP Membership; Michelle Spencer/President



Gina Libby—Legislation



Left—Colleen Duran—  
Social Media; Marie Doherty/  
Parliamentarian; Lindie Nelson/  
Programs

*Elephant Tracks*

*January 2026*



## 2026 Board of Directors and Other Officers

**AMERICANISM**  
by Suzie T.

### **Voter Identification**

Laws regarding voter identification for voting did not exist until 2006. However, voter registration laws were implemented as early as 1870 to begin identifying voters. It was considered necessary as the population was growing and older methods were not practical. In 2006 Indiana was the first state to implement voter identification as a requirement for voting. While it was challenged during the case of *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, the Supreme Court majority concluded that there was a legitimate intent to prevent voter fraud and that the burden imposed on voters was minimal. It is interesting that while we are all required to have a real ID to travel, the democratic party finds that it is too burdensome for everyone to have an ID. That is interesting, because if our system was working well, all legal citizens would have access to ID, it should not be too difficult for a legal citizen to obtain.

There are campaigns in many states seeking to add voter identification to the ballot for upcoming elections. The current initiative in California is led by Carl DeMaio and more information can be found at [www.VoterIDVolunteer.org](http://www.VoterIDVolunteer.org)

(This page left intentionally blank.)

## MEMBERSHIP

*By: Jennifer McCarthy*

### **Lifetime Members:**

Kerry Nelson  
Brandee Sisting

### **Renewals:**

Lola Bush  
Rori Campbell  
Marie Chodkowski  
Jill Delaney  
Marie Doherty  
Colleen Doran  
Susie Ekblad  
Mary Ann Hazard  
Glna Libby  
Jenifer McCarthy  
Ruth McGettigan  
Elisa Meissner  
Chris Navarro  
Jody Neill  
Lindie Nelson  
Larane Nesbitt  
Ida O'Donoghue  
Amalya Oppenheimer  
Nicole Perry  
Eileen Pratt  
Liz Priedkalns  
Elena Silva  
Michelle Spencer  
Donna Strull

### **New Members:**

Joan Adams  
Leslie Anderson  
Julie Bacon  
Yvette du Beau  
Joan Each  
Mary Genstil  
Andrea Griffith  
Julie Monro  
Linda Valentine

### **Associates:**

Tom Campbell  
Paul Chodkowski  
Dennis Mattock  
Tim McCarthy  
Steve Spencer  
Steve Genstil  
Mark Griffith  
Tim Toton



## Legislative Report

by Gina Libby

**Gavin's Gerrymandering:** At the state level, Governor Newsom and the state legislature have approved a special election to take place on Nov. 4, 2025, to eliminate the state's independent districting committee which has specific guardrails to prevent political party favoring redistricting. We must support the NO on Prop 50 campaign, spearheaded by Carl Demaio's Reform California. <https://www.reformcalifornia.org/about>.

**AB 495-State Sanctioned Kidnapping:** Several children's health, education, and parental rights groups have sounded the alarm on AB 495, a bill that puts children in danger by allowing non-family members to assume their custody with the mere presentation of an affidavit—no ID required, no court order, no proof. Call your state representatives immediately to VOTE NO on AB 495. See these campaigns for immediate action steps: <https://www.perkadvocacy.com/california-legislation>.

**URGENT CALL to ACTION** came from PERK's Amy Bohn on August 29, 2025:

"Compounded by recent laws eroding parental rights (SB 1419, AB 5, AB 223, AB 665), AB 495 strips away the most fundamental safeguard — a parent's right to protect their child from strangers. Records will be sealed from the public, making it nearly impossible to track or recover a child once taken.

No child in California will be safe if AB 495 passes. It impacts public schools, private schools, and homeschoolers. This bill is a predator's dream and a parent's worst nightmare. Pastors are already warning families to leave the public schools and the state if this becomes law.

Education Code 234.7 already allows parents to consent to and authorize a long list of authorized emergency contacts in the event of an emergency. AB495 creates loopholes.

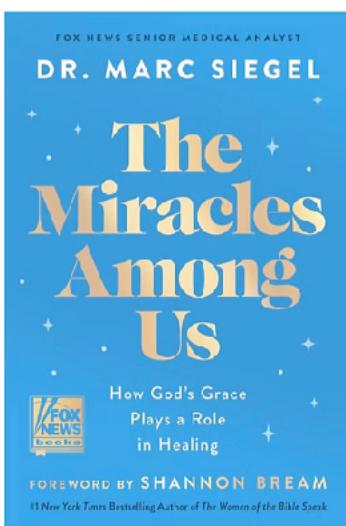
Stand with parents and protect all the children!

**Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 19 at 1:00.

We enjoyed **Alamo Restaurant** so much last month that we are going there again—

2311 Borchard Rd , Newbury Park.

Our book this time will be The Miracles Among Us, by Dr. Marc Siegel. Everybody welcome!



**DON'T FORGET**



Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association  
<https://www.hjta.org/saveprop13> Sign petition

## Military Committee

CVRW is pleased to be able to partner with Americans Supporting Americans, an organization that sends cards and packages to Troops serving overseas. Monthly we collect products and personal notes, and we donate them to ASA. Common requests are trail mix and other snacks, playing cards, puzzle books, hygiene supplies...a complete list of items to donate can be found on the ASA website: ASA-USA.org.

**Please consider bringing items to each CVRW monthly meeting for the Vets.**

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY! The first 5 people to donate each month will receive a free Raffle Ticket for that evening's drawing!**

## CONEJO VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2026

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(    ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CELL# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH MO/DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SELECT desired membership level below:**

**FULL Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ \$35

**SUSTAINING Member (Registered NPP):** NEW \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ \$35

**SILVER Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Support Level + Spouse membership

**GOLD Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Support + Spouse membership + VIP Seating

(SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_)

**PLATINUM Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$275 Support + Spouse membership + Seating at Speaker Table  
+ CVRW Name Badge

(SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_)

**ASSOCIATE (Spouses):** \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Email) \_\_\_\_\_  
(SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_)

**FULL STUDENT MEMBERSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (Emailed newsletter included)

**SPONSOR a Student(s) Membership** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 per student (Emailed newsletter to student included.)

- **Make checks payable to:** CVRW (Conejo Valley Republican Women)
- Mailing address: CVRW P.O. Box 7151, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
- Membership dues are paid annually – Due January 1, 2026.
- Membership Newsletter E-Mailed unless otherwise specified.

MEMBERS MUST BE REGISTERED REPUBLICANS OR NPP and join as a sustaining member.

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Method of pmt./check# \_\_\_\_\_