



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

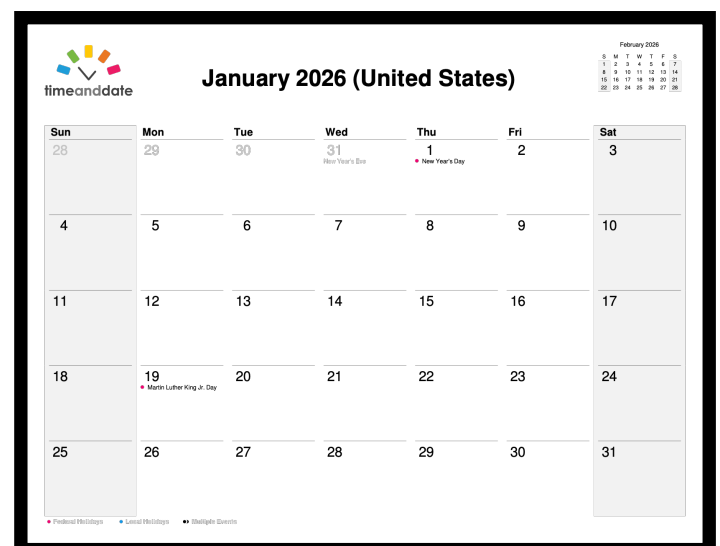
27th. Board of Supervisors



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 McCarthy 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 6:00pmSunset 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

Conejo Valley Republican Women

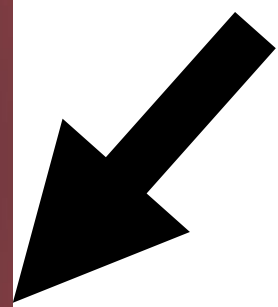


Welcomes

Candidate for
California Governor

Steve Hilton

January 15, 2026 6:00 - 8:00 PM	\$60 Members \$70 Non-Members (includes dinner)
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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



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 identified 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

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

And suddenly.... it's 2026!

Thank you to all those who renewed their membership in a timely fashion, and to those who have joined us this year for the first time. We have a lot to do and a short time to do it in, so if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so now.

(Prices are back to \$35 effective 1/1/26.)

And be sure to invite your friends to join us!



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.

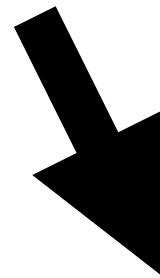
We enjoyed **Alamo Restaurant** so much last month that we are going there again—

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://](https://www.hjta.org/saveprop13)
[www.hjta.org > saveprop13](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 7175, 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# _____