



ELEPHANT TRACKS

CONEJO VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Editor: Mary Genstil

CVRW February 2026

2nd Groundhog Day

4th CVUSD Board

Meeting 6-9

5th CVRW Board Meeting

9th Planning Commission Mtg

10th Board of Supervisors

10th City Council Mtg 6:00 pm

14th Valentine's Day

16th Presidents' Day

18th Ash Wednesday

18th Central Committee Mtg

18th CVUSD Board

Meeting 6-9

**19th CVRW General Mtg
6 pm Sunset Hills CC**

23rd Planning Commission
Mtg

24th City Council

STEVE HILTON THURSDAY JANUARY 15, 2026

“THEY LET US BURN” best summarizes the people’s feelings about Newsom’s leadership of California, an echo of what those who lost their homes in the two big wildfires said of California’s administration.

According to Steve Hilton, the state is rift with waste and fraud—\$250 billion worth. FRAUD, FIRE, LIES, AND LOSS characterize our state, which has the highest unemployment rate in the country and the highest taxes. MUGA is an acronym for California—Most Useless Government in America!

The State Controller auditing all organizations receiving state money could help turn off the tap.

February 2026 (United States)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 • Presidents' Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

timeanddate
 • Federal Holidays • Local Holidays • Multiple Events

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michelle Spencer

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

Welcome to the CVRW Newsletter

Dear Conejo Valley Republican Women,

I want to thank everyone who attended the **Steve Hilton** Event, it was sold out, making it a huge success. I want to especially thank **Jennifer McCarthy** who is on his campaign team and booked Mr. Hilton because of that. I believe this was the biggest event our club has put on.

Thank You to **Marie and Bob Doherty** for ordering and assembling the step and repeat along with the lights for all our guests to get pictures with Mr. Hilton. Thank You **Colleen Doran** for taking all our guests' pictures. I think that turned out great. Mr. Hilton posted our event on his social media Page with our branding getting the word out about our club. We have new members due to this event.

Thanks to **Lola Bush, Gina Libby, and Nicole Flood Perry** for doing such a great job at the check in table, seamlessly getting people checked in and to their tables. **Donna Strull and Mary Genstil** did a fantastic job with the 50/50 raffle selling \$507.00 in total. **Sig Asvik** had the winning ticket— \$253.00. He and his wife Evie are also some of our newest Members. Thanks to **Tim McCarthy** for handling the audience questions for Steve Hilton. Thanks to **Lindie Nelson** for helping with the flower arranging. They made the room look beautiful. If I forgot anyone, please accept my apologies.

Marie Chodkowski and I attended the first meeting in support of the Simi Valley / Moorpark Republican Women. Their speaker was **Janice Parvin**, Ventura County Supervisor district four. She spoke on the state of her district. She is in an election cycle along with our Ventura County Supervisor **Jeff Gorell**. It was a nice event. On 1/26/2026 I will be attending the Westlake Village Republican Women's meeting as they will be hosting Congresswoman **Kat Cammack**, Chair of the Republican Women's Caucus. Now that Julia Brownley is not seeking another term in Congress, her seat is open. Multiple candidates are running for that seat. **Spencer Pratt** is running for Mayor of Los Angeles, and I will be pulling for him since Mayor Karen Bass and Gavin Newsom are responsible for the burning down of the Pacific Palisades.

February's General Meeting is
Thursday February 19, 2026 at 6:00pm
Sunset Hills Country Club
4155 Erbes Road
Thousand Oaks CA 91360

Michelle Spencer
President CRVW

STEVE HILTON

Our January 15th meeting at Sunset Hills Country Club featuring Steve was SOLD OUT! Around 135 in attendance! Steve outlined how he would attempt to save California from Newsom's damaging reign of 25 years in office—including 2 terms as governor.



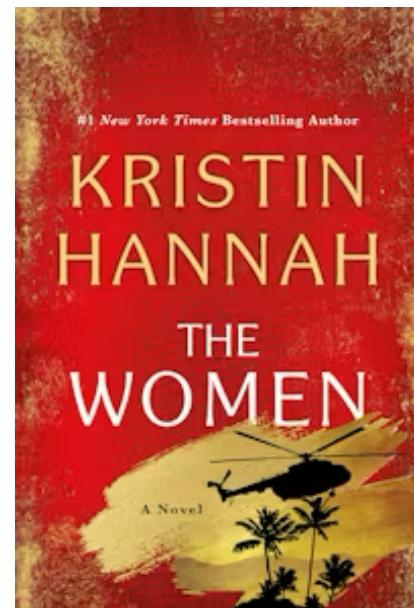
JANUARY 19TH—BOOK CLUB MEETING

This was a fun, relaxed meeting. We discussed The Miracles Among Us by Dr. Marc Siegel and shared our own life experiences in which we felt we had experienced divine intervention.

We enjoyed our privacy, the food, & service so much at the Alamo, we've decided to return there next month.

To RSVP or get more information contact:
Jill_Delaney@live.com

**Book Club will meet on Monday, February 23rd at 1:00 at the Alamo Restaurant—
2311 Borchard Rd , Newbury Park.
Our book this time will be The Women, by Kristin Hannah about nurses serving in Viet Nam during the war.
Everybody welcome!**



MEMBERSHIP

By: Jennifer McCarthy

Lifetime Members:

Kerry Nelson
Brandee Sisting

Renewals:

Elaine McKearn
Nancy Van Volkinburg

New Members:

Evie Asvik
Karen Collins
Donna Johanson
Jennifer McNulty
Barbara Oldfield



Last call for membership renewals. February 28th is the deadline to renew your membership if you want to continue receiving newsletters. PLEASE do renew ASAP so you don't miss a minute of this exciting election year. CVRW has been putting on candidates' forums for well over 20 years now. & we have a super one coming up in March. You won't want to miss it. Bring your friends to hear from so many of our candidates before the primaries.

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

Bookclub

Jill Delaney

Website - Lola Bush

Communication and Social Media

Colleen Doran

Historian - Elisa Meissner

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!

I also would like to include the following list of requested items for our Troops overseas that I received.

Items Most Needed at This Time

Beef Jerky; Beef Sticks; Playing Cards; Small Games; Energy Bars; Gum; Ramen Soup
Wet Wipes; Chap-Sticks; Cup O' Noodles; Instant Tea/Coffee Packets

Please No Glass. Thanks! Jill



My Uncle Bob was a staunch Conservative, and voted straight Republican until the day he died in Chicago. Since then he has voted Democrat.





Legislative Report

by Gina Libby

As of January 20, 2026, President Trump has signed 458 Executive Actions; there were only 220 signed in his first term. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

Election Integrity: President Trump has been highlighting the deficiencies with electronic voting systems and mail-in ballots, calling them “corrupt”.

Local Action: Stay tuned with local action on the election integrity front by following Restore the Vote Ventura (RTVV) at <https://restorethevoteventura.org>. Ventura County Patriot Meetup founder Debbie Cohen, of which RTVV is a sub-group, was chosen by Supervisor Janice Parvin to serve on the newly created Ventura County Election Advisory Council. The EAC meets every two months and is open to the public. Bring the EAC your election integrity concerns so they can alert the Board of Supervisors of matters important to voters.

State Action—Countering Gavin’s Gerrymandering: In November 2025, California voters approved Prop 50, a gerrymandering scheme which used race to redraw district lines. To restore election integrity sanity, Carl Demaio’s Reform California has thus far collected 1.1 million signatures to get voter ID on the ballot this November. Demaio is urging a final push to collect signatures for voter ID and to save Prop 13 via petition. We need 100,000 more signatures by February 6, 2026, to counter the ~ 25% that are rejected during validation. Please consider volunteering at a booth or collecting signatures from family and friends. See: <https://www.reformcalifornia.org/about>.

Reporting from CalMatters: The following excerpts and links are from CalMatters, reporting on Supreme Court impacts on California legislation. Let this be a reminder of how critical our work to get Republicans elected to state office. Our current legislators cannot distinguish the basic differences between boys and girls according to biological reality.

Transgender Californians have a lot riding on Supreme Court decisions



Photo by Anjali Sharif-Paul, The Orange County Register via AP Photo

Students holding Pride and trans flags gather at Pat Birdsall Sports Park across the street from Great Oak High School in Temecula on Sept. 22, 2023.

Though California is a relatively safe place for transgender youth, LGBTQ advocates warn that efforts to eliminate policies safeguarding transgender kids — led by right-leaning states and the Trump administration — [may change that](#).

As CalMatters' Carolyn Jones explains, a handful of California's policies may be at risk of being reversed or undermined as lawsuits challenging transgender protections play out in court. Two major cases are:

Student athletes: The U.S. Supreme Court is currently reviewing a case based on a pair of lawsuits challenging Idaho and West Virginia's bans prohibiting transgender women from playing on women's teams. Legal experts say the high court appears poised to uphold states' rights, allowing them to keep the ban.

Because California allows students to play on school-sponsored sports teams that align with their gender identity, a ruling upholding states' rights would also uphold California's policy. But it could also embolden the federal government to penalize states for protecting transgender athletes. Last year, President Donald Trump said he would withhold federal funding from schools that allow transgender females to play on girls' and women's teams.

Parental notification: In 2024 Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law banning schools statewide from requiring school staff members to inform parents if a child identifies as transgender without the child's consent.

After the law went into effect, a pair of teachers from Escondido sued the state, arguing that it "violates their faith and ethics," according to the law firm that filed the suit on behalf of the teachers.

A federal judge sided with the teachers in December, but the state successfully requested a temporary injunction on the ruling while it prepares an appeal. The plaintiffs have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reject the stay and implement the ruling immediately, but the court has yet to issue a decision.

CEO Act: Kevin McNamee, former city councilman and Mayor of Thousand Oaks, is promoting the CEO Act which would require annual educational funds to follow the student not the school. Reach out to Kevin for more information:

kevin@info.educationopportunity.org

Together, we can reach 1.2 million and put the CEO Act on the ballot.

National School Choice Week isn't just a celebration. It's a call to action.

Let's show up strong - and make this week one that truly makes a difference.

Do it for the kids,

Kevin McNamee

Former Mayor - City of Thousand Oaks

818-434-7234

AMERICANISM
By
Suzie T.

“Gerrymandering”

Gerrymandering occurs when a politician or party requests that the boundaries of their district is revised, and is done in a way that give the party or politician a political advantage over its rivals.

The manipulation of voting districts goes far back in time. In 18th century England, politicians created “rotten boroughs” with only a few eligible voters, then they could buy other votes to gain seats in parliament.

The name gerrymandering comes from the name of a former Governor of Massachusetts in 1812. At that time the parties were the Federalist Party and the Democratic-Republicans. His administration came up with new state senatorial districts and gave an advantage to Democrat-Republicans. The new district he drew looked like a salamander, hence the term Gerrymandering.

Ideally, voting districts would be set up in a way that makes sections equal in size and the number of constituents. In many redistricting attempts over the years, there have been clear concerns that the changes do not provide equal

sized districts and are created by looking at past voting patterns as well as demographics to put a politician in a district with more representation by their party.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits manipulating the district to allow less privilege for minorities. The court ruled in *Miller v. Johnson* (1995) that the use of race as a predominant factor in drawing boundaries shall not be allowed.

Originally, gerrymandering was not considered an issue under the remit of the federal courts, however, in *Davis v Bandemer* (1986) the Supreme Court held that it could be unconstitutional if the electoral system “is arranged in a manner that will consistently degrade a voter’s or a group of voter’s influence in the process of the whole.” This is known as the Bandemer decision.

Post the Bandemer decision, it was again decided that gerrymandering is not an issue for the Federal courts. Numerous gerrymandering schemes have occurred. A famous one being the North Carolina’s district 12, known as the “I-85” district, as the district ran along a highway and was almost as narrow as the highway.

Gerrymandering is clearly not the best way to go about the voting process. Both sides have been guilty, and it is not clear if we will ever have a solution. Hopefully, one day there will be a fair and equitable process for re-districting. Until then, republicans will have to keep up with the democrats.



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Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 988-1940

Henry Stern-D 27th District

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Calabasas, CA 91302
(818)876-3352
<http://sd27.senate.ca.gov>

Links to Republican Sites

National Republican Party

www.gop.com

Ventura Republican Party

www.ventura.gop.org

Ventura County Republican Assembly

www.vccra.com

Los Angeles Republican Party

www.lagop.org



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# _____