



Working for a Better World
a grassroots advocacy organization founded in 1984

Women For: Orange County

September 2023 Newsletter





Suffrage Day 2023

It was an absolutely wonderful day at Women For: Orange County's 41st Annual Suffrage Day Celebration! Mia Yamamoto, our amazing keynote speaker, spoke on "Strangling Autonomy: Trans Youth to Reproductive Rights" and urged the more than 100 assembled guests to take action in support of all marginalized groups, reproductive rights and social justice. Our inspiring honorees, Rebecca Gomez, Ph.D., Ameena Mirza Qazi, and Gema Suarez, gave motivating speeches regarding their work and the importance of civic engagement.

It was great to share the day with so many supportive and enthusiastic friends!



Save the date for our next online meeting.

Monday, October 16, 2023

2pm on Zoom

“Is There Justice in the Criminal Justice System?”

with a special emphasis on women in prison



**September meeting, we hope you will consider attending:
Americans United for Separation of Church and State-OC**

Dr. Nancy Watkins - The Purpose of Public Education

Saturday, September 16th, 4:30 pm PST

In-Person or Zoom Meeting

Dr. Nancy Watkins, a California public high school teacher and district administrator, will discuss public education covering current topics such as what kids learn in classrooms, how much control parents have, book banning, LGBTQ topics, and sexual education. She is the Director of the Educational Doctoral Program and faculty at Cal State Fullerton, has a Doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy, is a published author on educational research, and a Fulbright Scholar.

To Join **Zoom**, **Register** at: <https://www.mobilize.us/au/event/575498/>

In Person: Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room, 15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

For more information, www.au-oc.org

2023 Calendar

We will continue to email our monthly newsletters and meeting flyers. Meeting flyers, monthly newsletters, our webpage, and Facebook will provide more detailed meeting and event information.

~ Meetings ~

will continue to be offered on the **3rd Monday of the month**

October 16

Is there Justice in the Criminal Justice System?

(Look for more information in next newsletter, on our website and on Facebook)

Please note that meeting topics, locations, and/or dates may change if our speakers or panelists have unavoidable changes in their schedules.

Meetings will be via Zoom, hybrid, or in-person.

Hybrid and in-person meetings will take place at the Irvine Ranch Water District Duck Club

15 Riparian View, Irvine

Other events and organizations that might interest you:

Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties has a monthly newsletter listing upcoming events and ways to become more involved in local Planned Parenthood advocacy work. Information available at (800) 230-7526 or (714) 922-4100 and

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino>

Supporters of Public Education-OC presents meetings and activities to provide opportunities to learn about advocacy on issues in Orange County schools.

Information on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SOPEOC/> or email: sope.oc@gmail.com.

UCI School of Law is a visionary law school committed to enriching our communities through public service. They present many excellent free-to-the-public events with online registration. For more information:

<https://calendar.law.uci.edu/>

Membership

Women For: Orange County 2023 membership letter: bit.ly/3RFOyZI

If you would like to renew your membership or are not a current member and would like to join, go to <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org> *membership*, then print the membership application, fill it in, and mail it with your check to:

W4OC

P.O. Box 5402
Irvine, CA 92626-4502

Annual membership dues remain at \$40.00 and \$20.00 for students/low-income individuals.

As always, any donation will be gratefully accepted and are much appreciated.
Thank you for your continued support.

Board of Directors

We currently have eight members on our board of directors who plan and take care of the business of Women For. If anyone is interested in finding out more about becoming a board member, contact any current board member: Carol Tuch @ 949-661-9470, Londa Woods, Peggy Goetz, Ellen Tewell, Marilyn Vassos, Steph Campbell, Sharon O'Hara, or Felicity Figueroa.

Other contact information is on our website at <http://www.womenfororangecounty.org/>.

Legislative Update for 2023

Women For: Orange County supports the following legislative bills.

** Denotes new legislation involvement since last Newsletter

SB 94 (Cortese) Recall & resentencing: special circumstances

This bill allows judges to review life without parole and death penalty sentences for people with special circumstances before June 5, 1990. This would apply the law more fairly.

Update: 9/01/23 Passed Senate. Active. In Assembly appropriations.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB94

SB 616 (Gonzalez) Paid Sick + Sick Days

This bill would require employers to allow employees to use seven or more paid sick days without wage loss or retaliation which will lead to a healthier, more productive workforce, and protect public health by significantly reducing the spread of communicable diseases in the workplace.

Update: 9/01/23 Passed Senate. Active. In Assembly appropriations.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB616

Although not legislation, Women For: Orange County has also supported:

Stop the ACO/REACH pilot program.

Support letter sent to Honorable Xavier Becerra (Sec. of HHS) & Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure (Admin for CMS) supporting their opposition to the ACO/REACH pilot program.

UCI Hydrogen Blending Project

Support letter sent to Irvine representatives in opposition to UCI hydrogen blending project which would cost ratepayers nearly \$13 million dollars and has the potential to harm students and faculty.

womenforoc@aol.com

<http://www.womenfororangecounty.org>

Please 'like' our WF:OC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/Women-For-Orange-County-180712315298354/