



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - October, 2013



The League's Annual Speak-Out

- Gender Equity
- Climate Change
- Public Pensions
 - Water

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.—Program at 10:00 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

THE VEEP SEZ

Our September 14 meeting, “Mental Health Awareness—Stand Against Stigma”, was very interesting and informative.

Dr. Peter Van Houten, one of our guest speakers, spoke about how difficult people find it to think about themselves when it comes to mental illness. Only 15% of people with a mental illness and insurance coverage for such problems ever make an appointment for help with a physician or a clinic and only 8% of those who do keep that appointment. Dr. Van Houten’s clinic, Sierra Family Medical Clinic, overcomes the appointment problem by having behaviorists on hand to see the patient who comes in for any health matter. This, he explained, makes follow-up visits much easier for the patient. He went on to say that both mental illness and drug addiction are behavioral health issues with neuro-chemical bases, and can, therefore, be treated so that any new patient can feel comfortable in discussing his problems.

Lynn Cameron, Student Assistance Program Coordinator of the Nevada Joint Union High School District, our second guest speaker, talked about some of the programs in the schools. Fifty percent of students who have these problems experience them before they reach the age of 18. This is why programs at the high school level become so very important. The drug diversion program counseled 114 high school students in 2012-2013. The schools are also working very diligently on anti-bullying programs.

We also had two members of the audience with a very personal interest in mental health. Richard Stone told us about his daughter, Elizabeth, whose problems began very suddenly when she was a child of twelve. The Stones had great difficulty finding a psychiatrist who could treat a child of that age. He also told us of his own problem in recognizing that his daughter’s behavior was a mental health issue. Today, Elizabeth is 26 years old and lives on her own, supports herself, takes her necessary medications, watches for stresses in her life that might be problematic, and is a healthy adult.

Iden Rogers, our second audience member, talked about the phrase “If they would only take their meds.” He spoke very frankly about that phrase and his own problems with that issue.

We thank all our speakers for an inspiring program.

Arlene Robertson
Vice-President
League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

On This Day in History - October 12

1492 - Christopher Columbus discovered the New World
1917 - Lions International was founded
1933 - Alcatraz became a federal prison
1960 - Nikita Krushchev disrupted a U.N. General Assembly session
2013 - The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County held its Annual Speak Out

SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT

Saturday, October 12

OCTOBER MEETING - SPEAK OUT! Let us know where your interests lie ... The Program Planning Committee has selected four topics for discussion at the October meeting. The topics were chosen because they are newsworthy, but very few know much about them. The meeting provides an opportunity to share information and misinformation and pose some questions that could be addressed in a future general meeting.

Each topic table at the Speak Out will have a facilitator who will direct the discussion. Following the discussion period, the entire group will hear reports from each facilitator.

The selected topics are:

CLIMATE CHANGE - Is climate change already affecting our atmosphere, weather, oceans, ecosystems and society? If so, how does one adapt and what can we do? Is there a scientific consensus on climate change? Are human activities or natural variations in climate responsible for the climate changes being observed today?

GENDER EQUITY - How far have we come? Many questions come to mind on this topic. Where are women in terms of equity in the job market? Is this something you have experienced and/or seen it in the workplace? When will it change? What is currently being done?

PUBLIC PENSIONS - A subject about which much is written, almost on a daily basis. However, few actually know how pensions are funded. Here is an opportunity to discuss your concerns with others and recognize the economic impacts of public pensions on the community.

WATER - Probably the most important subject in terms of political impact. There is an ongoing political struggle in California about WATER. How it will be handled, the divisiveness the subject evokes and the potential effects of future governmental actions are all subjects for discussion.

WHEN?
Saturday, October 12



ALL YOU CAN EAT
\$5.00 Per Person

Come and join us on Saturday, October 12 for a delicious, heart-warming bowl of homemade SOUP (several different choices) plus dessert!

Soup and a chance to “vent” about the state of the world—the state—the country, etc., etc. Now, that’s a menu you just can’t refuse!

LEST WE FORGET!

Some of us still ask: “WHY SHOULD I BOTHER TO VOTE?” . . .



. . . LUCY BURNS—beaten, hands chained to cell bars above her head and left hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air.

. . . DORA LEWIS —hurled into a dark cell, smashing her head against an iron bed and left unconscious.



. . . ALICE PAUL —embarked on a hunger strike, was tied to a chair while a tube was forced down her throat and liquid was poured into her stomach until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks.

Thirty-three women were arrested, beaten and jailed because they dared to picket the Wilson White House carrying signs asking for the vote. Now, 93 years after our grandmothers and great-grandmothers fought and suffered horrendous difficulties, we must spread the word to get out and use the “right” that was fought for by these courageous women.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent—remember to vote. Remind young and old voters, our complacent voters, our “what difference does it make” voters, our “they’re all just a bunch of crooks” voters that voting is a privilege too often taken for granted.

Our local League is actively informing our electorate by having candidate forums, Pros and Cons presentations, and participating in the in-depth studies of the State League. Go to our web site. There you will find recent information concerning our League and our plans for all future events.

It is not enough just to encourage our families and friends to vote. We, ourselves, must become informed and intelligent voters. The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County is here to do just that. **Get involved because . . .**

**Democracy is NOT
a spectator sport.**



League of Women Voters of California®

STANDS ON ISSUES

In our Action/Advocacy role, the League is nonpartisan but we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

We never take positions on candidates or political parties.

We only take stands on measures when we have studied the issue and our membership has reached agreement on the policies and positions to support.

How we develop our stands on issues

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when we have a position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause.

Positions result from a process of thorough study. Any given study, whether it be National, State, or Local, is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details, both positive and negative. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs.

Study committee members fashion consensus questions that are often addressed by the membership.

Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.

It is the **consensus statement** — the statement resulting from the consensus questions — that becomes a “position.” Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy can not be taken.

Consensus is the overall decision-making process by which substantial agreement among members is reached on an issue.





How the Political Parties Came To Be

Early



History



The U.S. Constitution has nothing to say about political parties. In fact, the Constitution's framers were resolutely opposed to the formation of political parties in this country. Based on their knowledge of the way things worked in Britain, the framers believed that parties created unnecessary and counterproductive divisions within a nation. They thought that candidates should be judged on their personal merits and their stands on the issues, not their party affiliations.

Before long, however, early opposition gave way to the political and practical convenience of a party system. Parties enhanced cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government and made it easier to coordinate policymaking among the different levels of government—from the federal level down to the states, counties, and towns. More importantly, parties allowed diverse groups of like-minded Americans from throughout the country to come together and have an influence on national policymaking and the election of the president.

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States

If You Think 99.9% is Good Enough, Read This . . .

- 12 newborns would be given to the wrong parents each day.
- 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes would be shipped each year.
 - 18,322 pieces of mail would be mishandled every hour.
 - 200,000,000 documents would be lost by the IRS each year.
- 2 planes landing at Chicago's O'Hare airport would be unsafe every day.
 - 315 entries in Webster's Dictionary would be misspelled
 - 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions would be written each year.
- 880,000 credit cards in circulation would turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips.
 - 291 pacemaker operations would be performed incorrectly.
 - 5.5 million cases of soft drinks produced would be flat.
- A typical day would be 24 hours long (give or take 86.4 seconds)!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals

BriarPatch Co-op
Natural Foods Community Market
290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley
(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily - www.briarpatch.coop

New Moon Café
203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

Hair Razors
Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2066 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

www.woodenspooncalif.com

A. Ann Armstrong
Armstrong & Associates

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603
(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrong.org

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

www.spdmarket.com

Mill Street Clothing
Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Piano Tuning

Yvonne Ashmore Piano Service

Registered Piano Technician since 1969

(530) 273-8800

The Book Seller
107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

www.TheBookSeller.biz

Flour Garden Bakery

999 Sutton Way, Grass Valley 95945

(530) 272-2043

Mon.-Sat. 5am-7pm, Sun. 6am-6pm

www.flourgarden.com

*“You want a friend in
Washington? Get a dog!”*

- Harry S. Truman (1884-1972)