I am a proud member of the League of Women Voters and would like to introduce you to this special organization.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the convention of the National Woman Suffrage Association. The League was designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters, encouraging them to participate in sharing public policy. Let me say here that the name represents the long history of women suffrage, but it has always welcomed male members.

The League is an active, grassroots organization which believes that citizens should pay a critical role in advocacy. It is a non-partisan organization, believing this would protect them from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. Also, members are encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about and lobbying for government and social reform legislation.

Most of you, I would assume, only hear about our organization at election times. The League has always been available to educate the public on the various propositions, ballot initiatives, etc. Very rarely do we take any position though, either for or against an issue. We simply want voters to be informed.

Last year the League moderated a forum on California's continuing water shortage situation, bringing together various government officials to explain their plans for conserving this precious resource.

We also hold candidate debates, a wonderful way to get "up close and personal." It is a great opportunity to question these candidates on subjects that might be of most importance to you, the voter.

You need not be a member to attend our meetings, which are held the first Thursday of every month. We usually have speakers giving their take on subjects that affect us here in Placer County. At last June's meeting, for instance, we had Supervisor Kirk Uhler who spoke on what we should expect in the months ahead and how the Supervisors decide the distribution of the budget, very timely and informative subjects indeed.