




# The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

December 2011



**HOLIDAY  
PARTY  
DECEMBER 10**

**Mark Your Calendar**



## The Prez Sez

The Holidays are upon us.

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer and colder, we find ourselves drawn by the warmth of light twinkling in the darkness and the promise of good cheer when we gather with good friends to celebrate and socialize.

A festive invitation to join your friends at the League's Holiday Party has been sent to you, and I hope you've responded with a resounding "Yes!"

Our party this year is a combination of favorite traditions in a new location, Anne DeWitt's lovely home.

As always, the food will be wonderful at our Holiday Party, with delectable hors d'oeuvres and savory tidbits - not to mention some tasty libations overseen by Desmond Gallagher. And everyone enjoys the Book Sale and Silent Auction organized by Mary Dreifuss and Sue Nepstead. Dottie Schmidt has promised to make her brainteaser history quiz even more challenging than in years past.

Whether you're new to the League or a member of long standing, join us from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 for some holiday cheer and fun. Please check to be sure you've responded by December 5 to Anne at 268-2549.

Wishing you Happy Holidays,

Karen



## Our January Meeting



**Our January 14 Meeting** will focus on the issues surrounding "prison realignment" - the fears and also the hopes that our county will handle this mandate with foresight and diligence.

Herewith is an excerpt from an editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* of November 13, 2011, that succinctly covers the background of this controversial subject:

"Public safety realignment is no secret. After years of refusal to consider sentencing reforms, inability to provide adequate drug treatment, unwillingness to prepare parolees for lives outside prison and a continuing insistence on locking up more people longer, state prisons became so overcrowded that the U.S. Supreme ordered the population reduced. There was no appetite among the public or their elected representatives to build and staff more prisons. The state's options were to immediately release 33,000 inmates onto the streets, or to "realign": move much of the authority for inmates to the county level. Counties now have to do what state government couldn't: make choices about whom to keep behind bars, whom to monitor at home with ankle bracelets, whom to refer for drug treatment."

You won't want to miss this very important topic. We will have a panel of experts from the courts and law enforcement to help us to understand what this means for Nevada County.

Bring your questions, your comments and your friends to this timely and provocative meeting on January 14. You'll be glad you did!

*(Photo and editorial excerpt courtesy of the Los Angeles Times, Nov. 13, 2011)*



*LWVWNC Holiday Party*

*Saturday, December 10, 2011*

*1—4 p.m.*

*At the home of  
Anne DeWitt*

*Admission is free*

*Please join us for hors d'oeuvres,  
desserts, wine, gift certificates,  
book sale, socializing and fun.*

*RSVP by December 5 to:  
Anne DeWitt at 268-2549*

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## **LWVWNC OBSERVER CORPS**

Preserving the citizens' right to know, ensuring "sunshine" or openness and transparency in government, has long been a major concern of the League of Women Voters. With the goal of observing our local government in action, the 2011-2012 League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County Observer Corps has been organized under the leadership of Liane Dozier.

Current members of the Corps and their assignments are:

Joyce Chilberto - Grass Valley City Council

Cheryl Cook - Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Liane Dozier - Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Grass Valley City Council

LaLeen Searing - Grass Valley Planning Commission, Nevada Union High School Trustees

Vicki Warner - Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Pat Werner - Nevada City City Council, Nevada County Planning Commission

Marilyn Wilson - Nevada Irrigation District Board

Observer Corps discussion meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except December) at 2 p.m. The Corps always welcomes new members. If you are interested, please call Liane Dozier at 273-2432.

We also wish to thank retired director Mary Tucker for her many years of service to the LWVWNC Observer Corps.



## 5 Myths About Voter Impersonation

**MYTH:** Voter impersonation is a widespread problem.

**FACT:** Between 2002 and 2007, after undertaking a massive investigation into voting irregularities, the U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls.

**MYTH:** Third-party registration drives contribute to voter impersonation.

**FACT:** Since 2008, only 31 cases of suspected voter impersonation have been reported to Florida authorities. But due to a restrictive new law there, the League has been forced to suspend its Florida registration activities for the first time in 72 years.

**MYTH:** Everyone either has an ID or can easily obtain one.

**FACT:** Eleven percent of eligible voters, or about 21 million people, don't have updated state-issued photo IDs. Furthermore, most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one. This presents a tremendous burden for people who work multiple jobs, lack transportation, have disabilities, live outside the state where they were born, and are poor or elderly.

**MYTH:** Election Day registration invites voter impersonation.

**FACT:** An investigation by the Secretary of State in Maine - which was the first state to adopt Election Day registration - did not find evidence of voting irregularities due to same-day registration.

**MYTH:** Early voting increases voter impersonation.

**FACT:** Incidences of impersonation in early voting are just as rare as they are in Election Day balloting. A CBS News report on 17 early voting states revealed no widespread signs of irregularities in the 2008 election.

### Welcome Back!

**Lee Renz**

*Please add this name to your Directory list. Returning members' addresses, phone numbers and e-mails can be obtained from Membership Chair.*

**The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County wishes to thank Brunswick Village Assisted Living Community for their continued support.**

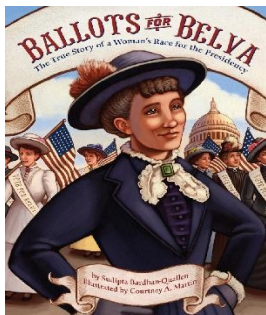
## Timeline of Women's Suffrage in the United States (1870-1884)

### Civil Disobedience is Tried

- 1870- The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. The Grimke sisters, now quite aged, and 42 other women attempt to vote in Massachusetts; their ballots are cast but ignored. Utah territory grants woman suffrage.
- 1871 - The Anti-Suffrage Society is formed.
- 1872 - Susan B. Anthony and supporters are arrested for voting. Anthony's sisters and 11 other women are held for \$500 bail. Anthony herself is held for \$1000 bail
- 1873 - Denied a trial by jury, Anthony loses her case in June and is fined \$100 plus costs. Suffrage demonstration is held at the Centennial of the Boston Tea Party.
- 1874 - Protest held at a commemoration of the Battle of Lexington. The U.S. Supreme Court decides that being a citizen does not guarantee suffrage. The Women's Christian Temperance Union is formed.
- 1876 - On July 4, in Philadelphia, Susan B. Anthony reads The Declaration for the Rights of Women from a podium in front of the Liberty Bell. The crowd cheers. Later the suffragists meet in the historic First Unitarian Church.
- 1878 - Woman suffrage amendment is first introduced in Congress



- 1880 - **Lucretia Mott**, born in 1793, dies. Leader of a number of anti-slavery organizations, Mott, a pacifist, opposed the War with Mexico, and, after the Civil War, she increased her efforts to end war and violence. In 1866 she joined with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone to establish the American Equal Rights Association. In 1876 she attended the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence and two years later, at age 85, she attended the 30th Anniversary of the first Seneca Falls Convention.
- 1882- The House and Senate appoint a committee on woman suffrage, both report favorably.



1884 - **Belva Ann Lockwood**, attorney, politician, educator and author, graduated from law school in Washington, D.C. and became one of the first female lawyers in the U.S. She successfully petitioned Congress to be allowed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming the first woman attorney given this privilege. She ran for President in 1884 on the Equal Rights Party ticket and was the first woman to appear on official ballots.

(To be continued in the January issue of *The Voter*)

## Health Care For All?

I know— I know. The American people have to realize that universal health care is just a dream. It's too expensive. It's impossible. No other country in the world has been able to establish it-except for: Australia, Austria, Brunei, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Herzegovina, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Malaysia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, The United Arab Emirates, The United Kingdom, Uruguay, and pretty much the entire civilized modern world.

Can we catch up? I think we can! Join us on Tuesday, November 29, and let's play "catch up".

Health Care for All-CA  
Nevada County Chapter

and

Nevada County Doctors for  
Affordable Health Care

### PRESENT

## Health, Money and Fear

What you need to know  
about our health care system,  
and what we can do about it in California

Film and Town Hall Discussion

Moderated by Dr. Roger Hicks

Panelists include:

Drs. Jeff Kane, Christine Newsom, Jonathan Pierce

**Tuesday, November 29**

**Nevada Theatre**

**401 Broad Street, Nevada City**

**Starts at 6:00 pm**

**Movie starts at 7:00 pm**

**Admission FREE, donations accepted**

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[dancingegghheads.com](http://dancingegghheads.com)

**We appreciate the support of the following local businesses and business professionals**

**SPD Markets**

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

[www.spdmarket.com](http://www.spdmarket.com)

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203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

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**Armstrong & Associates**

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(530) 269-1515

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**The Book Seller**

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[www.thebookseller.biz](http://www.thebookseller.biz)

**Country Copy Print Shop**

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1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

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**BriarPatch Co-op**

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290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily [www.briarpatch.coop](http://www.briarpatch.coop)

**The Wooden Spoon**

**A Toy Store for Cooks**

2006 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

[www.woodenspooncalif.com](http://www.woodenspooncalif.com)

**Mill Street Clothing**

**Lisa Swarthout**

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

**Flour Garden Bakery**

999 Sutton Way & 109 Neal Street, Grass Valley

340 C Elm Avenue, Auburn

(530) 272-2043 - (530) 477-2253

M-Sat. 5a-7p, Sun. 6a-8p [www.flourgarden.com](http://www.flourgarden.com)