



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

November 2011



The League's Annual Speak-Out

- Prison Transfers
- Voter Suppression
- Privatization of Government Services
- Recycling and Trash Management
- Curricula in Public Schools

Saturday, November 12, 2011

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

The Prez Sez

Our gala October general meeting, where we celebrated the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in California, was a treat. Our excellent panel of speakers reviewed what has been accomplished since 1911 and helped focus us on the challenges that remain ahead. We also acknowledged the accomplishments of a remarkable local woman—Edi Silverman. We are very proud of all our outstanding League members.

We can't rest on our laurels, however. As much as we've gained in the past, a great deal remains to be done. But, where should we focus our efforts now?

Our November meeting—our annual Speak Out will help us decide. Grass roots organizations like the League can only achieve what our membership tells us is important to them. Come to our November 12 meeting prepared to talk about what's on your mind.

To spark your thoughts, here are five issues that have been suggested by our League board members and by our Program Planning Committee for discussion on November 12:

- Prison Transfers
- Voter suppression
- Privatization of Government Services
- Recycling and Trash Management
- Curricula in Public Schools

I hope that's enough food for thought to whet your appetite—and, speaking of appetite, don't forget that at the November 12 meeting, in addition to serving up ideas a-plenty, we will be serving up soup a-plenty — all you can eat, prepared by our League members - and only \$5 per person! How can you afford not to be there?

Karen Schwartz, President

NATIONAL LEAGUE'S PRIVATIZATION STUDY

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and the preservation of the common good.

Information will be provided to local and state Leagues. They are encouraged to participate in the study of privatization and the impact on local communities.

Nevada County faced the possibility of privatization of the public libraries a short time ago. More than one county in California has experienced a similar situation. As a result, legislation has been introduced in Sacramento (AB 438) which will protect our libraries from privatization. It will give taxpayers the information they need about privatization efforts in their community, and shift the burden of proof to require credible evidence that the community will benefit from privatization. The proof should be presented to the public in a public meeting with adequate notice.

NOTE:

The bill, AB 438, passed both the Assembly and the Senate and was signed by Governor Brown. It will go into effect January 1, 2012. Both Assemblyman Logue and Senator LaMalfa voted "nay".



Citizens for Choice Urgently Seeking Leaders

In 1989, **LWVWNC** (League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County) members, along with **AAUW** (American Association of University Women) and **BPW** (Business and Professional Women), founded **Nevada County Citizens for Choice** as the only local organization devoted entirely to reproductive rights and choice for women. You may remember Bonnie Taylor who was president of the League at that time. You may also know Edi Silverman, Jackie Wilson, Cleo Gibson, Marian Gallaher, Sally Pansegrouw, or Judy van der Veen—they were there from the start! We greatly appreciate their energy, their resolve, and the support from many other League members, also.

Those forward-thinking leaders adopted the mission of promoting reproductive health and justice through education, unbiased family planning and medical services, and advocacy, and got right to work making it happen!

We are proud of **The Clinic!** There have been over 10,000 visits by women, teens and men in the five years of partnership with our medical providers, Women's Health Specialists. Many clients are young people who would have no other place to go in order to find information, services and referrals for all pregnancy options, sexually transmitted infections, and contraception. We've made progress with a pro-choice club at Sierra College and our outreach to the community.

We are urgently looking to expand our Board of Directors in 2012 so that we can maintain and extend the services and advocacy we provide. If you are committed to a woman's right to choose, and if you believe that our community deserves medically accurate information and access to reproductive healthcare, then you are already a supporter of Citizens for Choice. You can make a difference in our communications and social media, in fund raising, and community outreach and advocacy.

By helping Citizens for Choice to grow and increase our impact, you will ensure the legacy of the League founders. Please consider a one or two year commitment to help us reach our full potential. With your help, Nevada County's women, teens and men will continue to have the kind of reproductive healthcare of which we can be proud.

Please call Sharon O'Hara at 530-559-5263, or e-mail oharashar@aol.com to be part of our team!

How Much Time Does It Take To Be Active In The League of Woman Voters?

*Do you have an extra 20 minutes?
In 15 minutes you can pay your dues*

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra hour?

In one hour you can read what your dues pay for:

- ✓ The local *Voter* - published monthly and online at lwvwno.org
- ✓ The California *Voter* - published monthly online at lwvc.org
- ✓ The National *Voter* - published three times a year and online at lwv.org

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra hour or two here and there?

Look at all the things you can do with that time:

- ✓ Register voters
- ✓ Attend a League meeting - become more informed on issues
 - ✓ Invite someone you know to come to a League event
- ✓ Become our “eyes and ears” as Observers at local government meetings
 - ✓ Help with League’s Pros & Cons presentations during election years
 - ✓ Advocate our positions on ballot measures
- ✓ Be a “mover and shaker” - join our board of directors (no experience necessary)
- ✓ Get to meet new League friends - join our Communications Committee
 - ✓ Help the “coffee and cookies” crew at our monthly general meetings
 - ✓ Give us your ideas, suggestions and recommendations
so that we can make our League serve you better

THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE





Soup for Lunch!

When: Saturday November 12
All You Can Eat
\$5.00 per person

Come and join us on Saturday, November 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 country...the state...the county, etc. What a menu!

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

Music by **Purdon's Crossing**

Admission FREE, donations accepted
No-host food and beverages by
Summer Thymes Bakery and Deli

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CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

A look back at those who made it possible

In looking back at the history of women's suffrage in California, it should be kept in mind that the American male had only achieved universal suffrage in 1860, after a thirty year struggle against the privileged classes. Once the special privilege of land ownership was no longer at the basis of the franchise, women were quick to begin their own struggle, starting in the 1840's.

The movement to win the vote for women was seen everywhere as radical. In its beginning support came from non-conforming Quakers, Unitarians and Spiritualists; in its conclusion its main support was still with these groups, strengthened by the activity of the "New Woman" educated in land grant colleges.

Yet, since the vote in California for women was achieved not by legislative action, but by the vote of the electorate, the man-in-the-street, it can never be said precisely whether the vote was won on its merits, i.e., government by the consent of the governed, or by the hope that women's vote would aid the necessary reform of the State government in its time of need.

In this issue, and in following issues, *The Voter* newsletter will highlight the woman or women who participated in the movement for women's rights and became:

The California Suffragettes

Mary Ellen Clark Sargent - 1826-1911

One of the half dozen most influential pioneer suffragists, Ellen Clark Sargent was a member of a Nevada County Woman Suffrage Club the same year her husband, Aaron A. Sargent, was sent to Congress for the 2nd District by the California railroad interests (1871). He left for Washington, D.C. with a woman suffrage petition in his pocket, and, while there, in his official capacity, carried woman suffrage bills into Congress. In 1872 when his wife became secretary of the National Suffrage Association, her husband went "to bat" for Susan B. Anthony who was jailed for registering to vote—a federal offense. Actually, she was fined for registering, and when she refused to pay the fine, she was incarcerated. Senator Sargent went to President Grant to intercede on her behalf, and, in effect, "sprung" the great lady from jail.

The Sargent's home, wherever it was, was always open to all suffragists. During the 1896 campaign, when Mrs. Sargent was president of the California Woman Suffrage Association, their home in San Francisco was one of the main headquarters for the suffrage vote. In 1888 when Julia Ward Howe came to the city she met at the home of the Sargents—along with Phoebe A. Hearst, Sarah Dix Hamlin, Emma Sutro Merritt, M.D, and others. This was the group that founded the first woman's club, the Century Club, which still flourishes in that city. Impact of the Sargent family, including the children, on the suffrage movement in California was inestimable. Only a few weeks, indeed, days, before women won their right to vote on October 10, 1911, Ellen Clark Sargent died. An unusual memorial, the first given to a woman at that time, was held, with Governor Hiram Johnson honoring her achievements in San Francisco's Union Square.

Timeline of Women's Suffrage in the United States (1848-1869)

Women Begin to Organize For Their Own Rights



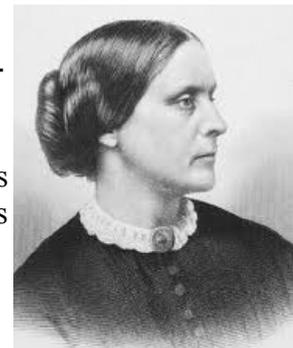
1848 - First Women's Rights Convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. Equal suffrage is proposed by **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**. After the debate of such a radical notion, it is adopted.

1849 - Women's Rights Convention held in April in Salem, Ohio. The first national Women's Rights Convention is held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

1850-1861 - Annual Women's Rights Conventions held in many cities, and, at the last one in Albany, New York, members lobbied for a liberalized divorce bill. Horace Greely opposed the bill which summarily failed.

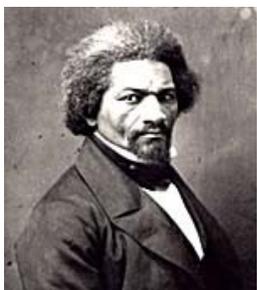
1861-1865 - The Civil War begins. Over the objections of **Susan B. Anthony**, women put aside suffrage activities to help the war effort.

1867 - The Fourteenth Amendment passes Congress, defining citizens as "male"; this is the first use of the word "male" in the Constitution. Kansas campaigns for black and woman suffrage. Both lose. Susan B. Anthony forms the Equal Rights Association, working for universal suffrage.



Suffrage Movement Divides Over Black vs. Woman's Suffrage

1868-1869 - The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified. The Fifteenth Amendment passes Congress, giving the vote to black men. Women petition to be included, but are turned down. The New England Woman's Suffrage Association is formed. In New Jersey, 172 women attempt to vote - their ballots are ignored.



Frederick Douglass and others back down from woman's suffrage to concentrate on the fight for black male suffrage as the Fifteenth Amendment had not yet been ratified by the states. Elizabeth Cady Stanton forms the National Woman's Suffrage Association and is voted president of the organization.

The American Woman's Suffrage Association is formed in November with Henry Ward Beecher as its president. John Stuart Mill, economist and husband of suffragist Harriet Taylor, publishes "*On The Subjugation of Women*". Wyoming Territory grants the first woman suffrage since 1807.

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

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

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

A. Ann Armstrong

Armstrong & Associates

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrongandassociates.com

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

www.grassvalleybooks.com

Country Copy Print Shop

Maggi Cammack

1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-4657

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

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2006 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

www.woodenspooncalif.com

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Flour Garden Bakery

11999 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