



# *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

April 2012

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

**The April 14, 2012, Meeting,  
“Reproductive Health Care”,  
Has Been Cancelled  
Due to the Unavailability of Guest Speakers**

#### **On Schedule:**

**Annual Meeting May 12  
(see information and menu on page 5)**

**June 2012 Monthly Meeting  
(To be announced)**

## PREZ SEZ

Spring is here! Traditionally, this is a time of new beginnings, hope for a better future.

In your opinion, would a better future include a more civil tone in public discourse? Civility in our political life has largely disappeared, especially in years when the outcome of a national election is at stake and everyone wants to influence your vote.

How that influence is achieved has often varied, depending on the era one lives in. One can imagine the proverbial cave man using physical intimidation, bullying, or even violence to influence others. These days politicians and their allies use words, employing rhetoric and spinning the facts to get your attention.

Recently, a young woman had the audacity to testify before Congress about the importance of birth control for women's health and a national commentator/entertainer impugned her respectability. Later he said it was a "joke" when he described her as a "slut" and a "prostitute" and asked her to post sex videos online for his enjoyment.

Are you shocked? As many of you know, this is nothing new. In our nation's early days, pamphlets spewing bile and accusing political opponents of dastardly deeds were commonplace. And uppity women seeking justice have often been the target of slurs, insults, and much worse. If you doubt this, I encourage you to borrow the League's DVD of the HBO movie "Iron-Jawed Angels," which is based on historic fact.

However enlightened and sophisticated we may consider ourselves today, human nature hasn't changed. When someone wants to persuade us to do something that will benefit them, e.g., buy a used car, vote for a particular candidate, etc., they may resort to factual distortions and threats to arouse intense emotional reactions. It's not easy to think rationally when we're upset. After the smoke clears, we might wonder what generated all that heat.

Karen Schwartz, President

respect for intuition  
 autonomy  
 personal responsibility  
 knowledge-seeking  
 informed choice

Within the framework of the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity, **reproductive health**, or **sexual health/hygiene**, addresses the reproductive processes, functions, and systems at all stages of life.

Reproductive health, therefore, implies that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying and safer sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.

Implicit in this are the rights of men and women to be informed of and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of birth control of their choice, and the rights of access to appropriate health care services of sexual and reproductive medicine that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.



**VOTER SERVICE and FRIENDS EXCEL at  
CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT COUNT**

Congratulations to our 19 members who dedicated their time to the Consolidated Fire District's ballot count on March 8.

The overwhelming facts are: 9,826 envelopes were opened by electronic machines manned by six members—9,826 opened envelopes were then given to our ballot extractors. All ballots were extracted and empty envelopes were rechecked. All ballots were then separated into 6,735 “yes” ballots and 3,091 “no”, and then the ballots were checked again. All “yes” ballots were bundled into packets of 100, and then rechecked. All “no” ballots were bundled into packets of 100 and rechecked. Our job, started at 8:15 a.m., was completed at 3:15 p.m.

“Your group worked really hard all day, only taking breaks when directed, and always with a smile, nice comments and an over-all jovial and great attitude from all members that made the work seem easier, even though it was long and tedious. I have to remind myself to say ‘members’ and not ‘women’ because we pleasantly found out you have male members too,\* which is wonderful to see.”

*Signed*—Maria Garcia-Ardave, SCI Representative

\*(Thank you, Larry Kaufman, Larry Schwartz, Steve Murphy, ,Desmond Gallagher and Dick Schwartz! )

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Our warmest welcome to our new members!**

**YVONNE FULLER  
CAMILLE HALD  
MAXINE ROBINSON**

**DON'T FORGET US!**

**LWVWNC  
MARCH FUNDRAISER**



If you haven't yet sent in your donation, please consider doing so. We rely on your support, and we always appreciate your generosity.



## Dear League Member,

Do you have ideas for “hot topics” for our League’s monthly programs? Is there something you wish would be discussed? Is there a League position that you have read about but want more information on?

Well, here’s your opportunity to put your good ideas to work!

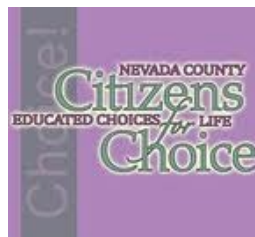
As Program Planning Coordinator you’ll work with experienced former coordinators and committee members collaborating to bring panel discussions and other resources to our monthly meetings. You and the committee would plan the meetings of September, October, and January through April of our League year.

Several months have “traditional themes”: November is traditionally our “Speak Up at the Speak Out” roundtable discussions—December is our annual Holiday Party/Fundraiser—May is our Annual Meeting/Luncheon, plus the installation of new officers and directors.

**This is your chance! This is the time to make a difference and shape the 2012-13 programs which will reach out to our community and impact public discourse and opinion.**

Please contact me with your interest in this position. I’m looking forward to hearing from YOU.

Sharon O’Hara, Nominations Chair, LWVWNC  
Oharashar10@gmail.com  
(530) 559-5263



Please give us a minute! Citizens for Choice and The Clinic! would like your help and feedback on our work and services. Please click on the link and take a quick customer satisfaction survey. Your opinion matters: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZVX9ZTG](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZVX9ZTG) Assessment and survey data is used to point us in the right direction for meeting the community’s needs. THANKS for all YOU do to help and define reproductive freedom in Nevada County, in California and at the Federal level!

Sharon O’Hara, VP, Citizens for Choice and member, LWVWNC

Citizens for Choice is supported by The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County.

*League of Women Voters Western Nevada County  
Annual Meeting May 12, 2012*

**Luncheon Reservation Form**

(Please return by April 30)

**Place**

**Trolley Junction Restaurant**  
400 Railroad Avenue  
Nevada City

**Time**

**Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m.  
Luncheon at 12 p.m.**

**Cost**

**\$20 per person \***

**Menu**

**ENTRÉE # 1—Fresh Turkey Sandwich:**

Sliced turkey, jack cheese, lettuce, tomato and a cranberry-pecan mayonnaise on whole grain bread. Entrée includes a green salad.

**ENTRÉE #2—Chinese Chicken Salad:**

Fresh greens topped with mixed cabbages, Mandarin oranges, grilled chicken breast, toasted almonds and crispy rice noodles with ginger-sesame dressing.

**ENTRÉE #3—Shrimp Louie:**

Bay shrimp, cucumbers, tomatoes, and hard-cooked egg on a bed of greens with our Louie dressing.

\* Price includes entree, German chocolate cake, coffee, soft drink, tax and gratuity

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée** \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations must be received by April 30, 2012

Make check payable to: LWVWNC

Send to: Treasurer, 661 Morgan Ranch Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945



## **VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE WORKING AT MAXIMUM ENERGY**

**The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities.**

Lofty words, but what have they to do with us in Nevada County? The founders of our form of representative democracy understood that only as voters learned about the people who were asking for the responsibility of representing them would they be able to make informed choices. In our current atmosphere of distrust of biased reporting and polarized opinions, it is vital that all voters find out as much as they can about the people who will be making the decisions that will affect all of us.

One of the best ways to do this is to attend a fair, careful, non-partisan Forum in which each candidate has an equal opportunity to answer questions submitted by the audience and by the media attending the Forum. All Forums are moderated and timed by League members.

Candidates' Forums are one of the most important services that the League of Women Voters provides the community. Don't miss the opportunity to empower yourself, your friends, and your neighbors. Don't miss the opportunity to shape a better community right here—right now in Nevada County!

### **Candidates' Forums June 5, 2012 Primary Election**

#### **Thursday, April 19**

**State Assembly: District 1**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

#### **Monday, April 30**

**Board of Supervisors:**

**District 1 and District 5**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Superior Court Judge, Seat 1**

**8:10 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

#### **Tuesday, May 8**

**United States House of Representatives,  
District 1**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**ALL FORUMS WILL BE HELD AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' CHAMBERS  
950 MAIDU AVENUE, NEVADA CITY**



*Women's History Month – March 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012*

**2012 National Women's History Month Theme:  
Women's Education - Women's Empowerment**

Although women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. The fight to learn was a valiant struggle waged by many tenacious women - across years and across cultures - in our country. After the American Revolution, the notion of education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for girls to gain a basic education-based largely on the premise that, as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of (male) citizens and leaders. The concept that educating women meant educating mothers endured in America for many years, at all levels of education.

Pioneers of secondary education for young women faced arguments from physicians and other "experts" who claimed either that females were incapable of intellectual development equal to men, or that they would be harmed by striving for it. Women's supposed intellectual and moral weakness was also used to argue against coeducation, which would surely be an assault on purity and femininity.

While Harvard, the first college chartered in America, was founded in 1636, it would be almost two centuries before the founding of the first college to admit women - Oberlin, which was chartered in 1833. And even as "coeducation" grew, women's courses of study were often different from men's, and women's role models were few, as most faculty members were male. Harvard itself opened its "Annex" (Radcliffe) for women in 1879 rather than admit women to the men's college, and single-sex education remained the elite norm in the U.S. until the early 1970's. As coeducation took hold in the Ivy League, the number of women's colleges decreased steadily; those that remain still answer the need of young women to find their voices, and today's women's colleges enroll a far more diverse cross-section of the country than did the original Seven Sisters.

The equal opportunity to learn, taken for granted by most young women today, owes much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendments. This legislation, passed in 1972 and enacted in 1977, prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. It has become the primary tool for women's fuller participation in all aspects of education from scholarships, to faculties, to classes formerly closed to women. Indeed, it transformed the educational landscape of the United States within the span of a generation.

*(Reprinted in part courtesy of the National Women's History Project)*

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290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

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

**The Wooden Spoon**

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