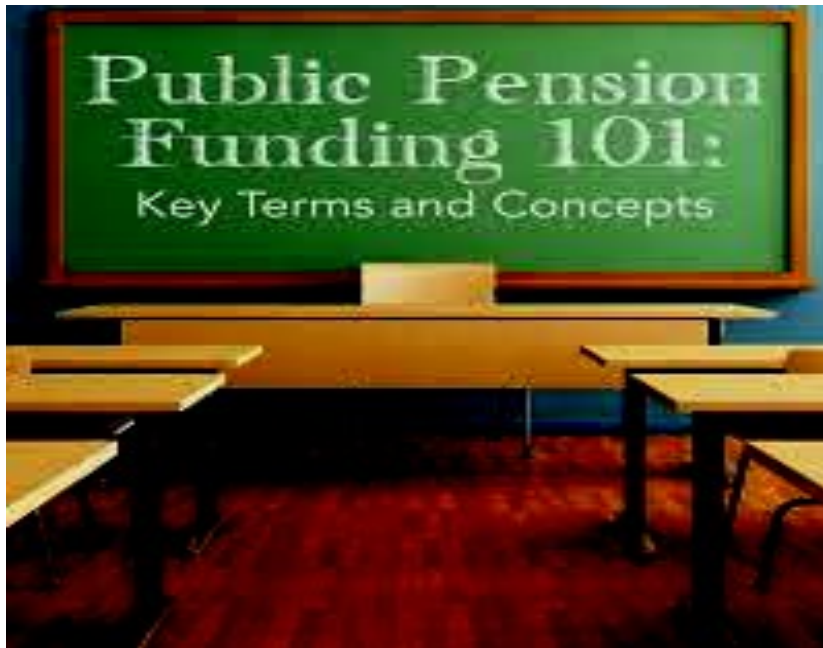




LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - April 2014



Guest Speakers

Dennis Casella: Retired Nevada County Employee; Member Retired State Employees Association, and the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)

Carmelle Soto: Consultant for Federal Retirement and Benefits

Gretchen Zeagler: Communications Strategist for the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS)

Saturday, April 12, 2014

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

Peace Lutheran Church

828 West Main

Grass Valley

(530) 265-0956 - lwvwnc.org



The Prez Sez



Our March meeting on *The Spread of Voter Suppression* was outstanding, even in an already stellar series of programs.

Gail Smith, former Election Staff Member, did a fine job answering our many questions about how voter rolls are kept current and illustrating how voter fraud has not been a significant problem here. As with many human endeavors and bureaucracies, incompetence and/or carelessness is more often the culprit than actual criminal intent when things go awry.

Irma Jordan, president of the Butte County NAACP, provided a disturbing picture of the attempts to discourage voting by minorities not only in California, but across the nation. She reminded us that voter suppression dates back to the post-Civil War Reconstruction era when poll taxes and tests were used in various locales to disqualify certain voters.

Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Program for the League of Women Voters of California, presented a broad and in-depth picture of the history of attempts to limit voting rights in America. She traced the problem from when America gained independence (white adult males who owned property) then, to after the Civil War (black males were added), and finally at the end of World War I, when women gained the right to vote. The Civil Rights Act, enacted in the 60's to reinforce the rights of voters no matter where they lived, was generally quite successful in expanding voter rolls and protecting voter rights. A recent Supreme Court decision, however, has chipped away at the procedures in place since the 60's, after concluding that such procedures were no longer necessary.

Today we see massive efforts all across the US to suppress voting by eliminating early voting, curtailing the hours and/or days polls are open, requiring certain forms of photo identification which are more difficult for some citizens to acquire, e.g., the elderly, those without ready access to transportation, students, the disabled, the poor, etc. Interestingly, it has never been demonstrated that significant voter fraud exists.

The League grew out of the suffragist movement, and we have not forgotten the strife our founders faced in gaining the right to vote. The League, therefore, remains dedicated to fighting for voting rights for all adult citizens.

When we're not fighting for good causes, we like to socialize and enjoy good food together. In that vein, we have been planning a brunch to welcome our new members. Unfortunately, we must reschedule the brunch, originally planned for April. Look for future details to be announced.

And please plan to join us at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, May 10. This event, as in years past, involves some business, but more good food and socializing. This year we are very fortunate to have Judge Tom Anderson as our speaker. See details about the event elsewhere in this issue of *The Voter*.

Karen Schwartz
President

OUR APRIL PROGRAM: PUBLIC PENSIONS



The April 12 program is *Public Pensions*. The Program Planning Committee felt that since pensions are a noteworthy subject with potential political impact, most voters need more information.

The program will feature speakers representing the three largest pension systems in the country: CalPERS, CalSTRS, and Federal Pensions and Benefits.

Dennis Casella, retired Nevada County Employee, will discuss CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System); Gretchen Zeigler, CalSTRS (California State Teachers Retirement System), and Carmelle Soto will review the Federal Retirement Programs and Benefits.

There is a vast amount of information regarding these retirement systems. The program will attempt to give the basic information about the structure and funding of all three of these. One of the primary goals is to establish that all pension systems are not the same. The word “pension” does not always mean the same thing in all cases. What are the differences? Another goal is to clarify how these pensions are funded. This is an area that receives much publicity, with little clarification. Each presenter has been asked to have materials available for the audience.

Polly Bacich, Chair
Program Planning Committee

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? - A Discussion (Part 2)

George W. Bush - I don't think I should have to answer that question.

Al Gore - I invented the chicken. I invented the road. Therefore, the chicken crossing the road represented the application of these two different functions of government in a new, reinvented way designed to bring greater services to the American people.

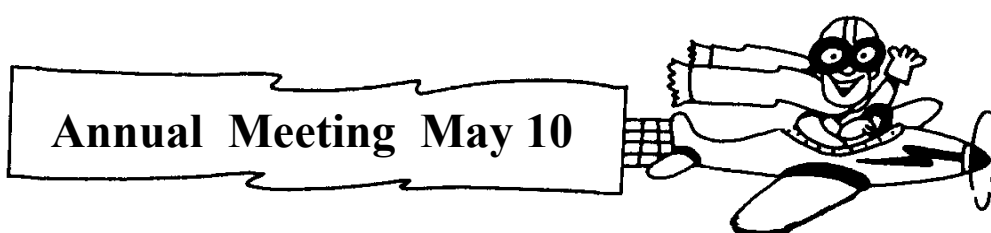
Pat Buchanan - To steal a job from a decent, hard-working American.

Colonel Sanders - I missed one?

Martha Stewart - No one called to warn me which way that chicken was going. I had a standing order at the farmer's market to sell my eggs when the price dropped to a certain level. No little bird gave me any insider information.

Barbara Walters - Isn't that interesting? In a few moments we will be listening to the chicken tell, for the first time, the heart-warming story of how it had a serious case of molting and went on to accomplish its life-long dream of crossing the road.

Ronald Reagan - What chicken?



PROPOSED 2014-2015 LWVWNC BOARD MEMBERS

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VOTER SERVICE REPORT

The Voter Service Committee last month focused on Candidates' Forums. There are very explicit guidelines set by the National League that must be used when planning a local forum: there must be at least two candidates participating in order to hold a League Forum.

The scheduled March 20 Forum for candidates for the House of Representatives, District 1 and the State Assembly, District 1 was cancelled when both incumbents were unable to attend. The official Candidate List will be available on March 27. We have rescheduled this Forum for May 1, 2014. As of this printing, only Heidi Hall, candidate for House of Representatives, District 1, has confirmed participation. If at least one other candidate confirms participation, we shall proceed with the House Forum on May 1.

Our first three Forums will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers

Eric Rood Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

*****All Forums will be broadcast live on NCTV, Channel 17*****

Thursday, March 27 - 7-9 pm - Nevada County Board of Supervisors, District 3 and District 4

District 3 Candidates:

Terry Lamphier - Incumbent

Dan Miller

District 4 Candidates:

Jedediah L. Biagi

Fran Cole

Hank Weston - Incumbent

Moderator: Dottie Schmidt

Thursday, April 3 - 7-9 pm - Superior Court Judge, Seat 1

Candidates:

Angela L. Bradrick - Superior Court Legal Research Attorney

Anna Ferguson - Nevada County Assistant District Attorney

Jeffrey Ingram - Penn Valley Attorney

Jeffrey A. Lake - Attorney

Robert Tice-Raskin - Federal Prosecutor and Judge Pro Tem

Moderator: Polly Bacich

Thursday, April 10

7-8 pm - Nevada County District Attorney

Candidates:

David Alkire - Local Trial Attorney

Cliff Newell - Incumbent

8-9 pm - Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Candidates:

Paul S. Haas

Holly A. Hermansen - Incumbent

Moderator: Dottie Schmidt

The Forum below will be held at the Nevada City City Hall Council Chambers

317 Broad Street, Nevada City

Thursday, April 24

6-9:30 pm - Nevada City City Council

Candidates:

Evans Phelps

Dwane Strawser - Incumbent

Jonathan Valdman

Moderator: Polly Bacich

Introducing League Member: GAIL PARLE

Gail is the League's Membership Chair, but she's also been involved in other League programs such as Program Planning. She is a native Californian and has never moved elsewhere, maybe because she loves the redwoods and ocean so much.

Gail's been a hard worker all her life. While attending the University of California at Davis, she had to leave before graduating to support her husband who was finishing his degree. That was the beginning of many jobs and several family businesses. The last 17 years of her career were spent as the secretary to the Director of Mental Health in Nevada County. She also raised three children and cared for her mother in her later years. Gail was always busy.

Now she's retired and enjoys being her own boss, but she's still busy. She lives alone "joyously" (with her two cats) and enjoys working on art projects, like jewelry and driftwood creations. She goes to yard sales, flea markets, and works on learning Windows 8 on her laptop. Not only is she on the League board, she serves as historian for Business and Professional Women, treasurer for her mobile home group, and serves on the board of the Nevada County Social Seniors, and even belongs to a scrabble club! Gail serves as a volunteer in her church library, and she also travels with the Roadrunners, with whom she's been on many cruises.

Gail has a secret that you might not guess immediately: she's very adventurous. She's driven a race car, ridden on an elephant, gone up in a hot air balloon, and rafted on a river!

When next you see Gail, ask her what her next adventure will be.

Karen Schwartz
President

Please Don't Forget Us! **Our League's Annual Finance Drive**

If you haven't yet sent in your contribution, please consider doing so.
The League relies on your support.
We always appreciate your generosity!

League of Women Voters Western Nevada County
Annual Meeting and Luncheon - May 10, 2014

Luncheon Reservation Form
(Please return by Thursday, May 1)

Place

151 Union Square
151 Mill Street, Grass Valley

Time

Membership Meeting at 10 a.m.
Luncheon at 12 p.m.

Cost

\$20 per person*

Menu

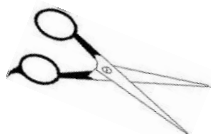
ENTRÉE # 1 - Turkey Cranberry Wrap

ENTRÉE # 2 - Vegetarian Wrap

Dessert - Cookies

Beverages - Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea

* Price includes Entrée with fruit bowl, dessert, beverages, tax and tip



NAME _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

ENTRÉE _____

All reservations must be received by Thursday, May 1, 2014

Make check payable to: LWVWNC

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

We appreciate the support of the following local businesses

**BriarPatch Co-op
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

Mill Street Clothing
Lisa Swarthout
117 Mill Street, Grass Valley
(530) 477-6404

SPD Markets
735 Zion Street, Nevada City
(530) 265-4596
www.spdmarket.com

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

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



**Visit us on our website at lwwvnc.org
Membership in The League of Women Voters is open to men and women of all ages.**