



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - April 2015



WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

Panel Members

Sharyn Turner, Nurse, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Cindy Wilson, Nurse, Nevada County Public Health Department

A Representative, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Emergency Services

Saturday, April 11, 2015

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main, Grass Valley

PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

The Committee hopes to continue the series of successful programs with the April program “**Health Services in Nevada County—What Is Available?**” We shall feature representatives from the county, the schools and the hospital. The purpose of this program is to review the services available and how well we, as a county, are prepared to deal with a health crisis in this community.

The program we have scheduled for the month of June is, undoubtedly, a timely one - “**Fire Safety.**” Among those participating will be representatives from the United States Forest Service and the Fire Safe Council. This will complete the programs to be presented by our Committee for this League year.

Polly Bacich
Program Planning Chair

Chamber of Commerce Mixer



The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County (LWVWNC) participated in a Table Top Mixer on Thursday, March 19. The Mixer was hosted by the Nevada City Elks Club for members of the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Over 100 members were in attendance and stopped by the LWVWNC table staffed by League members MaryJane Huenergardt, Joey Jordan, Carol Kuczora and Dottie Schmidt. A gift certificate donated by New Moon Restaurant was won in a raffle by the Retail Credit Association (RCA). A book on women's history with a book-mark hand crocheted to say "VOTE" by MaryJane was also raffled.

Many attendees expressed their interest and respect for the League and its activities.

Dottie Schmidt
Membership Chair



**League of Women Voters Western Nevada County
Annual Meeting and Luncheon - May 9, 2015**

Luncheon Reservation Form
(Please return by Tuesday, May 5)

Place

The National Hotel, 211 Broad Street, Nevada City

Time

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

Cost

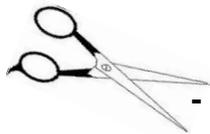
\$16 per person - Bring a Guest!

Menu

- ENTRÉE 1 - Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables
- ENTRÉE 2 - Chicken Marsala, seasonal vegetables
- ENTRÉE 3 - Cobb Salad, tender young field greens, poached breast of chicken, tomatoes, avocado, hard boiled eggs, croutons, bacon bits and bleu cheese
- ENTRÉE 4 - Vegetarian - Cobb Salad without chicken and bacon bits

Dessert - Chocolate Mousse
Beverage - Coffee

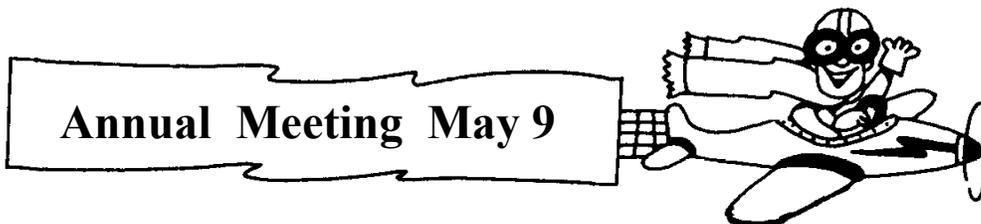
* Price includes entrée, dessert, beverage, tax and tip



NAME _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

ENTRÉE _____

- All reservations must be received by Tuesday, May 5, 2015
- Make check payable to: LWVWNC
- Send payment to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1306, Grass Valley, CA 95945



PROPOSED 2015-2016 LWVWNC BOARD MEMBERS

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President	Anne DeWitt
Vice President	JoAnn Marie
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Program Planning	Karen Schwartz & Helen Williamson
Publicity	MaryJane Huenergardt
Social Media	Joey Jordan
Voter Editor	(OPEN)
Voter Service	Anne DeWitt & Helen Williamson
Webmaster	Max Norton

Off Board

2015-2016 Nominating Chair Dottie Schmidt



California's water issues have tremendous implications for our future. As you are aware, the League actively advocates for legislation regarding public policy issues such as water resources which League members have studied locally and at the statewide level. If you are interested in water issues in California and in the League's involvement, take a look at the California League's statement to the California Water Commission at lwvc.org/issues/California-water-resources.

Water is not our only concern but merely one example of what the League accomplishes. We take positions based on studies by League members on issues relating to other natural resources, i.e., agriculture, air quality, climate change, energy, fracking, growth management, hazardous materials, land use, solid waste, sustainable communities, transportation, in addition to water.

We are also concerned about a variety of social policy and government issues. Again, our advocacy is based on the results of studies conducted by League members. The results of these studies provide a tremendous resource for understanding the challenges confronting us today and also helping all of us to advocate for better government.

Members will be asked at our Annual Meeting in May to decide whether or not to conduct a local study on Recreation and Park resources in Nevada County. If approved, the study will involve an inventory of current resources to determine if county government is providing and promoting access to resources for a healthy lifestyle for Nevada County residents and to identify unmet needs.

Getting involved in a study also offers League members an opportunity to explore an important local government topic, to become involved "first-hand" in conducting a study and to report the findings to our membership. There is no better way to get to know your community and your fellow League members!

Karen Schwartz
Action/Legislation Chair

Some clever political quotes:

- If we get one-tenth of what was promised us in these acceptance speeches there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven—**Will Rogers** (1879-1935)
- If God had wanted us to vote, He would have given us candidates —**Jay Leno** (1950-)
- If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read "President Can't Swim". —**Lyndon B. Johnson** (1908-1973)
- A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country—**Texas Guinan** (1884-1933)
- Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber—**Plato** (427-347BCE)
- I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them—**Adlai Stevenson**, campaign speech, 1952 (1900-1965)

REVIEW OF MARCH 14 PROGRAM

We gathered at Peace Lutheran on Saturday, March 14 to hear a presentation on the history, administration and impact of charter schools. Panelists were Stan Miller, Retired Assistant Superintendent of Nevada County Schools, Lobbyist David Walrath, and Yuba River Charter School's Board Chair, Kathy Eldredge.

Polly Bacich opened the meeting by expressing her personal bewilderment over the formal definition of charter school being "a public school that doesn't charge tuition." She pointed out that public schools don't charge tuition, and wondered how this definition differentiated charter schools.

Stan Miller began the discussion saying that Charter School Law passed in California in 1992 and limited the number of charter schools in the state to 100. "The climate of alternative education" was not new to Nevada County by that time and three local schools were part of that traditional hundred. The number has grown to 12. Miller went on to say that all charter schools in California are non-profit, benefit corporations. While all charter school teachers in the core subjects are credentialed in the state, salaries are usually lower in charters. There is usually a lower student/teacher ratio at charters and because charter schools, as opposed to non-charter schools, pay for the facilities, some of the operating budget goes toward rent rather than teacher salaries. All charters are held accountable by California standards, including special education and ESL. Students are assessed by the same methods and criteria as in non-charters, so many charters have found it necessary to hybridize their pedagogical philosophies with state expectations.

David Walrath described the political tactics that led to the 1992 charter school legislation: "It all began as an education movement with its focus on an attempted outcome. Initially charters were intended as 'incubators for pedagogical innovations', however, traditional public schools haven't necessarily changed their teaching methods. Statewide, there are 184 charters with 550,000 students who represent 9% of students in California public schools.

Kathy Eldredge of Yuba River Charter School described her school's current planning in order to meet the requirements of Common Core. "A lot is up in the air." The school's Charter Council—comprised of three parents, three community members, and three faculty members—is working on the matter while overseeing programs, fiscal soundness, academics, and the position of the directorship.

In conjunction with five other charters in the community, a Joint Partnership Association formed to share services as a cost saving measure. The schools in the association share a school psychologist, special education director, a school nurse, etc. A high population of children at YRCS require special education, and 50% of the student body is considered low income. As a parent, Ms. Eldredge does not see charters as being in competition with non-charters. "Education is a personal choice for most parents."

Eldredge described the new school site for Yuba River Charter School, a move which will eliminate its need to rent a building. To fund the new site, YRCS applied for and was awarded in 2008 a state allocation grant of \$8.5 million. There was also the EPA/Brownsville Cleanup Grant awarded due to the site formerly being used as a dump. Under the oversight of the Board of Education, the school purchased the site as approved by the Board of Supervisors. We hope that in two to three years, the facility will be built.

Questions to the panel members followed the presentation.

MaryJane Huenergardt
Publicity Chair

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.**