



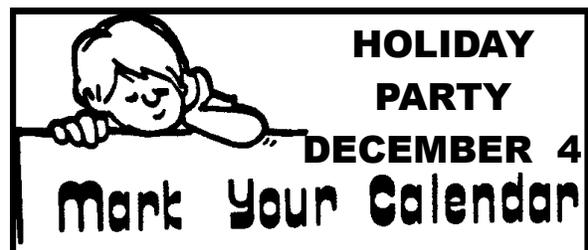
The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

December 2010



Have a Cool Yule



Our November Meeting
“Speak Out at the Speak-In”

A stimulating discussion of four topics: **Education in Nevada County Charter Schools**, **Buy Local! - Ballot Measures Revisited**, and **County Budget Priorities** resulted in excellent possibilities for future League programs. The soup luncheon that followed gave those attending the opportunity to enjoy (while socializing and “venting”) a wonderful selection of home-made soups and desserts.

Here is a summary of the salient discussion points that participants at each of the above-mentioned tables found to be worthy of more debate and, as a result, worthy of a program devoted to their topic:

- **Education in Nevada County - Charter Schools:**

These schools must be sponsored by a school district with state approval. Nevada County has eight charter schools. Ninety percent of charter school teachers are in the state retirement system. In California all charter schools are public and, therefore, no tuition is charged. Even though a charter school is located in one county, it may serve and enroll students in adjacent counties. These schools do not have to take every student and don't have to keep every student.



- **Buy Local!**

For health reasons, buy products that contain no harmful ingredients, preservatives, or dyes. These include not only food, but also household products. Read the labels! Local farmers' markets help consumers to choose healthy local products. BriarPatch is coordinating with local farmers so a variety of local crops will be available year 'round. Ask that your local supermarkets provide a list of locally-grown products. Support local businesses so sales taxes go to Nevada County. Save shipping and handling costs by buying locally, as opposed to shopping online or by catalog.



- **Ballot Measures Revisited - Election November 2, 2010**

League endorsement: How much clout does the League have?

Prop 20 (Redistricting of Congressional Districts)

Passed 61.4% - League supported

Prop 23 (Suspend Air Pollution Control Law AB 32)

Failed 61.5% - League opposed

Prop 24 (Repeal Allowance of Lower Business Tax Liability)

Failed 58.4% - League supported

Prop 25 (Simple majority to Pass State Budget)

Passed 54.8% - League supported

Prop 26 (Two-Thirds Vote Required for Some State /Local Fees)

Passed 52.6% - League opposed

Prop 27 (Eliminate State Redistricting Commission)

Failed 59.7% - League strongly opposed

Summary:

The Initiative Process needs review. Big money is promoting ballot measures by funding the Initiative Process.

Is the State League working to reform the Initiative Process?

How do we get back to the original grass-roots intent?



- **County Budget Priorities - Reserves vs. Deficit**

The county has a seventeen million dollar reserve, and a five million dollar deficit.

What is a legitimate use of reserves?

Eighty percent of revenues are state/federal mandates; twenty percent are discretionary.

Decision-making power is in the hands of a few individuals.

Nevada County has no Parks and Recreation Department.

Questions for January 8, 2011 guest speaker

Rick Haffey, Nevada County CEO

How can we consolidate services for fire dispatch and public works?

How can we better utilize volunteers?

How can the community have a voice in budget priorities?

How transparent are budget negotiations? Is the media involved?

At what point does the county dip into its reserves?

Where is the county budget now that Proposition 22 has passed?



SECRET MONEY**and INCIVILITY****LEAVE LASTING IMPACT**

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. reflected on the midterm elections today (November 3, 2010), expressing grave concern about the conduct of the 2010 elections.

“The impact of election 2010 goes far deeper than which party controls the House or the Senate,” said Elizabeth McNamara, national League President. “The tens of millions of dollars in secret money spent in this election are a recipe for scandal. Voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads but didn’t know who paid for many of them. Pay-to-play politics won’t change until we know who the special interests are who are pouring money into our elections,” she said.

“This election demonstrated the critical need to improve our governmental structures,” said MacNamara. “Because of the failure of Congress to act, there are no disclosure requirements governing the huge amounts of money that the Supreme Court recently turned loose in American politics. Voters will be hard pressed to know if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests.”

“The incivility and tone of the 2010 campaign reached a disturbingly new low in American politics, added MacNamara. “Not only was this evident in the advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse.”

“The League calls on Congress to pass the DISCLOSE Act, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. We also call on Congress to preserve and extend ethics enforcement. With the election awash in special interest money, it is no time to cut back on the enforcement of ethics standards in Washington.”

“The money poured into recent elections has been unprecedented. The League believes that voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy,” concluded MacNamara. “We will continue our decades of work in helping citizens debate the issues in a civil and effective way and fighting for transparency, accountability and disclosure in America’s elections.”

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.



LWWNC Holiday Party

Saturday, December 4, 2010

1–4 p.m.

*At the home of
Liane Dozier*

Admission is free

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

RSVP by November 30 to:

LWWNC

(530)265-0956 or

lwvwnc@gmail.com



The Goose Story



Next fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way: each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds a 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Keeping an on Government

When you sit at home and read the news about our county and our cities, do you ever wonder why the Board of Supervisors or the City Councils decide to vote to do what they do? Being a member of the Observer Corps can give you insight and might even entertain you when you find out why certain decisions are made about our county—who makes them, and, most importantly, what is it going to cost!

Next year should be especially interesting. How will the one new supervisor affect the dynamics of the Board? Grass Valley, also, has a new City Council member. They (the City Council) have land-use challenges ahead. The Grass Valley Planning Commission meeting should be very interesting, also. Then, there is, of course, Nevada City. They are always a little bit unpredictable. Take your pick and add a little entertainment to your life. Don't just read about it—OBSERVE IT!

Here is a list of some of the local government entities and when they meet:

1. **Nevada County Board of Supervisors (BOS):** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9 a.m., BOS Chambers, Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
2. **Nevada County Planning Commission:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
3. **Grass Valley City Council:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
4. **Grass Valley Planning Commission:** 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
5. **Nevada City City Council:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
6. **Nevada City Planning Commission:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
7. **NID Board:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 a.m., 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley
8. **Local Agency Formation (LAFCO):** 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m., BOS Chambers, Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
9. **Nevada Joint Union High School Governing Board:** 3rd Wednesday of each month on a rotating basis, 6 p.m. See website for calendar: www.njuhsd.com

Remember, you are just an observer. No comments—except to us afterwards. Call me (after 9 a.m.) and add some excitement to your life that you won't read about in *The Union*.

Mary Tucker, Observer chair
265-8320



TIME CHANGE HAS ITS ROOTS IN 1800S RAILROADS

Our modern-day time shifting is rooted in the railroad. As the country expanded from coast to coast, railroads sought to standardize train schedules.

In 1883, rail companies introduced regional time zones that divided the continent into one-hour slices: East, Central, Mountain and Pacific. Time in New York City was set exactly three hours ahead of San Francisco.

Until then, the country kept time using a mishmash of out-of-sync local time zones set to the sun's rising and setting.

Thirty-five years later, Congress and President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the railway system the law of the land.

During World War II, daylight saving time was put into effect to conserve electricity, running year-round from February 1942 until the fall of 1945, according to Bob Aldrich, the California Energy Commission's guru on the subject.

Up until 1966, states were on their own in determining when to observe daylight saving time. That's when the federal government stepped in with the Uniform Time Act.

While no state is required to spring forward or backward—Alaska, Arizona, and Hawaii don't—the law requires any state that participates in daylight saving time to revert back to standard time on the same day—now set at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of November.

The act also requires states like California to again spring forward for daylight saving time on the second Sunday in March—at 2 a.m. on March 13 next year.

(Reprinted in part from The Sacramento Bee, Saturday, November 6, 2010)

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

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

<http://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) 273-6793

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

booksgv@pacbell.net

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

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