



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

February 2013



SENIOR SERVICES IN NEVADA COUNTY

Our Panel

Lori Burkart Frank

Program Manager, Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

Sara Morrison

Project Director, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
and HELPLINE

Mary Tucker

Member, League of Women Voters and Senior Advocate

Saturday, February 9, 2013

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

Peace Lutheran Church

828 West Main

Grass Valley

(530) 265-0956 - www.lwvwnc.org

THE PREZ SEZ

Our January meeting was a revelation. So often we hear from critics that our government doesn't work and that our tax dollars are being squandered. Yet our January speakers reported to us that there are government-sponsored programs that do work, and they pay off handsomely by making our local citizens employable.

Our topic was "Employ-Ability in Nevada County." If you're old enough to remember what used to be called "vocational education," it now has morphed into something called career and technical training. This new nomenclature prepares its students for the world of the future by providing high school and community college students with up-to-the-minute job skills. It also helps unemployed adults develop new job skills and get back into the workforce. All of this is quite a feat, given that traditional jobs continue to disappear at an alarming rate while many new jobs require skills that weren't imagined just a decade or so ago.

Our first speaker was Paula Stephan, who informed us about the 49er Regional Occupational Program (ROP) based in public high schools. This program serves half a million California students, has over 500 business partners, and allows students to acquire a variety of skills via various routes, including on-the-job training, on-line classes and evening classes or a blend of these choices.

Next, Chris Hinderman presented an overview of Sierra College's Career and Technical Education programs, which offer more than 75 different degrees and certificates—everything from Accounting and Engineering to Geographic Information Systems and Sustainable Agriculture, and even something called Mechatronics, a combination of electronics, mechanics and computer control. Students learn job skills via a variety of options such as job shadowing and internships, to name but two. More information is available at sierracollege.edu/cte.

Last, but definitely not least, Alice Johnson told us about the One Stop Business and Career Center. This is a federally-funded program which dispenses with bureaucracy to provide an individualized approach to giving unemployed adults job skills that are currently in demand, and matching them with actual jobs. In addition, One Stop works as a partner with local businesses to identify and meet their needs for employees with specific skills. Careful records are maintained to permit statistical evaluation of the program's efficacy. This approach sounds fresh and innovative, not locked into narrow and restrictive procedures. Alice may be contacted at 265-7089, or ajohnson@ncen.org.

Some members of our audience also proved to be quite knowledgeable about the transformation of career education and how to inspire in young people an interest in science, math, engineering and technology skills which form the basis of many future occupations. Some websites for those who wish to explore even further: bls.gov; realskillsrealjobs.com; and indiegogo.com.

I left our meeting feeling impressed and gratified by what is available to Nevada County residents seeking career skills. The future is now, and I'm happy to have my tax dollars supporting programs like these.

Karen Schwartz, President

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING***THE SILVER TSUNAMI* - Senior Services in Nevada County**

- **What services are currently available?**
- **What are some of the problems seniors commonly confront as they age?**
- **With an increasing senior population, is the county prepared to deal with the increased demand for service?**

The program will feature three members of the community actively involved with senior programs. They are:

Mary Tucker

LWV member with a lengthy resume of activities in the area

Lori Burkhart Frank

Program Manager for Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

Sara Morrison

Project Director for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and HELPLINE

In addition to the panelists, others involved with services will be present to provide additional information, including **Pam Kuhn** of Telecare, **Sandy Jacobsen** of Senior Services, and **Ruth Schwartz** of the Ombudsman program.

One hour will be allotted for questions providing ample opportunity for members of the audience to make an inquiry and also to learn what concerns others might have.

Polly Bacich, Program Planning Coordinator

**COMING
ATTRACTIONS**

MARCH 2013

“Gun Safety”

APRIL 2013

“Living Green”

MAY 2013

“The Dream Act”

LWVWNC OBSERVER CORPS**- Keeping an Eye on Government -**

Have you always wanted to watch our local government in action, but just didn't take the time to find out where and when the meetings take place? If so, there's a place waiting for you on the League's Observer Corps. Name the local government board, council or commission you would like to observe and you'll be wearing a League of Women Voters' Observer button in no time at all as you take notes of issues that are important to the community and to the League. LWV Observers have an opportunity to follow the funding and spending of local government programs in response to the economic downturn and tight budgeting concerns—could be an eye opener!

If you are new to the League, please be aware that Observers do only that—observe. A League Observer may not make comments at the meetings. They remain quiet, taking notes and then reporting to League on the meeting content and results.

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

Nevada County Planning Commission

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1:30 pm
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

Nevada City City Council

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
Nevada City City Hall Council Chambers
317 Broad Street, Nevada City

Nevada City Planning Commission

3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Nevada City City Hall Council Chambers
317 Broad Street, Nevada City

Grass Valley City Council

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm
Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers
125 West Main, Grass Valley

Grass Valley Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday, 7 pm
Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers
125 West Main, Grass Valley

Nevada Irrigation District Board

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 am
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 West Main, Grass Valley

Nevada Union High School Board of Trustees

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, August-June, 6 pm
Locations vary among school sites.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

3rd Thursday every other month, 9:30 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

I hope you'll give me a call: Karen Schwartz, President LWVWNC, e-mail Karen-Schwartz@prodigy.net, or call (530) 265-0956, and take an active part in League. I'm looking forward to working with you!

January 22, 1973-2013 Marks the 40th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade

In the United States, abortion laws began to appear in the 1820s, forbidding abortion after the fourth month of pregnancy.

Through the efforts primarily of physicians, the American Medical Association, and legislators, most abortions in the US had been outlawed by 1900.

Illegal abortions were still frequent, though they became less frequent during the reign of the Comstock Law, which essentially banned birth control information and devices.

Some early feminists, like Susan B. Anthony, wrote against abortion. They opposed abortion which at the time was an unsafe medical procedure for women, endangering their health and life. These feminists believed that only the achievement of women's equality and freedom would end the need for abortion. (Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote in *The Revolution*, "But where shall it be found, at least begin, if not in the complete enfranchisement and elevation of woman?"). They wrote that prevention was more important than punishment, and blamed circumstances, laws and the men they believed drove women to abortions. (Maltida Joslyn Gage wrote in 1868, "I hesitate not to assert that most of this crime of child murder, abortion, infanticide, lies at the door of the male sex...").

Later feminists defended safe and effective birth control—when that became available—as another way to prevent abortion. (Most of today's abortion rights organizations also state that safe and effective birth control, adequate sex education, available health care, and the ability to support children adequately are essentials to preventing the need for many abortions.)

By 1965, all fifty states banned abortion, with some exceptions which varied by state: to save the life of the mother, in cases of incest or rape, or if the fetus was deformed. Groups like the National Abortion Rights Action League and the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion worked to liberalize anti-abortion laws.

The Supreme Court in 1973, in the case of Roe V. Wade, declared most existing state abortion laws unconstitutional. This decision ruled out any legislative interference in the first trimester of pregnancy and put limits on what restrictions could be passed on abortions in later stages of pregnancy.

While many celebrated the decision, others in theologically conservative Christian groups, opposed the change. "Pro-life" and "pro-choice" evolved as the most common self-chosen names of the two movements, one to outlaw most abortions and the other to eliminate most legislative restrictions on abortions.

Early opposition to the lifting of abortion restrictions included such organizations as the Eagle Forum. Today, there are many national pro-life organizations which vary in their goals and strategies.

Opposition to abortions has increasingly turned physical and even violent—first in the organized blocking of access to clinics which provided abortion services, organized primarily by Operation Rescue. Within the churches and other groups opposing abortion, the issue of clinic protests has become increasingly controversial, as many who oppose abortions move to separate themselves from those who propose violence as an acceptable solution

Sharon O'Hara, LWV member and Citizens for Choice Board member

(Text excerpted from About.com)

Continued from January issue: A “Looking Back” at The League of Women Voters’ accomplishments in 2012.

MARCH

In March, we announced an exciting new partnership with the Department of State. Throughout 2012, we’ve served as co-chairs, alongside two non-governmental organizations from Tunisia, of the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Initiative, 9th Forum for the Future. Through this work we hosted meetings across the BMENA Region that addressed a range of civil society issues focused on women’s empowerment, economic governance and entrepreneurship, and freedom of expression and association. The concluding meeting in Tunisia wrapped up earlier this month.

APRIL

In April, in celebration of Earth Day, we joined with coalition partners to submit comments to the Environmental Protection Agency on carbon pollution standards for new power plants. In total, over a few months, the coalition was able to submit over 3 million comments in support of this proposed rule!

MAY

In May, as the school year wrapped up, Leagues across the country targeted high school students in their voter registration efforts. Through our High School Voter Registration Project, we were able to register over 8,500 new voters in 166 high schools.

JUNE

In June, we welcomed over 800 members from across the country to Washington DC for our National Convention. Members discussed a range of issues and heard from incredible speakers, including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, pollster John Zogby, and Washington D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. We also launched our Fund for Local League Growth where we honored our state and national coaches and raised nearly \$37,000—240% more than our original goal!

(to be continued in the March issue of The Voter)

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

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2066 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley
(530) 272-8980

www.woodenspooncalif.com

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

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

A. Ann Armstrong, Attorney

Armstrong & Associates

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrong.org

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

Flour Garden Bakery

999 Sutton Way, Grass Valley 95945

(530) 272-2043

Mon.-Sat. 5am-7pm, Sun. 6am-6pm

www.flourgarden.com

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

Schramsberg Construction

No Job Too Small

New Construction . Remodels . Decks . Maintenance

Chris Schram

(530) 265-3081

CLB Lic#724704

Nevada City, CA

Piano Tuning

Yvonne Ashmore Piano Service

Registered Piano Technician since 1969

(530) 273-8800

"We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress."

- Will Rogers