



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

January 2013



EmployAbility in Nevada County

Guest Speakers:

Chris Hinderman

Career Education Liaison, Sierra College

Paula Stephan

Program Manager, 49er Regional Occupational Program (ROP)

Alice Johnson

Career Development Consultant, One Stop Business and Career Center

Saturday, January 12, 2013

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

THE PREZ SEZ

Take a deep breath and let yourself remember. Where were you when you first heard about the Sandy Hook elementary school massacre?

Did you struggle to comprehend that 20 six and seven year-old students could be executed in a few minutes by a deranged young gunman with an assault weapon? Could you understand that six school staff members who tried to shield the children were likewise executed? Can't we keep anyone safe from mass violence in America?

In our history as a nation there are occasional tipping points, crises that deeply scar our souls, force us to re-examine our values and leave us forever changed. During the last weeks of 2012 we have lived through another crisis in our national identity. Like the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963 and the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook has forced a shocked nation to question our most fundamental assumptions about life in America.

Before Sandy Hook, we had grown so calloused and accustomed to mass shootings in public schools, work places, government offices, shopping centers and even theaters that many of us were only briefly disturbed whenever we learned of yet another terrible incident. Citizens of Nevada County can recall all too well our own local tragedies at the County Behavioral Health offices and Lyon's restaurant in 2001.

After the Sandy Hook tragedy, Americans are questioning how such horrible events can happen. Many of us have resolved that not only is it intolerable, but that it must never happen again.

Opinions seem to be coalescing around three urgent issues: (1) limiting access to military assault weapons and high capacity ammo clips to the police and the military, (2) defining graphically violent movies and

(continued on Page 3)



January's program will continue with an education theme.

The October program featured a presentation on Nevada County public schools, the programs, the budget problem, and possible solutions being considered.

The January meeting will examine another aspect of education: Career and Technical Training. Curriculum demands and budget problems have had a severe impact on technical training at the middle school and high school, but opportunities are still available for both secondary and post secondary students. What are the opportunities for one to obtain a job skill which will enhance his/her chances of employment?

Representatives from three programs will present information on what their programs offer in terms of specific training opportunities. **Chris Hinderman**, Career Education Liaison, Sierra College, will discuss what the college offers. **Paula Stephan**, Program Manager, 49er Regional Occupational Program, will provide information on numerous offerings, while **Alice Johnson**, Career Development Consultant, One Stop Business and Career Center, will complete the program with a discussion of what is available locally.

The purpose of the meeting is to increase awareness of what is available and the importance of obtaining a job skill that will make one valuable to a prospective employer.

Polly Bacich, Program Planning Chair

THE PREZ SEZ (continued)

video games as a particularly vicious form of pornography, and (3) increasing access to mental health services.

The first two require reining in highly lucrative industries which have resisted past attempts to control them by claiming protection under the guise of the Second and First Amendments to our Constitution, respectively. The third might help us to avoid future mass shootings, especially if background checks for prospective gun buyers become universal; it's estimated that 40% of gun sales involve no background checks.

The silence of the National Rifle Association for a week following the massacre of the innocents at Sandy Hook school spoke volumes. Their eventual recommendation that armed guards be stationed at every school in America is astonishingly obtuse. Yet many courageous NRA members have been among the first to deplore the status quo.

The year 2012 has ended on a grim note with day after day of funerals for the 26 Sandy Hook victims. Will 2013 bring us the courage and determination to do what's needed to remedy this stain on our national character? We can and must do better than this!

Our League will present a program on gun control in March. Meanwhile, as we put 2012 behind us, we can only hope that 2013 will prove to be a truly safer New Year.

Karen Schwartz, President

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Kimberly Grubbs

To protect the privacy of our members, home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses may be obtained by contacting LWVWNC MEMBERSHIP at (530) 265-0956.

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



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Nevada County Profile

Located in California's Mother Lode, Nevada County stretches from the eastern end of the Sacramento Valley, the Sierra Nevada Mountains, to the state of Nevada. Placer borders to the south, Sierra to the north, and Yuba to the west.

EMPLOYMENT - Unemployment Rate and Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Time Period</u> | <u>Labor Force</u> | <u>No. of Employed</u> | <u>No. of Unemployed</u> | <u>Unemployment Rate</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 | October | 49,850 | 45,490 | 4,360 | 8.7% |

POPULATION

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Time Period</u> | <u>Source</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2011 | Annual | California Dept. of Finance | 98,155 |

JOB TRAINING PROVIDERS IN THE AREA

| <u>Provider Name</u> | <u>Provider Type</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--|--|-----------------|
| California College of Ayurveda | Apprenticeship, Business, Career, & Tech Schools | Grass Valley |
| H & R Block Income Tax School | Apprenticeship, Business, Career, & Tech Schools | Grass Valley |
| H & R Block Income Tax School | Apprenticeship, Business, Career, & Tech Schools | Truckee |
| Nevada Union Adult Education | Schools with Occupational Programs (ROP) | Grass Valley |
| Phillips School of Massage | Apprenticeship, Business, Career, & Tech Schools | Nevada City |
| Sierra College—Nevada County Campus | Community College two-year school | Grass Valley |
| Spirit Winds School of Thai Massage and International Healing Center | Apprenticeship, Business, Career, & Tech Schools | Nevada City |
| Truckee High School—49er ROP | Schools with Occupational Programs (ROP) | Truckee |
| Truckee Tahoe Training | Schools with Occupational Programs (ROP) | Truckee |



2012
A year to remember

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LOOKING BACK

2012 was a busy year. Not only did League volunteers, members, and staff work tirelessly to ensure all eligible citizens were registered and prepared to vote in the November elections, we also worked at the local, state, and national levels on a host of other important issues. Together we fought attempts to limit voting rights, we petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to make our air cleaner, we pressured Congress to address the influence of secret money in politics, and we worked to make our organization stronger from the grassroots up. These and the other highlights shown here represent just *some* of the incredible work done by our members across the country and here in Washington.

JANUARY

We kicked off the year with a host of grassroots activities on both the state and national levels. With state legislatures getting back to work, Leagues began the year-round work of battling back against illegal purges of voter rolls, onerous voter photo ID requirements, and attacks on our longtime independent voter registration drives. At the national level, we worked with coalition partners to petition the White House and President Obama to appoint new members to the Federal Election Commission.

FEBRUARY

In February, we joined with other health care advocates to fight against attacks to the Affordable Health Care Act and to protect women's access to contraception. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to send nearly 10,000 messages to Members of Congress and we successfully defeated the Blunt Amendment.

NOTE: This article from LWWUS about "Accomplishments in 2012", will continue in *The Voter's* subsequent issues wherein we will resume, month by month, to list the League's 2012 accomplishments. Stay tuned for March, April, May and beyond!



On This Day in History—January 1

- 1735** Birthdays of three American Revolutionary heroes: silversmith Paul Revere (1735), flag maker Betsy Ross (1752), General “Mad” Anthony Wayne (1745).
- 1808** The U.S. Congress officially prohibited African slave trade.
- 1831** *The Liberator* was first published.
- 1863** President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1898** Brooklyn merged with Manhattan.
- 1905** The Trans-Siberian Railway started its maiden voyage.
- 1909** Barry Goldwater was born.
- 1935** The colonies of Cyrenaica, Tripoli, and Eezaan united to form the country of Libya.
- 1942** Twenty-six nations signed the United Nations Declaration.

Some notable American patriots were born on New Year’s Day. Paul Revere, the Bostonian silversmith who rallied American colonists to arms against the arriving British troops; Betsy Ross, maker of the new nation’s banner; and General “Mad” Anthony Wayne, who led the charge on many British garrisons, were all born on this day. An outspoken spokesperson for Republican conservatism, Arizona state senator Barry Goldwater was also a New Year’s Day child.

New Year’s is a day of both new beginnings and a day of renewed commitment to beliefs. Some great Americans have pronounced their views on this day that no man can own another. In 1863, President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. It reinforced Congress’ prohibition of African slave trade which occurred on the same day in 1808. In the first issue of his anti-slavery periodical, *The Liberator*, published on this day in 1831, William Lloyd Garrison proclaimed: “I am in earnest. I will not equivocate; I will not excuse; I will not retreat a single inch; and I will be heard.”

New Year’s Day offers an opportunity to cast aside differences and resolve to renew alliances. On this day in 1898, the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan merged to create Greater New York. The Trans-Siberian Railway started its maiden voyage on this day in 1905, joining a continent. The route united far away Vladivostock, Manchuria, with Paris, France. And in 1935, the North African colonies united to form the country of Libya. In 1942, this feeling of unity was felt worldwide when twenty-six nations signed the United Nations Declaration in Washington, D.C.

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

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and thought a fool, than to
speak and remove all doubt."*

-Abraham Lincoln