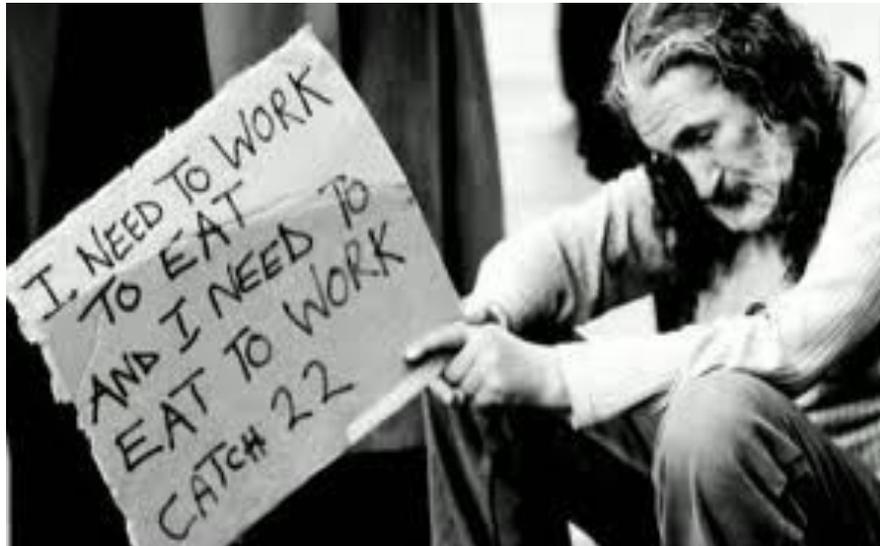




LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - January 2014



HOMELESSNESS IN NEVADA COUNTY

Our Panel

Jeff Brown - Former Director of Nevada County Health and Human Services

Janice O'Brien - Board President, Sierra Roots

Joanna Robinson - Co-Founder and Board President, Hospitality House

Lieutenants Sidney and Reyna Salcido - Salvation Army, Grass Valley

Saturday, January 11, 2014

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley



The Prez Sez



Traditionally, the beginning of the New Year is a special time when we pause to reflect on the year just past. As I think back on our League's programs and activities, I'm pleased and proud of what we've accomplished.

How do we do it? Our board is one of the liveliest groups of women you could ever hope to meet. Each board member is bubbling over with ideas and opinions, and when this group gets together, there's never a dull moment. They're independent thinkers and doers who question everything, and they're constantly looking for ways to make our League even better.

If you were a fly on the wall at one of our board meetings, here's what you might notice:

Our Secretary, **Madelyn Helling**, whose long experience working with government to get things done makes her a tremendous resource in the pragmatics of how political influence is exerted.

Our Vice President, **Arlene Robertson**, never accepts anything at face value and asks penetrating questions about things no one else has thought to consider.

Our Treasurer, **Sue Nepstead**, could lead a postgraduate seminar in strategic thinking and long term planning. In her spare time she's also our Website manager.

Mary Dreifuss, our *Voter* editor, is a Past President and a gifted communicator, not only in using the English language precisely, but also in using visual images that sum up complex ideas and relationships.

Cleo Gibson, Communications chair, has been a League member for more than 50 years and takes the long view. She keeps us in touch with our members by telephone.

Our Program Planning chair, **Polly Bacich**, combines deep understanding of the nuts and bolts of state politics and politicians with an hilarious sense of humor that illuminates their machinations for the rest of us.

Ruth Schwartz, our Voter Service chair, is a Past President and a tireless worker who takes all our League's needs under her wings and sees that they're nurtured, joking all the way.

Anne DeWitt, our gracious Hospitality chair, is always several steps ahead of the rest of us in thinking about how to make each League meeting inviting and comfortable for all.

Our Membership chair, **Gail Parle**, is quietly focused on seeing that our membership's needs are met.

Our Publicity chair, **Carol Kuczora**, not only takes care of our publicity needs, but also brings new ideas to us from her involvement with many other organizations.

Joey Jordan, our Observer Corps chair, has worked tirelessly to educate us about the value of connecting with social media. She knows everybody worth knowing in the community and, in her spare time, entertains large groups effortlessly.

Our Nominating Committee chair who is also our Historian, **Sharon O'Hara**, is extremely knowledgeable on women's issues, very involved with local women's groups and has energy and ideas to spare.

And - it's not just our board members who are special. We are fortunate to have members who step forward when volunteers are need. People like **Marcy Elliott** and **Jackie Wilson** who continue to serve on our Audit Committee.

These outstanding women are great company with whom to enter the NEW YEAR!

Karen Schwartz, President
League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT



The January program “Homelessness in Nevada County” will feature representatives from groups who are working with the homeless in the county. Jeff Brown, Former Director of Nevada County Health and Human Services; Janice O’Brien, Board President of Sierra Roots; Joanna Robinson, Co-Founder and Board President of Hospitality House, and Lieutenants Sidney and Reyna Salcido of the Grass Valley Salvation Army.

The purpose of the program is to bring the community up-to-date on the issue of homelessness. What is the extent of homelessness in our county? What is the demographic? Who are the homeless? What current programs are ongoing and what is needed? The purpose of League programs is to provide information on those subjects which have impact on the community. The well informed community member has a better understanding of the issue.

The program scheduled for February is “Valuing our Watersheds.” Panel participants are: Izzy Martin, CEO of Sierra Fund; Caleb Dardick, Executive Director of SYRCL (South Yuba River Citizens League); Rem Schertsinger, General Manager of the NID (Nevada Irrigation District), and Nancy Weber, NID Board Member, Division 1. Reliable water resources are vital to the livelihood and economic well being of our community. The panelists represent a great resource of information on the subject.

Polly Bacich, chair
Program Planning Committee

On This Day In History — January 1: New Year’s Day

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.

(excerpted in part “From This Day in History” 1999 by Prentice Hall)

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

Voter Service Committee goals for the June 3, 2014, Primary Election year include:

- Voter registration for Nevada County residents with a special emphasis on the high school students who will be eligible to vote in the 2014 elections.
- Plans for forums for nonpartisan and partisan candidates for the 2014 Primary Election.
- Discussion of any initiatives or bonds that might be on the June Primary.

Voter Service meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2014, from 10 am—12 pm, at the home of Ruth Schwartz. Regular meetings will be scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month. Any member interested in becoming part of this vital committee, please call the League number at: (530) 265-0956.

The Registrar of Voters for Nevada County has published the following Calendar for Candidate Filing:

- January 27, 2014 —February 5, 2014: Declaration of Intention - Judicial Candidates
- February 10, 2014—March 7, 2014: Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers—Filing period for all local, nonpartisan offices
- March 8, 2014—March 12, 2014: Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers—Extension period (for candidates other than the incumbent, if incumbent does not file)
- April 24, 2014: Counties begin mailing sample ballot pamphlets.
- May 5, 2014: First day Vote-By-Mail ballots will be mailed
- May 5, 2014—May 27, 2014: Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application Period
- May 19, 2014: Last day for a person to register to vote in the Statewide Primary Election
- Voter will be notified of polling place but will not receive Sample Ballot Pamphlet in the mail
- June 3, 2014: ELECTION DAY
- June 5, 2014—July 1, 2014: Official canvass beginning and ending dates

Ruth Schwartz, chair
Voter Service Committee

ELECTION DAY 2014

The League's January 11, 2014, meeting will discuss "Homelessness in Nevada County.

VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION BOND ACT OF 2014 is slated for the June 3 Primary Election. This is a timely opportunity to review this ballot measure.

Background information for this Bond: California is home to 2 million veterans, more than any other state in the nation. Unfortunately, California also leads the nation in the number of homeless veterans, roughly 25% of the nation's homeless veterans live in California, approximately 19,000 veterans. Female veterans and their children comprise more and more of the homeless veteran demographic.

With their higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and unemployment, the current homeless veteran, all too often, cycles in and out of our jails, hospitals, and treatment programs, disproportionately drawing services without receiving the proper services to stabilize their lives.

This bond will restructure the previously passed Proposition 12 (overwhelmingly passed five years ago). This bond will expand housing and service options for veterans, cost-effectively leverage public dollars, reduce the number of homeless veterans and its attendant public costs, and put California in the forefront of our nation's efforts to end veterans' homelessness by 2015. For more information on the proposed Bond, go to the California Secretary of State's website.

Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service chair



WORKING TO PROTECT THE VOTE — LOOKING TOWARDS ELECTION REFORMS IN 2014

December 19, 2013 - Last week I blogged about how 2013 has been one of the most active years related to voting rights this country has ever seen. While there were many setbacks in the past twelve months there were some victories as well. In 2014, we hope to build upon these victories and focus on proactive election reforms, while also continuing to battle back against attacks on voters' rights at the local, state and national levels. With the continued leadership of the League, these victories will continue in 2014.

Fighting to Restore the VRA and Fully Implement the NVRA

The League is taking a multi-pronged approach to combat the harmful effects of the Supreme Court's decision on the Voting Rights Act (VRA), the law that prevented widespread discrimination in voting for nearly 50 years. The Court's bad decision will allow more changes to election laws and practices at the state and local levels to occur with little or no scrutiny and with little recourse until after an election when the harm to voters has been done. The League is working to set up a system to monitor and respond to these changes.

Additionally, the League is pushing for urgently needed reforms to our outdated election system in order to address low voter turnout and the underrepresentation of racial and ethnic minorities and low income individuals at the polls. The League is organizing our grassroots network, educating the public and working in coalition with other voting rights groups to develop and implement a plan to renew and restore the VRA in a bipartisan fashion in 2014.

In the wake of the positive Supreme Court decision upholding the integrity of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), League advocates will continue to urge state leaders to fully comply with the federal requirements set forth in this landmark law. Commonly known as "Motor Voter," the NVRA streamlined the confusing array of state laws that hindered the voter registration process. The law made it easier for Americans to register to vote by requiring states to provide voter registration opportunities when citizens obtain a driver's license or seek services at other government agencies, as well as through mail-in registration. Leagues are working to inform public assistance agencies of their obligation to provide voter registration opportunities to individuals; guiding agencies and election officials so that their registration work is as effective as possible; and taking legal action when necessary.

Continue the Fight for Pro-Voter Reforms and Against Voter Suppression

The League will build upon its pro-voter reform successes in 2013, as well as continue our efforts to defeat voter suppression proposals, to protect and expand voting rights in communities across the country. The League will continue educating both elected and appointed officials on the need and benefits of pro-voter reforms, as well as educating voters, and increasing the public's understanding of the need for reforms. Through this work, we will continue to work in

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coalition with other like-minded organizations at the national and state levels to leverage public enthusiasm and lawmakers' willingness to modernize and streamline our elections system.

In 2014 we can expect continued battles against voting restrictions in Alaska, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. In addition to these threats we know we will see voter photo ID laws implemented in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Dakota and Virginia and there is no doubt that other states will be added to this mix in 2014 as the political landscapes change before and after the mid-term elections.

While the League will be busy protecting the right to vote, we're also committed to reforming our elections in order to better serve voters. The League has identified five proactive elections administration reform priorities that the League will work to implement:

1. Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration
2. Improved Polling Place Management
3. Expanded Early Voting
4. Secure Online Voting Registration
5. Electronic Streamlining of Election Practices

We are hopeful that we will see some positive reforms in 2014. Specifically, we think we might see advances in secure online voter registration in Florida, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania; automatic voter registration in Oregon; electronic streamlining in Minnesota; and the expansion of early voting in New Jersey.

With the right combination of determination, reputation and organization, state League advocates have been and will continue to be remarkably successful in advocating against voter suppression and discrimination at the state level. We are excited by the promise of 2014 and believe that continuing to fight the ground game at the state level will be an essential and highly effective approach to protecting the right to vote and increasing the franchise to ensure that elections are free, fair and accessible for every eligible voter.

Elisabeth MacNamara,
President, League of Women Voters



We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals

**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.

