

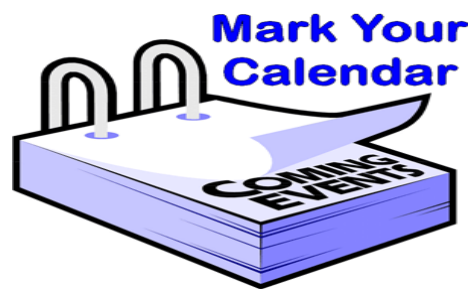


LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

*The Voter* - July/August, 2014

hello



...because...



Summer



Edition

July/August 2014

## THE PREZ SEZ

I am your new President of The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County, and I thought you might want to know a little about me.

I grew up near the beach in Ventura with a younger brother and parents who were college teachers: Dad—chemistry; Mom —Mathematics. It was the idyllic 50's childhood: public school, bike riding, swimming at the beach and 25 cent afternoon movies. Surfing became a passion. Then college at San Diego State University and sorority life with Pi Beta Phi.

Some of my profs wanted to know what kind of work I might get as a philosophy major. I was hired by the Navy at Point Mugu as a management intern, worked there for 10 years and resigned as the Civilian Employment Officer. During that time I married my first husband, adopted our son, John, and got divorced. I earned an MBA from Pepperdine. Then I met and married my current husband. His teenage children moved in with us and we became a family of six. During this time his children created their own adult lives and John became a teenager. My husband, Dee, retired from the Navy, and I earned an MS in economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Then we discovered Nevada County!

We fell in love with our property, Grass Valley, Nevada City and all these trees. We moved here in 1984. John attended Magnolia, Nevada Union and Bear River when it opened. He and his family now live in Roseville and we're glad to have them nearby.

Dee, moved here to hobby heaven. First raising exotic doves. Then installing computers and, with Sierra College, installing an experimental capsule in a space shuttle, raising orchids, and, always, rock hunting. Who knows what's next?

This move was really my first experience with nature, and not always delightful—rattlesnakes and skunks—a sighting of a mountain lion on our property! And more. Soon after the move I started working with United Way. Eventually I served as Allocations Chairman, Campaign Chairman and President. I also discovered tap dancing. I danced and taught at Greentree Studio for 25 years. It was kind of like my passion for surfing revisited—more location and age appropriate!

Mary Tucker introduced me to LWVWNC. WOW! I don't think I have missed two meetings in these five years. I'd like to say that I joined this group to help all Americans have easy and informed voting, which is true. But the main reason I am here is to learn from and to be with all of you. We have a great board, great members and, I think, a great year ahead.

Anne DeWitt, President

## **Program Planning Committee Report**

The Program Planning Committee met in June to discuss program plans for the coming year. Meeting dates for the year were established, as was the Committee membership. Committee changes include (a) Carol Kuczora will work with her replacement Joyce Chilberto, the new Board Publicity chair, and (b) Anne DeWitt, the new LWVWNC League President will join the Committee.

There were a number of programs proposed for the coming League year: The September 2014 program will feature Nevada County's California State Parks, "The Three Jewels in Our Crown." There will be more specific information in the next *Voter*. It is understood that, with the November elections coming up, the October meeting will present the "Pros & Cons" of the ballot measures. The annual Speak-Out will follow in November. Topics that have been mentioned for this November program included: the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court—a possible Constitutional Amendment; Gun Violence; Voter Turnout; and, lastly, Education/Common Core Curriculum.

Since it is an election year, it is reasonable to assume other issues will surface. With that assumption in mind, the Committee will not make specific plans for 2015 programs at this time. Stay tuned! The best is yet to come!

Polly Bacich  
Program Planning Committee Chair

### **Membership Renewal Time is HERE!**

You know the League's Mission Statement: "The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

You understand what this means, AND you also understand that we could not fulfill our mission without your continued support.

**Now is the time to renew your commitment to these principles.** Please return your Renewal Card by September 1, 2014, with current information and check made payable to LWVWNC in the envelope provided. Renewal letters will be sent out the first part of July. Let us know if you don't receive yours. The dues remain the same at \$60 for an individual and \$30 for each additional household member. Membership dues are not tax deductible.

Our obligation to the State and National Leagues has increased over the past few years, but with careful budgeting it was not necessary to pass this increase along to our membership. Maintaining our current membership is vital to us. **We need you with us again this year!**



### MARY ZOTALIS (1922-2014)

Mary F. Zotalis of Grass Valley died May 29, 2014. She was 92.

Mary was born March 16, 1922 to Petra Martinez and Augustine Flores in Pittsburg, Kansas. She graduated from Loyola School of Nursing and worked at Kaiser Hospital and at Stanford Hospital. She was also involved in private nursing care.

Mary was a long-time member of The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County, having joined in 1984.

She held the positions of Communications Chair and Arrangements Chair on the Board of Directors and was a member of several committees during her membership—including the Voter Service Committee this past year.

Mary loved reading and sharing her literary adventures with friends. She was a faithful member of our book clubs and an avid participant in our Scrabble group meetings.

She is survived by her son, Kenneth Leek, Jr., and daughter-in-law Donna, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Jeffrey Leek and by her husband, John Zotalis.

We were fortunate to have had her with us for so many years. She will be missed by all of us who knew and loved her.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

**Western Nevada County LWV started in 1978 when a few former League members who had moved here from other areas formed a Member-at-Large (MAL) group which later developed into a Provisional League.**

**In 1984 (*when Mary Zotalis joined*) all necessary requirements were met and the group was accorded full status by National and State Leagues as the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY.**



# Thank You

for your support  
this past year!

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## VOTER SERVICE REPORT

**Election 2014:** Our emphasis for the June Primary Election was Candidate Forums. We sponsored a total of four Forums which were well-attended and had the added bonus of being broadcast live by our local TV station, NCTV, thus bringing the candidates' views to a much larger voting population. The results of this Primary are now certified and Nevada County will have two run-off elections for the November 4 General Election: the office for Superior Court Judge, Seat I: candidates Anna Ferguson and Robert Tice-Raskin, and the House of Representatives, District 1: candidates Heidi Hall and Doug LaMalfa. Two Candidate Forums for the General Election are scheduled for Thursday, October 9, and Thursday, Oct 16. Both Forums will be from 7 to 9 pm at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, Rood Center. We will have more information concerning these and any other forums in the next *Voter*.

-On to the state and county November 4 Initiatives and Referendums-

At the time of this printing, there are:

Cleared for circulation - 27

Failed to qualify - 22

The following are just a few of the initiatives pending signature verification:

- In Home Supportive Services, Wages and Mandatory Training. Initiative Statute: Random Sample Deadline: 7/10/2014. Signatures Required: 504,760.
- State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds. Initiative Statute and Constitutional Amendment. Full check Deadline: 8/01//2014. Signatures Required: 807,615.
- School Teachers. Performance Based Layoffs and Rehiring, Dismissals. Initiative Statute. Circulation Deadline: 7/14/14. Signatures Required 504,760.
- Low-Performing School. Intern Teachers. Charter School Administrators. Initiative Statute. Circulation Deadline: 7/14/14. Signatures Required: 504,760.
- Charter Schools. Public Records. Open Meetings. Conflicts of Interest. Initiative Statute. Circulation Deadline: 7/07/14. Signatures Required: 504,760.
- Campaign Finance. Political Communications. Donor Disclosure. Initiative Statute. Circulation Deadline: 7/10/14. Signatures Required: 504,760.
- High-Speed Rail. No issuance or Sale of Future Bonds. Termination of Project. Initiative Statute. Circulation Deadline: 7/24/14. Signatures Required: 504,760.
- Division of California into Six States. Initiative Statute and Constitutional Amendment. Circulation Deadline: 7/18/14. Signature Requirements: 807,615.

Most initiatives that are scheduled for the November Election have deadlines of July or August. Many opportunities to sign the petitions will await you as you go shopping at markets or businesses. Be aware of what you are signing when approached by the numerous paid individuals who want "just a minute" of your time. **ASK QUESTIONS AND SIGN A PETITION ONLY IF YOU UNDERSTAND IT!**

For detailed information about the proposed initiatives and referendums go to: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections)

**The next Voter Service Committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 22 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. All subsequent meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month. We will be working on Pros & Cons presentations for the November Elections and Forums. If you are interested in becoming a part of this exceptional group, please call (530) 265-0956 or send me an email.**

Ruth Schwartz, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

## Important Women of the 20th Century



### RACHEL CARSON (1907-1964)

“A FEW THOUSAND WORDS FROM HER,” AN EDITORIALIST ONCE SAID, “AND THE WORLD TOOK A NEW DIRECTION.” Writer, scientist, conservationist, Rachel Carson can be credited with founding the modern environmental movement. Before she published *Silent Spring* in 1962, two beliefs held sway: that environmental hazards had been largely eliminated with diseases like smallpox, and that technological progress was a greater good than the natural world it necessarily destroyed. *Silent Spring* a damning study of the deadly effects of indiscriminate chemical pesticides on fish, bird and human populations, changed forever those complacent assumptions.

An unlikely crusader, Carson had been content with her dual roles as a government marine biologist and popular science writer. Her trilogy of books about the ocean, *Under the Sea-Wind* (1941), the best-selling *The Sea Around Us* (1951), and *The Edge of the Sea* (1955), had explained marine science to lay readers in clear, poetic prose. But as evidence against DDT mounted in the 1950s, Carson was impelled by conscience to put aside marine biology and speak out against industrial irresponsibility. “There would be no peace for me,” she said, “if I kept silent.”

As she began researching *Silent Spring*—a magazine article that quickly grew into a book—her mission took on an almost religious intensity. Carefully and articulately, Carson built her case against government’s and industry’s wanton poisoning of earth, land, and sea. Never did she argue for a total ban on chemical agents (except indiscriminately lethal compounds, such as DDT), only that they be used with extraordinary caution; and only after their systemic effects had been studied and fully understood.

As Carson had anticipated, the chemical and agricultural industries responded to *Silent Spring* by mounting an ugly smear campaign against her, calling her everything from overly emotional (reading the book, wrote one doctor, was like “arguing with a women”) to unprofessional to a communist. Gravely ill with bone cancer and weighed down with family responsibilities (after her father and a sister died, the unmarried Carson supported her mother, her nieces, and a grandnephew), she persevered with extraordinary dignity and courage, defending her research, gaining converts, even testifying before a federal scientific advisory committee that President Kennedy created to examine her findings. (The committee’s report ended up endorsing them.) Carson died in 1964 at the age of 56—eight years before the U.S. government finally came around to her way of thinking and banned DDT.

*“Man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.”*

*(Excerpted in part from the “Ladies Home Journal 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century”)*

**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](http://www.briarpatch.coop)

**New Moon Café**  
203 York Street, Nevada City  
(530) 265-6399  
[www.thenewmooncafe.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.spdmarket.com)

**The Book Seller**  
107 Mill Street, Grass Valley  
(530) 272-2131  
[www.TheBookSeller.biz](http://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](http://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 [www.lwvwnco.org](http://www.lwvwnco.org)  
Membership in The League of Women Voters is open to men and women of all ages.