



# *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

March 2010

## **Oh, Say Can You See...**



**Guest Speaker:**

**Joe Fish**

**Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer  
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District**

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**

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

**Peace Lutheran Church**

**828 West Main**

**Grass Valley**

**(530) 265-0956 - [www.lwwwnc.org](http://www.lwwwnc.org)**



## THE PREZ SEZ:

Last summer my husband and I vacationed in Washington State and stayed at a lovely B&B in Gig Harbor. The proprietors confided to us that they were ready to find a new location for their business that was more tourist friendly. I knew we had a local B&B on the market and suggested they check it out. I took this opportunity to brag about Nevada County—its history, its natural beauty and our close proximity to the magnificent Sierras. They were impressed. Then when we arrived home there was an e-mail waiting for us from these folks. I excitedly began to read the message:

“Sorry, we are no longer interested in relocating to Nevada County.” They had discovered that in 2004 Western Nevada County was designated “non-attainment” for the “Federal 8-Hour Ozone Standard of 0.08 ppm.” There had to be some mistake! This is Nevada County—the picture-perfect place to raise a family, to have a business, to find retirement paradise. There had to be some mistake!

Sadly, there was no mistake. Most of Nevada County’s ozone is transported by the wind from Sacramento and the Bay Area. High ozone levels reduce the elasticity of our lungs and cause breathing problems—burning eyes, sore throats and headaches. This bad air has been connected with the development of asthma and decreased lung function. Children, the elderly, individuals with heart and lung ailments, and people exercising outdoors are especially affected. Not a pretty picture!

The League of Women Voters has always been proactive. Our March meeting is an excellent example of going to the experts for correct information about major concerns in Nevada County. Our members are concerned about air pollution and said so at our Speak-In meetings. Now is our opportunity to learn what is “in the air” in our county and our state, and what control, if any, Nevada County has over the quality of the air we all breathe.

Join us on March 13th as Joe Fish, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District discusses the issue of “air pollution” in Nevada County

Ruth Schwartz, President



“Oh, beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain,  
for strip-mined mountain’s majesty above the  
asphalt plain.  
America, America, man sheds his waste on thee,  
and hides the pines with billboard signs, from  
sea to shining sea.”

-George Carlin

## OUR MARCH PROGRAM



Who does the air belong to? Is it like the water? We all want it clean and pure. But what, if any, responsibility do we have for keeping it that way? What do we want the government to do about it? What is being done right now, right here in Nevada County?

Joe Fish is the person who will help us sort out these questions at the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, March 13. Joe is the Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer for the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. So come join us in learning about one of the most basic elements affecting the quality of our lives.

Bring your friends, your questions and your comments. We look forward to seeing you there.

Helen Williamson  
Program Coordinator

## LWVUS Legislative Priorities—2010

The LWVUS has adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2010: **Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections** (campaign finance reform). On the Legislative Watch List are: **Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**. This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress. The Board will review the priorities throughout the year and make changes if the situation requires it. You will note that DC Voting Rights and CEDAW are perennial priorities. The LWV is committed to working for successful passage of both these priorities.

In line with one of the top priorities noted above, the League has sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation which would overturn the EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare.

Polly Bacich  
Action/Legislation Chair

## CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION DIFFERS FROM OTHER STATES

*Did you know ....*

- Many of the individual rights in California have been interpreted as providing rights broader than the U.S. Bill of Rights or Federal Constitution.
- Our State Constitution is second longest in the U.S. with 551 amendments; Alabama's is longer with over 700 amendments.
- Some state agencies are "insulated," not open to charges of "unconstitutional" in their use of police power or inherent judicial power. Examples are the State Bar of California and State Compensation Insurance Fund.
- Cities and counties are regarded as "corporations" with broad rules; however, the option to be a "contract city" is offered in Sec. 8, Article XI.
- University of California system is one of only nine universities in the U.S. whose independence from political interference is expressly guaranteed by the State Constitution.

*(source: Wikipedia)*



***CITIZENS UNITED DECISION SETS OFF REVOLUTION IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy***

**Washington, DC** –The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

“The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in *Citizens United v. FEC* is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

"Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent: ‘The Court’s ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.’

“In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder’s money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

“Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government.”

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

**MARCH 2010 FUNDRAISER**

**On March 1st a letter will be sent out asking you to help us to make 2010 an interesting and informative year for voters in our community. In June and in November your League will be registering voters, presenting the Pros & Cons of the ballot measures, and holding candidate forums. Of course we need your help to do all this. Please contribute to your local League—The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.**

**THANK YOU !**

## 1943 GUIDE TO HIRING WOMEN (who says you haven't come a long way, baby?)



This is an excerpt from the July 1934 issue of *Transportation Magazine*. This was serious and written for male supervisors of women in the work force in World War II—a mere 67 years ago! Obviously, the intent was not to be “funny”, but by today’s standards, it is hilarious!



### Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees:

*There is no longer any question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft manpower shortage has settled that point. The important things now are to select the most efficient women available and how to use them to the best advantage. Here are eleven helpful tips on the subject:*

1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters. They are less likely to be flirtatious. They need to work, or they would not be doing it. They still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It is always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. General experience indicates that “husky” girls—those who are just a little on the heavy side—are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination—one covering female conditions. This step not only protects the property against the possibilities of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
5. Stress at the outset the importance of time: the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.
6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that she will keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
7. Whenever possible let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.
9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they cannot shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman—it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.
10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl’s husband or father may swear vociferously, she will grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
11. Get enough size variety in operator’s uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point cannot be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

## March is Women's History Month

### Important Dates in Women's History

- **March 1 Matronalia, Roman celebration of women** and celebration of Juno-Lucina, protector of women and the family, Temple fires welcomed the coming of spring.
- **March 1, 1864 - Rebecca Lee of Boston, MA** became the first African American woman to earn a medical degree.
- **March 2 Roman festival of Vesta, Goddess of purifying fire.** Vestal virgins were independent women who were priestesses of Vesta. The ancient meaning of "virgin" was "one within," signifying an independent woman.
- **March 3 Hina Matsuri, Japanese Doll Festival,** dedicated to the three Munakata goddesses, daughters of Amaterasu, the Sun.
- **March 4, 1933 - Frances Perkins** is sworn in as Secretary of Labor, first woman in U.S. cabinet.
- **March 4, 1917 - Jeanette Rankin** became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **March 7, 1870 - Wyoming women allowed on juries;** the right later was taken away until the 1950's when women once again were admitted to serve.
- **March 8, 1908 - First International Women's Day,** founded by German labor activist Clara Zetkin.
- **March 10 Mothering Day (England), the original Mother's Day.** It was the custom to visit one's mother on this day and present her with bread and presents.
- **March 10 Hypatia's Day, honoring the scholar of the University of Alexandria.** A pagan, Hypatia was murdered by a mob of monks because she was a woman who taught men.
- **March 10, 1913 - Death of Harriet Tubman,** Underground Railroad conductor who rescued more than 300 of her people from slavery.
- **March 12, 1993 Janet Reno** became the first woman U.S. Attorney General.
- **March 20, 1925 Birth of Romana Banuelos,** first Mexican American woman to serve as U.S. Treasurer.
- **March 22, 1972 Equal Rights Amendment** passed by Congress and sent to states for ratification.
- **March 25, 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City.** Nearly 146 workers died, mostly immigrant women. Many were trapped because of locked exits.
- **March 30 Feast of Eostra, German Goddess of rebirth and fertility.** This festival inspired the Christian Easter.
- **March 31, 1776 Abigail Adams** wrote her famous "Remember the ladies" letter to her husband, John, urging him to include women as he helped construct the U.S. Constitution. He didn't.



**NEW MEMBERS**

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

**Dolores (Dee) Dawson  
Joyce Chilberto  
Carol Kuczora**

**WELCOME BACK**

**Mala Morrow  
Jackie Wilson**

**NON-PARTISAN STATEMENT**

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, is dedicated to the principles of self government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active citizen participation in government.

The League's non-partisanship is assured by national, state, and local League by-laws and policies. Through its program, the League takes action in support of, or in opposition to, governmental issues that it has studied and on which it has reached consensus. It does not support, nor does it oppose, candidates or political parties. Individual members are encouraged to support the political party of their choice.

Through its Voter Service, the League provides non-partisan factual information on the structures and functions of government and on voting procedures, candidates, and issues.

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