



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

March 2013

GUN SAFETY



Our Guest Speakers

Amanda Wilcox, Advocate for Legislation Related to Gun Safety

John Foster, Chief of Police, Grass Valley

Peter Van Houten, MD, Founder and Medical Director,
Sierra Family Medical Clinic

Saturday, March 9, 2013

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley

THE PREZ SEZ

It's often said that "all politics are local," and our League is a good example of this adage. We're a non-partisan political organization, and we care deeply about local issues. Our February meet on "The Silver Tsunami: Senior Services in Nevada County", was very successful in bringing local experts together with concerned citizens. Those who attended thanked us again and again for providing them with this opportunity to get their questions answered. And they also told us that they want more; they want follow-up on the issues of senior housing and transportation. We promise to do our best to plan future meetings that will get them the answers that they need. A complete and very informative source for senior services is the **Area 4 Agency on Aging** website: www.a4aa.com.

Our March meeting will examine a national issue -gun safety - at the local level. We will have local speakers who will try to inject some "gun sense" into the furor over gun violence and gun control issues. It is very important to hear different perspectives on this hot button topic, to listen carefully and respectfully, and to approach this difficult and contentious issue thoughtfully, as the national debate rages on.

Sometimes it's important to step back from the focus on local issues and take in the bigger picture. Our April meeting will address both. "Living Green" and "reducing our carbon footprint" aren't just local, regional or even just national topics. They get almost universal lip service, and few citizens would defend littering the environment or polluting air or water. But how can you "live green" in your daily life? Beyond "tree hugging", what are the practicalities of trying to live green and what are the payoffs for making the effort to reduce our carbon footprints? We'll hear from local citizens who are trying to conduct their daily lives in accordance with green principles and give us some useful and practical ideas on how to do so.

Beyond the local level, we may sometimes feel powerless to influence political change. Do you ever feel discouraged that things never seem to improve? If so, it's important to take a moment to reflect on actual improvements. The League has long been critical of California's initiative process because it has produced so many poorly drafted laws that don't accomplish what they set out to do. California's 2010 Redistricting Initiative has been a notable exception. Sponsored in large part by opinionated billionaire Charles Munger, Jr., Prop 20 created a new way for California congressional districts to be re-drawn by an independent commission of citizens, instead of partisan politicians as in the past. Now Californians' voting preferences are far more accurately reflected in the political affiliation of their local Congressional representatives than in the past. It's an example of direct democracy at its best. Unlike California, many states still rely on gerrymandering by allowing politicians (state legislators and governors) to re-draw districts. That results in distorting Congressional representation by tilting the playing field. For instance, in the 2012 North Carolina congressional election, Democratic candidates received 51 percent of the statewide vote, but only four of the state's 13 seats. There were 10 states in all where gerrymandering significantly affected representation, where the majority of votes were not reflected in the partisan representation.

Remember, all politics are local, and, as we state on our website, www.lwvwnc.org, "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport."

Karen Schwartz, President

OUR MARCH PROGRAM

GUN SAFETY - Our March general meeting program will address a subject of vital concern to the American public: the proliferation of guns in society and the resulting violence.

What is the current legislation in California regarding gun ownership? How does it relate to federal legislation? Are the rights of gun owners threatened by current laws? Are these rights threatened by proposed laws? What are the statistics regarding gun ownership in Nevada County? What about illegal gun ownership? Lastly, what are the contributions of the mental health professionals in response to gun violence? These are just some of the areas to be addressed by our panel in March on GUN SAFETY.

The following individuals have accepted the League's invitation to participate on our panel:

Amanda Wilcox, Advocate for Legislation Related to Gun Safety

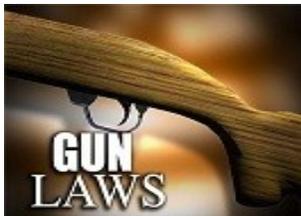
John Foster, Grass Valley Chief of Police

Peter Van Houten, MD, Founder and Medical Director, Sierra Family Medical Clinic

Invitations were extended to both the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association to speak at our March 9 meeting. As of this printing, we have received no response from the NRA. On February 19, we received a response from the CRPA which was: "There is no one available for the event."

Our League's general meetings are always open to the public.

Polly Bacich, Program Planning Chair



New California Gun Laws 2013

Gun laws for California are now in effect as of January 1, 2013

AB 1527—Long Gun Open Carry Ban

The new gun law prohibits open carry of unloaded long guns, such as rifles and shotguns, in public places. This is a follow-up to last year's AB 144, which prohibited the open carry of unloaded handguns in public places. Read the official text of AB 1527 because there are several other provisions within the new gun law. *Law now in effect.*

SB 1315 —Imitation Firearms

The new gun law authorizes Los Angeles County to enact and enforce an ordinance that is stricter than state law regarding the manufacture, sale, possession or use of any BB device, toy gun, replica of a firearm or other device that is substantially similar in coloration and overall appearance to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to perceive that the device is a firearm and that expels a projectile that is no more than 16 millimeters in diameter. Read the official text of SB 1315. *Law now in effect.*

SB 1367—Deer, Archery Season, Concealed Firearms

The new gun law revises the Fish and Game Code authorizing a peace officer, whether active or retired, or a person with a valid license to carry a firearm on his or her person while engaged in the taking of deer with bow and arrow, but prohibits taking or attempting to take deer with that firearm. Read the official text of SB 1367. *Law now in effect.*

(Continued on next page)

Next Year's California Gun Laws Not Yet in Effect

AB 809 —Long Gun Registration Law 2014

AB 809 will require the registration of any newly purchased long guns, starting in 2014. Critics of this new gun law say it violates Second Amendment rights by forcing state registration of rifles and shotguns, and that the only value of long gun registration is in assisting governments to locate and confiscate firearms in the future. *Law effective January 1, 2014.*

AB 1559—Firearms Dealer Regulatory Reform 2014

The new gun law provides that, beginning in 2014, The Department of Justice will only charge one fee for a single transaction on the same date and time for taking title or possession of any number of firearms. The new law also clarifies the process for issuance of permits for short-barreled rifles used in the motion picture industry. Read the official text of AB 1559. *Law effective January 1, 2014.*

Last Year's California Gun Laws Still in Effect

SB 610 — Concealed Handgun Permit Application

SB 610 standardizes the application process for a concealed handgun permit and removes the mandate that a California Concealed Weapon (CCW) applicant purchase liability insurance before getting the permit. The loudest criticism remains that the concealed handgun permit is still too difficult to obtain...and perhaps too "political" in the process. *Law in effect since last year.*

SB 819 —Transfer of Background Check Fees

SB 819 lets the Department of Justice utilize the Dealer Record of Sales (DROS) funded to pay for enforcement of California firearm possession laws in the Armed & Prohibited Persons Systems program. DROS funds were originally collected from firearm purchases to pay for the administrative process for background checks. SB 819 amends Section 28225 of the Penal Code. Critics of this new gun law say that by diverting DROS background check fees toward gun possession law enforcement, the DROS fund will be depleted of money and necessitate another increase in California fees for background checks in the state. *Law in effect since last year.*

AB 144 —Unloaded Handgun Open Carry Ban

AB 144 makes the open carrying of an unloaded handgun illegal in California. Critics of this new gun law say the open carrying of firearms by law-abiding Californians results from arbitrary concealed carry laws which let gun owners from one county get a permit while gun owners in the next county are denied the right. *Law in effect since last year.*

(Excerpted in part from "Californiality"— California Digital Library 2013)

Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

For nearly two months, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, under the leadership of Chairman U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, CA, has met with people on both sides of the aisle and all sides of the issue to develop a comprehensive set of policy principles that respect the Second Amendment and will make our schools, neighborhoods, and communities safer.

PRINCIPLES OF THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

- Support the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.
- Support citizens' rights to possess firearms for hunting, shooting sports, defense and other lawful purposes.
- Reinstate and strengthen the 1994-2004 federal ban on assault weapons.
- Reinstate the 1994-2004 federal ban on assault magazines.
- Require a background check for every gun sale, while respecting reasonable exceptions for gifts between family members and temporary loans for sporting purposes.
- Strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System database.
- Prosecute prohibited buyers who attempt to purchase firearms and others who violate federal firearms laws.
- Pass legislation aimed specifically at cracking down on illegal gun trafficking and straw purchasing (purchasing a gun for a prohibited buyer).
- Restore funding for public safety and law enforcement initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence.
- Apply prevention and early intervention strategies to prevent problems before they start.
- Close the holes in our mental-health system and make sure that care is available for those who need it.
- Help our communities get unwanted and illegal guns out of the hands of those who don't want them or shouldn't have them.
- Support responsible gun ownership, including proper storage of guns.
- Take steps to enhance school safety.
- Address our culture's glorification of violence as seen and heard through our movies, television shows, music and video games.

(Excerpted in part from the Editorial Board of the Sacramento Bee, Feb. 17, 2013)

Women's History Month



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.



JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP!!

Like many other volunteer organizations, our League has suffered a decline in membership.

Our goal has always been to maintain a solid membership in order to carry out League's mission. The time has come to work on new member recruitment. Given these facts, we are asking our current members to assist us in contacting friends, neighbors and acquaintances in Nevada County who might be interested in joining the League. Our members know how very interesting our monthly general meetings are - so, why not invite those possible new members to the next monthly meeting? They will thank you for the invitation!

Your Membership Chairs, Marcy Elliott and I, will be happy to send any prospective member a packet of information about the League: our mission, important facts about League, and, of course, a membership application. If you have questions or wish to submit a name or names of those you think might be interested, please call our League at 265-0956, or send us an e-mail at lwwnc@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Cleo Gibson, Membership/Communications co-Chair

AMERICAN HISTORY?

The following is a compilation of actual student bloopers collected by teachers from 1st grade through college:

During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinto, and the Santa Fe.

Later the Pilgrims crossed the ocean, and this was called Pilgrim's Progress. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally the colonists won the War and we no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

Soon the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

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.atoystoreforcooks.com

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarhout

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

Piano Tuning

Yvonne Ashmore Piano Service

Registered Piano Technician since 1969

(530) 273-8800

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

- Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)