



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - March 2014



**Is it Voter ID
OR VOTER SUPPRESSION?**

THE SPREAD OF VOTER SUPPRESSION

Panel Members

Irma Jordan, President, Butte County NAACP, Unit 1029

Trudy Schafer, Senior Director for Program, League of Woman Voters of California

Gail Smith, Former Election Staff Member

Saturday, March 8, 2014

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

Community Room

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

112 Nevada City Highway

Nevada City, CA 95959

THE PREZ SEZ

The record-setting drought we're experiencing this winter served as a dramatic backdrop to our February 8 meeting. This program, Valuing Our Watersheds, focused on understanding how we get water, the lynchpin that underlies California's economy. The drought has reminded us that, except for air, it's hard to think of anything that impacts the quality of one's daily life more than water.

Ironically, rain poured down in torrents on the day of the meeting, but that didn't prevent members of the local community from attending the meeting.

But why is the League, a nonpartisan political organization, interested in water? We adopt and advocate on public policy issues of local, state and national significance that our members have studied. One of our positions, Defending the Environment, includes protecting water quality. Our speakers addressed this issue from several perspectives.

Rem Scherzinger, General Manager of the Nevada Irrigation District, provided us with a wealth of information about the many watersheds comprising our 70,000 acre watershed, which provides water for local consumers and many beyond our region. He emphasized that while much of the snowpack originates at the granitic alpine level in the mountains, the forests below perform a vital role in controlling run-off and filtering the water.

Caleb Dardick, Executive Director of the South Yuba River Citizens League, inspired us with how local citizens are working to protect, not only the river, but the many resources associated with it, for instance, forests and salmon. He reinforced the connection between water and these resources that are mutually dependent. The South Yuba River drains a huge watershed, but the dams built on it can obstruct its functioning. SYRCL members fought for 16 years before the Yuba was finally designated as a "Wild and Scenic" river for 39 miles of its length, protecting it for future generations.

Izzy Martin, Chief Executive Officer of the Sierra Fund, explained that the Fund works to increase and organize investment in the Sierra Nevada region's natural resources and communities, with an emphasis on collaboration with other agencies and NGO's (non-governmental organizations). She focused on the toxic residue from old gold mining operations where mercury from the coastal mountains was brought in to separate the ore from the sludge. When mining became no longer economically viable, the toxic mercury remained in the old mines and in our waterways. But there are contemporary threats also, including unregulated marijuana grown in the forests where water and power are illegally diverted, and toxic waste is left behind when these unregulated crops are abandoned.

Our February program epitomized what the League of Women Voters is all about. We are a grassroots political organization, and our members tell us that they want programs about issues that affect their lives, like water and the ongoing threat of drought. We strive to inform voters not only about local ballot box issues and candidates, but also to find the best speakers about issues like water and drought that affect all of us

Karen Schwartz, President

Program Planning Report - Our March Meeting

The Program Planning Committee has completed plans for the March meeting, *The Spread of Voter Suppression*. The League of Women Voters has a history of supporting the right of all citizens to vote and works tirelessly in the area of voters' rights. The speakers at the March meeting will be addressing the subject from three perspectives.



- **Gail Smith**, will discuss the local election process.
- **Trudy Schafer** of the League of Women Voters of California will review the League's position and activities concerning the Voting Rights Act (VRA).
- **Irma Jordan**, President of the Butte County NAACP, will discuss recent legislative efforts in a number of states that pose a threat to voters' rights.

All three participants have much to offer in terms of what is happening on a local, state and national level.

The April meeting will be *Public Pensions* - How do they work? Who pays for them? There is much to be learned on this subject and the committee plans on having representatives from the three major public pension groups: CalPERS, CalSTRS, and NARFE.

Polly Bacich, chair
Program Planning Committee

League of Women Voters of California News - February 11, 2014

We Charge the State with Illegally Denying 60,000 the Right to Vote

We joined the ACLU of California and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area in a lawsuit charging the state with unconstitutionally stripping tens of thousands of people of their right to vote, disproportionately impacting people of color.

We believe the Secretary of State's Office violated state law by issuing a directive to local elections officials asserting that people are ineligible to vote if they are on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision. These are two new and innovative forms of community-based supervision created under California's Criminal Justice Realignment Act for people recently incarcerated for low-level, non-violent, non-serious crimes.



VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Voter Service has scheduled four Candidate Forums for the June 3, 2014, Primary Election:

Thursday, March 20:	State Assembly, District 1 House of Representatives, District 1
Thursday, March 27:	Board of Supervisors, Districts 3 and 4
Thursday, April 3:	Superior Court Judge
Thursday, April 10:	District Attorney

All forums will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Rood Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Declaration of Intention of Candidacy for Superior Court Judges ended February 5.

Declaration of Candidacy filing period for all local, nonpartisan offices is February 10 to March 7 with an additional extension period for candidates other than the incumbent if the incumbent does not file.

The State Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives are the only partisan offices on our Forum schedule. The Libertarian Party of California has this statement on their website: *“Proposition 14 passed by California voters in 2010 has curtailed Libertarian candidate races for Congressional or State level partisan offices. A lawsuit is pending on this issue.”* (NOTE: Proposition 14 created a “Top Two” or “Open Primary” election system except for U.S. President and Central Committee offices.)

John Lewis, a U.S. Representative from Georgia stated: *“In a democracy such as ours, the right to vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool the people have in a democratic society.”*

Exercise your right to vote. If you have moved since the last election, please register your new address with the Registrar of Voters. Also, please check our League’s website: lwvwno.org for Election 2014 current information.

Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service chair

A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF REPRESENTATION WE HAVE IN CONGRESS - True Story!

A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where a Representative of the House happened to appear. The Rep took the opportunity to schmooze the doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most familiar.

“Would you please tell me, Doctor,” he asked “how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?”

“Nothing is easier, the Doc replied. “You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track.”

“What sort of question?” asked the Rep asked.

“Well, you might ask, ‘Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?’”

The Rep thought a moment and then said with a nervous laugh, “You wouldn’t happen to have another example would you? I must confess I don’t know much about history.”

Sadly, not only do they walk among us, they vote and their vote equals ours and they also reproduce!

JUNE 3, 2014, PRIMARY ELECTION**OFFICES TO WHICH CANDIDATES ARE TO BE ELECTED****FEDERAL VOTER NOMINATED OFFICES**

United States 1st Congressional District, (Doug LaMalfa, Incumbent)

United States 4th Congressional District, (Tom McClintock, Incumbent)

STATE LEGISLATIVE VOTER NOMINATED OFFICES

California State Assembly, District 1, (Brian Dahle, Incumbent)

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL VOTER NOMINATED OFFICES

Governor, (Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Incumbent)

Lieutenant Governor, (Gavin Newsom, Incumbent)

Secretary of State, (Debra Bowen, Incumbent)

Controller, (John Chiang, Incumbent)

Treasurer, (Bill Lockyer, Incumbent)

Attorney General, (Kamala D. Harris, Incumbent)

Insurance Commissioner, (Dave Jones, Incumbent)

Member, State Board of Equalization, 2nd District, (George Runner, Incumbent)

STATE NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

Superintendent of Public Instruction, (Tom Torlakson, Incumbent)

COUNTY NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

Nevada County Supervisor, District 3, (Terry Lamphier, Incumbent)

Nevada County Supervisor, District 4, (Hank Weston, Incumbent)

Nevada County Assessor, (Sue Horne, Incumbent)

Nevada County Auditor-Controller, (Marcia Salter, Incumbent)

Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters, (Gregory J. Diaz, Incumbent)

Nevada County District Attorney, (Clifford Newell, Incumbent)

Nevada County Sheriff/Coroner/PA, (Keith Royal, Incumbent)

Nevada County Treasurer/Tax Collector, (Tina Vernon, Incumbent)

Superior Court Judge, (Sean P. Dowling, Incumbent)

Superior Court Judge, (Linda J. Sloven, Incumbent)

MUNICIPAL NON-PARTISAN OFFICES

Nevada City, City Council (Sally Harris, Incumbent)

Nevada City, City Council (Duane Strawser, Incumbent)

Nevada City, Treasurer (David McKay, Incumbent)

Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service chair

Introducing League Member MADELYN HELLING



Madelyn, our League Board secretary, came a long way to get to Nevada County. She was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota where hard work and plain speaking are the rule. She was a girl who loved books and reading and still remembers reading a Reader's Digest adage: When you are old, you have only your memories; it's up to you to build good memories. She took this to heart.

After graduating from the University of Northern Colorado, Madelyn relocated to Denver and eventually to San Francisco, working for United Air Lines and Air France, among others. Her time spent in the business world taught her the importance of focusing on pragmatic concerns

Eventually, Madelyn returned to her first love, books, and completed her Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of California in Berkeley. She jumped into this "wonderful" new world, and soon she was the Administrative Assistant to the San Francisco Library's head librarian. Not much later, she was ready to become a head librarian in her own right. An opening in Nevada County brought her here to our county when there were only two small libraries in the entire county. Madelyn saw the need for expanding and modernizing the county library system, providing a library in Truckee, and preserving the priceless Gold Rush heritage at the Doris Foley Library.

With the help of supportive county administrators like Gene Albaugh, she spearheaded the effort to win a federal grant for matching monies to accomplish all this and more. It's not surprising that our library at the Rood Center is named for her, but she credits the people of Nevada County for their strong support for their libraries, passing several funding measures by over 70 percent in recent years!

Today, Madelyn is retired and busier than ever. She is very involved with the League, the Railroad Museum, the Historical Society, Friends of the Library, and other worthy causes. She depends on the League to keep her informed about government and political issues, and she appreciates the support League members provided to prevent privatization of the library several years ago. And, she has many wonderful memories. . .

Karen Schwartz
President



You're invited to stay connected with the League through our Facebook page. If you're a Facebook user, you may choose to stay informed on what the League is doing by simply going to our page: **The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County**, and hitting the "like" button. We'll keep you informed about upcoming meetings and events, we'll also offer thoughtful, insightful, and sometimes provocative news stories and updates!

If you have something you would like to share with the local League and would like it included in a Facebook posting, you may contact Joey Jordan...via Facebook - OR email me at:

joey@jccampaigns.com

Joey Jordan, Social Media chair

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

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.



**Visit us on our website at lwwvnc.org
Membership in The League of Women Voters is open to men and women of all ages.**