



# *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

May 2013



**The Impact for Nevada County  
The Laws, Here and Now**

**Guest Speakers**

**Sara E. Coppin**, Attorney-at-Law, Grass Valley  
Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association

**Cecily E. Clements**, Attorney-at-Law, San Francisco  
Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association

**Saturday, May 11, 2013**

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

Peace Lutheran Church  
828 West Main  
Grass Valley

## The Prez Sez

I'm pleased to announce that our League has received an award from the LWVUS for achieving a significant increase in our membership. Our Membership co-Chairs, Marcy Elliott and Cleo Gibson have been so successful in welcoming our new members and helping them to better understand what it means to be a League member.

This accomplishment also stems from our monthly programs which attract members of our community by focusing on major issues and how they impact us all at the local level. Ideas for our programs come from members of our Program Planning Committee and from ideas submitted by those who attend our Annual Meeting.

One of the topics suggested in the past year was "Living Green," which we explored at our April 13 meeting. Martin Webb, the host of "The Energy Report" on KVMR, addressed our air pollution issues and where they originate. You may already know that Nevada County has some of the worst air in the country and that this pollution comes our way from both the Bay Area and Central Valley. Mr. Webb also said that tests of our snow pack have identified pollutants from as far away as China, proving that pollution is, indeed, a global problem. Energy consumption continues to rise because many Americans have had a false sense that energy is limitless. He opined that the cost of solar energy installations (with a federal tax credit) in many cases equates with what local residents are now paying PG&E.

Next, Richard Thomas, a board member of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, reviewed the history of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 and current attempts to revise it. Originally, the intent was to preserve the beauty and scenic diversity of our state against pressures to continue intensive development, and CEQA has been quite successful until now because economic incentives for more development are increasing, and legislators are being pressed to lower the barriers in order to stimulate California's economic recovery.

Nancy Weber, Director of NID's District 1, has been a very authoritative voice in water issues. She stressed that global warming is a reality whether or not Americans want to deny it. Our climate is warming, she asserted, and our local average precipitation is declining, as is proven by our significantly diminished snowpack.

Nevada County is fortunate to have a vital asset in its water resources, she averred, but our burgeoning water needs of our state do not bode well for our future.

Our program ended with Amigo Bob Cantisano, a local resident who farms organically in Nevada County. He informed us that 99% of Nevada County's food comes from outside the country and, thus, is transported over long distances. Even worse, he said, is that 40% of the food produced locally is not consumed. Participating in Community Supported Agriculture, using farmers' markets, buying at stores that offer locally sourced food, and developing gleaners' groups all make "green" sense.

Many thanks to all our excellent speakers who left us with new insights and ideas. Next month's meeting on immigration promises to give us yet another look at a subject that will be debated very passionately in the coming months.

Karen Schwartz, President

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our League recently received an award from LWVUS in recognition of our 14% increase in new memberships in 2012.

Invitations to an Orientation Breakfast meeting planned for Saturday, April 27 have been sent out to the 22 new members who joined our League in the years 2010-2013. This will be an opportunity to meet Board members and to learn all about League activities.

Marcy Elliott, Membership Co-Chair



## OUR MAY PROGRAM

### Immigration The Impact for Nevada County The Laws, Here and Now

The May program will feature a discussion of immigration law, a subject about which many have opinions but little, if any, facts. Two attorneys who work exclusively with immigration law will lead the discussion. Sara Coppin is a local attorney who practices in Grass Valley and Cecily Clements is an attorney from the Bay Area. The program plan calls for additional input from a local citizen or citizens who are involved in the immigration process. It is a vast subject, so there is much to be learned. The purpose is to inform members of the community who will be better prepared to make a judgment when confronted with the ongoing political rhetoric.

Polly Bacich, Program Planning Chair

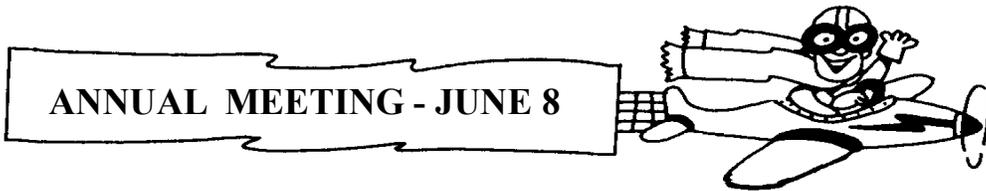
#### Guest Speakers:



**Sara E. Coppin** is a Northern California-based attorney with years of experience helping non-citizens navigate the complicated landscapes of federal immigration and California criminal law. Sara is a member of the State Bar of California, California Appellate Defense Counsel, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and many other professional associations and memberships.



**Cecily E. Clements** won her first case when she successfully immigrated her own husband to the United States through the consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Since then, she has helped individuals from all over the world be reunited with their family members. Cecily is a member of the State Bar of California, The American Immigration Lawyers Association, the National Immigration Project for the National Lawyers Guild, and many other professional associations and memberships.



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Janet Reynolds**  
**Stephanie Mandel**

*To protect the privacy of our members, home addresses, phone numbers, and emails may be obtained by contacting LWVWNC MEMBERSHIP at (530) 265-0956.*

## THE FIRST LADIES OF AMERICA



### Elizabeth “Betty” Ford (40th First Lady of the United States)

**In 25 years of political life, Betty Bloomer Ford did not expect to become First Lady. As wife of Representative Gerald R. Ford, she looked forward to his retirement and more time together. In late 1973 his selection as Vice President was a surprise to her. She was just becoming accustomed to their new roles when he became President upon Richard Nixon’s resignation in August 1974.**

Born Elizabeth Anne Bloomer in Chicago, she grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from high school there. She studied modern dance at Bennington College in Vermont, decided to make it a career, and became a member of Martha Graham’s noted concert group in New York City, supporting herself as a fashion model for the John Robert Powers firm. Close ties with her family and her home town took her back to Grand Rapids, where she became fashion coordinator for a department store. She also organized her own dance group and taught dance to handicapped children.

Her first marriage, at age 24, ended in divorce five years later on the grounds of incompatibility. Not long afterward she began dating Jerry Ford, football hero, graduate of the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, and soon a candidate for Congress. They were married during the 1948 campaign; he won his election; and the Fords lived in the Washington area for nearly three decades thereafter.

They had four children—Michael, Jack, Steven, and Susan—born in the next ten years. As her husband’s political career became more demanding, Betty Ford found herself shouldering many of the family responsibilities; she also continued her volunteer work. In addition, she was an effective campaigner for her husband.

Betty Ford faced her new life as First Lady with dignity and serenity. She accepted it as a challenge. “I like challenges very much,” she said. She had the self-confidence to express herself with humor and forthrightness whether speaking to friends or to the public. Forced to undergo radical surgery for breast cancer in 1974, she reassured many troubled women by discussing her ordeal openly. She explained that “maybe if I as First Lady could talk about it candidly and without embarrassment, many other people would be able to as well.” As soon as possible, she resumed her duties as hostess at the Executive Mansion and her role as a public-spirited citizen. She did not hesitate to state her views on controversial issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, which she strongly supported.

From their home in California, she was equally frank about her successful battle against dependency on drugs and alcohol. She helped establish the Betty Ford Center for treatment of this problem at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

She has described the role of First Lady as “much more than a 24-hour job than anyone would guess” and says of her predecessors: “Now that I realize what they’ve had to put up with, I have new respect and admiration for every one of them.” In addition to founding the Betty Ford Center, she continued to lobby for the ERA and remained active in women’s issues by taking on numerous speaking engagements and lending her name to charities for fundraising purposes.

After a marriage of 58 years, Gerald R. Ford died in 2006 at the age of 93. Neither was shy about their mutual love and equal respect, and they were known to have a strong personal and political partnership. Betty Ford died on July 8, 2011, of natural causes at the age of 93 at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

*(Reprinted in part from: TheWhiteHouse.gov. and Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia)*

**What follows is a copy of the letter sent by Representative Doug LaMalfa in reply to Polly Bacich, Action/Legislative Chair's letter of March 4, 2013, (April 2013 issue) requesting a reply from the Congressman regarding his vote against the Violence Against Women Act renewal:**

March 19, 2013

P Bacich  
PO Box 1306  
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1306

Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for the reauthorization of the Violence against Women Act. I appreciate hearing from you and value the opportunity to respond.

The Violence against Women Act (VAWA), which was enacted in 1994, provides federal funding for programs and organizations that help assist women who are victims of domestic abuse, stalking and sexual assault. Additionally, the Act establishes a number of grant programs within the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for state, local, and tribal governments and victim service providers. Currently, the DOJ's Office on Violence against Women, which was established in 1995, administers the DOJ grants authorized by VAWA.

As you know, S.47, the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont on January 22, 2013. It modifies or expands grant conditions under the Act, including requirements relating to: (1) nondisclosure of personally identifying information or other client information, (2) information sharing between grantees and sub grantees, (3) civil rights and non discrimination, (4) audits, and (5) nonprofit organizations. The Act also requires the Office on Violence against Women of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a biennial transference process with state and tribal coalitions, technical assistance providers, and other key stakeholders on the administration of grants and related matters. Lastly, it requires the Attorney General to authorize in writing expenditures for DOJ conferences that exceed \$20,000. Following its introduction, it was both passed in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Violence against women is not a partisan issue. It is a serious societal issue that deserves the utmost attention. As a strong advocate for families, women, and children, I support legislation that would ensure that women are safe and have access to the resources they need to protect themselves and their families. I believe providing an appropriate support system and establishing efficient criminalization for any sort of violence should be a top priority in Congress. I voiced my support for this cause with my vote in favor of the substitute amendment offered by the House.

Regrettably, I could not justify supporting the Senate bill which disseminates programs for victims of sexual trafficking by cutting \$85 million, leaving a bare-bones program in its place. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act has been one of the most effective programs under VAWA. It was not possible for me to rationalize supporting legislation that would significantly increase spending overall, but slash this successful program.

Furthermore, I have concerns regarding the constitutional authority of the Senate-passed version of the Violence against Women Act. The bill grants tribal judges authority to enter a final judgment of conviction in certain criminal cases even though tribal judges are not appointed by the President, the head of a department, or a court of law, as required by Article II of the United State Constitution. Additionally, the bill grants tribal courts that authority even though tribal judges lack the life tenure and salary protection which is required by Article III.

Although we not see eye-to-eye, I will be sure to keep your perspective in mind regarding this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance. If you would like to stay connected to our office with the latest news, legislation, and other useful information, please visit my website at <http://lamalfa.house.gov>. Thank you again for your communication, and please do not hesitate to contact my office with any future questions or comments. It is an honor to be your representative in Congress.

Sincerely,  
(signature)  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

*League of Women Voters Western Nevada County  
Annual Meeting - June 8, 2013*

**Luncheon Reservation Form**  
(Please return by Friday, May 31)

**Place**

**Tofanelli's Restaurant (The Atrium)**  
302 West Main Street  
Grass Valley

**Time**

**Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Luncheon at 12 p.m.**

**Cost**

**\$17 per person\***

**Menu**

**ENTRÉE #1 - French Dip Sandwich**

Sliced rare roast beef on a grilled ciabatta roll with *au jus* on the side. French fries

**ENTRÉE #2 - Club Croissant Sandwich**

Turkey, avocado, bacon, tomato, lettuce, mayonnaise on a croissant. French fries

**ENTRÉE #3 - Chicken Caesar Salad**

Romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese, croutons, Caesar dressing, grilled chicken. Bread & butter

**Dessert** - Scoop of spumoni ice cream

**Beverages** - Coffee, tea, iced tea, soda

**\*Price includes entrée, dessert, beverages, tax and tip**



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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRÉE \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations must be received by Friday, May 31, 2013  
 Make check payable to: LWVWNC  
 Send to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1306, Grass Valley, CA 95945

**The article below is a follow-up from Amanda Wilcox, Advocate for Gun Safety Legislation, and one of the panelists on our March 9, 2013, program on “Gun Safety.”**

**Subject: LWV meeting - Behind the different statistics**

Grass Valley Chief Foster was kind enough to send me the FBI statistics on gun deaths that he quoted in last month’s League of Women Voters meeting. He said that in 2011, 6,220 Americans were killed by handguns. (His FBI stats show that total firearms homicides in 2011 were 8,583.)

I said that about 31,000 die from gunfire every year (52% suicides, 1% legal intervention). (About 12,000 are murdered.) My data is from: *CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System* and is an average annual estimated composite picture of gun violence based on death certificates and estimates from emergency room admissions. (Source: [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisgars/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisgars/) Calculations by Brady Center).

Obviously, and as I said at the meeting, one big difference in our numbers is that my statistics were including suicides, accidental shootings and unintentional shootings as well as homicides. However, I found our different numbers for firearm homicides to be disturbing. I made a number of inquiries about this and have learned that: **The biggest factor in the divergence between FBI and CDC data is that they are reporting information from different sources. The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports are based on voluntary reporting by law enforcement agencies around the country. In fact, FBI’s web site acknowledges that its reporting is incomplete. By contrast, CDC data is drawn from death certificates, and the CDC has contracts with state health departments to facilitate the reporting of death certificate information to its system.**

The FBI collects murder data, but academic researchers say the CDC data is the more accurate measure of gun murders. CDC gets its data from the National Vital Statistics System, which collects death certificates that are required to be filed in every state. But the FBI relies on the voluntary reporting of law enforcement agencies that results in under-reporting.

Even so, the CDC homicide data is not a perfect measurement of murders in the U.S. CDC homicide data, by its definition, is supposed to include only “injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill.” But Catherine Barber, at the Harvard School of Public Health’s Injury Control Research Center, said that some local coroners and medical examiners “take a more literal definition of homicide,” so some accidental shootings are included in the CDC data. Also, the CDC data, by definition, includes “justifiable homicides,” which also are not murders. Barber said the CDC’s reporting issues may overstate U.S. murder statistics by “a couple of hundred” - but its data are still “more reliable” than the FBI’s voluntary system of reporting.

I wish I had this information in response to the question on why our numbers differ. Now I know. It is certainly a lesson in the importance of knowing how data was collected. I thought that I would share this with you in case you have the opportunity to pass it on. I did enjoy the opportunity to speak about gun violence prevention.

Best regards,

Amanda Wilcox  
California Chapters  
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

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[www.annarmstrong.org](http://www.annarmstrong.org)

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*"Half the American people have never read a newspaper. Half have never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."*

- Gore Vidal (1925-2012)