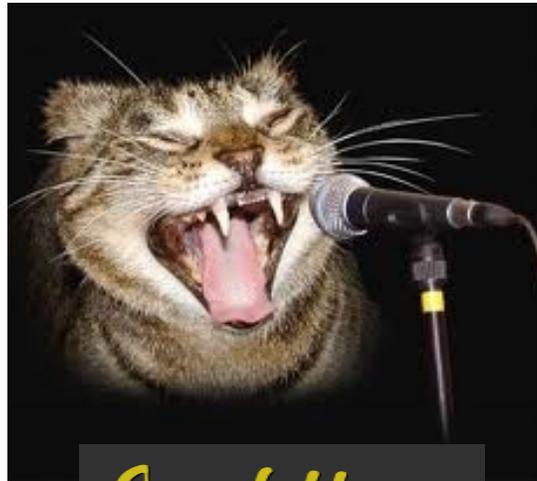




# *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

November 2012



*Speak Up*

at the

**SPEAK  
OUT**

A simple line drawing of a megaphone, positioned below the word 'OUT'.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**

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

Peace Lutheran Church  
828 West Main  
Grass Valley

## THE PREZ SEZ

What makes League membership worthwhile?

After our October meeting presenting Pros and Cons on the November ballot measures, one of our members, Madelyn Helling, summed it up well when she said: "If the League did nothing else but the Pros and Cons, this makes the League worth it."

Madelyn was reacting to the presentations by our local League members describing the eleven propositions on the November ballot to a full house of concerned citizens. Each presenter had done her homework and informed us of the advantages and flaws of each proposition. Kudos to Voter Service Chair Ruth Schwartz and presenters Polly Bacich, Anne DeWitt, Arlene Robertson, Annamaria Sauer, Helen Williamson, and especially to Joey Jordan who not only prepared the power-point slides but also presented her own proposition and that of another member who was unable to be present.

True to the League's dedication to non-partisanship, our presenters did not express their personal political preferences, but presented the information in an impartial manner. This is a real challenge for anyone who holds strong views on proposed solutions that involve so many of us.

Next month's meeting should be just as informative, but in a very different way. Our November meeting will give us the opportunity to express our opinions on a variety of topics that we will consider for future meetings. As a grass-roots organization, we listen carefully to what our members tell us of their concerns, and our programs reflect their concerns.

In addition, we know how to have fun. It's too early to talk about our December Holiday Party, but our November get-together includes our celebrated "soup luncheon", featuring a variety of homemade soups and, as always, the opportunity for more of the sociable give-and-take that League members are noted for! A special dessert will follow the soup and is a salute to the wisdom of our elder members who have reached their 8th and 9th decades. **We also have a member who will be 99 years and 2 months young! Congratulations, Edi Silverman!** Please join us for this special occasion.

Karen Schwartz, President

Did the election "fix things"?  
YOU have an Opinion !

So ...

**SPEAK UP at the SPEAK OUT!**



We hope to have a spirited dialogue with members in order to ascertain where they feel our League should focus our energy and our deliberations in 2013. Shall we consider what life would be like "off the grid"? Did the election really "fix" things, or are we back where we started? How about the growing number of senior citizens in our community—are we ready to supply the services they will need? Is the Dream Act the answer to immigration reform? Public pensions—how do they affect the economy, or do they?

Will the November General Election results demand our energy and involvement this year? In short, we need to hear from you in order to determine where and how we use this energy to the best advantage as we head into 2013.

Come to our membership meeting on November 10 and **Speak Up at the Speak Out!**



## VOTER SERVICE ELECTION 2012 REPORT



The Voter Service Committee began the fall presidential year with a Candidates' Forum for the Grass Valley City Council. Janet Arbuckle, James Firth, Howard Levine, Lisa Swarhout and Patricia Tureaud answered questions from the audience and our local media. Justin Gross was unable to attend, but he did submit a written statement. Polly Bacich moderated and Patty Werner and Annamaria Sauer served as time-keepers. This was the only forum the League held for the 2012 fall election.

We then switched our focus to the Pros and Cons of the eleven ballot measures. Unlike other organizations, the League's presentations are unbiased and present no recommendations. We do offer website information for the audience members to do further study on their own. The October League general meeting featured the ballot measures with our committee members giving an in-depth study of each. An overflow audience listened, took notes, asked many pertinent questions and returned home with a better understanding of the ballot measures.

Several local community organizations have requested a shorter Pros and Cons presentation for their members and/or residents including Eskaton, NARFE, The Lions' Club, the Daughters of the Golden West and the Unitarian Universalist Church. This year we are including Hospitality House, where we will be registering voters and discussing the ballot proposals. All too often the homeless have been disenfranchised from their basic right to cast a ballot for the candidates and for the propositions of their choice ... we honor their right to vote!

Many thanks to our dedicated Voter Service Committee. Your commitment to excellence is outstanding! Polly Bacich, Anne DeWitt, Mary Dreifuss, Joey Jordan, Carol Kuczora, Sharon O'Hara, Max Norton, Arlene Robertson, Annamaria Sauer, Karen Schwartz and Helen Williamson - you are the best!

Ruth Schwartz  
Voter Service Chair

They came first for the Communists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a  
Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a  
trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a  
Jew.

Then they came for me,  
and by that time no one was left to speak up.

Martin Niemoller (1892-1984)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**RECOMMENDS**  
 November 6, 2012 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

<b>PROP 30</b>	<b>Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act</b> (Initiative - Constitutional Amendment)	<b>YES</b>
<b>PROP 31</b>	<b>Government Performance and Accountability Act</b> (Initiative - Constitutional Amendment)	<b>NO</b>
<b>PROP 32</b>	<b>Special Exemptions Act</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>NO</b>
<b>PROP 33</b>	<b>Auto Insurance Companies</b>	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 34</b>	<b>SAFE California Act</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>YES</b>
<b>PROP 35</b>	<b>Human Trafficking</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 36</b>	<b>Three Strikes Law</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 37</b>	<b>Genetically Engineered Foods</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 38</b>	<b>Tax for Education and Early Childhood Education</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 39</b>	<b>Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses</b> (Initiative Statute)	<b>No Recommendation</b>
<b>PROP 40</b>	<b>Referendum on Redistricting</b> (Referendum)	<b>YES</b>





## *Lena Horne* (1917-2010) - A TRIBUTE

*Lena Horne, actress, singer, and civil rights pioneer, was one of the most talented and influential women of her generation. Born in 1917 in an upper middle class home in Brooklyn, New York, she was raised by her grandmother and grandfather, Cora and Edwin Horne.*

Lena found an early inspiration for the course she would take in life in the person of her grandmother, Cora Calhoun Horne. Cora Calhoun was a seasoned political activist, recognized during her lifetime as a major suffragist and one of the pioneers of the Niagara Movement, the movement that led to the founding of the NAACP. Under her grandmother's guidance, Lena became a member of the NAACP as a toddler. Along with her social and political activism, Cora Calhoun was also a philanthropist and an advocate of education for Blacks. In 1917, Cora Calhoun secured a scholarship that allowed a young Paul Robeson to attend Rutgers University. This legacy inspired a lifelong friendship between Lena Horne and Paul Robeson in later years.

At fifteen, Lena left her grandparent's home in order to live with her mother, Edna, an aspiring actress and former debutante. In 1933 at the age of sixteen, in an effort to support herself and contribute to the family income, she took a job performing in the chorus at the Cotton Club in Harlem. After a while she joined the orchestra of band leader Noble Sissle and toured the country. She first earned fame and recognition with his orchestra, and credited his mentorship as the bedrock on which she built her future career.

In 1941, Lena Horne signed a contract with MGM Studios. Considered too light to appear on screen in Black roles, the studio commissioned Max Factor to create a special make-up, known as "Dark Egyptian" to darken her skin. Her first major role came in 1942's *Panama Hattie*. She played a singer whose screen performance had nothing to do with the plot. The reason for this was so the studios could cut out her role (as well as those of other Black actors) when the film was screened in the South, where Black performers could not be portrayed in major roles on screen. She followed *Panama Hattie* with her two most successful efforts in Hollywood—*Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*, both released in 1943. *Stormy Weather* gave Lena her signature song. Since that time, the song "Stormy Weather" has been identified with her and has been a hallmark of her long, illustrious career.

Beginning in the 1950s, Lena Horne was blacklisted by Hollywood and the entertainment industry because of her friendship with Paul Robeson, her dedication to progressive politics, and her outspokenness on racial issues. Lena Horne literally embodied the turmoil of racial politics in the United States. Through the Calhoun family, Lena Horne was the great-great granddaughter of the staunchest pro-slavery senator to sit in the U.S. Senate before the Civil War, Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. Her passion for justice matched his fervent calls for human bondage. During World War II, while performing on a USO tour, Lena decisively left the front of the room where only the white soldiers sat alongside several German POWs and moved to the back of the room to sing for the Black soldiers.

Looking back at the age of 80, she said: "My identity is very clear to me now. I am a black woman. I'm free. I no longer have to be a 'credit.' I don't have to be a symbol to anybody; I don't have to be a first to anybody. I don't have to be an imitation of a white woman that Hollywood sort of hoped I'd become. I'm me, and I'm like nobody else."

Lena Horne died on Mother's Day, May 9, 2010 at the age of 92.



**WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10**  
**WHERE: AT THE SPEAK-OUT !**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**  
**\$5.00 PER PERSON**

Come and join us on November 10 for a delicious, heartwarming bowl of homemade soup and a special dessert.

Soup, dessert and a chance to “vent” about the general election, gun control, immigration, senior services, and those public pensions.  
 What a menu!

Remember to mark your calendar so you’ll not miss this important get-together where we begin to take aim at our 2013 League priorities and programs.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

**Erika Gaylor**

**WELCOME BACK!**

**Linda Hartman**

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



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Polly Bacich

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Marcy Elliott

*Hospitality*

Anne DeWitt

*Nominations*

Sharon O’Hara

*Parliamentarian*

Edi Silverman

*Public Relations*

Carol Kuczora

*Voter Service*

Ruth Schwartz

*Voter Editor*

Mary Dreifuss

### NEW MEMBERS' ORIENTATION BRUNCH

The New Members' Orientation Brunch has been rescheduled for **Friday, October 26 at 10 a.m.** Those of you who were new to the League of Women Voters Western Nevada County in 2010, 2011 and 2012 have been sent invitations to this important event. The Board members are looking forward to this opportunity to share information about all aspects of League activity.

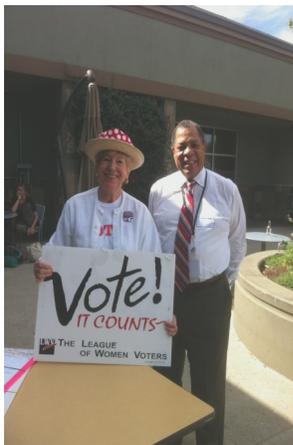
Marcy Elliott, Membership co-Chair

### Annual Holiday Party/Fundraiser

Our annual **Holiday Party and Fund-raiser** will be held on December 15 this year.

Sue Nepstead has volunteered to take charge of the Fundraiser aspect of the event. This year we will have a Grande Book Sale and several Gift Certificates to bid on. If you have books you would like to donate, please call Sue at the League number, 265-0956, or email her at [lwwnc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwnc@gmail.com). She will pick up your donation, if you wish.

We would like to have all donations by the first week of December.



Sharon O'Hara and Greg Diaz

### VOTER REGISTRATION 2012

We have had a productive collaboration with AAUW and BPW through the voter registration project at BriarPatch. Starting with my request to place a box of voter registration forms in the staff room, the management of BriarPatch realized that their site would be a good one for outreach. Proposition 37 about labeling GMO's is an important issue for patrons and management alike. We were provided with a table and chairs as well as the convenience of storing our materials between shifts. Stephanie Mandel and other staff members went out of their way in order to make our task easy and productive.

Some of the first young people to register in September asked that their photo be taken on their phones in order to, "send it to my mom who's been nagging me to register." We've had 18 year olds, new citizens, and those who are new to Nevada County, or have recently moved within the county. Our volunteers learned to ask for TWO cross streets for those who have only a PO box and no permanent home address and to refer questions to the Registrar or to "sos.ca.gov." for online registration.

An especially pleasant experience about being at BriarPatch has been the many smiles and words of thanks from customers. We've had musicians and the clown painting faces on happy children, hugs from friends passing by, and brought more than 150 completed forms to the Rood Center. Both BPW and AAUW have ongoing projects encouraging women ages 18-30 to vote in this election. We've been successful in registering close to 50 women in that age group.

Special thanks to League members AnneDeWitt and Sue Nepstead for volunteering to help register people to vote. A number of passersby commented on and took the League materials, brochures, and flyers. Sue provided the thought-provoking list "One Vote" that appeared in *The Voter*, the League's newsletter, that showed how history was changed by just one vote.

It is my hope that this collaboration among The League of Women Voters, AAUW, and the Business and Professional Women will lead to other projects on which we can all work together.

Sharon O'Hara, LWWNC member

**We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals**

**SPD Markets**

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

[www.spdmarket.com](http://www.spdmarket.com)

**New Moon Café**

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

[www.thenewmooncafe.com](http://www.thenewmooncafe.com)

**A. Ann Armstrong**

**Armstrong & Associates**

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

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

**Hair Razors**

**Amy Pirtle**

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

**The Book Seller**

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

[www.thebookseller.biz](http://www.thebookseller.biz)

**The Wooden Spoon**

**A Toy Store for Cooks**

2066 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

[www.woodenspooncalif.com](http://www.woodenspooncalif.com)

**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](http://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](http://www.flourgarden.com)

**Mill Street Clothing**

**Lisa Swarhout**

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

**Schramberg Construction**

**No Job Too Small**

New Construction . Remodels . Decks . Maintenance

**Chris Schram**

530-265-3081 CLB Lic#724704 Nevada City, CA

**Eskaton Village Grass Valley**

625 Eskaton Circle, Grass Valley

(530) 273-1778

License #297001933