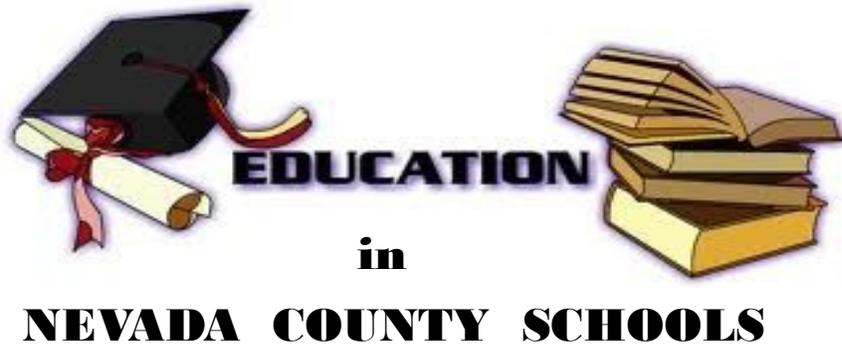




The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

September 2012



Cutbacks – Consolidation – Curriculum

What's the future?

Our Panel

Marianne Cartan

Superintendent of the Nevada Joint High School District

Trish Gerving

Member of the Nevada City School Board

and

A Representative of the Grass Valley School District

Saturday, September 8, 2012

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

Peace Lutheran Church

828 West Main Street

Grass Valley

THE PREZ SEZ

Welcome back. As you may have noticed, the League operates on an academic calendar year, with the new year starting in September and ending in June followed by a two month summer break. Maybe that's because so many of our members are or have been teachers.

But not all League members are teachers. We include women who have worked in private business or non-profit organizations, and other civic-minded women who may never have worked outside the home.

And never forget our valued male members, who tend to be highly involved in volunteering countless hours of community service to local groups like Friends of the Library, the Nevada County Grand Jury, and the Historical Society.

We are a nonpartisan political group. What we all share is a concern about our community, a community that extends well beyond our neighborhood or town or county. Although we're especially interested in what is happening in Nevada County, we also care about what happens in California, our nation, and the world beyond.

Because we are a grass roots organization, our meeting topics reflect our members' concerns. Our members have broad interests covering many ideas and issues but they also want to know the bottom-line practicalities. We plan our monthly meeting topics to reflect these interests. At our Annual Meeting in the spring and our Speak-Out meeting in the fall, our members tell us what topics they want us to pursue. Our Program Planning committee, ably chaired by Polly Bacich, takes it from there, and seeks speakers who can best address what our members want to know.

You told us that you were concerned about public education, which is facing dire financial problems. If you agree that the educational attainment of today's youth will directly impact our future prosperity, then you understand the importance of this topic. At our opening meeting on September 8 we'll examine the status of public education in Nevada County. The program may also help you decide how to vote on the various public education funding tax measures which will appear on the November ballot.

Because we believe in active, informed citizen participation in government, we present timely topics at our monthly meetings. Our October meeting will present the Pros & Cons of the various propositions on the November ballot.

Join us.

Clarification of the June Meeting Report: Per Elaine Sierra, Citizens for Choice was co-founded by the League, AAUW and BPW in 1989, and Citizens for Choice founded "The Clinic!" site and provided the initial funding for the facility. Thank you, Elaine.

Karen Schwartz
President

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!
We wish to extend our warmest welcome to

FRAN COLES
And
KATHY FILES

Our September Program

Nevada County Schools Cutbacks-Consolidation-Curriculum What's the future?

The meeting scheduled for September 8 will feature a panel of Nevada County educators who will review the current status of the schools as a result of the statewide budget crunch.

The discussion will include an exploration of consolidating districts and the changes that would bring. Another important consideration is the curriculum. What has been the impact? Finally, cutbacks in staff, pink slips, increased class size—all of these relate directly to the quality of educational offerings for our local students.

The panel will include Marianne Cartan, Superintendent of the Nevada Joint Union High School District, Trish Gerving, a member of the Nevada City School Board, and a representative of the Grass Valley School District, yet to be named.

The crisis in public education statewide is aptly demonstrated locally. How are these districts meeting the challenge? Join us on September 8 - listen, learn and join the discussion. You'll be glad you did!

Polly Bacich
Program Planning Chair

**DUE TO ECONOMIC
CUTBACKS, THE LIGHT
AT THE END OF THE
TUNNEL HAS
BEEN TURNED OFF!**



The Board has set the date, Friday, September 28, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a Members' Orientation Brunch.

If you are new to the League or have never attended an orientation meeting, please plan to take advantage of this opportunity to learn what it means when the League is undertaking a "study", how the League reaches "consensus", takes a "position" and then implements "action" at the local, state and national levels.

The Board members will discuss the portfolios of Voter Service, Observer Corps, Program Planning and Action/Legislation and the many activities of these committees. Each member's participation in some aspect of League activity is important! Please join us for this special event.

Please RSVP to Membership Co-Chair, Marcy Elliott (see phone number and email address in your Membership Directory).

Cleo Gibson
Marcy Elliott
Membership Co-Chairs

JUST A NOTE:



"We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way thru Congress."

-Will Rogers

"I don't feel old ...I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

- Bob Hope



THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

Steps in the Initiative Process



- Proponents write the text of the proposed law.
- The draft is submitted to the Attorney General along with \$200. The money is refunded if the measure qualifies for the ballot, otherwise it is placed in the state's general fund.
- The Attorney General prepares a title and official summary.
- The Attorney General sends the summary to proponents, the Senate, the Assembly and the Secretary of State. The Legislature may conduct public hearings on it, but cannot amend it.
- Calendar deadlines are calculated from the date the summary is sent to the proponents (the official summary date).
- Petitions must have the official summary on each summary page.
- Circulation of petitions can only begin on the official summary date. Completed, signed petitions must be filed no later than 150 days from the official summary date. Each initiative will be placed on the next state-wide general or special election ballot that occurs 131 days after the petition qualifies.
- Number of signatures required:
 1. Initiative statute: five percent of the votes cast for all candidates who ran for governor in the last election. The number of signatures required to qualify for this ballot is 373,816.
 2. Initiative constitutional amendment: eight percent of the votes cast for all candidates who ran for governor in the last election. The number required to qualify for this ballot was 598,105.
- Signers may withdraw their names by filing a written request.
- Petitions must be filed in the county in which they were circulated.
- If the state total based on random sampling is more than 110 percent of the required number of signatures, the Secretary of State certifies the initiative as qualified for the ballot. If the random sampling total is between 95 and 110 percent of the required number, a full count of all of the signatures is required.
- When the initiative measure qualifies, it is sent to the Legislature. It is assigned to the appropriate committees, which then hold joint public hearings on the subject at least 30 days before the election. The Legislature has no authority to alter the measure or prevent it from going on the ballot.
- Under the Political Reform Act of 1974, committees supporting or opposing an initiative must file campaign disclosure statements if they have made or received contributions or made expenditures.
- Proponents and opponents may submit arguments for inclusion in the ballot pamphlets.
- An initiative measure approved by majority vote takes effect the day after the election unless it specifies otherwise. If provisions of two or more measures approved at the same election conflict, those of the measure receiving the highest affirmative vote prevail. The Legislature may amend or repeal initiative statutes by another statute that becomes effective only when approved by voters, unless the initiative statute permits amendment or repeal without their approval.

(Adapted from the LWV California 1998 Initiative and Referendum study kit, pages 9 and 10.)

For a detailed description of the initiative process, go to the California Secretary of State's website.



The **Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad** began operations in 1876 to provide reliable year-round transportation to the rich mining districts of western Nevada County, California. The original twenty-two and a half mile route began in Nevada City, traveled to the railroad's headquarters in Grass Valley, and then on to Colfax for connections to the Central Pacific.

During sixty-six years of colorful operation, it hauled out more than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) worth of gold while bringing in mining machinery, lumber, petroleum products and all of the essentials necessary to maintain the thriving county. Thousands rode its first class passenger trains, mixed trains, and the occasional special excursions.

Affectionately known as the "Never Come, Never Go", the railroad's reliable service, combined with the prosperity of the mines, helped Nevada County avoid hard times during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

The narrow gauge route boasted the highest railroad bridge in California for its time (the 1908 Bear River Bridge), and was the first railroad in the U.S. to have a woman president (Sarah Kidder, 1901-1913).

The outbreak of World War II led to the closure of the gold mines and, with its major customers gone, the railroad was scrapped in 1942.

(Reprinted courtesy of the Nevada County Historical Society)

The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad and Transportation Museum, 55 Kidder Court, Nevada City, will play host to a book signing event at the museum on October 6. Chris Enss, award winning screenwriter and author of many books on the Old West will be present. Her book "Thunder Over the Prairie" is being made into a movie and "The Cowboy and the Senorita" will soon be made into a Broadway musical, recalling the life and times of Roy Rogers. This will be a fun-filled event—refreshments, music, costumes. So, mark your calendars— October 6, 2012, 12:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.

VOTER SERVICE



The Voter Service Committee is studying the eleven (11) measures that will appear on the November 6 ballot, and will feature the Pros & Cons of these measures at the League's general meeting of October 13.

Any community organization that would like to schedule a League Pros & Cons presentation, please contact Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service Chair, at 265-0956 or email lwvwnc@gmail.com.



ADAH ISAAC MENKEN 1835- 1868

Internationally famous for her starring role in the equestrian drama *Mazeppa*, in which she was stripped on stage to a flesh-colored body stocking, lashed to the back of the “wild horse of Tartary,” and sent flying on a narrow ramp above the theater, **Adah Isaac Menken** consistently defied social mores. She cropped her black hair and smoked cigarettes, and publicly disparaged conventional married life. Menken represented an early example of the cult of personality, blurring her private life with her public persona. Whether riding in a gaudy carriage through Central Park or exploiting the incipient art of photography to place her face in every shop window, Menken was expert at self-promotion and publicity. She married four times in the course of seven years. Her second marriage in 1859 was to heavyweight boxing champion of the world John C. Heenan with whom she had a son who died in infancy. She had one other child by her fourth husband. This child also died in infancy.

Adah Menken was to the San Francisco of Civil War days what Tetrizzini was to the city in the early years of the twentieth century. She achieved her success and fame in San Francisco. She was part of San Francisco life. From San Francisco her sensational fame as *Mazeppa* traveled around the world and, during the years she lived in the city and played *Mazeppa*, she belonged to the city. Although it was her performance in *Mazeppa* that made her famous, Adah was not only an actress but also a poet who gained wide recognition. Having played only minor roles until 1861, and always driven by her enormous desire for recognition, Adah, when being offered the role of the main character in *Mazeppa* decided not to play it in the traditional way but in a much more daring manner. The play is a melodrama based on a poem by Lord Byron. The climax of the play is a scene in which the Tartar Mazeppa is “stripped of his clothes by his captors and bound to the back of a wild horse” galloping through the set of papier-mâché cliffs, the horse and rider jump over the cliffs and disappear in the clouds in the back of the stage. Adah insisted on playing the scene herself. This apparently dangerous act as well as the fact that Adah appeared to be nude made her an overnight sensation. Reports of what exactly Adah’s costume was vary, but all critics agreed that her costume was very risqué—ranging from a short Greek skirt to tight-fitting cotton underwear.

With very few exceptions, the public was captivated by Adah and adored her. The prospectors in Virginia City, for example, gave her a gold ingot worth \$2000 and named a street as well as a mine after her. One evening, it is alleged, that Adah claimed that she could box as well as any man - since she was once married to a boxer - and would box against anyone willing to give it a try. It is said that she knocked out the fellow in the second round.

She took her act to London and the public went wild. Charles Dickens fell in love with her; Dante Rossetti and a score of other wooed her, but the tide turned. Ill health, the result of dissipation, wasted her away. She had made a fortune; her wealth disappeared, and she lived in comparative poverty. In London she published her volume of Victorian poems and realized a few dollars. A convert to Judaism, she regularly refused to perform on Jewish High Holidays. On her deathbed at age thirty-three, suffering from what may have been peritonitis, or tuberculosis (or both), and treated by the personal doctor of Napoleon III, Menken was visited by a rabbi.

One of the most glamorous celebrities of the 1860’s, Adah Isaacs Menken died on August 10, 1868, in Paris. She is buried in the Jewish section of Montparnasse Cemetery.

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

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

<http://spdmarket.com>

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

**A. Ann Armstrong
Armstrong & Associates**

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrongandassociates.com

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 273-6793

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

booksgv@pacbell.net

Country Copy Print Shop

Maggi Cammack

1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-4657

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

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2006 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Flour Garden Bakery

11999 Sutton Way & 109 Neal Street, Grass Valley

340 C Elm Avenue, Auburn

(530) 272-2043 - (530) 477-2253

M-Sat. 5a-7p, Sun. 6a-8p www.flourgarden.com