



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

The Voter - September, 2013



Stand Against Stigma

Changing minds about mental illness.

Our Guest Panel:

PETER VAN HOUTEN, MD

Founder and Medical Director
Sierra Family Medical Clinic

LYNN CAMERON

Student Assistance Program Coordinator
Nevada Joint Union High School District

Saturday, September 14, 2013

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

Peace Lutheran Church

828 West Main

Grass Valley



LEADERS' UPDATE

August 15, 2013

There has been more news on the voting rights front this week, especially as we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the March on Washington. The Governor of North Carolina signed an omnibus voter suppression bill into law on Monday. This new law restricts voting not just by requiring the most restrictive voter photo ID, but also significantly cuts back on early voting and restricts voter registration.

North Carolina has a proud tradition of forward thinking election administration. Early voting and Election Day registration during the early voting period have worked well for voters in the state. The new law cuts early voting periods in half and ends registration at the polls during the early voting period. With a stroke of his pen, the governor eliminated North Carolina as a model of good election administration practices and made it the subject of lawsuits aimed at returning the state to Justice Department preclearance under the Voting Rights Act. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits that have already been filed.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President
League of Women Voters of
the United States

PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

Mental Illness Awareness Stand Against Stigma

The September meeting will focus on mental illness, not just the diagnosis, but how it is dealt with - by the family and the community.

Dr. Peter Van Houten of the Sierra Family Medical Clinic and Lynn Cameron of the Nevada Joint Union High School District will discuss not only the diagnosis, but the after-effects.

Each speaker deals with a different segment of the population, but the problems are similar. Three members of the community who are so affected will also participate.

How does one deal with the reaction to this diagnosis of family and friends? What kinds of reactions are encountered? What is our role as a community in understanding not only the illness itself, but how our reactions influence the individual and the family who are dealing with this disease.

We hope that this meeting will provide a better understanding of the stigma that is invariably attached to a diagnosis of mental illness. After listening to the panelists and the community speakers, all of us will become more aware of this illness and what can be done to alleviate the stigma associated with it.

Polly Bacich, Chair
Program Planning Committee

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Doris Churnside
Susan Murphy**

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



GRAND OPENING For New Technology Center

The public was invited to participate in the grand opening celebration of the Madelyn Helling Library's Collaborative Technology Center (CTC) this August 13. This entirely grant-funded project adds an additional 2,000 square feet of space to the Helling Library, which can be used by up to 70 people at one time. The center will house 15 PCs, five iMacs, 20 Dell notebooks, 25 iPads, five Nook Colors, five Kindle Fires, five Samsung Galaxy Tab 2s class sets of video-graphy equipment, two Skype-enabled collaborative use rooms, and a 3-D printer.

The library has announced the beginning of computer, workforce development and recreational technology classes, to be held in instructional areas of the Collaborative Technology Center.

There will be five to eight free classes per month on beginning Word, Exel and PowerPoint; how to create and use email; how to find and apply for jobs online; how to use an eReader, tablet or smartphone; 3-D printers; and filming and editing videos.

The grand opening, held from 12:30 to 2 on August 13, was an open, interactive forum for county employees, the board of supervisors and members of the public to learn about technology and programming the library will be offering. The library staff and trained CTC volunteers were on hand to offer information and demonstrations to those who attended.

Some of the Best Things Ever Said About Books

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book." Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)

"I find TV very entertaining. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." Groucho Marx (1890-1977)

"The covers of this book are too far apart." Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)

"The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers." Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

"Your manuscript is both good and original, but the part that is good is not original and the part that is original is not good." Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)



VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The League's Voter Service Committee is involved in several aspects of the election process and is responsible for:

1. Coordinating the appropriate candidate forums during election years,
2. Coordinating "Pros & Cons" presentations for the community,
3. Coordinating "Pros & Cons" presentations for the general membership meeting,
4. Registering voters, and
5. Promoting outreach education to local schools.

The first meeting of the Voter Service Committee will be Tuesday, October 15, 2013, from 10 a.m. to noon

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month until the June election schedule is over. This year we hope to visit local high schools, do outreach for voter registration in the community, plan appropriate forums for the June Primary and present the "Pros & Cons" of the initiatives that may appear on the ballot this June.

This is an excellent opportunity for "new" and "old" members to become involved with League and really make a difference! If this opportunity interests you, please call me, Ruth Schwartz, Chair, Voter Service Committee at 530-265-0956, or e-mail me at lwwnc@gmail.com.



**League of Women Voters
Western Nevada County
P.O. Box 1306
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-265-0956
E-mail: lwwnc@gmail.com
Website: lwwnc.org**

President
Karen Schwartz

Vice-President
Arlene Robertson

Secretary
Madelyn Helling

Treasurer
Sue Nepstead

Action/Legislation
Polly Bacich

Communications
Cleo Gibson

Historian
Sharon O'Hara

Hospitality
Anne DeWitt

Membership
Gail Parle

Observer Corps
Joey Jordan

Parliamentarian
Edi Silverman

Publicity
Carol Kuczora

Program Planning
Polly Bacich

Voter Editor
Mary Dreifuss

Voter Service
Ruth Schwartz

Webmaster
Sue Nepstead

Action Alerts - Calls to Action - Action Requests What's the Difference?

Over the past weeks, some local Leagues have received action messages from the LWVC. These have been targeted messages, focusing on key legislators on issues of importance to us: (1) The money in politics bills we are co-sponsoring, and (2) Protecting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

If you have received one of these messages, we hope that you contacted your legislator in the name of the League, and that you passed the message on to others so that they can also contact the legislator as individual constituents.

What are the different kinds of messages the LWVC sends?



ACTION ALERTS: An alert asking members and other individuals to take action.



CALL TO ACTION: An alert asking local Leagues to contact their legislators in the name of the League.

Note: These first two - Action Alert and Call to Action - are sometimes used interchangeable for alerts asking members and/or local Leagues to take action.



ACTION REQUEST: A message from an individual Program director asking for action on issues of importance with that program area.

This year the League has identified four major issues: (1) The League does set priorities in terms of lobbying activities. (2) This year “Money in Politics” and “Education” have the highest priority. “Health Care” and “Water” are at a lower priority than the first two.

Polly Bacich
Action/Legislation Chair

THE OBSERVER CORPS

The “Eyes and Ears” of our League

Our League is in the process of reactivating our Observer Corps - a group of League members who attend governmental meetings, take notes on what happens, and then report back to the League on what they have observed. Observers always wear their League of Women Voters badge, but never, ever participate in any discussions taking place at the meeting. We are just that - observers, not participants.

If you have an hour or two a month to join this important committee, we'd love to hear from you. The League of Women Voters has the enviable reputation of non-partisanship coupled with straightforward reportage of political and governmental entities.

Please let us know if any of the agencies listed below intrigue you. We'd be delighted to add your name as a member of our League's Observer Corps. If this brief introduction to one of League's most important committees appeals to you, please contact:

Joey Jordan, Observer Corps Chair
(530) 265-0956
lwvwncc@gmail.com

Nevada County Government Meetings

NEVADA COUNTY

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

Nevada County Planning Commission

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1:30 pm
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

3rd Thursday every other month, 9:30 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City

NEVADA CITY

Nevada City City Council

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
Nevada City City Hall Council Chambers
317 Broad Street, Nevada City

Nevada City Planning Commission

3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Nevada City City Hall Council Chambers
317 Broad Street, Nevada City

GRASS VALLEY

Grass Valley City Council

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm
Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers
125 West Main Street, Grass Valley

Grass Valley Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday, 7 pm
Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers
125 West Main Street, Grass Valley

OTHER

Nevada Irrigation District Board

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 am
Nevada Irrigation District
1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley

Nevada Joint Union High School District

Board of Trustees

2nd Wednesdays, August-June, 6 pm
Location rotates among Bear River, Nevada Union,
and Park Avenue Schools



Empty out the archives!

Are you keeping a treasure trove of historical items about our League?

We know of at least one long-time member who has carefully stored many copies of *The Voter* ... you know who you are! But perhaps there are more items - newspaper clippings, program handouts, etc. moldering away out of sight and memory.

The idea is to build a two-part historical record - the old fashioned way in a scrapbook (we'd make paper copies or insert the original if you can part with it) and, additionally, there will be a digital copy on CDs. One aspect of the plan is to bring together the disparate archives we've got in files, boxes and on dusty shelves all over western Nevada County.

The first collection of material will take place at the October general meeting. You'd bring your items and get some kind of "receipt" as we note your loan or gift of archival materials. Please start making a pile of these treasures and plan on bringing them to the October meeting.

If you are interested in being part of the historian crew, don't hesitate to get involved - especially if you're in touch with folks who may have memorabilia that we can add to the archives.

It's going to be fun to see what's left of our past as we preserve these memories and records of the accomplishments and members of LWVWNC. Feel free to contact me at the League number—530-265-0956 or email me at lwwnc@gmail.com. With comments, questions and ideas.

Sharon O'Hara, Historian





This month (August) marks the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

In 1963, the March on Washington was the largest mass protest in American history when men and women, young and old from all different backgrounds, came together to express their hopes for freedom, justice and change

The work that began 50 years ago continues today in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this June to gut the Voting Rights Act by removing one of its key enforcement mechanisms. The Court's decision erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have worked to protect our democracy for over 40 years.

The League is proud to be a partner of the 5th anniversary celebration of the 1963 March on Washington, for which Americans from across the country will unite in support of voting rights and work to protect our democracy. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Lincoln Memorial with music and a formal program set to begin around 10 a.m. The program will conclude with a march from the Lincoln Memorial to the MLK Memorial and disband at that point around 2 p.m.

LEADER'S UPDATE - August 15, 2013

Forty-eight years ago today, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the historic Voting Rights Act (VRA) into law. Unfortunately, earlier this summer the U.S. Supreme Court erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been critical in protecting our democracy.

The damage to the VRA can and must be fixed - Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. Tell your members of Congress to work quickly to repair and restore VRA.

Before adjourning for the August recess, both the Senate and the House held hearings to begin discussing solutions to discrimination at the polls and the path forward for the VRA. We were encouraged by what we witnessed—members from both sides expressing a need to address the Supreme Court's mistake and vowing to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens.

Join with the League of Women Voters and thank your elected officials for starting the process to fix the VRA and encourage them to repair and restore it quickly.

Following the Supreme Court's decision, we've seen an all-out attack on voting rights across the country. States like Texas that had been subjected to the VRA's federal pre-approval process took steps to implement their photo voter ID laws nearly immediately. North Carolina pushed through an omnibus voter suppression package that the Governor has pledged to sign. If it becomes law, it would impose a photo ID component, restrict early voting, cut preregistration for 16 and 17 year olds, eliminate same day registration and much more.

The League will continue to pursue all avenues to fight for voters' rights, but we need strong action by Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act protections that have helped us prevent racial and language discrimination in our elections for decades.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President
League of Women Voters of the United States

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals

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

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

A. Ann Armstrong
Armstrong & Associates

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603
(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrong.org

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

www.spdmarket.com

Mill Street Clothing
Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Piano Tuning

Yvonne Ashmore Piano Service

Registered Piano Technician since 1969

(530) 273-8800

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

“ Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the former.”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)