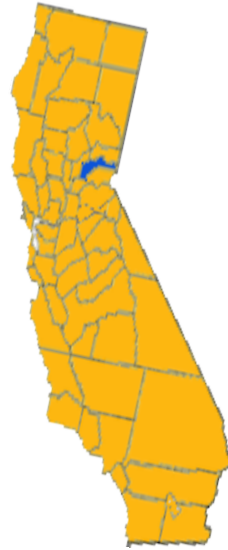




The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

January 2011



NEVADA COUNTY

How Are We Doing?

Ask our January guest speaker:

RICHARD A. HAFHEY

Nevada County Chief Executive Officer

Saturday, January 8, 2011

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main
Grass Valley



Let's ring in the New Year with enthusiasm! We League members can congratulate ourselves on our accomplishments in 2010 and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

As your Acting President for January through March, I'm impressed by all that we have done this past year. Our Voter Service co-chairs, Ruth Schwartz and Debbie Sultan, did an outstanding job before the November election, registering voters and organizing Candidates' Forums and Pros & Cons for the ballot initiatives. Our Webmaster Linda McVicker continued to enhance our website making it even more informative and easy to navigate. And you supported the League by renewing your membership, attending meetings and voicing your ideas and questions.

Now it's time to explore new ground. As you'll see in the months ahead, our Program Chair Helen Williamson has some intriguing ideas for our general meetings. These programs are based on what you identified as your highest priorities at our Speak-In meeting in November.

This month we'll explore what Nevada County will look like in the future as we welcome back our county's CEO Richard Haffey who will give us an update on the status of county government and the financial challenges that confront local governments everywhere.

Stay tuned for a stimulating New Year!

Karen Schwartz
Acting President

OUR JANUARY PROGRAM

Our League's kick-off meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2011, will feature a return guest speaker, **Richard A. Haffey**, Nevada County's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will be with us to answer your questions and your concerns about the state of our beautiful foothill community.

Rick Haffey has been a member of the Nevada County executive team since 1999. He was appointed CEO in January 2003 after more than two years as Assistant CEO. Mr. Haffey is Nevada County's longest serving CEO. Prior to moving to the executive office, he spent a year at his first Nevada County position as Chief Fiscal/Administrative Officer of the Human Services Agency.

Mr. Haffey brings over 35 years of public sector experience to Nevada County government, including perspectives from positions as an appointed manager, and as an elected official. He was the City Manager for the City of Belmont, as well as Interim Police Chief and Finance Director. He also served for 12 years as an elected official including being twice the Mayor of the City of South San Francisco and as a school board member.

Richard Haffey believes that education is a life-long process. He has a BA Degree, an MS Degree and a high school teaching credential. Additionally, he has completed the programs at the Nevada County Leadership Institute, at the University of California Berkeley Executive Institute, and at the Senior Executive Institute, University of Virginia. He also holds an ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Credentialed Manager Certification. In 2005, he was the first County Executive to receive a Senior Executive Credential from the CSAC Institute for Excellence in County Government.

You won't want to miss this important program! Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 8, 2011. You'll be glad you did!



California's population gains not enough for another seat in Congress

The nation's population and political heft continued to swing toward the South and West in the 2010 census, but for the first time since statehood, California's population did not grow enough to gain additional congressional seats, the U.S. Census Bureau said today, December 21.

As it has since the last reapportionment 10 years ago, the state will continue to have 53 members in the House of Representatives—by far the largest bloc. California gained about 3.4 million residents over the decade, a 10% growth rate that closely tracked the national rate.

The big winners in the once-a-decade reallocation of House seats were Texas, which will gain four seats, and Florida, which will gain two. The biggest losers were New York and Ohio, which each lose two. Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington will pick up one seat each, while Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will each lose one.

Another factor will be the state-by-state battles over the redrawing of congressional district lines. In the census driven reapportionment, each state is guaranteed one House seat, with the remaining 385 seats then divvied among the states using a formula pegged to the rate of state population growth. The census data will also be used to distribute more than \$400 billion annually from federal programs that allocate funds on a per-capita basis.

Since California became a state in 1850, it has failed to gain a new seat in the House only one other time—after the 1920 census, when Congress decided not to change the size of any state's delegation.

It has been widely acknowledged that it was unlikely to gain a seat this time. Although California added millions of residents, its growth lagged far behind that of states such as Nevada, Texas, Arizona and Florida.

Stephen Levy, director and senior economist at the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto, said it was common for large states that once had explosive growth to stabilize. "There's no question that in the last 20 years California has become an average job-growth state, so it's become an average population-growth state," he said.

Census Bureau Director Robert Groves said that an estimated 60 % of the 27.3 million new U.S. residents since 2000 were the products of births to U.S. residents, while the rest stemmed from immigration. The census doesn't ask about a person's legal status, so Groves had no new estimate on the percentage of U.S. residents who are illegal immigrants. Other agencies have estimated the illegal immigrant population at about 11 million.

Fights over reapportionment are handled differently in each state. In California and six other states, districts will be redrawn by independent bodies to limit political influence. But elsewhere, legislatures will craft the new boundaries, often with final approval required from the governor.

Despite predictions of low response rates among citizens because of the recession and supposed anger at the federal government, the 2010 census matched the 2000 head count, with 74% of households returning the questionnaires. The 2010 census also came in nearly \$2 billion under budget.

FAMOUS WOMEN OF THE FOOTHILLS

It's one thing to read a woman's life story; it is quite another to see where she actually lived—or wrote or invented or rebelled. The spirit—or power—of a place is a compelling force, often the critical factor in shaping an individual. This is about places in Nevada County, and the individual women who have been shaped by, or who helped transform those places. Or who are simply remembered there. Enjoy the tour.



Lola Montez

GRASS VALLEY

Lola Montez Home - 248 Mill Street. Originally built in 1853, the home of the famous 19th Century dancer and courtesan has been beautifully restored and today houses the local Chamber of Commerce and a museum with some of her artifacts—including her old bathtub, which serves as a planter on the front porch. Lola Montez traveled around the world performing her celebrated Spider Dance and seducing, among others, a Russian emperor and a king of Bavaria (“I don't know how—I am bewitched,” Ludwig cried), as well as Alexandre Dumas and Franz Liszt. In 1853, at thirty-five, Montez, weary of center stage, decided to return to this quiet mining town, only to star again as hostess to exquisite parties.

Here she assembled a household of pets, including dogs, cats, parrots, monkeys, and a large bear named Major, which she kept tied with a silver chain to a post on the front lawn. Her dancing days behind her, Montez took to the lecture circuit and preached a different kind of feminism than suffrage conventioners: “One woman going forth in independence and power of self-reliant strength to assert her own individuality ... will do more than a million convention women to make herself known and felt throughout the world.” In her last years she lived in a home for wayward women; she died alone and forgotten on January 17, 1861, in New York.



Lotta Crabtree

Lotta Crabtree House - 238 Mill Street (private). Lola Montez' protégée Lotta Crabtree lived in this unassuming green and white house where her mother, Mary Ann, took care of boarders. The tiny seven-year-old redhead, an adept pupil, quickly mastered Lola's favorite dances, such as the Highland Fling and the Sailor's Hornpipe. She made her debut weeks later at a mining camp in Rough and Ready.

ROUGH AND READY

W.H. Flippen's General Blacksmith Shop - On the only street in town. Once a weathered and ramshackle barn, it has been repainted white with a crisp green trim. It was here in 1853 that seven-year-old Lotta, encouraged by her celebrated mentor, Lola Montez, launched her fabulous dancing career. As miners clapped and cheered, Montez hoisted the redheaded imp onto Flippen's anvil, where she tap-danced to the beat of a pounding hammer. Lotta began a tour of mining camps in the area, and she

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refined her act with improvised, slightly risqué songs, friendly banter with the adoring audience, and plenty of high kicks, showing just a hint of a bare knee. Garbed in white like an angel, Lotta closed her rousing act with bathetic serenades as the miners made a pedestal of shiny gold nuggets at her silver-shoed feet.

The blacksmith's shop is usually locked, but twice a year during local festivities it is opened up so visitors can see a blacksmith in period costume at work using the anvil on which Lotta once danced—the tiniest dance floor in the world!



Voter Service Report

Final Vote Count from Nevada County

Nevada County had the second highest voter turnout in the state in the November 2 elections. Sierra County topped the list with 81.9% and Nevada County totaled 80.7% of registered voter turnout. Nevada County has 61,411 registered voters. The final tally showed that 48,637 ballots were cast and of that total, 36,459 were absentee ballots.

The turnout statewide was 57.9%. The final certified results are posted on the county's website at www.mynevadacounty.com/elections. Precinct results are also available on the website.

Our League presented five forums inviting candidates for elected federal, state, county and city offices. We studied and presented eight Pros & Cons informational programs on the nine ballot propositions. We can be justifiably proud of the Nevada County voter turnout and can arguably take credit for our part of community outreach during this election.

Ruth Schwartz
Voter Service co-chair



Welcome Back!

VICKI WARNER

*Please add this member's name to your Directory.
Returning members' addresses, phone numbers and e-mails
can be obtained from the Membership Chair*

THANK YOU!

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County wishes to thank Brunswick Village Assisted Living Community for their continued support.



Speaker-elect Boehner Urged to Keep Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE)
"You can't fire the cop and then say you're against crime"

December 2, 2010

Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters today called on Speaker-elect John Boehner to retain the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) in the upcoming 112th Congress and to maintain the OCE's duties, powers and structure.

"The retention of the OCE - or its demise - will signal the direction the new leadership will be taking the House of Representatives on ethics issues," according to Elisabeth MacNamara, national president of the League.

"We are deeply concerned that many in Congress, apparently wishing to return to a time when there was no meaningful ethics enforcement in the House of Representatives, have called for steps that would substantially weaken the OCE," she said.

"You can't fire the cop and then say you're against crime," according to MacNamara.

In the 2010 elections, "the American people did not vote for less ethics and more corruption," MacNamara said. "The retention of a strong and effective Office of Congressional Ethics is essential to regaining the public's trust."

The League congratulated Representative Boehner, the incoming Speaker, as well Representative Pelosi, the current Speaker, for the quality of their appointments to the governing board of the OCE. Each appointed half of the independent board's current members. "Under their leadership, the OCE has functioned effectively, but fairly, in investigating possible ethics violations and reporting its findings to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or the public, as appropriate," MacNamara said.

The League urged that the OCE not be weakened in any way. The group said that the OCE must retain its independent, bipartisan leadership structure, the ability to issue public reports, begin investigations on its own initiative, and hire and supervise an independent staff. The League also called for strengthening the OCE by ensuring that it has access to subpoena power.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

25 Years Ago—Ill-Fated Space Pioneers

One minute 13 seconds after liftoff on January 28, 1986, the Space shuttle Challenger, engulfed in a fireball of leaked hydrogen fuel, breaks apart and falls to Earth. The crew, including “first teacher in space” Christa McAuliffe, perishes. Investigators blame a failure of the O-ring seal on a solid rocket booster and fault NASA for ignoring engineering concerns. After 30 years and 134 missions—and the loss of a second shuttle and crew in 2003—the shuttle program is scheduled to end after a final flight in February 2011.



50 Years Ago— A Memorable “Rallying Cry”

Fifty Januaries ago, under a pallid sun and amid bitter winds, John F. Kennedy swore the oath that every president had taken since 1789 and then delivered one of the most memorable inaugural addresses in the American canon. Then he issued a call for which he is best remembered: “And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”



75 Years Ago—Favored Few

A January 1936 vote by the Baseball Writers Association of America elects Ty Cobb (pictured here), Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson to be the first five inductees in the planned Baseball Hall of Fame. Cobb, a 24-year major-league veteran, receives the most votes—222 of a possible 226—and pronounces himself “overwhelmed.”



110 Years Ago—Fill ‘Er Up

Wildcatters drilling in the Spindletop salt dome near Beaumont, Texas, January 10, 1901, hit the state’s first major gusher, which erupts at an initial rate of 100,000 barrels a day—more than the country’s other oil wells combined. Spindletop turns oil from a minor product used for lubrication and light to a cheap source of fuel, propelling another innovation: the automobile.



(Text - exclusive of photos- reprinted courtesy Smithsonian Magazine, January 2011)

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