



# The Voter

The League of Women Voters Western Nevada County

July/August 2010



## LWVWNC PROGRAMS

Looking Back **2009**  
**2010**

Looking Ahead **2010**  
**2011** ...

... AND MUCH MORE !



## PROGRAMS - a Look Back

**2009**  
**2010**

### SEPTEMBER

**Nevada County Superior Court**  
Tom Anderson, Presiding Judge

### OCTOBER

**The Gold Country Council**  
Bette Worth, Executive Director  
Beth Moore, Board President

### NOVEMBER

**Speak Out at the Speak In**

### JANUARY

**Health Care Resources in Nevada County**  
Chapa De Indian Health Program  
Hospice of the Foothills  
Miners Family Health Center  
Sierra Family Medical Clinic  
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital  
Yuba Docs Urgent Care

### FEBRUARY

**Hungry—Homeless—Hope**  
Capt. Martha Sheppard, Salvation Army  
Sandy Schmidt, Women of Worth  
Mary O'Brien, Hospitality House

### MARCH

**Air Quality**  
Joe Fish, Deputy Air Pollution Control  
Officer, Northern Sierra Air Quality  
Management District

### APRIL

**The State of the State**  
Trudy Schafer, California League of  
Women Voters Senior Director for Program

### MAY

**Pros & Cons**  
Anne DeWitt, Debby Sultan, Polly Bacich,  
Arlene Robertson

**Coming Attractions**  
**2010**  
**2011**

### SEPTEMBER 11

**Unintended and Intended  
Consequences of  
California's Initiative Process**  
Kimberly Love Nalder, Ph. D., Speaker

### OCTOBER 9

**Pros & Cons Presentation  
of the November Ballot Measures**  
LWVWNC Voter Service

### NOVEMBER 13

**Speak-In at the Speak-Out**  
LWVWNC Members

### DECEMBER 11

**Holiday Party**

### **WORDS TO THE WISE**

*"I am not a great fan of constitutional micro-management through complex proposals to be submitted to an electorate that seldom reads them in their entirety and is subjected to media blitzes that distort the content of the proposals, making a mockery of intelligent democracy."*

—ANONYMOUS

## Membership Renewal Time is HERE!

You know the League's Mission Statement: "The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

You understand what this means, AND you also understand that we could not fulfill our mission without your continued support.

**Now is the time to renew your commitment to these principles.** Please return your Membership Renewal Card by September 1, 2010, with current information and check made payable to LWVWNC in the envelope provided. Renewal letters have been sent out; let us know if you don't receive yours. The dues remain the same at \$60 for an individual and \$30 for each additional household member. Membership dues are not deductible.

Even though our obligations to State and National Leagues have increased, we are managing, with careful budgeting, to keep our membership dues the same. Maintaining our current membership is vital to us. **We need you with us in this important election year!**

Linda McVicker  
Membership chair

## WELCOME BACK

**Custis Haynes**

*Addresses, phone numbers, and E-mails of members can be obtained by contacting the Membership Chair, Linda McVicker.*



July/August 2010

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*Voter Service*

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Deborah Sultan

*Voter Editor*

Mary Dreifuss

*Webmaster*

Linda McVicker



## **LWV Celebrates Women's Equality Day and the 90th Anniversary Of the 19th Amendment - Giving Women The Right to Vote!**

On February 14, 1920, with passage of the 19th Amendment imminent, suffragists met to transform the movement into the League of Women Voters to help educate women to be responsible voters. On August 26, 1920, just days after Tennessee became the thirty-sixth (and last-needed) state to ratify the amendment, the Secretary of State signed the proclamation enacting the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Because of this important history, The League of Women Voters, more than any other organization, "owns" August 26th, Women's Equality Day, and should be celebrating it every year—especially in 2010, the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. While we will be celebrating the League's 90th anniversary all through 2009-2010, we should be giving August 26, 2010, equal importance—involving everyone in our communities, not just League members.

### **Brief History**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others first seriously proposed women's right to vote at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on July 19, 1848. Prior to this time, Susan B. Anthony was active in the women's temperance movement, but when she met Stanton in 1851, they joined forces and worked together over the next half of the century—and what a force they were. Although they both died before the goal was reached, they lived long enough to see significant progress and were primarily responsible for the ultimate success. Carrie Chapman Catt, founder and early leader of the League of Women Voters, younger than Anthony and Stanton, entered the struggle later and became a leader in the suffragist movement that helped lead it to victory with passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

### **League's Mission—Educate Current and Future Generations on the History**

The sacrifices these three made to win the right to vote for women is amazing and one that few people recognize today. In most cases, they gave their lives to the movement. Becoming public advocates at the time for this or any movement, meant that they were living lives and playing roles in a totally unconventional, unacceptable, inappropriate manner—to many they were pariahs. It is impossible to even conceive of how difficult their lives were, what hardships they endured—public humiliation, terms in jail, ridicule—and they did it so that women of yesterday, today and tomorrow can exercise their right to vote.

Recently, a group of college women—graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty—attended a showing of *Iron Jawed Angels*. At the end of the film the auditorium sat in stunned silence. When the moderator opened discussion, one after the other of the women said in voices filled with emotion and in a variety of ways, "I had no idea what they went through." And they were not alone. Without reminders, few of us can really know what they endured throughout their lives.



## Top 3 Myths About the Fourth of July!

### **#1 Independence Was Declared on the Fourth of July.**

America's independence was actually declared by the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776. On the night of the second, the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* published this statement: "This day the Continental Congress declared the United Colonies Free and Independent States." So, what happened on the Glorious Fourth?

The document justifying the act of Congress (you know it as Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence) was adopted on the fourth, as is indicated on the document itself, which is, one supposes, the cause for the confusion. It would seem that the document announcing the event has overshadowed the event itself.

When did Americans first celebrate independence? Congress waited until July 8, when Philadelphia threw a big party, including a parade and the firing of guns. The army under George Washington, then camped near New York City, heard the news July 9 and celebrated then.

John Adams wrote home to his wife Abigail the day after Independence was declared (i.e. July 3), and predicted that from then on "the Second of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch in the History of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the Great Anniversary Festival."

### **#2 The Declaration of Independence was signed July 4.**

Hanging in the grand Rotunda of the Capitol of the United States is a vast canvas painting by John Trumbull depicting the signing of the Declaration. Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams wrote, years afterward, that the signing ceremony took place on July 4. The truth? Most delegates signed the document on August 2, when a clean copy was finally produced by the assistant to the secretary of Congress, Timothy Matlack. Several did not sign until later, and their names were not released to the public until January 1777. The event was so uninspiring that nobody apparently bothered to write home about it.

The truth about the signing was not fully established until 1884 when historian Mellon Chamberlain, researching the manuscript minutes of the Journal of Congress, came upon the entry for August 2 noting a signing ceremony.

### **#3 The Liberty Bell Rang in American Independence.**

Since this event did not happen on the fourth, did it happen at all? It's a famous scene: A handsome young boy was supposed to have been posted in the street next to Independence Hall to give a signal to an old man in the bell tower when independence was declared. It never happened. The story was made up out of whole cloth in the middle of the nineteenth century by writer George Lippard in a book intended for children. The book is aptly titled, *Legends of the American Revolution*.

If the Liberty Bell rang at all in celebration of independence nobody took note at the time. The bell was not even named in honor of American independence. It received the moniker in the early nineteenth century when abolitionists used it as a symbol of the antislavery movement.

As for the famous crack ... it was a badly designed bell and it cracked.



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**Special Mention**

Brunswick Village Assisted Living  
 Quail Ridge Senior Living



**LEAGUE MOURNS PASSING OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER DOROTHY HEIGHT**  
**Voting Rights Heroine Impacted Generations**  
**April 20, 2010**

**Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters of the United States today joined Americans across the country in mourning the passing of Dorothy Height, a longtime leader of the Nation's civil rights movement and Chairwoman of the National Council of Negro Women.**

"Today our country lost a true heroine with the passing of Dorothy Height," said Mary G. Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. "Ms. Height was an inspiration to many. Her pioneering work for racial and gender equality spanned six decades and impacted the lives of millions of Americans."

"Ms. Height's contribution to the fight for voting rights in the 1950s and 1960s were pivotal to passage of the Voting Rights Act," Wilson stated. "Likewise, passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963 would not have been possible were it not for the strength, dedication and leadership of Dorothy Height. The League has been honored to work with Ms. Height in her role as Chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights."

"Ms. Height was a role model for many Americans, never stopping in her quest for a better life for all in this nation. Her legacy will live on for generations to come," concluded Wilson.



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## VOTER SERVICE REPORTS



**Yes! This is important!**

### Six reasons to join the Voter Service Committee:

1. Become involved with your League,
2. Work with energetic, dedicated, stimulating, intellectual, exciting members,
3. Study the incomprehensible proposed ballot measures for the November election and.....
4. ....then represent the League for the sought after Pros & Cons Presentations,
5. Help plan and take part in candidate forums,
6. Enjoy November 2 knowing that you had a valuable part in the American Dream and that YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

*Ruth Schwartz and Debbie Sultan*

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS June 12, 2010

- The meeting was called to order by President Ruth Schwartz.
- Treasurer, Sue Nepstead, noted that the annual treasurer's report for the year would be available after June 30.
- Position updates were presented and re-adopted permitting the League to take action as deemed necessary.
- Membership reported that we currently have 77 members and that renewals will be sent out in July to members who must renew by September 1 in order to have their names listed in the Membership Directory.
- Webmaster Linda McVicker reported that our website received 64,000 hits during the past year. *The Voter*, the League calendar and links to other sites are the most popular features.
- Helen Williamson reviewed the monthly programs offered during the past year.
- Voter Service activities were reviewed by co-Chairs Arlene Robertson and Debbie Sultan.
- *Voter* editor Mary Dreifuss announced that the July/August issue will include the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 League year and will be in the hands of members at least 30 days before the September meeting.
- Officers and Directors for the year 2010-2011 were announced and approved by the membership.
- Directions to the new board included the following ideas for programs in 2010-2011: cut-backs in local mental health services, the status of local domestic violence programs, success of local drug diversion programs, lack of recreation services for the county, the status of local schools and trends toward charter schools and home schooling, monitoring efforts to commercialize local government by outsourcing services to private providers, and state issues such as possible legalization of marijuana, reforming the ballot initiative process, and shortening the election process to reduce costs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Schwartz, Secretary

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

**A. Ann Armstrong**

**Attorney & Counselor-at-Law  
Estate Planning**

200 Auburn Folsom Road, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

**Eskaton**

**Senior Residences & Services**

625 Eskaton Circle, Grass Valley

(530) 273-1778 - (530) 273-8058 (FAX)

[www.eskaton.org/index.htm](http://www.eskaton.org/index.htm)

**The Book Seller**

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

[booksgv@pacbell.net](mailto: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

M-Sat 7a-8p. Sun. 8a-7p [www.briarpatch.coop](http://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](http://www.flourgarden.com)