



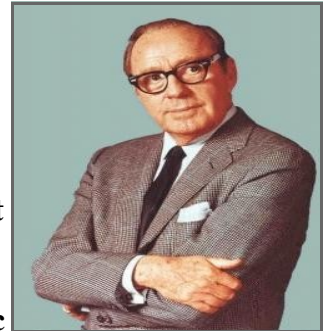
The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

September 2011

Your Money or Your Life !

If, like Jack Benny, you're "thinking—you're thinking", isn't it time you decided about what other options are really available?



Join us on September 10 and explore all the other less drastic measures that are involved when planning your family's future. We'll have some experts at this meeting to explain the sometimes perplexing world of financial and real estate transactions.

Knowledge is power. So, bring your questions and concerns to our September 10 meeting. Let's change the headline to:

Your Money and Your Life !

Our Panel:

Dick Fisher, Financial Consultant
Ostrofe Financial Consultants

Rolf Kleinhans, Real Estate Broker
Recreational Realty, Inc.

April Smith, Branch Manager/Senior Loan Officer
American Pacific Mortgage

Saturday, September 10, 2011

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main Street
Grass Valley



THE PREZ SEZ



How did you spend your August? Did you enjoy our beautiful Nevada County scenery, perhaps sitting in your garden, perhaps hiking or cycling through our lush forests? Nevada County is truly a paradise for all who love nature and the great outdoors.

Or were you gnashing your teeth as you were bombarded with the daily news reports of the deficit ceiling battle in Washington? Our Congressional representatives provided a dramatic spectacle of ideological gridlock while the whole world watched. Throughout our nation's history compromise has always played a central role in making our republic work, and it was chilling to see so little willingness to work together.

Or were you feeling sick to your stomach as the stock market careened wildly up and down like an out-of-control roller coaster operated by mad men? Despite warnings about the immediate and long term consequences of threatening to let our nation default on its debts and about the potential for our nation's credit rating to be damaged, many in Congress seemed, curiously, unconcerned.

Our national drama is only in its second act. The third act this fall could be just as damaging to our national image and our reputation for credit worthiness. It may prove even more disruptive to our citizens' lives. Please hold on to your hats as our roller coaster hurtles toward the next turn!

We, as League members, will continue to observe the national spectacle, knowing we're part of a national nonpartisan organization that is grounded in grass roots issues. And, as Californians, we know that as cuts in state and local services mount and as education suffers from pre-school through university, our state's prospects for an economic resurgence grow even dimmer.

Because we know that democracy is not a spectator sport, we League members are committed to empowering voters by exploring these issues and how they affect us here in Nevada County and beyond.

At our September 10 meeting we will examine some of the local economic sectors impacting the lives of Nevada County citizens. We welcome our panel of local professionals who will explain to us what they see happening here from their particular perspectives and how it ties into state, national and even international economic issues. You'll come away with new insights and understanding, as well as plenty of food for thought.

We look forward to seeing you at our September meeting. And, bring a friend—they'll thank you for the invitation!

See you there.

Karen Schwartz, President



HOW TO EVALUATE INITIATIVES

In our Voter Service role, we present unbiased, nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues on the ballot.

- Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Investigate the names of groups with which you are not familiar.
- Does the measure deal with one issue which can easily be decided by a “yes” or “no”? Or is it a complex issue which should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
- Is it written well? Are there conflicts in the measure that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it “good government” or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Amending the Constitution is cumbersome and costly and requires a vote of the people. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose?
- Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of General Fund revenues? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of the budget.
- Examine the measure by its merits. During the campaign, be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image, but tell nothing of substance about the measure.

Brief History of The Initiative Process

Californians adopted the initiative process on October 10, 1911, becoming the tenth state to adopt this form of direct democracy.

Three initiatives were on the California ballot the next year, in 1912, when measures 6, 7 and 8—to consolidate local governments, prohibit bookmaking, and set procedures for local measures—were all defeated.

Through January 2010, 338 initiatives have qualified for the statewide California ballot. Voters have approved 112, an approval rate of 33%. From 1911-January 2010, the California Constitution has been amended 46 times through the state’s initiative process.



91 Years of Stronger Democracy

This August 26, 2011, marked the 91st anniversary of the day when the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, formed when women were first granted the right to vote, marked this occasion with reflection on how far we have come as well as optimism that this year will bring even more Americans into the democratic process.

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Joint Resolution of Congress 1971

Designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26th, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as "Women's Equality Day," and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.



Bella Savitzky Abzug
1920-1998

Four Influential Women You Have (Probably) Never Heard About!



ELIZABETH BLACKWELL: 1821-1910

First American woman awarded a medical degree by a college. Attended Geneva College in New York after she was rejected by all the major medical schools in the nation because of her sex. Elizabeth Blackwell later founded a women's medical college to train other women physicians.



LaDONNA HARRIS (born 1931)

LaDonna Harris is the President and Founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity, a national multi-tribal organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of Indians. Raised by her grandparents with traditional Comanche values, Harris has been politically active all her life. She has crusaded for the rights of children and women and for the elimination of poverty and discrimination.



DOLORES HUERTA (born 1930)

A spokesperson for the rights of workers, Dolores Huerta helped create the National Farm Workers Association. Among other issues, she has fought for the right to a minimum wage, unemployment insurance, paid holidays, and retirement benefits for farm workers.



SHIRLEY JACKSON (born 1946)

Shirley Jackson is the former head of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she reaffirmed the agency's commitment to public health and safety. She is the first female African American to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Jackson's outstanding leadership in education, science, and public policy demonstrates the capability of women to be leaders in the field of science and technology.

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, 2011, 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.

As you know, our obligations to State and National Leagues have increased, but we are managing, with careful budgeting, to keep our membership dues the same. Maintaining our current membership is vital to us. **This will be an important and exciting year, and we need you with us!**

Cleo Gibson
Marcy Elliott
Membership co-chairs

Web Consulting by:
www.dancingeggheads.com

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

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Voter Service
Ruth Schwartz

Voter Editor
Mary Dreifuss

Web Consultant
dancingeggheads.com

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 9 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