



NEVADA COUNTY
Citizens
 EDUCATED CHOICES *for* LIFE
Choice

► *Message from the President* by Ingrid Elsel ►

As you can see, everything changes in life, including Citizens for Choice's newsletter. The reason for the change is quite simple. Laurel Knapp, long-time editor and publisher for *Voices for Choice*, is moving on to other endeavors; and Linda McManus, who is also our very able database manager, will take over Laurel's former tasks.

I could sing endless praises about Laurel and her great contributions to Citizens for Choice and her amazing personal attributes, but will refrain because we don't have enough space in our newsletter. Suffice it to say that we would not be the organization we are today without Laurel's ceaseless efforts and support. Please join me in giving a huge *Thank You* to Laurel for all she has done throughout the years and read more about her elsewhere in this newsletter.

By now, most of you are probably aware that Citizens for Choice's annual *Celebration of Choice* is almost upon us again. We are doing things a little differently this year: there will be no admission charge for the event. That doesn't mean you should leave your wallet at home, though. We will have the usual Silent Auction,

►► *Public Policy* Elaine Sierra, Chair ►►

Federal Funding for State Reproductive Health Uncertain

We have learned that California's Family PACT program is in jeopardy. Family PACT is a state-run program that covers reproductive health services and prescriptions for qualified California residents, primarily those who are low-income or uninsured. Through the program, services are provided for approximately 1.65 million women and men in the state annually, averting nearly 170,000 unintended pregnancies every year

as well as a spirited Live Auction. And wait till you see the prizes. How does *Seven Days in a Timeshare Condo in Puerto Vallarta* sound to you? Or a free stay at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno? Or how about a Sunday Brunch for six served in your own home? These are just some of the many great prizes that await you.

Our annual gathering at the *Celebration of Choice* event has several objectives: it provides our supporters an opportunity to



Parker Dockray, Executive Director, California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom is the invited speaker at the October 10 Celebration of Choice.

meet others who also believe in the important mission Citizens for Choice works to fulfill. We therefore often think of it as a gathering of like minded friends. It is also an opportunity to make money for Citizens for Choice to continue our very effective Outreach Program and to financially support the reproductive health clinic. We provide the fun and you provide the funds.

Please come and enjoy our friends and the festivities. It would be truly wonderful if you would introduce yourself to me so that I can put a face with your name. See you all on October 10 at the Elks Lodge.

Many, if not most, of the clients at the Women's Health Specialists clinic in Grass Valley receive services covered by Family PACT. One of the key aspects of the program is that eligibility can be established at the clinic site, allowing virtually immediate access to needed family planning and reproductive health services.

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The Clinic

120 Richardson St,
 Suite D, Grass Valley

Monday 10:30—5
 Wednesday 1 – 6
 No appointment necessary!

530.274.3331
 This number will be answered during clinic hours.

►► *Protect Choice* by Elaine Sierra ►►

Two people have stepped forward to join NCCC's Public Policy team – Cecelia Royal and Sharon O'Hara-Gorman. Both wrote pieces for this newsletter, on Proposition 4 and on the state budget. Please join with me in welcoming them and their able reporting on the many issues affecting reproductive justice. Let's thank Linda McManus, too, who does the graphics for our action alerts and makes sure that they get out to all you NCCC activists.

Federal rule would limit access to contraceptives and health care information. In the last issue, we reported that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was considering a draft regulation that would severely limit the rights of women to choose to use contraceptives, as well as to decide on abortion, while sanctioning medical providers' refusals to offer reproductive health options with which they personally disapproved. According to an HHS spokesperson, the department's aim is to protect physicians and nurses from discrimination based on their religious and moral views. The regulation would require federal health programs to certify that they would hire healthcare providers who openly object to abortion or contraception in order to receive federal aid to run their programs. The certification also would be required of state and local governments when allocating grants to hospitals and other institutions with policies against providing abortions.

Since the draft rule was leaked, many commentators have raised alarms about its potential harmful effects. If adopted, the rule could override state laws protecting access to birth control and ensuring that rape survivors receive timely emergency contraception. According to California Attorney General Jerry Brown, the draft HHS regulation would prohibit enforcement of the State law requiring insurance coverage for birth control to women. It could also endanger federal programs offering reproductive health services under Medicaid and Title X, making contraceptive services less available to low-income and uninsured women.

The draft proposal defined abortion broadly. That definition was dropped from the proposed rule, which was published in the *Federal Register* on August 26. However, because the current version includes no definition at all, individual health care providers could decide on their own that birth control is the same as abortion. Both critics and supporters of the rule say it may allow health workers to refuse to dispense contraception. Women patients could be denied unbiased medical information because of the rule without even knowing they were being deprived of advice about their options or denied access to care. The 30-day public comment period ended on September 25. The rule could go into effect sometime thereafter.

I have met thousands and thousands of pro-choice men and women. I have never met anyone who is pro-abortion. Being pro-choice is not being pro-abortion. Being pro-choice is trusting the individual to make the right decision for herself and her family, and not entrusting that decision to anyone wearing the authority of government in any regard.

— Hillary Rodham Clinton

Family PACT continued from page 1

California has been operating Family PACT under a federal Medicaid "1115 demonstration" waiver since 1999, with temporary extensions since the waiver expired in 2004. That is, until this month. For nearly four years, the State has negotiated with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the renewal of the waiver, without reaching an agreement. CMS notified the state on September 3, 2008 of its approval of California's waiver renewal. However, the terms and conditions of the renewal include requirements and timeframes that the State cannot possibly meet or afford. CMS is requiring California to accept the final agreement by October 3, 2008 — or the waiver will end. CMS' new requirements will force the State and federal government to spend approximately \$175 more per person to determine eligibility for family planning services.

Efforts are being made to extend the waiver legislatively. In this era of State and federal budget deficits, it makes little sense to modify the waiver in ways that could halt what many consider the most successful and cost effective family planning program in the country. This ill-considered CMS action could undermine access to high quality, low cost care for reproductive health for all those who now benefit from Family PACT.

[NOTE: NCCC is working through the Women's Policy Institute network and the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom to address this issue. We joined in a CCRF letter to Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, urging them to take whatever legislative action is necessary to save California's family planning program.] - Elaine Sierra

►► *Clinic at Risk* by Cece Royal ►►

California's 2008 State Budget: a threat to women's health care clinic?

Since July 1, start of the fiscal year, California has been without a budget. As a consequence, State-funded public service organizations, like Citizens for Choice's partner Women's Health Specialists (WHS), have not received their Medi-Cal reimbursements to meet payroll. WHS, unable to pay the nurses and the trained staff it supplies to the Citizens for Choice clinic in Grass Valley, has been staying afloat through a large loan.

Now after a record-setting 85 days of stalemate, veto threats, and recriminations, the California State Legislature has finally passed a budget, sending it to Governor Schwarzenegger for final approval. Unfortunately nothing in this budget is cause for celebration: the most dismaying problem is a \$15.2 billion shortfall that is supposed to be solved by an increase in fines levied on corporations for underpayment of taxes next year.

Bottom line is that California is in desperate need of more revenue, and the reason for the shortfall is not out-of-control spending. Nearly three-fourths of the 33% increase in spending (\$26 billion) over the last five years in California is accounted for by a 7% growth in population and a 17% increase in inflation over that same period. The remaining \$7.4 billion can be attributed to increased spending on prisons (\$4.3 billion), and payments to local governments (\$3.1 billion) to cover the loss in revenue when the vehicle license fee was reduced.

Guess who championed stricter laws to put 11,000 more people in prison, as well as the roll back of the car fee? Republicans and a Republican governor. Does the shortfall affect the Citizens for Choice clinic? It most certainly does. A shortfall will affect all public services, including clinics like ours in Grass Valley. What can we do about this?

The answer is not in cutting vital services but in figuring out equitable solutions to pay for them. To that end, we must go straight to the source, contact our prospective legislators, let

Does the shortfall affect the Citizens for Choice clinic?

It most certainly does.

them know that we understand and approve the need for tax proposals that will make California fiscally sound, able to support its vital services. Legislators must implement fair taxes on global corporations, including California oil producers with their record-breaking profits, and the uppermost wealthy tier in our state. Let your legislator know the Citizens for Choice clinic is important to your community. Legislators must implement real budget/tax reform to initiate a new era of fiscal responsibility. We elect representatives because we believe they will support us. How can they know what we expect from them without being specific? Contact yours: (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>).

Before the opening of the reproductive clinic in Grass Valley, it was estimated that more than 1,200 people traveled from our local area to clinics in Chico or Sacramento. Help to keep our clinic open!



Presidential Candidates and Parties' Position on Choice

Be an educated voter-and tell your friends and family about these positions*:

John McCain (R-AZ)	Issues	Barack Obama (D-IL)
Opposes	Confirming federal judges who make decisions on established civil rights law and the Constitution, not a political agenda	Supports
Opposes	Respecting the privacy of reproductive health and family planning decisions	Supports
Opposes	Federal funding of comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, medically accurate sexuality education programs in schools	Supports

Candidates' Positions

Democratic candidate Barack Obama supports *Roe v. Wade*, supports a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion, supports public funding of abortions and birth control, and supports comprehensive sex education. It has been reported that the National Right to Life Committee, which opposes abortion rights, said Obama never voted with the group's interests in 2005 and 2006, while Planned Parenthood, which supports abortion rights, said Obama voted 100% of the time with the group's interests in 2006.

Republican candidate John McCain, on the other hand, takes opposing positions — opposing women having the right to abortions under any circumstance (though in the past he has said that he would support exceptions to a ban on abortion in cases of rape, incest, and when the mother's life is in danger); opposing public funding of contraceptives and birth control; and opposing sex education in the schools other than abstinence-only programs. John McCain would support overturning *Roe v. Wade*, returning the abortion question to the states, and eventually banning abortion at the state level. An adoptive father himself, he would promote adoption as a first option for women struggling with a crisis pregnancy. It has been reported that the National Right to Life Committee, which opposes abortion rights, said McCain voted 75% of the time with the group's interests in 2005 and 2006, while Planned Parenthood, which supports abortion rights, said McCain never voted with the group's interests in 2006.

Democratic Party Platform

The Democratic Party platform states that the party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and opposes any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right. The Democratic Party also strongly supports access to affordable family planning services and comprehensive age-appropriate sex education. The platform also states that the party recognizes that such health care and education help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and

thereby also reduce the need for abortions; and supports a woman's decision to have a child by ensuring access to and availability of programs for pre- and post-natal health care, parenting skills, income support, and caring adoption programs.

Republican Party Platform

The Republican Party platform has planks on "Protecting Rights of Conscience" and "Maintaining The Sanctity and Dignity of Human Life." Regarding matters of conscience, it states that no health care professional – doctor, nurse or pharmacist – or organization should ever be required to perform, provide for, or refer for a health care service against their conscience for any reason." The platform "asserts the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirms that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." It supports a human life amendment to the Constitution, opposes using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or to fund organizations which advocate it. The platform explicitly supports the appointment of judges "who respect traditional family values and the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life." It supports a parental notification requirement, and states that "[e]very effort should be made to work with women considering abortion to enable and empower them to choose life."

The positions of the presidential candidates and their respective parties on reproductive choice and justice are polar opposites. Which better reflects your values? Which is more likely to enhance reproductive justice and which to erode it?

* These candidates' positions on the issues were determined by the American Association of University Women, using candidates' voting records, public statements, campaign position papers, and information posted on the Internet from trusted sources. This guide is provided as a public service and is not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. For questions, visit www.aauw.org.

▶▶ *No on Prop 4* by Sharon O'Hara ▶▶

Protect Teen Safety – Vote NO on Prop 4

Before a recent joint hearing of the Assembly and Senate Health Committees representatives from various religious, health care, civil rights, education and youth organizations testified against Proposition 4 and called it “the most deceptive proposition on this November’s ballot.”

Margaret Crosby, Staff Attorney, the ACLU of No. California stated: “This is the THIRD VERSE - but WORSE THAN THE FIRST TWO because it is actually more dangerous than they were. It increases the danger to our teens, does NOT protect teens in violent or dangerous homes and increases the possibility of lawsuits against doctors.

This initiative also includes several “false” options for teens – including a judicial bypass provision – which, when you think about it, will just put teens in more danger... Imagine, a teen is scared and pregnant...how can she navigate a crowded and unfamiliar court house? These teens don't need a judge; they need a counselor and good medical care without delay.”

The Reverend Hardy, Parenthood Golden Gate, leaders understand that to be involved in their teen's we all want and need and supports us. The sad teen finds this blessing in requiring parental abortion could lead to the street, and force women to take matters into abort, find an unsafe abortion, or even consider suicide. In good conscience, we cannot allow this initiative to put their safety at risk.”



Chaplain at Planned testified: “Clergy parents rightfully want lives. In difficult times, someone who guides truth is that not every her parents. For them, notification before abuse, more teens on desperate young their own hands, self

Kathy Kneer, CEO of Planned Parenthood CA, said “...What a waste of time and effort for pro choice supporters to have to fight this a third time. Our time and energy should be spent on legislation for primary healthcare services for thousands California women such as breast and cervical cancer screenings, contraceptive services, immunizations and STD testing and treatment. It's a terrible waste of money and effort but we are confident that voters will reject this one more time.”

You can get involved! Sign the online Pledge to Vote No when you visit the **No on Prop 4** web site, <http://www.noonprop4.org/>. Become a fan on the **No on Prop 4 Facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=2205152276&topic=5267>. And join Nevada County Citizens for Choice today! www.citizensforchoice.org.

For your information

Major funding for the Proposition 4 campaign (in addition to Prop. 85 and Prop. 73 before it) comes from the Sebastiani family. Besides the traditional Sebastiani label, including Cherryblock, Sebastiani and Sons makes the following wines:

Pepperwood Grove	Smoking Loon	Kono Baru
Aquinas	Mia's Playground	S/K/N (Screw Kappa Napa)
B Side	Used Auto Parts	(haven't seen this one yet!)

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors who generously gave between 7/23/08 and 9/30/08

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John and Catrinka Holland

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Kimberley Milligan
Deborah and John Russell
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NEVADA COUNTY
Citizens
— EDUCATED CHOICES for LIFE —
Choice

▶▶▶▶ *The Clinic* by Nancy Eubanks ▶▶▶▶

Our Citizens for Choice Clinic operated in conjunction with Women's Health Specialists of Chico continues to do well.

We are now open two days a week – Monday and Wednesdays. As more people hear about our expanded hours, we are sure this number will only increase. The number of client visits continues to increase. Since February our total number

have increased from 106 clinic visits to over 200 in August. Here is a typical breakdown of the services we offered in a month:

- Annual exam: 35
- STD testing: 60
- Birth control only: 85
- Pregnancy services: 1
- Other gynecological services: 25

▶▶▶▶ *Outreach* by Sarah Molaro ▶▶▶▶

Kristen and I have begun to wind down for the summer and prepare for more indoor outreach opportunities. As the weather gets cooler we find creative ways to dress so as not to overheat or be too cold going in and out of doors during rounds through the town. Conversations with potential clients and donors becomes a bit more intimate and qualitative vs the outreach during the long



Kristen and Sarah, the Outreach Team!

summer days that optimizes the quantity of individuals reached. Proposition 4 tends to be a highlight in conversation during this election time and the we are leaving handouts opposing Prop 4 throughout town. Look for our team table in front of Briar Patch on Thursday, October 16th to celebrate "Community Week" at the Patch.

▶▶▶▶ *From the Editor* by Linda McManus ▶▶▶▶

After many years of incredible service to Citizens for Choice – as President, database manager, and *Voices for Choice* editor, Laurel Knapp is taking a well-deserved break. Her expertise, knowledge, and always-welcome advice have helped Citizens for Choice run smoothly for twenty years, and I am eternally grateful for the advice and help that she has given me, and am doubly grateful for her calm personality!

Laurel, you are great!

reading, especially biographies of feminist women. Laurel has always had an interest in family history, and pursued her family's genealogy. She plans to write her life story in such a way that her grandchildren will read it.

We will miss working with her! If you'd like to send Laurel a note, please send it to Citizens for Choice, P.O. Box 3525, Grass Valley, 95945 and we'll make sure that it reaches her. Thank you Laurel!

Laurel was one of the founders of Citizens for Choice, and greatly instrumental in developing its By-Laws and other rules by which it has run for years. She has been heavily involved with many women's organizations, including leadership roles in Women's Political Caucus and Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Nevada County. She volunteers for the Foothill Theatre Company, finds time to travel, and enjoys music and

This is my first issue as editor for *Voices for Choice*, and I sincerely hope that readers step forward with any newsworthy items and/or a willingness to write an article! You can contact me at lindamc@its.caltech.edu or info@citizensforchoice.org.

Thank you to our Voices for Choice contributors:

- Ingrid Elsef
- Nancy Eubanks
- Sharon O'Hara
- Cece Royal
- Elaine Sierra

Voices for Choice is published quarterly starting in January; please contact the editor if you would like to write for our newsletter.

▶▶▶▶▶ *Choice Events!* by Nancy Eubanks ▶▶▶▶▶

Celebration of Choice on October 10

The food is ordered, the donations are in – well mostly - , the decorations are planned, the music is ordered, the invitations are out, and the volunteers are ready. We have some great auction items for both our live auction and our silent auction!! Our BIG live auction item this year is a condo for a week in Puerto Vallarta! WOW! Our speaker will be J. Parker Dockray, the executive director of California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom. She should bring some very lively and important information this election season. So come one, come all – bring all your friends - and enjoy the fun – and help a great cause too.

Hope to see you all there Friday October 10th starting at 6:00 at the Elks Lodge in Grass Valley.



This could be you! One week in a studio condo right on the ocean. Generously donated by long-time member Debbie Russell for our live auction, this is a fantastic opportunity. Dates are Saturday May 16 to Saturday May 23, 2009. The location is beautiful Puerto Vallarta at the Paradise Village Beach Resort and Spa.

<http://www.paradisevillage.com/webmasterversion/index.asp>

*We hope to see you
at the Celebration of Choice
on October 10—
it's fun, festive, and free!*

From Our Collaborators...

From the BPW ▶ Business and Professional Women of Nevada County are holding an event to celebrate their 80th National Business Women's Week on October 12, from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Grass Valley, \$20 per person. Keynote speaker is Charlie Brown, 4th Congressional Democrat candidate.

They will be honoring two women of achievement, **Elaine Sierra** and **Susan Rogers**. Elaine has been involved with Citizens for Choice for many years (as President, Development Chair, and Public Policy chair) as has Susan (as Communications director). While it is unfortunate that the deadline for reservations (October 4) will probably fall before you receive this newsletter, please call Dee Eldridge, 273.0257, in case there are still openings.

From the AAUW ▶ All politics are local! The American Association of University Women, Nevada County Branch, invites you to join us for a timely presentation by Charlotte Newhart, the AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist, updating many of the critical legislative issues affecting California women today.

Her advocacy firm, Charlotte Maxwell Newhart and Associates, is based in Sacramento with a client base that includes organizations that share AAUW's public policy focus. Charlotte brings over 30 years experience in advocacy for women and children.

Saturday, October 18th, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 828 W. Main St., Grass Valley
For further information, please contact Public Policy chair, Sharon O'Hara, oharashar@gmail.com

- October 10** **Celebration of Choice!**
Friday, 6-8:30 p.m.
Elks Lodge, 109 So. School St., Grass Valley
Please join friends of Citizens for Choice at our annual auction fundraiser. All proceeds will benefit our health clinic and outreach programs. Bring your friends! It's a festive occasion, with a live and silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar, and more! No charge for admission but we ask if you would let us know if you'll be attending.
info@citizensforchoice.org.
- October 12** **BPW, National Business Women's Week**
Sunday, 2:30-5:00 p.m.
Keynote speaker: Charlie Brown, 4th Congressional Democratic Candidate
Elks Lodge, Grass Valley
See page 7 for details.
- October 16** Outreach Team tabling at BriarPatch market for Community Week
- October 18** **AAUW, Presentation by Charlotte Newhart, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist**
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Peace Lutheran Church, 828 W. Main St., Grass Valley
See page 7 for details.
- October 18** California voter registration deadline.
For information: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm
- November 4** Election Day. **Vote for choice!**

