



# June 2011 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

**A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,  
League of Women Voters**

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*in joining the*

*League, please*

*contact **Helen Jordan** at*

*372-6420.*

## SLWV Calendar\*

Date/Time	Place	Description
June 13th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Judy Clay 423 Oak Knoll Ct.	SLWV Book Discussion - <i>Panther in the Basement</i> by Amos Oz <b>NOTE CHANGE IN BOOK!</b> (Contact Person: Pat Jaynes)
June 14th (Tues.) 11:30 to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting - <b>FLAG DAY!</b> Presentation about the American Flag by Boy Scout Troop 20 Report on the LWVOK Convention (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
June 16th (Thurs.) 6:30 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room (rm.138) —location tentative	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
July 11th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Deanna Homer 2105 E. Marcus Ave.	SLWV Book Discussion - <i>Every Last One</i> by Anna Quindlen (Contact Person: Karen Melcher)
July 12th (Tues.) 11:30 to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting - Program TBA (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
July 21st (Thurs.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
August 8th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Karen Melcher 523 S. Ridge Rd.	SLWV Book Discussion - <i>Green Gone Wrong</i> by Heather Rogers (Contact Person: Valerie Zayat-Bloodgood)
August 13th (Sat.) 10 a.m. to Noon	Girl Scout Stapley Campground in Helen Gorin's Nature Center (air conditioned!)	SLWV Kickoff Brunch! Additional information and directions later (Contact Persons: Board Members)

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\*League-sponsored items are in bold.

## LWVOK - May 21, 2011 Convention - Report

League members from across Oklahoma met on May 21st at the Holiday Inn in Norman for the League of Women Voters Oklahoma state convention. Alice and Paul Richardson, Kirsten Tautfest, and Karen Melcher (as a member of the State Board) attended from Stillwater. Alice delivered the "rah rah" for our local League as she talked about the Helen Gorin memorial fund project with the Girl Scouts. Other Leagues shared their experiences with registration and forum events. The Tulsa League has been especially active with the Project Schoolhouse and the Tulsa Public Schools (more information can be accessed at [tulsaworld.com](http://tulsaworld.com)). The Norman League has been dealing with the Lake Thunderbird watershed proposals.

All the programs were retained for the coming two years. There was a proposal from the Tulsa League for a new water study. This was approved. This will take place over the next two years. The scope will be limited to updating the background information and possibly adding new sections to the position regarding the sale of Oklahoma water, and seeing how hydraulic fracturing ("hydrofracking") fits into our current positions. Kirsten would like to see at least one Stillwater member involved in this study during the coming two years.

Also, there was a financial contention of the Vote411.org. There were two levels that could be purchased by the State League, a \$2000 level and a \$5000 level. After several modifications and discussion, the State Board was authorized to spend "up to \$5000" on the Vote411.org service for the coming year. This allows the purchase of at least the minimum level which would cover portions of the state where there is a League member presence. At the current time, this will cover all 5 Congressional districts, US Senate, state level offices, and any state questions that will be on the 2012 November ballot. The current level of the education fund, from which the cost of the website access will come, will currently cover the \$2000 level. The Tulsa League wanted to push for the full access level, arguing that this would be a good recruitment tool for other portions of the state for establishment of more local Leagues or at least gaining more MAL's. Time commitment and money was a major factor in the resistance to a commitment to the full access level. Donations made to the education fund can be designated to go to the Vote411.org access. Remember that donations to the ed fund are tax deductible, but it will need to be clearly marked on the memo line of your personal check.

Board members and officers were elected for the coming year. Karen Melcher will continue to work on the state board. Also, Kirsten Tautfest was appointed to be a new board member.

More details and information can be heard by attending the June 14th luncheon at Freddie Paul's Restaurant at 11:30am (program begins at Noon). Karen and Kirsten will give a State convention update.

—Kirsten Tautfest

### Membership

Welcome to new member

Cassie Taylor Reed, 407 East Rogers Drive, Stillwater, 74075, tel. 405-385-7368 (e-mail address available on the LWVStillwater roster).

—Helen Jordan



## Voter Service:



The next event scheduled will be a tentative Voter Registration event for the annual Juneteenth event, usually held at Southern Woods Park. Date and time have not been determined yet.

The Voter Service chair slot has currently not been assigned. With early 2012 slated to be a big election year across the Nation, we need to have a Voter Service chair who is willing to take on this responsibility without being a highly visible figure in any political party. The Voter Service chair does not have to be a Board member. We can have co-chairs, with one heading up Voter Registration events and the other setting up forums. Please contact Kirsten if you are interested: 405-612-8550 or ktautfest@gmail.com. Please use LWV in the subject line so she doesn't miss your email.

## Meeting Report:

### Lake McMurtry – What's Going On?

Valerie Bloodgood provided the information she had been able to discover about the Parks and Recreation department's plan for the lake. Valerie (a League member) and her husband live on Lake McMurtry road and are vitally interested in the east side of the lake. The notice in the paper was the first time she was aware of any proposal for the lake's use.

Giving us a bit of history, Lake McMurtry was built in the 1970's in a cost split between the City of Stillwater and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is 1000 acres and also provides water for the city of Perry. The lake is managed by the Parks and Recreation dept. and provides hiking, biking, camping, fishing, etc. (see their brochure).

The proposed plan for future development is the result of the P & R Board saying there is too much land for the current staff to take care of and manage. Having worked for P & R (in the Senior Center) Valerie decided the best way to find out information was to go talk to John McClenny, then head of P & R and now Director of External Services for the city, and Eve Morgan, with P & R (but not director), bringing along a list of questions.

The proposal would be for semi-private development on public land and a similar development in Oklahoma is Cross Timbers at Skiatook Lake. Following are the questions. The initial answers are in italics, and were given by Eve Morgan. In parenthesis ( ) are the answers given by John McClenny.

- What is the cost currently to maintain Lake McMurtry? *Initial answer, don't know.* (\$300,000+, including capital improvements and needs on an annual basis.)
- The fee was raised 2 years ago; did the actual lake usage drop by permit sales? *Don't know.* (No drop, but increase in revenue. There would need to be a raise in fee from \$6 daily to

\$36/day.) [FYI – fee raising is to cover the costs involved with Lake McMurtry.]

- Trails are being discussed – will they stay intact or become multiuse? (We won't let them take out the trails or move to multiuse.)
- Will the development be total public access? (For the most part. It will be the same model as Lake Skiatook. It may also look like Cedar Crest development on Redlands Rd.)
- What will be maintained by the city? homeowner? county? and which county? (This still has to be worked out. The lake access is granted both Payne and Noble through COEDD.)
- What is the specific area involved? (Can't really be defined.)
- If the east side is developed, what prevents the west side from being developed? (The public and nothing.)
- What regards are being made to the displaced wildlife?(That's part of what has to be considered.)
- Where will the tax dollars go? *Don't know.* (The lake is currently subsidized by the city so it doesn't matter; it is all tied together with P & R.)
- Where will rental dollars go? (An agreement between the city and the developer would determine.) [FYI – no local developers have expressed an interest in this project.]
- Specific questions on the development:
  - Restrictions on developers? (Input on conservation.)
  - Restrictions on home owners? (Input on conservation.)

*Continued on p. 4 ...*

*Lake McMurtry continued ...*

What are the size of the lots?

What are the criteria for choosing the developer?

How much of it will be in rentals vs. homeowners? *Up to developers.*

Will homeowners only own the home and not the land?  
Yes.

• Will there be 'neighborhood' meetings to discuss any of this? *Yes (yes)*

• What public input is the city asking for? *(We are putting together a citizens group.) [This has been done and supposed to be functioning.]*

• Does any of this relate to the 2020 or 2025 guide that's been on the books? *Don't know.*

• When police write a ticket at the lake, where does the money go? *Don't know. (General fund.)*

• What is the budget shortfall for last fiscal year? *Don't know. (\$136,000, but there's a problem of looking at that because of maintenance and upgrade issues so we don't really know.)*

• Where does the majority of revenue at the lake come from? *Don't know. (The income from permits and leases was \$93,000.)*

• Who is meeting with the NRCS? *No answer.*

• Has permission been granted by the NRCS and when did the proposal go out? *The proposal hasn't gone out; a copy is on the city's website and there will be a legal notice in the paper. (No response.)*

• What would be the potential for closing down the lake for 5 years? *We would still have to maintain the dam. (All facilities would still be there and it's not good to let them sit idle.)*

• Why not rent out to groups such as Audubon or sell to the Nature Conservancy? *It has been in the plans since 1971 to do this. Changes made in the Clinton administration allowed for public lands to be developed with the Land between the Lakes in Tennessee.*

This is a lengthy report but Valerie's questions were excellent and I didn't want to omit any of them. I think it could be concluded that the P & R staff hadn't really thought through much of this proposal. I am responsible for the reporting of the information in this article and if it is incorrect, check with me. Personally, if I ever need anyone to develop questions for "grilling" someone I will ask Valerie; she should have been a lawyer.

--Kay Murphy

## Book Club Update

The book for the June 13th Book Club meeting is *Panther in the Basement* by Amos Oz, translated by Nicholas de Lange. It is a story of Proffy, a twelve year-old living in Palestine in 1947. Proffy was short for Professor, a nickname given to him because of his obsession with checking words. When Proffy befriends a member of the occupying British forces who shares his love of language and the Bible, he is accused of treason by his friends and learns the true nature of loyalty and betrayal.

Come join us at Judy Clay's home.

—Beth Thornton

The following is an updated copy of the SLWV Book Club Schedule

Please note the change from what was previously announced for the book for June 13. Also please note the corrected name and author of the book for October.

### SLWV Book Club – 2011-2012

June 13, 2011

Book – *Panther in the Basement* by Amos Oz

Leader – Pat Jaynes

Hostess – Judy Clay – 423 S. Oak Knoll Court

July 11, 2011

Book – *Every Last One* by Anna Quindlen

Leader – Karen Melcher

Hostess – Deanna Homer – 2105 E. Marcus Ave

*Continued on p. 6.....*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE**

Membership dues for the 2011-2012 year are due by August 1 and will be delinquent after October 31.

Please fill in this form and send it with your check made payable to League of Women Voters of Stillwater to: Alice Richardson, LWV Treasurer, 1023 South Western Rd., Stillwater, OK. 74074

Name of member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> member in same household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

(check one:) For LOCAL use only \_\_\_\_\_ For LOCAL & NATIONAL use \_\_\_\_\_ (see below)

\*Membership new to LWV (first year only) (**\$25.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Regular membership dues (7/1/11-6/30/12) (**\$50.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

\*2<sup>nd</sup> member in same household (**\$25.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Less full-time student credit (**-\$12.50**) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed =====

NOTE: Dues and contributions to the LWV are NOT DEDUCTIBLE as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Please advise us if you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV Education Fund.

At the April 22, 2004 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present requested that we give each member the opportunity to determine how her/his personal e-mail address would be used by the LWV. Therefore, please indicate your preference:

If you check LOCAL use only, we will use your e-mail to inform you of local events and other items the local board feels would be of interest to you. We do not share this information with other organizations without your consent.

If you check LOCAL & NATIONAL use, we will forward your e-mail address to the LWVUS, where it will be used to send you news from the national headquarters on a more timely basis than the quarterly publication. The national league could share this information with other organizations. Also, in the past, we have received notices that there have been unauthorized use of these addresses from LWVUS. If you have anti-spam and virus protection on your computer, this might be of minimal concern.

**\* At the April 24, 2008 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present approved increasing our local annual dues from \$45 to \$50. Of this amount, \$45 is allocated to LWVOK and LWVUS for per member payments during the current fiscal year. The budget for 2011-2012 which is included in the Annual Meeting Voter for April 21, 2011 was approved on that date.**

*Book club continued.....*

August 8, 2011

Book – *Green Gone Wrong* by Heather Rogers  
Leader – Valerie Zayat-Bloodgood  
Hostess – Karen Melcher – 523 S. Ridge Rd.

September 12, 2011

Book – *C Street* by Jeff Sharlet  
Leader – Carol Stone  
Hostess – Beth Thornton – 1215 S. Serenity Lane

October 10, 2011

Book – *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places* by Ly Le Hayslip  
Leader – Joyce Cox  
Hostess – Margaret Ewing – 1810 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

November 14, 2011

Book – *An American Life* by Lori Gingberg  
Leader – Avis Rambo  
Hostess – Gerry Nelson – 1008 W. Eskridge Place

December 12, 2011

Book – *Locked Room* by Laurie R. King  
Leader – Margaret Ewing  
Hostess – Carol Stone – 1114 West Frances Avenue

January 9, 2012

Book – *Daring Young Men* by Richard Reaves  
Leader – Nancy Andrews  
Hostess – Pat Jaynes – 5220 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

February 13, 2012

Book – *March* by Geraldine Brooks  
Leader – Gerry Nelson  
Hostess – Avis Rambo – 706 S. Gray Street

March 12, 2012

Book – *Earth* by Fred Krupp  
Leader – Judy Clay  
Hostess – Joyce Cox – 23 Brentwood Drive

April 9, 2012

Book – *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls  
Leader – Deanna Homer  
Hostess – Martha McMillian – 4108 W. Deer Crossing Drive

May 14, 2012

Book – *Deadly Spin* by Wendell Porter  
Leader – Beth Thornton  
Hostess – Nancy Andrews



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF STILLWATER**

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