



Stillwater Voter

A Publication of Stillwater League of Women Voters

Kay Murphy,
President

November / December
2006

Sunny Choi, Editor
Carol Stone, Distributor

President's Message

Are We Amazing, or What?

If anyone who is a non-Leaguer looks at the calendar on our website they will be amazed at how many things are going on. Included are city concerns, environmental concerns, mental health and family visitation concerns, intellectual stimulation through book discussions and creative expression through "Women

Speak." We are an amazing group of involved individuals!

Overriding all of our activities in October has been the service to the community we provide with questions and answers from the candidates published in the newspapers (and on our webpage), candidate forums, as well as voter awareness and registration.

Trish Emig, as chair of Voter Service, and

many, many, many other people have been doing a tremendous job. If I mention names I am sure to leave someone out. Each of you accept our thanks for all of your time and effort.

On the national level there is a webpage www.VOTE411.org up and running providing election dates, voter qualifications, ID requirements and

(Continued on page 2)

The due date for the January issue of *Stillwater Voter* articles will be announced later.

Complimentary hard copies of this newsletter are provided to interested parties.

If you are interested in joining the League, please contact **Bren Bose** at 624-2554. ♦

Stillwater LWV Calendar

Please consult the web calendar for detailed information and possible last minute changes.

Nov 7 (Tue)	Election Day
Nov 14 (Tue) 11:30 a.m. Lu's Super Buffet	SLWV Noon Meeting - Esther Winterfeldt leads a discussion on health issues.
Nov 28 (Tue) 7:00 p.m. Beth Thornton Residence	SLWV Book Discussion - <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i> by Azar Nafisi
Dec 9 (Sat) 10 a.m. - Noon Stillwater Unitarian Church	SLWV December Holiday Brunch
Dec 19 (Tue) 7 - 9 p.m. Stillwater Public Library	Board Meeting
Jan 9 (Tue) 11:30 a.m. Lu's Super Buffet	SLWV Noon Meeting - Harold Sare presents upcoming legislation and OK teachers' retirement.

Message ... (continued)

other voter service information. You might check this page out and see for yourself the efforts of the national office. I hope you also realize they reach out to Spanish-speaking and -reading individuals with several publications and a partnership with Telemundo.

Looking ahead, the national office will be sending materials in early 2007 about the focus of the study on immigration approved at the national convention. For the Centennial Year in Oklahoma the LWVOK State Convention will be in Guthrie, May 18 and 19 and the "Women Speak" group has

been asked to present their reading. Please put that on your 2007 calendar.

Keep checking the calendar on the webpage for dates and activities. Many of those are discussed in other articles in this edition of the *Voter*. Although events are submitted to the News Press Community Calendar they don't always appear in a timely manner, so the Stillwater LWV web calendar and *Voter* are more reliable.

With this edition Sunny Choi is turning over Editor duties for the *Voter* to Marlee Pierce. We are very grateful to Sunny for all of her work and expertise in designing and format-

ting the *Voter* as it now appears, and keeping our 'nose to the grindstone' or 'fingers to the keyboard' so that our submissions were to her on time. She has been a delightful addition to our Board meetings, reminding us not to be too stuffy, and contributing great ideas. Thank you Sunny! Welcome Marlee! We will continue to be as helpful as possible as you take on the *Voter* editorship.

If you have questions of either me or the Board, you know how to reach us. We need your active involvement in the Stillwater League.

Kay Murphy

Program Announcements

You Don't Want to Miss Any of These!

Tuesday, November 14th:
Noon Meeting at Lu's Super Buffet 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We have a new author within our membership! Esther Winterfeldt has written *Aging in Good Health* and will review the book and lead a discussion on health issues. Esther was a faculty member in the College of Human Environmental Sciences and served as Department Head of Foods and Nutrition (now Nutritional Sciences) as well as holding other positions in the administration.

She will have a few copies of her book at the meeting for those who might like to purchase one.

Saturday, December 9th:
Annual Holiday Brunch at the Unitarian Church (320 S. Stalard) from 10 a.m. to Noon.

This is our Holiday party at which we visit, eat and do a little business. The first order of business will be to discuss the State League Program. We will go over each of the present programs and decide if we want to keep it, restudy it or delete it. Then we discuss possible subjects for new programs. This is then presented to the State LWV Board, who will in turn present it at the State Convention held in late spring, 2007.

It is planned that there will be enough time for the standing committees to hold a short meeting. If you are not on a committee you may decide

which one you would like to join. It is hoped that all members will participate in the League work by serving on a committee.

This will be an opportunity for you to share your favorite holiday food.

Tuesday, January 9th: Noon Meeting at Lu's Super Buffet 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

League members are always wondering how to make a difference in government. One way is to write or contact their legislators. Harold Sare, a retired OSU Political Science Professor will speak to us about up-coming legislation, with a slant towards Oklahoma Teacher Retirement.

Beth Thornton

Mayor McMillian Sharing His Visions

September Noon Meeting Report

Mayor Roger McMillian spoke to the League at the September noon meeting and described activities since he became mayor, as well as current and future issues for Stillwater.

1. The ownership of Hall of Fame was a campaign issue and has been determined to be owned the City of Stillwater. Hopefully it will be reopened in 2008.

2. Whether there can be an improved relationship between OSU and the city remains to be seen. This is an area for continuous work.

3. Water is a current issue and will remain one in the future. Rural Water District #3 is a large area with 1180 customers. A negotiation with this district merges the water supply and distribution, but is not intended to lead to annexation. Of prime concern in the future will be a supply of water. In order for the Kaw pipeline to be repaired there will have to be other sources of water. There are currently no pipelines to Lake Carl Blackwell or Lake McMurtry. Any water projects will be very expensive and will require bond funds and a vote of the people.

4. The Downtown Stillwater Revitalization plan will require a variety of funding techniques, both public and private. There is support for the plan but currently funding is undetermined.

5. Changes to the number of meetings of the City Commission and the agenda, especially the consent docket, have been implemented, not to reduce public input but to help the city staff work on their tasks and those requested by the commission.

6. The move to have the census count for Stillwater re-examined would help us in economic development. The number of citizens affects grants monies, entitlements and businesses looking at our community for relocation.

7. The Transportation Enhancement Study is very important because it is a prediction of our road needs for the next 25 to 50 years.

8. A convention/visitor center feasibility report is

forthcoming.

9. The most controversial future activity would involve annexation, as this would require city development standards for the area to be annexed. Community information will be needed to promote the benefits of annexation.

In summary Mayor McMillian would like to see his term as one of planning for the future rather than reacting to past or present conditions.

Questions from the members related to the Comprehensive plan, how to inform the public of special meetings and open meeting laws.

We thank Mayor McMillian for sharing his views of Stillwater, both present and in the future.

Kay Murphy

Cooler Months Reading

Books Lined Up

Do you enjoy reading good books? Would you like to discuss these books with others? Do you enjoy spending time with good friends?

If so, you should join the SLWV Book Discussion Club.

After reading several books with very serious subjects it was decided to read a light book for October.

Our list of books for the next few months is:

October 24: *Lucy* by Ellen Feldman (We would have already discussed this book by

the time you receive the newsletter.)

November 28: *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, meeting at Beth Thornton's house (1215 S. Serenity Lane)

January 23: *Tortilla Curtain* by T.C.Boyle

February 27: *The Things They Carry* by Tim O'Brian

Come join us! You will be glad you did. So will we!

Beth Thornton

What Voter Service Has Been Up To

Voter Registration Day that Trish Emig organized in early October sounds like a success.

Trish reports that there were eighteen change of address registration and eighteen new registrations, just to count the in-hand registration during the five-hour work period. Several people took the cards to complete and mail them in for themselves.

Here are a couple of photos from the day at the registration booth at the entrance of the Wal-Mart.



A rumor has it that Pat was quite relentless at the job. Once when an eligible voter finally registered, giving into Pat's chasing after him, Pat announced to the new voter "You are now an American."

Trish thanks Pat Jaynes, Thora and Ron Dubois, Gloria Hesser, Doug Sander, Ruth Blair, Marlee Pierce, and Brenda Bose.

Last Words

Kay has given me a Presidential order not to change her mentioning my name in her column in this issue. I didn't, and I am very warmed by her words and some of yours in private messages. Your kind comments and feedback meant a lot to me.

I appreciated the privilege of being *Voter* Editor, and the

wisdom that I learned from many of you. Thank you very much for the fulfilling experience.

Contact Info Change

Please note that the *Voter* Editor's e-mail address will be changed. The current address voter.editor@cox.net will no longer be functional. Any messages coming into it will

be forwarded to Marlee and/or to the Board for a while, but eventually the incoming messages will be bounced.

Marlee will have some time before she publishes the next issue, so she might consider a way to make things more convenient for her, and make an announcement later.

Sunny Choi
Exiting Editor

Where Does the LWVUS/EF Budget Go?

These are answers from LWVUS to some of the members' questions regarding the budget. This material is published on the national Web site.

WHERE DOES THE LWVUS/EF BUDGET GO?

(PMP covers 28 % of these costs)

ADVOCACY: The LWVUS lobbies Congress and the executive branch on League positions — for all of us. We keep you informed and up to date on the issue areas that have been designated by the national Board as legislative priorities. The League's current key activities include our work to improve the functioning of American democracy through our Democracy Agenda: election reform, the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, campaign finance reform, lobby reform and ethics, redistricting reform, and safeguarding civil liberties. In 2006, the League has also been advocating for clean air, full voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia and preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We distribute action alerts and support both our Washington-based Lobby Corps and our nationwide, electronic Grassroots Lobby Corps. We also participate in 13 coalitions to monitor legislative action and encourage grassroots action.

EDUCATION: The League is recognized nationally for its ability to make complex issues

accessible to the nonexpert citizen and for its expertise as a trainer of community leaders and activists. The LWVUS/EF has been hard at work on a broad range of projects in the areas of: voter education and outreach; election reforms of various types; liberty, security and the judiciary; global democracy; and civic engagement. Over the past two years, the League's efforts in these areas have helped state and local Leagues work on these issues in their communities. The LWVUS/EF has already provided 198 pass-through grants to 162 Leagues during this past biennium, and more are in the pipeline.

Some of these national projects have resulted in major reports, such as Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities and Next Steps in Election Reform, which have been distributed to federal and state decision-makers. The League also continues to provide voter information online via the Web site and is in the process of launching a new one-stop-shop for election information, tentatively called VOTE411.org.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Visibility, reputation, credibility, and action are some of the intangibles that generate positive responses to the League and our work. These occur through communication efforts of the LWVUS communication department, including press releases, letters to the editor, press conferences and speeches on our

priority issues and our education and civic engagement activities.

The new LWVUS Web site and *LeaguE-Voice*, the electronic monthly e-newsletter, are also effective tools for communicating with the public and the media. Each month, the *LeaguE-Voice* puts a local face on the League by spotlighting the achievements of a state or local League. Members of the press and public can also find information on League activities at the national, state and local levels in the events section of the Web site. And news clips on League activities are also featured prominently in the Web site's News and Events section.

LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS: The LWVUS/EF staff communicates with League members in a wide variety of ways. Through the use of emerging technologies, we are now able to provide a great deal of information through electronic and online means. The attractive monthly electronic newsletter *LeaguE-Voice*, weekly electronic Presidents' Updates, and our Web site are key sources of information for League members and supporters. Our new Web site now features an enhanced Members section and also enables League members to directly lobby their elected officials at the local, state and national levels. The LWVUS has set up communication vehicles for members to discuss a variety of issues on any of our 23 announcement and interactive discussion lists.

(Continued on page 6)

Where Does the LWVUS/EF Budget Go ... (continued)

LWVUS also provides various publications, including membership brochures and cards. We are now offering ways for Leagues to customize their own products. We also supply "how to" materials for League leaders, such as The President's Packet, Starting Point and In League. Through the three annual issues of The National Voter magazine, LWVUS sends every member legislative updates, highlights of local and state League news, and articles about the latest developments on projects and issues.

SERVICE TO LEAGUES: Many LWVUS/EF staff are involved in providing ad hoc assistance and problem solving for Leagues and League members. Each year, League staff respond to over 30,000 general emails and telephone calls from members and leaders in need of assistance or guidance. LWVUS staff work with you to continually update our membership database that includes information on our 150,000 members and supporters. The database was developed so that all local and state Leagues can easily access and update the information found in their own member records via a secure Web site connection. This new database system continues to save significant time and resources for local, state and the national League.

The LWVUS also provides training on such topics as leadership, membership recruitment and retention, strategic planning, visibility, advocacy and voter service at state

and local League events throughout the year. Beginning in 2005, LWVUS increased its focus on ways that the national League can best help with local membership recruitment, and a pilot project and associated materials for all Leagues are planned for next year as a result.

CONVENTION AND COUNCIL MEETINGS: Convention is the time for members to make changes to the LWVUS bylaws, debate and vote on the biennial program, elect members of the LWVUS Board of Directors, and adopt the LWVUS

budget. It also provides all League members the opportunity to come together to discuss League success stories, network, receive recognition for programs, sell products, and meet members of the LWVUS Board and staff. Virtually all 25 LWVUS/EF staff members are involved throughout the year in the preparations for this event.

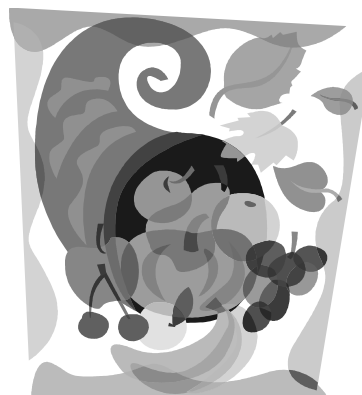
Council meetings provide state League leadership the opportunity to network, receive training, approve the LWVUS budget and raise issues important to the membership in their states. (Dated 8/14/06)

Wishing You A Peaceful Holiday Season

If There Is To Be Peace

*If there is to be peace
in the world,
There must be peace
in the nations.*

*If there is to be peace
in the nations,
There must be peace
in the cities.*



*If there is to be peace
in the cities,
There must be peace
between neighbors.*

*If there is to be peace
between neighbors,
There must be peace
in the home.*

*If there is to be peace
in the home,
There must be peace
in the heart.*

Lao Tzu (570-490 B.C.)



5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ON ELECTION DAY

- 1 GO TO THE RIGHT PLACE** Poll locations can change. Be sure to locate your polling place before you go to vote. Check www.VOTE411.org or contact the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state.
- 2 BRING I.D.** You may need to show I.D. at the polling place. To be safe, bring your driver's license or another photo I.D. In some places, a current utility bill, paycheck or other document that includes your name and street address may also work.
- 3 GET A BALLOT** Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You should be given a provisional ballot or given directions to another polling place.
- 4 GET HELP** Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to use the voting machine or give you a provisional ballot if you need one. Ask, or read the signs at your polling place, which have instructions, list your voting rights and say how to file a complaint.
- 5 STAY AND VOTE** You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important!



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

3 WAYS TO MAKE VOTING A BREEZE

- 1 CHECK YOUR NAME** Before Election Day, check the Web site or call the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state to be sure you're on the list of registered voters.
- 2 AVOID THE CROWDS** If you can, go to the polls during off hours: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. That's when it's likely to be less crowded.
- 3 TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE** Why go alone when you can take a friend or loved one to voter?



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
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Election Day Problems? Call Toll Free:

1-866-MYVOTE1 • 1-866-OUR-VOTE • 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA



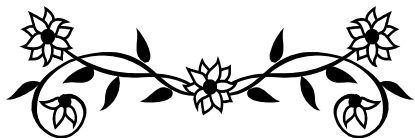
Join Us in Making Democracy Work at www.lwv.org

In Memoriam

Eleanor (Nellie) Pohl

(Dec. 1, 1918 -
Sept. 24, 2006)

Nellie Pohl, a longtime member of the Stillwater LWV, passed away on September 24 at age 87.



Nellie was born in Baltimore, MD in 1918. She graduated with a BS in physics from Goucher College in 1940, and married Herbert Pohl in 1941.

She raised five children while they lived in Washington, D.C., Wilmington, DE,

Princeton, NJ, Uppsala, Sweden and Cambridge, England.

They moved to Stillwater in 1964 when Herbert took a professorship in the Department of Physics at Oklahoma State University.

For many years Nellie was in charge of the LWV Stillwater publication, *Facts for Voters*. She compiled the information for the publication, took it to the printer and supervised its distribution.

Her other League activities ranged from working on the National Security study to providing rides to the voting polls.

Many will remember seeing her everyday at Girl Scout

Day Camp where she was in charge of ordering supplies. She continued to do this long after she no longer had a daughter attending camp.

She also was Neighborhood Chair for Stillwater Girl Scouts for several years and was a regular volunteer at the Southern Woods Love Feast preparing meals for the hungry.

Nellie did much in her quiet, unassuming way to make Stillwater a better community. We were fortunate to have her as a resident.

Karen Melcher



Stillwater League of Women Voters
A nonpartisan grassroots organization

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