



February 2009 Stillwater Voter

Gladeen Allred-Struthers,
Acting President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

Marlee Pierce, Editor
Carol Stone, Distributor

This newsletter is supported by member dues. Complimentary copies are provided to interested parties. If you are interested in joining the League, please contact Gladeen Allred-Struthers at 372-7238.

SLWV Calendar

Mon., February 9, 7:00 p.m. — Book discussion group: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin.

Leader: Beth Thornton

Location: Carol Stone's home, 1114 W. Frances.

Tues., February 10, 6:30 - 9 p.m. — Meditation's, 1205 N. Country Club Rd. *SLWV Annual Banquet and Silent Auction*
Speaker: Sundra Flansburg from World Neighbors. *"Work for Women - Supporting women in business in developing countries."* Cash bar and silent auction beginning at 6:30 p.m.
(Contact Person: Alice Richardson)

Thurs., February 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 24th Ave. SW in Norman, OK. Norman League's public forum on the Pros and Cons of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Panelists are University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University faculty members Keith Gaddie, Ph.D, Tim Mauldin, Ph.D, and Harry F. (Rick) Tepker, J.D. For more information, visit <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org>

Wed., February 18, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. — State Capitol Building. Women's/ Legislative Day at the Capitol. For more information see website: oklahomawomenscoalition.org
(Contact Person: Trish Emig)

Tues., February 24, 11:30 — Perkin's Restaurant. Robert Murphy, former Associate District Judge, will talk about judicial selection in Oklahoma. (Contact person: Karen Melcher)

Mon., March 9, 7:00 p.m. — Book discussion group: *Finding My Voice* by Diane Rehm.
Leader: Margaret Ewing
Location: Trish Emig's home, 2724 N. Monroe.

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Annual Banquet Celebrates the 89th Birthday of League of Women Voters

The annual banquet of the Stillwater League of Women Voters will be held at Meditations, Feb. 10th, 2009. "WOW! Work for Women", a World Neighbors program, will be described by Sundra Flansburg, manager of WOW. The public is invited to attend. Dinner at 7 p.m. is preceded by a silent auction and cash bar at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is \$20 per person and reservations must be made with Alice Richardson, 377-4831 by Jan. 30th, or mail to 1023 S. Western, Stillwater, 74074.

Since the beginning of the League in 1920 women and women's issues have been a priority for LWV. Our speaker will bring a world view of women and programs to help alleviate the poverty in their community. World Neighbors is an international development organization striving to eliminate hunger, poverty and disease in the poorest, most isolated rural villages in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Sundra Flansburg has been with World Neighbors for almost three years; WOW! is a membership organization of World Neighbors supporters who are committed to improving the lives of women and their families throughout the world. Supporters do this through education, advocacy and donations. Sundra has 20 years of background in gender and women's issues, from directing a national gender equity resource center in Boston, to training rural primary school teachers in Peru, to leading advocacy efforts for a coalition of women's organizations at a United Nations conference.



**Banquet speaker
Sundra Flansburg**

World Neighbors invests in people and their communities by training and inspiring them to create their own life-changing solutions through programs in agriculture, literacy, water, health and environmental protection. Since 1951, more than 25 million people in 45 countries have transformed their lives with the support of World Neighbors. World Neighbors listens to people, without predetermined ideas, to identify and address their needs, resulting in greater community involvement and long-lasting impact. World Neighbors provides knowledge and training so people gain skills and confidence, then local leaders and organizations emerge and work together to carry on the work. This makes World Neighbors programs very efficient and creates lasting change rather than a short-term fix.

Come join us and celebrate the 89th birthday of the LWVUS!

—Kay Murphy

Silent Auction

Note: There will be some items from World Neighbors in the silent auction.

The Silent Auction is one of the League's most successful fund-raisers because members provide such great items to bid on. You might create food, crafts, or art items. Or would you like to offer new or lightly used items that you no longer need or use, such as books, videos, collector items or gift baskets? Or perhaps you have a service you'd like to offer such as catering or assistance with website creation. The greater the variety of offerings, the better. It is a fun way to support the local program activities of the League. So--put on your thinking cap and get those items or information on future services ready. Bring your items to the Banquet. Tables for displaying the items and bidding forms will be provided. If you have items, but will be unable to attend, call or text Kirsten Tautfest at 405-612-8558 to make arrangements for pickup and delivery to the Banquet auction site. Don't forget to fill your pockets with money or bring your check-book to purchase items others bring to the auction!

—Dottie Goss/Kirsten Tautfest



League of Women Voters is 89 years old this month

This information is from the League's publications, "Fifty Years of a Good Idea" and "Sixty Years of a Good Idea."

At the 50th Convention of the NAWSA (National American Women's Suffrage Association) in 1919 it was obvious that the passage of the 19th amendment was almost at hand; enthusiasm was high and the NAWSA convention was dominated by plans for the new organization which was to emerge from the old. In Carrie Chapman Catt's convention address she said, "I propose...a League of Women Voters to finish the fight and to aid in the reconstruction of the nation..." The women of the NAWSA did not want the group of politically educated women who had worked for passage of the nineteenth amendment to go to waste.

The new organization would continue to work for women's rights and other causes the women were concerned about such as child health and education. A League pamphlet of 1919 said, "The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussions of civic reforms, and to support needed legislation. It hopes to accomplish its purposes first by education as to national and state human needs, second, by public discussion to spread information, and third, by direct influence of its members who are enrolled voters in the already existing political parties." At the 1919 Convention 10 items were listed as "First Aims of the League of Women Voters."

In February 1920 a convention in Chicago formally started the League of Women Voters. At the convention sixty-nine items were brought up as statements of principle and recommendations for legislation. Quite soberly the introductory statement said, "It is not expected that this entire program or even the major part of it will be achieved in one year's work." Well, hardly! However, it was seriously thought that five years might be enough. "Voters should enlist for a five year service. At the end of that time account should be taken of achievements won and the importance of the unfinished program.... A new determination can then be made concerning the advisability of a continuance of the League."

Now after 89 years when we look back at the issues of interest to that new League; protection of women in industry, child welfare, social hygiene, unification of laws concerning civil status of women, food supply and demand, and improvement in election laws, we know we have made some progress, but much still needs to be done.

—Karen Melcher



Visit Facebook

Our local League now has a presence on Facebook as a way to help reach out to younger women and recruit them into our fold. The name of the Facebook group is "League of Women Voters - Stillwater (OK)". Kirsten Tautfest is the creator of the group. For more information on the Facebook group or how to use Facebook, contact Kirsten at k.tautfest@yahoo.com.

February 24 discussion: Judicial Selection in Oklahoma

Robert Murphy, former Associate District Judge, will talk about judicial selection in Oklahoma at the noon League meeting at Perkins Restaurant. Murphy is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association Bench and Bar Committee that helps set policy for evaluating judicial performance. When we were discussing program at the December brunch, League members said that judicial selection and elections were a topic they wanted to learn more about. The League is fortunate to have Bob Murphy who is currently studying this issue as a member of the Bench and Bar Committee willing to speak with them.

—Karen Melcher



Voter ID Bill

The LWVOK, as well as the LWVUS, strongly opposes bills which requires the showing of picture ID's in order to vote. The League feels that the problem is not ineligible people voting or people voting more than once, but that too few people who could vote do vote. Efforts need to be made to encourage all those eligible citizens to vote. According to former Oklahoma State Election Board

Secretary Michael Clingman, studies in Oklahoma and other states have turned up very little evidence of voter fraud.

Because poll taxes have been ruled as unconstitutional, a state cannot charge a voter a fee to vote or register. This means that the picture ID's for voters would have to be issued at no cost to the voter. This could be a significant cost to

the state at a time when revenue coming in is dropping and needs are rising. Do we sacrifice safe bridges, quality education and other state services in order to obtain picture IDs for voters?

Please let your Legislators know that requiring picture IDs in order to vote is not a good idea.

—Karen Melcher

Banquet Committee—Thank You

Many thanks to banquet committee members Kirsten Tautfest, Marsha Coyle, Alice Richardson and Kay Murphy for getting things going. And a special thanks to Karen Melcher for contacting our banquet speaker.

LWVStillwater January 13 Meeting Report

Jean Warner with the Oklahoma Women's Network spoke to the League on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. She spoke about her new nonprofit 501c(3) organization, the Oklahoma Women's Coalition. The official launch date is set to coincide with the Women's Advocacy Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on February 18, 2009. The organization is a coalition of women's organizations across the state of Oklahoma. Some of the groups who are already members are: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Oklahoma Nurses Association, the Chickasaw Nation, the YWCA chapters of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and the Girl Scouts. This is not an all inclusive list. Each group who joins will get a seat on the board of directors. Individuals may also join as at-large members. The group is designed to advocate on behalf of all women, across party lines, at the state capitol.

Warner felt that there was a need to unify our voices due to the shockingly low rankings of Oklahoma on women's issues. Some of the rankings she cited were: #1 in child abuse, #1 in divorce, #4 in men killing women, #7 teen birth rates, #41 in women's overall employment earnings, and #47 in health insurance coverage of women. Additionally, some states mandate that health insurance cover birth control (Illinois is one); Oklahoma does not. These rankings were from among the 50 states from studies in 2004 and 2002. Warner stated that many women's groups got "stuck in the vortex of abortion" and thus got their voices lost – or rather tuned out – by many legislators.

To join the launch of this new group, attend the Women's Advocacy Day at the Oklahoma state Capitol Building on February 18, 2009. Advance registration forms and more details can be found at <http://www.oklahomawomenscoalition.org/>

Jean Warner also writes a blog at <http://oklahomawomen.blogspot.com/> It is a good way to also keep up on her advocacy activities.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Editor's note: A registration form for Advocacy Day is included in this Voter. Also included is a membership application form for the Oklahoma Women's Coalition



Report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research

As part of Jean Warner's presentation, she referenced a study and resulting report done by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. League members can obtain a two-page summary of the Oklahoma-specific findings by accessing http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/OK_R286.pdf. Or, if members would like the complete report on Oklahoma, it can be ordered online at <http://www.iwpr.org/States2004/SWS2004/statelevel.htm#OK>. The full report is \$20.

From: Diane Blank, LWVN Electronic Communication

A new article has been added to the "In the Public Interest" page on the LWVN website entitled "Balancing Civil Liberties and Secure Communities." To read the article go to <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/> and click IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

#1 in incarcerated women
 #6 in teen births
 #42 in women's overall health insurance coverage
 #41 in women's earnings
 #45 in women's divorce rate
 #1 in child abuse
 #4 in the overall employment and in managerial & professional jobs
 These stats are NOT OK.

Oklahoma Women: Advocate!

Oklahoma Women's Coalition Organizational Board Members

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

American Association of University Women - Oklahoma

League of Women Voters of Oklahoma

Business & Professional Women - Oklahoma

Chickasaw Nation

Girl Scouts - Western Oklahoma, Inc.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

Oklahoma Nurses Association

Women's International Network of Utility Professionals

YWCA Tulsa

YWCA Oklahoma City

Help Make History for Oklahoma Women, Girls and Families.
 Join Us at the State Capitol, February 18!

Oklahoma Women's Coalition Advocacy Day

- 8:30 am Registration
 9:00 Press Conference - Lt. Gov. Jari Askins and Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy officially launch the Oklahoma Women's Coalition.
 9:30 Key Issues Affecting Women, Girls and Families in Oklahoma - Attorney General Drew Edmondson.
 10:30 Hot Topics in 2009 - Key Legislative Leaders from the House & Senate.
 11:30 Lunch in the Capitol Rotunda
 12:15 Advocacy Works! Learn the most effective ways to make your voice heard. Session led by Susan Winchester and Jane Nelson.
 1:00 2009 Legislative Agenda - Oklahoma Women's Coalition
 1:30 The Send Off - A challenge to action by U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin.
 1:45 Legislator Visits

Register Now - Space will be Limited!



Yes! Count me in for the Oklahoma Women's Coalition Advocacy Day.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Daytime Phone _____ Home Phone / Cell _____
 Email _____
 Organization you are representing (if applicable) _____

Make your check payable to Oklahoma Women's Coalition and mail with this registration form to: OWC, PO Box 58097, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
 Questions: (405) 778-9511

Early Registration (by February 7):
 \$25 - Includes lunch.

Registration after Feb. 7: \$30 - Lunch not guaranteed for those registering at the conference.

Student / Scholarship Registration: \$15
 Eligibility: Students and those for whom regular registration fees would be a hardship.

I want to join the Oklahoma Women's Coalition!
 Add \$25 for individual membership or \$10 for student membership.
 Please visit our website:
oklahomawomenscoalition.org



Thank you for your support!

Oklahoma Women's Coalition

A nonpartisan coalition advancing the potential of Oklahoma women and girls

Organization Members

Organizations shall elect or appoint one Representative and an Alternate Representative. Organization Representatives may vote at membership meetings, in addition to serving as committee members, committee chairs and as Board members and officers.

Organizations must:

- Have been in existence for at least one year.
- Hold regular meetings or activities.
- Not be directly affiliated with a political party.

Individual Members

Individual members may serve as committee members, committee chairs and as Board members and officers. Individual membership in the Coalition shall confer no voting rights at membership meetings unless the individual member serves as a member of the Board.

Annual Membership Application

Yes! I/we want to be part of an organization working to improve Oklahoma for women and girls.

Type of Membership

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Membership
Annual dues: \$100
Student organization: \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership
Annual dues: \$25
Student: \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> An additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed |

Organization or Individual Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

() _____ () _____
Daytime phone Home / cell phone

Email Address _____

Website _____

Organizations – please complete the following:

President, CEO or Executive Director _____

Email Address _____

Designated Representative _____

Email Address _____

Alternate Representative _____

Email Address _____

Committees – Please check the committees on which you would be interested in serving:

- Advocacy Membership Advocacy Day at the Capitol
- Communications Fundraising

Complete and send this form with a check made out to "OWC" to Oklahoma Women's Coalition, PO Box 58097, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. Organization applications will be reviewed and voted upon by the OWC Board of Directors, with membership to be effective following ratification of membership and receipt of dues. Individual membership will be effective immediately upon receipt of application and dues. Questions: Call 405-200-7544 or email info@oklahomawomenscoalition.org

Thank you
for your support!



PO Box 58097 Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-778-9511
info@oklahomawomenscoalition.org

Climate Change Task Force Voter Ready Articles

This series of two-page, camera-ready articles addresses climate change issues of interest to League members and the general public. The articles were prepared by LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL). They may be reprinted in League Voters and copied for distribution at League meetings on climate change.

The Articles

[Carbon Offsets: A Cautionary Tale](#)

by Eleanor Revelle

A look at the role of voluntary carbon offsets in addressing climate change plus tips for finding quality offset projects.

[Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Two Approaches](#)

by Eleanor Revelle

A comparison of two market-based approaches to reducing United States greenhouse gas emissions: a cap-and-trade system and a carbon tax.

[Lighting the Way to a Greener Environment](#)

by Eleanor Revelle

A review of the benefits of using fluorescent lights, with tips for finding the right bulbs and disposing of them properly.

[Staying Warm and Living Green](#)

by Eleanor Revelle

Tips for analyzing the energy efficiency of your home's heating system and improving your home's energy performance.

[Water--Let's Use This Precious Resource Wisely!](#)

by Eleanor Revelle

Steps individuals can take to reduce water usage indoors and make good use of rainwater outside

For more information, visit the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force website: http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Climate_Change_Task_Force&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=191&ContentID=12395

(Or, navigate by the links: LWVUS homepage → For Members → Projects and Programs → Climate Change Task Force)



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