



September 2010 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

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SLWV Calendar*

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Date/Time	Place	Description
Sept. 9 (Thurs.) 7 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library	Stillwater Global Affairs Forum: Speaker, Dr. Nikolas Emmanuel, Political Science Faculty at OSU. Topic: "Genocide" (Contact Person: Deanna Homer)
Sept. 13 (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Roxie Weber Living Center 807 S. Lowery	SLWV Book Discussion: <i>Prairie City</i> by Angie Debo Discussion Leader: Nancy Andrews (Contact Person: Beth Thornton)
Sept. 14 (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: State Questions part I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - come and be an informed voter. We'll start before noon. (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
Sept. 14 (Tues.) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Auditorium	Forum on the State Questions Sponsored by the SLWV and SPL (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
Sept. 16 (Thurs.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
Sept 17 (Fri.) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	New Covenant Christian Church 12000 N. Rockwell, OKC	"Being a GRANDfamily." One day conference on grandparents raising grandchildren. Registration form: click here (Contact Person: Trish Emig)
Sept. 23 (Thurs.) 7 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library	Deliberative Dialogue: " <i>Weighing the Options: Encouraging Healthy Weight Among Youth.</i> " Adults and youth over 14 yrs. of age will discuss the issue. Light healthy meal at 6 p.m. Free but registration is necessary. Register by calling 405.372.3633 or email: askalibrarian@stillwater.org (Contact Person: Pat Jaynes or Stillwater Wellness Committee)
Sept. 28 (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: State Questions part II. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - come and be an informed voter. We'll start before noon. (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)

*League-sponsored items are in bold.

LWV Stillwater's Programs



The September 14 League of Women Voters meeting will be at Freddie Paul's at 11:30 for lunch and 12-1 for the program. Presenters are Karen Melcher, State Question 746 and State Question 751; Pat Jaynes, State Question 744 and State Question 754; Alice and Paul Richardson, State Question 747 and State Question 748.

The September 28 League of Women Voters meeting will be at Freddie Paul's at 11:30 for lunch and 12-1 for the program. Presenters are Deanna Homer, State Question 756 and State Question 755; Angela Spotts, State Question 750 and State Question 752; Dorothy Egbert, State Question 757.

President's note: We will probably start the program earlier than Noon so we can get through all the information with some discussion. Please come at 11:30am and get your food early. We will be in the meeting room just off the entryway. Guests are always welcome.

Editor's note: An overview of the state questions appeared in the July/August Voter.

The two meetings in October, the 12th and the 26th, will be held at the Hunan Restaurant at 11:30 for lunch and 12-1 for the program. The programs have not been finalized at this time.

—Nancy Andrews

Scholarship study:

It was suggested by a member at the Annual meeting last April that we put together a committee to study the feasibility of creating a scholarship. If you were the person who was interested in doing this, please contact the Board, so we can get started. You do not have to be a board member to start a project.

LWVOK Positions on State Questions

The State League has taken a position on 5 of the 11 state questions that will appear on the November 2nd general election ballot.

The League is opposed to State question **744**, education funding mandates, because the League has long discouraged the earmarking of state revenues and been in favor of a flexible system of taxation. Also, the projected cost of the measure is \$1.7 billion over the three-year phase in period without identifying any new revenue source. The measure would

mandate a substantial increase in taxes, a significant decrease in critical public services, or a combination of both. This formula based measure takes per-pupil funding out of the hands of our elected representatives and gives it to policy makers in bordering states.

The League is opposed to State question **746**, Voter ID. The right to vote is the first principle of a free society. Any restriction on that right strikes at the heart of freedom. Additionally,

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State Questions, cont. ...

the right to vote has been a basic principle of League of Women Voters since its origin in 1920. We fought to gain the vote for women, for minorities and for 18 year-olds, and worked to remove barriers to voting like poll taxes and literacy tests. This amendment effectively raises a new barrier for all Oklahomans, especially the elderly, poor and minority populations. There has been absolutely no evidence of in-person voter fraud in Oklahoma. Voters are already identified by the election boards and at the polls. There will be longer lines, especially during heavy turnout elections. Precinct officials will be hard to recruit because of the burdensome requirement to inspect voter identification, match it to the register and to process numerous provisional ballots.

The League is opposed to State question **751**, the English only question. The League strongly endorses citizen participation in their government. This measure discriminates against new citizens in their ability to transact normal business with the state. Government forms are difficult enough when English is a citizen's first language. When English is a citizen's second language, the state should be as accommodating and responsive to Oklahomans as businesses are. What constitutes acceptable English is not defined. The state's "Official actions" are not defined. Federal exemptions are not defined. The confusing language in this proposition would encourage constitutional challenges, costly to taxpayers to defend.

The League is opposed to State question **755**, the "Sharia Law" question. The League has a long-held Position that the "Constitution should express only fundamental law and principle." If passed, it will impact Oklahoma's oil industry doing business in foreign countries. Rejecting laws of one religious faith is prejudicial for practitioners of that faith in court. The judiciary should be free from any restrictions in its duty to interpret and apply the law. The foundation of U.S. law is the English Common Law and is considered when deciding cases. Religious discrimination will potentially result in First Amendment challenges and costs to Oklahoma taxpayers to defend.

The League is opposed to State question **756**, health care question. The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Federal matching dollars may be in jeopardy if this proposition is adopted, creating a major budget crisis in the state. Plus, the question itself states, "Federal law would preempt some or all of the proposed measure."

You are encouraged to learn both sides of all the questions. These will be discussed in a League manner, where we can discuss our positions among mostly ourselves, at the two September luncheons. We will also co-host and present the questions in a non-positional manner to the public at the Stillwater Public Library on September 14th at 6:30pm

—Kirsten Tautfest



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

Membership dues for the 2010-2011 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 _____

2nd 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 (7/1/09-6/30/10) (**\$50.00**) _____

*2nd 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, \$44.20 is allocated to LWVOK and LWVUS for per member payments during the current fiscal year.

Report from Brunch

On August 14th, at the home of Trish Emig, the League celebrated 90 years, with a Hats Off to the League of Women Voters: Celebrating 90 Years of a Woman's Right to Vote. Several long time Leaguers were present and shared their experiences. In absentia, Avis Rambo submitted a report that was read by Kirsten Tautfest (re-printed below in this Voter).

The League heard from retired Judge Lois Belden, Ruby Basler, and Hilda Waller. Historical clippings were passed around. Comments were made at how young everyone looked in those photos. One guest, Anne Nelson, attended with Gerry Nelson. Anne shared her experiences growing up in the Stillwater area and added what her observations were from the New York perspective.

The food brought by the members was wonderful. So many tasty treats to chose from. The Board decided that this year they would open up the food offerings for

the brunch to all instead of from just the Board. Drinks were graciously provided by K. C. Andrews, owner of Cowboy Travel Plaza.

And we can't leave this article without mentioning all the wonderful hats that everyone wore: from biker chic to historic to ball caps to sun hats. The hats ran the gamut and expressed everyone's individual style. It is our diversity that makes us stronger and that is the message that was imparted as we move forward into the next ninety years.

—Kirsten Tautfest



How has SLWV changed in 50 plus years?

—By Avis Rambo, June 27, 2010

The mid-50's was my earliest time in Stillwater, and also my first contact with the League of Women Voters. The local group had experienced a major membership turnover and lost official LWV status. Therefore, we were a "Provisional" League, and we worked hard to attain full status. This required finding more members, following LWV program, and soliciting dollars for a treasury. We set up candidate forums, which may be our most consistent service to the community through all the years.

A wonderful, generous matron from Tulsa, Noble Mansion, became our mentor, nursing us through the growing process. Our first task was to do a "know your town" study, which included information on

demographics, government, history, parks and utilities, and so forth. We had some members who were experienced sociologists and eventually we produced a brochure with our findings.

Wear your hats ladies, and be sure to take your gloves, we must interview each city department head and the mayor, the school superintendant and principals for both the black and the white public schools. Did you know, League members, we find that every public building, city hall, hospital, library, as well as much of the paving in town was built by federal dollars? This was mostly done in the 'thirties under the public works programs.

Now, keep your hats on, because it's time, once again, for our annual

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LWV Stillwater history, cont.

finance drive. We'll pick up our assignments, 10 contacts, early at the finance chair-woman's home and hit the streets to solicit friendly businesses, law offices, and banks to keep us financially sound. We'll meet for lunch and see how each team of two members succeeded.

Before the big box stores and the fast food franchises, Stillwater still had a small town feeling, and Stillwater seemed to accept the unique role of the League. A number of long-time residents were active members, and we had the support of many businesses. We were invited to participate in "blue ribbon committees" such as the group which studied the change in the city charter in 1959, and later, the study to determine the need for a new hospital in the '70's, and more recently, in the '90's, a district attorney study of causes for a spate of prison suicides. League members conducted city-wide studies on Justice and prison incarceration, and the status of education. We can also take pride in the service of several members on City advisory boards through the years.

Times changed, and women's roles changed, even in Stillwater. Through the '60's, faculty wives were employed as teachers for the first time, both in OSU faculty positions and in Stillwater schools. The schools were gradually integrated. Families of League members were growing out of the need for baby sitters during daytime school hours. We usually held two "unit meetings" in our homes, two times a month, and somewhat later, a noon unit meeting was often held on the campus, for OSU-employed members and students. There was a monthly evening Membership meeting, frequently with a panel or an expert speaker to address some area of League Program.

Oh, now you can take off your hats and leave your gloves behind; wear weekend clothes if you like. It's Presidential Election night in the 70's or 80's. As League Members across the state, we are reporting results of bell weather polling sites. The major TV channels hope to scoop the others to predict Oklahoma's election results. So meet your partner and off we'll go to Pond Creek or Skedee or Pawnee to make

some dollars for state League. What fun we'll have; hurry to make that critical phone call!

Modern technology with the internet lost us this source of state League income.

Now find that sun hat with the wide brim, we'll be posted on OSU library lawn for several hours, it's time to encourage students to register to vote.

Many League members became certified mobile registrars in the 1980's; later this duty was taken back by the election board, and passing out forms to be mailed -back to the County Registrar's Office was substituted.

By the '90's the stay at home moms increasingly have gone to work, and the younger women who accepted League leadership had different ideas on how to accomplish League agenda: study, consensus, action; how can we do this with so little time? The small unit discussion groups faded, we began to have the structure of many other women's organizations. National and State Leagues suffered the same women power issues: Where are the large National League studies with well prepared pamphlets, long reading lists, and structured consensus questions as was the Public Health Study of the early '90's? Remember the LWVOK "Water" study or the Oklahoma Constitution studies? Recall when we had volunteer lobbyists and even a paid lobbyist at the state capitol in the '90's? We've had to find a way to do-it-ourselves on all levels of League program and I think we will continue to do so.

When did the mailing lists begin to show our own first name rather than our spouses' name, as Mrs. League Husband? And now, today, we often get our League news from our personal e-mail Inbox, another communication change.

I feel confident that we will be here as a Stillwater League another 60 years. Women and men will step in to do the things that only this group can do. But it will



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LWV Stillwater history, cont.

happen only if we can change with the times and use the new technologies and human resources efficiently. I believe Stillwater and Oklahoma needs the League and we members all profit personally, as I have through the years, from working together for League objectives.

I'm sorry not to be with you for this celebration. Perhaps members will join the reminiscences and report their own memories. When did you join League

and what activities did you experience or enjoy doing?

New Members between 1/31/2010-6/30/2010

NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	HOME #	WORK #	E-mail Address
Jill A. Boggs	716 South Willis	74074	377-1653		biggsjill@sbcglobal.net
Vera Long	2520 East Twelfth Avenue	74074	377-3361		othade11@yahoo.com
Susan Rollins	2023 Jordan Street	74074	564-0148		Ridgemt@aol.com
Myriam Williams	2007 Highland Court	74074	377-1122	377-1121	chiquinita2054@yahoo.com

Voter Service:

The Voter Service Committee had a voter registration table at June-teenth on June 19th with minimal results. We had a table at Lights on Stillwater on 8/25/10 and were more successful. There we had 59 register, some of whom were first time voters.

We are planning to have a voter registration table at the library on Sept. 14th when the LWV and the library are co-sponsoring a program on the state questions, which will appear on the ballot in Nov.

—Nelda Sander

Pecans for the holidays

State League has arranged for Pecan Sales again. The price will be the same as last year. Preorders are encouraged. Contact a board member or Alice Richardson if you are interested in purchasing pecans for your holiday goody baking.

-- Kirsten Tautfest



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF STILLWATER**

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