



May 2010 Stillwater Voter

Gladeen Allred-Struthers,
President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

Marlee Pierce Posto, Editor
Carol Stone, Distributor

SLWV Calendar*

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.

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*League-sponsored items are in bold.

Date/Time	Place	Description
May 10 (Tues.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Pat Jaynes 5220 W. 3rd. Pl.	SLWV Book Discussion: <i>The Lady and the Panda</i> by Vickie Corke (Contact Person: Joyce Cox)
May 11 (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Local City of Stillwater Voting Precincts	Mayoral Recall Vote Yes - No vote to retain the current mayor. VOTE!!
May 11 (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hunan's Restaurant 702 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: <i>"How Women Got on Juries in Oklahoma"</i> Speaker: Historian Adelia Hanson (Contact Person: Karen Melcher)
May 18 to 20 (Tues. - Thurs.)	Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott	<i>Aging Conference</i> click here for more information and registration form
May 20 (Thurs.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Joint Board Meeting (Contact Person: Gladeen Allred-Struthers; Kirsten Tautfest)
May 22 (Sat.) 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Rudisill Library 1520 N. Hartford Tulsa, OK	LWVOK Council Meeting Registration \$20 Mail to: Tulsa League Office, 3336 E. 32nd. St., Suite 1B, Tulsa, OK 74135 (Contact Persons: SLWV Board Members)
May 25 (Tues.) 11:30 a.m.	Perkin's Restaurant 101 E. Hall of Fame	SLWV Trip to the Water Treatment Plant Gather at Perkin's Restaurant for a lite lunch and car pooling to the water treatment plant (Contact Person: Karen Melcher)
June 11 to 15 (Fri. to Tues.)	Atlanta, Ga.	LWV National Convention "90 Years of Making Democracy Work" Registration Deadline: May 11 For more information see LWVUS website
June 26 (Sat.) 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Territory Cellars, Stroud, OK	LWVOK Mini-Conference: <i>State Questions on the November Ballot</i> Speaker: Wayne Green, <i>Tulsa World</i> Cost: ~\$15 For more information now call Mary Jo Neal, Tulsa League Office

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010-2011 LWV BOARD!

Congratulations to the newly-elected members of the LWV Board for 2010-2011: **Kirsten Tautfest, president, and directors, Nancy Andrew, Joyce Cox, Helen Jordan, Susan Richardson, Kay Murphy and Nelda Sander.** Our nominating committee, chaired by Pat Jaynes did an excellent job.



I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Stillwater LWV for 2009-2010. It has been a pleasure to work with a club full of talented members and willingness to get involved. We have enjoyed excellent programs, well-organized candidates forums, outstanding *Voter* articles and editing, good communication and book club selections and have watched our membership grow this year. We could not manage without the financial records that Alice manages so well. My President's Report at annual meeting described the unique contributions each of you made. Special thanks to our out-going Board members: **Dorothy Egbert, Deanna Homer, Helen Jordan, Karen Melcher, Kay Murphy, Nelda Sander and Kirsten Tautfest.** I also want to recognize our essential off-board members: **Trish Emig, Marlee Pierce Posto, Alice Richardson, Carol Stone,** and **Beth Thornton.** And thank you **Joanne Murer** for helping keep attendance at our meetings.

—Gladeen Allred-Struthers, president, 2009-2010

Early Day Women's Activities in Oklahoma

To entice you to attend the SLWV meeting Tuesday, May 11th, with a presentation by Adelia Hanson, below are some of the other pieces of our history. Adelia has conducted research on women's history in Oklahoma and she found a good source of information was *Harlow's Weekly*. There was a column "Oklahoma Women in Politics" by Nelle Bunyan Jennings in each issue. The quotes listed in this Voter are taken from Harlow's.

In Dec. 1920 we find the following: "When Mrs. George Gellhorn of St. Louis, national vice president of the League of Women Voters, visits the state early in January, she will propose to establish a summer course in citizenship at the state university and the normal schools. Last spring the university at Norman offered an intensive course in citizenship that was prepared with a view of proving particularly helping to newly enfranchised citizens." (Dec. 10, 1920, v.19)

"Interest in the League of Women Voters is extending all over the state, and the organization gives promise of becoming a real factor in Oklahoma politics. . . it . . . proposes to educate and interest women in government and legislation that particularly affects their rights and the welfare of the home and the children." (Dec. 17, 1920).

"Almost a hundred newly elected women county officials will take charge of their offices on the morning following the new year and several hundred **feminine cuties** will enter public service." (Dec. 31, 1920 v.19)

The discussion in the article centers around the purposes of the League and that it is not interested in being another political party in opposition to men. "We want to work and act with the men," . . . "and let us feel a personal interest in the men we have helped to elect to office." (Jan. 14, 1921 v.20)

"The League of Women Voters . . . is concentrating all its energy toward seeing that the bill introduced by Senator Coyne, providing for the creation of a bureau for women and children in industry in the state labor department, is entered into permanent law." (Jan. 28, 1921)

"An attaché of the governor's office jocularly remarked when it became known that Mrs. Van Leuven's name was not among those confirmed, 'Looks like the supreme court does not want petticoats on the supreme bench.' The remark was distorted in print and credited to the supreme court, and immediately a storm of protest arose from the league of women voters. Although members of the supreme court not only denied making the statement, but also denied that Mrs. Van Leuven had been discriminated against because of her sex, the storm did not abate its fury. Some of the democratic political leaders began to fear that the women politicians might make good their promise to retaliate at the polls, sought a means of placating the **wrath of the women voters.** (April 21, 1923).

—Kay Murphy

Stillwater's Water Supply

"Water, water everywhere and nary a drop to drink!" That is certainly not the problem with Stillwater's water supply according to **Anthony Daniels, Director of the Department of Water Utilities**. Mr. Daniels spoke to League members at the lunchtime meeting on April 13th. Stillwater get its water from the Kaw Reservoir thirty-six miles north via pipe line. There is lots of water there and the average flow is 8 million gallons per day. There are concerns about the condition of the pipe line, which has several leaks, is old, and not made of proper materials. The route is deep and makes two river crossings and one lake crossing. The line has to be repaired and will likely need to be replaced in the near future. The expense to the city will be astronomical. To reassure citizens about a continued water supply, plans have been made to take water from OSU and Lake Carl Blackwell while repairs are made.

Mr. Daniels explained about the water treatment and how pure the water directly from our faucets is. However, there are concerns about the old infrastructure, asbestos cement pipes, 20-30 leaks a month, service interruption, old water meters and water loss. The city is making efforts to replace parts of the system and we can see this throughout the city.

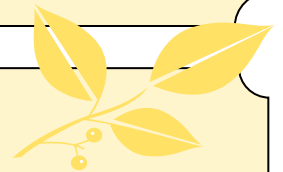
We bring water in and we also have to get it out! Mr. Daniels told us about the wastewater system and the treatment plant. Some of the concerns about this system are: clay pipes, deteriorating pipes, root blockage, excessive inflow of ground water into the collection system, sewer backups, limited information on existing systems in established older neighborhoods. The treatment plant treats the water.

Did you know that Stillwater has about 2000 fire hydrants, a storage tank that holds 4 million gallons of raw water, and about 16,700 service connections, 5000 manholes, and 15 lift stations to transfer wastewater?

These are only a few of the informative facts Mr. Daniels shared. He invited us to visit both the water treatment plant and the waste water treatment plant. **See the calendar for plans for this "field trip" on May 25th.**

If you take the opportunity to visit with any of our city Commissioners, be sure to urge repair of the Kaw water pipe line as soon as possible. We want to support a continued flow of water to Stillwater. If you have questions about our water, just call Mr. Daniels, He is willing to talk with you about your water concerns.

—Pat Jaynes



State of Oklahoma's Economy, a report on March 9th's meeting

Dr. Dave Shideler, OSU professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, spoke to League members recently on the state of our economy. He began his talk with a "microwave" briefing on our nation's economic situation. The good news is that our recession is technically over, which is determined by two consecutive quarters of growth. There is some cautious optimism; we won't be back to "normal" for a long time. We may establish a "new normal." According to Keynesian economic theory, national output is determined by consumption, investment, net exports and government spending. With the first three of these in decline, government spending is "propping up the economy."

What is happening in Oklahoma? Shideler stated that the recession did not hit Oklahoma until 2008. Our state's unemployment rate is not as severe as the national unemployment rate. The eastern half of Oklahoma has higher unemployment, partially because it is more densely populated with more industry than the western half of the state which is more agrarian. Payne

County has fared better than some counties, which have doubled their unemployment rate, from 3% to 6%. More good news is that Oklahoma is expected to recover more quickly than other parts of the country. Retail sales have grown modestly throughout the state.

What goes on in mining and agriculture will affect the future of alternative energy. Even though citizens complain about high gas prices, when the price of gas goes above \$60 a barrel, it is good news for Oklahoma. Higher gas prices make it feasible for companies to drill new wells, which can help our state's economy.

"High oil prices will be the key to developing alternative energy. Oklahoma could develop wind and solar power, which is exciting to us," Shideler said.

"However, as our country deals with unemployment, retirement accounts, and general economic stagnation, it may be years before we see much recovery. There may be decline before things get better," he concluded.

--Gladeen Allred-Struthers

Stillwater Housing Authority, a report on the March 23rd meeting

On March 23, 2010 at Perkins Restaurant, Glen Redding, Director of the Stillwater Housing Authority, spoke to League members and guests about his agency. Federal regulations created public housing in 1932. Oklahoma did not set up statutes to provide for public housing until 1965. However, it was not until 1978 that a local public housing authority was created in Stillwater. As to the delay, Redding stated, "Oklahomans are very resourceful people." The SHA is regulated by the federal, state, and city governments. The SHA must also report to all three entities. They are an independent agency, and not a direct arm of the City of Stillwater.

Public housing and scattered site housing are two ways that an individual or family can rent or receive assistance from the SHA. Roxie-Weber Plaza, built in 1982, is primarily for seniors and disabled persons. As of the meeting date, there were only ten on the waiting list. More recent reports have now stated that there is no waiting for RWP. What has taken the pressure off the formerly long waiting list for RWP has been the Section 202 projects in our community such as the Senior Residences on South Main and the project close to the Wal-Mart on Virginia Street. The City of Stillwater owns the 67 units in RWP, plus 77 additional scattered sites, including the James Court addition off East 8th Street, some by the movie theater, and some in Southern Woods.

The SHA also administers the Section 8 voucher program. These are rental vouchers that a program participant can take to a private landlord. The voucher may pay for a portion to all of the rent. The landlords are not forced to take the Section 8 applicant, so long as they apply the same standards of acceptance and rejection to all applicants. Also, they can evict in the same manner as permitted by state statutes. Currently, there are 656 units participating in Section 8 programs. Section 8 waiting for a voucher is now up to 18 months. The availability of vouchers is limited by their annual budget. Income guidelines must be met.

A calculation of 30% of income is to be used toward rent and utilities, per federal guidelines. A utility allowance is included in the calculations.

All of these programs are part of a \$4 million budget. This money is sent into the community to help those who are temporarily down on their luck. These persons are not necessarily on welfare. Many are single parents, with a female head of household. Locally, Redding stated that ten percent are on welfare. Many are also working toward independence, such as attending school to gain a better position in life.

There is also a program known as Family Self Sufficiency. This is a program that helps the individual and/or family work toward independence from government assistance. This is a social work program. Of those participating in the program, roughly 20 per year graduate from OSU. There is also a home ownership element to this program. Twenty families have been able to buy a home through this program.

League members had many questions for Redding. It was asked whether the City-owned houses were on the property tax rolls. They are not. However, the SHA must pay a pilot tax to the county based on the amount of public housing that is owned. Half goes to the state and half to the school system. The amount that went to the schools last year was \$10,000. It was also asked whether or not SHA works with Mission of Hope. They do. Redding stated that he helped to establish the Mission of Hope in our community. The Mission does emergency housing, whereas the SHA does not.

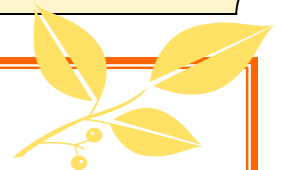
The SHA has a five member board appointed by the mayor. They are subject to an audit, nine months after the end of the fiscal year of September 30th. It is important to note that this fiscal year does not coincide with the City of Stillwater's, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. They chose an auditor familiar with all the federal regulations.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Mary Madden, member of the Stillwater League was the speaker at the February 9, 2010 Town Hall meeting - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Oklahoma State University. Her topic was

Sustainable Urbanism: Rethinking Development Regulations. The program was well received and the OLLI office has produced a DVD of the talk. I have this DVD and will be glad to make it available to League members. Call me at (405) 372-3966 or by email to dorothy051@sbcglobal.net and I will arrange to loan it to you.

—Dorothy Egbert



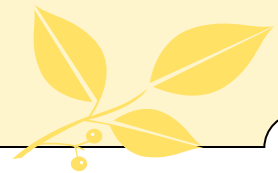
Book Club report

Our next book discussion will be at Pat Jaynes' home, 5220 W. 3rd Pl. with the leader Joyce Cox. We will be talking about *The Lady and the Panda* by Vickie Corke.

The group has selected the following books for 2010-2011 from a group of 25 suggestions. Join us! It is fun.

<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i>	by Helen Simonson
<i>Prairie City</i>	by Angie Debo
<i>The Lacuna</i>	by Barbara Kingsolver
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	by Rebecca Skloot
<i>Olive Kitteridge</i>	by Elizabeth Strout
<i>Saturday</i>	by Ian McEwan
<i>Say You're One of Them</i>	by Uwen Akpan
<i>People of the Book</i>	by Geraldine Brooks
<i>Game Change</i>	by John Heilemann
<i>The Liars' Club</i>	by Mary Karr
<i>Half the Sky</i>	by Nicholas D. Kristoff & Sheryl WuDunn
<i>The Family</i>	by Jeff Sharlet

—Beth Thornton



We have a **new member** this month:

Vera L. Long - mailing address: 2520 East 12th Avenue, Stillwater, 74074-6060 (she actually lives at Apt. #102 - 498 Legacy Park), phone: 377-3361, email: othade11@yahoo.com.

—Alice Richardson

Attention Leaguers: Note this upcoming meeting at the public library.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Thursday, May 6
@ 7 p.m.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Stillwater Global Affairs Forum
at the **stillwater Public Library**

- Why are the world's national economies interdependent?
- What affects the world economy?
- What threatens it?

Dr. Steve Miller, former Director of OSU's School of International Studies and Professor Emeritus of Marketing at OSU.

Participant discussion to follow.

1107 S. Duck • library.stillwater.org • 405-372-3633

Editor's note: The SLWV book group had the information about Mortenson's talk; some members may have gone to hear him and might like to read this update.

To: LWVN Members

From: Diane Blank, eCommunications

LWVN online: <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org>

Greg Mortenson Spoke at OU on April 21

Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School At A Time and Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, gave a free public lecture at Lloyd Noble Center to a crowd of about 5,000 people on April 21, 2010. The event was part of a three-day symposium marking the 100th anniversary of the OU School of Engineering.

Mortenson was invited to the OU campus by Dr. David A. Sabatini, director of the Water Center at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Sabatini uses Mortenson's books as texts in a course that he offers where students discuss how to work with peoples of developing countries

to help them find solutions to their water problems. He believes that Greg Mortenson's successful approach to building schools provides important insight into the process of working with other cultures on projects of all kinds.

Pennies for Peace (<http://www.penniesforpeace.org/>) Oklahoma surprised Mr. Mortenson with the news that \$17,000 has been raised primarily by Oklahoma children toward a new school for children in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

Those who were unable to attend the lecture may be interested in watching an interview with Greg Mortenson on *Bill Moyers Journal* (<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/01152010/watch2.html>).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STILLWATER**

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