



February 2012 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,
League of Women Voters

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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 **Helen Jordan** at 372-6420.

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*League-sponsored items are in bold.

Date/Time*	Place	Description
February 7th (Tues.) 7 p.m.	Cushing Municipal Building	SLWV Candidate Forum for Payne County Commissioner Seat 1 (Contact Person: Deanna Homer or Kirsten Tautfest)
February 13th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Avis Rambo 706 S. Gray	SLWV Book Club: <i>March</i> by Geraldine Brooks (Contact Person: Gerry Nelson)
February 15th (Wed.) 6:30 p.m. for drinks; 7 p.m. for banquet	Meditations 1205 N. Country Club Rd.	SLWV Annual Banquet: "Challenges for Oklahoma Water Resources" Dr. Barney Austin, Director of Hydrologic Services at INTERA, as provided by the Choctaw tribe. Silent Auction - Bring your items to sell and money to buy! Support your League. Reservations are due to Alice Richardson by Feb. 8th. Cost \$20 per person. (Contact Person: Board Members)
February 23rd (Thurs.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
March 11 to 17	Across the Nation	Sunshine Week - dedicated to openness in government!
March 12th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.	Home of Joyce Cox 23 Brentwood Dr.	SLWV Book Discussion: <i>Earth</i> by Fred Krupp (Contact Person: Judy Clay)
March 13th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Noon Meeting: Dr. Joey Senat, Associate Professor in the School of Media and Strategic Communication at OSU. <i>"Transparency in Government"</i> (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)
March 27th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Freddie Paul's Restaurant 1707 E. 6th	SLWV Discussion: Privatization of Public Entities: LWVUS Study (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
March 29th (Thurs.) 6:30 to 8 p.m.	Stillwater Public Library Board Room	SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)

LWVOK Water Study

On Tuesday, January 10th, League members and guests heard from Gladeen Allred-Struthers and Valerie Bloodgood. Gladeen and Valerie are Stillwater's representatives on the state water study committee. While it was supposed to be an update of their progress, we learned that they had not yet met formally and just have had e-mail discussions. At the 4th Tuesday luncheon, they advised us that they would like to hear about any water articles that a member may run across. They can be forwarded to gladeena@aol.com and/or vzb2@yahoo.com.

We received a handout on what individuals can do to conserve water and help the environment. They are:

- Tell your local officials to put the repair of water infrastructure at the top of their agenda. This is important for us locally as the repair of the Kaw Water Line that supplies Stillwater and other communities with drinking water is of vital importance.
- If you can't invest in a low flush toilet, you can put a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to take up space and thus use less water per flush. Kirsten Tautfest added that, while there was some criticism of low-flush toilets, it is important to look for a trap size of 3" or more when you are looking to replace a toilet. The larger trap size helps the solid waste go down with one flush.
- Eat foods that require less water to produce. In other words, the more processing the food goes through, the more water is used. Also, the handout suggested eating more of a vegan diet to use less water in this way.
- Find out if your local car wash establishments recycle their wash water and give your business to the one with the best water conservation practices.
- Use a bucket to collect the shower water while you wait for the hot water to kick in. This water can be used to water plants or even water your pets.
- When dumping old pet water and giving your pets fresh, make sure you pour it on a plant and not just on a sidewalk or down the drain.

There were many more suggestions on the list. The whole list can be found at: <http://www.tappedthefilm.com/World-Water-Crisis-What-You-Can-Do.php> Unfortunately, this film is not available at our local public library. If anyone is interested in pooling a few dollars to donate a copy to the Stillwater Public Library, please contact ktautfestlww@gmail.com The cost of the video as of this writing is less than \$15.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Local government position in relation to county level government

At the January board meeting, a motion was brought forth to see if we as a Local League could support a "Yes" vote on the Payne county ballot question on the extension of the 3/8 cent sales tax on February 14th's election. The Board looked at the local positions on local government and found them to be City-centric. It was suggested that a local update be done (not a full study) to expand this position to support and include language supporting county government, as we are expanding into the county. The board voted to let the membership in attendance at the next luncheon de-

cide. At that luncheon the membership voted to support a "yes" position on extension of the 3/8 cent sales tax.

I would like to call a committee together to look at this position for updating. There is a guide entitled "Know Your Community" that can be used as a guideline for updating this position. Please contact Kirsten Tautfest at ktautfestlww@gmail.com or 405-612-8558, if interested in chairing or participating in this valuable and vital update.

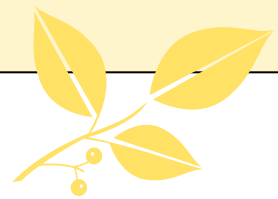
—Kirsten Tautfest

Tuesday, January 24th Noon Meeting

The meeting on this day featured a talk about trees that we might need and use ourselves. There were no big political issues involved. Marty Yundt, Master Gardener from Pawnee, addressed trees that are part of our landscaping. He talked about the importance of planning before planting – including placement, space, micro-climates, size, care, water, etc. Mr. Yundt answered questions about pruning, the effect of last summer's drought on trees we have, what to look for as they bud out this spring, and how to help trees cope

with the weather. He provided several Cooperative Extension handouts including "Planting Trees and Shrubs" and "Managing Storm-Damaged Trees." Hopefully, our members will hire someone before they tackle removing trees from their yards.

—Kay Murphy



Legislators' Reception Thursday, January 26th

The co-sponsored annual reception by the Friends of the Library and Stillwater League was held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the public library. Thank you to all of the League members who provided a vast array of savories. Thanks also to those who attended—we needed you there.

We had a good attendance of elected officials of the county, school board, school superintendent, candidates for county commissioner district one, city council and a couple of people from the city staff. In addition, the FOL board and Library board were represented and many League members (and spouses) were in attendance. It is estimated about 80 people attended.

Lynda Reynolds was again the master of ceremonies and introduced and thanked those attending. Gloria Hesser made comments about the extension of the county tax coming up for a vote on Feb. 14th. The format was slightly different this year as we used the League forum question card model to solicit people's questions. Anyone with a question wrote it on the card and Kirsten sorted those questions for duplication and appropriateness. We did not get through all of the

cards. Kirsten did a great job with the questions.

Wow! What great questions! Senator Halligan, Representatives Casey and Williams made a few comments and then took turns responding to the questions. I am not sure they were ready for such questions because there were many in reference to specific bills submitted to the legislature. They had not even had time to read or note what all the submitted bills were. Others were very pointed questions we don't usually see asked openly at the reception. The legislators handled all of this with aplomb and good humor. After that everyone was ready for snacks and individual questions for various elected officials and the legislators. Good job League!

We will evaluate the question card format in both groups but it seemed to go very well and certainly raised many more specific issues and questions than we normally have time for. If you have any particular reactions/comments please let your League board know what you think.

—Kay Murphy

Membership Update

Since my last report, we have the following changes:

ADD:

Martha Meek (with Angela Spotts)(her mother)—2805 South Macy Lynn (note that the address has changed from Macy Lane to Macy Lynn), Stillwater, 74074, (405)707-9653, angelaspotts@hotmail.com

Susan Garzon Michael—1422 South Western Road, Stillwater, 74074, (405)642-0778, stgarzon@aol.com

DELETE:

Jo Heiliger
Mary E. Madden (moved)
Susan Rollins (deceased)
Hilda Waller (deceased)
Myriam Williams

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Gladeen Allred—923 Osage Drive, Stillwater, 74075, (405)612-6330

We will prepare a new roster as of January 31, 2012 with these changes and any others as of that date.

—Alice Richardson

Note from the Membership committee, Helen E. Jordan chairman

The LWV of Stillwater, OK, welcomes new members: Susan Garzon Michael and Martha Meek.

Voter ID!

As you all know, in 2010, Voter ID was passed by a majority of the Oklahoma Voters. It went into effect July 1, 2011. Oklahoma charges for ID's and for the obtaining of a birth certificate, which causes impediments to the poor. As such, the language of the law states that an election board issued voter ID card can be used as your ID on election day at the polls in lieu of a government issued photo ID with an expiration date (or no date if over 65 years old).

In the current crop of introduced legislation sits HB 2821 (Roberts) that would eliminate the county elec-

tion board voter ID card provision. It also contains an emergency effective date if passed of July 1, 2012 - the middle of the current election cycle - "for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety" (language quoted from text of HB 2821). We as a League are going to fight against this change at both the state and local levels. Please stay in contact with your elected officials to encourage them to defeat this measure. With any luck, it will not make it out of committee. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Annual Banquet

The annual banquet of the League of Women Voters of Stillwater will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at Meditations banquet hall in Stillwater. Dr. Barney Austin, director of hydrologic services at INTERA, will speak on the challenges for Oklahoma water resources.

The event starts at 6:30pm with a cash bar and silent auction bidding. The silent auction items serve as a fundraiser for the League to help support its mission of supporting the power of collective, informed decision making for the common good. There will also be a special item for bidding at the silent auction. Proceeds from that item will go directly toward the LWV Oklahoma education fund to support the financing of the Vote411.org website for the current election year.

Dr. Austin's visit is partially underwritten by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Dr. Austin serves as a valued advisor in the Choctaw Nation's water resource interests and advocacy. Dr. Austin is a professional engineer and has worked in the area of water resources for more than 20 years, specializing in hydrology, hydraulics, planning and environmental flows. He has applied this knowledge to the development hydrodynamic models for environmental flow assessments, water availability models for water supply planning studies, and depth-volume rating curves and sediment volumes for reservoirs using advanced hydro-acoustic instrumentation. Dr. Austin has been an active participant in the development of the State Water Plan in Texas, writing the chapter on surface water as well as other sections relating to climate change. Prior to joining INTERA in 2009, Dr. Austin spent 10 years with the Texas Water Development Board where he recently served as the Director of the Surface Water Resources Division. In this position, he managed the In-

stream Flows, Lake Hydrographic Survey, Coastal Hydrology (for ungaged watersheds), Lake Evaporation Monitoring, Streamgaging, Water Availability Modeling, Oil Spill Modeling and the Bays and Estuaries programs.

The public is invited to attend. RSVP to LWV Stillwater, c/o Alice Richardson, treasurer, 1023 S Western, Stillwater, OK 74074. Dinner is \$20 per person. Reservations are requested by February 8, 2012. For further information, please contact, Kirsten Tautfest, President, League of Women Voters of Stillwater, at 405-612-8558 or ktautfestlww@gmail.com.

—Kirsten Tautfest

SILENT AUCTION

Leaguers! The silent auction is drawing near. I will pick up any items you would like to donate.

Give me a call 372 8716 or email patjaynes@sbcgobal.net and I will be delighted to provide this pick-up service.

—Pat Jaynes



Bylaws Committee: The bylaws committee shall meet in order to update our local bylaws in line with LWVUS bylaws regarding membership levels. No chair has been assigned at this time to the bylaws committee. The task needs to be completed by March 15th so that we can get it into the annual meeting Voter supplement 30 days prior to the annual meeting date. This would be a good task for some folks who don't regularly make it to League events but would like to be more involved. Please contact Kirsten Tautfest at 405-612-8558 if you are interested in helping to complete this task.

—Kirsten Tautfest

Book Club Report

SLWV Book Club - January

Can you imagine an airport where old worn-out World War II airplanes were taking off and another was landing every three minutes? Sounds scary doesn't it? That was what happened during the Berlin Air Lift as the US Reserve pilots, navigators and mechanics managed to bring into Berlin all the goods the city needed to keep its people fed and warm.

Daring Young Men by Richard Reeves was the story of how this was carried out. It was a reminder to many of us how much of our history we have forgotten or, in many cases, never knew.

Could this happen today when the US no longer has a Reserve or even a limited one?

SLWV Book Club - February

It is back to fiction for February. The book is *March* by Geraldine Brooks. Once again we have a story based on a character from another book of fiction. This time it is the father, March, from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. March leaves his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will change his marriage and challenge his beliefs. The Chicago Tribune says "It's a beautifully written story about how war dashes ideals, unhinges moral certainties and drives a wedge of bitter experience and unspeakable memories between husband and wife."

Come join us Monday, February 13 at 7pm for a lively discussion, and wonderful friendship at Avis Rambo's home - 706 S Gray St.

Gerry Nelson will be leader.

—Beth Thornton



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STILLWATER

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