



Oklahoma Voter

SPRING 2011

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OKLAHOMA

CALL TO CONVENTION - LWVOK - Convention 2011 - May 21, 2011

Location / Lodging:	<p>Holiday Inn, 1000 N. Interstate Dr., Norman, OK 73072, (405) 364-2882. \$89.00 for single/double, plus tax. Cut-off date for guest room reservations is April 30, 2011.</p> <p>Check in is 3:00 p.m.; and check out is noon.</p> <p>Breakfast – Free for two people per guest room; for all others the cost is \$8.60 including tax.</p>
Directions:	<p>From the south on I-35 – exit 110 at Robinson St. and turn right (west) onto Robinson St. From Robinson St., cross over I-35 and turn left, south, on N. Interstate Dr. Merge to right lane (so as not to re-enter I-35). You will see Holiday Inn immediately on the right.</p> <p>From the north on I-35 – exit 110B at Robinson St., merge left onto N. Interstate Dr., cross Robinson at next light, and merge to right lane, (so as not to re-enter I-35). You will see Holiday Inn immediately on the right (.6 mi.).</p>
Social:	<p>Hospitality – Friday, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Holiday Inn in the President’s Suite, 2nd floor, room # 218. Hospitality is hosted by the Norman League.</p> <p>Dinner – Friday, 6:30 p.m., LaBaguette French Bakery and Restaurant, 1130 Rambling Oaks, Suite 100. Restaurant is across the street (behind and to the west of Holiday Inn in the shopping center). Dinner is on your own, and prices range from &13.95 to \$19.95, excluding beverages. Add soup or salad for \$2.95 extra. There also are other salads and sandwiches options from \$6.95 to \$13.95.</p>
Time:	<p>Saturday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. – LWVOK</p> <p>Convention 2011</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – Registration</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – Convention Call to Order</p>
Cost:	<p>\$25.00 (Includes packet of information, and boxed lunch). See Lodging above for breakfast options.</p> <p>Questions? call 405 232-8683. Deborah will call you back.</p>

LWVOK President's Report

I was elected in May of 2009 to the LWVOK as Co President with Jacqueline Achong.

At the next meeting Gloria Caldwell started us down the OK State Question Voter ID opposition road.

No funding was found for statewide printed voter's guides so it was decided to put OK information on Voter411.org and to put the 10 OK State Questions information on www.lwvok.org.

Thanks to Mary Jo Neal the LWV OK had a June Mini State Conference at Stroud to work on the OK Ten State Questions for 2010 fall ballot.

Gloria Caldwell and committee continued hours of work on them and the ones the LWV OK opposed.

The BOD decided to distribute the LWV OK publications electronically to the LL presidents to forward. The LWV OK would reimburse the traditional mailings to the LL members as a cost cutting measure.

Karen Melcher and committee started the work of studying on IRV for primaries. Good job.

The OK Community Foundation annual distributions stayed at near 5%.

LWV OK worked on the Voter Owned Elections by OK Representative Richard Morissette initiative thanks to Mary Francis and Joyce Collard of Norman. His bill failed to get out of committee this session.

The LWV OK office Mayfair Building has changed ownership but so far no change in the rent.

The LWV OK is now fully paying for the website.

The 2010 Council meeting in Tulsa was well attended, and everyone was interested in hearing all the workshops.

The pecan sales were down in 2009 and more so in 2010.

Co President Jacqueline Achong attended the LWV US Council meeting via computer. This process seemed to work well. She resigned her co-presidency position on the Board in May and continued as an appointed Board member.

Tulsa will announce to other local Leagues when they have ABC for Citizens workshops so that a group of statewide presenters can be developed to train citizens.

The LWV OK County decided to dissolve and all go MAL. The other LL have held their membership constant or grown.

Deborah Langley, LWV OK President 2011

The LWVOK Education Fund Board meet per bylaws requirements. Bylaws and initiating paperwork were distributed to LL Presidents.

League of Women Voters of Oklahoma

Proposed Budget 2011-2012

(Approved by LWVOK Board on 3-12-11)

	A	B	C
1	Income	Amount	Comments
2	Fundraising Activities:		3/11/2011
3	Contributions	\$2,000	Finance Campaign
4	Pecan Sales	\$2,000	200 lbs. @ \$10
5	LWV-Oklahoma County	\$420	Rent
6	OKC Community Foundation	\$2,000	Interest from Endowment Fund (estimated)
7	PMP Local Leagues	\$3,400	247 @ \$15.00/mem. & 25 @ \$7.50/mem. (minus LL to Ed Fund)
8	PMP - Members-at-Large	\$40	MALs @ \$40 each
9	State Council	\$500	Estimate base on prior years
10	Misc. Income	\$0	
11	Ed. Fund	\$400	Voter service
12	Grants	\$0	Idea - try for grant to help with Voter ID
13	Total Income	\$10,760	
14			
15	Expenses		
16	Board Expenses	\$100	Copies, etc.
17	President's Stipend	\$1,200	\$100 per month
18	Fundraising Activities:		
19	Finance Campaign	\$300	Letters to LWVOK members for contributions
20	Pecans Related exp.	\$1,450	Est. @ \$7 lb. + \$50 travel
21	LWVUS Convention	\$1,000	2 attendees
22	Workshop Attendance	\$200	TBD; such as OK Inst. for Child Advocacy Fall Forum
23	PMP to LWVUS for MALs	\$30	MALs at \$30 each
24	Professional Dues	\$400	Oklahoma Women's Coalition ? More?
25	State Studies	\$200	Printing, misc.
26	State Council	\$500	Printing, postage, meals, meeting room supplies, etc.
27	Voter (1)	\$300	1 Voter printing for Council
28	Voter Service	\$400	Printing for advocacy workshops
29	Operating Expenses		
30	Copier	\$100	Printer cartridges
31	Equipment Repair/Replace	\$100	
32	Insurance	\$480	Office Contents insurance and officers bonding
33	Miscellaneous	\$100	
34	Office Supplies	\$125	
35	Postage	\$150	Normal postage and repay Tulsa League for Bulk Mail
36	Rent	\$2,460	\$205 per month
37	Telephone	\$815	\$68.00 per month
38	Website/Online Service	\$350	Email/internet - \$14.45 per mo.; Domain name - \$32;
39			Web host - \$150 alt. years.
40	Staff/lobbyist	\$0	Pending grant or other funds
41	Total Expenses	\$10,760	
42			Note: This budget proposes that the LWVOK PMP remain
43			\$15, which became effective July 1, 2005.

March 2011 IRV Study
LWV OK Summary Report
Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) or
Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

At the 2009 LWVOK Convention delegates voted on a study that would look at the possibility of using Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in Oklahoma.

Instant Runoff Voting is also called Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) because the voter ranks the candidates on her ballot: first choice, second choice, etc. (Nobody has to rank more than one candidate.) In the first round of counting, the voters' first choice ranking are totaled. If any candidate has won a majority of the vote, that candidate wins. If not ballot rankings are used in a series of instant runoff elections in which the lowest polling candidate is eliminated in each round until someone receives majority vote.

Nine state Leagues have a consensus supporting Instant Runoff Voting and several other states in addition to Oklahoma are currently studying the feasibility of IRV for their state. We are asking the local Leagues to determine if they concur with these 9 Leagues that support IRV.

The LWV OK asks its members to look at IRV to determine how IRV has worked in other localities, how IRV would fit in with Oklahoma's election system, if IRV is a way to increase fairness in elections, and if IRV would be good for Ok. To do this we will compare the systems used now in Oklahoma, plurality and two-round runoffs, with IRV.

Plurality: Oklahoma November statewide general elections use a plurality system. In a plurality system the candidate who receives the most votes wins. Thus the winner may not necessarily receive a majority of the votes. At this time, after a partisan primary with a runoff, we elect our US congressional representatives, the Oklahoma Legislature, our Governor and other statewide officials as well as county elected officials and district judges by the plurality system.

Two-round Runoff: In Oklahoma, preceding the general elections, statewide partisan primaries are held with a two-round runoff vote. The first round is in July with the runoff, if necessary, in August. In the two-round runoff system if no candidate gets a majority (50%+1) of the votes, all except the top two vote getters are eliminated. The remaining two candidates compete in a second election, usually one or two months later. In Oklahoma many local elections for city officials and school boards use the two-round runoff vote, although some cities use a plurality vote to elect city officials.

Instant Runoff: In IRV, sometimes called ranked choice voting (RCV), voters rank the candidates on the ballot, marking their first, second, and third choices, depending on how many candidates are in the race. In round one, the first-choice votes are counted. If a candidate gets 50%+1 of the votes (a majority), he or she is declared the winner. If no one has a majority, the counting goes to the instant runoff. The candidate with the lowest number of first-choice votes is eliminated. The second place votes on the ballots of the eliminated candidate are added to the first place votes of the remaining candidates. If one of the remaining candidates gets a majority the election is over. If no one gets a majority, again the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and third choice votes of the eliminated candidate are transferred to the remaining candidates. This continues until a candidate has a majority, 50%+1.

This summary is only part of a more detailed report (that will be available at the convention) was prepared by:

Jacqueline Achong, Lawton
 Suzanne Broadbent, Oklahoma
 County
 Mardi Dixon, Tulsa
 Dortha Dunlap, Bartlesville
 Deanna Homer, Stillwater
 Judi Johnson, Oklahoma County
 Dolores Martin, Oklahoma County
 Karen Melcher, Stillwater
 Asia Scudder, Norman
 Sheila Swearingen, Tulsa

LWVOK Advocates for Oklahoma Voter-Owned Elections

The League of Women Voters Oklahoma Chapter joined with Common Cause, Public Campaign, The Brennan Center for Justice and other organizations on Feb. 25th, 2011 to advocate for HB 1537, a public financing option for Oklahoma. Norman board member Joyce Collard, representing LWVOK, read from the LWV Public Policy, *Impact on Issues*, and discussed the 40-year history of League advocacy for public financing of elections. Quoting *Impact on Issues*, Collard said, "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process."

Eight states and three major cities (NYC, Albuquerque, and Portland, OR) have a public financing option, which is often called Clean Elections or Voter-Owned Elections. Public financing of elections is voluntary. Those who prefer to use the current system of fund-raising from lobbyists or self-funding may continue to use the old system. The Oklahoma version of a voluntary Voter-Owned Elections system as would not use any tax-dollars.

Public financing has a proven track record of curbing the influence of lobbyists & power brokers who foster corruption with large donations. Public financing would enable candidates for Congress to run viable campaigns based on small-dollar donations from real people, matched by public funds, so they could avoid taking cash from corporate lobbyists, CEOs and other special interests with deep pockets.

Lake Research Partners completed a poll last fall. Below is what they found - once again: (Support has been consistent for decades.) <http://fairelectionsnow.org/sites/default/files/11-2010-fairelections-polling.pdf>

Support is strong across party lines. Even in a highly polarized electorate, support for Fair Elections is solid across all parties. It is supported by overwhelming margins among:

- Democrats (75% support to 9% oppose)
- Independents (66% support to 16% oppose)
- Republicans (55% support to 32% oppose)

"This is an important first step toward putting voters back in charge of Oklahoma elections," said Nick Nyhart, president and CEO of Public Campaign in a letter of support. "By empowering small donors, HB 1537 will give everyday Oklahomans a greater voice in the electoral process and bring a state government that is truly of, by, and for the people."

A letter of support from The Brennan Center stated, " We applaud the effort to bring Voter Owned Elections to Oklahoma. As experiences in sister states show, adopting Voter Owned Elections is a way to restore trust between government and the voting public who have grown wary of big money elections."

Twenty-eight other national organizations advocate for public financing. A few are listed below:

Americans for Campaign Reform, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, People For the American Way, Public Campaign, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.

2011-13 LWV of Oklahoma Program

1. Retain all current 13 positions.

The LWV OK Board does not recommend any studies after reviewing submittals from Norman, Stillwater, Tulsa, and Bartlesville LL.

Not recommended Studies:

2. Possible New Studies:

- A. Is Gambling OK in OK? Addictions? Lottery and Casinos affect on state?
- B. State of individual Health in OK especially related to nutrition education.
- C. Water: water rights in Oklahoma, i.e. who controls bodies of water (state or federal, Tribes, governments) and who can authorize the sale of water across state lines. The continuation of the LWV OK Water Study which ended after one year - a few years ago (1999?). We think a study limited to Sardis Lake, possible new sources of water for central OK cities, and selling OK water to TX, would be a very important study to continue. Because the last study ended after one year and was not completed, It don't believe a consensus was taken to add to our earlier positions. We propose a Water study update being limited to Sardis Lake and selling H2O to Texas. Given the drought situation we are in this is even more urgent of a topic now. Combine that with groundwater contamination from hydrofracking and we have a water nightmare forthcoming in this area.

D. Study on "Charter Schools."

3. Action Priorities:

- A. Conflict of Interest related to Redistricting concerns
- B. Fiscal Policy especially relating to Legislative Retirement Benefits
- C. Juvenile Justice/corrections related to location of detention facilities

D. Mental Health –the need to find ways to take action.

E. School Consolidation and dissolution of the State Board of Education, covering bipartisanship and its exact powers.

4. Information Updates to be provided on.

A. Legislators who move right from state legislature to Lobbyist' job.

B. OK Women in Prison

C. Treatment of incarcerated mentally ill criminals.

D. State of Math, Science and Technology education.

E. Is there double dip retirement for some legislators?

F. Information on locations of Juvenile Facilities.

G. Water information related to Texas use of Sardis Lake / Choctaw Tribe.

H. How to fund current mental health needs.

5. Rewriting positions:

The summary of the Education positions needs more detail, more specific.

Program notes from the President:

The LWV OK Program Positions book is on our website at <http://lwvok.org/Program%20Positions%20May%202009%20Draft.pdf> or here: http://www.scribd.com/full/47351299?access_key=key-2dk9r2v3ec1jc98x22bo

Please check it out. This will not be printed for the Convention this year so if you have an old copy be sure to bring it from home.

If a LL wants a non recommended item as a study for the LWVOK I suggest caucus between now and May 20. You could also meet after supper May 20th to have a statement, scope, timeline and money required ready to present as a motion Saturday with a seconder to the convention.

Bylaws proposals for the 2011 LWVOK Convention*last updated 2007***Recent Change in LWWUS Bylaws**

A bylaws amendment was approved at the 2010 LWWUS Convention and we suggest, therefore, that it be included as a "housekeeping item" as part of your League's bylaws discussion this spring at your annual meeting and/or state convention. As you may recall, the first three articles of the League bylaws set forth the League name, purpose and policy and define membership in the LWWUS. Per LWWUS policy, the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWWUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members. One of the amendments approved at Convention 2010 affects these first three articles.

We changed the name of the third membership category from "honorary life members" to "life members." Specifically, the amendment strikes the word "honorary" from Article III, Section 2 (A), which should now read:

Article III Membership. Sec. 2. Types of Membership. A. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWWUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

Amend Article IV, Section 1, by striking the word "and qualified" from the last sentence, and by adding a new sentence at the end as follows: "Under circumstances to be determined by the nominating committee the office of President may be filled by two co-officers."

Amend Article IV, Section 2, by striking the word "absence" in the first sentence of the second paragraph, and the word "elected" in the second sentence of the second paragraph.

Amend Article IV, Section 5 Strike the word "audited" after "be" and before annually" and inserting the words "subjected to an audit-review ". The last sentence will read, "The books of the treasurer shall be subjected to an audit review annually."

Amend Article V, Section 3, by adding the following sentence. "The Board of Directors may conduct meetings by video conference, teleconference, or other electronic means as may be necessary. Notice shall be the same as that of other regular or special meetings."

Amend Article VII, Section 4 by striking the words "to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate." After the words "disposed of" and insert the words, "in accordance with the directives of the LWWUS."

Amend Article X, Section 4, by striking the current wording and inserting new wording as follows: "The president shall appoint two or three tellers at the first session of the convention. Elections shall be by ballot except in the case of only one nominee for an office when a voice vote will be in order. The tellers shall collect and count the ballots and report the results to the president who will announce these results to the delegates. A majority of those present and voting will elect."

Amend Article V, Section 5 (new) Nonparticipating members of the Board of Directors. Any board member who is absent from two (2) board meetings annually without explanatory correspondence to the president of the board shall be considered to have resigned, and upon that meeting of the board of directors, shall be notified to this effect. The vacancy should be filled as outlined elsewhere in these bylaws at that meeting.

Note: When republishing, make sure Article VIII is numbered correctly.

Article III, Section 2. Types of Membership.

a) Voting Members. Citizens of at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues. residing within the United States, a territory or an associated commonwealth, who join the League at the local or state level; (1) members who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large and shall pay annual dues to the state League; (2) those members who have ben members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members and excused from the payment of dues

Article IV, Section 1. Officers Election, Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWVOK shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be voting members of the LWVOK and shall be elected by the convention to hold office until the close of the next convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Article IV, Section 2. The President. The president shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the state board or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee, may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the state board may direct.

Article V, Section 3. Meetings. At least four regular meetings of the board shall be held annually. The president may call special meetings and upon the written request of five members of the board, shall call a special meeting. Notice of all regular meetings shall be given at least two weeks before the meeting and notice of all special meetings shall be given at least six days prior to the meeting. During a convention or council meeting, the president may, or upon the request of five members, shall call a special meeting by giving personal notice to each member of the board.

Article VII, Section 4. The Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVOK, all monies, securities, and property (real, personal or mixed) which the LWVOK has acquired by gift, bequest or otherwise, as well as all unexpended income from said monies or property, and any other funds that may be owned or under the control of the LWVOK, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as the state board in its absolute discretion may designate.

Article X, Section 4. Election. The Hie election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president at the first session of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the ballot for that candidate. A majority of those present and voting shall constitute an election.

**League of Women Voters of
Oklahoma**

Nominating Committee Report

April 7, 2011

For 2011-2013 Officers:

**Co-Presidents: Mary Jo Neal
(Tulsa) & Karen Melcher
(Stillwater)**

1st VP: Polly Bowen (Tulsa)

**2nd VP: Jacqueline Achong
(Lawton)**

**Treasurer: Barbara Wilson
(MAL, Ada)**

**Secretary: Cheri Spears
(Bartlesville)**

For 2011-2013 Directors:

**Kay Bickham (Oklahoma
County)**

Deborah Langley (Bartlesville)

Sharron Pettiford (Tulsa)

**Marjorie Ramana (Oklahoma
County)**

Kirsten Tautfest (Stillwater)

Joyce Collard (Norman)

For 2013 Nominating Committee:

Kathy Hinkle (Tulsa)

Dortha Dunlap (Bartlesville)

Paula Sanford (Oklahoma County)

Submitted by:

Mary Francis, Chair

Jacqueline Achong

Dolores Martin

Sheila Swearingen

Marjorie Swofford

Registration

Delegates *(LL President plus 2 delegates)* _____

Other Non-voting attendees _____

League Chapter _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Box Lunch Order Beef Turkey Ham Vegetarian _____

Convention Payment \$25 Check

Any special needs? _____

Participating Friday evening? _____

Deadline for mail in registration is May 13. Deadline for Room Reservations at the Holiday Inn in Norman is April 30. See lodging on page 1.

Send Registration and \$25 check to LWVOK, 3200 NW 48th, Suite 217, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

League of Women Voters of Oklahoma Board Members

President - Deborah Langley

918-336-6652

cowgirl1920ok@yahoo.com**1st Vice President - Polly Bowen**

918-252-0582

pmb20@valornet.com**2nd Vice President - Mary Jo Neal**

918-747-8447

mjneal60@aol.com**Secretary - Cheri Spears**

918-333-7317

cjmspears@aol.com**Treasure - Barbara Wilson**

580-436-0763

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405-377-3602

Marjorie Swofford

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League of Women Voters of Oklahoma
3200 NW 48th, Suite 217
Oklahoma City OK 73112

! PECANS !

The League of Women Voters of Oklahoma is still selling Pecans. We have a few left, so ask your local board members to locate some for you.

