



Oklahoma Voter

League of Women
Voters of Oklahoma

September 2005

President's Message

Dear League Members,

I spent three exciting and informative days in Washington D.C. at the LWVUS Council 2005 in June. It was a great experience, and I met many wonderful league members from around the country. Our first session was *A 360 View of the League* regarding using issues to engage your community and build your League. Basically, it discussed the need to incorporate fundraising into league issues. In Oklahoma, most of our local leagues do this quite well. Presentations were made by the national board discussing the responsibilities of their office. Kay Maxwell, President LWVUS, and Nancy Tate, LWVUS Executive Director, are both dynamic women who represent the league very well. The Roll Call of the States was very instructive; the local and state leagues nationwide are doing many useful and educational projects for citizens.

The guest speaker for the council banquet was David Gergen. He signed copies of his book, **Eyewitness to Power**, for those willing to stand in line to meet him. In order for the league to stay actively involved in issues, he recommended that we join coalitions with religious groups who share our views.

Other interesting sessions included a Civil Liberties Panel, Development Challenges Facing State Leagues, Election Reform in the States, and Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security. The Civil Liberties Panel was a discussion of the intricacies and constantly evolving challenges of balancing civil liberties and homeland security. They addressed issues of access to information and transparency in government, the role of courts, and challenges to our system of checks and balances.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend and represent the leagues in our state. I hope we have a large contingent attending the 2006 Convention.

Barbara Wilson
LWVOK

Leaguers getting their copy of *Eyewitness to Power* signed by the author David Gergen.



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Bartlesville League of Women Voters Celebrates the 85th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment

The League of Women Voters of Bartlesville were active participants in the August 27 celebration of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The LWV-B was a cosponsor with the Bartlesville Women's Network, and league members portrayed key suffragists in the rally, marched to the courthouse, served as ushers for the marchers to enter the courtroom, and assisted with the reception that followed.

The celebration consisted of a rally held in the Bartlesville Community Center, a march to the courthouse, and the trial of Susan B. Anthony. At the rally, storyteller Fran Stallings told the story of how women won the vote in the United States in 1920. Suffragists were portrayed by members of the Bartlesville Women's Network. The suffragists who spoke were Olive Logan, Lucretia Mott, Emily Collins, Lucy Stone, Grace Greenwood, Mother Bickerdyke (LWV's own Deborah Langley), Sojourner Truth, Gov. Charles Haskell, Alice Paul, and Carrie Chapman Catt. The suffragists, dressed in period clothing, were very persuasive in their arguments for the right for women to vote.

All characters in the rally were genuine people in history. Harriet Guthrie, a league member, wrote and researched the rally script in 1995. The script was amended and updated by District Judge Janice P. Dreiling in 2005. The trial of Susan B. Anthony took place in 1873 in Canan-diagua (Ontario County), New York. The trial script was also written by Harriet Guthrie in 1995, and was based on the original trial transcript. The trial script was amended in 2004 by Tulsa attorney Angelyn Dale and in 2005 by Janice P. Dreiling.

During the trial reenactment, portions of the fifty years of correspondence between Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were read.

These readings gave an informative insight into some of the personal lives of these two remarkable women, and how their friendship facilitated the suffrage movement. The *History of Woman*



Suffrage was a primary source of for much of the research for both *The Rally* and *The Trial*, especially the first three volumes published in 1881 by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda J. Gage. The transcript of the trial may be found on-line. Pictured above is Harriet Guthrie of the LWV of Bartlesville.

Stillwater Holds Forum for State Question NO. 723

To provide more information on State Question 723 the LWV Stillwater hosted a forum at 7 pm on September 8, 2005, at Stillwater City Hall, 723 S. Lewis. Speaking for the question was Neal McCaleb. Speaking against the question was Rex Duncan. The public was invited to attend or to watch on Cable Channel 23.

Originally, *The Voter* was scheduled to be sent out in the first or second week of September. Karen Melcher of Stillwater, LWVOK Voter Service Chair, had written an educational article about State Question No. 723 that was to have been included.

Report on the LWV OK Board Meeting, July 16, 2005 by Cheri Spears

The 2005-07 board met for a retreat and first board meeting early on July 16. Members had driven to St. Francis of the Wood Retreat Center near Coyle, Ok the evening before. Sunny Choi arranged for the beautiful areas to stay and to meet and provided delicious food as her gift to the board. The board is working on some exciting new plans.

The finances are starting off on better footing this year and several means of making money are being talked about.

The state study adopted at convention, "The Reintegration of Women into Society After Prison" is already the focus of the Tulsa League and they welcome visitors at their regular meetings at the Helmerich Library at 91st and Yale on 4th Monday evenings at 7:00. They are also planning a tour of the fa-

cilities at Lexington. Other leaguers are welcome to attend so check with Dortha Dunlap or Barbara Wilson for information as the Tulsa committee will email LWVOK board members when arrangements have been made.

Sunny Choi is redesigning the website for LWVOK and now has it running. Look for her article in this newsletter. Also local leagues will be able to have links to that site without extra expense. The LWVOK VOTER will also appear there, so that printing and postage expenses can be saved by mailing only to those who request a paper copy. You will get a September issue on paper, so be sure to notify the editor, Cheri Spears at 3120 Sheridan Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006, or call 918-333-7317 if you want future issues by snail mail or email cjmspears@aol.com and sunny@cs.okstate.edu if you want

an email reminder when it is posted on the website.

Karen Melcher of Stillwater presented a brief review of a state bill that was voted on Sept. 13, 2005. SQ 723 was about the Bridge and Highway trust fund. There are two websites: "Pros" are at www.oksaferoads.com and "cons" are at www.oktaxpayers.com.

There are plans in the works for another great Advocacy Workshop (formerly known as Lobby Day) in January. Watch for the details on that later. There are hopes for having Legislative Day again. Perhaps it will alternate years with the Advocacy Workshop.

The most exciting plan is to make some living history videos of long time League members in the state. We hope to have a good start on that and use them for the Convention in Guthrie in 2007.

The Beginnings of the LWVOK Program Committee

On August 19, Dortha Dunlap met with Polly Bowen and Nancy Dodson in Tulsa. Two Tulsa League members who have great knowledge of the states prisons joined the group and added much resource information. Nancy has initiated research on the reentry issues facing women who return to the community after serving their time in prison. The focus of the study will be: barriers to getting adequate housing; barriers to participating fully as citizens of Oklahoma and the United States; barriers to getting medical care for the formerly incarcerated and family and barriers to employment. We have an outline in process for individual states leagues to use within their own communities. The entire project looks very exciting, and we are hoping for full participation throughout the state. Polly Bowen

Editor's note:

Another meeting took place in Bartlesville on August 27 after the re-enactment of the Susan B. Anthony trial. Nancy Dodson handed out folders with information on the survey that will need to be done by November. Each local league will have an area in which to conduct the survey. This should give the committee time to organize the material for some good discussion in the spring and fall of 2006. If this is a subject that interests you, give Dortha Dunlap a call at 918-333-7317 or email her at didunlap@ionet.net.



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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Because many of us would prefer to donate to those in need due to the destruction of parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama by Hurricane Katrina, fundraising efforts among the LWVOK membership have been postponed until later this fall.

We're On The Web!
<http://lwwok.org>

LWVOK.ORG Web Site is Up and Running.

The state League site is open to members and to the public. It is under the same name as before (<http://lwwok.org>), but is now newly constructed, maintained, and managed by the League. There are a few things that still need to be added, but the site is in service.

Needless to say, a Web site is an exciting tool; it allows us to share resources and program ideas amongst the local Leagues more easily, and the information that we want to disseminate reaches a wider audience more effectively. It can be an especially valuable tool for what we do in our advocacy work and voter education.

Since the opening on August 18th, search engines have brought us more than ten

users who were looking for information on State Question 723 to our site. There were also two questions submitted through the on-line forms. The questions were redirected to the proper people who have the information the visitors were looking for. That is not bad in just ten days, and we already know that the site is serving its purpose.

To have this tool stay functional, we need to update the contents and be responsive to the needs. If you are interested in helping with the Web site by proofreading or examining the contents, or responding to the users, please send me e-mail to info@lwwok.org.

The Board decided at the last meeting that we will post our newsletter, *Oklahoma Voter*, on the Web. Stillwater LWV has already been doing this, and

Stillwater Voter reaches more people than when it was mailed out. Some members choose to read the *Voter on the Web* instead of receiving it in the mail, and it saves money for postage, too.

You might also like to know that each local League can have its own site with a name like <http://yourlocalLWV.lwwok.org>. If you have someone in your local League who wants to create the Web pages, just send me the pages and tell me where you want them to be posted within your site. If you don't have anybody who will make those Web pages, but still would like to have a local site, I will try to help you have your own pages. This is one of the services that the new Board has decided to provide to the local

Leagues. There won't be any charge for the service, but you have to provide the information you would like to post on your local site.

There are more items that I could share, such as e-mail addresses that we can distribute to the local Leagues, and e-mail forwarding, but it will be lengthy and cumbersome to explain all here. Instead, I will do a workshop if there is interest.

I hope you find the site helpful, and this information useful.

Sunny Choi
LWVOK Web Mama