

December 2008

League of Women Voters of Norman

Established in 1925

LWVN

P.O. Box 720621
Norman, OK 73070
norman.ok.lwvnet.org

**STEERING
COMMITTEE**

Barbara Robinson
Chair
701-1907

Lois Hilbert
Secretary
321-4592

Joyce Collard
Treasurer
321-1058

Helen Duchon
Member
329-2485

Mary Francis
Member
474-0695

Marj Greer
Member
321-9678

Ruth Loeffler
Member
329-5358

Off Committee

Diane Blank
VOTER Editor
Webmaster
360-0419

Join League Members and Guests for a Pot Luck Luncheon

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 11:30 am

Where: Memorial Presbyterian Church

Guest Speaker: Paula Roberts, CCEB Secretary

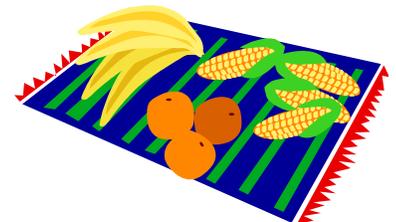
On Wednesday, December 10, at 11:30 am, the Norman League of Women Voters will host a special meeting with Paula Roberts, Secretary of the Cleveland County Election Board as our speaker. Paula will discuss issues that must be decided before the next 2012 Election.

One of these issues is the choice of new voting machines to replace the current ones, which need repairs that are no longer available. There are also software issues to consider. Other decisions and plans will deal with problems of purging, required audits, the expansion of increased early voting, and ways to provide for the increase.

The addition of information on the Election Board website, such as putting ballots on line, listing of precincts, and other topics will be discussed.

The meeting will include a potluck luncheon. League members are encouraged to invite a friend and bring any appropriate luncheon dish (salad, dessert, vegetables, etc.). The meeting will be at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 24th Ave., SW, and is open to the public.

Norman League to Discuss Local Program January 21



Phoebe Schmitz is opening her home to members for a luncheon and Local Program

Brainstorming Session on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. The address is 1316 Vine. For directions call Phoebe at 364-4493.

Members who choose to participate will discuss our current program positions and make recommendations to the 2009 Annual Meeting on position updates, new studies, and action priorities.

Bring fruit or a dessert and join the freewheeling discussion. Deli items and drinks will be provided.

Margaret Trumble, rest in peace.

by Phoebe Schmitz

Past President and once active member of the Norman League, Margaret Trumble died on November 9, 2008 following complications from a fall.



Margaret Trumble and Phoebe Schmitz look over plans for the 1978 LWVN Legislative Dinner

As President, Margaret spoke at City Council meetings, presenting council members with some of our local program positions that were related to council issues. She was also involved in just about every aspect of our League and contributed greatly to our growth and involvement in the Norman community.

Margaret also taught piano lessons to many of Norman's youth and several adults. Her students received sound musical theory, as well as very thorough piano pedagogy and much gentle encouragement.

We say thank you, Margaret, for all your contributions to our League, and we reprint the following poem written for Margaret years ago and presented to her at an Annual Meeting around 1980. If anyone knows the author's name, we would like to give credit for this clever poem.

"I Hadn't No Ideer"...or An Ode to Ms. Margaret Trumble

I hadn't no ideer
What a pesky thing t'would be,
To be a Leaguer president
And keep 'em pleased with me.

At City Council meetin's
I've had to sit for hours (7)
To stay there days and nights
Until my temper sours.

One member of the council's
Been as fightin' as a bear.
But I didn't back down;
I think I made him swear.

To war it was, or almost that,
And did we git a rousin'
When we said our peace 'bout
sexual pref.
And more 'bout public housin'.

T'was a most uncanny thing,
This year on Finance Drive.
I sent out two innocent lambs;
They barely came back alive.

They sat in silence and in shock,
Heard a tirade 'bout land fill.
Before they left, a new member
they'd made,
And 50 dollars for the till.

There were issues made me achin'
to resign.

I was askin' Diane what would
happen down the line. (Diane
Brown, past LWVN President)
She said they'd come 'n git me,
lock me up and let me lie;
And quite probably I'd stay there
till my time arrived to die.

So I finished out the season,
Kept up with aerobics as well.
Now it's on to an election year,
Which should be hot as..."Sweet
Violets". (from the song: There
once was a farmer...)



Selection of the President

At the LWVUS 2008 Convention the delegates adopted a fast-track study: *The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President*. The Norman League is participating in this study with a consensus due May 1, 2009.

“We must help restore in people the belief that they can make a difference in their communities and in their government.”

–Ann McBride
Common Cause

The current League position was announced by the National Board in January 1970, revised in 1982 and updated in 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

Explanation of LWVUS Position

The League believes that the Electoral College should be abolished – not reformed. The League especially opposes voting by electors based on proportional representation instead of the current winner-take-all method. Proportional voting increases the chance that no candidate would receive a majority in the Electoral College; this outcome would send the election of the President to the House of representatives. In the House each state, regardless of population, would have only one vote. Having the House select the President takes the decision from the people and removes the “one person, one vote” principle. The League also believes that uniformity across the country in how elections are handled by states is important. Therefore, the League opposes state-by-state reform of the Electoral College.

The Electoral College – A Review

As background for this National Popular Vote (NVP) Compact study, the National League is supplying material for members via the Internet. The following is a summary of just one aspect of this study to help members understand the current mechanics of selecting a President.

The Founding Fathers chose the process of the **Electoral College** for selection of a President as a compromise with election by popular vote. Today we vote for *electors*, who vote for the President and Vice President. The number of *presidential electors* in each state is equal to its total number of legislators in the House and Senate. The District of Columbia is given a number of electors equal to that of the least populous state.



continued next page

Selection of the President *continued*

This constitutional plan was designed to promote principles that the founding fathers considered important: to ensure that small states be given a role in the Presidential election; to emphasize the power of the state over that of the individual in order to foster the principles of federalism - the core of our governmental process; to use electors rather than the popular vote because that satisfied concerns that voters were not competent or politically aware enough to be trusted with the election of the President and Vice President.

Today, voters cast votes for a President and Vice President, and the names of the electors are not often shown on the ballot. The electors meet forty days after Election Day to formally vote for a President and Vice President.

There have been many different proposals to amend the Constitution. One of these proposals is to have a direct election by the people. Not one proposal has yet been passed by Congress nor sent to the states to be ratified. For the Constitution to be amended, an amendment must be proposed by a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate and then ratified by three-fourths of the states.

Study materials for this NVP Compact study will be available on line at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm>, and we will have some copies available at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, December 10 – a lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

We are planning a public meeting on February 12 with speakers to address the pros and cons of this issue (time and place to be announced). A potluck luncheon meeting at Memorial Presbyterian Church will be scheduled for member consensus on the National Popular Vote Compact in time to meet the May 1, 2008 consensus deadline.◆

“The simple rule is: Hold
Power Accountable.”

–John Gardner

New on the LWVN Website

Two new pages at the LWVN website feature information that comes to us from LWVUS. “Reform Agenda Announced” outlines the intent of a coalition, which includes the LWV, to push legislation on public financing of federal elections. “A Letter to the President Elect” highlights LWVUS action priorities and provides a link to the October 2008 *National VOTER* article.

We are also publishing short essays on a page called “In the Public Interest,” which reflect League Program in current issues. So far we have published essays on the OKC Union Station rail yard demolition issue, public funding of political campaigns, and term limits for the Oklahoma Legislature. The essays give us an opportunity to explain our interests and positions to the public, and to direct visitors to other sites that contain reliable information.◆

Visit LWVN on the Web
<http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org>

Area Public Transportation Still High on LWVN Action Agenda

LWVN continues its participation in the effort to persuade Gov. Brad Henry to call a moratorium on construction of the relocated Interstate 40 Crosstown Expressway in order to study the possibility of realigning a section of the project, and thereby saving the OKC Union Station rail yard from demolition.

The Norman League's interest in the issue stems from the fact that the OKC Union Station and adjacent rail yard are state assets that could serve as a multi-modal transportation hub. Preservation of these asset would be a first step toward development of a modern transportation network for central Oklahoma with connections to communities throughout the state. In supporting this effort we are addressing LWV concerns about air quality, as well as access to jobs, health care, and education. ♦



Sarah Olzawski, Jamie Hale, and Judy Day

Meet the Candidates Event a Success

Helen Duchon reports that our joint venture with the Pioneer Library System held on September 26 at the Norman branch was a great success. Thanks go to the library staff for much of the planning and for the marvelous decorations. Here are a few photos taken by Helen at the event.



Lois Hilbert, LWVN

2008–2009 Calendar

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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

Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. Associate membership is available for students not yet eligible to vote.



For updates on LWV activities go to <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org> and click “Meetings and Events” or call a member of the Steering Committee (Page 1).

Dec 3	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW
Dec 9	Tue	7:00 am– 7:00 pm	Special Election Ballot question on approval of one-quarter of one percent sales tax for a county detention facility.
Dec 10	Wed	11:30 am– 1:00 pm	Pot Luck Luncheon and Program Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW Speaker: Paula Roberts Details on Page 1.
Jan 7	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW
Jan 21	Wed	11:30 am– 1:00 pm	All-Member Local Program Brain Storming Session 1316 Vine For directions call Phoebe 364-4493. Members bring fruit or dessert. Deli items and drinks provided. See Page 1.
Feb 4	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW
Feb 12	Thur	7:00 pm– 9:00 pm	Public Meeting: National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Details TBA See program information on pages 3–4.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORMAN

P.O. Box 720621
Norman, OK 73070