

December 2009

League of Women Voters of Norman

Established in 1925

LWVN

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Phoebe Schmitz
Chair/President
364-4493

Ruth Loeffler
Vice President
329-5358

Lois Hilbert
Secretary
321-4592

Joyce Collard
Treasurer
321-1058

Diane Blank
VOTER Editor
Webmaster
360-0419

Helen Duchon
Member
329-2485

Mary Francis
Member
474-0695

Marj Greer
Member
321-9678

Barbara Robinson
Member
701-1907

LWVN Screening of IRON JAWED ANGELS

Fall Social for Members

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

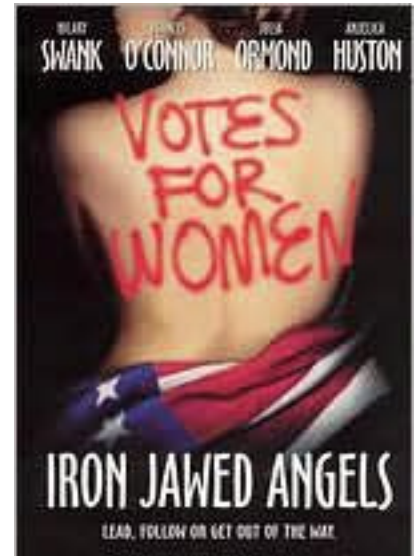
6:30 pm

1316 Vine St.

Norman, OK 73072

**RSVP Phoebe 364-4493 if you plan to
attend so that she can get a count.**

You are welcome to bring a friend. Each member is asked to bring an appetizer (small amount). Wine, hot cider, and juice will be provided.



Iron Jawed Angels, produced by HBO, was released in 2004. The movie depicts the last stages of the long struggle for woman suffrage. Young women led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Conner) of the National Woman's Party made extraordinary sacrifices to force the nation to act. Viewers get a glimpse of the clash within the movement of young suffragists with the old guard led by Carrie Chapman Catt (Anjelica Huston). Six months before ratification of the 19th Amendment Catt founded the League of Women Voters. February 14, 2010 marks the 90th anniversary of the LWV.

Message from the President

"I value the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of our democratic society. I will be a concerned and informed citizen, involved in the political process to ensure my voice is heard and my vote is counted." This is part of a personal mission statement mentioned in *The Habits of Highly Effective People*, by Stephen Covey. This quote could be part of each League member's personal mission statement, and these are the qualities that the Norman League tries to encourage and support in its members.

Members are the lifeline of our organization, and we try to respond to issues that they check on the fall membership renewal letter each year. This year the issues of most concern to our members, in order of frequency checked, are Water (quality, quantity and storm water), Juvenile Justice, Education, and City Government.

continued next page

Message from the President continued

Women's Suffrage

(a partial list)

New Zealand 1893

Canada 1917

Soviet Union 1917

Austria 1918

Germany 1919

United States 1920

UK/Ireland 1928

France 1944

Italy 1945

Mexico 1947

Switzerland 1971

In order to help all members to be informed citizens in the areas they are most concerned about, we began last September by inviting School Board Member, Linda Sexton, to give us an update on Education in Norman Public Schools. In response to the other issues, we are planning a Legislative Roundtable panel for January to let us know about new bills introduced in the Legislature; a City Council and Mayoral Forum in February before the March City Elections; and panels on water, hopefully one on quantity and a second on quality in March and April.

We do our best to provide current, accurate, important information to members and those who visit our web site, <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org>, with articles *In the Public Interest*, Election Calendar, Voter Information, and links to the Election Board plus several other important Web sites. Our Web Master, Diane Blank, updates our site and sends weekly emails with information from the National League on Action Alerts and current issues such as Health Care, openness in government, climate change, public financing, and Census 2010 – the importance for local and state communities.

I'd like to close with a quote from Project Vote Smart: "We cannot be free without casting knowledge (abundant, accurate, relevant information) out to The People." Our biggest hope is that you, our members, will read the information we offer, come to our forums and panel discussions, volunteer to help with any project you are interested in, share League information with your family and friends, and help keep *civics for adults* alive and well in Norman, Oklahoma.

Phoebe Schmitz, President

A Piece of Norman League History

From *The Oklahoman*, October 24, 1954



June Morgan (in green) at LWVN luncheon in October

"A crowd of five thousand attended a Norman League of Women Voters old-fashioned town meeting in the OU field house in 1950. Things got out of hand as people booed gubernatorial candidates [names not given]. June Benson, League President who moderated the meeting, had trouble controlling the crowd. The mere mention of this meeting to OU officials four years later still caused them to wince."

"On October 23, 1954, Norman League President, Mrs. William Morgan (current member June Morgan), served as moderator of a 30-minute radio

program for gubernatorial and senate candidates [no names mentioned]. After the candidates spoke for two minutes, they answered questions from the studio audience."

School Bond Election December 8, 2009



The Norman Board of Education has called for a \$109,760,000 Bond Issue Election to be held Dec. 8, 2009. If approved the bonds will replace retired bonds; therefore, the dedicated property tax levels will not increase.

The revenue will go toward district-wide projects including new technology, the construction of a new elementary school, additions and renovations at existing school sites, and numerous improvements at athletic facilities. For an itemized list of projects contact Norman Public Schools at 364-1339 or visit the Norman Public Schools Web site at <http://www.norman.k12.ok.us>.

Our Contributors

*Thank
You*

A special thank you to Norman League members for their donations to our Operating Account or to the Education Fund: Diane Blank, Joyce Collard, Helen Duchon, Jane Dye, Constance Golden, Marj Greer, Lois Hilbert, Patti Meo, Anne Million, Helen Patrick, Elizabeth Pierce, Phoebe Schmitz, and Lyntha Wesner. *We apologize if anyone's name was omitted.*

We also want to thank Jeff Cummins, President of First Bank and Trust Co., for the \$200 check which was donated to pay for one year of printing our *Who's Who*.

Judge Lucas is a Strong Advocate for Cleveland County's Drug Court Program

The Norman League was very fortunate to hear an update November 9 by Judge Tom Lucas on the Cleveland County Drug Court, a subject about which he is very passionate.

Judge Lucas described what a great alternative drug court is to incarceration. It not only saves money (\$5,000 per year for a person in drug court for two years vs. between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for a person in a penitentiary for many years), but it reduces the crime rate, and perhaps most important, it saves peoples' lives.

Since the Cleveland Co. Drug Court began in 2001, 213 people have graduated, and 67 have dropped out and gone to prison. The 213 graduates would have spent a total of 1,890 years in prison. What cannot be measured in terms of money is the 27,140 hours of community service performed by the people in drug court since its start, at places like Second Chance, Little River Zoo, Habitat for Humanity and Food for Friends.

A statement from one person petitioning to graduate from drug court rings true for many, "This program has changed my life forever."

Non-Pecan Sale to Benefit LWV of Oklahoma

You are invited to buy a holiday treat with no fat or calories and at the same time, help support the projects of the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma.



Some Oklahoma leagues are selling Oklahoma pecans during the holiday season in order to raise funds for the state league. The pecans are delicious, but members of the LWVN Steering Committee feel that the logistics of such a project are a bit difficult for us. We have decided to offer our members a “non-pecan” sale instead. In other words, the products exist in name only. There is no pick up or delivery. Buy one of the delicacies listed below, save the calories, and be assured that the entire amount of your purchase price will benefit the LWV of Oklahoma.

The LWVOK is requesting donations in order to better serve local Leagues across the state, as well as the people of Oklahoma, with Voters Service. The state league is currently overseeing a statewide Voters Guide for 2010 fall elections and beginning a new State Study on “Instant Runoff Voting” for elections in Oklahoma. Issues on which the state League has positions and lobbies the Legislature include the corrections system, education, the judicial system, juvenile justice, mental health and water. Work will begin after the first of the year on a campaign in opposition to State Question 746, which if passed would require each voter to produce a photo ID at the polls.

Our Delicious Non-pecan Delicacies:

- Pumpkin-pecan pie with eggnog cream..... \$100
- Four-layer butter pecan sundae..... 75
- Praline cheesecake 50
- Butter pecan turtle bars 35
- Spiced pecans 25
- Pecan Waldorf salad 15
- One-pound package of OK pecans _____

*When one tugs at a single thing
in nature, he finds it attached
to the rest of the world.*
—John Muir

FYI: One piece of typical pecan pie containing pecans, sugar, corn syrup, butter, egg and milk has 575 calories, 32 grams of fat, and 4.7 grams of saturated fat.

*The single biggest problem in
communication is the illusion
that it has taken place.*
—George Bernard Shaw

Please stay healthy this holiday season, choose one of our zero-calorie desserts, and mail your non-tax deductible contribution to:

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

Look for these useful Internet links on our web site:

<http://norman.lwvok.org>

Latest LWVUS news; LWVOK; US Government Portal; OK State Government Portal; City of Norman; OK Counties; Norman Public Schools; University of Oklahoma; Moore Norman Technology Center

New Members' Corner

Please welcome our new members:

Reda Jarvis
Asia Scudder
Linda Sexton
Carolyn Speer

We hope that you can join us at an upcoming event.

Mary Francis graciously agreed to interview our new members for *The Norman Voter*. Unfortunately, — *Could we have a moment of silence, please?* — her computer crashed. While many of her files were recovered, the interviews were not among them. Computers have revolutionized the way we work...except when they don't. Computer users around the world know the frustration that Mary has experienced the last few days. Our apologies to our new members.

For Greg Mortenson Fans

*We will be known forever by
the tracks we leave.*
Native American Proverb

Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, by Greg Mortenson will be released on December 1, 2009. The book picks up where he left off in *Three Cups of Tea* and recounts his ongoing efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan as well as his work in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan. Find out more about the new book at www.stonesintoschools.com.

Rumor has it that Mortenson will be on the OU campus April 21-22, 2010 with a public event scheduled for April 22. Details are not yet available. To learn more or make a contribution to this heroic effort go to www.ikat.org.



Phoebe Schmitz, LWVN President, presented 50-Year Membership Certificates to Libba Smith (left) and June Morgan (right) at a luncheon in October. Libba's primary interest over the years has been in local government, which prompted her to run for and serve on the Norman City Council. June has served on local, state, and national league boards.

2009–2010 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 1	Tue	6:30 pm	Fall Social for Members 1316 Vine St. in Norman RSVP 364-4493 if attending Details on Page 1.
Dec. 9	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW in Norman
Jan 6	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW in Norman
Jan 21	Thu	7-9 pm	Discussion of State Questions scheduled for November Ballot Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW in Norman
Feb 3	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW in Norman
Feb 8	Mon	7-8:30 pm	City Council/Mayoral Forum Wards 2, 4, 6, and 8 City Council Chamber City Hall, 201 W. Gray in Norman
Feb 14	Sun	All Day	LWVUS 90th Anniversary
Mar 3	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave SW in Norman
Mar 25	Thu	TBA	Water Resources Panel Place TBA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORMAN

P.O. Box 720621
Norman, OK 73070