

Fall 2010

League of Women Voters of Norman

Established in 1925

LWVN

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

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Message from the President

Leagues across the country this year are celebrating the 90th birthday of the LWV. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920; August 26 was designated *Women's Equality Day* by Congress in 1971.

To help honor all the women who worked tirelessly to get the 19th Amendment to our Constitution passed, we recall a few events from the early days of the women's fight for the right to vote.



*Suffrage March in New York, 1912
LWVUS Photo Archive*

In 1848 two important historic events took place in New York to start the wheels of justice slowly moving toward equality for the women of America. The New York Legislature enacted the Married Women's Property Act – the first in the country. The second event was the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, where Elizabeth Stanton presented the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions. She later wrote in her autobiography... "So pronounced was the popular voice against us, in the parlor, press, and pulpit, that most of the ladies who had attended the convention and signed the declaration, one by one, withdrew their names ...and joined our persecutors. Our friends gave us the cold shoulder and felt themselves disgraced by the whole proceeding."

Stanton said, years later, "If I had had the slightest premonition of all that was to follow that convention, I fear I should not have had the courage to risk it."

The owner of the *North Star*, a Rochester newspaper, closed his editorial in July 1848: "There can be no reason in the world for denying to women the exercise of the elective franchise, or a hand in making and administering the laws of the land... We therefore bid the women engaged in this movement our humble *Godspeed*." Frederick Douglass

Douglass' wish for *Godspeed* to women getting the right to vote took 72 years.

Phoebe



LWVN Legislative Forum Scheduled for September 27

Remember to vote in the General Election November 2, and to help you decide who to vote for, attend the League's Cleveland County Legislative Forum on Monday, September 27, 2010, Norman Public Library from 7 to 8:45 p.m. or view the forum on the city's channel 20 after September 27.

League of Women Voters Norman Endorses 350.org Action on 10-10-10

by Mary Francis

The Norman League joined a multitude of Leagues around the nation when the Steering Committee voted to endorse the **350.org** event. The number 350 refers to the parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ which scientists say we must get below in order to prevent a climate crisis of major proportions. The current level is 392 ppm. One year ago it was 387 ppm—we are obviously going in the wrong direction.

350.org is an international campaign to support a clear and bold solution to the climate crisis: reducing the level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere to 350 ppm. The **350.org** mission is to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis—to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet.

Accelerating arctic warming and other early climate impacts have led scientists to conclude that we are already above the safe zone at our current 392 ppm, and that unless we are able to rapidly return to below 350 ppm this century, we risk reaching tipping points and irreversible impacts such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and major methane releases from increased permafrost melt. Scientists agree, the damage we're already seeing from global warming will continue and accelerate if we don't reverse the trend and get below 350 ppm CO₂.

Approximately 125 LWVUS Convention delegates attended the caucus on the new *Toolkit for Climate Action* held by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force on June 23, 2010. The caucus requested that the Board support the **350.org** Global Work Party on October 10, 2010 and engage on that day in climate awareness, publicity and action. The League's Toolkit can be found at <http://www.lwv.org>. Click the link on the left side of the page.

On October 24, 2009 Norman League members Mary Francis, Asia Scudder, Mayor Cindy Rosenthal and others joined 350.org's International Day of Climate Action, taking part in one of more than 5200 events in 181 countries. CNN called it the "most widespread day of political action in the planet's history." This October, the Norman 350 organizers are planning a '**10-10-10 Global Work Party**' — another international event which will happen simultaneously all over the world. People will put up solar panels, dig community gardens, insulate homes, plant trees--and send a strong message to our leaders: "**We're getting to work, what about you?**"

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*Whether you think you can
or you think you can't,
you are right.
—Henry Ford*

*Do or do not. There is no try.
—Yoda, "The Empire
Strikes Back"*

Climate Change Event continued:

The **350.org** theory of change is simple: if an international grassroots movement holds our leaders accountable to the latest climate science, we can start the global transformation the world so desperately needs.



October 24, 2009: Norman350 participants with guest speakers Mayor Rosenthal and Asia Scudder

The League of Women Voters of Nevada and the League of Women Voters of Maine are just two of the State Leagues also speaking out on climate change. Each is running large print newspaper ads thanking their Senators for their past leadership -- and encouraging them to continue to work toward a bill that adequately addresses the crises emerging around the world due to volatile changes in climate. The ads note that climate change is causing drought and disasters both at home and abroad and that women are three times more likely to die in disasters from extreme weather events.

The LWV of Norman encourages it's members to visit the Norman350 page at: <http://www.350.org/node/16795/> and RSVP to become a participant in this League endorsed action.



Hannah Atkins' Legacy of Service

Hannah Atkins, the first African American woman to be elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives and a civil rights pioneer, died on June 17 at the age of 86. She was loved and respected throughout the state.

Speaking at her funeral, OU President David Boren (a former member of the OK House) remembered Hannah with unconditional admiration, a person who made each member of the OK House of Representatives better for having known her and experienced her very high standards of integrity.

During her career Atkins fought for civil rights, improvements to health care and mental health services, and better educational opportunities for Oklahomans. She served as secretary of state, secretary of human resources and secretary of social services.

U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange, who also spoke at her funeral said, "You were a soldier in the battle for humanity and human rights."

*Nothing will ever be attempted
if all possible objections must
first be overcome.
—Samuel Johnson*

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).

2010 Fall Meetings and Events

Sep 7	Tue	11:30 am– 1:00 pm	Voter Registration Joint project with OU Women's and Gender Studies OU Memorial Union Food Court
Sep 8	Wed	7–8:30 pm	Panel/Audience Discussion of the Proposed Greenbelt Ordinance City Hall Multipurpose Room 201 West Gray in Norman
Sep 9	Thur	11:30 am– 1:00 pm	Voter Registration Joint project with OU Women's and Gender Studies OU Memorial Union Food Court
Sept 15	Wed	11:30 am	LWVN Steering Committee Meeting 1316 Vine in Norman
Sept 27	Mon	7–9 pm	Candidate Forum OK House Districts 44, 45, 46, 53 and OK Senate District 16 Norman Public Library 225 N. Webster Ave. in Norman
Oct 14	Thur	7–8:30 pm	Public Forum on State Questions Memorial Presbyterian Church 601 24th Ave. SW in Norman
Nov 2	Tue	7–7	General Election
Nov 10	Wed	11:30 am– 1:00 pm	Hot Topic Luncheon Speaker: Carla Kimberly, NPS Topic: Federal Role in Education Olive Garden 117 Ed Noble Pkwy in Norman

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