

2010 State School of Instruction Legislative Program

The 2010 – 2011 Leg Platform was approved by the members attending the 2010 State Conference (either in packet, guidelines, or handout). The Platform is based on three major issues; Economic Equity, Health, and Civil Rights.

Economic Equity: women in throughout the World, the United States and the State of Oklahoma continue to seek equality in pay, educational opportunities and economic opportunities.

Equality in Pay

1. The right and privilege of every person to earn the same wage/benefits as another person doing the same work.
2. Seek equality in retirement benefits for women.
 - a. Time out of the workforce can directly impact a woman's earning potential (family responsibilities, etc)
 - b. Unequal pay has a lifetime effect since it lowers Social Security and other retirement benefits tied to salary – as our "Baby Boomers" retire we will see this disparity in larger numbers.

Educational Opportunities

1. Every person should be given an equal opportunity to the education they seek – whether they are male or female – if they meet the requirements for entry – they should be given equal consideration.

Economic Opportunities –

1. We work to promote affordable, quality dependent care that will ensure women are able to be self-sufficient.
2. We seek to strengthen and expand services and funding for public and private care for dependents of all ages.

Health: work to ensure that women and girls have full access to health services and education.

Access to Health Services

1. No-one should be turned away from receiving health care
2. Education – seek ways to ensure that our legislators recognize the special health care needs of women and girls.
3. Work for legislation that will set up mandatory funds for health care protections for women and girls.

Civil Rights: Oklahoma is known to be the number one state for incarceration of women. We need to work ensure equal rights and remedies for women in ALL phases of our lives.

Support Programs targeted at:

1. Education of incarcerated women
 - a. Develop programs for women to help keep them out of jail
 - b. Develop educational programs for girls to keep them out of jail
 - c. Provide funding for programs assisting women that are incarcerated returning to the outside.
2. Eliminate Sexual Harassment
 - a. Provide safe environments for women to report sexual harassment
 - b. Without fear of any repercussions in the work place, or anywhere else
 - c. Eliminate violence against women.
 - d. Seek to provide women with better protection from an abuser
 - e. Seek stronger forms of punishment for abuse
 - f. Pass legislation that will increase the rights of victims of violence

TAKE ACTION –

1. Communication – throughout the year share legislative information with your members, friends, colleagues, and other OBW members.
 - a. Post cards and/or letters
 - b. Email/face book/twitter/LinkedIn
2. Promote public awareness
 - a. Candidate forums
 - b. Voter Registration
 - c. Attend the “Day at the Capitol” – then share the information and conversations you had with legislators with community
 - d. Have a political issues discussion – invite members of your community to attend
 - e. Use local media to promote public awareness
3. Actively seek and support qualified women and men who support women’s issues.
 - a. Share the names of these potential legislators with others – encourage them to support them as well.

You should each have a copy of the OBW 2010-2011 Legislative Platform and a copy of the Legislative Focus and Awards document. Both documents cover what I have discussed and I encourage each local to participate in the legislative process in some way.

Many of us are not real big on talking to our legislators one-on-one, I’m not. I do however provide my voice through letters and post cards. I hope that each of you will find a way to become actively involved in the issues that women face each and every day.