

League of Women Voters of Decatur
Minutes for February 16, 1978

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 1:14 by President Karen Jensen at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Those present were the Mesdames Jensen, Hurst, Campbell, Brown, Oldweiler, Basten, Cantoni, Sorensen, Marshall, Staley, White, and Jacobsen.

The minutes of the January 18 Board Meeting were approved as mailed.

The Treasurer, Sue Marshall, reported as follows:

Balance January 1, 1978		1261.46
January income	142.50	
February income	<u>55.00</u>	
	197.50	1458.96
January expenses	9.51	
February expenses	<u>29.49</u>	
	39.00	Bal 2-16-78 1419.96

Several problems have come up due to the removal from town of our former Treasurer. Sue announced that only 1 payment was made to National this year, in July, and she figures that we still owe over \$360.00; there are no forms for this payment in the Treasurer's supplies. Feeling of the Board was that it would be best to send in the money without the correct form rather than be in arrears. Sue reported that we also owe more than \$270.00 to State.

Barbara Brown read a letter from the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation which contained a request that we put them on our mailing list. There is no recorded policy on this and funds are sometimes scarce. A lively discussion ensued, with a Motion by Kathy Sorensen that "We should send Voters to organizations on request" being voted upon affirmatively.

Announcements:

Karen Jensen announced that Sara Kessler has raised \$78.00 for ERA.

Karen proposed Barbara Emery as state Natural Resources chairman on Board. This was approved.

Reports:

Membership:

Ellen Cantoni led discussion of prospective members. Three drops were agreed upon. New committee members were announced from among the new members: Cluny John, budget; Marian Woyna, by-laws; and Marian Winter, LWV Felony Court Steering Committee.

Finance:

Kathy Sorensen and Diane Basten will help with the envelope stuffing duties involved in mailing a letter to Decatur industries soliciting financial support for LWV. Karen Jensen presented a sample letter which the board members had a chance to read.

Units:

Elise Hurst gave the final position report of the school finance committee. The Board voted approval. The group felt that copies should go to school board members at a school board meeting (while there, LWV member could also give copy to press). This would be at the Feb. 28 school board meeting. Materials were distributed to LWV Board members who had missed the school report. Copies also went to the Voter.

Public Relations:

Karen Jensen circulated a copy of the letter-to-the-editor that she had sent to the Herald and Review on the subject of praise for the new Election Board set-up and the proposed welfare increase (Gov. Thompson).

Kathy Sorensen gave information about the proposed ERA caravan sponsored by NOW. The Board voted approval of use of LWV name to show support.

A letter from Janet Otwell, state President of LWV, was cited, giving changes in dates of the Legislative Seminar from April 11-12 as listed on the state calendar to Wednesday, April 12 and Thursday, April 13. Changes were made in local plans to accommodate this schedule.

Publications:

Dee Staley reported that there are about 100 copies of the ERA flyers on hand; these can be distributed at the ERA caravan. Plans were made to insert copies of "Where We Stand" in some of the finance letters.

More Units:

It was decided to substitute the ERA caravan for the March 22 ERA Unit.

Barbara Ohlsen needs recorders and discussion leaders for City Government Unit on March 8.

Beth Oldweiler telephoned Dr. Bortorf during the Board meeting and cleared the date of April 19 for his program (Urban Crisis).

(The above changes and announcements were made in order to clear information for March Voter.)

Annual Meeting, April 26:

It was decided to have the meeting in Beth Oldweiler's home, with each board member bringing a dessert. Members mentioned things that by-laws committee might consider.

Local program proposals:

1. That the Decatur LWV should study the impact of declining enrollment on the Decatur Public Schools (closings, reorganization, reduction of staff, alternative schools, transportation).

2. That the Decatur LWV should monitor small claims court. The Board voted to recommend these proposals at the Annual meeting. It was decided the housing could be considered under national programs.

Diane Basten reported that the city is renting DFOC a house for \$1.00 a year: this is to be used for housing people who have been evicted, giving them one month emergency housing, with counseling available (how to care for property, communication with landlord, protective payee arrangements with welfare). The hope is to make these people more attractive to a landlord. Assisting agencies include DOVE, Call for Action, YWCA, CFS, and Illinois Power.

Adjournment was at 3:01

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Jacobsen, secretary