

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison Street, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

State Item I - Judicial Reform

League Decatur
Prepared by Mrs. Robert Cole

Will you please answer this questionnaire as fully as you can and add any information not asked for that you think important to future constitutional campaigns. Use the back of these sheets for answers or attach a separate sheet if necessary.

I. The Vote in Your Area for the Judicial Amendment.

1. Break down the vote on the Blue Ballot Judicial Amendment as far as figures are available to you. (Many papers listed the vote (unofficial) by precinct.)

Political Unit	For	Against	Number of registered voters voting in the election.	Number of those voting in the election who voted on judicial.
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Macon
County

1335

820

6700

2155

2. What in your opinion were the most influential factors in the vote in your area (or in the state as a whole)?

In our area there were two main objections--Ignorance of the voter and fear of amendments in general. In Macon County the "for" vote was helped to a certain extent by the conviction for embezzlement of a J.P.

3. Did you see any signs of organized opposition? If so, describe.

The J.P. and Township officials group purchased time on a TV station and did spot announcements two weeks prior to the election.

4. What activity did you see or hear for or against the judicial amendment by political workers? None, to my knowledge.

II. The Committee for Modern Courts

1. In what way was the Committee for Modern Courts of particular assistance to you? It would be better to say we were of assistance to it. They carried the burden of work in the community. We cooperated with them and our judicial chairman was secretary to that committee.

2. In your opinion, could the Committee have been of greater help to you?

no. It is possible that we could have been of more help to them, but we did provide money and time when they felt it was necessary.

3. Materials - Please comment on the following in detail:

a. The film - Equal Justice for All

Was the film helpful in your community? Yes

Were there things about it you would have liked changed?

Did you have difficulty getting a coordinated sound-slide projector?

At first, yes. Then no

Did you pay rent for the machine? No

Please give the name and address of the company or person from whom you got your projector. Illinois Power Company
Decatur, Illinois

Considering effective presentation, what kind of projecting equipment would be most readily available to you? Sound movies--almost every school has a sound movie projector.

b. Please comment on any other Committee for Modern Courts materials you used, such as the Fact Book, give-away pieces, re-prints, etc.

Fact Book was good for speech preparation--the less printed material on a give-away peice, the better.

c. Did you use marked sample ballots in quantity? No

Were these ballots distributed in your area by the political parties?

III. Local Citizens' Committees

1. Was a local Citizens' Committee organized in your area? Yes

If so:

2. What part did the League take in the organization of the committee?
Secretary of committee was league judicial chairman

3. Did your citizens' committee cover only one town, or did you work in the surrounding communities? Worked in surrounding communities by Farm bureau and giving speeches to county groups.

4. Did the local bar association work with the League or citizens' committee?
YES. Younger lawyers did good job of giving speeches

5. From your experiences both good and bad, please tell anything that would be helpful in setting up a citizens' committee in your community.

More people should have been actively helping the committee. A few people did a lot of work and there really didn't seem to be any good way to engage more people. If we could have had a bigger group someplace, they in turn would have influenced more people. Also, the men's groups ~~don't~~ don't plan their programs as far ahead as the women's groups do. Consequently, we couldn't get time in some of the women's groups on their programs because they were planned in the spring for the following fall, and our Speakers' Bureau was not organized until Summer.

IV. Work in the community in which the League participated.

1. Number of public meetings - describe type.
2. Number of appearances with film, skit, or speakers at other than League meetings. 10 or 15

3. How many times did you show the film Equal Justice?
The speakers Bureau showed it perhaps 12 times

4. Did you use radio and TV programs?

Yes. One of each

Describe the type of programs

spot announcements

skits

debates x

Were they successful?

Not too many people heard the radio broadcast that we could find.

5. Did you have a speakers' bureau?

Please describe its operation.

The Committee did. A young lawyer recruited young men, mostly JCs, young lawyers, and selected members of the toastmaster clubs in town to actually give the speeches. The speakers were given speakers kits. A secretary (league member) contacted the clubs to arrange dates

6. Please describe the attitude and cooperation of your newspapers.

The attitude of the newspaper of the community was whole heartedly for the amendment. The paper ran weekly articles favoring the amendment, gave excellent coverage to the committee doings, and the league work.

Please describe their coverage. Pictures? Regular articles? News reports?

7. Please describe any use you made of telephone committees including how they were organized, the number of times used (and how), and the extent of the telephoning. None

8. Did you have coffees or small block meetings? If so, how many, when (September or October), how organized? Did you show the film?
none

Do you think they were successful? Approximately how many people did you reach?

9. Other activities - Please list and describe parades, county fairs, displays, booths, tag days, etc.

The committee had a press party (on a small scale) similar to the one held in Chicago

V. State League Services

1. Could the state judicial committee have been of more help to your league?
How?

2. Materials. Please evaluate the usefulness in your league of:

a. Blue Ballot Voter. Did you use it outside the League?

If it had been cheaper, would you have used more copies?

b. Blue Ballot Judicial Kit.

We never saw it !

c. Justice is Up to You flyer. In what quantities and how did you distribute?

d. Blue Ballot post cards.

(1) Estimate the number mailed. We distributed about 400. I have no way of knowing how many were mailed.

(2) Do you think this was an effective device? It would be an excellent device if they were previously stamped.

3. Regional Meetings

Were they helpful? Yes

Do you have suggestions for improving? (timing, place, etc.)

VI. What suggestions would you make to a state wide committee such as the Committee for Modern Courts, the State League board, or your local league board to be used in another campaign? For the state wide board to contact the chain stores throughout the state for cooperation. We ran into the problem of the local stores not being able to help us, because they did not have the authority to do what we asked. (The grocery stores were unable to stuff the sacks for us with any kind of literature.) Perhaps Illinois Bell would allow their bills to be stuffed all over the state during the month of October. ~~8/10/61~~
The people who do not belong to service clubs, attend PTA meetings, or belong to any womens groups have to be reached to make the campaign successful. We felt these people would not take the time to read the excellent, but lengthy articles in our paper either.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

1. Does your league maintain a regular League shelf or display in the public library?

No, but we have used the lib. several times for timely displays.

If not, what contacts with the library have you made within the last year?

Copies of the new "Handbook" and pub. lists were given to the public and Millikin libraries. There was an excellent display of League materials on a recent local water bond issue and one in the fall on the Judicial Amend. "Pocket Ref. to the UN" were passed out during UN week.

Copies of the new "Handbook" together with pub. lists were given to all second schools in the county. "Close-Up of Wash." were dist. to local schools.

2. Does your league have a budget item for promotion of publications with other organizations?

No

Have sales resulted from any outside contacts?

Yes, a local high school ordered 83 items from a state Pub. list and the public lib. ordered 250 "Pocket Ref. to the UN". A church circle bought several publications.

Which publications have your league publicized outside the league?

"Pocket Ref. to the UN", "Handbook", "Close-Up of Washington", "New Persp. in Foreign Policy"

3. Do you send national, state and local publications to newspapers, radio and television commentators?

No

4. Have you tried out a Local League Publications (or Subscription) Service to increase membership sales?

Was it successful? No

What means did you use to extend it to the membership?

5. Which publications did you consider most useful?

National

See above - we also used most of the available water material a great deal.

State

6. What suggestions have you for new state material?

7. Any comments? Be frank,

You couldn't make it easier, or more interesting, for a publications chairman - thanks!

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Deatur
Prepared by Drew Collier
Sara Kessler

Please describe your coverage of each of the CR's. Please evaluate this coverage in terms of your League's preparedness and interest in taking action.

1. Modification of federal loyalty-security programs to limit scope, standardize procedures, apply "common sense" judgment, and provide the greatest possible protection for the individual.

NAT. VOTER Nov '58
Need Review FOR ACTION

2. Self-government for the District of Columbia; extension of national suffrage to citizens of the District.

NAT. VOTER Aug. '58

3. Measures granting the President authority to veto items in appropriation bills.

4. Opposition to constitutional limitation on tax rates.

5. Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations.

Which national materials did you find most useful in working on the CR's? Would you like to see more materials on the CR's? If so, what?

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Decatur
Prepared by Irene Colvig
+ Sara Kessler

Please describe your coverage of each of the CR's. Please evaluate this coverage in terms of your League's preparedness and interest in taking action.

~~Study of Decatur's Water Resources with special reference to the Proposed~~

1. Modification of federal loyalty-security programs to limit scope, standardize procedures, apply "common sense" judgment, and provide the greatest possible protection for the individual.

NAT. VOTER. NOV. '58

Publications + Newspapers.

Need Review For Action.

2. Self-government for the District of Columbia; extension of national suffrage to citizens of the District.

NAT VOTER Aug. '58

3. Measures granting the President authority to veto items in appropriation bills.

4. Opposition to constitutional limitation on tax rates.

5. Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations.

Which national materials did you find most useful in working on the CR's? Would you like to see more materials on the CR's? If so, what?

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

LOCAL AGENDA

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

(Please anticipate work not
accomplished by March 1, 1959)

League Decatur

Prepared by Jane Aubrey
+ Mary Creshwell

1. What was the local agenda for 1958-1959?

Township AND Local government - MANAGERIAL
A continuing study and analysis of governments within
Macon County with action where indicated.

2. How did you secure member participation in deciding the local program?

Local Boards cooperation with
" " " " " (FOR Council Manager)
WORKSHOPS FOR Township

3. What method or methods were used to carry it out?

PUBLICATION OF REPORTS in Local Daily
Publications to SUPERVISORS
REPORT Distributed to Townships in Macon County
FOR MANAGERIAL
CIRCULATING PETITIONS FOR REFERENDUM
MEMBERS ON CITIZENS COMM. FOR Council Manager, Gov.

4. How many members worked on it?

1/3 of membership.

5. Will you please send the findings of your study to the state office. If not
completed, when will it be finished?

Council Manager Report sent in,
Township Report has been sent in.

6. Describe outstanding local league activity on local program items (use back
of page)

Township Report published and used BY
RADIO } COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR
LIBRARY } their Decision.
Newspaper } used Township Report
SPONSORED RADIO + TV PROGRAMS FOR MANAGERIAL REF.
TOOK PART in TOWN meetings AT LIBRARY FOR " "
Active League Telephone + DRIVER Comm. FOR REF.

7. What public relations value did your local agenda have?

USE OF REPORT BY CITY OFFICIALS
} COUNTY

FAVORABLE comment on Township report FROM:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS + LAWYERS.
We took opposite STAND FROM Newspaper on Township
STAND - FOR FIRST TIME. This strengthened us in
Community.

LOCAL AGENDA

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

(Please anticipate work not accomplished by March 1, 1959)

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

League

Director

Prepared by *M. Sue Calkins*

(M. Sue Calkins)
(M. Sue Calkins)

1. What was the local agenda for 1958-1959?

I.A. continuing study and analysis of governments with in Macou County with action where indicated.

Council-Manager or Managerial

2. How did you secure member participation in deciding the local program?

Cooperation with local boards, board watching, work-shops. Cooperation with citizens comm. on managerial referendum.

3. What method or methods were used to carry it out?

Township report published in paper solicited by board of supervisors for use.

Managerial helped circulate petitions for referendum members over the committee for council manager government

4. How many members worked on it?

About 13 membership

5. Will you please send the findings of your study to the state office. If not completed, when will it be finished?

Township report in Managerial report sent in

6. Describe outstanding local league activity on local program items (use back of page)

Township report published and used by board of supervisors.

Managerial: Radio, TV interviews

Library town meetings in which we cooperated. Active telephone drive. Haulers on Day of Voting.

7. What public relations value did your local agenda have?

Township favorable comment from local government officials

And lawyers.

We took opposite stand from newspaper for first time. This strengthened us in community.

Managerial cooperation with local civic committees cooperation with library town meetings

LOCAL AGENDA

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

(Please anticipate work not
accomplished by March 1, 1959)

League

Decatur

Prepared by

Jane Aubrey
+ Rebecca French

1. What was the local agenda for 1958-1959?

WATER - Study of Decatur's Water Resources with special reference to the Proposed Big Creek Development allowing action if consensus is reached.

2. How did you secure member participation in deciding the local program?

2-Go see TRIPS - Publicity in Daily Newspaper
ENGINEER, SPECIAL TALK

3. What method or methods were used to carry it out?

Followed STORY closely in PAPER.
Study with city CONSERVATION MAN AND
qualified ENGINEER FROM WATER ADVISORY
Committee.

4. How many members worked on it?

10 - WORKSHOP

20 - including EXCURSIONS + TRIPS to WATER Dept.

About 1/3 membership.

5. Will you please send the findings of your study to the state office. If not completed, when will it be finished?

This blue book WAS PRINTED { FOR MEMBERS
SENT TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS
+ DISTRIBUTED AT LIBRARY

6. Describe outstanding local league activity on local program items (use back of page)

WE TOOK ACTION TO APPROVE A ^{BIG CREEK} BOND ISSUE,

IT LOST.

7. What public relations value did your local agenda have?

WE COOPERATED WITH CITY OFFICIALS,
LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT OUR WATER SUPPLY
AND MADE VISITS TO WATER DEPT - I BE-
lieve our interest helped.
THE CITY LIBRARY COOPERATED WITH A READING TABLE
ON WATER AND DISPLAY OF OUR LOCAL
BIG CREEK PROJECT.

LOCAL AGENDA
April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959
(Please anticipate work not
accomplished by March 1, 1959)

League Decatur
Prepared by Jane Aubrey

1. What was the local agenda for 1958-1959?

URBAN RENEWAL

Study of urban renewal and analysis of Decatur's
needs for an effective Urban Renewal Program

2. How did you secure member participation in deciding the local program?

COOPERATION WITH CITY PLANNER MR FORD
workshops & co-op'n 2 city council-men

3. What method or methods were used to carry it out?

AND DIRECTOR OF Decatur Federal Housing PROGRAM MR DAVIS
UNIT MEETINGS PLANNED
AREA SURVEY WITH COOPERATION Township rep. in paper
with city - FOR FUTURE 10 pages - physical + Absical structure
WORKSHOPS START MAR 3 Report solicited by DWS for
PLANNED FOR STUDY OF: FEDERAL BOARD
STATE LAWS Gov. URBAN R.
Local LAWS & ORDINANCES

4. How many members worked on it?

25 have signed AND
probably 20 or 30 will help with survey

5. Will you please send the findings of your study to the state office. If not completed, when will it be finished?

SOMETIME IN FUTURE we hope
TO HAVE FINDINGS BY JUNE we hope.

6. Describe outstanding local league activity on local program items (use back of page)

10 page report for township
published in many papers
150 copies
33 - solicited by
Chairman Board of Sup
for Board of Sup
Public Library programs for
info on C. M. Board of Gov.

7. What public relations value did your local agenda have?

Township - one knowledge of how it works
Imp. Comm. standing because of
certain elements government is
an echo of the news - it has
we designed to show they took
Lawyer - as well as clerks of public
these persons concerned
of our work that has ever been

Council -
effective
work.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

STATE ITEM III
Evaluation of Public School Finance
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Decatur

Prepared by Lucy A. Oblinger

- 1. Please describe the work your league has done on State Item III since it was adopted in 1957.
- 2. How many meetings have you had: Committee? 20 Workshop? X 2-hour sessions Unit? 3 General?

Did you have any outside speakers? (Please name) Lester Grant, Supt. of ~~8888~~ Schools spent one entire session with us. Committees of 1, 2, or 3 called on city and county officials and school administrators.

- 3. Has your coverage been: intensive X ? cursory ? thorough ? good ? fair
We did a thorough job to the limit of time available (we thought)
- 4. What percentage of your membership has participated in some way on this item by presence at meetings or by study? Approximately 60 in the 3 unit meetings.
How many are on your committee? 10 - and was finally reduced to 6 at the end of the second year. (Sickness, death in family, new babies, etc.)
- 5. Did you work with other groups in your community? (Which?) In addition to groups for resource purposes, the only other groups were within the league when our study related - e.g when the township study group had their unit on assessment procedures.
- 6. To which aspects of school finance have you given most time and thought?
Budget making, sources of revenue, general policies of spending, etc.

- 7. Has it been a satisfactory kind of study?
The members of the committee found the study to be most interesting, and informative. In our report to the units, all we could do was to answer at least in part the questions existing re school finances.

- 8. Did your league arrive at firm enough areas of agreement to serve as a basis for League action? Only that the schools depend largely on local taxes and are teetering on the weaknesses and inadequacies of local tax procedures and officials.

- 9. Which materials have you found most useful?
Local school budgets and audits. Annual reports of the School Problems Commission.

- 10. What kind of additional help would you have liked from the State league?
Probably a well defined plan of attack on assessment procedures at the state level - an area which is of state-wide significance. The "what shall we do?" attitude of the past two years has not been very conducive to serious effort.

- 11. Do you think this item has been one where the League could be effective?
The fact that 8 or 10 women were even interested in school finance seemed to have a very pleasing effect on our local school officials. If, by "effective" you mean could we change the state laws, we could if all League members in the state were sufficiently sold on the idea and this point is most doubtful.

copy to Mrs. Colvis.

February 15, 1959

Mrs. William D. Horne,
LWV Education Chrmn.
59 E. Madison,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Horne:-

Having received copies of the correspondence between you and Virginia Gibson, I must have assumed that all of the suggestions from our league re the legislative proposals had been expressed. So, pardon the delay and I shall report what seemed to me to be the consensus although there was no specific vote taken on any topic in the discussion.

- ITEM 1. We would probably go along with the \$262. proposal of the IEA since there are undoubtedly some areas of the state which need the larger Foundation support.
2. Although the study time was limited, the thought seemed to be that little would be gained in additional aid from the state if the qualifying rate were to be raised more than a few cents - if at all.
3. NO.
4. b) possibly.
c) flat rate - if need be.
5. The thought was that if any or all of these reforms could be brought about, there would be enough increase in the revenue to take care of the needs and we would not have to worry about any of the suggestions in Item 4.
6. Our local problem in school financing is that we are reaching the legal limit in rate. With increases in salaries and increases in numbers of teachers needed to take care of the continually increasing population, the \$2.50 limit for the Education fund is getting into the foreseeable future. Of course this would all solve itself in a grand manner if we could do something about raising the assessed valuation to a more realistic and understandable figure.
7. This has been of absolutely no value in our area - in fact it threatened the last referendum we had in that some people thought if we would just hold out, the state would come along and build us some new schools.
8. "Tuition" defeats the theory of public Junior Colleges. The present practice of "fees" can bring in no limit of funds and certainly does away with the criticism of "tuition."
9. YES. Something based on average enrollment, probably.

January 29, 1959

TO: Education Chairmen of Local Leagues

FROM: Mrs. William D. Horne, State Education Chairman

In so many of your Bulletins I have read of meetings to "discuss legislative proposals" or "to reach conclusions on legislative questions." But only a few of you have sent in the results of these discussions. There have been some very good reports, showing study, thought, and interesting agreements and disagreements. But we do not have a conclusive number, and so far it is a minority report on what action to take on school legislation at this Session.

Please, let's hear from the rest of you! Do it now! State Board meeting is February 5th and I would like to be able to report that I have heard from a majority of you. This is not to replace the regular report from your president to State on what your league has done in each field of activity, - due in March. What I want now is to hear what agreements you have reached, or lack of agreement if that be the case. You can write your answers on the green sheet with the "Questions" if that would make it easier to get it off to me RIGHT AWAY.

Some of you have expressed the hope that you could be informed when School Finance proposals were brought up in Committee at the Illinois General Assembly. There are difficulties connected with this, but we will do our best. After March, when things begin to happen there in Springfield, very little advance notice is given of Hearings. This means our Legislative Chairman has little if any time to get the word to you. Watch for reports in the Legislative Newsletter of what bills are presented.

At our Convention in '57 one of the guideposts mentioned for choosing current agenda items was: "Will members learn through this how to influence their State government both as individuals and as members of a group?" I hope that Agenda Item III, Evaluation of Public School Finance, has proved to fit this category for you and your league members.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

PUBLIC RELATIONS
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Decatur, Ill.
Prepared by Mrs. C. E. Barnes

I. How is your Public Relations Program organized?

- A. Do you have a public relations chairman? ✓
- B. Do you have a public relations committee? ✓

What specific responsibilities does your committee have? What are the specific jobs of its members?

*newspaper Publicity
Radio & TV*

Do you have a separate chairman for publicity? *yes.*

II. What resource material are you using?

- A. Do you have your own file of League publications for reference? *yes.*

Which ones are most helpful? *no certain ones.*

- B. Do you receive a copy of the President's mailing? (national)
- C. What other materials have you found helpful for background?

III. What media are available and how often are you using them?

- A. Newspapers Decatur Herald (name) Daily _____ Weekly
- & Review (name) Daily (name)
- _____ (name) Daily

Radio Station WSDY & W D Z (name) TV Station W T V P (name)

Other Publications:

B. A statistical report of your work:

Media	Number of times used	More (*), Less (-) same (o) as last yr.
1. Newspaper publicity ✓	<i>22 approx or more</i>	
News stories		
Regular column		
Letters to editor ✓		
Feature stories		
Pictures		
Editorials ✓		
2. Regular radio program		
Occasional radio program		
spot announcements on radio ✓		
3. Regular TV program		
Occasional TV program		
spot announcements on TV ✓		
4. Local League Bulletin		

C. Which do you rate as being your most effective media?

1. In your League?

2. In your community? ✓

Newspaper

D. What was your most successful publicity effort?

Candidates Meeting

E. What was your weakest feature?

Nothing in particular

F. What new recommendations do you have for improving your program next year?

IV. What other PR tools did you use - describe briefly.

1. Speakers Bureau (do you contact others or wait for requests?)

Contact Others

2. Exhibits, posters

3. Store windows, parades

4. Special letters, flyers ✓

5. Recordings ✓

6. Calling lists or card file for personal contacts (other organizations, groups, etc. Schools.) ✓

7. Telephone campaigns ✓

8. Awards and prizes

9. Other

V. Do you use, and in what way, the following material put out by the national office:

Tapes ✓ Which ones? Com. on International How? Radio

Recordings ✓ Which ones? affairs How? Radio

Film strips _____ Which ones? _____ How? _____

Film _____ Which ones? _____ How? _____

VI. If you have done an outstanding job on any part of League program (apart from Voters Service) which has built up good community and public relations, please describe here, or on back of sheet:

VII. Are you keeping in touch with the state committee?

A. Reports

1. Are you sending in clippings regularly?
2. Do you keep a scrapbook? ✓
3. Are you sending in periodic reports?

B. How could the state committee help you?

C. What new ideas or suggestions that you have developed this year do you wish to pass along to other leagues?

D. Do you like having an annual regional or state meeting on Public Relations?
With another committee on the same day? *yes,*

VIII. Would you please write your opinion as a chairman and a board member of the over-all effectiveness of your public relations program. To what extent have you been successful in reaching your members? What is your standing in the community? To what extent are league members (every member idea!) and board members aware of their public relations responsibility? What difficulties or encouraging responses have you met?

One Citizen remarked she always voted as the League voted, as she felt they were really informed after studying the issue at hand.

DUE MARCH 1st, 1959

VOTERS SERVICE
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Deerfield, Ill.
Prepared by Elsie Hunt

1. What part of your program do you consider was most effective in reaching the community? Candidates Meetings

2. Did other organizations duplicate any of your work?

3. With what organizations did you cooperate? Citizen Committee for change to Council-Manager Govt; PTA for judicial amendment.

4. What was your experience with TV and radio? Two radio stations + one TV station gave us time for publicity on Candidates' Meetings, Judicial Reform + Council Manager Election.

5. Were your newspapers cooperative? Yes

Did you feel you had good coverage? Yes

6. What has been the history of candidates' meetings in your area? Had one 11th one Feb. 25. Always at least 300 attend + it is appreciated.

a. Do the candidates come? Yes, almost 100%.

b. Does the audience turn out as in previous years? Yes. In most part in ratio to general interest in election.

7. Did the elections stimulate greater interest in the study of election laws and procedures? Yes

Why? A new group (unit) of mostly new members who brought children were particularly interested.

8. What do you envisage as a good year-round Voters Service program in your community?

Just try to have all League members well informed and urge them to pass on their information to family, friends, + neighbors. Use "Letters to Editor" to pass on League information useful to voters + in answer to questions. I've several times since done it, it has been effective. Try to have informed voters rather than just many voters.

9. Was your VS work a profitable one for your League?

1. Bigger turn out at polls? *Not sure*

2. Greater interest in issues? *Yes*

3. Telephone calls for information, etc? *Not many*

4. Increased prestige of League in the community? *Yes*

10. Is your VS program the work of a committee, part of the membership, or a large part of the membership? *Part of membership*

Was it improved by the cooperation with other community groups? *Yes*

11. Do you find demand for and interest in the publications of voting records? *Yes*
More could be done along this line

12. Did you hold schools for judges of elections? *No, would like to though*
Just your League or in cooperation with another group? *would be best to cooperate with another group no doubt*

13. Did you encounter any significant problems in carrying out your program?
Only lack of woman power

14. If you had people working at the polls, what were their experiences? *Need for school for judges of elections.*
Have you observed any variations from the regulations? If so, please explain.
No doubt checking of ballots when counting

15. Which national Voters Service materials were most useful and why? Which were not? Why? What suggestions do you have for additional national Voters Service material?
Less emphasis on getting out the vote + more on getting those who vote informed

League Decatur
Prepared by Jane Collins

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. What techniques have you used for securing membership participation in committees, workshops, units, general meetings, and attending local government bodies? Give brief description or attach material. *We have varied our type of meetings { dinner - lunch or speaker - but of course have never received full membership participation. This year we started a unit with "built in babysitter" which has been an attraction. Every board meeting is filled with overall planning with expression from every member.*
2. Does your board share responsibility of overall league planning? *Every board member has a definite responsibility as a committee chair. Max and each member has been very cooperative.*
3. Have you developed a method of delegating board responsibility which helps you in covering all league work? Attach chart or describe briefly. *Each board member has a definite responsibility as a committee chair. Max and each member has been very cooperative.*
4. What are the major recurring problems in your league? *All work load carried by small number of membership.*
5. What has been your proudest achievement? *Council manager passed in Decatur, and referendum, we were a part of achievement.*
6. What could state or national have done to make your job easier or more satisfying during the past year?
7. Have you any suggestions how the state organization committee might be developed to serve you better? Would you find it more helpful to have consultants from the organization committee on a regional basis or assigned to individual leagues? *Regional Basis*
8. Did you find the regional meetings helpful? What areas would you like to have discussed at future regional meetings? *Very.*
9. Have you any comment on the value of State Council meetings and on how they could be made more useful? *No.*
10. Has your role as League president been a satisfying one? *Yes especially the people with whom I work and the utmost cooperation from them.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

League Decatur
Prepared by Sue Colvis

(Mrs. L.)

1. What techniques have you used for securing membership participation in committees, workshops, units, general meetings, and attending local government bodies? Give brief description or attach material.

We have a new bring-the-children unit with brief-in-baby-sitter.
General meetings are usually luncheons, we had a neighborhood dinner with husbands this year.

2. Does your board share responsibility of overall league planning?

Yes.

3. Have you developed a method of delegating board responsibility which helps you in covering all league work? Attach chart or describe briefly.

Each member has her own portfolio and board responsibility. Increase of absence of another member as: PROGRAM CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR TREASURERS REPORT etc and publications CHAIRMAN gives report.

4. What are the major recurring problems in your league?

WOMAN POWER
All work load carried by small percentage of members.

5. What has been your proudest achievement?

PART OF ACHIEVEMENT OF ADOPTION OF MANAGERIAL GOVERNMENT FOR DECATUR - 2nd REFERENDUM.

6. What could state or national have done to make your job easier or more satisfying during the past year?

7. Have you any suggestions how the state organization committee might be developed to serve you better? Would you find it more helpful to have consultants from the organization committee on a regional basis or assigned to individual leagues?

REGIONAL BASIS

8. Did you find the regional meetings helpful? What areas would you like to have discussed at future regional meetings?

Yes

9. Have you any comment on the value of State Council meetings and on how they could be made more useful?

10. Has your role as League president been a satisfying one?
Especially satisfying because of cooperation of board committee chairman and committee members.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

TREASURER'S REPORT
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Decatur
Prepared by S. H. Cohn

It is necessary that we have figures for a 12-month period in our report to the national office. Therefore, please estimate your receipts and disbursements for the balance of the fiscal year, and fill out and return the form below by March 1, 1959.

Report for the 1958-1959 fiscal year

Receipts

Dues	\$ <u>505.00</u>
Member Contributions	<u>203.50</u>
Non-Members' Contributions	<u>901.00</u>
All other receipts	_____

Disbursements

Local disbursements*	\$ <u>739.56</u>
State and national services	<u>700.00</u>

* This includes all expenditures made by your League during the year except your pledge to the state League for state and national work.

Cash Statement

Balance on hand at beginning of year April 1, 1958	\$ <u>1,472.38</u> *
Balance on hand at close of year March 31, 1959	\$ <u>1,500.00</u> *

*including reserve of \$1,000.00 for KNOW YOUR COUNTY BOOKLET
P.S. You will be sent a form for reporting your actual income and expenditures after the close of your fiscal year.

figures of disbursements are estimated

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

League Decatur, Ill.
Prepared by Mrs. Clifford E. Smith

NATIONAL ITEM I - Foreign Policy:
(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)

Evaluation of U.S. foreign policy with continued support of the United Nations system, world trade and economic development, and collective security.

1. Please describe briefly your U.N. Day program.

No program but distributed 250 copies of "Pocket Reference on the U.N." and our Public Library distributed 250 additional copies.

The next two questions assume your study program is well started. If it is not, please state when you plan to cover the materials as listed in 2 & 3.

At March Unit meetings - one on 17th, two on 18th

2. Have you presented to your units and have the units discussed the following:
- The World we have;
 - The World we want;
 - What is our national interest?
 - How is our foreign policy made and carried out?
 - How is the U.N. related to our foreign policy?

Workshop group of 12 to 14 members has held 2 sessions. Will have 3 more before unit meetings.

- How can the citizen be a force in U.S. foreign policy?

3. What countries or areas have you presented in relation to U.S. foreign policy?

Will use "New Perspectives" as the basic material. Will cover all areas included in it.

What others, if any, do you plan to include?

4. About what proportion of your membership has read New Perspectives? *about one third.*

5. Approximately what proportion of your membership has participated in meetings and/or discussions on foreign policy? *To date, somewhat less than 50%.*

6. Have you used or do you expect to use the workshop plan as outlined in Leader's Guide in your committee study or units? *Yes*

7. Will your League be ready by April or May, 1959, to move on to the concentrated study of our foreign economic policy? *Yes*

If not, when?

8. Are there indications of any agreement on modification (including expansion) of the League's support positions in the foreign policy field? If so, which ones?

Workshop group favors use of Development Loan Fund as much as possible instead of outright gifts in economic aid. A few raised two questions: (1) What interest will we have to pay on money we lend at 3.5%? (2) " degree of screening of requests on basis of need?

9. Are there indications of emerging agreements on new areas of foreign policy? If so, which?

We have no specific suggestions now; but the area of communication and understanding between peoples seems a very important one in our view.

10. In addition to foreign economic policy (emphasis on which was directed by Convention) on what other area of U.S. foreign policy do you think your league would want to concentrate in next year's study?

The new area mentioned under question 9.

11. Has your committee relied largely on the bibliography as listed in New Perspectives and Leader's Guide? *Yes*

If you have used other materials for reference, please list those you found most valuable to you.

12. Are you using outside speakers? *Dr. Stephen Chang reviewed "Our China Policy" at a dinner meeting with husbands and others as guests. Also our Congressman, Mr. H.M. Springer*

Attending outside study groups? *Spoke at a luncheon meeting on "World Trade" a few townspeople came, too. Good press coverage*

(sponsored by Decatur Church Council)

13. Is your membership up to date on the Development Loan Fund? Is it in agreement that a deficiency appropriation request should be supported? That the program should be enlarged?

The membership in general has not yet discussed these questions. Workshop view is given under question 8.

14. Are you working on any community project related to U.S. foreign policy study? *No*

Did the League initiate the project?

15. In what way, if any, has your state committee on foreign policy been helpful? (Don't be polite.)

Listing of study materials was helpful. January conference in Chicago very good according to report. Regret I was not able to attend.

16. How could it be more helpful?

17. How useful were the following materials from National Board: (specify which was most useful.)

New Perspectives *Excellent*

Leader's Guide *Good; possibly more "wordy" than necessary.*

U.N. materials *It is for future reference.*

Materials on foreign policy "support" positions *Helpful*

National Voter articles (specify which were most useful) *All good; might mention issue of Dec. 1958 in particular.*

18. How could National Board be more helpful?

It seems to me the board has done a good job.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison, Chicago 2

DUE MARCH 1, 1959

LOCAL AGENDA

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

(Please anticipate work not
accomplished by March 1, 1959)

League Decatur
Prepared by Jean Colvin & Rebecca French

1. What was the local agenda for 1958-1959?

~~Water~~ ~~Leadership & Council Manager~~
Study of Decatur's Water Resources with special reference
to the Proposed Big Creek Development allowing action
if consensus is reached.

2. How did you secure member participation in deciding the local program?

Unit meetings and discussion
Go-See Trips
Cooperation with city water Dept. & city officials
Talks by qualified engineer

3. What method or methods were used to carry it out?

Followed story closely in newspaper
Studied with Water Advisory Committee
Cooperation with city conservation - Max Go-see Trips
Reading Table and display in library
Distribution of printed booklet (our own)

4. How many members worked on it?

Workshops 10
Go-see Trips 20
Units 30

5. Will you please send the findings of your study to the state office. If not
completed, when will it be finished?

Findings are summarized in enclosed booklet

6. Describe outstanding local league activity on local program items (use back
of page)

We supported Big Creek Bond issue.
IT LOST.

7. What public relations value did your local agenda have?

Cooperation with city officials cements good
relations. We learned a great deal about our
water supply to use in future issues.
Sent copies of our findings to our contributors.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
59 East Madison Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

DUE MARCH 1, 1959
League Decatur
Membership of League 105

REPORT ON NATIONAL ITEM II - "Water Resources: Support of those national water policies and practices which promote coordinated administration, equitable financing and regional or river basin planning."

LOCAL ACTIVITY

Please describe the work your League has done on National Item II:

What approach did your League take to this Item?

An inter-League regional or river basin study? River basin study - the Ill.

Your own river basin study? _____

A study of the role of the federal government in water, following the federal agencies down to the community? yes

How many members on your resource committee? 10

How many committee meetings were held? 12 in first 2 yrs 4 Feb + Mar

How many unit or membership meetings have you had on this item since it was adopted at the 1956 Convention? 2 unit meetings, 1 membership

What type of program was planned for unit or membership meetings this year?

FIRST WORK SHOPS JUST STARTED

Please describe the coverage which your League has given to the water resource field (kind and extent of coverage, problems encountered, etc.) since the 1956 Convention. STUDY OF NATIONAL WATER USE 2 RIVER BASINS

(Missouri & Colorado), FEDERAL AGENCIES, 1958-19 LOCAL ITEM, STUDY OF DECATUR WATER RESOURCES

EMERGING CONSENSUS:

Has your League arrived at firm enough areas of agreement on the three broad goals to serve as the basis for League action? NO If so, where does your League feel the great need for reform lies? _____

Coordinated Administration, Regional or River Basin Planning: Need to improve basic federal legislation in the water field? _____ . Need to overhaul the organization and procedures of congressional committees concerned with water? _____ . Need for an impartial Board of Review (in the executive and/or legislative branches)? _____

Creation of new types of coordinating machinery for comprehensive river basin planning? _____

Others? _____

Equitable financing: Does your League agree that the beneficiaries should repay the costs as far as practicable? _____ . Does this mean that the federal government should pay only where the beneficiaries are not readily identifiable or where national benefits are obvious? _____

LITTLE DROPS OF WATER

NATIONAL MATERIALS Over the WATER FRONT & bibliography

How useful has your League found the bibliographical materials? _____

KNOW YOUR RIVER BASIN? Now in use

Discussion Outline? Used AT 2nd. YEAR UNIT MEETING, 5

VOTER articles (specify which were most useful) Aug '57 T. READING WATER

The WATERS ARE STILL Muddy July '58, OCT. '57 pp 2.

STATE MATERIALS

Have the state Memos and materials been helpful to your League? yes

List any specific suggestions for future materials or other help needed in this field

"ILL. WATER Supply" Ill state Chamber of com. helpful for charts etc.

STATE ITEM II - Election Laws
(April 1 1958 - March 31, 1959)

League Decatur
Prepared by Mrs. Robert L. Cole

- I. What phases of the total subject have been covered by your League?
Registration, voting, ballots, primaries (briefly), judges, consolidation of precincts and election dates. All of these subjects were touched on briefly at a unit meeting. It was only review and discussion--no workshop
- II. What are the areas of special interest in your League?
The various types of ballots and consolidation of elections and the expense of precinct registration.
- III. What were your methods of study for the membership? Was discussion stimulated and lively? Yes.
Review at unit meeting only.
1. Workshops. How many? What materials were covered?
None
 2. Unit meetings. What techniques did you use to interest members? On what areas was the best discussion developed? Short review, then questions to start discussion. In one group, qualifications and instruction for judges; in another, in another fraud connected with absentee ballot
 3. General meetings.
Outside speaker-
League speaker-
Member panel-
- IV. In what areas is your League ready to reach consensus and take action during the 1959 legislative session? None
- V. What community resources have you used in your study? Please explain how used.
1. Legislators
 2. County officers
 3. Election judges --women who had been election judges added greatly to the discussions
 4. Others
- VI. What studies have you made of your local situation? None
- VII. What resource materials have you found most useful?
The four or five (?) booklets put out by the league on election laws and procedure.
- VIII. From your own study, what recommendations would you make for changes in any phase of our election laws and procedures?
Personally, from hearing the discussions, I would assume that precinct registration is a costly and wasteful process.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959)
(estimate)

League Decatur
Prepared by Mrs. Walker Mills
(membership)

1. Total membership 107
How many, if any, are associate members? none
How many have attended no, or almost no meetings this year? 25
2. New members since April 1, 1958 15
How many had belonged to other leagues previously 2
How many had belonged to your league previously and had dropped out? 1

What methods do you use to get new members? (Describe fully with approximate percentages of members attracted by each method)

Personal contacts in other groups to which members belong ^{50%} are most productive (social, professional civic, religious.) Our Bring the Children Unit, where a competent person cares for pre school children for a nominal fee, allowing young mothers to attend has produced 50%.

3. Number not renewing membership 21
How many were members only one year? _____
4. Do you have a file of the interests of each member? (Attach forms used) yes
5. How do you orient new members? Describe fully. List materials used and enclose any material you have prepared for this.

summer coffee

Use literature about League, selecting the ones that appeal to a special interest of that member. Use as many new members as possible for Candidates night. Voters service (transportation)

6. How do you get new members interested in program? Older League members invite new ones to unit and general meetings introduce them to other members
7. Do you have units? yes
If so, how many? 3
How often do they meet? once a month
Do they cover more subjects in one meeting than just the program item being discussed? yes.

What percentage of the membership attends unit meetings? 30%

What percentage of the membership attends general meetings? 35%

How do unit chairmen keep the board informed on unit meetings? (attach forms used if any) yes.

List below the members of your League who have dropped their membership between 4/1/58 and 3/31/59

Name	How long was she a member?	If moved, new address	if other reason, give fully
Mrs Hugh Baker	(2)		
Mrs David Beggs	(4)		
Mrs H. g. Bolton	(2)	moved	
Mrs Maurice Brown	(1)		
Mrs. Robert Crawford	(2)		
Mrs L. DeVore	(7)		non payment dues.
Mrs B. Evans	(1)		
Mrs. C. W. Ferguson	(1)		
Mrs. J. J. Jones	(2 yrs inactive)		
Mrs James Key	(2)		
Mrs Lee Leonard	(1)		working
Mrs Thomas McCracken	(1)		
Mrs Henry Malone	(2)		
Mrs Walter Mosey	(4)	inactive 57.	
Mrs R. N. Nagle.	(en and out since 1950)	moved	
Mrs Paul Sayre	(1)		
Mrs. E. K. Scheiter	(1)	inactive	
Mrs Wm. Sufferm	3		
Mrs. W. C. Tillett	(1)		
Mrs Fritz Wayne	(3)		
Mrs. Richard Wood	(7)	inactive	

(too many other activities)
non payment of dues