

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM
1967-68

The Board has considered all items suggested and recommends the adoption of the following items for 1967-68:

1. Civil Rights:

- Study and evaluation of the need for funds by the Decatur Human Relations Commission.
- Evaluation of the fair housing ordinance in Decatur.

(Scope: Some of the groundwork for this item was laid this year, but consensus was not reached. The first new study item would involve an evaluation of the work of the Commission in all human relations areas and comparison with other such commissions. Consensus would probably be called for on the question of the need for funds. The scope of the second part of the item would depend somewhat on action in the General Assembly. Questions which could be considered include: should the ordinance be stronger, is it effective, should it be rescinded, how does it compare with other cities in Illinois, etc.)

2. Human Resources: Study and evaluation of programs in Decatur and Macon County to provide for all persons equality of opportunity in education and employment.

(Possible scope: Survey and evaluate all such programs in Decatur and Macon County, with attention given to such things as equal opportunity for membership in unions and apprentice programs.)

3. Decatur Public Library:

- Support and promotion for construction of a new main library building
- Continued study of the needs and operation of the library.

(Scope: The committee foresees considerable interest and action within the community during the next year. Therefore, the League would be more active publicly.)

4. Decatur Public Schools:

- Support of increased funds to provide quality education and adequate space.
- Study of ways to improve public education in Decatur.
- Study of the procedures and practices regulating Board of Education elections.

(Scope: Surely there will be a proposed tax rate increase sometime this year and this committee would head League's work concerning the proposal. The third part of the item would be an evaluation of the terms of office, the time of the election, how often it is held, etc., and could lead to consensus and action.

THE DECATUR VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS

Volume 21, Number 7

March, 1967

ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING MARCH 15 Election, Budget, Program

League members will take stock of the past year and make decisions for the year ahead at the annual meeting on March 15, at 12:45 p.m. in the Victorian Room of the Hotel Orlando. A salad luncheon will be served for \$1.80.

The telephone committee will call for reservations; but, if you are not contacted, telephone your reservation to Barbara Axon, 429-6495, by Monday, March 13.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m., and you are urged to attend, even though you may not be able to be there for the luncheon.

New officers and four board directors will be elected. The names of the nominees were listed in the February Voter. I'm sure your presence at the meeting will encourage them in their new duties.

We shall adopt a budget that has been carefully compiled. If you have questions about it, please have them ready. Again, refer to the February Voter for the budget proposed.

We shall decide what local issues we wish to adopt as our program items for 1967-68. This bulletin contains the recommended and non-recommended items. By-law changes will also be voted on at the meeting.

A quorum is required to transact the League's business. This fact makes your presence doubly important. And you will have fun visiting with old and new friends! See you there!

Lola Smith
League president

Please bring the February and March issues of the Voter with you to the luncheon meeting on March 15.

MR. HAMILTON TO SPEAK ON CHINA For Members and Husbands

All League members and their husbands are invited to hear Mr. Robert Hamilton, Millikin University professor, speak on the subject of "U. S. and China Relations Since the Communist Takeover."

The meeting will be at 7:45 p.m. March 8 at the home of Betty Bachrach, 25 North Country Club Road. Our hostess suggests that members pool rides, because of the parking situation.

Mr. Hamilton's remarks will include a discussion of our two-China policy, the effects of U. S. involvement in Asia and U. S. attitudes toward China.

LEAGUE CALENDAR

MARCH 8 - U. S. and China Relations; Mr. Robert Hamilton, Speaker, 7:45 p.m., home of Betty Bachrach, 25 N. Country Club Road.

Planning Agencies Committee, 9:30 a.m., home of Pauline Jurgens, 245 N. Summit.

MARCH 14 - School Study Committee, 9:30 a.m., 125 N. Pine
Babysitting provided

MARCH 15 - Annual Meeting, 12:45 p.m. luncheon in Victorian Room of Hotel Orlando.

Planning Agencies Committee, (As listed above)

MARCH 21 - Legislative Day in Springfield.

MARCH 22 - Planning Agencies Committee, (As listed above)

MARCH 29 - Planning Agencies Committee, (As listed above)

APRIL 2 - Televised Candidates Meeting, 4 - 5 p.m. on WAND

5. Council-Manager Form of City Government: Support of Council-Manager form of government for the city of Decatur.

(Scope: This would be a "holding" item, probably. The chairman did not foresee any action in this area, but it is impossible to predict for certain.)

Also, see #2 below

The Board classified the following items as "not recommended." They can be considered and adopted by the annual meeting.*

1. ~~Juvenile Detention Facilities: Study of the need in Decatur and Macon County for a detention facility for dependent and neglected or delinquent children.~~

~~(Note: After this item was suggested, the new state welfare consensus was released. It is clear that study and action in the area of juvenile detention facilities can be taken on the local level under the state consensus. Therefore, we do not need to list it on our local program.)~~

2. ~~Study to find ways to improve local government under present laws.~~

~~(Scope: Survey and evaluate present duties of various officials, commissions and committees. Example: It has been decided to contract Decatur Township highway work and sell equipment. A possibility would be for all township highway work to be turned over to the county. The Board does not recommend this item primarily because it would make the program too large to cover adequately.)~~

The following items were included in this year's program, but the chairmen suggested dropping them and the board agreed.

1. ~~Governmental Planning: Study of governmental planning agencies in Decatur and Macon County. (This item was a survey-of-government study and will be completed this year.)~~

- Adopted 3/15/69 →*
2. ~~Macon County Nursing Home: Continued evaluation of the need for a Macon County Nursing Home.~~

3. ~~Macon County Health Department: Support of efficient development and operation of the Macon County Health Department.~~

4. ~~Water Resources: Support of sound development of Decatur's water resources.~~

* Provided that: "1. The annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote. 2. The annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote" (according to our by-laws).

TOWNSHIP MEETING, APRIL 4

Our next "Go See" tour this year is really not a go see tour! At the annual township meetings which LWV members will attend, Tuesday, April 4, the voters represent themselves, rather than have an elected official represent them as with City Council, School Board, Park Board, County Board of Supervisors; thus League members going to township meetings will not just "see", but will have the opportunity to vote!

These meetings are a carry-over of the New England town meetings. Unfortunately not many citizens realize this opportunity to participate directly in the government of their township.

At these meetings the general town budget, the township highway budget, and the budget for general assistance (poor relief) are adopted.

The Decatur Township Meeting will be in the Macon County Building at 1:30 in one of the court rooms. Members living in Hickory Point, Long Creek, and South Wheatland townships will have to ask their township supervisors or clerks the place and time of their Township Meetings on April 4. This is the same day as the township elections - started when the rural residents could vote and "meet" in the same trip to town!

Confusion about these meetings have resulted because several times in recent years the city has sponsored all day Saturday community meetings on various local topics of interest and called them Town Meetings. There's no connection between them!

Urge your husband (if he can get off work) and friends to go with you!

Elise Hurst

ELECTIONS IN APRIL

Sat., April 1	Junior College
Tues., April 4	Township Park Board
Sat., April 8	School Board
Tues., April 18	City Mayor and Councilmen

YOUR DAY IN SPRINGFIELD Legislative School

During March, League members throughout the State visit the State Legislature in Springfield. Tuesday, March 21, has been selected as the date for members of the Decatur League to make the trip.

Upon arrival in Springfield, members will go to the information desk on the third floor of the Capitol building to get a calendar and schedule of events.

A typical agenda is as follows:

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - House committees meet
10:00 a.m. - Senate convenes
1:00 p.m. - Senate committees meet
1:30 p.m. - House convenes.

Barbara Axon will take names of drivers and of those who need transportation. Please contact her at 429-6495.

Don't miss this opportunity to see your state legislature in action!

STATE CONVENTION

The State League convention will be April 18-20 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Adoption of state program for 1967-69, budget and election of officers are on the agenda.

BY-LAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT ANNUAL MEETING

The following changes in the local By-laws are recommended by the Board. They were worked out by Elise Hurst, Chairman, and Barbara Redford in consultation with other members. Proposed By-law changes must be submitted to the state League for approval before being voted on by the membership. A letter about these By-law changes dated February 23, 1967, from the state office, written by the nominee for state President, included these sentences, "You have done an excellent job on revising the bylaws of the Decatur League . . . We do hope you will send your ideas to the national Board and suggest that standard bylaws be changed in accordance with the re-arrangement you plan in your local ones."

BY-LAW CHANGES

Changes required by National: Art. I, Sec. 1. Add title "Name." Art. III, Sec. 1. Change title from "How Composed" to "Eligibility" and move first sentence of this section to Sect. 2 immediately after title "Types of Membership."

Changes recommended by State: Add Art. VI. Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of Decatur, all monies and securities owned by the League of Women Voters of Decatur shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

Changes recommended by Local Committee:

Art. II, Sec. 2. Add "any" before "candidates" so that last sentence will read "It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate."

Art. VI., Sec. 3. Add "proposed" before "budget" in first sentence and change "The" to "This" before "budget" in second sentence so this section will read "A proposed budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual meeting for adoption. This budget shall include . . ." Sec. 4. Add "proposed" before "budget" in first sentence so it will read "a proposed budget for".

Add a Sec. 3 under Art. VII. "Special Meetings." Special meetings shall be called by the Board of Directors at the written request of twelve members. (Now there is no way for members not on the Board to get a meeting called.)

Change present Sec. 3 to Sec. 4 if above is adopted.

Art. IX. Change title from "Program" to "Local Program" since it deals only with local program.

Art. IX. Sec. 2. Change title from "Program" to "Local Program" and replace present provisions for "Current Agenda" and "Continuing Responsibilities" by rewording the whole section as follows: "The Local Program shall consist of local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and/or action." (This would make a single list program with the various items being given different emphasis as the situation demands.)

Art. IX. Sec. 3. Change title from "The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures" to "Adoption of Local Program". (No other titles are in sentence form.) Sec. 3. a) Change from "The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program" to "The Board of Directors shall call for recommendations by the voting members and shall formulate a Proposed Local Program." Sec. 3. c) Change "subject" to "item" and add "Local" before "Program." Sec. 3 d) Change this section to read: "Recommendations for Local Program submitted by voting members but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be adopted by the Annual Meeting provided that: 1) the Annual Meeting by majority vote shall agree to consider and (2) Same. Sec. 3. e) Change from "Changes in the Program, in case of altered conditions, may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to the general membership meeting