

The League of Women voters was founded in 1920 to educate new women voters and to work for needed legislation. The LWVIL was also founded in 1920, and in 1923 a Macon County League of Women Voters was started and grew to have 55 members. (This is our predecessor chapter, but because there was a break in our charter we are celebrating 45 years instead of 68). In 1923 the national issue all leagues studied was the World Court. At the state level the league members studied:

- ratification of the National Child Labor Amendment
- shortening the working day for women in industry
- shortening the ballot by removing the presidential electors
- establishment of women on jury service and others

In 1924 Mrs Ray Evans was elected President of the local League and we have some interesting insights into her life from a press clipping and a note she wrote. I am struck by the similarities to today's women. Read.....

The Leagues activities were reported a little differently...
Read "Let's talk it over" December 2, 1925

- In 1929 the issues were :
- Child welfare bill
 - motor drivers license fees
 - 8 hour day for working women
 - Problems of the one-room school

On the table is a list of publications of the National LWV in 1929. It contains papers and pamphlets on everything from "Get out the Vote, to Child Welfare to the Legal Status of Women.

In 1931 the local league studied

-disarmament

-taxation

and they visited Springfield to hear bills debated on the floor the legislature.

From 1931 to 1945 there is no mention of the Decatur League in local newspapers. We surmise that these women burned themselves out or could not keep meeting during the depression.

In 1945 a group of women met to form a new League in Decatur. Read quote about finding a president.

In 1946 the League met and elected Miss Blossom Redmon as President. Dues were \$3. As usual they studied and learned. topics that year were:

-legislation concerning the control of the atom bomb

-The United Nations Organization

-Food for Europe

-Local study - Decatur Schools

- Panel on local institutions and welfare conditions.

And the rest is history. Women meeting, studying, debating, trying to come form a concensus about some of the most complex

issues of the day. If you look through these directories you will see that some of the issues haven't changed much.

And we've made a difference in Decatur. We've published documents about county government and pamphlets listing elected officials. We've worked to move the library to a larger, accessible building. We worked on school integration and school referenda. We helped change the form of the city government to the Council manager form. In 1981 we worked to to keep it that way. And you know we're in that battle again. A study group looked at the problem of domestic violence in Decatur and after a lot of hard work the Dove Domestic Violence Program is a reality in Decatur. A study group looked at the problem of child abuse and neglect in Decatur and a local chapter of Parent's anonymous was formed with a hot line.

And now a look to the future. The 1991-1992 schedule for the Decatur League of Women Voters is an ambitious one. Now lets look through the directory together.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Miss Blossom Redmon
Mrs. Melvin Goldman
Mrs. George Kuhns
Mrs. Floyd Birt
Mrs. Clifford Smith
Mr. John Donovan
Mrs. H.W. Gibson
Mrs. L.L. Colvis
Mrs. Neal Doubleday
Mrs. Henry Bachrach
Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst
Mrs. Clifford Smith
Mrs. W.H. Tilley
Mrs. Keith Westenhaver
Mrs. Robert Schade
Barbara Ohlsen
Dee Meyerson
Karen Jensen
Barb Brown
Carol Campbell
Andrea Bowen
Linda Hughes
Agnita Dupree
Agnita Dupree
Kathleen Owen