



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS**

1978 - 79

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
President: Karen Jensen  
2180 Summit Court  
Decatur, Illinois 62526

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS  
President: Janet Otwell  
State Office: 67 East Madison Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES  
President: Ruth Hinerfeld  
National Office: 1730 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

The PURPOSE of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

POLITICAL POLICY: The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE DECATUR LEAGUE

Miss Blossom Redmon	1946-47
Mrs. Melvin Goldman	1947-48
Mrs. George Kuhns	1948-50
Mrs. Floyd Birt	1950-52
Mrs. Clifford Smith	1952-53
Mrs. John Donovan	1953-55
Mrs. H. W. Gibson	1955-58
Mrs. L. L. Colvis	1958-60
Mrs. Neal Doubleday	1960-62
Mrs. Henry Bachrach	1962-64
Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst	1964-66
Mrs. Clifford Smith	1966-67
Mrs. W. H. Tilley	1967-68
Mrs. Keith Westenhaver	1968-69
Mrs. Robert C. Schade	1969-71
Mrs. Robert W. Ohlsen	1971-72
Mrs. Charles J. Meyerson	1972-75
Mrs. Kenneth Brown	1975-77

DECATUR LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1978-79

OFFICERS

President	(1977-79)	Karen Jensen
1st Vice President	(1978-79)	Kathy Sorensen
2nd Vice President	(1978-80)	Diane Basten
3rd Vice President	(1978-80)	Winnie Loewen
Secretary	(1977-79)	Betty Jacobsen
Treasurer	(1978-80)	Susan Marshall

ELECTED DIRECTORS

(1977-79)	(1978-80)
Barbara Brown	Marian Winter
Debbie Staley	Beth Oldweiler
Barbara Minich (78-79)	Ellen Cantoni

APPOINTED DIRECTORS (1978-79)

Margaret Campbell  
Carol Campbell  
Dee Meyerson

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

President - Administration

Action

Voter Editor

Observer Corps

Budget Committee

Karen Jensen

Marianne Erickson  
Margaret Campbell

1st Vice President - Program

Court Watching Project

School Study

Tax Assessments

Urban Crisis Co-Chairwomen

Barbara Minich  
Kathy Sorensen  
Marian Winter  
Diane Basten

2nd Vice President - Public Relations

Voters Service

Publicity

Publications

Finance Drive

Diane Basten  
Beth Oldweiler  
Diane Basten  
Debbie Staley  
Carol Campbell

3rd Vice President - Organization

Membership-Calling Committee

Meetings-Unit Chairwoman

Nominating Committee (1979)

(Elected Members) Chairwoman

Winnie Loewen  
Barb Brown  
Ellen Cantoni

Marg Coberly  
Margaret Campbell

## LEAGUE MEETINGS IN 1978-79

(Tentative calendar, see monthly Voter for details.)

September	13	<u>State LWV Regional Meeting at Jacksonville.</u> All day. Program Workshops.
	20	<u>All Member Meeting.</u> Evening. Panel on <u>Decatur Urban Problems.</u>
October	15-22	<u>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WEEK.</u>
	20	<u>COCKTAILS WITH THE CANDIDATES.</u> Evening.
	25	<u>Unit Meetings.</u> Morning and evening. <u>Tax Assessments.</u>
November	8	<u>All Member Meeting.</u> Evening. Topic: <u>Environmental Quality.</u>
December	13	<u>Holiday Brunch.</u> Speaker on <u>International Relations.</u>
January	10	<u>Unit Meetings.</u> Morning and evening. <u>Decatur Public Schools.</u>
	31	<u>State LWV Meeting on Urban Crisis.</u>
February	14	<u>All Member Meeting.</u> Evening. Program on <u>Correctional System.</u>
March	14	<u>Unit Meetings.</u> Morning and evening. Information from <u>Urban Crisis</u> study committee.
	21-22	<u>Legislative Seminar</u> in Springfield.
	28	<u>Unit Meetings.</u> Morning and evening. Consensus on <u>Urban Crisis</u> study.
April	11	<u>Unit Meetings.</u> Morning and evening. <u>Election Laws.</u>
	27-29	<u>STATE CONVENTION - CHICAGO.</u>
May	9	<u>Decatur LWV Annual Business Meeting.</u> Evening.

Board meetings are held once a month as announced in the Decatur Voter. They are open to members.

## PROGRAM

Program in the League of Women Voters means government issues which members have chosen to study and on which they may act after thorough study and discussion and after consensus of the membership is reached.

Program selection at all three levels (local, state, and national) begins with suggestions by individual members. From these suggestions the appropriate board prepares a proposed program on which members vote - personally on local program at the annual meeting of their league, and through delegates on state and national program at conventions.

The "Program for Action" adopted by the 1974 National Convention incorporated this introductory statement:

"Citizen participation in government is basic to the democratic process and is therefore the cornerstone of the League's political purpose. The League acts in the public interest on political issues. We also act to enlarge citizen participation; to open up electoral and other government processes; to make facts on issues and on the political process more accessible; to protect the right of every citizen to vote; and to protect the individual liberties established under the Constitution.

The League uses many forums and techniques in pressing for change. We take legislative, litigative and administrative action at all levels of government. To get things done, we also act directly in the community. Simultaneously, in preparation for future action, we take up new issues identified by members as targets for research and decision.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- Competent personnel with clear responsibilities
- Coordination among agencies and levels of government
- Adequate financing
- Effective enforcement, and
- Well-defined channels for citizen input and review."

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 1978-79

(Adopted at Annual Meeting, April 26, 1978)

County and Township Governments

Support for elimination of townships in Macon County with their functions transferred to general purpose governments, such as the county or municipalities.

Support for Home Rule status for the county with establishment of an elected county executive. (If necessary, we would support appointment of an administrator by the County Board until an executive can be elected.)

Support for elimination of as elected offices those at the county level which do not set policy, such as Auditor, Recorder of Deeds, and Coroner.

Decatur's Environmental Quality

Support for improved surface drainage of the City of Decatur, as proposed by the Surface Drainage Task Force and the Citizens Advisory Committee for Improved Storm Drainage in 1975.

Decatur Public Schools

Position resulting from 1976-77 study (needs and goals of District #61 educationally, to include areas of responsibility of the school board and administration): The school district needs to make a continuing effort to determine the desires of the public concerning its schools. The Board of Education should present a "state of the schools" message at the end of each school year, and also describe plans for the next school year. The school district should continue to place a high priority on meeting the needs of individuals. The school district should increase its efforts to implement its goal of communications with the public.

Position resulting from 1977-78 study (of the financial resources and condition of District #61): When it is determined that projected revenues will not be sufficient to maintain and/or improve programs, the

Board of Education of Decatur Public Schools should ask the voters to increase one or more of the tax rates making up the "operating tax rate" (OTR) for state funding.

Since there is a time lapse between voting an increase and receiving both local taxes and state funds based on the higher tax rates, referenda should be submitted before a crisis situation exists, that is, before cuts have to be made or a deficit exists in fund balances.

An increase in the tax rate would be justified to maintain and/or improve programs if:

Decatur's "operating tax rate" was less than districts of similar size.

Decatur's "operating tax rate" was less than needed to get maximum state funds.

Study of the impact of declining enrollment on the Decatur Public Schools (closings, reorganization, reduction of staff, alternative schools, transportation.)

#### City Government

Position resulting from 1977-78 re-study of council-manager form of city government and a study of the Home Rule option in city government:

After studying the several possible alternative forms of city government, consensus is that the Council-Manager form of government is the best for the city of Decatur. It provides the professionalism and administrative capabilities not as likely to be found under other forms. Decatur is in many ways similar to a big business; it needs to be governed in an economic and efficient way. By separating the policy making body, the elected council, from the administrative body, the appointed manager and staff, Council-Manager government provides balance between leadership and management.

Home Rule power of the city of Decatur, granted by the 1970 Constitution of Illinois, has not been misused. The council has been cautious in use of the Home Rule power, and careful to seek the community's specific needs. The Home Rule power should be retained, in order that the local citizens can find the solutions to their own local problems, and not be dependent on the Illinois legislative action.

#### Court Monitoring

Local court monitoring of Small Claims Court.

#### STATE PROGRAM FOR 1977-79

(Adopted at State Convention, April, 1977)

#### School Finance

Support of a public school finance system that achieves greater equity for student and taxpayer without diminishing local control of program and budget.

#### Land Use

Support of a statewide land use policy for Illinois.

#### Election Laws

Support of improved election laws and procedures.

#### Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

Support of improved services of Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

#### Constitutional Implementation and Amendments

Support of League positions to implement and amend the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

#### State Fiscal Policies

Support for state fiscal policies that ensure equity for taxpayers, provide adequate funds to support state and local services and encourage sound land use decisions.

#### Corrections

Support of improved correctional procedures in Illinois.

#### Handguns

Support of measures to control the use of handguns.

(Our state LWV positions are given in complete detail in the state publication Where We Stand, Program and Consensus Positions, available from our Publications Chairwoman.)



NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 1978-80  
(Adopted at National Convention, May, 1978)

Urban Crisis

Evaluate urban policy options with emphasis on fiscal policy.  
Promote social justice by securing equal rights for all and combating discrimination and poverty.

Human Resources

ERA Ratification

Equal access to:

Education

Employment

Housing

Income Assistance

Natural Resources

Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life.

Energy

Air

Land

Solid Waste

Water

International Relations

Promote peace in an inter-dependent world, through cooperation with other nations and the strengthening of international organizations.

Development

Trade

United Nations

Government

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive to all citizens and that protects individual liberties established under the Constitution.

Campaign Financing

Citizen Rights

Congress

D.C.: Self-government and Full Voting

Representation

Presidency

Apportionment (to be retained only until July 1979 to give Leagues the option of retaining the position by adding it to state or local program.)

(The above positions are given in complete detail in the national LWV publication Impact on Issues, A Guide to National Program, available from our local Publications Chairwoman.)

MEMBERSHIP

APPLEBAUM, Tede (Mrs. Irving) 1812 W. Forest Street	62522	429-7414
BACCHI, Linda (Mrs. Frank) 139 Columbus Drive	62526	875-1648
BAIRD, Karen (Mrs. Neil) 1671 West Riverview	62522	422-4338
BASTEN, Diane (Mrs. Robert) 1159 East Mueller	62526	429-9591
BASTEN, Robert 1159 East Mueller	62526	429-9591
BATSON, Judith (Mrs. George) 211 Delmar	62522	422-8319
BAXTER, Ann (Mrs. Jon) 2495 S. Franklin St. Rd.	62521	428-9068
BECK, Janet (Mrs. Edward) 4021 Newcastle Drive	62526	877-2249
BOYER, Lois (Mrs. J. Parke) 344 Hackberry Place	62521	429-5067
BROWN, Barbara (Mrs. Kenneth) 233 North Woodlawn	62522	429-7439
BROWN, Barbara J. (Mrs. C.S.) YWCA, 436 North Main	62523	423-3415
CAMPBELL, Carol (Mrs. Edward) 3330 North Taylor	62526	877-1873
CAMPBELL, Margaret (Mrs. J. Gary) 542 S. Church, No. 35	62522	423-1889
CAMPBELL, Susan (Mrs. Michael) 1885 Ravina Park Road	62526	423-3180

CANTONI, Ellen (Mrs. P. J.) 231 Delmar	62522	423-0625
COBERLY, Marg (Mrs. William) 445 North 35th Street	62521	423-2012
COHN, Sylvia (Mrs. G. R.) 777 South Monroe Street	62522	422-3265
COLVIS, Irene (Mrs. L. L.) 212 Southmoreland	62521	428-3331
CORYELL, Kristine (Mrs. James) 2125 North Summit	62526	423-3700
COX, Florence (Mrs. Gerald) 834 West Division Street	62526	877-8892
CROW, Lucille (Mrs. Clarence) 76 Colorado Drive	62526	877-2070
DYAR, Betty (Mrs. John) 1732 Oakmont	62521	1-767-2210
EDGECOMB, Mary Jane (Mrs. James) 3260 Greenlake Court	62521	422-3364
EMERY, Barbara (Mrs. Pete) 337 Kellar Lane	62526	875-2506
ERICKSON, Marianne 303 South Church	62521	422-5049
EVANS, Gail 1542 North Warren	62526	423-0906
FLETCHER, Phyllis 4 Lincoln Place	62522	877-0171
GARBER, Karen (Mrs. Frank) 1394 West Riverview	62522	423-7008

MCNABB, Edith (Mrs. L. D.) 746 West Harrison	62526	877-5557
MCVAY, Pat (Mrs. James) 3021 Lynwood Drive	62521	428-7655
MEYERSON, Dee (Mrs. Charles) 175 Park Place	62522	423-4097
MILLS, Irene (Mrs. Walker) 1487 West Macon Street	62522	422-3654
MINICH, Barbara (Mrs. Gary) 388 Delmar	62522	423-2832
MOORE, Shirley (Mrs. Daniel) 418 Woodhill Drive	62521	422-2565
MOORE, Emmy Lou (Mrs. James) 11 Allen Bend Drive	62521	429-6435
MOORE, Helen (Mrs. Robert) 1845 Burning Tree Drive	62521	1-767-2261
MOSE, Mary 1039 East Cleveland	62521	422-3295
NELLIS, Daniel 1541 North Church	62526	875-2378
NICHOLSON, Betty (Mrs. C. M.) 1615 E. Martin Drive	62521	428-9446
OHLSSEN, Barbara (Mrs. Robert) 111 South Westdale	62522	429-1179
OLDWEILER, Beth (Mrs. Robert) 2015 West Eldorado	62522	429-1330
PROTZMAN, Milli (Mrs. Thomas) 45 Allen Bend Drive	62521	422-9116

RABER, Lois (Mrs. Paul)	2535 East Willow Drive	62521	429-4734
REDFORD, Barbara (Mrs. Gerald)	1553 West Main Street	62522	429-6239
ROMA, Becky (Mrs. Robert)	143 35th Court	62521	429-9380
ROUCHER, Nancy (Mrs. Jerry)	478 Shoreline Drive	62521	428-7227
RUPP, Senator James	54 Forest Knolls	62521	423-5309
SCHAAR, Shan (Mrs. Alvin)	78 Montgomery Place	62522	422-0445
SCHLACHTER, Mary Louise (Mrs. O.E.)	73 Fairview Place	62522	423-1354
SCHROEDER, Ruth (Mrs. E. Wayne)	1495 West Sunset	62522	423-1376
SCHWANDT, Phyllis (Mrs. Robert)	2320 Hawthorne Drive	62521	423-1810
SMITH, Lola (Mrs. Clifford)	1684 West Riverview	62522	422-1764
SMITH, Pauline (Mrs. Elbert)	510 South Seigel	62522	422-5506
SORENSEN, Kathy (Mrs. Mark)	1698 West Riverview	62522	428-6850
STALEY, Lee (Mrs. Lavelle)	1714 Bob-o-Link Drive	62521	1-767-2235
STALEY, Debbie (Mrs. Stephen)	2751 Forrest Green	62521	422-9573

VERBANAC, Laura (Mrs. Frank)		
12 Dakota Drive	62526	877-2621
VITTON, Vera		
530 South Church	62522	429-2063
WACK, Ruth (Mrs. George)		
327 North Oakcrest	62522	423-6710
WEINMAN, Karla (Mrs. John)		
2370 South Taylor Road	62521	428-1158
WILKINSON, Veva (Mrs. Porter)		
Apt. 404		
777 West Prairie	62522	428-2417
WILLIS, Zandra Matthews		
319 East Garfield	62526	422-5288
WINTER, Marian		
2119 Ramsey Drive	62526	422-2198
WOYNA, Marian		
440 East Grove Street	62521	428-8046
WRIGHT, Agnita (Mrs. Charles)		
R.R. 3, Box 34	62526	877-2914

NEW MEMBERS

ELSTON, Rose Ann		
464 Bay Shore Drive	62521	422-7071

