

Self Start, a Decatur program under OEO will lose its federal funding as of the ~~end~~ ^{28th} of ~~April~~ ^{Feb.}. Members of the HR Committee have been interested in this program as pertaining to the League study item. Two members of the HR Committee visited the three Self Start Centers to see the program in action and have had conversations with the program's director and read its year-end report. The program is pre-Head Start, limited to children aged 2-4½ who must come from families with income of \$3000 or under. In the three months of its existence the centers have had over 1600 individual visits by 185 different children, some coming 3 days a week and some two. Ten to 15% of the mothers attend with their children. Five women from the neighborhoods of the centers have been hired and trained to manage the centers assisted by volunteers. The centers are run like nursery schools, attempting to help the children develop verbally, socially, and intellectually, very much as in the Head Start program. Head Start is limited to summer programs in Decatur, whereas Self Start is a year round project for younger children. If funds cannot be found locally to carry on the program the Self Start project will have to be abandoned in May. *Under the present septem a budget of \$30,000 was prepared.*

The director of the Decatur and Macon County Opportunities Corporation described the process by which this program was established and its demise. Frontiersmen (a small group of Negro men doing home visitation in poverty areas distributing educational materials) proposed Self Start to the Decatur Community Action Council. The Projects Committee of the Council sanctioned the program and it was sent to the Regional Office of the OEO for approval and funds. Funds finally arrived so the program was ready to begin the last week of September 1966. The Regional Office had urged the establishment of pre-school programs so when proposals for 1967 were drawn up Self Start was included prominently in a package proposal for 5 neighborhood centers strategically located, providing facilities and headquarters for all OEO programs under the 5 identical centers. Regional OEO scrapped the entire proposal and upon Mr. Stoner (local OEO director)'s appeal agreed to sanction 1 center, but Self Start was to be omitted. With less money to distribute than had been hoped for priority programs were to be given first choice. Of pre-school programs Head Start had national priority and the remaining money was to be distributed among the programs meeting the needs of other age groups, educational and occupational levels.

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM -- 1967-1969

- I. Study and action to revise the structure of Illinois government, to include:
1. A constitutional convention for Illinois.
 2. Study of the Legislative and Executive Articles.
 3. A new Revenue Article and measures to obtain an adequate, fair and flexible tax structure.
 4. Annual sessions for the Illinois General Assembly.
 5. A short ballot, electing only policy-making officials.
 6. Improved and clarified election laws and procedures.
 7. Protection of the 1962 Judicial Amendment and support of measures to further judicial reform.

SCOPE: Work for a constitutional convention will be given top priority during the next two years. We will continue efforts in the 1967 General Assembly for passage of the resolution setting up a referendum on a call to convention. If this is successful, maximum League effort would be devoted to obtaining a favorable vote on the call to convention in November 1968. This would involve a statewide community education and action program. If the call passes, the League will then renew its study of the Constitution to reach additional positions on what we want in the new Constitution. The League might also look at convention procedures and techniques in order to make recommendations to the 1969 General Assembly which will set convention details.

If there is no convention, we will continue to support our positions on constitutional revision as listed above. We will begin a new study of the Legislative and Executive Articles of the Constitution. These articles were selected for detailed study because of League interest, because they are interrelated, and because they lend themselves to specific areas of consensus that might be implemented in the future either by amendment or convention.

All of the structure of government items have been placed under this one item to avoid the dilemma of artificially restricting and dividing studies involving both constitutional issues and statutory changes. This combination is already in effect with our CEJ (Constitutional Convention, Election Laws, Judicial Reform) Committee.

- II. Protection of the individual in his civil rights and liberties:
1. Support of state legislation to provide equal housing opportunities.
 2. Support of legislation to equalize employment opportunities.
 3. Preservation of constitutional liberties.

SCOPE: Action to implement our present positions. No new study.

- III. Support of improved local, regional and statewide welfare services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

SCOPE: Action to implement our present positions, including local action under state guidelines. No new statewide study.

It is to be clearly understood that our detailed positions are included in all of the above items; they have been omitted from the wording for the sake of simplicity and will be listed on position cards.

LWV BOARD MEETING

Decatur, Illinois

February 28, 1967

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Kay Butler, 38 Sandcreek Drive, at 1:00 p.m. with President Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Smith, Bowers, Butler, Redford, Miller, Jurgens, Hurst, Schade, Tilley, Dilley, Tenney, Moore (Also, McGaugh, Maginn, and Homan, not board members)

ABSENT: Mesdames Axon, Limerick, Crow, Westenhaver, Calhoun

MINUTES: The January 31 minutes were corrected as follows: Under By-Laws Committee, delete the words "as presented" at the end of the 5th line and add: "which were suggested by both the state and local committee and agreed upon by the board." Under Nominating Committee, the minutes should show that Mrs. Dilley, Mrs. Jurgens and Mrs. Tilley are being nominated to fill one year terms of office. (Mrs. Tilley agreed to serve only one year; Mrs. Dilley and Mrs. Jurgens will fill unexpired terms.) This information should also be included in the Decatur Voter. The Feb. 10 minutes should include the following addition at the end of the "Candidate's Meeting" paragraph: "Since the P.T.A. Council sponsors this one".

VOTERS SERVICE: Pres. Smith has been contacted by Steve Bellinger of WDW about a "Town Meeting of the Air" in which WDW would devote their entire broadcasting facilities from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. to this "Community Conversation" program. It would be recorded and transcribed. The purpose of the program would be to promote better understanding between the general public and the leaders of our city. The League of Women Voters has been invited to participate at any level - from cooperation with publicity, screening of speakers and organization to complete sponsorship. The program might be held the latter part of April (which would conflict with our State Convention). Mr. Bellinger also enclosed with his letter a list of civic organizations and officials that could be included in the program. After much discussion, Mrs. Redford moved that the President, the President-Elect and the First Vice President-Elect be empowered to discuss this Community Conversation project further with Mr. Bellinger of WDW and also be empowered to make a League commitment. Mrs. Hurst seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs. Moore reported Cash on Hand February 1, \$330.59; Receipts, \$78.; Disbursements, \$39.35; leaving a Cash Balance on Hand Feb. 28 of \$368.64. She has asked Allied Printing for a bill covering the back issues of the Voter. We now have 144 members, 2 additions, 1 forfeit, and 1 transfer. She discussed problems about payment of dues. In order to eliminate some of the problems, it was suggested that the Dues Notices which are sent should quote the By-Laws thereby notifying members that if payment is not made immediately after the 3rd notice, membership in the League will be forfeited. Mrs. Moore said she would consider revising the wording on the Dues Notices. She then stated that Mr. Russell McCann has been engaged to audit our books. Mrs. Tompkins, who mails the Decatur Voters, reported the need for more copies. Mrs. Hurst obtained extra copies of the last Voter and also 25 extra copies of the Budget and at that time, Mr. Edgecombe informed Mrs. Hurst that keeping the right-hand columns straight is costing us additional money. This matter will be mentioned to Mrs. Westenhaver.

MACON COUNTY BOOKLET: Discussion was held in regard to asking outside organizations or industry to underwrite the cost of the booklet. The Board felt that we should charge enough for the booklet to help reimburse us for the cost. There seemed to be agreement, although no vote was taken, that we would continue with previous policy in not soliciting money from outside sources for the printing of the booklet.

Feb. 28, 1967

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS: Mrs. Miller reported that Mr. Hamilton of Millikin Univ. will speak at Betty Bachrach's home at 7:45 p.m. on March 8 on U.S.-China Relations since the Communist take-over. She urged all board members to attend and bring their husbands.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Redford presented the Proposed State Program for 1967-69. It was accepted as proposed. Referring to Local Program, she stated that Mrs. Bishop felt the Nursing Home item should not be in the program for next year because Medicare goes into effect July 1, 1967 and it would be difficult to assess or evaluate Nursing Home needs this coming year. Mrs. Redford moved that the Board drop this item from the recommended local program. Mrs. Tilley Seconded. Carried. It was then moved that we reconsider the Juvenile Detentions facilities item. Seconded. Carried. Discussion was held and it was noted that this subject could be handled as a state item. Mrs. Redford moved that the Board not recommend this Juvenile Detentions Facilities item for the local program. Seconded. Carried.

CANDIDATES MEETING: Mrs. Tenney reported that the next production meeting would be held March 1 at 2 p.m. The program is scheduled for April 2 from 4-5:00 p.m. Mr. Tangney has talked with her urging the League to man the sample voting machines at voting booths in April. This project should be referred to the Voters Service Chairman.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next meeting will include members of the Old and New Board and will be held Wednesday, April 5, at Marilyn Tenney's at 12:45 p.m.

PUBLICATIONS: Mrs. Butler reported that there is 30¢ remaining in the Subscription Service and welcomes any suggestions as to what to include in the Service.

SELF-START: Mrs. Dilley stated that a Steering Committee has been formed. She reported that one local church has pledged an interest-free loan of \$1500 to help the program run for one month while the future of the Self-Start program is being assessed.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT: Mrs. Dilley reported that it is "time for action"-to write our Senators and Representatives about our EOA programs. A letter will go from our League.

ANNUAL MEETING: Mrs. Hurst reported that the meeting will be held in the Victorian Room of the Hotel Orlando at 12:45 p.m., March 15. It will be a luncheon meeting (no dessert) for \$1.80. She urged persons unable to attend the luncheon to be present for the meeting for the election of officers, adoption of budget and program, and revision of By-Laws.

MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. Schade stated that attendance at the four February unit meetings was much lower than usual. The 2 evening unit meetings had only 3 members present at each meeting in addition to the committee members. Three unit meetings will be held in April on local Government Planning.

CONVENTION DELEGATES: Our League is authorized to send 7 delegates to State Convention to be held in Chicago on April 18, 19 and 20. Pres. Smith urged anyone interested in attending to contact her.

STATE BY-LAWS: Mrs. Hurst read a letter from the State By-Laws Committee commending the local committee for their excellent revision and expressing the desire that these local ideas would be sent to National with the suggestion that standard by-laws be changed in accordance with the re-arrangement planned in our own local By-Laws.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Pres. Smith reported that annual reports have been mailed to our State and National Boards.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Bowers, Secretary

Our Annual Meeting last year was held in two parts and the minutes are quite lengthy so in order to save time, I will just give a short resume of the important items of the minutes of both meetings.

The By-Laws were revised to provide for the addition of a Third Vice President and the dues were raised to \$8.00 per year.

The Nominating Committee presented their report, followed by the election of officers.

Suggestions for Local Program were made and discussed.

Guest speakers for our luncheon meeting were 3 State Department officials, Mr. Finn, Mr. Walter Mueller, and Mr. John Roach. Their talks were followed by a question and answer period.

Because

~~XXXX~~ a quorum was not present for the second half of the Annual Meeting, it was rescheduled for a later date.

Discussion was held on the possibilities of participating in the Voter's Registration and Education project to be conducted by the Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation. After fully considering the project, the vote was called. A large majority opposed taking part in the program due to lack of woman-power and the length of time required to do the job.

Local Program items and the budget for the coming year were adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Bowers