

Mrs. Dakin, chairman of the Local Government Structure Committee, handed in her resignation as Board Member and Committee Chairman, subject to Board approval. She explained that her recent private studies of the public school system had lead her to conclusions not necessarily held by the League. She feels she should, as a private citizen, take a stand on these matters, and would not like to embarrass the League in any way by her actions. After much discussion, the Board reluctantly accepted her resignation.

The State Board member did not show up for the Board Training Session. The next meeting will be on call.

Adjournment, 2:30 p.m. after a salad luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Jane Hippler*

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR

Decatur, Illinois

May 21, 1968

The meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Thomas Protzman, 332 S. Linden, with Mrs. Janet Westenhaver presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Westenhaver, Barber, Schade, Crow, Hippler, Johnson, Protzman, Tilley, Weinman, Butler, Dakin, Miller, Dumas, Heilman, Beck, Landholt and Homan.

ABSENT: Mrs. Mee

MINUTES: Approved as mailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cash on hand 5-1-68, \$256.88. Receipts, \$149.75. Expenditures, \$137.11. Cash on hand 5-21-68, \$269.52.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Mrs. Miller received answers pertaining to the Time for Action announced at the April 17, 1968 board meeting. Senators Percy and Dirksen informed her that the textile quota ammendments objected to by LWV had been dropped. 2) A request for League to provide information on the Gene Center was read. 3) The Decatur League received a questionnaire from the Citizens Committee on Con Con for Mrs. Landholt to fill out and return. 4) Arrangements for rides to the Regional Meeting in Springfield May 22 were discussed. 13 people planned to go. 5) Mesdames Westenhaver, Tilley and Crow gave their reports on the National Convention.

PROGRAM: Committee chairmen gave the following reports:  
Mrs. McGaugh presented consensus findings from the May Human Resources-Civil Rights Unit Meetings. They are as follows:

STATEMENT OF POSITION  
OPEN OCCUPANCY LEGISLATION AND THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The League of Women Voters of Decatur supports local legislation to secure equal housing opportunity for all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry. The League supports legislation to prohibit housing discrimination by real estate salesmen and brokers, lending institutions, residential land developers, and owners, covering apartments, private homes, and vacant land.

Local legislation for equal housing opportunities should provide for:

- (1) A commission or agency authorized to investigate and initiate complaints of discrimination; to work to eliminate unfair housing practices by conference, conciliation and persuasion; and to conduct educational programs.

- (2) A commission or agency with enforcement powers including recourse to the courts if conciliation fails, and the right to petition the court for injunctive relief (with safeguards to protect the interest of both parties).
- (3) Effective enforcement measures to ensure elimination of unfair housing practices.

The League of Women Voters of Decatur supports the establishment of an agency or commission, such as a Fair Housing Board, to enforce local open occupancy legislation. Such an agency or commission would hold hearings and would have the right to petition the courts for issuance of subpoenas and for injunctive relief. The agency or commission would issue a written annual report. Final recourse under the law would be to the courts.

The League of Women Voters of Decatur supports an expanded role in the community and expanded duties for the Decatur Human Relations Commission. It should have the power to initiate, receive and investigate complaints concerning civil liberties; it should provide a specific method for filing complaints; and it should prepare a written annual report. The Commission should attempt to conciliate complaints under the open occupancy ordinance and should be free to act as a friend of the complainant if it feels a complaint to the enforcing agency is justified.

The League of Women Voters of Decatur supports an appropriation in the city budget for the Decatur Human Relations Commission and for an enforcing agency of the open occupancy ordinance. Such an appropriation should cover an executive director, secretarial services, and educational purposes.

The League of Women Voters of Decatur feels that all of the methods of enforcing an open occupancy ordinance listed above should be available to the complainant. If such a division of powers between an enforcing agency and the Human Relations Commission as suggested above is not possible then the Human Relations Commission should provide all of the pre-Court methods of enforcement.

End Report

Mrs. Protzman moved we accept the consensus findings with the deletion of a section on suspension of evidence. Seconded and passed. The above report is the final draft.

Mesdames Dumas, Schade and Johnson presented the "Procedure for Payment of Dues" for members of League of Women Voters of Decatur to be published for the membership as per agreement in April.

Article VI - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION of the By-Laws states:

"Sec. 2. Dues Annual dues of Eight Dollars (\$8.00) shall be payable on the first day of the month in which a member originally joined. Any member who fails to pay dues within two months after they become payable forfeits membership."

In an effort to abide by the by-laws, it is proposed that when a member's dues are payable:

1. A Statement be attached to the issue of the Voter one month prior to the month member's annual dues are payable, along with a list in the Voter of names to remind those members whose dues "are now payable."
2. A second Statement be sent with the succeeding issue of the Voter with second reminder in listing of all members whose dues "are now payable."
3. A telephone call will be made to inquire if unpaid member has received a ~~Statement~~, and to remind the member that her dues are now payable. This shall be done near the end of the month the second notice is received.
4. By the third month, if dues are still not paid, a bright-colored (probably orange) notice will be attached to that individual's Voter stating:

Did you know? - - -

If your dues are not yet paid, your Voter subscription has expired with this issue.

In accordance with the By-Laws, we hope to receive your dues to avoid interruption or forfeiture of membership.

LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!

5. Lapsed membership shall be turned over to the Membership Chairman for reinstatement or forfeiture. Any request for temporary postponement of payment should be directed to the Treasurer.

The following procedure for payment of dues is recommended for adoption by the board. The treasurer understands that the above procedure shall be enacted by her. Proposed as authorized by Board action 4-17-68.

Mrs. Johnson moved that we accept the above statement. Seconded and passed.

Mrs. Schade, Organization Vice-president, proposed a summer coffee for recruitment of new members. Mrs. Dakin moved we accept the suggestion. Seconded and passed. Mrs. Schade announced the availability of transfer of membership cards containing statement of dues paid and other pertinent information for members leaving Decatur.

Mrs. Dumas, Membership, announced that we now have 159 members, five of them new. Attendance at the Library meeting was 34 members. Three of our members will be moving from Decatur. They are Persis Hamilton, Freddie McKeown, and Nancy Tompkins.

**FINANCE** Mrs. Westenhaver for Mrs. Bee. The National LWV 50th Anniversary will be in 1970. National is planning a nation-wide fund drive (goal \$11,000,000) in commemoration of the event. Part of the money will come back to the State and part will be returned to the local leagues. It will begin in January or February of 1969. National wants it to be handled with the local finance drives. A \$1,000,000 donation has already been received, leaving \$10,000,000 to be collected, half of which it is hoped will be collected from League membership. The drive should start with the membership. National has hired a professional fund raiser and a Public Relations man. Our drive can take advantage of National publicity. Mrs. Dakin moved we postpone our 1968 Fund Drive from Fall and have our 1968-69 drive in early Spring of '69. Seconded and passed.

**VOTERS SERVICE** Mrs. Homan announced that the Candidates Meeting will be October 23 at 8 p.m. She presented a list of sites for the meeting along with prices and accommodations. It was agreed that she pick the place she felt to be most suitable to our needs.

Mrs. Tilley, Civil Rights Chairman, read a report on a speech given by Dr. Wm. Ruder of Ruder & Finn, Inc., discussing a study of League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Heilman, Unit Organization and Meetings Chairman, asked for two homes for evening meetings. Hostesses appointed to help with these meetings should help in the homes where the meetings are held and make the coffee at the meetings held in a public place. There should be two hostesses for the meetings requiring a baby sitter. The need was expressed for experienced League people to act as chairmen for the Unit Meetings.

**PUBLICITY** Mrs. Weinman distributed the National Board Reports. The State Reports are not in yet. She also announced that 25 copies of THIS IS MACON COUNTY were sent to National Convention and 23 were returned. Mrs. Crow, Mrs. Crow, Program and Action Vice-president presented the National Program for 1968-1970.

**PUBLICITY** Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Tilley gave the final report on the recent Community Conversation held over station WJZ. The radio station has requested suggestions for the conduct of the event next year.

**VOTER** Kay Butler announced a May 27 deadline on Voter articles. She suggested that anyone having items for upcoming Voters could save time by bringing them to the board meetings.