

SPECIAL LWV BOARD MEETING

Decatur, Illinois

February 10, 1967

The special meeting of the League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Thomas Hurst, 2095 West Sunset, at 9:00 a.m. with President Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Tilley, Jurgens, Smith, Bowers, Schade, Butler, Dilley, Redford, Hurst, Crow, Calhoun and Tenney

ABSENT: Mesdames Moore, Axon, Limerick, Miller, and Westenhaver

President Smith announced that the special meeting had been called to consider the Self-Start program and proposed League program for the coming year, but in addition, a few other things would be discussed.

SELF-START: Mrs. Dilley, Human Resources Chairman, discussed the problems of the Self-Start program in Decatur as stated on the attached sheet and explained how this program largely fulfills the qualifications (as outlined in the May, 1966 National Board Report) for her Human Resources Committee's consideration and the support of the League. She discussed the program and its need for funds at length, and after discussion, Mrs. Dilley moved that the Board authorize the DHR Committee to urge local financial support for the Self-Start program for ages 2-4½ for one year. (Specifically, our committee would speak before interested local organizations such as church groups.) Mrs. Redford seconded. Vote carried.

CANDIDATE'S MEETING: Mrs. Tenney announced that Mrs. Irene Homan will serve as Chairman since Mrs. Limerick will be unable to do so. She then stated that they were considering a Television meeting of one hour on WAND for April 2, 1967 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in which the viewing audience could telephone questions in to the candidates. WAND suggested that a representative from WSOY, WDZ, WAND and the newspaper co-moderate the meeting and that League persons would decide what candidates to invite, contact the candidates and man the telephones during the meeting. WAND thought the cost of the show for the League would not exceed \$50. The Board felt it would be desirable for a member of the League to be present to ask questions, or that the League should be permitted to present questions to the candidates. Mrs. Tenney will check into this further, but did emphasize that WAND would specify that the program was being presented with the cooperation of the League of Women Voters. After discussion, Mrs. Tenney moved that we have our Candidates meeting this spring on a scheduled T.V. program with the help of WAND television station. Seconded. Carried. (This meeting would include candidates for City Council, Mayor, Township and Park Board, but not the School Board, since the PTA Council sponsors this one.)

ANNUAL MEETING: President Smith opened discussion for plans for the Annual Meeting on March 15 and after discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Tilley that the Annual Meeting be a Luncheon Meeting. Mrs. Butler seconded. Carried.

The President urged that the Annual Reports be returned to her by February 15.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS to State and National Boards were made as appended to these minutes.

BY-LAWS: Mrs. Hurst announced that the State League had urged that we include under Article VI as Section 5. "Distribution of Funds on Dissolution." This revision as read by Mrs. Hurst provides that in the case of dissolution, funds of the local League would revert to the State League. Mrs. Hurst moved that we recommend this addition to our By-Laws to the general membership. Seconded. Carried.

See attached.

February 10, 1967

DECATUR VOTER: It was noted by Mrs. Schade that recently there had not been enough extra copies of the Voter to present to new members. She will check this with the Voter Editor.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Redford presented the items for next year's program (see attached sheet). After discussion, additions, and deletions, Mrs. Redford asked for a vote on each item separately. The program agreed upon, which will be presented to the general membership at the Annual Meeting, will appear in the March Decatur Voter and will be attached hereto.

President Smith reminded the members that the next regular Board meeting will be held at Kay Butler's, February 28, at 12:45 p.m.

President Smith then announced that Mrs. Miller, Chairman of the China-U.S. Relations Committee has made tentative plans for Mr. Hamilton of Millikin University to speak to the League (husbands invited) on March 8th at Mrs. Betty Bachrach's home.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Bowers, Secretary

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

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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.)

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.)
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).