

TOWNSHIP MEETING, APRIL 4

Our next "Go See" tour this year is really not a go see tour! At the annual township meetings which LWV members will attend, Tuesday, April 4, the voters represent themselves, rather than have an elected official represent them as with City Council, School Board, Park Board, County Board of Supervisors; thus League members going to township meetings will not just "see", but will have the opportunity to vote!

These meetings are a carry-over of the New England town meetings. Unfortunately not many citizens realize this opportunity to participate directly in the government of their township.

At these meetings the general town budget, the township highway budget, and the budget for general assistance (poor relief) are adopted.

The Decatur Township Meeting will be in the Macon County Building at 1:30 in one of the court rooms. Members living in Hickory Point, Long Creek, and South Wheatland townships will have to ask their township supervisors or clerks the place and time of their Township Meetings on April 4. This is the same day as the township elections - started when the rural residents could vote and "meet" in the same trip to town!

Confusion about these meetings have resulted because several times in recent years the city has sponsored all day Saturday community meetings on various local topics of interest and called them Town Meetings. There's no connection between them!

Urge your husband (if he can get off work) and friends to go with you!

Elise Hurst

ELECTIONS IN APRIL

Sat., April 1	Junior College
Tues., April 4	Township Park Board
Sat., April 8	School Board
Tues., April 18	City Mayor and Councilmen

YOUR DAY IN SPRINGFIELD Legislative School

During March, League members throughout the State visit the State Legislature in Springfield. Tuesday, March 21, has been selected as the date for members of the Decatur League to make the trip.

Upon arrival in Springfield, members will go to the information desk on the third floor of the Capitol building to get a calendar and schedule of events.

A typical agenda is as follows:

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - House committees meet
10:00 a.m. - Senate convenes
1:00 p.m. - Senate committees meet
1:30 p.m. - House convenes.

Barbara Axon will take names of drivers and of those who need transportation. Please contact her at 429-6495.

Don't miss this opportunity to see your state legislature in action!

STATE CONVENTION

The State League convention will be April 18-20 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Adoption of state program for 1967-69, budget and election of officers are on the agenda.

League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1200 - 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE _____

STATE _____

ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/66 - 3/31/67

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS - Continued

Has your Board any suggestions for improvements in procedures and services of the state Board? If so, please describe the improvements, giving reasons.

We need to receive basic publications for Resource Committees as early as possible.

Pricing Publications: Could you include the postage and tax in the sale price of each publications as the National Board does?

Directions on Annual Report forms are not always clear enough; such as references on pages 21 b and 21 c to 21 a

Has your Board any suggestions for improvements in procedures and services of the national Board? If so, please describe the improvements, giving reasons.

(2) Please explain authorship of booklets such as "Foreign Aid at the Crossroads" and "The Chinese Puzzle"

*(3) Some changes in the Model By-Laws should be furnished:
Articles 4+5 - Change in arrangement of material for clarification.*

Article 6 - Refer to budget as proposed budget.

Article 7 - Should make provisions for special meetings to be called at the request of members not on the board.

Article 9 - Use title Local Program and use local thereafter as needed.

Doris; Should you please type (5) copies of this report for me?
The forms are attached.

League of Women Voters of the U.S. *Taken care of -*
1200 - 17th Street, N.W. *Doris Brown*
Washington, D. C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur

STATE Illinois

Copy of ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/66 - 3/31/67

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Has your Board any suggestions for changes in basic League policies. If so, please describe, giving reasons.

no policy changes were suggested.

*Reviewing Publications: Would you include the
postage and fuel in the cost of each publication
in the National Budget?
The structure on National Budget forms are not clear
enough. Such as reference on page 21 and 22.
21*

*(2) Please explain ownership of booklets and
of material at the Convention, and the National Budget.*

*(3) Some changes in the budget for some material
Articles 4+5 - Change in ownership of material for
classification
Article 6 - Refer to budget as program budget
Article 7 - Refer to budget as program budget
to be held on the report of members
on the board
Article 8 - Refer to the total program and material
to be held on the report of members*

Self-Start. Please study the enclosed material and your 1966 May National Board Report and bring them with you to the meeting.

Policies, Procedures and Services. Our Board has been asked for suggestions for changes in basic League policies, and for improvements in procedures and services of the State and National Boards.

Local Program. See below.

Suggested items (new and old) requiring new study next year.

1. Civil Rights: Study and evaluation of the need for funds by the Decatur Human Relations Commission. (This would involve an evaluation of the work of the Commission in all human relations areas, would require comparison with other Commissions in Illinois and elsewhere, and would require consensus-taking on the question of the need for funds.)
2. Equal Housing: Evaluation of the ^{unequal} fair housing ordinance in Decatur. (Should it 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 which provide for all persons equality of opportunity in education and employment. (Scope: Survey and evaluate all ^{such} programs affecting ~~equality of opportunity for education and employment~~ 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:
 - ~~Active~~ promotion for construction of a new main ~~library~~ library building with action in the community when indicated, and
 - Continued study of needs and operation of the library.(Scope: The committee foresees considerable interest and action within the community during the next year. Therefore the League will be more active publicly.)
- 5 Decatur Public Schools:
 - Support of measures to provide adequate space and quality education program.
 - Study of ways to improve public education in Decatur.
- 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 election.(Scope: Surely there will be a proposed tax rate increase sometime this year and this committee would head League's work for the increase. 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.)
- 5 Juvenile Detention Facilities: Study of the need in Decatur and Macon County for a detention facility for dependent and neglected or delinquent children. (Scope: Would require interviews with officials in the ~~Department of~~

6. A study to find ways to improve local government under present laws. (Scope: Survey + evaluate present duties and activities of various officials, commissions and committees.)

Department of Family Services, County Board of Supervisors, police and sheriff's offices, Judge Morthland. Possibly the group would visit Peoria or Quincy, where such centers are now located, and would need to get information about other such facilities in Illinois and elsewhere. It was estimated that a hard-working committee could complete the work in two or three months.)

The chairmen suggested dropping the following items:

8. Governmental Planning: Study of governmental planning agencies in Decatur and Macon County. (This item was a survey-of-government type and will be completed this year.)

9. Macon County Nursing Home: Continued evaluation of the need for a Macon County Nursing Home. *decide 2/28 Bd Mtg. - drop*

10. Macon County Health Department: Support of efficient development and operation of the Macon County Health Department. (This study was completed in 1962 and would probably have to be done extensively if we were to act in this area.)

11. Water Resources: Support of sound development of Decatur's water resources. (We can take some action under this item under the national consensus.)

The chairman suggested we retain the following item but did not foresee a great deal of action.

12. Council-Manager Form of City Government: Support of Council-Manager form of government for the city of Decatur.

one page information to be presented to new members