

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. H.W.Gibson in the Association of Commerce room at 1:30 Pm, with the following members present:

Mrs. H. W. Gibson, President presiding

Mrs. James Leigh

Mrs. Arthur Adelman

Mrs. Wm Winn

Mrs Forrest Martin

Mrs Thomas McCracken

Mrs. Arylie Morris

Mrs. Charles Griffin

Mrs. Clifford Smith

Mrs Wm Gardner

Mrs James Hurley

Mrs John Donovan and Mrs ~~#~~ C. M. Nicholson, visiting as *Chairman of nominating Committee.*

In the absence of Mrs Cohn, treasurer, Mrs. Gibson read the treasurers report that had been submitted by Mrs Cohn: Cash on hand as of April 1, 1955 was \$ 1341.46. Dues received to date \$345.00. There are 115 paid up members, a record for this time of year. 23 new members and 95 renewals, bringing cash total to \$ 1719.46. Disbursements were \$ 586.91 during the summer, leaving a cash balance on hand as of Sept 1, 1955 of \$ 1132.55/.

Mrs. Gibson announced with regret the resignation of board members Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, Secretary who is moving out of the city, and Mrs Arylie Morris, our Welfare Chairman who is accepting a teaching position.

Mrs. Fritz Woyna's name was submitted and approved by the board to fill the Secretary's position.

Mrs. R. E. Lewis's name was submitted and approved by the board as our Continuing Responsibilities Chairman. This Chairman will be responsible for a Committee that will present a ten-minute discussion at each unit meeting to keep the League members up to date on past continuing responsibilities so they may be prepared to any calls for action on these items.

Both Mrs. Woyna and Mrs. Lewis will be notified to be present at the October Board meeting.

Mrs. Gibson suggested that the League maintain representatives on the Association of Commerce Legislative committees, and the following members were appointed to these positions:

Mrs. Gibson...Legislature

Mrs. Morris..Public Health

Mrs. Winn....Education

Mrs. Griffin..Decatur Neighborhood

Mrs. McCracken..Taxation

Approved and accepted by the Board.

League Working Committees were set up as follows:

Membership--telephoning... Mrs Forrest Martin

Typing, Speakers Bureau, Bulletin, Posters...Mrs James Hurley

Program-- Each Chairman of a workshop shall appoint a committee who will make three copies of the work covered by their workshop, list those who worked on the project, with recommendations as to decisions arrived at. One copy to be given the President, one forwarded to State and one retained by program chairman.

Mrs. Gibson reported a request had been received from State, calling attention to the National Voter regarding an article on the recent "Report of Inter-governmental Relations" by the Kestnbaum committee. If any League members feel they have the time, and wish to make a study of this report, they may communicate with the State office.

A request from the Council of Social Agencies, was submitted by Mrs. Gibson, asking for a representative from the League to sit on this Council. Since Mrs Morris is already a member, she offered to continue to serve until a new Welfare Chairman is appointed. Offer accepted.

Agenda...National Level: Any members having ideas for a National Agenda, and suggested reasons and ways for study and action, please send to either the National office or Mrs. Gibson by Sept 5th.

Mrs. Martin was asked for a report on the progress of the arrangements for the September Membership Luncheon. Mrs. Martin reports the date of Sept 22, had been chosen. It is to be held at the Decatur Club, 1:00 Pm. price \$1.50. Speaker: Mrs. Phillips, our State President. Newspaper publicity to appear in newspapers Sept 11th. This meeting will be open to the general public, a car pool is being arranged to see that new members get there. Mrs Pahnmeier, the Welcome Wagon hostess, and a newspaper reporter are to be invited guests.

Mrs. Leigh reported on Finance Drive, says everything is under control, and the drive is to be launched with a 'coffee klatch' at her home, on Sept 15th 9:30 Am. She reports that \$ 135.00 has been received to date in response to letters mailed to members.

Mrs. Smith reported on Freedom Agenda: She reports that two discussion groups will get under way the first week in October. One sponsored by the Library, each Thursday night for six weeks, with Dr. Daniel Gage as discussion leader assisted by Mrs Neal Doubleday. The other group will be sponsored by the Y.W.C.A on Wednesday evenings with Miss Gertrude Hill and Mr & Mrs Nat. Kessler as leaders. The discussions will be so arranged that persons, missing one discussion from one group may pick it up from the other group. Mr. Thompson of the YMCA has offered to sponsor a third group should the response seem to warrant it. The discussion groups were favored over a public meeting. The newspapers are very enthusiastic with this project and have promised publicity and news coverage. Mrs Smith is considering a possibility of obtaining a 'discussion leaders' picture in the newspapers. The \$20.00 appropriated for expenses for this project has been spent for booklets, etc and Mrs. Smith requests \$20.00 more, as more materials are needed. Motion for approval made by Mrs Winn, carried.

Mrs. Gardner, reporting on the United Nations program, says a mass meeting is being planned for Oct 25 or 27th in the Decatur Highschool Auditorium, with three films to be presented by local moderators. Requests permission for expenses not to exceed \$ 10.00 for a P.A system, and film. Motion made by Mrs. Gardner, approved. She reports Unit Meetings on United Nations will be Oct 19th. Work shops are to start Sept 27th. She is calling her committee for a meeting Sept 7, for final details. The Unit meeting discussions are to be divided into three phases--- The structure--the aims---and the functions of the United Nations program.

Mrs. Gibson gave a report on the Decatur Council on Adult Education, a ~~newly formed~~ organization ~~by xxxxxxxx~~ now in the process of being formed to set up a clearing house for calls <sup>about</sup> ~~about~~ information concerning educational programs that Decatur has to offer. A master mailing list is to be compiled ~~by~~ by this Council to avoid duplicate mailings. The Decatur Public Library has offered its Telephone and will receive all calls, ~~xxxxxxx~~. Mrs. Gibson asked for discussion as to whether The League should be represented on this council, it was decided ~~we~~ should be. Motion made by Mrs. Hurley asking that Mrs. Smith be made representative. Motion carried. Mrs. Smith accepted, then ~~retaliated~~ by requesting Mrs. Hurley serve as her substitute.

An invitation was received and read from the Springfield League President, Mrs. Robeson, inviting the Decatur League Board ~~to~~ be their guests at a luncheon on October 3rd, for the purpose of getting acquainted and exchanging ideas... Accepted with pleasure etc...

Mrs. Winn in reporting on Voters Service, lead a discussion on the Larkdale Annexation, which comes before the citizens of Decatur for a referendum vote on Oct 4th. As a method of informing the voter on this referendum, it was decided to send a questionnaire to both Mr. Lubin, the Springfield realtor who is proposing to build a group of dwellings in this annexation, and to the objectors, who are represented by ~~three~~ Lawyers, Mr. Henson, Mr. Schroeder and Mrs. *Wilson J. Johnson, Jr.* If answers are obtained that the League feels will be any benefit to the public, they, along with a letter stating the Leagues position on the matter, will be forwarded to the newspapers. In a letter to these parties concerned, the League will inform them their answers May Be ~~gve~~ given to the Newspapers for the public's ~~persect.~~ information. *a 3rd set of questions were sent to city Council members.*

Mrs. Winn also reported she is planning a workshop which will include The election code study, registration, and the voters Handbook.

Mrs McCracken, reporting on The ~~Rxxxxxx~~ Constitutional Revision, advises her workshop on the Revenue Article will begin the last week in Sept. It is to be divided into four main parts: The tax set-up-- Revenue Article--assessment procedure, and the new amendment. All PTA members have been contacted and invited to come to this workshop.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Rachel D. Hurley*  
Substitute for Mrs. Gebhart