

League of Women Voters of Decatur
Minutes for January 18, 1978

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:45 by President Karen Jensen at the home of Kathy Sorensen. Those present were Mesdames Brown, Oldweiler, Ohlsen, Hurst, Marshall, Cantoni, Jensen, Staley and Jacobsen.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as mailed.

The Treasurer, Sue Marshall, reported as follows:

November ⁴ , 1977, checkbook balance		1,415.59
November income	200.00	
December income	<u>93.00</u>	
	293.00	1,708.59
November expense	395.09	
December expense	<u>52.04</u>	
	447.13	
Balance January 1, 1978		1,261.46

President's announcements and correspondence:

A copy of a local newspaper was circulated. An editorial concerned the appointment of Kathy Sorensen to the Decatur Sanitary District Board of Trustees.

Karen Jensen announced that James Bottorf, a professor at Millikin University, is doing a chapter for a book on urban problems. Using Decatur as a locale for his writing, he will be finished sometime in March; he has agreed to share his findings with LWV, possibly at a Spring meeting.

Karen Jensen reported that Elise Hurst had the opportunity to fill up a page of the January AAWV Newsletter with ERA material from LWV's flyer. A propos ERA, Karen reminded us that we need someone who will act as ERA communicator; this post should be filled by January 30.

Reports

1. Membership. The list sent to national LWV includes 85 members. This includes 20 who have not yet paid their dues for this year. The group considered this list, feeling that some would certainly be leaving, some possibly continuing. The membership committee will contact delinquents and determine their intentions. New prospects were discussed and will be contacted.

2. Finance. A chairperson is needed for the Spring finance drive.

3. Units.

Kathy Sorensen gave a summary of the December 14 Juvenile Justice luncheon at Sorensen's. 25 members and 4 guests attended (plus 15 children). The January 11 all-member meeting had 12 members in attendance.

(Units, continued)

Plans for coming units.

Elise Hurst presented questions for use at the February 8 School Finance Consensus study. The group felt that it would be best to put the material into statement form (including more information) with which members could agree or disagree; this was voted upon affirmatively. These will appear in the February Voter.

The February 22 meeting will concern child welfare and juvenile justice. Barbara Brown presented a letter to be sent by Dee Meyerson and Karen Jensen to Robert Riley of the Regional Planning Commission, concerning the need for establishment of an area-wide comprehensive information and referral service. The letter explains LWV general activities and attitudes, and indicates our belief that a service such as he suggests is much needed. The board expressed general approval.

Barbara Ohlsen brought a list of consensus questions for local government unit meetings of March 8. The Board expressed approval. These will appear in the appropriate Voter.

4. Voter service. Becky Risa will be talking to Girl Scouts on Election Laws.

5. Programs

Debbie Staley presented the results of the Energy Consensus--this to be mailed January 31. Acceptance was voted.

We are mailing to national a proposed new study: "Realistic Arms Control Measures to Reverse the Arms Race."
The Board meeting on February 15 will be the deadline for local study ideas.

Annual Meeting: People are needed on committees; budget; nominating; and by-laws.

The next Board meeting will be on February 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Elise Hurst.

Adjourned at 11:50

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Jacobsen, secretary

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS MARCH 8, 1978, CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Should the City of Decatur retain the Council-Manager Form of Government? Why or why not?
2. If you support a change in the form of government, what form should be adopted? Why?
3. Should the City of Decatur remain a Home Rule Unit? Why or why not?

*Copies to
Karen
BJ
Toberman*

SCHOOL STUDY UNITS FEBRUARY 8, 1978 CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Should Decatur increase tax rates in order to get more State funds?
2. Should Decatur have a per pupil tuition charge above the average for districts of similar size?
3. Should a tax rate increase be put to a vote only if there is a deficit or if cuts would have to be made to balance revenue and expenditures?

Dear Mr. Riley:

Thank you for including us in your inquiry about the need for establishment of an area-wide comprehensive information and referral service.

While the League of Women Veterans does have an information service for citizens, it supplies only information about government. We do not serve as an agency helping people directly with their problems. However, our studies are directed to issues (problems) and solutions which can be brought about by government action at some level, local, state or national. Government programs and services are usually involved in the problem areas we have studied such as education, housing, employment, income assistance, child welfare programs, or the correctional system. Our studies are followed by action (lobbying) to improve the program.

As a result of our studies we feel a particular need for a coordination of planning among human service agencies, and a coordinated delivery of services to prevent gaps in, and overlapping of, services. The people to be served should receive the benefits of the various governmental programs in the most efficient and economical way.

We believe a central information and referral service is very much needed. The primary functions you list are important, and such a service is not now available to the citizens in Decatur and Macon County.

Very truly yours,