

League of Women Voters of Decatur, Illinois

Minutes

The Board of Directors met for a regular meeting on May 19, 1977, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1360 West Main, Decatur, Illinois. Karen Jensen, President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Mesdames Jensen, Brown, Loewen, Farrar, Langer, White, Basten, Staley, Jacobsen.

Absent: Ohlsen, Oldweiler, Cantoni, Sorenson.

II Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved as mailed.

III Treasurer's report: Chris Langer reported that as of the first of April, the balance was \$1,015.18. Expenditures were \$307.67. Balance on May 1 was \$1,077.48. Balance this date: \$769.81.

IV Communications:

A. Times for Action: Ginny Farrar reported that the so-called "Pottle Bill" did not pass. The vote went through much faster than expected. There are many big lobbies against passage of such a bill.

B. Public Forum: Karen Jensen relayed information from Bruce Thomas, Center for Illinois Studies, concerning a public forum to be held to get responses from citizens on some five or six issues to be raised in Lindsay-Shaub newspaper releases scheduled for June 4 or 5. The forum would probably be held in the evening several days after the news releases. Decatur LWV is invited to help sponsor it. Barbara Brown moved League participation; move was seconded and passed. Kathy Sorenson will help coordinate public relations efforts.

V Consensus Reports: Barbara Ohlsen sent a written report on the school study. Winnie Loewen moved its acceptance; motion was seconded and passed. Diane Basten indicated a desire to have these position statements publicized with previous notice to the school board. No formal action was taken, but Board members directed Karen Jensen and Barbara Ohlsen to present their new position to the school board once consensus has reached one-statement summary.

Barbara Brown proposed that future consensus be arrived at by questions rather than statements at consensus units. The board agreed.

VI Advise and Consent: Court Monitoring Recommendations on Misdemeanor Arraignments Court were read and minor changes made. The copies were collected again and all matters therein must remain confidential until after court officials respond and it is released to the press here in Decatur after July 15. Barbara Brown moved approval of the report; seconded and approved.

VII Convention Synopsis:

- A. Action Biennium: tabled until the June Board Meeting
- B. Budget: tabled until the June Board Meeting
- C. Action: Judy Head, Nation Board member, will be in town June 5-6. It was decided to have an ERA group meet with her at Karen Jensen's home, Sunday June 5 at 3:00 p.m., if workable.

VIII Board Approval: Chris Langer moved board approval for the following appointments:

Kathy Sorenson; PR (on board appointment)
Bob Basten; Felony Court Watching
Carol Cambell; Storm Water
Dee Meyerson; Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice
Helen Moore; International Relations

The motion was seconded and passed. Those with ideas for other portfolios should call Beth Oldweiler the weekend of May 21-22.

IX Review non-partisan policy of LTV. Discussion of this is tabled until the June meeting.

X Membership; This will be discussed in June.

XI Money-raising ideas; It was mentioned that the last page of the Voter might present advertisements for local firms.

Ginny Farrar announced that her family will be moving to Buffalo, Illinois

New Business; Barbara Brown announced that the Regional meeting will be held in Decatur on September 28. The meeting will require 3 meeting rooms, lunch and babysitting services. The cost of registration would include a 1-hour lunch, jacket service, babysitting from 10 to 3. The regional committee would provide program. Our contact on the committee is Vivien Ugent, 618-457-5258; 2004 Norwood Drive, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901. Debbie Staley will set up a communications table; Barbara Brown will coordinate; Karen Jensen will notify us Ugent that the Board agrees.

The next Board Meeting will be June 16.

Adjournment was at 11:35.

Betty Jacobsen, Secretary

Copies to Mrs H. Wayne Renshaw, AAUW Pres.

39 Eastmoreland Drive 62521

Mrs Mary Schruben, N.O.W. Pres

P.O. Box 1474 Decatur

Mrs Rolf Weidre (Alice) Methodist ERA group.

1265 E. Prairie

May 29, 1977

Dear

We are sponsoring two events in June and we'd like for you and members of your organization to take part. Both events have been organized quickly and we regret that we haven't been able to give you more notice ..Perhaps you could use a phone tree to notify interested members (as we are doing) or make a few phone calls yourself to encourage participation in these events.

EVENT ONE: A Public Forum, funded by the Illinois Humanities Council as an on-going Bi-Centennial Project, will be held Thursday evening, June 9th, 7:30 p.m. at Central Christian Church. A panel of Decaturites will be moderated by Millikin faculty member Robert McIntyre. They will cover areas of education, distribution of wealth, social problems, and natural resources and energy. Prior to the Forum, our local newspaper and the Illinois Times will run a special on the Forum, called the Illinois Perspectives, encouraging citizens to attend the Forum and provide feedback. It's an exciting opportunity for Decaturites to participate in the project, along with 16 other localities in Illinois, and be part of the final report. Please come and urge others to come!

EVENT TWO: An ERA Coalition wine-tasting party to be held Sunday, June 5th, 2:00 p.m. at Jensen's 2180 Summit Court (Home Park). This is an opportunity to meet Judy Head, a national League of Women Veterans Board member from Columbus, Indiana, who was instrumental in getting ERA Passes recently in Indiana. Sue Crateau, from ERA Illinois, will be there to give us the latest word on how WRA fares in the Senate. We will have free plastic ERA bumper stickers to distribute then. Persons attending should bring wine or crackers or cheese or "nibblies." ERA supporters need to be more visible; it isn't enough that we are the silent majority.

Hope to see lots of your members at both events!

Sincerely,

League of Women Veterans
Secretary

May 11, 1977

SCHOOL CONSENSUS and POSITION STATEMENT

1. The school district needs to make a continuing effort to determine the desires of the public concerning its schools.
2. The Board of Education should present a "state of the schools" message at the end of each school year, and also describe plans for the next school year.
3. The school district should continue to place a high priority on meeting the needs of individuals.
4. The school district should increase its efforts to implement its goal of communications with the public.

Informed and active citizen participation in government is basic to the democratic process, and is therefore the cornerstone of the League of Women Voters purpose. This participation is needed at every level of government. The League of Women Voters of Decatur is concerned that the people in this community participate in local government, as well as be interested in the higher, possibly more glamorous levels. The school district, being concerned with the education of the citizens of the future, is a most important government entity.

The League in Decatur has long followed the process of public education here. From time to time, we have studied various aspects of the system, and then reported the consensus of the members to the public. These statements of interest have covered such areas as desegregation, finance and buildings.

This past winter, the study group concerned itself with the educational goals of the district. The committee members talked to board members, school administrators and school staff, using questions about the goal setting process as discussion starters. From these interviews, and fact-finding work, the League members were able to reach conclusions about some of the needs and goals of District # 61.