

League of Women Voters of Illinois
67 East Madison Street, Chicago 60603

DUE MARCH 1, 1964

LEAGUE DECATUR

Prepared by Betty Bachrach

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 1, 1963 - March 31, 1964

1. Did you have orientation meetings on local government and/or political party organization to be March 10 ? Were these held instead of League orientation meetings no ? Do you feel this is a good procedure for orienting new members?

Yes - However, we really should have had more such meetings but our program has been so full that it has been difficult to work them in.

2. How have you tried to increase membership participation this year? Yes

We have had two sets of meetings a month instead of the one that we had had for years - usually one all member meeting plus one set of unit meetings. Some members simply cannot be involved but I think that the variety of activities offered helps to interest more people. Also there is nothing like a good hot controversial local issue.

3. In comparison with other states, the Illinois Leagues have had a lower than average increase in membership. Do you have suggestions on how we might improve?

I think that the proposed new national item might stimulate membership. The welfare item on the State level did for us. We have found that the right wing conservatism of this area is perhaps one reason for our limitations. This could be the reason for the State lag too.

4. Were your dues raised this year? no Did this cause any membership drop? _____ What was the change in (dues: from \$ _____ to \$ _____ (membership: from _____ to _____)

5. Did the memos from state give you adequate guidance on state program? yes, very much
On organization? yes
Do you have suggestions for improvement? no

6. Are there areas in which you would like your League to improve? Can the State or National boards help you? How?

Yes, We would like to attract more members in the "middle age" (I hesitate to use this expression) bracket. We have a good healthy membership among young girls, but their home responsibilities prevent them from taking on too much in League. I don't know that State or National can be of much help. This is probably a local problem.

7. In what areas do you think your League has improved this year (e.g. membership participation in study and discussion, program presentation, consensus reaching, public relations, voters service, resource committees, distribution of publications)? How did you accomplish this?

I think that we have improved in many areas - especially program participation and presentation and consensus.

8. What areas of League program and organization would you like to have discussed at future regional meetings organization structure? Can you suggest ways in which regional meetings can be improved?

Many smaller Leagues need more help in how to set up the organization - especially those such as ours that are having growing pains. We have somewhat solved our problem. However the reason we have so much difficulty in finding a President is that girls are reluctant to take on so staggering amount of work and responsibility. We have no difficulty with program but find people hesitant to obligate themselves to too much tedious work.

9. What has been your proudest achievement?
We have been more or less vindicated in our stand on the school issue of last year that caused such a furor. The school people are now pushing for just what we suggested were the needs of the community. We also can be very proud of our Urban Renewal Study and fact sheet. We are sending a copy of it to our contributors.

10. Has your role as League president been a satisfying one?

Yes, very. At the moment I am a bit weary but it has been one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever undertaken. In fact, I feel a bit guilty that perhaps I have gotten more from that I have given to the job.

11. Date of your 1964 Annual meeting April 8, .964

12. Additional Comments: