INTRODUCTION:

Decatur and some other areas of Macon County are experiencing a shortage of physicians for primary care (internal medicine, pediatrics, family and general practice). Many families with adequate incomes have difficulty locating doctors locally who are accepting new paying patients.

The Decatur League's Health Care Study Committee has surveyed the local physicians and dentists to determine:

- 1. the percentage of primary care and specialty physicians and dentists who are accepting new patients able to pay for service;
- 2. Those health providers who are able to accept new patients who either have a green (Public Aid) card or pink (Thownship general assistance) card which pays a predetermined amount for services rendered;
- 3. Those physicians who accept Medicare assignment for services rendered; (they do not bill the patient separately for the portion of their charge which exceeds Medicare's "reasonable and customary" fee for service);
- 4. Those health providers who are willing to accept monthly payments on bills for services rendered;
- 5. The approximate waiting time for services to ill or "well-care" patients.

The focus of the committee's presentation at the April 13 meeting will be directed to services from area physicians and dentists. However, other study topics to be addressed include:

*****Hospital services available to indigent area residents, including those covered by the federal "Hill Burton" program.

*****Continuation of the local health care study with an aim to produce a printed directory of area health providers, their services and fees.

*****A look at "voluntary" health care agencies in the area, their responses to the League's request for budget information and service statistics and the role of the Community Health Improvement Center (CHIC) in providing regular health care services for disadvantaged families.

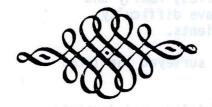
Marianne Erickson, Chairperson of the Health Care Study Committee, and former Executive Director of CHIC will begin the oral presentation at 7:45 p.m. Discussion and a questions and answer period will follow the presentation.

Your interest and attendance are urged. Their is no doubt that you will learn some valuable facts through your participation. Decatur is listed in the Federal Register as a highest priority Health Manpower Shortage Area (HMSA) and a Medically Underserved Area (MUA). Public concern is needed to assure the future of quality health care <u>for all</u> in this area.

HEALTH CARE STUDY COMMITTEE Marianne Erickson, Chairperson Shirley Freshman, Surveyor Alice Stern, Surveyor

LOCAL HEALTH CARE STUDY Take Action. Join the League of Women Voters. Today.

To join the League of Women Voters of Deatur send \$ 30 and this card to Barbara Brown, 233 N. Woodlown, Decatur, 62522



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