

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS, JUNE 2, 1955.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, at 1:30 P.M. in the Chamber of Commerce meeting room.

Present: Mrs. H. W. Gibson, President, presiding,
Mrs. Gershwin Cohn,
Mrs. Ayrle Morris,
Mrs. C.M. Nicholson (Nominating Committee representative),
Mrs. James Leigh,
Mrs. Charles Griffin, Mrs. William Gardner,
Mrs. J. W. Hurley, Mrs. Arthur Adelman,
Mrs. William Winn, Mrs. Fred Schudel,
Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt.
Mrs. Thomas McCracken,

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.
The Treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Cohn, showing a cash balance on hand of \$1,299.61, as of May 31, 1955, and placed on file.

On motion by Mrs. Leigh, seconded by Mrs. Hurley, and carried, the expenses of Mrs. Winn for hotel bill and dinner for her attendance at the State Convention, were approved to be paid, inasmuch as she attended as a state representative on the State Election Committee. Sylvia reminded the delegates to refund the balance due of \$4.50 - still 4 outstanding.

The President introduced to the Board Mrs. William Gardner, (Marjorie), who is to be a new member of the Board and International Relations Chairman, chosen by the Nominating Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Hurley, seconded by Mrs. Smith, carried, to accept the Nominating Committee's nomination of Mrs. Gardner.

Mrs. Adelman reported on the Trade Survey. She stated that there were quite a few reports not yet in.

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Mrs. Smith reported on the Freedom Agenda. The report on the TV program is that those who took part enjoyed it very much, and that those who saw the program thought it was good. Mrs. Smith said that future work on the Freedom Agenda will probably not be done until fall. A community meeting to start it going in the fall was discussed. The President pointed out that we will have a membership luncheon in September and also the Finance Drive. It was thought that it should not take the place of a membership luncheon; that the Freedom Agenda project should be a community-wide thing. It was also brought out that ~~November~~ is UN month. Mrs. Smith said that she would not be in favor of putting off further work until November. She said that in the meantime, she will attempt to establish a community committee, and that the League could discuss it further in September. This will mean some expense to the League in establishing our share of the expenses. The President suggested \$20.00 as the amount to be set aside for this purpose. Mrs. Cohn moved that we authorize the sum of \$20.00 to be available for this purpose when it is needed; seconded by Mrs. Schudel; carried.

The question of the giving out of publications by Chairmen was discussed, and the President said that she felt that every

Chairman should have blanket authority to give out publications when she felt it was indicated. She President further said that she wanted flexibility for the various Board members in their work. Board members are to use their own discretion as to where the various materials of a Chairman shall go, and that such materials should be placed in the community where it will do the most good.

The President stated that volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee. Marcia McCracken and Eileen Gebhardt volunteered to serve.

The President asked the Board members if they wanted copies of letters concerning their various work as Chairmen of the League's committees to be sent to each individual chairman. It was moved by Mrs. Smith that all letters be kept in the regular file of the President; seconded by Mrs. Hurley, carried.

The Finance Drive was discussed by Mrs. Leigh. It was suggested that Mrs. Leigh write a letter to any new members who agree to help solicit, asking them to sit in on a training session. Mrs. Leigh said that she would present her set-up by September, and have cards ready for Board members by the Board Meeting in September.

The President stated that WTVP had called and said that in the fall they will use on their program one club woman a month, and asked if the League would be interested in participating. It was moved by Mrs. Schudel, seconded by Mrs. Hurley, and carried, that we let WTVP know that we will be glad to participate. The program is to be known as "Decatur Club Women on Parade."

Mrs. Gebhardt, Action Chairman, discussed a renewal on the call for action on the Broyles Bills, S.B. 58 and 59, and also a call to action on H.B. 539, which is a proposal to censor social science teaching material in the public schools, known as the "Text-book Censorship Bill."

Mrs. McCracken reported on the revenue matter in connection with the schools. It was decided to write a letter to P.T.A. Presidents to have their Legislative Chairmen sit in on the workshop meetings in the fall.

Mrs. Morris reported on Welfare and the mental health work. She felt that next year we must concentrate in one special area. She felt that we might be most helpful to the community in the study of the County Health Unit work, as this is where the referendum would be initiated. It was the consensus of Board opinion that the direction of her committee should take that of working in the County Health Unit. It was pointed out by the President that this is a continuing responsibility.

Mrs. Nicholson, for Mrs. Martin, passed around the membership map, showing locations of League members. The membership list was also passed for the purpose of adding any new names that Board members might have in mind.

The President pointed out that the next year will be one in which we will have very little political activity, so she feels that it is a good time to give serious consideration to membership - to members who will work - that we work closely with Cauline, so that new people may be contacted for the membership meeting in July. One of Cauline's suggestions is a letter to precinct people.

Mrs. Hurley discussed the Welcome Wagon; that Mrs. Pahmeyer, hostess, was called with reference to meeting new people. She said that she would be glad to deliver pamphlets to new people and to give Rachel a list of them. She is to be extended an invitation to the fall membership meeting. It was decided in the meantime to give her what material we have. Cauline, Rachel and Virginia, are to have blanket approval to purchase any material they feel necessary to give to the Welcome Wagon for this purpose. Motion by Mrs. Morris; seconded by Mrs. Adelman, carried.

Mrs. Smith suggested that Mrs. Martin send names to Board members of people who have indicated interest in their particular field.

Mrs. Gibson discussed the idea of having one new member to go along with an older member to any meetings which may come up where there is only one member notified; and that the League pay their expenses - the new member so chosen to go to be one who has indicated an interest in the particular subject matter coming up at the meeting. Mrs. Cohn was asked to comment on whether or not she felt our finances could stand this sort of thing, and she thought it was an excellent idea and that we could do it from a financial standpoint. It was felt that the League should pay transportation, reservation dinners, hotel bills, if more than a one day meeting. Mrs. Schudel moved that we pay a maximum of \$15.00 on an additional member going with a Board member; seconded by Mrs. Adelman; carried.

The President discussed Unit Meetings attendance and suitable time, looking toward a possible change as to time of day; etc. General discussion followed. It was decided to consider the various suggestions offered; that the Chairman take this consideration over.

Mrs. Gibson discussed H.B. 89, which has to do with School District #61. This has now become a State matter, and we had to get permission from State before we could do anything locally. We have been asked by Mayor Sablotny to send material to Mr. McGaughey, who is the School Board's attorney. She further stated that we are addressing a letter to Mr. McGaughey asking that he not use the material in the name of the League; that we are sending a letter to State asking that they clarify our position so that we would know whether or not we could work on this. Mrs. Phillips' opinion was that the Board would deny us this privilege. She felt that since we were not the only ones concerned with this specific problem, that therefore it was her feeling that State would deny us permission to work in the name of the League. Therefore, if we are asked to go to Springfield and appear, it must be as an individual and not as a member or representative of the League.

The President asked the Board if it was their opinion that we should oppose H.B. 889 if Mrs. Phillips should be mistaken in her opinion. Motion by Mrs. Morris; seconded by Mrs. Winn, that we oppose H.B. 889 if Mrs. Phillips is mistaken; carried. Motion was clarified to the effect that if we are given permission to issue a public statement, that we do so in this case after finding out again what local league membership wants at this time.

The Board agreed to a called meeting sometime in July for the purpose of discussing the year's calendar.

The meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Cileen Gebhardt.

Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, Secretary.

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING OF THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, June 30, 1955.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by the President, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, at her home, 160 E. Kellar Lane.

Present: Mrs. H. W. Gibson, President, presiding,
Mrs. Fred Schudel, Mrs. Charles Griffin,
Mrs. J. W. Hurley, Mrs. Forrest Martin,
Mrs. James Leigh, Mrs. William Winn,
Mrs. John Donovan, Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt,
Mrs. William Gardner, Mrs. Clifford Smith.

The President stated that letters had gone out to all P.T.A. Presidents on the Revenue Workshop, and also to the State officers. The letter stated that the Revenue Workshop would be given, and they were all invited to participate.

Calls for Action were discussed: The textbook censorship bill - HB No. 539 - was passed around, together with Mrs. Phillips' letter concerning it. League opposition to this bill had been expressed before, but we were asked to voice our objections again before the Legislature closes the present session. The remaining so-called Broyles Bill, SB 59, has not yet been signed, the President asked League Board members to write to the Governor requesting that he not sign the bill and citing our objections to it. The Board decided to send a telegram to the Governor concerning this bill, inasmuch as the time is short, setting forth our continued objections and asking his consideration of them. It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Winn, and carried, that the Action Chairman send such a telegram. In regard to State Board permission to work on HB 889, Mrs. Winn read a letter to the President from the State Board, to the effect that they could not authorize action by the Decatur League. The President stated that this would close the file on this matter. A Call for Action on HB 27, the unequal employment bill, but inasmuch as it failed in the Senate, the President stated that we would simply file this Call without further action.

The Mental Health letter and questionnaire were read. The Secretary was instructed to answer the committee, stating that from our study we do not feel in a position to answer the questionnaire.

Mrs. Gardner discussed the agricultural survey. The President suggested that Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Donovan pool their information in a letter to Mrs. McChesney. It was felt that the questionnaire was inaccurate in many of the questions, and that it should be returned to be re-phrased.

The President asked if there were any loose ends of business to be taken up, other than the business the present meeting was called to take care of.

Mrs. Smith reported on the Freedom Agenda Project. She said that there will probably not be a general committee meeting until later on, because Miss Muriel Perry, whom she wants on the community committee, has discussed with her the Library's plan for setting up the "American Heritage Program," and they both feel that they can cooperate to advantage on the meetings. Mrs. Smith will have an exploratory meeting with Miss Perry. Dr. Gage and Mr. Jon Anderson, Architect, will be asked to serve on this committee, and also Miss Gertrude Hill. It was felt that it would be a good thing to have the meetings dovetail. The entire project is now in its formative stage. It was also felt that when fall comes we may want to establish a speakers' bureau.

Mrs. Leigh reported on the Finance meeting she attended. She discussed the pamphlet "It's Your Move," and whether or not to use our local activities on it. It was agreed that Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Gebhardt would get together and make up a list of local activities and send it to Mrs. Leigh for the purpose of deciding what should go on a pamphlet to be used in the Finance Drive. Pamphlets and suggested letters were discussed. It was felt that possibly \$5.00 should be an adequate amount to spend. Opening date for the drive is September 17th. Letters to members will go out in August, and letters to other possible contributors will go out later.

Membership was discussed by the President, and the question of the luncheon was brought up. Everyone was urged to work on possible new members.

Mrs. Donovan brought up the subject of orientation, and what would be discussed at the coffee meeting on July 28th. It was suggested that we use 10 minutes of every unit meeting for an orientation talk.. One meeting a month was also suggested, with not more than eight people at a time, until the entire membership has been given the orientation course.

The President discussed the membership luncheon to be held in September, and said that a speaker should be decided upon. It was agreed to invite Mrs. Phillips, with Mrs. McDowell suggested if Mrs. Phillips could not come. The President stated that she would invite Mrs. Phillips.

Unit meetings were discussed. It was decided to discontinue the Thursday afternoon unit meetings, and to have two meetings on Wednesday - morning and evening. Motion by Mrs. Hurley; seconded by Mrs. Martin; carried. It was decided to hold them at the YMCA if the cost is the same, otherwise the night meeting will be held at the Library. Mrs. Martin was instructed to go ahead and reserve the room if cost is same.

Mrs. Hurley passed around copies of the proposed calendar for the year. Each Board member was asked to go over the calendar carefully; the President stated that it was intended to be very flexible. Mrs. Smith suggested that the Freedom Agenda might be used as a fill-in, if needed, as there would be plenty of material.

It was decided to dispense with the telephone calling prior to Board meetings by the Secretary; that Virginia will send out a copy of the agenda to each member, which should also serve as a reminder of the meeting. Board members who are unable to attend a regular meeting are to let the President know.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, Secretary.