

- II. If your League has a fair housing item on its state or local program, what conclusions has it reached about the advisability and effectiveness of present fair housing legislation at the national, state and/or local level?

The Illinois state consensus of 1967 advocated state and local fair housing legislation. In May 1968 our local consensus reaffirmed the need for local fair housing legislation.

What kinds of legislation do you support?

Comprehensive legislation incorporating provisions for effective enforcement.

What kinds of legislation do you oppose?

Do you think additional and/or different legislation is needed?

Yes, the State of Illinois should enact effective fair housing legislation. Existing local legislation should be revised so as to include enforcement procedures. Legislation should be specific as to prohibited practices and procedures to be followed when making complaints. Provision should be made for funding in sufficient amounts to cover expenses of investigating complaints and bringing cases to court when conciliation fails. The suggestion was made that home owners be required by law to accept any bona fide offer which meets the asking price.

- III. Do you see any problems in the implementation of fair housing laws?

Yes

Describe:

Adequate enforcement is difficult, at least in our local situation. We need a commission which can initiate complaints as well as adequate staff to investigate complaints. Evidence is difficult to obtain in many of these cases, especially when enforcing bodies cannot subpoena witnesses. There often seems to be a lack of "follow-through" on complaints.

- IV. If your League has already made a survey of housing,

A. What are your major findings?

B. How do you interpret the climate of opinion in your community with respect to residential desegregation?

No survey has been taken as yet.

*Westenhaver*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR  
Decatur, Illinois

November 20, 1968

The meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Irene Homan, 46 Larry Drive, with Mrs. Keith Westenhaver presiding.

PRESENT: MRS. DUMAS, Westenhaver, Barber, Schade, Hippler, Johnson, Crow, Protzman, Weinman, Dakin, Dumas, Heilman, Beck, Mae and Homan.

ABSENT: Mesdames Mann, Butler and Miller.

MINUTES: Approved as corrected under Publications, 1st sentence from "Mrs. Weinman announced that the Water Bond Referendum information will go out" to "the Water Bond Referendum information has been sent."

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cash on hand 10-31-68, \$447.82. Total Receipts, \$71.90. Total Expenditures, \$97.68. Cash on hand, 11-20-68, \$442.04.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Mrs. Mae invited Board Members to coffee Wednesday morning, December 18 at 10 PM. 2) Kay Butler asked Mrs. Westenhaver to announce that the VOTER deadline will be December 18. 3) Janet Mann wants to be informed of any budget requests in order to prepare for the Annual Meeting. 4) A group in Vandalia is considering forming a Local League in that community and would like to attend meetings in nearby communities. It was suggested that we invite them to our Holiday Dessert in December.

MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. Dumas reported on the Springfield Workshop. The theme was "Where Have All the Members Gone?" She discovered that Decatur L.W.V. dues seem to be higher than most of the other Locals represented at the meeting. The Board had a general discussion of Mrs. Dumas' report, including dues and babysitting fees. We discussed attracting younger members, and Mrs. Westenhaver pointed out that while Voting members must be 21, there are provisions for Associate Memberships. It was suggested that we discuss the problem further at another meeting, perhaps at the coffee at Mrs. Mae's. There was general agreement that more discussion was needed at the earliest opportunity. Mrs. Schade, Organization Vice President suggested Mrs. Dumas ask Mrs. Schiller of State for a breakdown on how other Leagues set fees. Mrs. Dumas told of plans for orientation meetings the first week in December. They would be held in a series of three in the north, south and west sections of Decatur. Committee chairmen would be on hand to explain the workings of their committees.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Crow, Program and Action Vice President, said that the Dec. 11 meeting will center on a discussion of National League program. Each chairman will give a brief orientation type resume of that committee's present activities, (and if it is a two-year study, what she expects to do next year) and what the accomplishments have been so far. This will also be the time for First Round Suggestions for State Study Items. It is the opportunity for our League to enter suggestions for State Program. Mrs. Crow suggested we write our suggestions ahead of time for greater efficiency.

A request was presented from Mrs. Panetti's School Study Committee to put out a fact sheet on the CCI study to be presented to League Members in the VOILER and for distribution to Community groups interested in Education. Some topics to be included might be: what is CCI?, League's position on School Integration and CCI, How severe is the integration problem in Decatur?, The Compensatory Education Program, The Effect on High Achievers.

It was agreed that Mrs. Fanetti doesn't need permission for her committee to prepare a fact sheet, but the fact sheet would have to be approved before distribution. The Board recognized the need for Leagues and others to know what is going on.

The title of the Dec. 11 "Christmas Dessert" was changed to "Holiday Dessert" to include all religious observations during the season. Mrs. Schade and Mrs. Weisman will handle refreshments. Mrs. Weisman brought up the subject of baby sitting again. It was agreed we should pay the minimum wage to sitters. (\$5.00 was suggested.) In a discussion on whether we should have a policy on ages of children, it was decided that when the meetings are held at Westminster it wouldn't be necessary, since there are cribs and other facilities for handling babies. Mrs. Kee moved that sitters be paid a flat rate of \$5.00, that League subsidize sitting so that no mothers will have to pay, and that any rules be made available to all mothers. Seconded and passed. It was suggested that the new policy on the baby sitting budget be referred to the Budget Committee.

FINANCE: Mrs. Kee gave a brief report of the topics covered at the State Meeting on the 50th Anniversary Drive. She requested that she be informed of any deaths among our contributors. Mrs. Deakin moved that we approve Mrs. Kee's request for a City Directory. Seconded and passed. This should also be referred to Mrs. Mann for budget. It was determined that we must set up a special bank account for the 50th Anniversary Drive.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Mrs. Beck presented the National Consensus reports for Human Resources as follows: (See attached sheets)  
A condensed version of the consensus will appear in the VOICE.

PUBLICATIONS: The Illinois Voter is not out yet. Mrs. Weisman will bring the Board reports to the December 11 Holiday Dessert.

Mrs. BUSINESS:

There was a general discussion of the Mumor Control Center. The Board would like to re-evaluate our involvement in the project.

Mrs. Modford, Mailing Chairman, asked for permission to apply to the Post Office as a non-profit group for a mailing permit. According to her investigation, there would be a \$50.00 annual fee. Broken down, that would amount to 1.4 cents an ounce for quantities of 200. (That would amount to \$2.80 per bulletin mailing. This would bring our annual mailing cost to \$58.00 per year.) There would be no inserts allowed in the Bulletin, which would mean that dues notices and statements would run around \$15.00 annually. The request was approved for a 1-year trial. *This request should be submitted to Budget Committee.*

Mrs. Westenhaver accepted some proposed names for the nominating committee, and will contact those people suggested.

The next meeting will be at the home of Fran Lee, December 18 at 10 AM.

Adjournment, 3:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted  
Mary Jane Kipples*

Proposed Answers

GUIDELINES FOR FAIR HOUSING STANDARDS

I. The following criteria should be applied to programs and policies to provide equal opportunity in access to housing:

A. The housing market should operate free of restrictions based on race, color, religion, national origin.

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on the Illinois state consensus of 1967 and local Decatur consensus of May 1968.

What changes or elaborations should be made?

B. Government at all levels and the private sector as well have a role to play in the nationwide effort to achieve equality of opportunity in access to housing.

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on the Illinois state consensus of 1967 and local Decatur consensus of May 1968.

What changes or elaborations should be made?

C. Federal programs should include provisions to guarantee equal rights in access to housing. Federal funds should be withheld from communities in which discrimination in access to housing occurs.

Does your League agree in part? Yes In full? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Consensus of opinion was that housing funds definitely should be withheld in such cases. Other funds might be withheld on a selective basis, however, a great deal of concern was expressed about funds which benefit the poor and/or minority groups. If funds are cut, they should be in areas that affect all groups in the community, rather than just the low-income residents.

There was a minority opinion that all federal funds should be cut from communities failing to guarantee equal rights in housing access.

B. In the enforcement of fair housing laws,

1. Administrative procedures and responsibilities should be clearly defined.

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on state and local consensuses mentioned in IA and IB.

What changes or elaborations should be made?

2. Mediation and legal redress should be readily available

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on state and local consensuses mentioned above.

What changes or elaborations should be made?

3. Funding should be adequate to help insure prompt enforcement

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on state and local consensuses mentioned above.

What changes or elaborations should be made?

4. Continued evaluation should be encouraged and procedures should be revised when indicated.

Does your League agree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? Yes  
Does your League disagree in part? \_\_\_\_\_ In full? \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of disagreement or agreement:

Agreement is based on state and local consensuses mentioned above.

What changes or elaborations should be made?