

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1026 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

LOCAL LEAGUE

De catur

STATE

Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT 4/1/60 - 3/31/61

VOTERS SERVICE (Cont'd)

E. Give the Voter a Hand

1. Did you find this a helpful tool?
2. Comments, suggestions?

*Interesting - not used in detail*

F. Swap Shops

General usefulness and suggestions for future content; i.e., number of issues per year and time of year most useful; themes that might be covered.

III. Reports and comments on special projects.

A. Describe what you did in connection with each of the following and add any comments you think would be helpful to the national Board in judging the advisability of cooperating in future proposals.

1. Rexall Drug Company
2. Lane Bryant Stores
3. Department of Defense

B. Describe (including statistics where possible) how requests from the following business and companies were followed up: Kroger Company; Calumet-Hecla; American Can Company.

1. Did you see or give materials to them?
2. Do you feel this has been a fruitful contact for public relations? Financially? Please explain in detail.

IV. Give examples of typical nonpartisanship problems.

V. Cite any outstanding examples of members' "work as individuals in the political party of their choice."

A LOOK AHEAD

I. Specific suggestions for types of national materials to be provided in 1964 Presidential Election Year.

II. Suggestions for national Voters Service materials to help take government to the community. Would you find an up-to-date series on the Federal Government helpful? Workshop outlines? Discussion guides? Other suggestions? See November 1960 National Board Report, p. 18; reference, Chapter 10, Give the Voter a Hand.

1. "Plans for immediate future"
2. Suggestions.

*2 fifty-seven local candidates will appear at public meeting this month & be presented to the voters.*



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VOTERS SERVICE  
OUTLINE OF SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED  
IN THE ANNUAL REPORT FORMS - 1960

Introduction: A Presidential election year is so unusual, occurring as it does only once in four years, that we are asking for a comprehensive report to guide us in the future. Voters Service in an ordinary year does not tell us what we need to know in planning for Presidential year activities. The following report form may look a little overwhelming. Actually we don't believe it is; what we have tried to do is break things down into specific parts in order to make it easier for you to use these forms. When answering the questions included here be sure to review the November National Board Report, pp. 17-19. This will give you the thinking behind the questions on this form. In particular we would like to call your attention to the thought that these questionnaires will be particularly helpful in planning for Council discussion as well as future Voters Service materials. If samples of material are available please attach to the form you fill out.

A GLANCE BACK - WHAT DID WE LEARN IN 1960?

- I. Report on 1960 local League projects
  - A. Please give statistical information on published materials produced by state and local Leagues; include financing and distribution details.
  - B. Statistics on candidates meetings held by local Leagues. Comments on attendance, experimentation with format for both live and TV meetings.
  - C. Comments on radio and TV time. Estimated audience reached.
  - D. Describe work in areas where there are no Leagues.
  - E. Describe cooperative efforts with political parties.
  - F. Report on special projects not included above. (Cooperation with Chamber of Commerce Courses in Practical Politics, cooperation with business, speakers bureaus, etc.)
  
- II. Evaluation of 1960 national materials.
  - A. TV Spots ("Mr. Smug," "On Election Day")
    1. Which did you use, and how?
    2. Comments, suggestions.
  
  - B. Excerpts from the 1960 Party Platforms Publication
    1. Number and way in which used.
    2. Comments, suggestions.
  
  - C. Flyer, On Election Day
    1. Number and way in which used
    2. Comments, suggestions
  
  - D. Newspaper mats (Registration set; "Telephone League" mat; "VOTE" mat)
    1. Number and way in which used.
    2. Comments, suggestions

*voters Service was responsible for a Candidates questionnaire published in Sunday newspaper last October. All local + state Candidates answered questions posed by League.*



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Return one copy of this report to your state League (or more than one copy if your state League so instructs). In addition, the national office would like to receive a copy directly if you can reproduce an extra one without too much inconvenience. The address of the national office is 1026 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. Local Leagues in Alaska and Hawaii should send their reports directly to the national office.

ANNUAL REPORT  
April 1, 1960--March 31, 1961  
Local and Provisional Leagues

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DeCATUR STATE Ill

Population of community (Latest census figure or more recent estimate) 77,000

Congressional District 22

Number of paid voting members, 3-31-61 (estimated) 117

Number of associate members, 3-31-61 (estimated) 0

Net increase (estimated) of paid voting members and associate members since 3-31-60 5

OR  
Net decrease (estimated) of paid voting members and associate members since 3-31-60 —

Number of members not renewing, 4-1-60 - 3-31-60 (estimated) 11 (2 others because of moving)  
(This does not mean net change, but total of members who dropped out.)

Number of new\* members who were members in another League in 1959-60 0

Does your League have a local bulletin? Yes How frequently published? 8 or 9 times a year

How frequently do your members meet in discussion units or other kinds of member meetings to discuss League Program?

7 months at 3 unit meetings, Annual meeting

In what area or areas do you think your League has improved this year (e.g. membership participation in program coverage, program selection, consensus reaching, public relations, Voters Service, more active resource committees, year-round resource committees, distribution of publications among members or among community.) Describe.

New members more active as a result of being called + reminded of unit meetings + Orientation meeting for new members. Also than membership list usually put out in Nov., added to it Bond, Tentative meeting dates + places + topics, Current agenda, addresses of National + State LWV offices, past presidents of LWV (local + NS) + State Senators + Representatives

\*Joined your League in 1960-61.

Nov., added to it Bond, Tentative meeting dates + places + topics, Current agenda, addresses of National + State LWV offices, past presidents of LWV (local + NS) + State Senators + Representatives



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Are there one or two important areas in which you would like your League to improve? Why? Are these areas that the state and/or national Boards can help you with? How?

We wish that more of our members took an active part in the program, but we feel this is our own responsibility. Somehow, we have to make the meetings sound interesting so that more people will attend our meetings; those who take part in the various workshops are enthusiastic about the material offered.

We wish that we had a greater cross-section of our population in the League, but that again is up to us.

Have you any suggestions for changes in basic national or state policies or procedures which would increase the effectiveness of the League or improve the service from national or state Boards? If so, please describe, giving reasons for suggestions and possible solutions or methods for improvements.



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FOREIGN POLICY (CA AND UN CR)

Describe the coverage your local League has given the Current Agenda Item, e.g., kind and extent in League and in community; year-round resource committee and frequency of meetings; kind and number of meetings with the membership, type of community meetings; use of radio and/or television; legislative activity in support of League positions. Other activity? Include what your League has done in regard to the United Nations Continuing Responsibility, especially any work you may have done on the Connally Amendment.

*14 members participated in a work-shop series of 5 meetings. (We do not have a year-round committee.) At two of the meetings we had men from local mfg. firms with special knowledge of business expansion abroad. We had 3 unit meetings with more than average attendance & enthusiastic discussion at each one. Stressed O.E.C.D. Treaty & the action needed to pass it.*

In preparation for Council, the national Board is anxious to have any additional information or observation on consensus under the Current Agenda which you think would supplement the consensus letters asked for in the National Board Reports of May and November 1960.

*(1) We feel any wide-spread "Buy-American" wave would be detrimental to our foreign policy. (2) The quality of our exports should be improved to aid in competition abroad.*

How useful were the following national materials:

Economic Diplomacy at Home and Abroad. August, 1960.

*Very helpful. New members in workshop found "Hard Choices" easier for them to follow. Some would like to have the name or names of those who write the material in booklets printed on same.*

Hard Choices. December, 1960.

Foreign Policy Roundups (especially June, 1960 - the United Nations - and September, 1960).

Pocket Reference on the UN.

*Report will be made by C R Chairman.*

VOTER articles (specify which were the most useful and how were they useful, e.g. to resource committees, as member preparation for discussion).

*April 1960 issue used in particular this year in resource committee work.*

Have you any comments in regard to the scope and manageability of the Current Agenda?

*In our unit meetings I used Change as the key word of our economic policies at home and abroad. Tried to point out reasons for change in attitudes and methods.*

Have you comments on the amount and kind of direction by the national Board in the implementation of the Current Agenda?

*(1) I should like to have information on the President's proposed Peace Corps as a tool in aiding developing countries. (2) The inclusion of labor-management cooperation to aid competition in trade.*

If you have cooperated on any CCCMF project, such as the handling of foreign visitors, did your cooperation result in greater interest in the foreign policy item?

*We have had no opportunity to cooperate on any CCCMF project; but we have members who work in the American Field Service project and there is much community interest in all foreign students in our high schools and our university.*

(Over)



At the unit meetings, preceding discussion we used a device to illustrate the difference between the meanings of "balance of trade" in our favor and the "balance of payments" deficit. He had a brass balance with items (mostly toys) to represent the "income" and "outgo" and followed the demonstration with an interesting explanation of gold as a medium of exchange and how it actually "flies" from one country to another.

These meetings were <sup>held</sup> only a few days ago; consequently we have no community work to report now. I am planning, first of all, a letter to the Editor of our Daily Newspapers.

P. A. just received today, March 1st, my copy of the February National Voter. Wish it had arrived a couple of weeks ago with its article, "All About Gold," etc.

Lola P. Smith  
(Mrs. Clifford E. Smith)



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#### NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Describe your activities on national CRs under the questions listed below. Be specific about work on each CR when possible. For your convenience the CRs are listed by brief title: 1) Water resource development (Please describe inter-League river basin or regional groups under the special questions); 2) United Nations (Please report under Foreign Policy); 3) loyalty-security; 4) home rule and national suffrage; 5) item veto; 6) constitutional limitation on taxes; and 7) treaty powers - Bricker Amendment.

Please describe any especially successful techniques used by your League to present the national CRs or to arouse interest in them.

The National CRs were presented at the February unit meetings, and were demonstrated by a flip chart that was used during the ten-minute presentation. Then a short briefing was given on possible action to come up this year.

The United Nations was recognized during UN week by giving pocket references to the Social Studies teachers of the High Schools and to the reference departments of the libraries and bookmobiles. The membership were notified of the exhibit and radio program planned by the public library.

What action has been taken on the national CRs by your League as an organization and by its members as individuals?

None, at the present time.



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NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES (Cont'd)

Are your members prepared for action on any or all of the national CRs?

They are prepared for action on 1, 3 and 4.

Since the UN has undergone so much stress and change, we would be very likely to need study concerning any issue that might come up, before we would be prepared for action.

In which national CRs are your members most interested? In which are they least interested?

They are most interested in 1 and 3.

To what do you attribute the presence or absence of interest in and preparedness for action on the national CRs?

Interest in 1. (water resources development) and 3. (Loyalty-security) is due to the fact that they have studied them on the state as well as the national level. Also they have studied 1. on the local level. Many have had memorable experiences in both these fields.



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NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES (Cont'd)

Is your League participating in an inter-League group working on a river basin or regional water problem? If so, with what group?

No.

Describe briefly what your League has done as a member of that inter-League group.

What materials have you prepared this year on regional or river basin situations, problems, solutions, etc.?

None.



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NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES (Cont'd)

Did your League find national materials useful in working on national CRs? What material proved most useful? What changes in material or type of material would you suggest to better fit it for your use?

Pamphlet, "National Continuing Responsibilities 1960-1962" and National Voter are very helpful to any interested member.

The chairman also found the May "National Board Report" useful.

I cannot suggest any improvement. I am always impressed with the great wealth of material available, and would feel deluged if there were even more.



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### STATE CURRENT AGENDA

Describe briefly and evaluate your League's activity on State Current Agenda. Include amount of coverage in League and in community, including type and number of meetings of membership, community meetings, whether you have year-round resource committees for each item and if so, how they carry out their work; use of radio and/or television; and if your state has positions on its state Current Agenda, indicate the type of legislative activity taken in support of these positions.

"To work for a Constitutional Convention"

There was a regional meeting in Lincoln on Sept 7. Resource committee met weekly from Sept 19 - Nov 7. Reported to unit meetings (3) to membership on Nov 15-16. Distributed materials - gave information on books in local library and bibliography of League materials available for study. The committee compared Illinois Constitution with ideal constitution, and with a further comparative study will be forthcoming from state committee.

Spoke to Business and Professional Women Oct 12 on election and responses of state candidates to questions (one on constitutional revision). Spoke to orientation meeting of new members on December 8th. Resource committee will resume meetings on two pamphlets issued by State Committee on "Commissions" and Representation at a Constitutional Convention.

No legislative action yet. may occur in this session

How useful were the state Board's materials, if any; state area conferences or workshops, if any; and state Board services on the state Current Agenda in general.

State committee help - adequate and very helpful.



# Election Laws

## ACTIVITIES

September meeting featured talk by Prof. Gove of Univ. of Ill. on "Rethinking the Primaries?"  
October regional meeting in Decatur - attended election laws session.

General election information talk to women's group of Congregational Church

Television talk over WCIA explaining League's purpose and attitudes regarding election law reform.

Consensus in favor of supporting legislation to waive state residency requirements for new Ill. residents in election of presidential electors.

## STATE BOARD'S MATERIALS

Excellent publications which ~~are~~ are our best source of up-to-date, easily-obtainable information.

## Revenue

Workshop Committee met weekly before reporting to the Three unit <sup>meetings</sup> of general membership. Charts were used in unit presentations. Later one of the charts was mimeographed for distribution to membership and other organizations. One all day workshop meeting was open to all the membership. Campaign and Lincoln Revenue Committees were invited to this meeting. Campaign's Resource Committee gave us results of part of their Revenue study. Revenue information has been taken to the public at Education Association members meeting, Home Bureau Unit meetings (a county organization), Professional Women's organizations. Committee members have attended State and Regional Revenue meetings - Always an inspiration. Members of our committee attended a Revenue study sponsored by our Public Library. No legislative action yet, but probably will be in this session. State Board publications, material and services very helpful.



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STATE CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

(For use in states having state Continuing Responsibilities)

Describe League activity on any of your state Continuing Responsibilities. Include membership coverage, community activity, and legislative action taken, if any.

In November an original skit "The State of 'Ill'inois" was given, with two characters - Mr. State being quite ill, and the Doctor advising how he could recover. During the conversation between the patient and doctor most of the State Continuing Responsibilities were discussed.

Also in November we discussed the 10 State Continuing Responsibilities, and at that time decided to provide space each month in our local league bulletin for an explanation of one or two of the State Continuing Responsibilities.



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### LOCAL PROGRAM

Describe briefly the activity of your local League on your Local Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities. Include mention of publications or other printed or mimeographed materials, how you developed resource people, number and kinds of discussion meetings involving the membership, community activities, consensus, and action, if any.

#### A. The Study of Different Forms of County Government

I. The Purpose of this year's effort was to lay the foundation for future detailed studies and recommendations.

#### 2. The Discussion:

- a) Number of people involved were eight
- b) There were 10 workshops in all; one on orientation, one for job assignment, some were definitive, and several featured progress reports. In April the findings will be reported to 3 unit meetings.

#### 3. The Activities:

- a) Attendance of the County Board of Supervisors meetings
- b) Interview with the City Planner

#### 4. The Conclusions reached were:

- a) That the local form of county government could be improved.
- b) That Future Study was warranted.

#### 5. The Sources of information used:

- a) State and National League of Women Voters
- b) Individual leagues whose agenda items were similar
- c) National Municipal League
- d) Bureau of Community Planning, University of Illinois
- e) University of Ill. Institute of Government & Public Affairs

#### f) Various books and publications:

1. Illinois Revised Statutes
2. Ill. State Constitution
3. Model county charter
4. Guides for Charter Comm.
5. Digest of County Managers and Laws
6. County Officer (monthly magazine)
7. Government in Rural America (Lancaster)
8. County Government across the Nation (Wager)
9. American State and Local Government (Clyde Snider)
10. American County Government (Bromage)
11. State and Local Government (Johnsan)

*Mrs Roger Mauter*

*Sara K.  
Mary Beth*



**B. Study of Health Services in Decatur and Macon County**

**1. Purpose**

- a. To ascertain exactly what health services are available in Decatur and in Macon County
- b. To determine whether these services are adequate to insure a good health climate for the area
- c. To determine what changes, if any, would be necessary to insure good services

**2. Workshops**

- a. This years work is planned to cover a. and b. under Purpose
- b. There have been 5 workshops thus far and two more are planned before presentation of the Unit in March
- c. Approximately 9 members have attended each of the workshops
- d. The members divided the study into three Health areas with three members working on each of the areas

**3. References and Resource Persons**

- a. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 180
- b. Municiple Code, City of Decatur; State Statutes and Regulations
- c. Information from Illinois Department of Public Health and its various Divisions
- d. Interviews with:
  - Acting Health Officer, City of Decatur
  - Supt. of Sanitary District, City of Decatur
  - Supt. of Water Department, City of Decatur
  - Chrm. of Health Committee of Board of Supervisors of Macon County
  - Executive of Division of Local Health Services of Dept. of Public Health, State of Illinois
  - County Clerk, Township Clerk
  - County Veterinarian
  - Supt. of City of Decatur Animal Shelter

Note: This study was undertaken with the understanding that it would be a two year study, therefore we do not plan to make reccommendations until the work is completed.

*Mrs. Nat Kessler*



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LOCAL PROGRAM (Cont'd)

If the two most important goals in local program work are widespread member participation in all phases and the actual accomplishment of the purpose of the program item; and you are less than completely satisfied with your local program work, did the trouble lie in

- a) program selection
- b) collection and preparation of study materials
- c) planning and executing good meetings
- d) reaching consensus
- e) building public interest
- f) achieving successful action.

N.B. If your League has more than a one-item agenda indicate to which item your remarks apply unless they apply to all.

**In general we can awaken more interest in local program than  
in other phases of our program.**



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    1. Number and way in which used.
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Candidates' questionnaire published in Sunday  
newspaper last October. State & local Candidates  
answered questions - 12 - posed by League.*



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*Interesting - not used in detail*

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General usefulness and suggestions for future content; i.e., number of issues per year and time of year most useful; themes that might be covered.

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2. Lane Bryant Stores
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B. Describe (including statistics where possible) how requests from the following business and companies were followed up: Kroger Company; Calumet-Hecla; American Can Company.

1. Did you see or give materials to them?
2. Do you feel this has been a fruitful contact for public relations? Financially? Please explain in detail.

IV. Give examples of typical nonpartisanship problems.

V. Cite any outstanding examples of members' "work as individuals in the political party of their choice."

A LOOK AHEAD

I. Specific suggestions for types of national materials to be provided in 1964 Presidential Election Year.

II. Suggestions for national Voters Service materials to help take government to the community. Would you find an up-to-date series on the Federal Government helpful? Workshop outlines? Discussion guides? Other suggestions? See November 1960 National Board Report, p. 18; reference, Chapter 10, Give the Voter a Hand.

1. "Plans for immediate future"
2. Suggestions.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Do you have a Public Relations Committee? No

What responsibilities does your committee have?

To what extent do you plan an overall public relations program?

2. Newspaper publicity: About how often do you submit stories to your local paper(s)?

Once or twice a month  
What types of stories are you writing? (news features, column, etc.)

Have you used "follow up" stories on your activities? League activity reports  
YES

Have you used pictures? YES

Letters to the editor? No - only by individuals, not official League letters

3. To what extent does your League use radio or television?

Whenever time is donated

What types of programs are you doing?

4. What other Public Relations tools did you use? Describe briefly.

Speakers Bureau (do you contact others or wait for requests?) ✓

Exhibits, posters, displays

Special letters or flyers to members or community

Publications ✓

Calling lists or card file for personal contacts, other organizations.

Other. Our "This is Macon County" book was sent to all finance drive contributors.

5. What would you say was your most outstanding public relations effort this year? Describe briefly.

1. Publicity on our "This is Macon County" book
2. Candidates Meeting



6. What do you think was the weakest feature?

---

7. What public relations help would your League like to have from State? National?

---

8. What use have you made of GUIDELINES?

Have not received them since last Aug.

9. What has been done to promote understanding of the importance of public relations in the League among your Board and membership?

I believe our Board realizes the importance of good public relations.

10. Would you say that your League is taking full advantage of the opportunities in your community to (1) build understanding of the League and (2) build support for issues on the League program?

1. Yes

2. Yes.



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TREASURER'S REPORT  
April 1, 1960 - March 31, 1961

INCOME

Dues	\$	<u>560.00</u>
Member Contributions		<u>169.00</u>
Non-member Contributions		<u>871.00</u>
All other receipts: (from projects) (from reserves, etc.)		<u>142.17</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$	<u><u>1742.17</u></u>

EXPENDITURES

Local Disbursements	\$	<u>883.03</u> <sup>23</sup>
State and National Services		<u>675.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	<u><u>1558.03</u></u>

CASH STATEMENT

Cash balance (including savings) on hand March 31, 1960	\$	<u>799.75</u>
Estimated cash balance (including savings) on hand March 31, 1961	\$	<u>1170.51</u>

FINANCE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Total Campaign Goal \$1000 \$ 1040

Actual No. of persons who contributed

Members 23

Non-members (Individuals) 91

Business firms           

Actual No. of workers 48







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PUBLICATIONS

How many of your board members regularly read all or most national publications? All receive them

Does your league subscribe to National "Standing Orders"? yes

If so, how many? 10

Do you have a plan for circulating national publications among your board members? yes

How many of your board members subscribe to National "Subscription Service"? none

Is it paid for by local league budget? none

How many of your league members, not on the board, subscribe to National "Subscription Service"? none

What part of your non-board league members are well-read on national program? Probably about 1/3 non-board members - those who are active members

How many of your board members regularly read all or most state program materials? All receive them

What part of your non-board members are well-read on state Program? Explain. Probably all active members - about one third total membership

Does your league have a local subscription service? no

How many subscribers? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did you charge for this service? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What publications did you provide this year?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you distribute these publications?



How much does your league budget for publications to be given away? \$ not specifically

How did your league use publications to take League program to your community? Publications are occasionally sold to the schools and education groups - But this is done as a service, not to promote the League

Name of publication      How many copies      Given      Sold      To what organization or groups of people?

Describe as fully as possible your experiences, good and bad, in this field. What you are learning can be very helpful to other leagues.

My experiences have all been enjoyable, but somewhat routine. The two ways I would suggest to my successor to make this position more rewarding are:

1. See that publications pertinent to a particular topic are distributed before the unit meeting on this topic.
2. Get publications before the public eye - by displaying them in the library, or at credit meetings etc.

What comments would your board like to make about state publications? Suggestions for improvement or changes will be carefully studied by the State Board.

In general we think the publications are good but we do hope you can keep the prices as low as possible. (The publication on Continuing Responsibilities on the national level is less expensive than the state publication.)