

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN STATE LEAGUE BYLAWS FROM LWV OF DECATUR
1969

1. ARTICLE V - Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers, seven elected Directors, and not more than seven appointed Directors of the League. (Reason for change: Provisions pertaining to Directors' election, term of office, and manner of selection should go in Article V along with other members of Board of Directors.)

Sec. 2. Powers and Duties. (Same first two sentences) It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States for the organization and development of local Leagues, for the carrying out of the national program and for helping local Leagues obtain the funds necessary to carry out the work of the League at the local, state and national levels. The Board shall create special committees as it may deem necessary.

(Reason for change: Clarifies third sentence and leaves out "transmission" statement because that duty is covered in Article VII - Financial Admin.)

Sec. 3 Regular Meetings. (Same wording, change in section number)

Sec. 4 Special Meetings. (Same wording, change in section number)

Sec. 5 Quorum. (Same wording, change in section number)

Sec. 6. Vacancies. (Replace "elected member" with "Director" so it reads: Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or director shall be filled, until the next Convention, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

(Reason for change: All who are not officers are directors, appointed directors are replaced in same way.)

2. ARTICLE IX - Nominations and Elections

Sec. 4. Election. In last sentence delete "present and", so as to read: "A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election."

(Reason for change: To make sense and to be consistent with model Bylaws.)

3. ARTICLE XI - Council and Interim Council

(Reason for change: Distinguishes between and accounts for both)

Sec. 1. Composition. The Council and Interim Council shall be composed of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Illinois and the president, or her appointed proxy, of each local and provisional League.

Sec. 2. Council. The Council shall have three meetings in years in which there is a State Convention and two in years in which there is no convention unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors. The Council shall act as a forum for the discussion and promotion of League Program and other activities.

Sec. 3. Interim Council. The Interim Council shall meet every other year approximately twelve months after the last Convention. It is authorized to make such modifications in program as shall be necessary to meet altered conditions, provided that notice of proposed modifications of the program shall have been sent to the presidents of local Leagues at least two months in advance of the meeting, and provided also that a two-thirds majority of members present and voting shall approve the modifications. It

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shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented.

Sec. 4. Notice of Meetings. Notice shall be sent by the President to the presidents of the local and provisional Leagues at least thirty days before a council meeting.

(Reason for change: This applies to both Council and Interim Council and can either be a separate article of contents added at end of Sec. 2 & 3)

Sec. 5. Quorum.

(Reason for change: As stated for reason under change in title, this arrangement of article and section distinguishes between and accounts for both Council and Interim Council making it easier for local Boards and members to understand. Some wording changed but no change in meaning.)

RUMOR CONTROL
BOARD REPORT
2-15-69

In August of 1968, Mr. Abe Burstein, Human Relations Commission Chairman, asked for volunteers from League of Women Voters to help staff a Rumor Control Center in Decatur. The Decatur Junior Chamber of Commerce was also asked to participate. At the August Board meeting several Board members volunteered and it was agreed to seek further information on the subject.

Two meetings were held with representatives of both groups meeting with Mr. Burstein and City officials (Police Chief Harold Lindsten, Captain James Slade and Community Relations Director Charlie Jackson.) The first meeting was held in the City Council Chambers Nov. 12, 1968. Mr. Burstein asked Mrs. Charles Hippler to be Coordinator for League, and Mr. Gerald Overton to serve in the same capacity for the Jaycees. Mrs. Bonnie Katt has agreed to assist Mrs. Hippler, and after telephone calls to the entire League Membership, assurance of help was received from approximately 29 League Members.

At that meeting, and at a training session in the Municipal Building January 6, 1969, the plans for the Rumor Control Center were outlined. (The training session included a tour of the two locations where volunteers would be working and an explanation and demonstration of equipment and materials to be used.) Further training sessions will be held until all volunteers have been trained in procedures and in the use of equipment.

The Center will be located in Mr. Jackson's office on the 5th floor of the Municipal Building. Two telephone lines (the numbers are 423-3421 and 423-3422) have been installed to be used exclusively for Rumor Control and there is a two-way radio hook-up on a frequency separate from all other police and fire frequencies for communications between Rumor Control and "Central Station", the Police Radio Room on the ground floor.

In describing the set-up, Chief Lindsten said there will be an officer on duty in the Rumor Control Center at all times to lend assistance and information. Two volunteers would man the telephones and keep a complete log of all phone calls, including names, if possible, telephone numbers for call-back once the rumor is checked out, and the nature of the call. Once a report of an incident has been received and has been checked out, another volunteer will write that information on the blackboard to avoid duplication of effort. Another volunteer will be stationed downstairs in Central Station, leaving one more volunteer to lend assistance as needed. It was recommended that no volunteers should have to serve for more than two hours at a time. Each shift would include three volunteers from LWV and three from the Jaycees. Coffee and aspirin will be provided for those staffing the center.

The City is still awaiting delivery of a large map of the City of Decatur so that volunteers can more easily pinpoint trouble spots. Once the map arrives, the Center would be ready for activation if necessary. The Chief will decide when a situation would warrant putting the Center in action, and in his absence, Captain Slade would

have the authority to make such a decision.

Chief Lindsten stressed that at all times volunteers should remain calm and factual on the phones and should avoid prolonged conversations. He said, "You're not here to psychoanalyze anyone. Just get the facts and tell them you'll call back."

We were assured that in case of a serious disturbance, we would have police protection getting to and from the Center.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR

School Integration Fact Sheet, January, 1969

Later this month the Community Commission on Integration will be reporting a plan for integration of the Decatur elementary schools along racial and socio-economic lines to the Board of Education. Many people have questions re: the forthcoming report.

The League of Women Voters of Decatur presents this fact sheet with the hope that the background information will help the community evaluate the CCI proposals when they are presented.

1. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES DE FACTO SEGREGATION EXIST IN DECATUR?

- A. In the 1930's, nearly all Decatur schools had some black students: no school had a high percentage of blacks.
- B. De facto segregation of Decatur's elementary schools is increasing at a steady rate within the central city, according to enrollment figures obtained from Dr. Inabell Kirby, director of research for the Decatur Public Schools. The chart below illustrates this trend of distribution of black pupils in five of the central city schools:

PER CENT BLACK ENROLLMENT

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>Fall, 1968</u>
Durfee	15.1%	50.8%	69.3%
Oakland	16.1%	25.3%	66.0%
Pugh	2.3%	11.8%	23.5%
Ullrich	.3%	1.8%	50.4%
Washington	25.1%	53.9%	76.8%

- C. If there were an exact racial balance in all elementary schools, each school would have an enrollment that was 82.7% white and 17.3% black.

2. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES SOCIO-ECONOMIC SEGREGATION EXIST IN DECATUR?

- A. A local report, "Patterns of Cultural Isolation," analyzes Metropolitan Readiness Test scores in Decatur. These tests are given to all children in September of first grade.

1) Scores from 1967 tests show that 77% of those children in the bottom 10% city-wide are enrolled in only ten, or 1/3 of the elementary schools. The same 10 schools enrolled only 3% of those children scoring in the top 10%.

2) Conversely, 72% of those children who scored in the top 10% city-wide, were enrolled in 11 schools: only 1% of those scoring in the bottom 10% were enrolled in these same 11 schools.

- B. The report further states, "All test data are highly correlated with socio-economic status. This is true regardless of whether the tests are intelligence tests, achievement tests, or readiness tests."