

Proposed local study item submitted by Mrs. Paul Reeder (Viola) which was tabled at Decatur, Illinois, Annual Meeting, April 8, 1964:

A study to determine how public opinion formation can be fostered in our community.

Mrs. Reeder explained as follows -

The meaning of public opinion is set forth in the following statements: -

1. The objects of opinion lie beyond the immediate sphere of needs and wants (private, futile). They are concerned with values which are the sources of community (public, enduring).
2. The objects of opinion have to do with political, historical community; considerations of private morality, therefore are not relevant.
3. Public opinion means opinion hammered out by debate among opposing factions so that differences are reconciled as much as possible.
4. Public opinion, since it is meant to be represented, must serve as a guide for action. That is, it must be based on political principles derived from historical reality.

I mean by public opinion formation, then, the activities and experiences of man as a citizen. This experience, as well as individual moral experiences and private family experiences, have ^{been} almost destroyed by the rise of "society."

My difficulty presenting this item and yours in understanding it are an indication of this loss of experience.

Most of the League's items are oriented toward society and the needs of life. In order to counter this, I ask for an item which redefines politics, searches for political principles, and looks for ways to foster political experience.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, DECATUR, ILLINOIS
April 8, 1964

Mrs. Henry Bachrach, President, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, with thirty^{one} members present. She introduced Mrs. George Wilson who had been appointed secretary because of the resignation of Mrs. Charles Meyerson.

Minutes: The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. David Mann reported cash on hand as of April 1, 1963, was \$834.67. Receipts of \$1,988.00 and expenditures of \$1,846.46 leave cash on hand as of March 31, 1964, of \$976.21. The \$1,000 deposit at Mutual Home Savings and Loan Association drew interest of \$47.42.

By-Law Change: The following change in the By-Laws was made. In Article V, Section 1, "immediately" was changed to "the first day of April," so that officers chosen at the Annual Meeting in March shall not take office until the first of April. Mrs. Thomas Hurst moved that the By-Law change be approved. CARRIED.

LOCAL AGENDA

Recommended Items: Mrs. Bachrach said that the board recommended three items for study for 1964-65.

1. Mrs. Glenn Fuller presented the first item, "A continued study of Urban Renewal in Decatur," and gave reasons why the board recommended this study.
2. Mrs. Hurst presented the second item, "Take action to implement the League stand on the need for a school building program and an increase in the Education Fund tax rate; and to evaluate ways to improve public education in Decatur," and gave reasons why the board recommended this study.
3. Mrs. Harold Tenney presented the third item, "A study of the advantages and disadvantages of the formation of a City of Decatur Township, with possible action after consensus," and gave reasons why the board recommended this study.

Non-recommended Items: Five non-recommended items were presented.

1. Mrs. Dwight Nelson presented the item, "A study of the operation and needs of the Decatur Public Library." She explained the reasons why she felt this should be studied.

2. Mrs. Bachrach presented the item suggested by Mrs. Mabel Amidon, who has now moved from Decatur, "Study and evaluation of Decatur policies and programs to provide for all its citizens Equality of Opportunity."
3. Mrs. Paul Reeder presented the item, "A study to determine how public opinion formation can be fostered in our community." She explained her reasons for desiring this study.
4. Mrs. Neal Doubleday presented the item, "A revision of This is Macon County."
5. Mrs. Hurst presented the item, "A study of a utility tax for the City of Decatur."

Voting on Recommended Items: Before the voting for the current agenda items, Mrs. Bachrach explained that board-recommended items need a simple majority to carry.

1. Mrs. Fuller moved that the Urban Renewal item be adopted as presented. CARRIED.
2. Mrs. Hurst moved that the School item be adopted as presented. CARRIED.
3. Mrs. Tenney moved that the City of Decatur Township item be adopted as presented. LOST.

Voting on Non-recommended Items: Mrs. Bachrach explained that a simple majority is needed to consider a non-recommended item and a two-thirds majority is required to adopt it.

1. Mrs. Hilmer Landholt moved that we consider a study of the Decatur Public Library. CARRIED.

Mrs. Nelson moved that, "A study of the operation and needs of the Decatur Public Library" be adopted. CARRIED.

2. Mrs. Doubleday moved that we consider a study of public opinion formation in our community. CARRIED.

Mrs. Reeder moved that "A study to determine how public opinion formation can be fostered in our community" be adopted.

Mrs. Landholt moved that Mrs. Reeder's motion be tabled. CARRIED. (See attached sheet on Mrs. Reeder's explanation of item.)

Voting on Reconsideration of Recommended Items:

1. Mrs. Doubleday moved that we consider the item on City of Decatur Township. CARRIED.

Mrs. Tenney moved that "A study of the advantages and disadvantages of the formation of a City of Decatur Township, with possible action after consensus," be adopted. CARRIED.

Continuing Responsibilities:

1. Mrs. Doubleday moved that we drop Continuing Responsibility #1, "Support of measures designed to improve the structure and/or increase the efficiency and economical operation of governments in Macon County." CARRIED.
2. Mrs. Doubleday moved that we keep Continuing Responsibility #2, " Support of a sewer system which will provide all citizens of the Decatur area with adequate sanitary facilities." CARRIED.
3. Mrs. Gill moved that we keep Continuing Responsibility #3, "Support of sound development of Decatur's water resources." CARRIED.
4. Mrs. Gill moved that we keep Continuing Responsibility #4, "Support for the establishment and efficient operation of a county-wide Health Department." CARRIED.
5. Mrs. Nelson moved that we keep Continuing Responsibility #5, "Support of council-manager form of government for the City of Decatur." CARRIED.

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee report was read by Mrs. Reeder in the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Robert Witmer. Other members of the committee were Mrs. Robert Miller, Mrs. Doubleday, and Mrs. Nat Kessler.

President, 1964-65	Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst
First Vice President, 1964-65	Mrs. Gerald Redford
Second Vice President, 1964-66	Mrs. Glenn Fuller
Treasurer, 1964-66	Mrs. David Mann
Director, 1964-66	Mrs. Frank Dilley
Director, 1964-66	Mrs. Richard Ruedi
Director, 1964-66	Mrs. Henry Bachrach
Director, 1964-65 (unexpired term of Mrs. Harold Tenney)	Mrs. Morton Becker
Director, 1964-65 (unexpired term of Mrs. Roger Miller)	Mrs. Neal Doubleday

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Mrs. Nelson moved that the slate be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

The Nominating Committee for 1965-66 is:

Mrs. Hilmer Landholt, Chairman
Mrs. Lloyd Ater
Mrs. C. H. Bridgman

There being no further business, Mrs. Bachrach turned the meeting over to the incoming President, Mrs. Hurst. After Mrs. Hurst made several announcements, she adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Wilson

Mrs. George Wilson
Secretary