

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
JANUARY 6, 1955.

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

Present: Mrs. John Donovan, President, presiding.
Mrs. G. Cohn, Mrs. Ayrlie Morris,
Mrs. J. W. Hurley, Mrs. Fred Schudel,
Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. William Winn,
Mrs. C. M. Nicholson, Mrs. H. W. Gibson,
Mrs. Forrest Martin, Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt.

The Secretary's report was read and approved, and it was agreed that the minutes should be full and complete and not merely limited to motions and decisions, as the Secretary's record is the only record kept of Board Meetings.

The Treasurer's Report was read, showing a balance of cash on hand of \$1,650.59, and placed on file.. The Treasurer reported also that outstanding is our final payment on our pledge of \$125.00, and also expenses for the Candidates' Meeting. The final report on the finance drive shows \$213.00 from members and \$711.00 from non-members, making a total received of \$924.00, which is \$24.00 over our goal.

The coming luncheon on January 13th was discussed, and it was decided to invite Dean Miller and Dr. Gage, and that their luncheons be paid for by the League. It was also decided to ask the newspaper to send someone for publicity purposes. Decorations were discussed, and it was pointed out that we should keep in mind in this connection World Trade and not World Travel in choosing items to decorate the tables. It was also suggested that we use local items wherever possible. It was suggested that we use a World Globe on the center table and use other items that might be examples of imports and exports. Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Adelman were suggested to be asked to do the decorating and choose their own helpers. Dr. Royden Dangerfield, Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois, is to be the speaker; subject: "What World Trade Means to You." Luncheon price \$1.50, and every member is to be contacted by telephone and invited to bring guests, with reservations to be in by Tuesday night.

Mrs. Winn next discussed the Candidates' Meeting. The date is February 17th, and Dr. Gage is to be the Moderator. Mr. Stillwell, of the Decatur Schools music staff, will have one of the bands he directs to play. Suggested questions to ask candidates to speak on were discussed. The aim of the questions will be to find out from the candidates what their opinions and positions are on local issues. Mrs. Gibson suggested that napkins be used again this year and distributed to service clubs before the Candidates' Meeting. Mrs. Cohn mentioned that we have \$150.00 in the budget for action in this committee. Mrs. Schudel moved that we have the napking printed and used in the same manner as last year. Mrs. Gibson seconded the motion; carried. It was felt that this

should be set as a precedent and the same thing done every year. (25 copies for \$1.25 of the Sat. Eve. Post article "The League of Frightened Women.")

Mrs. Schudel was given authority to order whatever is needed throughout the year, and bring the publications to the unit meetings and have them available.

Mrs. Gibson said that whoever goes out as President should always be required to give an orientation meeting, in discussing how members should become familiarized with their duties when elected to office.

The President announced that Mrs. Smith has been asked by the state wide organization committee to serve as liason officer between Decatur and Springfield. This is for the purpose of keeping the State Board aware of different local accomplishments, by means of a monthly report. The committee will meet as a whole three or four times a year.

Mrs. Martin discussed the size of the card we should have for our membership record - cost, .45¢ for 100. The card is to include an analysis of each member's activities in the League. Mrs. Martin was authorized to order. Mrs. Smith said that she felt some careful thought should be given as to what goes on the card. Mrs. Gibson suggested that it would be a good idea to let this wait until the annual meeting to give out the cards. It was moved by Mrs. Smith that Mrs. Martin keep a member placement file, and that a committee work on the matter between now and the time of the annual meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Nicholson; carried. Mrs. Martin was authorized to appoint her own committee. It was suggested that extra copies of the bulletin be made to go to new members. Mrs. Smith suggested that the President should appoint the committee, and Mrs. Lupton, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Cohn were appointed to help. Mrs. Hurley suggested that the cards in the master file not be mailed out, but that we mail out a 1¢ postal card for the purpose of getting the information for the file.

The President reminded us that we should all have three copies of a report due for State, and that they are due on March 15th; she suggested that we bring them in to the March meeting and that she would mail them all in together. If anyone does not have 3 copies, write to the State Office and ask for what you may need.

The President then suggested that we re-consider the welfare item. Mrs. Morris was asked to discuss them, and said that she had a two hour conference with Mr. Staley, Executive Secretary of the Community Chest, and that she went over with him all of the information she had concerning a survey, and that he felt that such a survey would be very valuable and that no one could possibly object to it. He suggested a few changes, and also one other item - the total case work load of the agency, and he felt that the only embarrassment would be that it would show such a large case load for individual workers. She also discussed with him what other services Decatur lacks at the present time.

Mrs. Morris said that she felt such a survey would show the valuable work of the welfare agencies in Decatur, and that she would like to do the survey in the way originally suggested. She said further that if we do not stick to something purely educational, that we will have to justify our position. If we get into the middle of the study and have a committee report available for the public, she feels that it would well justify our work done in such a survey, and that we could still keep ourselves clear from being involved in an action group. Mrs. Gibson asked how long she would estimate it would take her committee to make the survey and get the information to the Board and to the League members in general. Mrs. Morris said that she hoped by the time of the unit meetings in February. Mrs. Gibson brought out that so far as action along any particular problem as welfare is concerned, no one in the League is prepared for it because we have not had the background. We can, she felt, after the preliminary report, determine whether or not we will be prepared for action. Mrs. Cohn said that she felt that inasmuch as we are an action group that we should go ahead with the survey as suggested. Mrs. Morris said that Mr. Staley was most enthusiastic, and very glad to have a League member come in and ask for this information. He asked if we would consider tours through the agencies and in this way we could see the physical aspects of each agency. He felt that one afternoon would complete the tour. Mrs. Gibson suggested that all league members should be advised when the tours would be and that they should come after the unit meetings. It was further suggested that we have the tours set for the second week. Mrs. Morris asked whether or not she had approval for the survey as originally set forth. Mrs. Cohn moved that we make the survey as originally suggested; Mrs. Hurley seconded; carried.

The President stated that the Trade Survey will be carried on by the Board and by whatever outside help we can get. Mrs. McKay is working, and cannot do it alone.

National → Mrs. Nicholson announced the workshops on the Freedom Agenda. The first meeting will be Wednesday. ⁷ The President said that the constitutional revision item will probably be removed from the ~~state~~ agenda and be put on at the State level. The President also said that we should probably work on the ^{report} Election Code. She also stated that the Nominating Committee and the local agenda have to appear in the February Bulletin, as they have to be before the ~~public~~ ^{mtg.} 1 month before the annual meeting.

Mrs. Morris was authorized to be a member of the Steering Committee on the Chamber of Commerce Mental Health Clinic Committee, but that she remind them continually that she is speaking as an individual and not as a League member, but that she may serve on the general committee as a League representative, but on the Steering Committee as an individual.

The President announced that something had to be done about the matter of continuing responsibilities. It was suggested that we go over the material in unit meetings.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Gebhardt

Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt,

- Secretary.