



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
DECATUR, ILLINOIS**

1980-81

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS
President: Barbara Brown
233 North Woodlawn
Decatur, Illinois 62522

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS
President: Janet Otwell
State Office: 67 East Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
President: Ruth Hinerfeld
National Office: 1730 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

The PURPOSE of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

POLITICAL POLICY: The League of Women Voters shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE DECATUR LEAGUE

Blosson Redmon	1946-47
Mrs. Melvin Goldman	1947-48
Mrs. George Kuhns	1948-50
Mrs. Floyd Birt	1950-52
Mrs. Clifford Smith	1952-53
Mrs. John Donovan	1953-55
Mrs. H. W. Gibson	1955-58
Mrs. L. L. Colvis	1958-60
Mrs. Neal Doubleday	1960-62
Mrs. Henry Bachrach	1962-64
Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst	1964-66
Mrs. Clifford Smith	1966-67
Mrs. W. H. Tilley	1967-68
Mrs. Keith Westenhaver	1968-69
Mrs. Robert C. Schade	1969-71
Mrs. Robert W. Ohlsen	1971-72
Mrs. Charles Meyerson	1972-75
Mrs. Kenneth Brown	1975-77
Mrs. Charles Jensen	1977-79

DECATUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1980-81

President	(79-81)	Barbara Brown	Portfolio
1st V.P.	(80-81)	Dee Meyerson	Administration
			Program and
			Juvenile Court
			Monitoring
2nd V.P.	(80-82)		
3rd V.P.	(80-82)	Barbara Emery	Membership
Secretary	(79-81)	Marg Coberly	Criminal Justice
Treasurer	(80-82)	Susan Marshall	

Elected Directors

(79-81)	Cluney John	Publications
(79-81)	Kathy Sorensen	Community
		Relations
(80-81)	Mary Monahan	Action
(80-82)	Karen Jensen	Voters Service
(80-82)	Marianne Erickson	ERA
(80-82)	Sarah Schwehn	Newsletter

Off Board Chairs

Barbara Ohlsen	Fiscal Policy
Debbie Staley	Natural Resources
Carol Campbell	Water (local)
Laura Verbanac	Single Member
	District
Lucille Crow	Referendum and
	Recall

To be appointed

Finance Chair

Nominating Committee

Elected Members
Barbara Ohlsen
Diane Basten
Debbie Staley

CALENDAR 1980-81

(Membership meetings are held in the second week of the month. See monthly Voter for details.)

September	10	League Action. Mary Toberman, State LWV Legislation Chair.
October	8	Update on Hazardous Wastes (Acid Rain).
November	12	Fiscal Policy Consensus Meetings.
December	10	Brunch. Program review. Suggestions for State and Local Programs.
January	14	Election Laws.
February	11	Referendum and Recall Consensus Meetings.
March	11	Local Water Study Report Meetings.
	18-19	Legislative Seminar - Springfield.
April	8	Introduction to Health Care Study. Human Resources Update.
May	13	Decatur Annual Meeting.
	24-26	LWV/ILL CONVENTION in Wisconsin.

Board meetings are held once a month as announced in the Decatur Voter. They are open to members.

PROGRAM

Program in the League of Women Voters means government issues which members have chosen to study and on which they may act after thorough study and discussion and after consensus of the membership is reached.

Program selection at all three levels (local, state, and national) begins with suggestions by individual members. From these suggestions the appropriate board prepares a proposed program on which members vote - personally on local program at the annual meeting of their league, and through delegates on state and national program at conventions.

The "Program for Action" adopted by the 1974 National Convention incorporated this introductory statement:

"Citizen participation in government is basic to the democratic process and is therefore the cornerstone of the League's political purpose. The League acts in the public interest on political issues. We also act to enlarge citizen participation; to open up electoral and other government processes; to make facts on issues and on the political process more accessible; to protect the right of every citizen to vote; and to protect the individual liberties established under the Constitution.

The League uses many forums and techniques in pressing for change. We take legislative, litigative and administrative action at all levels of government. To get things done, we also act directly in the community. Simultaneously, in preparation for future action, we take up new issues identified by members as targets for research and decision.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- Competent personnel with clear responsibilities,
- Coordination among agencies and levels of government,
- Adequate financing,
- Effective enforcement, and
- Well-defined channels for citizen input and review."

LOCAL PROGRAM FOR 1980-81

(Adopted at Annual Meeting, May 21, 1980)

County and Township Governments

Support for elimination of townships in Macon County with their functions transferred to general purpose governments, such as the county or municipalities.

Support for Home Rule status for the county with establishment of an elected county executive. (If necessary, we would support appointment of an administrator by the County Board until an executive can be elected.)

Support for elimination of as elected offices those at the county level which do not set policy, such as Auditor, Recorder of Deeds, and Coroner.

Decatur's Environmental Quality

Support for improved surface drainage of the City of Decatur, as proposed by the Surface Drainage Task Force and the Citizens Advisory Committee for Improved Storm Drainage in 1975.

Decatur Public Schools

Position resulting from 1976-77 study (needs and goals of District #61 educationally, to include areas of responsibility of the school board and administration); The school district needs to make a continuing effort to determine the desires of the public concerning its schools. The Board of Education should present a "state of the schools" message at the end of each school year, and also describe plans for the next school year. The school district should continue to place a high priority on meeting the needs of individuals. The school district should increase its efforts to implement its goal of communications with the public.

Position resulting from 1977-78 study (of the financial resources and condition of District #61): When it is determined that projected revenues will not be sufficient to maintain and/or improve programs, the Board of Education of Decatur Public Schools should ask the voters to increase one or more of the tax

rates making up the "operating tax rate" (OTR) for state funding.

Since there is a time lapse between voting an increase and receiving both local taxes and state funds based on the higher tax rates, referenda should be submitted before a crisis situation exists, that is, before cuts have to be made or a deficit exists in fund balances.

An increase in the tax rate would be justified to maintain and/or improve programs if:

Decatur's "operating tax rate" was less than districts of similar size.

Decatur's "operating tax rate" was less than needed to get maximum state funds.

City Government

Position resulting from 1977-78 re-study of council-manager form of city government and a study of the Home Rule option in city government:

After studying the several possible alternative forms of city government, consensus is that the Council-Manager form of government is the best for the city of Decatur. It provides the professionalism and administrative capabilities not as likely to be found under other forms. Decatur is in many ways similar to a big business; it needs to be governed in an economic and efficient way. By separating the policy making body, the elected council, from the administrative body, the appointed manager and staff, Council-Manager government provides balance between leadership and management.

Home Rule power of the city of Decatur, granted by the 1970 Constitution of Illinois, has not been misused. The council has been cautious in use of the Home Rule power, and careful to seek the community's specific needs. The Home Rule power should be retained, in order that the local citizens can find the solutions to their own local problems, and not be dependent on the Illinois legislative action.

Local Program continued.

Family Violence (1980)

Support for local efforts to provide intervention services for victims of family violence. The League will monitor the implementation of HB1560 and HB1734 locally.

Water

Study of the quality of water in Decatur. (New study.)

STATE PROGRAM 1979-81

(Adopted at State Convention, April, 1979)

- I. School Finance: Support of a public school finance system that achieves greater equity for student and tax payer without diminishing local control of program and budget.
- II. State Fiscal Policies: Support for state fiscal policies that insure equity to tax payers, provide adequate funds to support state and local services and encourage sound land use decisions; and a comprehensive study of financing state and local government that includes revenue sources, expenditure procedures and limitations on taxes and spending.
- III. Land Use: Support of a statewide land use policy for Illinois.
- IV. Election Laws: Support of improved election laws and procedures.
- V. Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: Support of improved services of Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.
- VI. Constitutional Implementation and Amendments: Support for league positions to implement and amend the 1970 Constitution, including a re-study of the single member district position and a study of the process of the public initiative, referendum and recall. (Position 4/80, the League supports single member districts and reduction in the size of the legislature, and the indirect statutory initiative.)
- VII. Criminal Justice: Support of improved criminal justice procedures in Illinois.

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 1980-82

(Adopted at National Convention, May, 1980)

Urban Crisis

Promote the well-being of America's cities.

Human Resources

ERA Ratification

Equal access to:

Education

Employment

Housing

Income Assistance

Health Care

Promote social justice by securing equal rights for all and combating discrimination and poverty.

Study (1981-82).

Natural Resources

Energy

Air

Land

Solid Waste

Water

Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life.

International Relations

Development

Trade

United Nations

Promote peace in an inter-dependent world, through cooperation with other nations and the strengthening of international organizations.

Government

Campaign Financing

Citizen Rights

Congress

D.C.:

Self-government and

Full Voting

Representation.

Presidency

Apportionment

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive to all citizens and that protects individual liberties established under the Constitution.

The above positions are given in complete detail in the national LWV publication Impact on Issues, A Guide to National Program, available from our local Publications Chair.

MEMBERSHIP

BAIRD, Karen (Neil) 1671 West Riverview	62522	422-4338
BASTEN, Diane (Robert) 1159 East Mueller	62526	429-9591
BATSON, Judith (George) 211 Delmar	62522	422-8319
BECK, Janet (Edward) 59 Sundale Drive	62521	877-2249
BOYER, Lois (J. Parke) 344 Hackberry Place	62521	429-5067
BREMER, Margery 440 East Grove Road	62521	428-8046
BROWN, Barbara (Kenneth) 233 North Woodlawn	62522	429-7439
CAMPBELL, Carol (Edward) 3330 North Taylor	62526	877-1873
CAMPBELL, Margaret 542 South Church, No. 3S	62522	423-1889
CAMPBELL, Susan (Michael) 4095 Graces Lane	62521	875-2385
CANTONI, Ellen (P. J.) 231 Delmar	62522	423-0625
COBERLY, Marg (William) 445 North 35th Street	62521	423-2012
COX, Florence (Gerald) 834 West Division Street	62526	877-8892

CROW, Lucille (Clarence) 76 Colorado Drive	62526	877-2070
EMERY, Barbara (Pete) 337 Kellar Lane	62526	875-2506
ERICKSON, Marianne (John) 763 West Macon Street	62522	422-5049
FLETCHER, Phyllis 4 Lincoln Place	62522	429-9671
GARBER, Karen (Frank) 1394 West Riverview	62522	423-7008
GATHERS, Pat (Harry) 175 Austin	62522	423-7841
GIULIANI, Karen (Ronald) R. R. 1, Box 97-1	62526	877-9720
HAYES, Nancy 220 South Kruse Road Mt. Zion	62549	
HOBBS, Bessie (W. H.) 1939 South Lynnwood Drive	62521	423-6858
HOLTZMAN, Sallie (Sam) Warrensburg, IL	62573	672-3641
JENSEN, Karen (Charles) 2180 Summit Court	62526	429-9702
JOHN, Cluney 1329 West Macon Street	62522	429-3290
KAREOTES, Christine 893 West Wood Street	62522	423-2740
KESSLER, Sara (Nat) 49 Allen Bend Drive	62521	422-2261

KEY, Otta (Elra R.) 550 S. Church, Apt. 2W	62522	428-6704
LANTZ, Sally (Harold) 4241 E. Lake Shore Drive	62521	428-6020
LAUTERJUNG, Margaret (Marvin) 531 South Crea Street	62522	429-4685
LIMERICK, Ann C. 155 North Summit	62522	428-9077
LOEB, Irene (Sam) 14 Montgomery Place	62522	422-5682
LOEWEN, Winifred (David) 1477 West Sunset	62522	422-6489
MACKECHNIE, Bernys (J.D.) 255 North Fairview	62522	422-7001
MARSHALL, Susan (David) 155 South Glencoe	62522	422-0824
MCNABB, Edith (L.D.) 746 West Harrison	62526	877-5557
MCVAY, Pat 3021 Lynnwood Drive	62521	428-7655
MEYERSON, Dee (Charles) 175 Park Place	62522	423-4097
MILLS, Irene 1487 West Macon Street	62522	422-3654
MONAHAN, Mary (Gordon) 30 Norwood Drive	62521	429-0478
MOORE, Emmy Lou (James) 11 Allen Bend Place	62521	429-6435

MOORE, Helen (Robert) 1845 Burning Tree Drive	62521	1-767-2261
MOSE, Mary 1039 East Cleveland	62521	422-3295
OHLSEN, Barbara (Robert) 111 South Westdale	62522	429-1179
OLDWEILER, Beth (Robert) 2015 West Eldorado	62522	429-1330
PROTZMAN, Milli (Thomas) 45 Allen Bend Drive	62521	422-9116
RABER, Lois (Paul) 2535 East Willow Drive	62521	429-4734
RADECKI, Jean (Thomas) 896 West Packard	62526	429-6668
REDFORD, Barbara (Gerald) 1553 West Main Street	62522	429-6239
ROUCHER, Nancy (Jerry) 478 Shoreline Drive	62521	428-7227
RUPP, Senator James 54 Forest Knolls	62521	423-5309
SCHLACHTER, Mary Louise (O.E.) 73 Fairview Place	62522	423-1354
SCHWANDT, Phyllis (Robert) 2320 Hawthorne Drive	62521	423-1810
SCHWEHN, Sarah 454 Powers Lane	62522	423-6007
SLACK, Nancy 1214 Delta Court	62526	875-7250

SMITH, Lola 1684 West Riverview	62522	422-1764
SMITH, Pauline (Elbert) 510 South Seigel	62522	422-5506
SORENSEN, Kathy (Mark) 1698 West Riverview	62522	428-6850
STALEY, Lee (Lavelle) 2940 Cakmont Drive	62521	1-767-2235
STALEY, Debbie (Stephen) 2751 Forrest Green	62521	422-9573
SUTTON, Margaret (James) 1784 North Oakcrest	62526	423-3154
TAYLOR-ALPI, Sharon (James) 511 West Macon Street	62522	423-8423
TICK, Frona (Walter) 668 South Westlawn	62522	428-3361
VERBANAC, Laura (Frank) 12 Dakota Drive	62526	877-2621
WOYNA, Marian 440 East Grove Street	62521	428-8046
WRIGHT, Agnita R.R. 3, Box 34	62526	877-2914

