

ANNUAL MEETING  
April 6

1950

The annual meeting of the League of Women Voters was held in the Decatur Club on April 6, 1950, preceeded by dinner at 6:30 p.m. During coffee and immediately preceeding the meeting, Mrs. Gill gave a report to the members of meeting in Springfield which she, Mrs. Birt, and Mrs. Cox had attended. This meeting was the opening of the drive for the passage of the Gateway Amendment. Mrs. Gill reviewed previous efforts to pass Gateway and explained what could be done in the present effort to pass the Amendment. Also, she named the various organizations which are backing this effort and with which we might be able to work with in the coming months.

The president, Mrs. Kuhns, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the last annual meeting of March 24, 1949, were read and approved.

Each member was given a copy of the proposed budget for 1950-1951. A discussion of the coming year's budget followed. Miss Redmon moved that the budget for 1950-1951 be accepted as it stands. It was seconded by Mrs. Mc Laughlin and carried. A copy of the budget is filed with the secretary's minutes.

Informal reports from committee chairmen followed.

Action and Program---Mrs. Floyd Birt reviewed subjects studied in our monthly group meetings and said that we had covered four subjects, 1. Municipalities, 2. Townships and Counties, 3. Chicago and Cook County, 4. Special Districts and School Districts. Mrs. Birt said that Taxation, the fifth subject, will be covered later in the year. Mrs. Birt named the members of her committees and thanked them.

Publicity---Mrs. Gerald Cox named the various sources of publicity which we had during the year. These sources were the Decatur Newspapers, the radio stations, the Association of Commerce, and Church Bulletins. Mrs. Cox said we had received an amazing amount of space in both the Herald and Review, in headline stories, in pictures, and in Town Topics. On two occasions, Mrs. Cox reported, we had stories in metropolitan newspapers, namely the St. Louis Post and The Chicago Tribune.

Economics and International Relations---Mrs. Clifford Smith said that Mr. Eakin had held three, two hour meetings, on the "Economic Policy of the U. S." in May. Dr. Stine led a forum on "What Measures Should The United States Take To Aid European Recovery?" in November. In January, The Little Hoover Commission gave its report to the League. Mrs. Smith reported that in the field of International Relations we had a group discussion on the advisability of joining Peace Pacts, and a summary of The United Nations activities given by Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Pettee, and Mrs. Taylor.

Finance---Mrs. Robert Wood thanked her committee, who had helped on the drive. She said the goal had been raised from \$349.00 to \$400.00. Mrs. Wood reported that \$67.00 was given by the members and \$346.00 was given by 44 non-members.

Voter's Service---Mrs. Robert Lewis reported that we had held three unit meetings at the home of Mrs. Kuhns using "What Is The U. S. To You?"

as our text. This is to be used as a tool in group education.

Our Candidates Meeting, held in the Decatur High School, was the largest that we have had with an attendance of five hundred. Mrs. Lewis read letters of appreciation of our Candidates Meeting from Mr. Springer and Mr. Schaub. Mrs. Lewis thanked her committee for its work.

Publications--- Mrs. R. B. Stauber said there has been a substantial increase in publications this past year.

Bulletin--- Mrs. Doubleday said she had mailed out four bulletins this year. She thanked Mrs. Borden for her help.

The president asked that the secretary send letters of appreciation to the Association of Commerce, the Decatur Herald and Review, W. S. O. Y. and The Decatur Advertiser.

The report of the Nominating committee was given by Mrs. John Donovan as follows:

President-----	Mrs. Floyd Birt
First Vice President-----	Mrs. G. D. Cox
Second Vice President-----	Mrs. Clifford Smith
Third Vice President-----	Mrs. W. H. Hipsher
Secretary-----	Mrs. Perley Lupton
Treasurer-----	Mrs. Harold Catt
Director-----	Mrs. John Kuhns
Director-----	Mrs. Robert Lewis
Nominating Committee-----	Mrs. R. E. Greenfield, chairman, Mrs. H. J. Borden, and Mrs. H. J. Pettee.

Mrs. Leigh moved that the Nominating committee's report be accepted. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Kuhns said that she had greatly enjoyed her work as president of the League for the last two years. She then turned the meeting over to the new president, Mrs. Birt.

Mrs. Kuhns moved that Mrs. Birt be sent as our delegate to the National Convention at Atlantic City, April 24-29. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Smith, the new program chairman, gave the following outline of our program for the coming year:

September-- State Institute for work to be done for the passage of Gateway. A new members meeting will be held in September.

October--There will be a general meeting on the study of the amending processes and work in Voter's Service.

November--Three group meetings will be held to study the possible revision of the State Constitution under the Gateway Amendment.

January-- There will be a general study of the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary branches of the state government.

February-- There will be three group meetings to study the problem of State revenue.

March--There will be a general meeting with The Little Hoover Commission.

There followed an informal discussion as to the types of meetings preferred, the time, and the place. It was decided that a variety of types of meetings; discussion led by our own members, outside speakers,

and combined meeting with other groups, should have a place in the program. It was decided to continue having group meetings in the homes of the members and to have the general meetings centrally located. It was left to the Board to decide on the time.

Mrs. Birt said that the new National Agenda will be decided on at the Convention at Atlantic City.

Mrs. Cox, new chairman of the local project, showed a rough form of the pamphlet to be published on our local tax and where it goes. This pamphlet will be called, "A Housewife Looks at the City Budget".

Mrs. Hispher, our new membership chairman, said that our own enthusiasm makes each member a part of this committee. Mrs. Hispher said we had 61 members in 1946. We still have 27 original members. In 1950 we have 72 members. We have a strong program but we need more members. We will make more effort to interest new people in town.

Mrs. Birt announced that the fiscal year is ended and dues are payable.

Mrs. Lewis expressed the League's appreciation of the work of Mrs. Kuhns and the other officers, who served so faithfully this year.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Katherine Donovan,  
Secretary.