

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Decatur, Illinois

January 15, 1969

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. William Johnson, 444 Hackberry Dr. with Mrs. Keith Westenhaver presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Westenhaver, Barber, Schade, Crow, Hippler, Johnson, Protzman, Weinman, Butler, Dakin, Miller, Dumas, Kellman, Beck, Nes and Homan.

ABSENT: Mrs. Mann.

MINUTES: Approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Cash on hand, 1-1-69, \$453.97. Total receipts, \$16.00. Total expenditures, \$89.30. Cash on hand, 1-15-69, \$380.67.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Mrs. Westenhaver had received a letter from outgoing City Councilman, Henry Bolz, which she read. It contained a summary of remarks he made during an interview on WJZ as he reviewed the events and progress that had taken place during his tenure as a councilman. 2) Mrs. Westenhaver read a letter from Mr. Dumas, Chief Librarian of the Decatur Public Library. It was a reply to the letter Mrs. Crow had written to the editor of the Herald and Review concerning the recent acquisition by the Library of the old Sears & Roebuck building. He thanked the League and Mrs. Crow in particular for our support of the Library. 3) A letter was read from the Lincoln Illinois LWV concerning a February 28 meeting in Lincoln sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois. The topic is "New Politics, Dissent and Violence: An International Phenomenon". The names of several people and organizations in Decatur were suggested to receive invitations to this meeting. 4) We have a request from National asking for nominations for National Officers. Offices open are: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, seven Directors and three members of the nomination committee. The suggestions must be in the National Office by April 24. 5) Our request to the Post Office: for a mailing permit as a non-profit organization has been denied, but one of the postal officials has offered to help Mailing Chairman Barbara Redford try to reduce our expenditures in this area. 6) Mrs. Westenhaver has asked Mrs. Redford to serve as parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting. 7) All committee chairmen will receive Annual Report forms. They are due in the State Office on March 1. Each chairman will receive 3 copies and are requested to please type them. 8) Mrs. Westenhaver has asked for suggestions for State Bylaws changes. Bylaws Chairman Mrs. Thomas Hurst would like to resubmit changes proposed in 1967. They are: Article V, Article IX, Section 4, and Article XI, Title and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Mrs. Butler moved we accept Mrs. Hurst's recommendation. Seconded and passed. 9) Mrs. Westenhaver read a communication from State concerning the Political Education and Participation Corps. This will be a system set up so that local Leagues can observe the workings of the Illinois General Assembly. March 18 and April 22 have been assigned to Decatur. 10) Mrs. Charles Hippler reported on the progress of Rumor Control. An orientation meeting and one training session have been held so far. Mrs. Hippler has been asked by Mr. Abe Burstein of the Human Relations Commission to serve as coordinator for League, and she has asked Mrs. Bonnie Katt to be her assistant. Mr. Gerald Overton will serve in the same capacity for the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which will also staff the Center. League now has 29 or possibly 30 volunteers. At the training session, Police Chief Harold Lindsten, Captain James Slade and Community Relations Director Charlie Jackson indicated that 3 Jaycees

and 3 League members would be asked to serve during each two hour shift while the center is in operation. Those attending were shown all the equipment to be used and the operation of same was described. Further training sessions will be held until all volunteers have been trained. The Center will be located in Mr. Jackson's fifth floor office in the Municipal Building. The two telephone lines have been installed and there is a two-way radio hook-up on a separate frequency for communications between Rumor Control and "Central Station", the Police Radio Room on the ground floor. As soon as a large map of the City of Decatur arrives, the Center will be ready for activation if the situation warrants it. Chief Lindsten will make that decision, or, in his absence, Captain Slade will do so.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Crow, Program and Action Vice-President, presented First Round Program Recommendations as follows:

STATE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS 1969-71 First Round
Suggested by members at Local Meeting on December 11, 1968.

1. Support of the Constitutional Convention and promotion for the study and revision of the structure of Illinois Government to include:
 - Close cooperation and assistance in implementing the work of the Convention.
 - A study of the Legislative and Executive articles.
 - A new Revenue Article and measures to obtain an adequate and flexible tax structure.
 - Annual sessions for the Illinois General Assembly.
 - A short ballot, electing only policy-making officials.
 - Improved and clarified election laws and procedures.
 - Protection of the 1962 Judicial Amendment and support of measures to further Judicial reform.
2. Protection of the individual in his civil rights and liberties.
 - Support of state legislation to provide equal housing opportunities.
 - Support of legislation to equalize employment opportunities.
 - Preservation of constitutional liberties.
3. Support of improved local, regional and statewide welfare services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.
4. Study and action on Local Governmental structure within Illinois, their relationship to each other and financing through local, state and national funding programs.
5. Study as to what the State of Illinois can and should do to equalize educational opportunities for all children in the state.
6. Study of Air Pollution Problems within Illinois.

First round recommendations, cont.

--A review of problem areas in the state.

--A review of existing regulations (national, state, local)

--Study of possible methods of control.

Mrs. Crow moved we accept the above first round suggestions. Seconded and passed.

Local Program for the coming year will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Mrs. Crow is now accepting suggestions for new items or continuation of present items. She requested that those sending in suggestions please put them in writing and give to Mrs. Crow or Mrs. Westenhaver.

The Electoral College Committee had their first meeting Jan. 8. The next one will be January 23. They need more members. After some discussion, the board agreed that this committee's report meeting should be in the form of an All-member meeting rather than Unit meetings.

The local nominating committee wants suggestions for officers and directors.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: Mrs. Dakin announced an All Member meeting for January 29. She would like to send invitations to interested people from the community.

The February Unit Meetings were changed to the 18th and the 19th due to a School Holiday on February 12.

SCHOOL STUDY: Mrs. Schade, speaking for Mrs. Panetti, asked if the School Fact Sheet should ~~be~~ be sent to contributors. It was decided that time would not permit.

WATER RESOURCES: Mrs. Protzman announced that a brief has been filed in Cook County Circuit Court contesting the Water Resources Development Bond defeat, citing the 1 man 1 vote rule as their basis for complaint.

FINANCE: Mrs. Robert Mee announced that January and February are the months for member solicitation for the 50th Anniversary Finance Drive. Late in January a letter will be sent to each member explaining the drive. Each member will be contacted by a board member early in February.

PUBLICATIONS: Mrs. Weinman has sent THE UN TODAY and THE SCHOOL on Subscription Service. She will send NEEDED: SIX MILLION HOMES.

VOTER: Mrs. Butler thanked Mrs. Charles Myerson for doing the January Bulletin. The VOTER deadline has been set for January 31.

Mrs. Beck moved that Mrs. Westenhaver, Mrs. Heilman and Mrs. Schade pick the place for the Annual Meeting. Seconded and passed.

Next meeting: A special meeting will be called at the end of January to consider School Study Business. Next regular meeting at home of Mrs. John Weinman, 382 Delmar. Date to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:10 P.M.

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