

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Decatur, Illinois

Minutes of Board Meeting held February 18, 1972

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Schade, 143 Point Bluff Drive, with First Vice President, Mrs. John Weinman presiding.

PRESENT: Mesdames Weinman, Meyerson, Verbanac, Coberly, Butler, McVay, Forbes, Schade, Cook, Marshall, Redford, Smith, Sensenig, and Johnson.

ABSENT: Mesdames Ohlsen and Johnson.

MINUTES: A change was made for clarification in the New Business of the January 19 Board Meeting. It should read: Resignations were reluctantly accepted from President, Mrs. Ohlsen, who will complete one year of her two year term and Voter Editor, Mrs. Dennis Forbes. Minutes were approved as changed.

TREASURERS REPORT: Bank Balance 2-18-72 \$86.01 M.H.S. Account \$304.05

Sixty-four members will have dues payable in March so the bank balance should increase.

PROGRAM: Mrs. Weinman read the local program recommendations. After discussion and amending, the proposed program was approved as follows:

1. Human Resources and Civil Rights  
Continued study and evaluation of the housing plans and programs for the Decatur area.  
Support for provisions for enforcement of the Fair Housing Ordinance in Decatur.  
Support for funds for the Decatur Human Relations Commission.
2. Decatur's Environmental Quality  
Support of measures to insure adequate water systems which will include source, supply and treatment of drinking water.  
Support for adequate storm and sanitary sewers.
3. Decatur Public Schools  
Support of the middle school grade organization and concept as best meeting our educational goals.  
Support of increased funds to provide quality education and adequate space.  
Emphasis on local community responsibility to require the school system to develop each child's potential.
4. County and Township Governments  
Study of county and township governments under the 1970 Constitution and their effectiveness in providing for the needs of the people of Macon County.
5. Junior College  
Support for further development of the Community College of Decatur.



Civil Rights & Liberties: A 16 mm movie projector is needed for committee use of a film. Churches will be checked with and also the Power Company.

Mrs. Sensenig reported that "Focus on Erosion of Our Civil Rights and Liberties" is to be the topic for the Civil Rights Units. She raised the question, how can we report this way when we have no consensus on whether our rights are being eroded. It was decided to bring this up at the meeting and continue with the topic. Mrs. Sensenig will write a letter to the State Chairman expressing this concern.

It was brought to the Board's attention that two different consensus reports were published in the newspaper following the Decatur Public Schools Consensus meetings. Neither report was correct. A letter will be sent to the newspaper calling the misunderstanding of the consensus to their attention and some background information will be added. We will get this letter to the newspaper before the District 61 Facilities Committee reports to the public so that it won't look as though we're disagreeing.

ORGANIZATION: The report of the nominating committee was read and discussed. The slate was approved as submitted and reads as follows:

President: Mrs. Charles Meyerson (1972-73)  
First Vice President: Mrs. William Coberly (1972-73)  
Second Vice President: Mrs. Frank Verbanac (1972-74)  
Third Vice President: Mrs. Stephen Dodge (1972-73)  
Secretary: Mrs. D. Stanley Taylor (1972-73)  
Treasurer: Mrs. Marvin Lauterjung (1972-74)  
Elected Directors: 1972-74  
Mrs. Robert Ohlsen  
Mrs. Jay Sensenig  
Mrs. Clifford Smith

Elected Directors 1972-72 to serve 2nd yr. of 2 yr. term:  
Mrs. James Johnson  
Mrs. David Marshall

Nominating Committee 1972-73  
Mrs. John Weinman - Chairman  
Mrs. Clarence Crow  
Mrs. Marvin Cook

Mrs. Weinman submitted her resignation as First Vice President to become effective at the end of the current Board Year. It was reluctantly approved.

All the Voter's Directories were distributed to banks, savings and loan companies, and Welcome Wagon. Northtown Bank wanted 4,000 copies to send out with its quarterly "Northtown News". They asked that we contact them next year before we print and they might help us finance it in order to get the needed copies.

The March 8 Annual Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Ralph Bruce.

The March 21, Corrections Unit will be held at 9:15 a.m. at Westminster Church and March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Francis Houran.

Mrs. Verbanac will secure two recorders and the committee will handle the discussion leader's job.



Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mrs. William Johnson, presented the Budget Committee report. A copy is filed with the minutes. Discussion followed. It was recommended and approved for submission as a By-law Change that dues be raised to \$11.00 per year to take effect immediately following the Annual Meeting.

The Budget Committee was instructed present the budget as proposed with an alternate proposal to take effect if dues increase is approved by the membership. This will be duplicated and stapled to the Voter.

An Election Calendar for 1972 will also be placed in the Voter.

Discussion was held concerning late arrival of Voters. Some people are not receiving their copy until after a meeting announced in such. A "First Class" stamp will be looked into to expedite handling by the Post Office.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** National Board Report suggests all Local Leagues to have dues of \$15.00 per member. The Local would keep \$7.00, State would receive \$4.00, and National would receive \$4.00. The pledge system would be retained. This will be discussed at State Board Meeting.

**Voter's Service:** A questionnaire for all County Board Candidates, not just those from City of Decatur Districts, is being planned for the County Board election.

A call was received from the Springfield Voter's Service Chairman requesting our help with a candidates meeting to be held in Springfield in the Fall for Presidential, Senatorial, and House candidates. We will be asked to publicize the meeting and bring people to it.

**Finance Drive:** Letters will go out March 1.

**ACTION:** Members of the School Committee met with the District 61 Facilities Committee on Saturday, January 29. They felt some minds were open to their presentation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** 1) A film that was shown at the regionals, To Improve and Enhance, is available. 2) Mrs. Benson is speaking at the International Trade Fair in Chicago on March 1. 3) The Illinois Commission on Children has a report out as a follow-up on the White House Report On Children. It can be obtained by writing to: Commission on Children  
1010 Myers Building  
101 S. Fifth  
Springfield, Ill. 62701

4) Senator Javits will speak on U. S.-China Relations at the Oak Brook World Affairs Series on March 13. 5) March 1 is deadline for National Convention reservations. 6) A Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held Monday, March 6. Chuck Skibbens of the Decatur Public Schools would like us to indicate interest in attending as soon as possible. Reservations are due March 3. 7) Some Board Members interviewed Harker Harris of the East Side Housing Corporation. He wants our help in finding people to rent houses etc. We can't help other than inform members of what the corporation is doing. We have no specific position on East Side Housing Corporation, but can see if it meets criteria for meeting housing crisis for low income people. We would need a Local Human Resources Chairman to do this study. 8) No specific Pep Corp dates will be



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assigned for attending the General Assembly. We can make reservations whenever we want to go. 9) Suggestions were asked for for changes in policies of the National Board. One suggestion was made that applies also to State. It is to please meet deadlines they establish for themselves or set more realistic deadlines. 10) It was suggested that solid waste disposal in Decatur could be discussed at the April Units if the consensus on Land Use doesn't arrive. 11) Members will be informed of what's going on in the community in ecology through next month's Voter. 12) We have a member working with G.R.I.F.E. but she cannot speak for League. 13) The Macon County Association for Retarded is having a School Board Candidates Meeting on March 9. An announcement will be placed in the Voter.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 a.m.

Next meeting - Combined Board - Wednesday, March 29 at 9:15 a.m. in the home of Mrs. John Weinman.

Margaret Goberly  
Secretary



Decatur League of Women Voters

February Board Agenda

Friday, February 18, 1972

9:15 a.m. Mrs. Robert Schade's  
143 Point Bluff Drive

Minutes.....Coberly  
Treasurer's Report.....Butler  
Program.....Weinman  
    Local program for 72-73  
    Plans for Annual Meeting.....Johnson  
    March Units - Corrections.....Coberly  
Organization.....Verbanac  
    Nominations Report  
Public Relations.....Keyerson  
    Budget for 72-73 *8/10/71*  
    Finance Drive  
Action.....Redford  
New Business *72-73*  
Announcements  
Decatur Voter.....Forbes

Your president is out of town Feb. 14 through Feb. 20.

Please call Karla Weinman if you can't attend this meeting.

All officers and directors are needed to make these important board recommendations to the Annual Meeting.