

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
 1730 M Street, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
 STATE Illinois

LOCAL LEAGUE TREASURER'S REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 1970

(Please read explanation for each item on reverse of this sheet before filling in form.)

INCOME (1/1/70 - 12/31/70)

1. Dues @ \$ <u>8.00</u> (from <u>122</u> members)	\$ <u>976.00</u>	\$ <u>976.00</u>	1. (total from dues)
2. Contributions from members	\$ <u>297.50</u>		
non-members	<u>905.65</u>	\$ <u>1203.15</u>	2. (total contributions)
	<b>Publication exp. \$193.11</b>		
	<b>Publication Income \$161.67</b>		
3. Other Receipts: a) from <b>Publication Sales</b>	\$ <u>31.44</u>	<b>Net Deficit</b>	
b) from <u>Travel Reimbursement</u>	<u>134.10</u>		
c) from <u>Dividends from savings</u>	<u>18.33</u>		
d) from _____	_____	\$ <u>152.43</u>	3. (total from Other Receipts)
4. From Reserve:			
a) from Earmarked Reserves:			
(for KYT _____);			
for delegates _____;			
for etc. _____)	a) \$ _____		
b) from Savings to balance budget	b) <u>350.00</u>	\$ <u>350.00</u>	4. (total from Reserves)
5. Total Income, including any taken from Reserve		\$ <u>2681.58</u>	5. (grand total)

EXPENDITURES (1/1/70 - 12/31/70)

Explanation on back; Includes \$3144 Deficit

6. Local Disbursements (including ILO support of \$ _____)	\$ <u>1643.68</u>		
7. State and National Support	\$ <u>971.40</u>		
8. Total Expenditures Calendar 1970		\$ <u>2615.08</u>	8. (grand total)

CASH STATEMENT

9. Total Cash Balance on hand 1/1/70	\$ <u>954.05</u>	\$333.16 Ck Acc.
10. Total Cash Balance on hand 12/31/70	\$ <u>670.55</u>	620.89 Savings Ac.
See explanation on back:		381.33 Ck Acc.
11. How much of Cash Balance is earmarked?	\$ <u>670.55</u>	278.22 Savings Ac.

(over)



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT LOCAL LEAGUE TREASURER'S REPORT

Note that estimated figures have been eliminated by using the calendar rather than fiscal year for reporting. January, February and March 1970 figures are taken from the reports for fiscal 1969-70. The remaining months are from fiscal 1970-71.

1. Dues: Fill in rate of dues, number of members and total amount received during calendar 1970
2. Contributions: Include all contributions received in calendar 1970.
3. Other Receipts: Show in these four spaces only net profits (receipts minus expenses equals net profits) for calendar 1970 derived from such activities as:  
 a) sale of publications (including calendars);  
 b) fees charged for meetings; c) fees for reporting election returns; d) any other profit-making activities.
4. From Reserves: Fill in this figure only if funds were drawn during calendar 1970 from a) Earmarked Reserves including any non-deductible funds\* (for a Know Your Town, or for future delegates expenses, or b) drawn from savings to balance your expenses. (Reserve is total cash balance on hand 12/31/69. It includes all money in all savings accounts, plus all money in all checking accounts.)
6. Local Disbursements: Include all expenses except state and national support.
7. State and National Support: Show actual amount of pledge, plus any additional gifts to state or national. Do not include cost of state and national publications or ILO (county council) pledge. Those items will appear under local disbursements.
9. Cash Balance 1/1/70: Report total of cash in all checking and savings accounts, including balance in any non-deductible funds.\*
10. Cash Balance 12/31/70: You will arrive at this figure by adding 1, 2, 3 and 9 (Cash Balance 1/1/70) then subtracting #8

<b>Explanation of Line 6</b>		Add Lines 1,2,3,& 9	\$3285.63
		Subtract Line 8	-2615.08
		Cash Bal on Hand	\$ 670.55
		12.31.70	
Admin. Exp.	\$ 77.75		
Committees Exp.	163.56		
Meetings & Conv.	440.70		
Operating	86.06		
Activities	496.26		
Local Bulletins	347.91		
Net Deficit	31.44		
	\$1643.68		



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF Decatur

STATE Illinois

Deadline for Return: February 1, 1971

Number of Copies: State Office - 2  
National Office - 2 - to 1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Local League - 2

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT \*\* 1970

Population of area served by local League 100,000

This League is in Congressional District or Districts number 22

MEMBERSHIP

- a. Total membership reported last year (January 1, 1970 figure) 150
- b. Number of voting members 1/1/71 131
- c. Number of associate members 1/1/71 19
- d. Total membership 1/1/71 131
- e. Net gain or loss 19
- f. Number of new members 1/1/70 - 1/1/71 10
- g. Number of members dropped 1/1/70 - 1/1/71 29

To what factors do you attribute this gain or loss?

*Many of our dropped members moved*

Also our public school system is still in a crisis situation and although our League has taken as active role as possible within our Human Resources position, many wouldbe League members feel that they can contribute their time more effectively in activist single-issue local organizations. I am afraid that basically that the demand and need for leaders in this community more and more surpasses the supply. Also our membership chairman was overextended in a couple of ways (over) She is expecting a baby in March and took position of a PTA president right after agreeing to be League membership chairman.



MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

SECTION I

1. What special action did your Board take to involve members in League action?

*Comm. The chairmen made it a point to ask new members to work on a committee in which they were interested*

*We are in the process of compiling a booklet on League terms + procedures for ~~the~~ our members reference and to orient new members candidate meeting see*

2. What kinds of help do you need to get and keep members for your League? How can the state League help you? the national League?

*promote more publicity of league lobby what league do at local level*

We have been giving new members the Illinois League's finance drive folders "The League's Magnificent Record". A concise, easy to read folder on National program, etc. where League stands and what has been accomplished would be very valuable for new members. We would like to see Illinois go on publishing a folder on their accomplishments also.

3. Do you have any analysis of your membership? For example, why they joined, age, section of town in which they live, what they like most about the League, etc. If you have done a membership survey within the past two years, could we please have a copy?

*see attached form. We sent them to all members in Dec 1970*



League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
STATE Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

NATIONAL PROGRAM -- REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND VOTING RIGHTS

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

1. Election of the President

a) Describe action your League and members have taken on the proposed amendment for direct election of the President and Vice President.

Letters were written to our senators, Charles Percy and Ralph Smith, by the president and some members.

b) Have you made use of the following in the League and the community?

- 1) FACTS & ISSUES -- The Electoral College -- What Choices for Change? Yes
- 2) Who Should Elect the President? Yes

If so, please describe.

Both publications were publicized in the local Voter (newsletter) and were publicized at meetings for purchase from the publications suitcase which is at all meetings. Of course, both were used by committee members during their study.

2. District of Columbia

a) Describe the effect of the D.C. petition campaign in April 1970 in terms of: higher visibility of D.C. issues in the League, in the community, in the news media. Report any special ways you capitalized on the campaign later.

Copies of the "D.C. Last Colony" flyer were sent to all of our members with our Decatur VOTER along with an article in the Voter urging them to have the petition in National VOTER filled.

I also talked about the campaign at membership meetings. We made copies of the petition and posted them at places like the "Y"s and sent them to other organizations. Response was best from black organizations.

Local newspaper had an excellent editorial picked up from National news service. This being 1) "The Last Colony" flyer

- 2) FACTS & ISSUES -- The Nation's Capital -- A Nice Place to Visit, But --

Both\*publications were publicized in the local Voter (newsletter) and were publicized at meetings for purchase from the publications suitcase which is at all meetings. Of course, both were used by committee members during their study.

\*Last Colony flier was sent to organizations with petition. (over)  
As I said above, these were sent to our members not sold.



3. Apportionment of State Legislatures

- a) Please report what has happened or is happening in your state relative to legislative reapportionment on the basis of the 1970 census.

Reapportionment of the state legislature has to be completed this year. The Illinois legislature is now in session but nothing yet done.

- b) If you have not already mailed in the Apportionment Action Report sent from the national office September 25, 1970, would you here report any action by your legislature to petition Congress for a constitutional Convention on apportionment or to rescind such a resolution?

VOTING RIGHTS

- 1. Describe any action taken by the state League to protect the citizens' right to vote under the national Program Bylaws change or state League position or combined authority.

The Illinois League and all local Illinois Leagues supported strongly the new state constitution adopted November 1970 which calls for a state election authority; and, incidentally, or not so incidentally, gives women the right to vote in Illinois.

The State League has proposed adding "action to protect the right to vote of every citizen" to their bylaws and we have proposed adding the same to ours at our Annual meeting next week.

- 2. In what areas do you see possibilities for action at the state level? Please describe.

Illinois state and local leagues will be active testifying and writing to get League positions on Voting Rights incorporated/implementation legislation for the new constitution.



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Also our public school system is still in a crisis situation and although our League has taken as active role as possible within our Human Resources position, many wouldbe League members feel that they can contribute their time more effectively in activist single-issue local organizations. I am afraid that basically that the demand and need for leaders in this community more and more surpasses the supply. Also our membership chairman was overextended in a couple of ways (over) She is expecting a baby in March and took position of a PTA president right after agreeing to be League membership chairman.



1. What special action did your Board take to involve members in League action?

- 1. Committee chairmen made it a point to ask new members to work on a committee in which they were interested
- 2. We asked for help with our candidates meeting and to staff the constitution headquarters
- 3. We are in the process of compiling a booklet on League terms and procedures for our members reference and to orientate new members.

2. What kinds of help do you need to get and keep members for your League? How can the state League help you? the national League?

We have been giving new members the Illinois League's finance drive folders "The League's Magnificent Record". A concise, easy to read folder on National program, etc. where League stands and what has been accomplished would be very valuable for new members. We would like to see Illinois go on publishing a folder on their accomplishments also.

3. Do you have any analysis of your membership? For example, why they joined, age, section of town in which they live, what they like most about the League, etc. If you have done a membership survey within the past two years, could we please have a copy?

See attached form. We sent them to all members in Dec 1970



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LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
STATE Illinois

LOCAL LEAGUE FINANCE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1970

- I.
1. What are your dues? \$ 8<sup>00</sup> Is this an increase over last year? No
2. When do you hold your drive? May 1\* How long does drive continue? 1 1/2 mo
3. Total amount raised from members for calendar year 1970 \$331<sup>00</sup>  
Total amount raised from members during year before Anniversary drive \$462.33
4. Total amount raised from non-members in calendar year 1970 \$910<sup>00</sup>  
Total amount from non-members during year before Anniversary drive 1152.00
5. Is your League part of a metro drive? Yes      No X  
If yes, please describe pros and cons of this approach.

6. Amount budgeted for finance \$ 2,797.50 ~~4590~~ (1970-71)
7. Does your League have a local tax-deductible Fund? Yes      No X  
If yes, please describe its use, amount raised, projects funded, etc.

\* Our drive has normally been held in the fall in past years. The delay was caused by a conflict with the Nat'l anniversary drive. This delay, combined with the timing change at the beginning of the Anniversary drive, has caused us to lose one full year's income (other than dues) As a result, we ~~are~~ have used up our total reserve fund and are in serious financial straits.

(over)



LOCAL LEAGUE FINANCE REPORT (continued)

8. What kinds of financial help does your state finance chairman/board provide?

*memos - tips, etc.*

*List of firms who contribute elsewhere in Ill.*  
What additional services from state would you like to have?

9. What was your League pledge to state in 1969-70? \$ 1058.20  
1970-71? \$ 942.50

II.

1. Is your League involved with any National Development solicitation?  
Yes  No . If yes, please describe.

2. Please list any companies, unions, foundations, individuals you think should be approached by national.

3. Do you have any suggestions for additional national service or activity in the area of fund raising?

*more publicity on the Nat'l level  
- in magazines or newspaper mag. supplements  
We find it next to impossible to  
get Nat'l news releases into  
the local media*

(over)



SECTION II

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
STATE Illinois

Deadline for return: March 1, 1971

Number of copies: To state office - 2

To national office - 2  
(1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036)

For your use - 1 working copy,  
1 file copy

LOCAL LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 1970 - March 31, 1971

EVALUATION

1. How would you rate your League's effectiveness as part of a national organization? Explain briefly.

I am not sure how to rate our League in effectiveness in comparison with other Leagues. We try to answer all "Time for Actions" as effectively as we can. We announce them at meetings, send out condensed versions to our members when of general interest, send copies to other organizations and individuals most apt to be concerned & respond - particularly in the Human Resources area.

We send information to our local newspapers on national program & events though little is printed as they are partial to local news. Occasionally we are surprised by an editorial picked up apparently from national news service.

I announce the most pertinent National and State League news and information at board meetings - sometimes more than the board cares to listen to!

As more of our national positions apply to current local concerns such as school desegregation, sewage treatment, & restrictive trade & more awareness of being part of a strong national organization is projected.

2. Which activity or accomplishment during the last year has given the most member satisfaction? Describe briefly.

Working for the passage of the new Illinois Constitution was probably the single most satisfying activity and accomplishment. Even though all the study and consensus necessary to formulate our positions on the document was shouldered by a small but dedicated segment of our League, a larger portion took part in the campaign for its passage. We were a strong part of a local citizens committee which was part of a statewide citizens committee and League members took turns manning the local committee office as well as distributing materials, etc. The State League did a marvelous job of keeping all the local Leagues informed, involved and enthusiastic.



BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Has your Board any suggestions for changes or improvements in policies, procedures and services of the national Board. If so, please describe, giving reasons.

Our treasurer suggests that it would be helpful if League member transfer notices would include month when dues was last paid in League from which she is transferring. Our League in Illinois is called the "Rockford" plan - dues are due a year from the time a member first pays dues regardless of when in our League fiscal year she joins.

A concise, easy-to-read brochure on National League program and accomplishments would be most useful for both membership and public relations. Perhaps it could be published ~~bi-annually~~ biennially.

Some of our chairmen found the annual report questions difficult to interpret.

It would be helpful if the "Report from the Hill" could be organized in such a manner that material pertaining to different Program chairman could be separated. Sometimes, for instance, "Human Resources" material is on the back of "Foreign Policy". Our chairmen find "Report from the Hill" valuable as little of this type of information is printed in our local newspapers. When reports can be separated into segments, we separate one copy from a duplicate presidents mailing and send it to appropriate chairmen.

Has your Board any suggestions for changes or improvements in policies, procedures and services of the state Board. If so, please describe, giving reasons.

We appreciated brochure prepared for State finance drive on State accomplishments and would like to see brochures of this type produced perhaps biennially for use of membership and public relations.

In the two years that I have been president of Decatur league, I have found the State board most helpful.

2. Which activity or accomplishment during the last year has given the most member satisfaction? Describe briefly.

Working for the success of the new Illinois Constitution was probably the single most exciting activity and accomplishment. Even though all the study and consensus necessary to formulate our position on the document was shared by a small but dedicated segment of our League, a larger portion took part in the campaign for its passage. We were a strong part of a local citizens committee which was part of a statewide citizens committee and League members took turns manning the local committee office as well as distributing materials, etc. The State League did a marvelous job of keeping all the local Leagues informed, involved and enthusiastic.



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1730 M Street, N.W.  
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LOCAL LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE Decatur, Illinois  
ANNUAL REPORT Illinois 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

NATIONAL PROGRAM -- U.S. CONGRESS: AN EVALUATION OF  
CONGRESSIONAL STRUCTURES, PROCEDURES, PRACTICES, AND  
THEIR EFFECT ON RESPONSIVE LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

1. Describe briefly what you learned from your observation of congressional elections, congressional interviews, and organization of Congress.

Regarding congressional elections and the organization of Congress: Generally speaking, it appears to us that the recent congressional elections failed to significantly favor either major party. In part, this may account for the present mixed leadership, i.e., with both Democratic and Republican leadership positions going to moderates. We would expect little in the way of significant change in the U.S. Congress in the near future. The organization of Congress is better understood only in the direction of individual or small group, i.e., minority groups

2. Have you found ways to involve citizens of to create better understanding of how Congress works? If so, describe briefly.

within Congress with veto power or power to delay legislation.

Yes. We have invited citizens in the community to attend an open League Meeting at which the structure and functions of Congress were discussed by a qualified speaker, i.e., an out-of state Political Science Professor who received a Congressional Fellowship. Also, by inviting a representative of the local newspaper to speak to our U.S. Congress Committee and extending an invitation to our local political scientists, other university professors and interested citizens, as well.

3. What preliminary thoughts do you have about which congressional practices or procedures

- a) should receive special League attention and/or
- b) should receive minimum League attention?

We would suggest special League attention be given to study the power of Committee Chairmen rather than to the method of selection of Chairmen. We would also stress studying rules and procedures which delay and/or complicate the movement of legislation through Congress, e.g., 1) attaching riders to bills, 2) unexplained and possibly unnecessary delay of bills in Committee.

4. Comment in any way you choose about the progress of the study, involvement of members, and/or future direction of League work. What kind of help will you need in the coming year? Please evaluate materials already received and indicate how we can best assist you in your study.

The materials received, to date, have been interesting and informative. We recognize the need to bring the subject of Congress to the attention of the average citizen and would welcome any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish this goal. Short of a major crisis in Congress, we are reluctant to suggest that this will happen in the natural course of events in the near future.



DEADLINE TO STATE AND NATIONAL MAR. 1, 1971

League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
STATE Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

NATIONAL PROGRAM -- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. Now that the League has gone through the consensus reaching process on air quality what environmental issue should all Leagues study next?

The committee is divided in a choice between solid waste disposal and population.

Please check one: Is this a decision of the local League \_\_\_\_\_ Board \_\_\_\_\_  
EQ Committee X Membership \_\_\_\_\_

2. What materials or other types of assistance would you like from national EQ committee to help your League in its work on the subject you suggested?

We felt that we could have used more information from National on current legislation, although we are aware that it was changing very rapidly during our last study and was difficult to keep up with.

Please check one: Is this a decision of the local League \_\_\_\_\_ Board \_\_\_\_\_  
EQ Committee X Membership \_\_\_\_\_



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LOCAL LEAGUE DecaturSTATE Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

## NATIONAL PROGRAM - HUMAN RESOURCES

I. What has been the main focus of your League's H.R. work this year? **Welfare Study & Completion and printing (May 1970) of the Human Resources report on Decatur housing & employment.**  
What was the main focus last year?  
What do you consider your League's major contribution to the community in the area of Human Resources?

**Printing of the above report and continuing interest and support for the Torrence Park Urban Renewal project with emphasis on supplying housing for low-income families; removal of dilapidated, vacant structures; relocation plans; and the need for a community center to be used for day care, counseling, health services, etc. for the area residents. Our league has a Decatur Public Schools Committee which studies and reports on the results of changes made in the integration plan for elementary schools which was implemented in the fall of 1969.**

II. Did your League mount or participate in any major projects relating to Human Resources, either informational, service, or action? **Yes**  
If yes, summarize briefly here the subject and nature of the project. On separate sheet(s) describe more fully the project's goals, content, and achievements. In Sept. our league sponsored a public meeting with Mr. Henry

**L. McCarthy, Chief of Division of Community Services, Ill. Dept. of Public Aid, speaking on "Trends in Public Welfare Programs". On Nov. 3, 1970, a Statement to the Senate Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity on Desegregation of Schools in Decatur, Illinois, was submitted by our President, Mrs. Robert C. Schade, and compiled with the help of a league committee.**

III. In the overall consideration of your League's coverage of Human Resources last year, how would you evaluate (excellent, good, fair, poor) member participation in

- . committee work-----**good**-----
- . attendance at meetings-----**fair to good**-----
- . action projects and response to local times for action-----
- . response to state and national times for action-----**fair to good**-----

Comments: On national times for action in the Human Resources area, the committee has condensed, printed, and circulated requests for action to its membership as well as to individuals and groups thought likely to respond. Since we receive only spotty reports of action taken, there is no way to assess the response.

IV. Has your League published materials in the Human Resources area (related either to national, state, or local items)? If so, please list by title, date, number of pages, and indicate price and availability, and attach copy.

**Human Resources Report, May 1970, 12 pages, no extra copies available at present.**

**Statement to the Senate Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity on Desegregation of Schools in Decatur, Ill., Nov. 1970, 8 pages, free in limited supply.**

**Current information sheets on Welfare and Schools were printed and sent with local league bulletins to the membership.**



HUMAN RESOURCES (continued)

V. How can the national office be most helpful to you in your Human Resources work?  
**Rethink consensus procedures and desired response. Consensus questions should encourage new ideas. Too numerous, specific and detailed questions necessitate rigid presentation and place a burden on presentation time.**

VI. In the chart below check appropriate columns to indicate Human Resources subjects covered by your League last year.

SUBJECT	Information in Voter, publications, etc.	Member of public meetings	Committee or Board Action	Member action (including participation in projects)
1. EDUCATION				
(a) School desegregation	a X	a X	a X	a
(b) Compensatory ed.	b	b	b	b
(c) Other	c X (Drop-outs Jr. College)	c X	c X	c X (local consensus)
2. EMPLOYMENT				
(a) Fair practices	a X	a X	a	a X (TIME FOR ACTION Aug. 1970)
(b) Job training	b X	b X	b	b
(c) Affirmative Minority	c X	c X	c	c
(d) Other / hiring	d X (HARD-CORE HANDICAPPED)	d X	d	d
3. HOUSING				
(a) Fair Housing	a	a	a	a
(b) Housing needs	b X	b X	b	b
(c) Public housing	c X	c X	c	c
(d) Other assisted hous.	d	d	d	d
(e) Nonprof. sponsorship	e X	e X	e	e
(f) Tenants rights	f	f	f	f
(g) Zoning	g	g	g	g
(h) Other	h X (GREENWOOD & MOBILE Homes)	h X	h	h
4. CHILD DEVELOPMENT				
(a) Day care	a	a X	a	a
(b) Headstart	b	b X	b	b
5. CIVIL RIGHTS	5	5	5	5
6. FOOD ASSISTANCE	6	6 X	6	6
7. COMMUNITY ACTION	7	7	7	7
8. MODEL CITIES	8	8	8	8
9. LEGAL SERVICES	9 X	9 X	9 X	9 X (TIME FOR ACTION-OCT. 1970)
10. MIGRANT WORKERS	10	10	10	10
11. INDIAN	11	11	11	11
12. WELFARE	12 X	12 X	12 X	12 X (Natl League Consensus)
13. OTHER	13	13	13	13

COMMENTS: Under Education above, we have checked the areas covered by our league's school committee.



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ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

NATIONAL PROGRAM - FOREIGN POLICY

Describe and evaluate your League's coverage of the foreign policy item. Note any innovative techniques that were used to increase member interest or gain the attention of the community. How effective do you consider your community education and action activities to have been?

Aid

*Extensive work was done on this subject in the past, but nothing this year.*

Trade

*The chairman and several interested members wrote letters to Senators Percy and Ralph T. Smith and Rep. Springer stating our position against the passage of the trade bill presently before Congress.*



The committee worked on this area last year under a different chairman who has since moved out of town, but nothing further has been done this year.

Describe and evaluate your League's coverage of the foreign policy item. Note any innovative techniques that were used to increase member interest or gain the attention of the community. How effective do you consider your community education and action activities to have been?

b1A

UN (Include your League's UN Day activities in commemoration of the UN 25th Anniversary and International Education Year (IEY).)

A pot-luck luncheon was held at the home of one of our League members, and a report made by the Foreign Policy chairman covering the highlights of the United Nations' accomplishments over the past 25 years.

Evaluate the usefulness to your League of national League material on Foreign Policy, i.e. Leaders Guide, Wrap-Ups, etc.

It would probably have been more valuable had the chairman had some prior experience on the committee and known how to take better advantage of it.



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- 1) FACTS & ISSUES -- The Electoral College -- What Choices for Change? Yes
- 2) Who Should Elect the President? Yes

If so, please describe.

Both publications were publicized in the local Voter (newsletter) and were publicized at meetings for purchase from the publications suitcase which is at all meetings. Of course, both were used by committee members during their study.

2. District of Columbia

a) Describe the effect of the D.C. petition campaign in April 1970 in terms of: higher visibility of D.C. issues in the League, in the community, in the news media. Report any special ways you capitalized on the campaign later.

Copies of the "D.C. Last Colony" flyer were sent to all of our members with our Decatur VOTER along with an article in the Voter urging them to have the petition in National VOTER filled. I also talked about the campaign at membership meetings. We made copies of the petition and posted them at places like the "Y"s

b) Describe your distribution in the League and the community ofack organizations.

- 1) "The Last Colony Flyer" Local newspaper had an excellent editorial picked up from National news service. This being the case, it is difficult to stir up much excitement about a problem in Washington, D.C.
- 2) FACTS & ISSUES -- The Nation's Capital -- A Nice Place to Visit, But --

Both publications were publicized in the local Voter (newsletter) and were publicized at meetings for purchase from the publications suitcase which is at all meetings. Of course, both were used by committee members during their study.

\*Last Colony flier was sent to organizations with petition. (over)  
As I said above, these were sent to our members not sold.



REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT (Continued)

3. Apportionment of State Legislatures

a) Please report what has happened or is happening in your state relative to legislative reapportionment on the basis of the 1970 census.

Reapportionment of the state legislature has to be completed this year. The Illinois legislature is now in session but nothing yet done.

b) If you have not already mailed in the Apportionment Action Report sent from the national office September 25, 1970, would you here report any action by your legislature to petition Congress for a constitutional Convention on apportionment or to rescind such a resolution?

VOTING RIGHTS

1. Describe any action taken by the state League to protect the citizens' right to vote under the national Program Bylaws change or state League position or combined authority.

The Illinois League and all local Illinois Leagues supported strongly the new state constitution adopted November 1970 which calls for a state election authority; and, incidentally, or not so incidentally, gives women the right to vote in Illinois.

The State League has proposed adding "action to protect the right to vote of every citizen" to their bylaws and we have proposed adding the same to ours at our Annual meeting next week.

2. In what areas do you see possibilities for action at the state level? Please describe.

Illinois state and local leagues will be active testifying and writing to get League positions on Voting Rights incorporated/implementation legislation for the new constitution.



League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
1730 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
STATE Illinois

ANNUAL REPORT 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

VOTERS SERVICE

Please read all questions before beginning to answer any. Use additional sheets if necessary, appropriately identified as to question being answered and name of League.

1. What special Year of the Voter activities did your League develop in Voters Service? Are you planning to continue any of these activities?

As a new Voters Service Chairman in a state which was writing and adopting a new Constitution, I didn't develop any new projects. The state League did sponsor a Youth Observers Day at the Constitutional Convention which was very successful, I thought. We have, and will continue to work with the OEO office and citizens's committees.

Have you a suggestion for a new theme for 1972?

2. How have you worked with (and with what success):

- a. Young people? A Girl Scout Troop distributed "Know Your Ballot" sheets for the November general election. Tried to interest Millikin University students in Candidates' Meeting with little success, although a Political Science instructor was Moderator. Environmental Quality Committee has made some contact.
- b. Politically disadvantaged groups in rural and/or urban areas? Notices of meetings and "Know Your Ballot" sheets were distributed at OEO office in Nov. Vista workers seem interested in some of our meetings. We also distributed material through an Urban Renewal Citizens' Committee.

3. What was your response to the "Time to Listen" suggestion? Please describe.

We felt the "Time to Listen" suggestion a positive approach that could help hold some communities together. However, Decatur became a very polarized community over implementation of a school integration plan. Since our League stood firmly in favor of an integration plan under our Human Resources equal opportunity position, we were identified with one side of the polarization. Since then the League has been considered too liberal on other issues by some of the more vocal members of "far-right" conservative viewpoint to be a credible mediator of community differences.

4. What additional help would you like from:

a. State None. It's fine.

b. National Vistas for Voters Service is very interesting and stimulating.

Signed Mrs. Charles Meyerson  
Address R. 1, Box 166  
Decatur, Illinois



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PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. What public relations materials and aids would you find useful from the national office?  
(The spot-master program reporting action on Congressional bills is an excellent idea.) Materials such as posters (membership etc.), bumper stickers, are always useful at the local level. We don't have designers or inexpensive means of reproduction. More studies covered in depth and printed attractively in soft-cover (The Ill Housed) might be something we could place in bookstores.

2. Please state as many examples as possible of the ways in which your League coordinates public relations activities with program, voters service, and action.

We try to have newspaper, radio and TV coverage of all our activities. The Publicity Chairman is on the Board. Program chairman usually contact other groups in the community who might be interested in their study offering League material or attending their meetings when invited.

Voters Service material is offered to civic organizations regularly and is available in the County Clerk's office, Library and Association of Commerce office.

We join with other groups whenever possible for action: Sanitary district referenda; Committee for a New Constitution; we hope to work with a group formed to promote a junior college in the area.

The Public Relations Chairman is on the Board - coordination of activities usually comes through Board decisions.

On our organization chart the Public Relations Chairman has in her "department" the Voters Service Chairman, Finance Chairman, Publications Chairman and Publicity Chairman.

3. Did your League work with local radio or television stations in producing special or continuing programs? Please describe briefly and include name of station.

No. We have worked with both radio and TV station in the past on special programs. We have <sup>not</sup> had and do not have now any continuing programs.



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1730 N. Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

LOCAL LEAGUE DECATUR Illinois 62523  
Telephone: 217-423-3157  
STATE ILLINOIS

ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/70- 3/30/71

STATE PROGRAM

Please report any study and/or action on state Program, in which there has been any activity since April 1970.

Chairman  
Mrs. J. K. Senator  
James A. Chairman  
Mrs. Clara Council  
Lemuel  
Mrs. Diane Legislator  
H. P. President  
Robert H. Executive  
Morton  
Mrs. Robert President  
Lemuel

Passage of a new Constitution for the State of Illinois culminated almost 30 years of work, during much of that time the League was the only organized group to keep the idea of constitutional reform alive. Our Decatur League continued its work during the time between the call for the Constitutional Convention, the election of delegates to the Convention, consensus on issues of the Convention and action on the passage of the 1970 Constitution itself. A ten-member Constitutional Resources Committee made approx. 15 speeches before the December election, held an All-Member League meeting to review the issues of the constitution, and sponsored a public meeting with Elbert Smith, our local Con Con delegate as speaker. On YouthDay at the Convention, our League sponsored two high school girls, who attended the convention, toured Springfield, and met convention officials. Our League was a part of the local "Citizens Committee for the new Constitution," helped distribute thousands of flyers and sheets of material before the election, helped man a volunteer-staffed office downtown during the weeks before the election, and worked vigorously in every way possible to assure passage of the new Constitution. Twenty-six League members worked at the Con Con Office helping with mailings, answering telephone, etc. Our League also contributed \$100 toward expenses of the office. Chairman attended a state-meeting in Chicago and several committee members also attended workshops in Springfield. All committee members made numerous trips to Springfield to attend sessions of the Convention, and made numerous appearances before civic groups to arouse interest in the proposed constitution. Letters-to-the-Editor of our local paper proved an effective media and six letters from the League members were printed at various times.

Were there Materials from the State Board? Yes Best help we have ever had in materials.

State-wide or area conferences or workshops? Yes.

Other state Board services? Yes.

Which were most useful? Comment.

What other kinds of help would you like?

We used new State League material especially provided for the Constitutional Convention --a flyer "Illinois Constitutional Convention" and "Vote on the Illinois Constitution" were especially helpful. A series of news letters titled "Con Con Comments" were much used and personal inspiration in the presence of our state Con Con Chairman Alice Ihrig was most helpful. We felt a real personal rapport with her, found her easy to contact, very willing to give of herself, often present at the Convention, and along with the State President, a real part in passing the new Constitution. We had all the materials and help we needed from State. Could have used additional women power at the local level.

Vote "YES" for the 1970 Constitution on December 15	Yes	X
	No	



# Citizens committee for the **new** constitution

134 South Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523

Telephone: 217/423-5157



- F. G. Brown,  
Chairman
- Mrs. J. Russell Walters,  
Secretary
- James A. McKinney,  
Chairman of Finance
- Mrs. Clarence Crow,  
Constitution Chairman  
League of Women Voters
- Mrs. Thomas Hurst,  
Legislative Chairman PTA
- H. P. Jackson,  
President Local 751 UAW
- Robert H. Muehling,  
Executive Secretary,  
Macon County Farm Bureau
- Mrs. Robert Schade,  
President  
League of Women Voters

Vote "YES" for the 1970 Constitution on December 15	Yes	<b>X</b>
	No	



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LOCAL LEAGUE Decatur  
 STATE Illinois  
 ANNUAL REPORT, 4/1/70 - 3/31/71

**LOCAL PROGRAM**

Please report local Program activities, one subject to a sheet, on which there has been substantial study and/or action. Do not list inactive Program subjects. Attach additional sheets if forms are insufficient. Describe in some detail if study or action was innovative, enlisted community support, reflected a well-planned effort, even if not crowned with immediate success. List any publications and attach copy.

Note questions on page 21. These should be answered, not for each subject but for all local program.

Public Schools:

**Study:** Effects of Elementary Redistricting Plans, Sept. 1970. This study concluded with a chart showing each elementary school's black enrollment and achievement profile from 1968-70.

Study and presentation leading to consensus Nov. 1970.  
 Does the local community have a responsibility to require the school system to develop each child's potential? Yes. If so, how? The community must be well-informed and exercise their vote. It must know the needs and goals of the school district both educationally and financially. It must support these goals. There needs to be a massive information program which might be done through parents, group organizations such as block clubs, and individual efforts.  
 Would a Junior College benefit the Decatur community? Yes.

**Action:** Participation in community panel discussion concerning local school problems, Mar. 1970  
 School Board candidate's questionnaire, published in local newspaper, April 1970  
 Public statement to school board concerning apparent haste in implementing new redistricting plan, May 1970  
 Letter to editor of newspaper concerning right of minority to seek redress in the courts. Local NAACP suit filed to halt redistricting plan, Aug. 1970  
 News release concerning League position on integration and our local report on elementary redistricting, Sept 1970  
 Statement to the Senate Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity on Desegregation of Schools in Decatur, Ill. Nov 1970



Check in space provided if your League has this year used any of the following national League publications.

Know Your County (Revised, 1970) \_\_\_\_\_; Planning in the 70s \_\_\_\_\_;

School Survey Guide 1969 \_\_\_\_\_; Know Your Local Government \_\_\_\_\_;

Do You Know the ABC's of Your Town's Government? \_\_\_\_\_; Other? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, how were they used? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please report local program activities, one subject to a sheet, on which there has been substantial study and/or action. Do not list inactive. Do not list inactive. Describe in some detail if study sheets if forms are insufficient. Describe in some detail if study or action was innovative, enlisted community support, reflected a well-planned effort, even if not crowned with immediate success. List any publications and attach copy.

Note questions on page 21. These should be answered, not for each subject but for all local program.

OBSERVERS

1. Do you have a regular corps to observe local government bodies? Yes

If so, how many boards are observed regularly? 1

2. What use is made of observers and/or their reports (input into local program making? alerting League Board on possibilities for action on League positions? information to League members? other?) Please describe.

Corp observes School Board twice monthly. Obtains news-media information packets. Used to keep local Schools committee current.

What other types of local government aids or guides would you find useful?