



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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Minnesota League of Women Voters
HANDBOOK FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE LEAGUE

Revised 1939

914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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HISTORY PRIMER

"The League of Women Voters is an experiment in political education to promote the responsible participation of women in government."

-- Belle Sherwin

The plan for the League of Women Voters was launched by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1919, in anticipation of adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment granting suffrage to women which finally was proclaimed August 26, 1920. The League's purpose was to be the political education of the new voters and support of certain needed legislation. It was probably the first time in history that a newly enfranchised electorate had proposed to make an organized effort to educate itself and to make use of its political power in the public interest.

Seven women, outstanding in as many fields of public work, were invited by Mrs. Catt to head up seven committees and to prepare for each a program of proposed legislation. These committees were: American Citizenship (later the committee on Education, now Department of Government and Education); Women in Industry, (now combined with Living Costs into Department of Government and Economic Welfare); Child Welfare (now Department of Government and Child Welfare); Civil Status of Women (now Department of Government and the Legal Status of Women); Food Supply and Demand (later Living Costs and now combined with Women in Industry into Department of Government and Economic Welfare); Election Laws and Methods (later Efficiency in Government and now the Department of Government and Its Operation); Social Hygiene (dropped as a department and items added to Department of Government and Child Welfare.) Owing to figures about illiteracy brought out by the draft during the war, the removal of illiteracy seemed to the leaders of that day the first essential to an improvement in American political life and was correspondingly emphasized by Mrs. Catt.

In 1920, still a few months before enfranchisement, the League of Women Voters was organized with headquarters in Washington, D. C., and Maud Wood Park was elected its first president. At the same convention, the last of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association and the first of the League of Women Voters, the seven committee chairmen brought in a legislative program of more than a hundred measures, all of which were adopted.

Under Mrs. Park's leadership, a large membership was swiftly achieved and those high standards for support of legislation, which have always characterized the League of Women Voters, were set up.

During this first administration, a new committee was added on International Cooperation to Prevent War, (later Department of Government and International Cooperation and now Department of Government and Foreign Policy.) At this time public opinion which had formerly emphasized illiteracy as our national political defect began to put its emphasis on the indifference of the voter, and accordingly the League of Women Voters in 1924 launched a Get Out the Vote campaign which for extent, ingenuity, and thoroughness has never been equalled. But the vote was increased only from a fraction below fifty per cent to a fraction above it. It was then that the League learned that increasing the number of people intelligent and responsible about government was a task for every day in the year and not for election time only.

In 1924, Belle Sherwin became president. Under her leadership the League has come to understand better than anyone understood at the beginning, both the purpose for which the League was formed and the difficulties in the way of their accomplishment. In order to unite a national membership in a common understanding of a brand-new experiment in political education and to focus it on similar undertakings, national, state and local, it has been necessary to build up an unusual organization. Most organizations with a strong national structure do not develop strong state organizations and vice versa. The League has had to be strongly organized nationally, state and locally. Such an organization has involved unusual problems. It has been Miss Sherwin's task to develop procedure and methods to meet these problems.

In 1934, Marguerite M. Wells became president. A solid foundation for the future had been built up under the preceding administrations. Miss Wells' task has been to make use of this foundation for gradually extending a more active general membership. The League has become increasingly aware of the necessity for immediate expansion, and, by mandate of the 1938 national convention, has embarked on a nation-wide campaign - more money, more members, more help in making democracy understood and practiced, as well as believed in.

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"The National League of Women Voters is an unpartisan organization to promote the responsible participation of women in government. The League believes that a continuing political education is necessary to the success of a democratic form of government, in order that an increasing number of citizens shall base their opinions on facts and use their opportunity as voters to make those opinions effective."

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"The League of Women Voters is an experiment in political education to promote the responsible participation of women in government" -- Belle Sherwin

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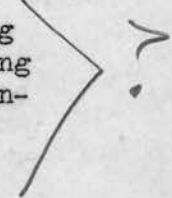
Plan of Organization
National, State, and Local

The National League, ~~as at present organized~~, consists of the following: president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer; a Board of Directors consisting of the above mentioned officers, four directors at large (elected); members appointed by the elected members of the Board, who are chairmen of the departments of the program of work, and such other chairmen as may be necessary to carry on the work of the League.

The Minnesota State League of Women Voters has modeled its setup after that of the National League. It consists of the following: ^{President} president, three vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer; of a state Board made of the above mentioned officers, ^{congressional} congressional district chairmen, and ^{directors} directors (~~these all to be elected~~) and in addition, members appointed by the elected members of the Board, who are chairmen of the departments of the program of work, and in addition such other chairmen as may be necessary to carry on the work of the League.

The Local Leagues are modeled after the state League with elected officers and appointed department and special chairmen. ~~Many of the local Leagues have functioning Boards. Several of the smaller Leagues do not have separate Board meetings.~~ ^{constituting the Board.}

The state League, through the state office, acts as a ^(League) clearing house between the National League, the local Leagues, thus facilitating a perfect and prompt clearance. ~~This is absolutely essential for constructive work.~~



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1938-1940

Honorary President Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt
New Rochelle, New York

President Miss Marguerite M. Wells
Washington, D. C.

First Vice President
In charge of Legislation Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin
Washington, D. C.

Second Vice President Mrs. Donald Hutchinson
New York, New York

Secretary Mrs. Paul Eliel
Stanford University, California

Treasurer Mrs. Walter T. Fisher
Winnetka, Illinois

Directors Mrs. LaRue Brown
Boston, Massachusetts

 Mrs. Elliott R. Corbett
Portland, Oregon

 Mrs. George Gellhorn
St. Louis, Missouri

 Mrs. Ruric N. Smith
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Chairmen of Departments

 Government and Its Operation Mrs. Walter Greenough
 Indianapolis, Indiana

 Government and Child Welfare

 Government and Education Mrs. Roscoe Anderson
 Webster Groves, Missouri

 Government and Foreign Policy Mrs. Louise Leonard Wright
 Chicago, Illinois

 Government and Legal Status
 of Women Mrs. Edith Valet Cook
 New Haven, Connecticut

Chairman of Finance Mrs. William G. Hibbard
 Winnetka, Illinois

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1939 - 1940

Officers

President
First vice president
Second vice president
Third vice president
Secretary
Treasurer

Miss Ruth H. Mitchell, St. Cloud*
Mrs. Ellwood H. Newhart, Minneapolis
Mrs. Charles M. Denny, Minneapolis
Mrs. Philip S. Duff, Wayzata
Mrs. Dewey Gruenhagen, St. Paul
Mrs. A. B. Anderson, St. Paul

Directors

Term expires in 1940
Term expires in 1940

Dr. Ruth E. Boynton, Minneapolis
Mrs. J. D. Winter, Mound

Term expires in 1941
Term expires in 1941
Term expires in 1941

Mrs. E. C. Stakman, St. Paul
Mrs. Richard W. Morin, Albert Lea
Mrs. Sidney Kinyon, Owatonna

Congressional District Chairmen

First District
Second District
Third District
Fourth District
Fifth District
Sixth District
Seventh District
Eighth District
Ninth District

Mrs. H. A. Musty, Red Wing
Mrs. B. W. Musser, Wells
Mrs. L. M. Keyes, Minneapolis
Mrs. A. R. Wolf, St. Paul
Mrs. Harold G. Cant, Minneapolis
Miss Charlotte Knudson, St. Cloud
Mrs. W. G. Workman, Tracy
Mrs. E. C. Congdon, Duluth
Mrs. J. L. Townley, Jr., Fergus Falls

Department Chairmen

Government and Its Operation
Government and Education
Government and Child Welfare
Government and Economic Welfare

Government and Foreign Policy
Government and Legal Status
of Women
Finance

Miss Ruby E. Britts, Duluth
Mrs. William R. Pearce, Faribault
Mrs. I. M. Nelson, Gaylord
Mrs. Thomas Wright, Fergus Falls
Mrs. Everett Fraser, Minneapolis
Mrs. Joseph H. McCaffrey, Wabasha
Mrs. Charlotte Farrish Luwe, Mankato

Mrs. Gordon B. New, Rochester

Special Advisers

College League Adviser
Organization
Radio
VOTER Editor

Mrs. Dwain M. Ewing, Minneapolis
Mrs. L. L. Huntley, Grand Rapids
Mrs. Glen M. Waters, Minneapolis
Mrs. Silas M. Bryan, Minneapolis
Mrs. George W. Brodie, Minneapolis

* Send all mail in care of the Minnesota League Office

STATE OFFICE

The office is located at 914 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, and is convenient to the shopping district. A permanent office and staff insures the fusion and coordination of the activities of the local Leagues, keeps open the channels of communication from the National League, as well as giving the League prestige as an established organization.

A few of the duties of the president, as the executive officer, are: to direct work of the state League with the advice of the State Board; to follow up all communications from the National League, to direct communications to the local Leagues, to preside at State Board meetings, convention or any other meeting called by the State League.

The office staff consists of an executive secretary and an office secretary, and their duties include publicity, helping with preparation of League publications, mimeographing, finance records, Voter and News Letter subscriptions, filing, filling orders for material, etc.

The field secretary organizes new Leagues, reorganizes weak Leagues, follows up the work of organized Leagues, through annual visits and correspondence. She also directs the activities of the steering committee which works actively during legislative sessions in behalf of League measures.

Reciprocal Obligations of State and Local Leagues

THIS IS WHAT THE STATE LEAGUE DOES FOR YOU AND WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS

State Convention and district meetings

Send good delegations

President's Conferences

The President herself should attend

Letters of advice and suggestion; requests for cooperation from various state officers and chairmen to respective local officers and chairmen.

Reply to all letters from state officers and chairmen, and give cooperation requested if possible.

Help plan program for the year

Report all meetings

Monthly bulletin, THE WOMAN VOTER
Also special legislative bulletin

Read bulletin; keep subscriptions of all members for bulletin up to date

Field service: field secretary and state board members
(Expenses paid by state if visit is at suggestion of state; paid by local if visit requested by local League)

Make proper preparations for field visit:
Opportunity for meeting with Board with ample time and comfort for intimate discussion
Appointments planned with particular chairmen if requested
Appointments made for financial interview if desired
Sufficient publicity and careful planning if open meeting is held

Preparation and distribution of League material

Dissemination of material to as many members as possible

Radio programs

See that as many members as possible listen in, or, better yet, plan group meetings

HOW THE PROGRAM IS MADE

By Marguerite M. Wells

The essence of the League of Women Voters lies in the way it makes and supports the program. This program procedure is based on the theory that the way to become intelligent and responsible about government is to participate effectively in government. In order to be effective, the League of Women Voters unites its membership in careful consideration of a program, limits the length of its program, educates itself on the program, finally focuses all its efforts on the program it has chosen to support. How is this program made?

The National Program: It is proposed by the national Board after considering the recommendations which have been sent in by the state program ~~chairmen~~ *League*. The proposed program is sent to all state Leagues for consideration. It is adopted by the biennial national convention composed of delegates from all state Leagues. It contains federal items which all Leagues support, and state and local items which serve as recommendations for the state and local Leagues to select their programs from.

The State program: It is proposed to the state Board by the ~~state department chairmen~~ who are somewhat guided by the national program and never run counter to principles contained in the national program. The Board considers these proposals and then sends a proposed program to the local Leagues for consideration. The program is adopted by the annual convention composed of delegates from the local Leagues. After it is adopted it is supported by all local Leagues.

The local League program: The local League supports both the National and State programs. It may also adopt a program of local measures. These should be selected by some procedure as careful as the national and state program making procedure, and should never run counter to principles contained in the national or state program.

PRIMER
ON FINANCE

By Helen M Horr

1. What does it cost to maintain the State League?

The State League's budget adopted for 1938 - 1939 is \$3,775.00

2. Where does this money come from?

Quotas from local Leagues, \$6,550; Woman Voter subscriptions, \$600; Sale of educational material, \$500; Interest from Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund, \$35; Contributions, \$1,090. These contributions are from friends of the League who believe in its work of education in government and wish to support it.

3. Where is this money spent?

Organization (travelling and building up new Leagues, visiting and helping old ones), \$575.00; printing and mailing of Woman Voter, \$500; educational material, \$450; office maintenance, supplies and postage, \$875; depreciation (office replacement), \$50; publicity, \$50; salaries, \$4,125; quota to National League, \$2,150. (the State League's share in maintaining the services of the National League).

4. Why send a quota to the National League?

Because there wouldn't be any state League or local Leagues without the National League. It is a concentrated effort of the women of the United States that will accomplish things. As a single group, you would be ineffective. The money sent monthly to the National League is used for research work on publications, for organization, for maintenance of the office and congressional secretary, etc.

5. Do the officers and department chairmen of the state League receive pay or mileage?

No, they receive no remuneration of any kind for their services, and they are under considerable expense. State Board members all have to attend monthly Board meetings, which are usually held in Minneapolis, at their own expense. Department chairmen and others must make other trips to the Twin Cities in the interests of the League.

6. Does the League charge what it costs to edit and public the printed and mimeographed material and pamphlets?

No, it only charges what it costs to print or mimeograph the material.

7. Why doesn't it charge the full cost?

Because the League is doing a great piece of educational work in the country through its pamphlets and it has been felt that if a greater charge were placed on the pamphlets, fewer people would have access to them and the work would be held back. The League's material is accurate, non-partisan and condensed, the sort of thing that the public is eager to have.

8. What is the Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund?

This is a permanent fund of the State League, the interest from which will

help in furthering our work for promoting intelligent participation of women in government. The original basis of the fund was given in recognition of the spirit and work of Jane Grey Swisshelm.

YOUR PART

1. How are quotas based?

Quotas are based on the rate of \$10 per thousand population, according to the 1920 census, with a minimum quota of \$10.

2. Why has this been the plan? Why not separate dues for each individual paid directly to the State League?

Because the Minnesota League has felt that the local League should grow in proportion to the town's growth. Individual dues paid directly to the state League might be prohibitive to the growth of large groups. The quota system is an incentive to growth.

3. Does your League pay its full quota, and if not, why not?

Think this over carefully. You can answer it by asking yourself how important do you feel League information is to you and your community. Has your League grown in proportion to your community? Well-organized Leagues do not have the difficulty in raising quotas that poorly organized Leagues do.

4. How can this money be raised?

1) Membership Dues:

All Leagues in towns of 1,000 population and over must have at least \$1.00 dues, 25 cents to be paid to the State League for the Woman Voter. Some Leagues are successful in having larger dues of \$2.00 or \$2.50 a year.

2) Sustaining Dues:

It is as easy for some people to pay \$5.00 or \$3.00 as it is for others to pay \$1.00. These are called sustaining or contributing members.

3) Contributions:

Contributions of \$5.00 and up from men as well as women are secured by many Leagues. The League is for the betterment of the community; therefore, the community should help support the League. No one should go out to get contributions or contributing members who does not thoroughly understand the League.

4) Money-raising activities:

If your budget cannot be raised by membership dues and contributions, we suggest benefit movies and other entertainments, speakers, rummage sales, bake sales, card parties, silver teas, League luncheons (dividing the group into three or more divisions, each group to give one luncheon, charging all present 25 cents). Some of the Leagues use the "League basket" (in alphabetical order, A makes anything she wants to - cake, pie, etc., - and calls B that the League basket is coming over with the League bank. B puts in any amount she wishes for the cake or pie, and when she is baking, makes something for C. And so on. A league basket can go around two or three times a year.

5. Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund. By every means which we can all conceive of, individuals and groups should be encouraged, through gifts large and small, to constantly increase this fund, in recognition of past courage and leadership and in belief of future progress along new lines.

1. What does it cost to maintain the State League?

1941-1942

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355.

The budget for the year 1941-1942, adopted by the 1941 convention, is \$10,355.

2. Where does this money come from?

Quotas from local Leagues, "extra quota" contributions from local Leagues, interest on the Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund, and contributions. These contributions are from friends of the League who believe in its work of education in government and wish to support it.

3. How is this money spent?

Organization (travelling to build new Leagues, visit and help old ones); maintaining the state headquarters; postage; travelling expenses to national meetings; salaries and Social Security taxes; pledge to the National League. (The printing and mailing costs for the Woman Voter and for Educational material are met by the receipts. The annual convention is financed by registration fees.)

4. What does it cost to maintain the National League?

The budget adopted at the 1940 convention is \$82,245.

5. Where does this money come from?

Pledges from State Leagues, publications, News Letter, endowments, convention fees.

6. How is this money spent?

For general administration and for direct services to state Leagues, including promotion travel expenses, biennial convention, and an every-member magazine which goes to all League members at no cost.

7. How much does Minnesota pledge to the National League?

Our pledge for the coming biennium is \$4,000 per year. The strength of the League lies in the fact that it is nation-wide. It is a concentrated effort of the women of the United States to secure better understanding of governmental problems. As a single group, you would be ineffective. Membership in a local League means membership in the State and National League. You are the League of Women Voters.

8. Do the officers and department chairmen of the state League receive pay or mileage?

No, they receive no remuneration of any kind for their services, and they are under considerable expense, not only for monthly board meetings, but other trips to the Twin Cities.

9. Does the League charge what it costs to edit and publish the printed and mimeographed material?

No, it charges only what it costs to print or mimeograph such material. The full cost is not charged because fewer people would have access to them. League material is accurate, non-partisan and condensed - the sort of thing the public is eager to have.

10. What is the Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund?

This is a permanent fund of the State League, the interest from which will help in furthering our work for promoting intelligent participation in government. The original sum of the fund was given in recognition of the spirit and work of Jane Grey Swisshelm.

YOUR PART

1. How are quotas from local Leagues to the State League determined?

Quotas are based on the rate of \$10 per thousand population, according to the 1920 census, with a minimum of \$10.

2. Why has this been the plan? Why not separate dues for each individual, paid directly to the State League?

Because the Minnesota League has felt that the local Leagues should grow in proportion to the town's growth. Individual dues paid directly to the State League might be prohibitive to the growth of large groups. The quota system is an incentive to growth.

3. Does your League pay its quota?

The number of Leagues paying their quota has tripled in the last ten years, with over two thirds of the 55 Leagues in the state on the "honor roll." Well-organized Leagues have no difficulty in paying their quota.

4. What are "extra quota" contributions?

As population since 1920 has increased in many places, and Leagues have grown in strength, contributions in addition to quota have been made by several Leagues. All Leagues paying full quota are now being asked to pledge an additional 25%; Leagues not paying full quota are expected to make every effort to do so.

5. How can you meet your budget?

- 1) Membership Dues. All Leagues in towns of 1,000 population and over must have at least \$1.00 dues, ⁹⁵/₁₀₀ of which is paid to the State League for the Woman Voter. Some Leagues have dues of \$2.00 and \$2.50 a year. It costs each member of the Minnesota League approximately \$3.50 to maintain the State and National Leagues.
- 2) Sustaining dues. These are \$5.00.
- 3) Contributions of \$5.00 and up from men as well as women are secured by many Leagues. The League is for the betterment of the community, works in the interests of the public welfare; therefore, the community may be asked to help support the League.
- 4) Money-raising activities. If your budget cannot be met by membership dues and contributions, you may wish to plan for benefit movies and other entertainments, such as speakers, rummage sales, silver teas, bake sales, card parties, luncheons, etc.

6. Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund.

By every means of which we can all conceive, this fund should be constantly increased - by gifts large and small. This Fund has been added to every month except one since it was started.

VI.

A LEAGUE BLUEPRINT

The National League of Women Voters is endeavoring to increase the number of women taking a responsible and intelligent part in the processes of government through increasing their knowledge of the matters affecting them with which government deals.

The organization is local, state and national.

It is the particular job of the national division to

1. Assemble facts carefully (research secretaries)
2. Present material in form fitted to need of women (pamphlets)
3. Keep state division informed of current happenings (letters, News Letters, bulletins)
4. Lobby openly for federal measures adopted for support by the League in convention
5. Arrange national meetings (convention, council, conferences) which train leaders.

It is the particular job of the state division to

1. Supplement national background material with state material on those items of current importance in the state.
2. Keep local divisions informed of current happenings (letters, legislative news letters, bulletin, visits of state officers)
3. Lobby openly for state measures adopted for support in the state convention.
4. Arrange state-wide meetings (convention, president's conference, legislative clinics and other district meetings)

It is the particular job of the local division to

REACH THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE with the information thus assembled and made available.

HOW CAN THE LOCAL LEAGUE DO THIS?

Analyses of strong local Leagues show conclusively that those which have the best educational system (meetings, study groups, local projects, forums, surveys, citizenship schools, round tables, election activities) and are therefore doing the most to increase the number of intelligent, responsible women citizens, are those with

1. A strong board of directors, with a chairman for every department
2. Definite membership methods
3. Business-like finance methods
4. Well-planned publicity

These four walls of a strong League foundation may be built in various ways. The essential thing is that some kind of blueprint be used. The following blueprint is not exhaustive, but merely suggestive.

A STRONG BOARD

A strong board is one which has responsible officers and interested chairmen of departments. The essential members are: president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, finance chairman, membership chairman, publicity chairman, and a chairman of each of the six departments.

A League Blueprint (2)

It should meet at least three times a year, and the agenda should be prepared in advance by the president.

If responsibility is well divided and the League is active, attendance will be good. Knowledge of the League and understanding of what its program of work means to the community, state and nation, on the part of the elected officers, will enable them to secure good department chairmen.

A local department chairman should

1. Read the National Program of Work, noting particularly the scope of her own department.
2. Study the Program Explained
3. Study material gathered by state chairman on active items on her program
4. Keep the local League informed of events related to her department
5. Arrange meetings on most current item on her department program
6. Organize, if possible, a study group on most serious problem in her state covered by her department program
7. Cooperate with the publicity chairman

She should remember that whatever the members of her League learn on her program must be initiated by her. Whatever activity is undertaken to help solve the problems on her program must be prepared for by her. Whatever enthusiasm the community develops on her program items must be generated by her.

MEMBERSHIP

If a League is to attract new members and hold present members, it must have a membership chairman, and, preferably, a membership committee. Membership plans are numerous. Personal work on the part of the committee, who must know the League, and good meetings arranged by the department chairmen, are obviously necessary.

It is also interesting to note that a growing membership bears a direct relationship to the business methods used in collecting dues. Dues notices should be sent, so that it is clear when dues are payable, and members should be dropped after a stated time. However, at least three notices should be sent and a personal follow-up made, before a member is dropped.

Following is a good plan for a membership committee:

A chairman and three helpers. One of the helpers is in charge of renewals.

If a member does not wish to renew, her reason should be taken as a personal challenge to the Board. Another helper secures new members. A third receives the names of the new members, and sees that they are fitted into the particular place in the League which most interests them. The chairman keeps the three helpers on the job, analyzes the results of the work, and reports to the Board.

The League must have something to ask of new members. The League must have something to give. In either case, the League program of work is the starting point.

FINANCE

If a discussion of finances is not to dominate every meeting of the League and take up time which should be given to education, a finance plan must be laid out at the beginning of the fiscal year. Again a chairman is essential, and a committee desirable. A budget, which is an estimate of a year's receipts (membership dues, contributions, money-raising activities), balanced by the

A League Blueprint (3)

estimated expenditures necessary to carry on a year's work, should be drawn up by the finance committee, plus the president and membership chairman, recommended by the Board, and adopted by the membership. It is important that board meetings serve to check on the plan. Payments to the state should be made regularly.

The League which builds up its contributors list is accomplishing two things; it is making it possible for the League to carry on its work, and it is increasing the sympathetic knowledge of the League work in the community.

Here is a typical local budget:

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Disbursements</u>	
Membership Dues		Quota to State League	\$22.00
(20 members at \$1.25)	\$25.00	Publications	5.00
Contributions	10.00	Stationery	1.00
Special money-raising	15.00	Postage	3.00
	\$50.00	VOTER subscriptions	5.00
		Delegate to convention	10.00
		Open meeting	4.00
			\$50.00

WELL-PLANNED PUBLICITY

1. What is League publicity?

Since the activities of the League of Women Voters are related to current governmental problems, they are of general interest to the public and should appear in the news columns of the newspapers. Coming meetings, reports of meetings, surveys of local conditions, formation of study groups, the publication of pamphlets - all should be reported to the newspapers by the publicity chairman.

2. The publicity chairman should be familiar with the program and policy of the League. In making her contacts with the local press, she should explain that the League is not seeking space for an account of a "club meeting". Its object is to increase the number of intelligent and responsible voting citizens; it is concerned with the political, economic and social problems of the day. The more space devoted in the news columns to an interest of this kind, the more active participation may be expected in politics and government by the majority of thinking citizens.

3. State and national releases on state and national activities are sometimes sent to local publicity chairmen. These should be given a local angle, if possible, sometimes by adding local names.

4. Local officers and department chairmen should see to it that the publicity chairman is kept informed of any news items concerning the League activities for which they are responsible.

5. The board of directors should authorize all publicity. No League publicity should be given to the personal views of any League leader on local or national issues.

6. The publicity chairman should clip two copies of all League publicity in local newspapers. One set should be pasted in the local League's publicity scrap book, and the duplicates mailed once a month to the state office. At the end of the year, the publicity chairman should measure and record the total number of inches of space received, so that the increase or decrease from year to year may be noted, and the reasons analyzed. A well kept publicity scrap book is a valuable record for a League to possess.

Constance Roach, Secretary of Organization,
National League of Women Voters.

Mimeographed by the
Minnesota League of Women Voters
(From the Cleveland Voter - June 1927)

MY ESTIMATE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

by

A. R. Hatton
Professor of Political Science,
Western Reserve University
Member, Cleveland City Council

I believe that I know something of the spirit and purposes of the League of Women Voters. It chances, also, that I have had unusual opportunities to observe its activities and estimate its influence. Therefore, I shall set forth some of the fundamental principles and purposes of the League as I understand them and give an estimate of its influence and accomplishments based on my personal observations.

Unless I entirely misunderstand the principles upon which the League of Women Voters is founded, it accepts without reservation the idea of political democracy. It assumes that, in America, we are committed to government of, by and for the people. But, in accepting that principle, the League has kept its touch with the realities of human nature and of politics.

Believes in Democracy

Believing in political democracy, the League recognizes in the ballot both the symbol and the indispensable instrument of popular control. It was quick to realize that the right of suffrage alone was not enough. It saw that the ballot could be perverted and its value minimized, or even nullified by complex, confusing and defective electoral devices and practices.

The women of the League therefore turned first and almost instinctively to the improvement of electoral methods. They have put new life into the short ballot movement; they are the most effective opponents of the party column, party circle, ballot with its encouragement of indiscriminating, unintelligent voting; they are the principal force behind the growing demand for permanent registration of voters; and, from coast to coast, they are fighting for honest elections decently conducted.

The League has not confined its activities to these efforts to make the ballot more directly effective. It is the only nation-wide organization with which I am acquainted which recognizes in its program that efficient administration is an essential of democracy

But the League of Women Voters has not been content with seeking to improve the forms and processes of government. Among the organizations of national scope it is leading the way in proclaiming the need of political education and in providing the means for its accomplishment.

Has Courage

Nothing that the League has planned or done testifies so strongly to its courage and its grasp of political realities. Education of any kind is difficult enough as those of us who have tried to carry it on well know.

Most people, while proclaiming the virtues of education, strive desperately against acquiring it except in the hard school of experience. In matters of government and politics the situation is far worse. Few people will even admit that political education is needed, to say nothing of the possibility of carrying it on.

In America the very processes of our politics has tended to flatter the voters into the delusion that the ability to pass with wisdom on political questions is in some manner mysteriously conferred upon them along with the ballot or, like the sense of sight, is a gift of nature.

The League has raised its voice against this fundamentally erroneous attitude. It has taken the first steps in educating the voters to the need of political education. It is proclaiming with all its might, and with an earnestness that is in itself appealing, that popular government is a grave and difficult matter and can be safely conducted only when the voters so realize and are in possession of accurate information regarding the questions upon which they must pass.

Accomplishments

What has the League accomplished? Well, in the first place, it has worked mightily and effectively for the things already mentioned. In some states and many cities much of this program has already been carried out.

But, above all, the League has already set a standard of intelligent, political action based on investigation and accurate knowledge of facts which is profoundly influencing the course of political thinking and political action throughout the United States.

Everywhere, the League has made careless legislation and inefficient administration at least a little more difficult. Everywhere, I find formerly slipshod politicians wholesomely respectful, though a little resentful, of the demand of the League that their actions be open to investigation and justifiable upon a basis of fact.

Everywhere, I find greater care in both legislation and administration, born, in part at least, of the knowledge that the women of the League are likely to confront public officials at any time with broad and accurate information as to how things should be done.

Exerts Influence

Upon the political parties the influence of the League has been powerful, though seldom acknowledged by party leaders. Without being anti-party, the League offers a constant challenge to the parties to give an intelligent account of themselves. It is a standing admonition to them that they exist for the government and not the government for the party organizations.

It says to the voters, "Be partisan if you will, but let your partisanship follow knowledge of the facts rather than precede or ignore such knowledge." In this manner the League is performing the enormously valuable function of reminding the parties that they can justify their existence only as instruments of popular government and must not assume that they are substitutes for it.

If one may judge by its attitude and activities, the League of Women Voters recognize the complexity of modern life and the fact of a changed and changing world. It, therefore, insists that the problems and processes of government call for investigation, for thought, for the constant application of intelligence, and can no longer be dealt with by the slap-dash methods which a simpler time made tolerable.

Gets Facts

The League does not appear to be terrified by the idea that, with a changing world, the methods and instrumentalities of democracy must also change. At the same time it refuses to jump at conclusions, to change for the sake of change, to proceed without knowledge of the facts involved or to act without due deliberation.

Beyond doubt the League of Women Voters is today the outstanding organization of national scope working for, pleading for, demanding the application of intelligence as well as conscience to the solution of political problems and the conduct of public affairs. Already its influence has been out of all proportion to its age or its numbers.

No one who wishes well for the future of American democracy can do other than express the hope that the League may hold fast to its present ideals and that as the years pass it may find its numbers increased and its courage undiminished.

STANDARDS OF ORGANIZATION FOR A LOCAL LEAGUE

1. A chairman for every department

This means an active person who directs the work of her department, follows up national and state work under her department and is able to keep the membership informed at all times on what is happening in the state and in the nation in her department.

2. Program worked out for the year, adopted from the State Program of Work

Plan your work so that you know ahead what is to be discussed at the local League meeting. Local Leagues are effective only if they follow subjects on the state program of work.

3. Agenda

This is necessary for all meetings in order that important items are not slipped over and the meeting follows direct procedure.

4. Budget

If payments on quota are to be made regularly, and other obligations met without difficulty, a carefully worked out budget is absolutely essential.

5. Publicity

Good publicity does much to interest new members of the kind that would be an asset to a local League, and informs your community on the League.

6. Meetings

- 1) Definite date and regular attendance
- 2) Starting on time, which means, first, more interesting meetings, second, better attendance, and, third, more accomplished
- 3) Discussion method - this is the newest way of handling meetings. It is more stimulating, trains individuals to speak, which is invaluable to the members themselves. Use notes, but do not read papers.

7. Prompt response to all requests from state headquarters

This means keeping channels clear from local to state to national and vice versa.

8. Normal increase in membership

By this is meant assimilation of new members who feel a real part in this great educational movement, and holding old members from year to year.

9. Quota responsibility - *paying what you have assumed toward the support of the State & National League*

10. Reports of all meetings, VOTER subscriptions up to date, bills paid

Grade yourself on these ten points at the end of the year, and see what you average, marking ten to each point.

December 1938

QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEAGUE PRESIDENT

A League president must--

Know how wisely to delegate responsibility.

Make her chairmen realize the importance of their work.

Like to make decisions.

Know how to keep a group working toward a common goal.

Be able to size up an individual's capacity for work with fair accuracy.

Have a voice that suggests confidence regardless of its pitch or modulation.

Express her opinions without apologizing for them.

Read widely about her work.

Save duplication of effort.

Accept criticism without getting angry.

Keep up her spirit when things are not going well.

Mix easily socially.

Know how to praise work without flattery.

Know how to criticize constructively without antagonizing.

Keep a firm hold on a difficult situation without being unreasonable.

Be able to concentrate under difficult conditions.

Assume responsibility for her own blunders.

Use facts rather than opinions in reaching decisions.

Examine her own decisions critically before accepting them as final.

Make decisions quickly, but must not go off half-cocked.

Be consistent in dealing with people.

Have a high intrinsic sense of right and wrong, but not be preachy.

Enjoy a good joke.

Enjoy a possession of authority.

(From Ohio Woman Voter)

PUBLICITY

The job of a local publicity or press chairman is an important one. It is her responsibility in a large part to interpret the League to the community and to create interest in the League.

DUTIES OF LOCAL PRESS CHAIRMAN

The first responsibility of all local press chairmen is the publicizing of local League activities. Reports of meetings, drafting of statements by officers in regard to local projects sponsored by the League, announcements in regard to the League's stand on local issues, and general promotion of public support of League work are among her many duties.

What is League publicity?

The activities of the League, in the national, state and local field, are related to current governmental problems, and therefore of widespread interest to the public. The press chairman should report future meetings, subjects discussed at such meetings, surveys of public questions, publication of new pamphlets, letters to public officials, legislative programs, and special campaign work. Almost every piece of work undertaken by the League, not considered "confidential" has some news value.

Know your editors Your editors will cooperate as you wish them to do if you convince them of the merits of the League of Women Voters. Give them some League material, leave a few copies of the National News Letter, show them that the League is working on matters in which all citizens are concerned.

Cooperation of officers and department chairmen All those prominent in "news making" in the League should see that the press chairman is kept informed of all League work for which they are responsible. It is these activities which "make news".

Authorization of publicity The president or another responsible officer should authorize and approve of all League publicity, except routine notices of meetings. No League publicity should give the personal views of any League leader on current issues. No local League should quote from letters received from the state office. The Program Explained, with the 1938-39 Supplement, is an invaluable aid to press chairmen, particularly in interpreting the League's stand on public issues.

Publicity records Whenever possible, it is advisable for press chairmen to keep a scrap book of publicity obtained by the League. A frequent analysis of the publicity space is helpful. A well kept scrap book is a valuable record for your League, as well as a help to other Leagues in the state.

Types of publicity The simplest type of publicity, and the kind that all newspapers will always publish, is an announcement of a future meeting. The next step is to have your newspaper publicize an account of the meeting, including the subject matter that was discussed. Some of the League have been able to secure regular space in their newspapers for a League column, in which is included reports of meetings and discussion, extracts from League publications, such as the News Letter, etc.

Preparation of copy There are certain accepted practices which should be kept in mind.

Get your copy in early. Do not wait until the day of publication, or the last minute to get it to the paper.

See that it has news value. Try to make it have a local interest. Names will help you. People like to see their names in print and their friends find the article more interesting. But remember that a person resents seeing his name misspelled.

The first sentence or the first paragraph of your article is called the "lead". It should answer in a brief manner the questions of the five "W"s - Who - What - When - Where - and Why. These may be arranged according to their relative importance. If the event is the important thing, place to answer to "what" first. If it is time, answer "when". If a person, "who".

Write clearly and carefully. Do not abbreviate unnecessarily.

Do not crowd too much upon one page.

Write on one side of the page. If typewritten, double space it.

Leave plenty of space at the top of the first page, so that a title or headline may be added.

Indent paragraphs deeply.

Use a short word in preference to a big word.

Use superlatives sparingly.

Be accurate

Read your items over before turning them in to the paper

Study your newspaper. Notice how your items are changed, and how other articles are written

Be brief, because newspaper space is valuable

ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF LOCAL PRESS CHAIRMEN IN TOWNS WITH DAILY NEWSPAPERS

State League Publicity Releases The State League issues a weekly release on news of state-wide interest to the Twin City newspapers. This release is sent also to local press chairmen in towns where there are daily newspapers. Special releases from the National League are often sent on to these local chairmen from the State League, with a "state angle" indicated whenever possible.

It is the responsibility of these local press chairmen to see that these releases reach their local newspapers, and to add a "local angle" to the story, if possible, in order to encourage more local interest.

Minnesota League of Women Voters

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the _____ League of Women Voters. It shall be affiliated with the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The object of this League shall be to promote political education through active participation of citizens in government.

Section 2. This League, as an organization, shall be strictly unpartisan. Its officers and members shall be free as individuals to join the party of their choice.

ARTICLE III

Plan of Work

This League shall follow a program of work adopted at the annual convention of the Minnesota League of Women Voters. This League shall support such federal measures as are selected by the National Board from the National program of work. This League shall support local projects which are consistent with the League program.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Any woman, over twenty years of age, of _____ or vicinity, may become a member by subscribing to the aims of the League of Women Voters and paying membership dues as prescribed by the By-Laws, which dues shall include a subscription to the Minnesota Woman Voter.

Section 2. Membership in the _____ League of Women Voters shall constitute membership in the Minnesota and the National League of Women Voters.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of all members to promote the interests of the League as an organization, to study the subjects under consideration by the League, and to perform such committee work as may be assigned to them.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Department Chairmen

Section 1. The officers of this League shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. (and directors, if desired) The duties shall be those usually pertaining to such offices.

Section 2. Immediately following the annual meeting the elected officers shall appoint department chairmen and chairmen of whatever standing committees may be necessary to carry out the state and national programs of work. These appointments shall be in conformity with the plan of organization of the Minn. League.

ARTICLE VI

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. A nominating committee of not less than three members shall be appointed by the Executive Board at least two months in advance of the annual meeting. Nominations for officers (and directors) may be sent to this committee which shall report to the annual meeting. No one shall be nominated for a

position whose consent has not previously been secured. Additional names for each office may be presented from the floor.

Section 2. All officers (and directors) shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for a term of one year or until their successors shall have qualified for office. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. The voting body shall consist of the officers, department chairmen, and members.

ARTICLE VII Executive Board

The officers (and directors) and department chairman shall constitute an Executive Board which may transact the general business of the organization, subject to the instructions or approval of the general membership. It shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership occurring during the year. This Board shall meet at least three times a year (applies only to Leagues having a membership over twenty-five)

ARTICLE VIII Finance and Dues

Section 1. The fiscal year shall be from _____ through _____.

Section 2. Dues shall be \$_____ annually (at least \$1.00)

Section 3. Anyone who shall fail to pay her dues within three months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership list.

Section 4. Budget. The Board shall submit to the annual meeting for adoption a budget for the ensuing year including recommendations for financing the League.

Section 5. Quotas for support of Minnesota and National League are due and payable during the fiscal year of the Minnesota League - ~~October~~ 1st to ~~Sept.~~ 30.

May *April*

ARTICLE IX Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held each year between (insert dates), exact time and place to be set by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Other meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Board, with at least eight meetings a year, plus one open to the public.

ARTICLE X Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members present and qualified to vote, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing and read at the previous regular meeting, or shall have been unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

Section 2. By-Laws may be adopted, amended or repealed at any regular or annual meeting.

ARTICLE XI Parliamentary Authority

Roberts' Rules of Order (Revised) shall be the parliamentary authority in all matters not specified in the Constitution or By-Laws.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the _____ League of Women Voters. It shall be affiliated with the Minnesota and the National League of Women Voters.

Article II Object and Policy

Section 1. The object of this League shall be to promote ^{political} education in citizenship and to increase the effectiveness of women's vote in furthering better government. *low active participation of citizen in government*

Section 2. This League, as an organization, shall be strictly unpartisan. Its officers and members shall be free as individuals to join the party of their choice.

Article III Plan of Work

This League shall follow a program of work adopted at the annual convention of the Minnesota League of Women Voters. This League shall support such federal measures as are selected by the National ^{Board} League from the National program of work. This League shall support local projects which are consistent with the League program.

Article IV Membership

women over 20 years of age
Section 1. Any woman citizen of _____ or vicinity may become a member by subscribing to the aims of the League of Women Voters and paying membership dues as prescribed by the By-Laws, which dues shall include a subscription to the Minnesota Woman Voter.

Section 2 - see insert (1)

Section 2. It shall be the duty of all members to promote the interests of the League as an organization, to study the subjects under consideration by the League, and to perform such committee work as may be assigned to them.

Article V Officers and Department Chairmen

Section 1. The officers of this League shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. (and directors, if desired) *the duties shall be those usually pertaining to such office*

Section 2. There shall also be chairmen of the Departments of Government and Its Operation, Government and Education, Government and Economic Welfare, Government and Child Welfare, Government and Foreign Policy, and Government and the Legal Status of Women. These chairmen shall be appointed by the elected officers immediately following the annual meeting.

see insert (2)

no name

Insert

(3)

nomination Article VI
Elections

Section 1. All officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for a term of one year or until their successors shall have qualified for office.

Section 2. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election.

Section 3. The voting body shall consist of the officers, department chairmen, and members.

Article VII
Executive Board

The officers and department chairmen shall constitute an Executive Board which may transact the general business of the organization, subject to the instructions or approval of the general membership. It shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership occurring during the year.

This Board shall meet at least 3 times a year & apply only to League members 7 25 J

Article ~~VIII~~ IX
Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held each year *between (insert dates)* at such time and place as the Executive Board may decide.

exact to be set by
Section 2. Other meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Board, with at least 3 meetings a year, plus one open to the public

Article ~~IX~~ X
Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members present and qualified to vote, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing and read at the previous regular meeting, or shall have been unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

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Article XI
Parliamentary Authority

Roberts' Rules of Order (Revised) shall be the parliamentary authority in all matters not specified in the Constitution of the League.

Article VIII
Finance & Dues

(4)

SAMPLE BUDGET

for a local League of Women Voters
covering a period of one year

Estimated Receipts

Membership dues

Special contributions (from men and women friends)

Money-raising activities (rummage sales, food sales, benefit
movies, silver teas, etc.)

Sale of educational material

Miscellaneous income from other sources

Estimated Expenditures

Quota to State League

Woman Voter subscriptions

Expenses of delegate to League convention

Expense of open meeting (speaker, etc.)

Educational material for sale to members (study groups, etc.)
and for public distribution (pre-election work, etc.)

Supplies for correspondence (stationery, stamps, etc.)

Other expenses

SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR LOCAL LEAGUE MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting

Report of the treasurer

Report on new members and Woman Voter subscriptions

Reading of communications from State League headquarters

Action taken if called for in letter

Items of local business

Announcement of new League material

Report on National News Letter

Further business

(This is to give an opportunity for bringing up business
"from the floor".)

PROGRAM OF THE DAY

REPORT OF LOCAL LEAGUE MEETING
Minnesota League of Women Voters

Note: This report should be filled out, immediately after each meeting, by the secretary or publicity chairman in consultation with the League president. It will be used in preparing the annual report that the State League makes to the National League each March, on the number of meetings held under League auspices during the year. Please mail it to us promptly after each meeting.

Please report changes in officers or department chairmen, date of annual meeting, amount of membership dues or any other facts for record in our files.

City _____ County _____ Date _____

Place of meeting (home or public building) _____

Number attending: members _____ non-members _____

New members reported since last meeting _____

Program - how planned: by board? _____ by department chairmen? _____

Program - subjects and speakers (or leaders of discussion)

Remarks: _____

(signed) _____

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

1. At least 15 members in towns over 2,000 population, and every member a Voter subscriber. At least 10 members in smaller towns.
2. \$1.00 dues, 1,000 population or over
3. \$10.00 minimum quota
4. Eight meetings a year, plus one meeting open to the public
5. At least 3 board meetings for Leagues over 25 members
6. News Letter - at least one subscription for every 15 members, plus one subscription outside the League membership
7. Attending of one member at one out of the three following meetings:
state convention, President's Conference, district meeting

How to Address envelopes and begin letters:

Congressmen

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Doe:

Hon. Richard Roe
House of Representatives
United States Congress
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Roe:

Legislators

Senator John Doe
State Senate
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minn.

Hon. Richard Roe
House of Representatives
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Mr. Roe:

Governor

Hon. John Jones
Governor, State of Minnesota
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Governor:

Samples of letters: (suggestions only)

As one of your constituents, I am writing in behalf of the bill
(insert number of the bill, by whom introduced) now before ~~the~~
(Congress, or legislature, Senate or House).

I am one of the many women in your district, a member of the
League of Women Voters, who are anxious to have this measure
pass. I hope that we may count on you for its support.

Letters should include a statement on the subject matter of the
bill, reasons for disapproval or approval of the entire measure,
or certain sections of it.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
Presidents' Handbook

LEAGUE YEAR
Special Activities for all League Members

The State Convention is held in the spring of each year, generally in one of the Twin Cities; occasionally in some larger town in the state. There is no limit to the number of delegates from each League, and every League is urged to have as many members as possible attend, for this occasion furnishes an opportunity to learn how others are solving problems common to all. Discussion regarding League policies is held, state chairmen of departments meet local chairmen to discuss their department program. The State President meets with local League presidents. The program of work for the coming year is adopted. If you want a real understanding of program-making and participation in it, if you want enthusiasm for local League work, attend the State Convention.

Fall Conferences These are joint meetings of neighboring Leagues, and are open to all members. There are other special meetings: usually while the Legislature is in session, a state-wide meeting is held for all members. Local presidents meet together with the state president two or three times a year. Special courses at the Center for Continuation Study of the University of Minnesota, sponsored by the Minnesota League, are open to all members.

The National Convention is held in even numbered years in the spring. To go to a national convention is an experience that one attending will never forget. To meet the members from all over the United States, to see the League in its actual making, and to hear the brilliant speakers on subjects you are interested in, is an opportunity to be grasped if possible.

There are general uniform activities for local Leagues throughout the year which require systematic work and planning in addition to your study program.

Pre-election activities

1. Candidates' meetings for local and county officials, prior to primary or prior to the general election.
2. Information service to voters which includes information on candidates, records of their votes and sample ballots, information on constitutional amendments, etc.

Legislative Work

1. Interviews with state legislators and congressmen on League measures prior to the session.
2. Education of the public through newspapers, open forums, etc., on state League items.
3. Visit to the state legislature when in session
4. Letters or wires sent to legislators and congressmen in behalf of support items on the program, if requested by state headquarters.

LEAGUE YEAR
Special Activities for All League Members

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In addition to the State Convention, there are other special meetings. Usually while the Legislature is in session, a state-wide meeting is held for all members. ~~Each year in the spring~~ there is a President's Conference, and in May of every year there are joint meetings of neighboring Leagues. Special courses at the Center for Continuation Study of the University of Minnesota, sponsored by the State League, are open to all League members.

The National Convention is held in even numbered years in the spring. To go to a national convention is an experience that one attending will never forget. To meet the members from all over the United States, to see the League in its actual making, and to hear the brilliant speakers on subjects you are interested in, is an opportunity to be grasped if possible.

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DIRECTORY

Congressmen

Representatives:

Senators:

Legislators

Representatives:

Senators:

County Officials

How to address envelopes and begin letters:

Congressmen

Do
Senator John Jones,
United States Senate,
Washington, D C

Do
My dear Senator Jones:

Richard Roe
Hon. John Jones,
House of Representatives,
United States Congress,
Washington, D C

Roe
My dear Mr. Jones:

Legislators

Do
Senator John Jones,
State Senate,
State Capitol,
St. Paul, Minn.

Do
My dear Senator Jones:

Richard Roe
Hon. John Jones,
House of Representatives,
State Capitol,
St. Paul, Minn.

Roe
My dear Mr. Jones:

Governor

Hon. John Jones,
Governor, State of Minnesota,
State Capitol,
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Governor:

Samples of letters: (suggestions only)

As one of your constituents I am writing in behalf of the bill
(insert number of the bill, by whom introduced) now before the
(Congress, or legislature, Senate or House)

I am one of the many women in your district, a member of the League
of Women Voters, who are anxious to have this measure pass. I
hope that we may count on you for its support.

Letters should include a statement on the subject matter of the bill,
reasons for disapproval or approval of the entire measure, or certain
sections of it.

Minnesota League of Women Voters,
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis

PROGRAM OF WORK
1941 - 1942

The Minnesota League of Women Voters reaffirms its belief that an active and informed electorate is the best defense of democracy. In this national emergency, the League will continue to work to secure and maintain qualified personnel in government service, sound finance and structure of government, and to preserve basic civil liberties.

Therefore, during 1941-42, the Leagues in Minnesota will:

CONTINUE RESPONSIBILITY FOR

Administration of Minnesota's Civil Service Law

Administration of state and local welfare services

Establishment of a Legislative Council for Minnesota

GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND THEIR RELATION TO
NATIONAL DEFENSE:

Taxation

Public education services

Public housing for low income groups

Administration and financing of relief

Labor relations; legislation and administration

Social Security Services

Public Health Services

Without convention action, the Minnesota League cooperates with all other State Leagues in support of such federal measures as are selected by the National Board from the National Program of Work.

Local Leagues are urged to support local projects which are consistent with the League program.

History of DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY

The Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War became a permanent part of League organization by action of the National League convention in 1922. It had been preceded both in the National League and the State League by a temporary committee known as the Special Committee on Reduction of Armaments. Mrs. Andreas Ueland was chairman of such a state-wide committee in Minnesota which concentrated the summer of 1921 on awakening an intelligent public opinion on international reduction of armaments to give the President and Congress needed support in calling the Washington Conference. The first chairman of the Department was named in Minnesota in December 1922. At the 1934 National Convention the name of the Department was changed to Government and International Cooperation, and in 1936 it was re-named the Department of Government and Foreign Policy.

Chairmen:	Mrs. Boyd Nixon, St. Paul	1922 - 1924	
	Mrs. R T Hargreaves, Minneapolis	1924 - 1926	
	Mrs. L C Weeks, Detroit Lakes	1927	
	Mrs. A J McGuire, St. Paul	1927 - 1933	
	Mrs. Erwin Hertz, St. Cloud	1933 - 1935	
	Mrs. Miles H McNally, Minneapolis	1935 - 1939	
	Mrs. J H McCaffrey, Wabasha	1939	1940
	Miss Gladys Sinclair, Minneapolis	1940	(Mrs. Wright Brooks)

The Department works toward international cooperation by three methods: setting up of international machinery such as the World Court; dealing with international problems by the conference method (international meetings, especially conferences for the reduction of armaments); and the negotiation of peace measures through regular diplomatic channels (the Kellogg Pact, the Pan American Treaties). Its work is of two kinds: its continuous study and dissemination of information on methods of international cooperation, educating League members and other groups - in general, arousing and forming public opinion in all that relates to international cooperation, and its support of specific proposals such as the World Court, the Kellogg Pact, and disarmament conferences as the London Naval Conference and the World Disarmament Conference of 1932.

The first type of work, although the greater part of the work of the Department, is less spectacular and not so adapted to recording. It includes round table groups and study groups on subjects in the department program; the presentation of speakers on international subjects at luncheons and at lecture series; radio discussions on international questions; the publication in the Woman Voter of articles on developments in the field of international cooperation. A speaker on an international question has been a feature of almost every state convention. The first three Institutes of Government and Politics conducted by the League, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, devoted one course to international subjects, as did the district Institutes held in 1924.

Under the second type of work, certain accomplishments may be cited as:

- 1920 - Led the public demand in Minnesota for calling the Washington Conference, the first League petition numbering 3509 names.
- 1923 - Conducted an active and successful sale of Law-Not War stamps in the state.
- 1925 - Promoted the sale of World Peace Christmas cards through local Leagues.
- 1924 and 1925 - Conducted a campaign for adherence of the United States to the World Court by securing a mile of signatures to a petition and sending a delegation of five women to carry the petition to the President in Washington - perhaps the most spectacular demonstration ever made in behalf of the World Court. Arranged for a cardboard model of the World Court for exhibition at county fairs and a doll model for exhibition at

the state fair with supplementary written material distributed to an enormous number of people in the state.

As a result of the campaign, many resolutions were sent by all sorts of organizations to our Minnesota senators. It is impossible to estimate how many speeches on the World Court were given throughout the state, but there were enough to inspire one member of the opposition to get out an injunction to prevent our talking on the World Court. The case was taken to a District Court and dismissed by the judge because there was not sufficient cause for action.

- 1928 - Gave important backing and secretarial service to the Minnesota Committee on the Cause and Cure of War in organizing public opinion for ratification of the Multilateral Treaty by securing action by local Leagues and other local groups not affiliated with the Committee on the Cause and Cure of War on a resolution urging ratification.
- 1930 - Secured signatures to a memorial to the London Conference on Naval Reduction.
- 1931 - Went over the top in securing signatures to a petition to the World Disarmament Conference by securing in Minnesota 5918 signatures, 293 more than the quota assigned to Minnesota by the National League. More important than the number of signatures secured, however, is the accompanying education on reduction of armaments carried on through study groups, exhibits at the state fair, at county fairs, and in store windows, sending speakers to local groups..
- 1934 - In March of this year the League supported the World Court at a hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Letters went from the state League, local League chairmen, and other League members urging the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee to report the World Court favorably out of committee.
- 1934 - In May, the League supported ratification of the Convention for the Supervision of the International Trade in Arms and Ammunitions and in Implements of War. However, this treaty was not ratified until June 1935.
- 1935 - In January, the League again supported ratification of the World Court Protocol by the Senate, which was defeated by a vote of 52 to 36 (7 votes less than the two thirds majority needed - 52 For and 36 Against)

In July, the League supported that part of the Neutrality Act which set up a National Munitions Control Board to supervise the manufacture and shipment of arms, ammunitions and implements of war.
- 1936 - Supported final appropriations for the Senate Munitions Investigation.

In February, supported the "Administration" Neutrality bill. A modified measure was passed. Supported the London Naval Treaty which was approved by the Senate in May 1936.
- 1937 - Supported extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, which was passed. Urged discretionary provisions in neutrality legislation which would provide for consultation with other nations to prevent wars in which the United States might become involved.
- 1939 - Supported revisions of the Neutrality Act to provide, at the discretion of the President, for embargoes on essential war materials, and for the application of embargoes, in cooperation with other nations, against treaty violators.

- 1939 - In September and October, supported repeal of the arms embargo in the Neutrality Act and the substitution of a general cash and carry policy for all trade with European belligerents as the best means of protecting the United States from involvement in war and protecting the real interests of this country. Revision passed.
- 1940 - Supported extension of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for three years. Passed.
- 1941 - Supported passage of the "lease-lend" act under the program item "A foreign policy as a non-belligerent which permits discrimination against an aggressor." A nation-wide campaign for national unity necessary for the success of the production program resulting from the passage of this Act was carried on during the summer and fall.

History of DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPERATION

<u>Chairmen</u>	Miss Gladys Harrison, Mpls. (acting)	1921
	Mrs. W J Marcley, Minneapolis	1921 - 1923
	Mrs. F W Wittich, Minneapolis	1923 - 1930
	Mrs. Pierce Atwater, St. Paul	1930 - 1931
	Mrs. W B Richards, St. Cloud	1932 - 1937
	Miss Ruby E Britts, Duluth	1937 - 1941
	Mrs. Ellwood H. Newcomb, Mpls.	1941 -

The Committee on Election Laws and Methods became the Department of Efficiency in Government following the change in the National Department in October 1921. It was in 1922 that Miss Harrison, provided the Digest of Election Laws in Minnesota, which has been revised at intervals and was widely distributed and used among officials, teachers, and others in the state.

When the National League at the 1934 convention changed the department to the Department of Government and Its Operation, the Minnesota League also changed.

The Minnesota League, under the direction of the Department, has given thoughtful and active attention to many subjects, among which the most outstanding are: local government, nominating methods with special reference to the direct primary, state administration with special reference to the budget and reorganization of state departments, taxation, vigorous support of the Lane Duck Amendment to the Federal Constitution, extension and improvement of the federal merit system, and civil service for the State of Minnesota.

Local Units of Government

- 1921 - Cooperation with the League of Minnesota Municipalities and the Bureau for Research in Government of the University of Minnesota in sending a questionnaire on municipal government to local Leagues.
- 1923 - Request to all local Leagues to survey their local governments. Visiting committees to the City Council and various city boards and departments were thereafter established in Minneapolis and other large city Leagues in state.
- 1923-24 - Campaigns for various charter changes were carried on at intervals in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and other cities, notably by Minneapolis in 1922, 1926 and 1929 and by St. Paul in 1929.
- 1932 - Recommendation was made by the convention for a study by local Leagues of local units of government with special reference to the county. Several county surveys were made.
- 1933 - Recommendation was made by the convention that local Leagues work toward county consolidation as permitted by recent state legislation.
- 1934 - County Surveys were conducted by thirty-five Leagues looking toward support of county reorganization in the future.
- 1936 - Promotion of civil service in local communities by many Leagues.

Nominating Methods with Special Reference to the Direct Primary

From its beginning, the Minnesota League, while recognizing room for improvement in the direct primary laws, has been watchful against threats which would lead back to the evils of the convention system of nomination.

- 1920 - One session of the convention was devoted to the subject and from that date onward, it has appeared frequently in convention programs and in articles in the VOTER. Threatened legislation in the legislature has been watched and reported upon. Study or action on the subject has appeared in many annual Programs of Work.
- 1921-22 - The League fostered extensive participation in party primaries in order to make a fair test of the new pre-primary convention law which, however, was later repealed.
- 1924 - Fostered participation in party caucuses and a study was made of the results, also on the operation of the primary in Minnesota. An article on the results was published in the VOTER.
- 1928 - A Citizens Committee was organized by the League in the hope that constructive suggestions might ensue for improvement in the primary without sacrifice of its merits.

Reorganization of State Departments and Improved Finance Procedure

- 1923 - A Citizens Committee was organized to cooperate with the League in plans to bring pressure on behalf of complete reorganization of the state departments and budget reform. Upon this Citizens Committee, there were representatives of business, labor, and civic organizations, including three members of a former Commission on Reorganization whose failure to secure results was said to be due to lack of public interest. With the cooperation of the Citizens Committee, the League now appeared at the Capitol to pledge their efforts in securing public support for another attempt. At the last hour of the last night of the legislative session, the League was instrumental in securing the passage of a resolution for a House Interim Commission to study state administration with a view to reorganization and consolidation. It was now time to make good the League's pledge of education of the public. A series of articles on state administration appeared in the VOTER, study material was widely distributed, and reorganization was featured at the Institute of Government held in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, at which Governor Lowden, famous for leadership in Illinois' reorganization of state departments, spoke.
- 1924 - A series of district Institutes and Voters' Schools, all emphasizing reorganization reached an estimate of 10,000 people throughout the state. The Interim Commission met with the Citizens' Committee, the League set up standards by which to decide its support of ensuing legislation. These standards were adopted by the annual League convention. The candidate for governor made his campaign on the issue of economy and reorganization.
- 1925 - The legislature passed bills recommended by the Interim Commission which, though amended, sufficiently met the League's standards to gain approval.
- 1926 - 32 - Study of the Reorganization Act and support of improvements appeared in the annual Programs of Work throughout these years. While opportunities did not present themselves for legislative support, education on the subject was continued through articles in the VOTER and at state conventions.

Taxation

This subject began to occupy the League's attention as early as 1922. Much attention was given to the question of taxation at the Institutes of Government held in 1923, 1925 and 1929, with the 1929 Institute devoted entirely to it. Various tax reforms have been recommended for study by state conventions, and the question has been discussed in some form at almost every convention.

In 1933 a bill for county tax assessors was supported and an Advisory Council organized to formulate standards for income tax legislation. Study of Minnesota's tax system was again recommended to the convention. During 1934 there was continued study of county tax assessors looking forward to ~~an~~ active legislative support, and in 1936 an assessment questionnaire was sent to all local Leagues. Material on tax limitation proposals was prepared and given wide distribution.

In 1938, public spending in relation to business recovery and welfare was the subject of a three day conference sponsored by the League at the Center for Continuation Study at the University of Minnesota.

Lame Duck Amendment The Minnesota League gave constant, active support to the Lame Duck Amendment, studying it in local Leagues and interviewing and writing Congressmen with such effect that not a single vote in the House or Senate of Congress was registered against it. In 1933, the League urged successfully ratification by the Minnesota legislature.

Qualified Personnel in Public Service In 1934, the League began a nation-wide campaign to promote interest in qualified personnel. The Minnesota League cooperated with other state Leagues in supporting federal legislation to extend and improve the federal merit system, namely, civil service for postmasters of the first, second and third classes; which was secured, and extension of federal civil service to departments previously exempted by statute.

The Minnesota League concentrated, beginning in 1936, in securing a state civil service law. In this year a Civil Service Council was organized, at the invitation of the Minnesota League, consisting of representatives of all state-wide organizations endorsing the merit principle. Organizations represented: PTA, MEA, Bus. and Prof. Women, Fed. of Labor, Legion and Legion Auxiliary, and LTV. A civil service bill was drafted by a committee chosen by the Council, and supported in the 1937 session of the legislature by the majority of the organizations represented on the Council. While passage of this bill was not secured, a bill which would not have given a real merit system was successfully opposed.

Previous to the 1939 session, the League continued in its efforts to arouse public interest. The most notable effort was a large public dinner, arranged by the Minneapolis League, attended by over one thousand persons.

In 1939 the Civil Service Council was again called together, with three additional organizations represented: Farm Bureau, Federation of Teachers, and Jr. Chamber of Commerce. A civil service bill was again proposed to the legislature, with the support of most of the organizations on the Council. After consideration during the entire session, a bill was finally passed on the last day, which included many of the provisions recommended by the Council.

Following passage of the law, the League continued and intensified its interest, to insure proper understanding of its administration. Many local Leagues sponsored large public meetings, the most successful being held in Duluth and Rochester, which were attended by approximately five hundred persons.

During the 1941 session, certain amendments to the law were opposed, particularly those affecting the basic principles and increasing exemptions. Also supported an adequate appropriation. No serious amendments made; fairly adequate appropriation granted.

Legislative Council Study of the operation and functioning of the state legislature led to support in 1941 of a bill to establish a legislative council for Minnesota. Passed House; failed to pass Senate.

History of DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC WELFARE

This department was the result of action by the National League in 1934 consolidating the Departments of Living Costs and Women in Industry. It was felt that there was a real relationship between the angles of labor and of the consumer, since wages have little meaning except as translated into the goods they can buy, and since most consumer problems - housing and utilities, to mention only two - have most significance as applied to low income groups. It was also felt that the approach should be an unbiased one, handling not only the special problems dealt with by the two former departments, but concerned also with the fundamentals of economics that are at the root of both labor and consumer problems.

CHAIRMEN

<u>Dept. of Living Costs</u>		<u>Dept. of Women in Industry</u>	
Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, Appleton	1920-26	Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, Mpls.	1919-25
Miss Martha Botsford, Winona	1926-28	Miss Alice Kercher, Mpls.	1925-33
Mrs. George H Spear, Duluth	1928-31	Mrs. R S Towler, Mpls.	1933-34
Mrs. B T Musser, Wells	1931-34		

	<u>Department of Government and Economic Welfare</u>	
Co-chairmen:	Mrs. R S Towler, Minneapolis	1934-36
	Mrs. Thomas Wright, Fergus Falls	1934 -
	Mrs. H G Zavoral, St. Paul	1936-38
	Mrs. Everett Fraser, Minneapolis	1938 -

This department inherited from the Department of Women in Industry fifteen years of valiant efforts for legislation to secure better working conditions. It helped pass the law limiting the work of women to 54 hours a week in 1923. When the Attorney General declared this law invalid in 1926, the department continued to work for it in amended form until it was again passed in 1933. Its study of unemployment, since 1929, and of the administration of public relief, since 1933, is a direct heritage to our present program. With the reinstatement of Minnesota's minimum wage law in 1937 by a U S Supreme Court decision, the establishment of new wage orders has been closely followed by the League. In the 1939 session of the legislature the League opposed a bill to amend the present law. Opposition was based on numerous grounds, particularly because it was felt the law, having been so recently reinstated, should be given an adequate opportunity to prove its effectiveness before being amended.

The Department of Living Costs studied power and utilities in their relation to living costs, and helped the National League to work for the development of Muscle Shoals as a yardstick which became a part of the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933, and has urged adequate appropriations for the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, and for the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture, at each session of Congress.

The combination of the two departments brought a heavy study program. Old Age pensions and unemployment insurance came to be known after the federal trend as "Social Security." A brief mimeograph was prepared on old age assistance, and the League supported actively the unemployment compensation section of the Federal Social Security Act. The Act was explained in full at open meetings and efforts made to promote understanding of all its provisions. An old age assistance law conforming to the Federal Act was passed in Minnesota while "old age assistance" was still on the study program of the Minnesota League. Before the passage of Minnesota's Unemployment Compensation Act in 1936, study material

was prepared. Study material to help follow the operation of Old Age Assistance and Unemployment Compensation was prepared in 1937-38.

The study of relief came to be concerned more and more with securing the most efficient administration, and in cooperation with the Department of Government and Child Welfare, was ready to support "Integration of state and local welfare administration."

The Department has continued its interest in consumer problems and worked with the National League in its efforts to secure the passage of a better food and drug law. It secured letters to Congressmen, conducted a state-wide canned foods survey showing the need for grade labelling. A new federal food, drug and cosmetic act was passed in 1938.

In the 1937 session of the state legislature, the League supported, under the direction of this department and the Child Welfare department, the establishment of county welfare boards throughout the state, with two lay members, one a woman. An attempt to increase county commissioner representation on these boards was proposed in the 1939 session, was opposed by the League, and was defeated. The League has followed closely the administration of welfare in the state, since the passage of the Reorganization Act by the 1939 session which established a Division of Social Welfare.

In 1940, certain previous responsibilities of this department, relating particularly to problems of social welfare (Old Age Assistance and relief) were transferred to the newly named Social Welfare Department (formerly Child Welfare).

Since that time study in this department has included public housing for low income groups, interstate trade barriers, collective bargaining.

History of DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

This was known as the Committee on Uniform Laws Concerning Women until April 1924 when it became the Committee on Legal Status of Women. At the 1932 National Convention it was made a department and at the 1934 Convention the present title was adopted. There have been four state chairmen of this Department from its beginning, namely:

<u>Chairmen:</u>	Mrs. James Paige, Minneapolis	1919-1920
	Miss Florence Monahan, Shakopee	1920-1931
	Mrs. J M Dobson, St. Cloud	1931-32
	Mrs. Charlotte Farrish Luwe, Mankato	1932 -

The outstanding League proceedings and accomplishments fostered by the Department in Minnesota from its inception include the following:

Jury Service for Women

Supported passage in 1921 of legislative measure (Laws 1921, Chapter 365) making women eligible for jury service.

In 1922 sent out a questionnaire to women who have given actual service under the law to determine women's reaction to jury service.

Successfully opposed a proposed amendment in 1923 to provide for excusing of women jurors from service on "salacious" cases.

Conducted a survey in 1926 to determine the number of counties in Minnesota in which women were included on jury panels, and to promote the inclusion of women on every jury panel in every county of the state.

Conducted a similar survey in 1927, and a third survey in 1930. Each survey revealed a decided increase in the number of counties listing women and in the number of women serving.

The Department has continually worked to remove the discriminations against placing of women on jury panels, has taken an active interest in the legal cases involving such discriminations, and has continually endeavored to impress upon League members and women generally, the opportunity they have for real service to themselves and their community in exercising their privilege to act as jurors.

The Equal Rights Bill

The major portion of the Department's work in opposition to the Equal Rights Bill has been of a national character. However, our state League through this Department and the Department of Women in Industry strenuously and successfully opposed an Equal Rights Bill sponsored by the Woman's Party in our own state in 1923.

It has always been the opinion and judgment of this Department that a blanket equal rights bill would result in discriminations rather than remove them, and that real accomplishment in the removal of discriminations can come only gradually through specific legislation.

Marriage Laws

The Department has striven constantly for an improvement in our marriage laws, having been actively interested in the presentation of a Uniform Marriage Bill in 1925 and in 1927. Although a uniform law has not passed, the League has taken Leg.St.

active interest in certain worthwhile measures intended to remedy the present marriage laws.

COMMON LAW MARRIAGE: Unsuccessfully supported measures for abolition of Common Law marriage in 1925, 1927 and in 1939. In 1941, such legislation was passed, with League support.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE: Successfully supported a bill (Laws 1927, Chap. 166) raising the marriageable of females from 15 to 16 years, except with the approval of Juvenile Court Judge.

FIVE-DAY WAITING PERIOD: Continuously worked for a bill establishing a waiting period of five days between the application for the marriage license and its issuance, and finally secured its passage in 1931. In 1933, 1935 and 1939, opposed successfully proposed amendments for change of law to weaken its effect, or abolish the waiting period entirely.

Women in Public Office

The Department has promoted the interest of women generally in the holding of public office, and has endeavored to keep an active list of women holding public office in our state. A particular effort has been made over a period of years to secure the appointment of women to state boards, particularly the State Industrial Commission, the work of which commission involves in a large measure the women and children of our state. Its efforts have been unsuccessful so far as the Industrial Commission is concerned, but have been helpful in securing the appointment of women on other State Boards.

Right of Married Women to Paid Public Employment without Discrimination

The Department has actively supported from year to year the right of married women, including public school teachers, to paid public employment without discrimination, and particular emphasis has been laid upon this branch of the department's work during the past few years of depressed financial conditions. In 1933 particular League opposition was directed to resolutions proposed in the legislature designed to bar women from appointment to public office, and the resolutions were not brought to a vote. Bills were introduced in the 1939 legislature that would have barred practically all married women from public employment - state, county, city, school districts. Opposed by the League and failed of passage. Similar bills were introduced in the 1941 session, and were successfully opposed by the League.

"The object of this department is to remove the discriminations which preclude women from sharing an equal opportunity and a true equality with men before the law."

History of
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

The League committee which later developed into the Committee on Education and in 1932 into the Department of Education, took form in Minnesota in 1919 as the Committee on American Citizenship. When the 1934 National Convention changed the name of this department to Government and Education, the Minnesota League automatically adopted the change.

Chairmen:	Miss Hope McDonald, Minneapolis	1919-1920	Mrs. R. Merin,
	Miss Elizabeth Hall, Minneapolis	1920-1921	Albert Lee, 1921 -
	Mrs. Walter Thorp, Minneapolis	1921-1923	
	Miss Isabel Lawrence, St. Cloud	1923-1929	
	Mrs. William Pearce, Red Wing	1929-1940	
	Mrs. L L Huntley, Grand Rapids	1940-1941	

Since 1920, the Minnesota League of Women Voters has made some notable accomplishments in the educational field.

- 1) It supported a measure to increase the school term from six to eight months which passed in 1921.
- 2) It supported a measure to secure physical education in all schools which passed in 1923. (During these early years, the League through its Education Committee kept up a constant education on the subject of military training versus physical education in the schools. It also studied and in 1923 supported a bill for "part-time" or "continuation" schools.)
- 3) It supported a measure for supplemental aid to poorer school districts and amendments representing an improvement in the method of distribution of this aid. An amendment adopted by the 1923 legislature provided that when a local tax rate of 20 mills did not produce an income of \$40 per pupil, the state will make up the difference, basing its grant upon the number of pupils in attendance at least 40 days. The 1925 legislature provided by appropriation for funds to pay the supplemental aid in full for the biennium period of 1925-1927 but failed to pass a deficiency appropriation to pay the loss to some districts in the previous biennium period caused by a pro-rating provision which was unfortunately included in the supplemental aid law of 1923. The 1927 legislature raised the amount of money to be raised per child by the 20 mill tax from \$40 to \$45.
- 4) It supported a teacher tenure measure which was enacted into law in 1927 for cities of the first class. Attempts to weaken this law by amendments were opposed by the League in 1929, 1931, 1933, and 1937. The amendments failed of passage.
- 5) It supported an amendment to make easier the enforcement of the compulsory school attendance laws which passed in 1921.
- 6) It supported measures from 1925 to 1931 to set up a Teachers Retirement Fund and revisions to put the fund on a sound basis, which were enacted in 1931.
- 7) An item to provide for a county board of education with a superintendent appointed instead of elected was placed on the League's program for support in 1923. Such a bill drafted in 1923 by Messrs. Sageng and Christianson did not get a hearing. In 1925 another similar measure failed to reach a vote. No county education bill was introduced in 1927 to 1929.
- 8) In 1931 an item was placed on the League's program for study, and for support in 1933, which would provide for a county or other unit than the district for school administration. Bills introduced in the 1933, 1935 and 1937 legis-

1-tures failed of passage. No bill was introduced in the 1939 session.

- 9) The League of Women Voters with fifteen other organizations of citizens and the University of Minnesota and the State Department of Education sponsored a citizens meeting held in the Northrop auditorium on March 30, 1934. The purpose of this meeting was to "awaken" socially minded citizens to the crisis in education in order that they would organize their forces in behalf of this great social enterprise."

As a result of this meeting a permanent Council on Education was organized. There have been three meetings of this Council, the League being represented at each meeting. To date the accomplishments have been:

1. The defining of the educational problems that call for public attention. (Ten such problems were presented)
 2. A meeting on organization in order that a complete membership of citizens as well as educators might be developed.
 3. Apportioning of the problems to various committees for investigation, the committee to report their findings to the Council during the winter of 1934-35. The League chairman of Government and Education is a member of a committee of nine to study the possible economies through administrative re-arrangements:
 - a. Larger administrative district;
 - b. Other possible economies.
- 10) Four bills providing for the Revision of State Aid for schools were passed by the 1935 legislature with League support. The League, as a member of the Citizens' Committee on Public School Finance, also supported a bill for increased emergency state aid in the 1935 legislature.
- 11) Protection of academic freedom as basic to sound education was put on the State League program for support in 1936-37.
- 12) In 1938-39 there was continued study of reorganization of school units, and the effect of transportation aids; retirement funds; and public school finance. Also, by vote of the 1938 National Convention, there was special study of federal aid to education.
- 13) Study of library services in Minnesota in 1939-40 and 41 led to activity by many Leagues in extending and improving local library service.

History of
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND CHILD WELFARE
(Changed to Govt. and Social Welfare - 1940)

Chairmen:	Mrs. James G Swan,	1919-1920
	Mrs. W H Gemmell, Brainerd	1920
	Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne,	
	Janesville	1920 - 1926
	Mrs. Myra Griswold, Mpls.	1926 - 1927
	Mrs. D L Grannis, So. St.	
	Paul	1927 - 1932
	Dr. Ruth E Boynton, Mpls.	1932 - 1937
	Mrs. I M Nelson, Gaylord	1937 -

The Department of Government and Child Welfare has included in its program for study and support several outstanding measures for the protection of the health and welfare of the children of the state. With its help and direction, the League of Women Voters supported the following legislation:

1921 - A measure enabling the state to qualify for federal funds for Maternity and Infancy work under the Sheppard-Towner Act. Passed.

A bill to increase maximum Mothers' Allowance. Passed.

A bill to regulate employment of children in street trades. Passed.

1923 - An appropriation bill of \$30,000 for the biennium to match federal funds for Maternity and Infancy work. Passed.

1925 - A resolution to ratify the Child Labor Amendment. Defeated.

A bill increasing appropriation for Maternity and Infancy to \$42,000 for the biennium. Passed.

1927 - A bill appropriating funds to reimburse counties of one-third of their expenditures under Mothers' Pension Law. Passed.

Appropriation for Maternity and Infancy of \$42,000 for the biennium. Passed.

1929 - Child State bill which prohibited the employment of children under ten years of age on the stage. Passed.

A bill to increase Maternity and Infancy appropriation to \$66,000 (Federal aid was withdrawn) and to appropriate \$20,000 for Indian health work. Passed.

1931 - An appropriation bill of \$67,800 for Maternity and Infancy and \$20,000 for Indian health. Passed.

1933 - An amendment to the Street Trades Law. Passed.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Federation of Labor, a bill to ratify the Child Labor Amendment. Defeated.

An appropriation of \$56,000 for the biennium for Maternity and Infancy. Passed.

A resolution, in special session of legislature, to ratify the Child Labor Amendment. Passed.

- 1935 - An appropriation bill of \$44,000 for Maternity and Infancy work.
(A cut to \$30,000 was prevented by the League.) Passed.

A bill for revision of the administrative features of the Mothers' Aid Law. Passed.

Renewal of federal aid for state Maternity and Infancy work as embodied in the Social Security Act. Passed.

- 1937 - A bill to establish County Welfare Boards, with two lay members, one a woman. Passed.

- 1939 - Bills increasing the county commissioner representation on County Welfare Boards, opposed by the League. Defeated.

An appropriation bill for supplemental state aid to distress counties for Aid to Dependent Children failed to pass.

A bill to establish county public health nursing service on a permanent state-wide basis failed to pass.

Two amendments to the federal Social Security Act, sponsored by the League, were adopted by the 76th Congress - providing that the federal government share equally with the states in the care of dependent children (ADC) and authorizing the Social Security Board to insist that state personnel carrying out the assistance programs be chosen under a state merit system.

- 1940 - A broadening in scope and a re-naming of the department to Government and Social Welfare, brought increased responsibilities within this department.

- 1941 - Unsuccessfully opposed a bill in the legislature to increase county commissioner representation on County Welfare Boards from three to five members. Bill to secure state aid for public health nursing, supported by the League, failed to secure an appropriation. Followed carefully the bill to establish the merit system for county personnel, under the amendment to the Social Security Act.