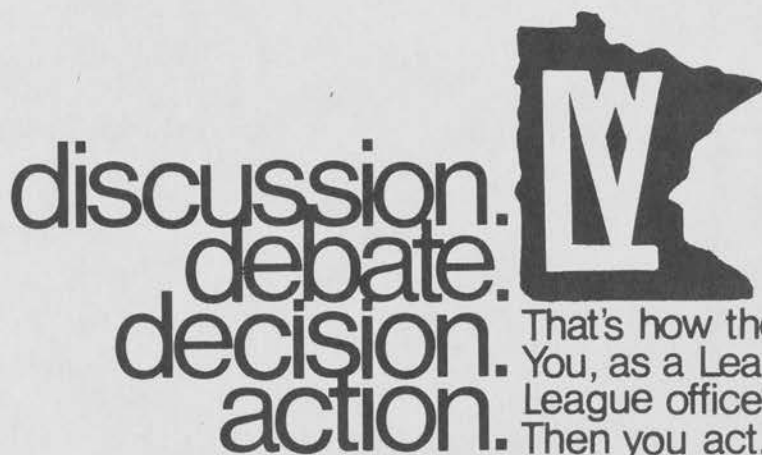




## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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That's how the League of Women Voters works. You, as a League member, make the decisions. League officers implement those decisions and set policy. Then you act.

It's all aimed at better government through informed citizen input and action.

The League sponsored the 1976 Presidential debates. But that's not all. Local Leagues continuously sponsor public forums for all kinds of political candidates and on all kinds of important issues.

environment.  
taxes. education.  
regional government.  
crime. human resources.  
human rights.

Whatever your interest, the League is involved. And active. Actually doing something.



So if you feel alienated, frustrated, powerless – do something about it. Join the League of Women Voters. Get involved. It'll make a difference.

**League of Women Voters  
of Minnesota**

555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minn. 55102  
telephone: (612) 224-5445



RTZ 9 10

PHOTO 1



# **FACTS**

**about the**

**League of Women Voters**

**of**

**Minnesota**

**1919-1961**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

## **Nonpartisanship**

The League is a nonpartisan organization. It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. It does select a limited number of governmental issues for study, and after its members reach substantial agreement, the League takes action in support of or in opposition to these issues. In the action process its members "learn by doing."

To protect the nonpartisanship policy of the League, Board members refrain from party activity while serving on the Board. Other members, as individuals, are encouraged to work in the political party of their choice.

## **In the Public Interest**

From its inception the League has worked in the public interest. It is unique in that it has no special ax to grind, seeking only to improve government for the general benefit of all citizens.

Membership is open. All women citizens of voting age are eligible; no invitation to join is necessary.

Democratic procedures are employed. Majority opinion prevails, but the minority is given every opportunity to persuade others to its point of view. The League strives for substantial agreement, not for unanimity.

Study and discussion precede action. In small units and in large meetings, members get the full facts and weigh the pros and cons of an issue before taking a position. After the League reaches a position, it works to implement that position by providing information through public forums, the mass media, and League publications; by testifying at public hearings; by letters to local, state, and national officials.

League publications on subjects within its program are carefully prepared by League authors and checked by professional experts. The wide distribution of these publications, both inside and outside the League, speaks for the respect and confidence they enjoy.

[ 2 ]

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## **League Program**

Members of each local League choose a local program at their annual meeting. Leagues in Minnesota presently are concerning themselves with city charters, city planning, town surveys, voter registration, county problems, improvement of governmental services, taxation and finance, recreation, schools, water and sewage problems.

State and national programs also are chosen by the members through their delegates to biennial state and national conventions. Selection of all program items is guided by a set of principles adopted at national conventions.

League programs have two parts. The *Current Agenda* contains those governmental issues chosen by the members for concerted action; *Continuing Responsibilities* are those governmental issues on which the League has a position and on which it may continue to act.

## **Minnesota's State Program—1961-1963**

### **Current Agenda**

- I. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for amendments to improve the constitution of the state of Minnesota.
- II. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will continue its support of the principles of employment on merit and will study other problems of discrimination.

### **Continuing Responsibilities**

- I. Ethics in government (conflict of interest and lobby regulation).
- II. Election laws, party designation, and corrupt practices.
- III. Home rule.
- IV. Constitutional revision by convention.

[ 3 ]

## Organization

The League is an association of individual members organized to act on local, state and national levels of government. Decisions on program, budget, and leadership are made by members in annual meetings and in state and national conventions. Boards are elected at each level to carry out these decisions on behalf of the members.

There are 132,205 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. There are 1,120 local Leagues in 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 5,664 members of the League of Women Voters in Minnesota. There are 58 local Leagues with 330 discussion units in 46 of the 67 legislative and all of the congressional districts of the state.

## Finance

Membership dues, set by local Leagues, provide about 35% of League funds. The remaining portion comes chiefly from public-spirited citizens who value the League's work and from member contributions in addition to dues. Local Leagues annually adopt a budget which includes a pledge for support of state and national services. The total of the local League budgets in 1960-61 was \$70,315, of which \$46,915 was spent in the local communities.

The state League budget in Minnesota totaled \$25,864 for the year 1960-61; \$16,764 was spent on state activities and \$9,100 was sent to national headquarters to finance services they furnish.

The national League budget for 1960-61 was \$223,740. Combined expenditures on the three levels total about \$1.7 million a year.

## Voters Service

The League publishes factual information on issues to help the electorate cast an informed vote. At election time it also prepares and distributes factual information on candidates, conducts candidates meetings, and works to get out the vote.

[ 4 ]

## Brief History

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was organized in October, 1919, a few months before the national League emerged from its parent organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Names and history are always intertwined. So it is in the League. Minnesota's first president was Mrs. Andreas Ueland of Minneapolis; she also was its first full-time lobbyist at the Capitol in St. Paul. Understandably, the new League's emphasis in its early years was on legislation to benefit women and children. Success after success crowned its efforts,\* due in large part to the devoted and intelligent work of Mrs. Ueland.

Early Leaguers emphasized the importance of voting too, and sometimes they used dramatic methods like "passing the torch" from the Canadian to the Iowa border and putting it finally in the governor's hands. Less flamboyant approaches were citizenship schools, institutes on state government in cooperation with the U. of M., the first all-party candidates meetings.

The thirties saw Miss Ruth Mitchell of St. Cloud at the helm. Her predecessor, Miss Marguerite Wells of Minneapolis, had been elected to head the national League in 1934. Miss Wells was concerned that the League was becoming too much an organization of experts on subject matter, a group more devoted to study than action. Consequently she proposed agreement on a program which would mobilize all members on a single issue. The Convention chose "a merit system in all branches of government at all levels." Passage of the Minnesota law during Miss Mitchell's term earned for our state League the title: Mother of Civil Service.

During the war years the League took its message to the public by distributing flyers, person to person contacts, speeches, radio programs. Issues stressed were the need for price control, rationing, higher taxes, the urgency for a collective security system. This last concern propelled the League into its campaign to promote understanding of what was soon to be the United Nations, which it has supported ever since. Although national issues took the spotlight in these years, the League helped to pass important state legislation as well.\*

Perhaps tenacity is the key to the League's steady

[ 5 ]

progress toward its goals. In 1948 it started a study of the state constitution. In the sixties it is still working for improvement of this basic document. Although its original objective—a constitutional convention—has not been achieved, an impressive number of changes have been made by the amendment method, and more will come. Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves of Rochester, state president when work on the constitution began, said, "It takes patience and longevity. We are women and we have both." She had more talents than these, utilized here and in Washington, D.C., where she served on the national Board. Other Minnesota women who have shared this honor are Mrs. Eugene Burgess and Miss Barbara Stuhler (presently on the Board), both of Minneapolis.

No history, however brief, could omit mention of Miss Hope Washburn of Duluth and St. Paul in whose honor the award for outstanding service to the League is given each year. Among other things, she traveled the state helping local Leagues gain in strength, and started many new ones. Another name which crops up—in the state budget of all places—is Jane Grey Swisshelm. She was a 19th century crusader who fought for woman suffrage. A fund in her name, established by her nephew in 1938, continues to help sustain the League's work.

And what has the League done lately? Among legislative achievements in which it has had a hand are: the fair employment practices act; the first legislative reapportionment statute since 1913 (another long struggle); a mild "conflict of interest" law, but a beginning; improvements in election laws. A negative victory was defeat of the unsatisfactory legislative reapportionment amendment on the 1960 ballot.

Unfinished business? Plenty to keep our 5,664 members busy for years! Corrupt practices legislation, lobby regulation, constitutional revision, and that long-sought goal enjoyed by every other state in the union except Nebraska—party designation for state legislators.

An interesting question? How will the 1962 state election, the first under the new redistricting law, affect the League's unfinished legislative business?

\* See Sample of Legislative Achievements.

[ 6 ]

## **A Sample of Legislative Achievements . . .**

**IN THE TWENTIES:** "Mile of signatures" secured on resolution urging U.S. adherence to World Court; departments of state government reorganized; mothers' pensions increased; jury service for women allowed; employment of women limited to 55-hour week, 10-hour day; tenure for teachers won; employment of children regulated; school attendance made compulsory; school term lengthened; state aid to schools revised.

**IN THE THIRTIES:** Lame Duck Amendment (20th) to U.S. Constitution ratified; state income tax, unemployment compensation, and public relief instituted; funds for public employment office appropriated; civil service law passed; teacher retirement fund established; resolution to discriminate against married women in public employment and teaching defeated; 5-day waiting period added to marriage laws; schools required to keep public health records of children; much legislation of twenties defended against amendment or repeal.

**IN THE FORTIES:** Merit system extended to county welfare employees; public health nursing bill passed; municipal housing act and enabling legislation for low-rent housing passed; Legislative Research Council established; common law marriages abolished; aid to dependent children increased; state aid to schools increased and distribution revised; school district reorganization law improved.

**IN THE FIFTIES:** Fair employment practices act forbidding discrimination on basis of race, color, creed or national origin; legislative reapportionment statute giving fairer representation to populous areas of the state (effective 1962); improved election procedures. Constitutional amendments adopted dealing with submission of any new constitution to the voters, home rule and special legislation, and election of state officials for 4-year terms beginning in 1962.

**IN THE SIXTIES:** Inadequate and unenforceable constitutional amendment for legislative reapportionment defeated; 30-day residence requirement for voting eased; weak "conflict of interest" law passed; minor home rule implementation.

[ 7 ]

**STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**1961-1963**

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**League of Women Voters of Minnesota**

15th and Washington Avenues S.E.

Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Publication No. 080161-7½M

August, 1961

Price: 3¢ each

# FACTS

about the  
League of  
Women Voters  
of Minnesota

1919 - 1975

555 Wabasha Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
(612) 224-5445

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The League is an association of individual members organized to act on local, state and national levels of government. Membership is open to all women of voting age. Members choose the study - action programs, adopt budget and elect leaders at annual local meetings and biennial state and national conventions. Boards of Directors are elected to carry out member decisions on behalf of the members.

There are 150,000 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. There are local Leagues in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. There are 67 local Leagues in Minnesota with a total membership of 5,300.

## **HISTORY**

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was organized in October 1919, a few months before the organization of the national League. Successor to the National American Women Suffrage Association, the new League emphasized voting information and legislation to benefit women and children. Throughout the years, the League has greatly expanded its legislative program while continuing to stress the importance of its Voters Service work.

## **VOTERS SERVICE**

The League assembles pro and con information on issues to help voters cast an informed vote. At election time, the League prepares and distributes factual information about candidates, conducts public meetings to help voters meet and question candidates for elective office and works to get out the vote.

Local Leagues serve their communities by publicizing precinct caucus information, dates and qualifications for filing for office and dates for voter registration and elections. Leagues help with voter registration activities, demonstrate voting machines and conduct citizen education projects.

## **NONPARTISANSHIP**

The League does not support or oppose any candidates or political parties. However, members, as individuals, are encouraged to work in the political party of their choice.

To protect the nonpartisanship policy of the League, members refrain from party activity while serving on the Board of Directors.

## **FINANCE**

Membership dues are set by local Leagues. The annual fund drive conducted by each local League focuses on member contributions and solicitation of a selected number of businesses and nonmembers to support the organization in local, state and national activities.



## LEAGUE PROGRAM

Members of each local League choose a local Program at their annual meeting. Leagues in Minnesota presently are concerning themselves with city charters, community planning and zoning, forms of government, courts, environmental quality, equality of opportunity, housing, juveniles, parks, playgrounds and recreation, police and law enforcement, schools and education, tax structure, urban renewal and voting laws and registration.

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), formed by members of the local Leagues in the seven-county Metropolitan Area to work on programs that are area-wide, currently is studying the evolving roles of various levels of government in the Metropolitan Area and their interaction; and citizen involvement. It continues to have a vital interest in decision-making in the Metropolitan Area, including land use and environmental quality, problems of financing services, fiscal disparities, mass transit and the area's transportation system.

## STUDY and ACTION

Study and discussion precede action. In small units and in large meetings, members get the full facts and weigh the pros and cons of an issue before taking a position. Majority opinion prevails, but the minority point of view is always respected. The League strives for substantial agreement not for unanimity.

After the League reaches a position, it works to implement that position by providing information through public forums, the mass media and League publications; by testifying at public hearings, by letters to local, state and national officials.

The League of Women Voters has earned a reputation for carefully researched, informative publications. These timely and readable materials are widely distributed to members and the general public.

## MINNESOTA STATE PROGRAM 1973 — 1975

- I **Corrections:** Study of the organization of both adult and juvenile correctional systems.
- II **Judiciary:** Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.
- III **Environmental Quality:** Support positions adopted through national consensus supporting a physical environment beneficial to life: action to promote wise use of water resources and improvement of water and air quality. Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste.
- IV **Equality of Opportunity:** Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education, and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.
- V **Education:** Support of increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children through measures to correct racial imbalance and ensure adequate financing of public schools.
- VI **Election Laws:** Support of party designation for legislators. Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices, election procedures, voting and school district elections.
- VII **Organization of State Government:** Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature and Executive Branch. Support of easing of the amending process.
- VIII **Financing Government:** Support of property tax reform.



## LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

From study to action to law - the League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud of the part it has played in the passage of historic legislation. Some victories in which it has shared are:

**In the Twenties:** Departments of state government reorganized. Mothers' pensions increased. Jury service for women allowed. Employment of women limited to 55-hour week, 10-hour day. Tenure for teachers won. Employment of children regulated. School attendance made compulsory; school term lengthened; state aid to schools revised.

**In the Thirties:** State income tax, unemployment compensation and public relief instituted. Funds for public employment office appropriated. Civil service law passed. Teacher retirement fund established. Schools required to keep public health records of children. Much legislation of Twenties defended against amendment or repeal.

**In the Forties:** Merit system extended to county welfare employees; public health nursing bill passed. Municipal housing act and enabling legislation for low-rent housing passed. Legislative Research Council established. Common law marriages abolished. Aid to dependent children increased. State aid to schools increased and distribution revised; school district reorganization law improved.

**In the Fifties:** Fair Employment Practices Act forbidding discrimination on basis of race, color, creed or national origin. Legislative reapportionment statute giving fairer representation to populous areas of the state. Improved election procedures. Constitutional amendments adopted dealing with home rule and election of state officials for 4-year terms beginning in 1962.

**In the Sixties:** Reapportionment defended. The State Act against Discrimination broadened. Employment on merit and nondiscrimination in housing extended. An Indian Affairs Commission established to help find solutions to problems of Minnesota's Indian citizens. Minnesota's Constitution modernized. New state residents permitted to vote for President. Some beginnings made in "conflict of interest" laws and lobby regulation. Unrealistic limits on campaign expenses raised. A Department of Human Rights established and funded. Uniform precinct caucus date established.

**In the Seventies:** Constitutional amendments adopted limiting tax-exempt property, lowering the voting age and providing flexible sessions and the short ballot. Equal Rights Amendment ratified. Party designation, state-wide voter registration and more uniform election procedures adopted. Structures and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature improved including a legislative post audit and increased salaries. Executive Branch reorganized including creation of Department of Finance. Tenants Rights legislation passed. State Housing Finance Agency established. Human Rights Act strengthened. Indian wild ricing rights achieved. Minimum wage law strengthened. State standards and partial state funding of general relief established; township relief abolished. Environmental Policy Bill, Environmental Protection Act and Critical Areas Act passed. Environmental Quality Council and Minnesota Environmental Education established. Transportation aid for all school districts passed; increased state aid established and levy limitations imposed.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA 1973 - 1975

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 League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
 555 Wabasha Street  
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 (612) 224-5445

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check Blanks:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to join the League of Women Voters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a list of available League publications.

\_\_\_\_\_ Which local League of Women Voters is closest to me?

September 1973



FILE COPY

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**FACTS**

*about the*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**of**

**MINNESOTA**

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## FACTS

The LWV of Minnesota is an integral part of the LWV of the United States, therefore its by-laws, methods of work and policies are the same.\* The LWV is an association of individual members, organized to act on local, state and national levels; the state League is responsible for organization, finance and program.

In Minnesota there are 55 local Leagues, made up of 272 units comprising 5,472 members with annual dues of \$3.00 to \$5.00. There are local Leagues in 44 of the 67 legislative districts, and in all 9 of the congressional districts.

Local League budgets in Minnesota totaled \$51,126 for the year 1956-57, with \$33,286 being spent on local work, and \$17,840 being spent on state and national work. \$15,977 of the income was received as dues, \$8,058 was received as member contributions, \$23,393 was received from public spirited citizens in each community.

The state League budget in Minnesota totaled \$21,583 for the year 1957-58, with \$14,083 being spent on state work and \$7,500 being sent to national for national work.

Local Leagues in Minnesota are working on local government charters, city planning, town surveys, county problems, improvement of services, taxation and finance, recreation, schools, registration of voters, and water and sewage problems.

### STATE PROGRAM 1957-59

#### CURRENT AGENDA

- I. Constitutional Revision—support and work for:
  - A. The calling of a constitutional convention;
  - B. A constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention;
  - C. A constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature.

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\*See *FACTS*, LWV of U.S. Pub. No. 221; 25 copies, 50c.

- II. The LWV of Minnesota will evaluate election laws and procedures of the state of Minnesota and will work for changes if needed.

## CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Support revision of constitutional provisions for:
- A. A workable amending process;
  - B. Clearly fixed executive responsibilities;
  - C. Adequate time for consideration of legislation by the Legislature;
  - D. A post-auditor appointed by and responsible to the Legislature;
  - E. Increased home rule for local government.
- II. Reapportionment by statute.
- III. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- IV. Party designation for legislators.

## DEFINITIONS

**STATE CONVENTIONS**—At the state convention (held in odd numbered years) delegates chosen by their local Leagues meet to elect officers and directors, adopt a budget and choose a state program.

**STATE COUNCIL MEETING**—At the state council meeting (held in the even numbered years) delegates adopt a budget, and guide the state board on program and methods of work. They change the current agenda only in event of emergency.

**STATE PROGRAM**—The state program consists of current agenda and continuing responsibilities, based on the principles adopted by biennial national convention.

**CURRENT AGENDA**—The current agenda is limited to such current state governmental issues as the state convention shall choose for concerted action.

**CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES**—Continuing responsibilities are positions on state governmental issues to which the LWV of Minnesota has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the state convention.

## HISTORY

**1919-24** Instituted citizenship schools in cooperation with University of Minnesota (700 women registered), 53 schools (1 to 5 day) held throughout the state, 8 conferences in 8 legislative districts. Conducted the first Minnesota get-out-the-campaign (1920), first Minnesota all-party candidates' meeting. Supplied for first time state and county fair booths with non-partisan political information. Led a public demand for the calling of Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments (petition of 3,500 names). Prepared and distributed first state "Digest of Election Laws." Primarily responsible for Act by which Legislature appointed Interim Committee on the Reorganization of State Departments. Inaugurated radio service on non-partisan political education. Institute on Minnesota Government begun (1922) in cooperation with University of Minnesota. Gathered and carried to Washington "Mile of Signatures" urging U.S. adherence to World Court.

**1924-29** Ended get-out-the-vote campaign with Passing-the-Torch Tour from Canadian to Iowa border, final ceremony on Capitol steps with Governor. Began study of tariffs. Extensive education campaign in behalf of state reorganization leading to passage of reorganization bill (1925). 8,000 primers, "Current Questions in Government," prepared and distributed.

**1929-34** Petition to World Disarmament Conference (5,918 Minnesota signatures). First series of legislative clinics held throughout state (1933). Marguerite Wells, former Minnesota LWV president, elected National president (1934). Conducted 35 county surveys (1934).

**1934-39** Participated in nationwide campaign for civil service and for trained personnel in government. Primarily responsible for organization of the Minnesota Civil Service Council (1937), conducted intensive educational campaign which enabled Civil Service Bill to become law (1939). Conducted survey of school districts. Institute on Governmental

Problems held in cooperation with University of Minnesota.

**1939-44** Published "Ninety Days of Lawmaking." Conducted Civil Service Survey as beginning of "Watch-dog" assistance to Civil Service Board; Civil Service meetings held throughout state; assistance in national extension of merit system. Conducted 30 campaign schools. Every member campaign to win the "Battle of Production." Broadside campaign (90,000 on 18 subjects delivered first five months) to teach understanding of government in war time. Special emphasis on good candidate choice ("Giants instead of Pygmies"), development of informed public opinion, intelligent voting, observation of administrative practices, and support of legislation. 150 LWV squads trained in Face-to-Face campaigning to educate the 103,000 Minnesotans approached on the need for U.S. to take lead in establishing international post-war cooperation; 50,000 quizzes on choosing sound foreign policy distributed. Active support of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program.

**1944-49** Pre-election activities geared to "measuring your congressman," congressional and legislative interviews, candidates' questionnaires. Emphasis on organized radio effort. The Legislative Research Council established, legislation to improve low-income housing, revision of state aids to schools passed, culminating long-time vigorous LWV effort. State-wide educational campaign on Dumbarton Oaks proposals; "Win the Peace" effort, teaching citizens to think in terms of United Nations organization. School for lobbyists held. Community education in selective buying. Legislative school and regional economic conference held. "You Are the Government" (handbook for Minnesota citizens) published by St. Paul LWV. Intensive constitutional revision effort begun. Minneapolis Star and Tribune Leadership-in-Minnesota Award given to Mildred F. Hargraves as President of the Minnesota League.

**1949-54** Special emphasis on the study of the United Nations, and legislative lobbying. Heavy work on passage of amendments crucial

to revision of constitution (largely responsible for passage of amendment No. 3 to submit any revised constitution to the people, 1954). Intensive public education and lobbying on fair employment practices, party designation for legislators, improved veterans' preference law. National recognition of Minneapolis and St. Paul Television Candidate Interviews.

**1954-59** Intensive study of what a new constitution should contain. "Reapportionment in Minnesota: Democracy Denied" published (1954). A Fair Employment Practices Act passed (1955), much credit given to LWV. Intensive campaign to build public opinion for calling a Constitutional Convention, for Reapportionment, for Party Designation (1956-57). These bills all passed the House, only; great interest generated in the Legislature and among citizens (1957). Intensive campaign of public education on all three issues continued (1956-59). Evaluation of election laws and procedures with a view to needed change begun (1957).

## LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Child Welfare** Raising marriageable age of girls, child labor laws, minimum wage law, increase of mothers' allowance, increase of the appropriation for infancy-maternity work, aid to dependent children.

**Status of Women** Fifty-four-hour work-week for women, eligibility of women for jury service, removal of discrimination against employment of married women.

**General Welfare** Abolition of the common law marriage, five day waiting period, adequate lay representation on welfare boards, better housing for low income groups, extension of the public health services, establishment of fair employment practices.

**Education** Minimum school year increase from 6 to 8 months, enforced compulsory school attendance, physical education in all schools, revision of state aids to schools, teacher tenure law, reorganization of teachers' retirement fund, reorganization of school units, school reorganization survey.

**Structure of Government** Interim commission on reorganization of state departments, county assessor system, legislative research council, civil service system, ratification by Minnesota of the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15TH AND WASHINGTON AVE. S.E.  
MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

FE. 8-8791

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Price: 25 copies, 50c

July 1957



# FACTS

about the

## League of Women Voters

1920 - 1965

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

League of Women Voters of the United States

1200 17th Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20036

Publication No. 221

June 1965

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### HOW ORGANIZED, HOW FINANCED

#### How It Began

The League was originally a part of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which led the 72-year drive for full and equal suffrage for women of the United States. It was designed to succeed the NAWSA and did so upon ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

#### How It Is Organized

The League is a membership organization. Decisions are made by the members. Local, state, and national Boards are elected to carry out decisions made by members in annual local meetings, state conventions, and biennial national Conventions.

A member joins the League of Women Voters of the United States. She works through her local League in the field of government in her community. A state League is composed of members enrolled in local Leagues and concerns itself with state governmental matters. Members work on state and national governmental issues through their local Leagues.

There are about 145,500 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. There are 1,214 local Leagues in 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. There are state Leagues in 49 states.

#### How It Is Financed

The League is a nonprofit, volunteer organization. About a third of its income comes from dues assessed by local Leagues, two thirds chiefly from contributions by members and public-spirited nonmembers. Local Leagues adopt annual budgets which include voluntary pledges for support of state and national work. Combined expenditures are approaching the \$2.25 million mark a year, almost two thirds of which is spent by local Leagues in their own communities. Of the remaining one third, approximately two thirds are spent by state Leagues and one third at the national level. No salaries are paid to any officers or directors.

### HOW THE LEAGUE WORKS

#### Nonpartisanship

The League is nonpartisan. It takes action in support of or in opposition to selected governmental issues, but it does not support or oppose candidates nor does it support or oppose political parties.

Members are urged to concern themselves with public matters—local, state, national. Through League study and action on selected governmental issues, they learn by doing.

Members are encouraged to work as individuals in the political party of their choice. To protect the League's nonpartisanship policy, Board members refrain from active party work while in League office.

#### How The League Works

*Open Membership.* Women citizens of voting age who believe in representative government are eligible to join. Dues are kept low so that anyone interested in the League's purpose may join.

*Voters Service.* The effort to further individual political effectiveness is a continuous function of the League. Year-round it supplies the citizen with factual information on important issues. At election time Leagues publish factual information on candidates and ballot issues, conduct candidates meetings, and work to get out the vote.

*Procedure.* Members consciously practice democracy in the League. Minority opinion is welcome, majority opinion prevails. The League strives for substantial agreement on a position, not unanimity.

*Study, Discussion, Action.* League Program concentrates on only a few important issues at one time. Facts and pros and cons are studied. Members discuss the issues in small and large meetings. When a position is reached through consensus of membership, the League works to implement the position. League action includes testifying at public hearings, use of public forums, panel discussions, mass media, League publications, and letters to public officials.



## LEAGUE WORK AND PROGRAM METHOD

### Political Effectiveness

*Local Leagues* have spearheaded improvements in structure and efficiency of town and city government, and have worked on such issues as public schools, housing, health services, tax reforms.

*State Leagues* have directed much of their effort toward state constitutional reform, improved legislative procedures, election laws, child welfare laws, and establishment of the merit system.

In *national affairs* the League has long supported the United Nations and world economic development, including a liberal U.S. trade policy, aid and technical assistance to other nations. It worked to extend the merit system in federal civil service, to improve legislation protecting consumers, and for measures later embodied in the Social Security Act. It supported civilian control of atomic energy and long-range, coordinated development of water resources.

### How Program Is Selected

The League works on governmental issues which arise out of the needs of the community, the state, the nation. The membership chooses the Program.

Six months before the biennial national Convention, local Leagues begin discussion of issues and send recommendations for the national Program to the national Board. The Board considers them and sends a "Proposed Program" to Leagues for a second round of discussion. Final decisions are made by a majority vote of delegates in Convention. State and local Programs are selected by the same general democratic procedure as is the national Program.

The Program is divided into *Current Agenda*, subjects for concentrated study and concerted action, and *Continuing Responsibilities*, positions on issues to which the League has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to take action. *Principles*, governmental principles supported by the League as a whole, give authority for adoption of local, state, and national Current Agendas.

## NATIONAL PROGRAM—1964 - 1966

### CURRENT AGENDA

**APPORTIONMENT OF STATE LEGISLATURES:** Evaluation of the basis of representation, as determined by federal constitutional and statutory provisions, which shall govern the apportionment of state legislatures.

**DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES:** Evaluation of policies and programs in the United States to provide for all persons equality of opportunity for education and employment.

**UNITED NATIONS:** Support of U.S. policies which strengthen the U.N. system and its ability to keep the peace.

**FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY:** Support of U.S. policies which promote world economic development, maintain a sound U.S. economy, and further international and regional cooperation.

**WATER RESOURCES:** Support of national policies and procedures which promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and development of water resources.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

**LOYALTY-SECURITY:** Support of standardized procedures, "common sense" judgment, and greatest possible protection for the individual under the federal loyalty-security programs; opposition to extension of such programs to nonsensitive positions.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Support of self-government and representation in Congress for citizens of the District of Columbia.

**TAX RATES:** Opposition to constitutional limitations on tax rates.

**TREATY-MAKING:** Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations.

## THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in his right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a stable and expanding economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1964 - 1966

### Officers

<i>President</i>	MRS. ROBERT J. STUART Spokane, Washington
<i>1st Vice President</i>	MRS. WILLIAM H. WOOD Bladensburg, Maryland
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	MRS. WILLIAM S. MORGAN Norman, Oklahoma
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. TYLER SHINN Ormond Beach, Florida
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. HANS-ARNOLD FRAENKEL Hartsdale, New York

### Directors

MRS. BRUCE B. BENSON Amherst, Massachusetts	MRS. K. E. MONTGOMERY Eugene, Oregon
MRS. JOHN A. CAMPBELL Indianapolis, Indiana	MRS. W. EUGENE PHARIS Webster Groves, Missouri
MRS. WILLIAM M. CHRISTOPHERSON Louisville, Kentucky	MRS. HASKELL ROSENBLUM Washington, D. C.
MRS. LOUIS HIRSCH Tucson, Arizona	MRS. VERNON C. STONEMAN Belmont, Massachusetts
MRS. JOHN D. KENDERDINE Holtwood, Pennsylvania	MRS. JOHN F. TOOMEY Narragansett, Rhode Island
MRS. COLIN J. MACDONALD Dallas, Texas	MRS. ROBERT ZURBACH Pasadena, California

*Observer for the League  
at the United Nations*

MRS. GEORGE A. LITTLE  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

FORTY QUESTIONS ON ORGANIZATION OF THE LEAGUE

1. What is the purpose of the League?
2. Is the League program a restricted program?
3. Does the League attempt to cover completely the fields it works in?
4. Is the League's program concerned with public or private interests?
5. Is the League's program comprehensive or logical?
6. Is there any other organization in America limited to the general field of government?
7. What items on the National and State Programs of Work may make us increasingly helpful to parties?
8. What is the National Board?
9. Who makes up the State Board?
10. How often does the State Board meet, and what do they do?
11. Who makes up your Board?                      Elected or appointed?
12. How long before the national convention does the national Proposed Program of Work come out?
13. Have you ever analyzed the National Proposed Program?
14. When is the national program adopted?
15. What is the relation of the state program to the National Program adopted?
16. How long before state convention is the State Proposed Program sent out?
17. Did you as a responsible member of your Board vote on that program?
18. What is the State Program of Work?
19. Who makes the decision as to when measures, adopted in principle by the State convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work?
20. What can we do if laws, which in their passage were supported by the League, or if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation?
21. What can we do about legislation in support of administration, enforcement and improvement of laws?
22. How can a member of a local League work to have an item included on the State Program of Work?
23. What would be the first step in working to have an item removed from the Program of Work?

24. Does your League support local measures?

25. How many departments are there in the League?

Name them

26. Who are the State Department Chairmen?

27. Have you ever contacted them for help in planning your work?

28. What is the National News Letter?

Are you a subscriber?

29. Have you seen the national and state Lists of Publications?

30. Do you feel you are a responsible member of your Board?  
do to improve?

What could you

31. Have you seen or read The Program Explained?

32. What is a local Department Chairman's job?

33. Why does the League never endorse candidates or parties?

34. When we support a bill in Congress or the Legislature, is someone at the Capitol all the time?

35. What is the Civil Service Council?

36. What would you do if you were a president or a chairman who did not agree with the League in its stand on certain measures?

37. Can a local League work for state legislation which is not on the support program of the State League?

38. If you are a department chairman and wish to accomplish a local project, what steps would be necessary?

39. Should a local League make its program of meetings a year in advance?

40. What have you ever done for Congressional, legislative, or local support of a League measure?

41. What are the minimum requirements for a local League?

42. To what extent should the League cooperate with other organizations?



Minnesota League of Women Voters  
914 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis

April, 1937

TWENTY QUESTIONS ON LEAGUE FINANCE

1. What is the state budget for 1936-37?
2. Where does this money come from?
3. Where is it spent?
4. Why send so much money to the state and national Leagues?
5. Do the state president or state officers receive mileage or other financial help?
6. How are local League quotas determined?
7. What is your League's full quota?
8. Why do we have this method?
9. Does it work?
10. Why should finance people know the League thoroughly?
11. Why should membership chairmen know the League thoroughly?
12. Have you seen the pamphlet, "Achievements of the National League"?
13. Why does the League ask non-members for contributions?
14. Does your League have any regular contributors?
15. Do you have a file of such contributors?
16. Are they checked carefully each year for renewals?
17. What is the value of contributions besides the money received?
18. Do you feel that the League has gained in prestige in this country?  
In your community?
19. Why do we not charge more for material?
20. How many League pamphlets have you read this past year?
21. What are the "Penny Sheets"? Have you seen and read them?

*Some Achievements*  
*of*  
*The First Ten Years*  
*of the*  
Minnesota League of  
Women Voters  
*1919-1929*

1639 Hennepin Avenue

# The Minnesota League of Women Voters

## *First Year, 1919-20—*

Prepared women for their first vote and laid a foundation for future work of the League of Women Voters by: a citizenship school in cooperation with the University of Minnesota at which 700 women registered; 53 schools of one to five days each and 72 lectures throughout the state; distributing 258,950 pieces of printed material of political education; holding 8 conventions in 8 congressional districts led by from five to eight speakers, the attendance for which was promoted by visits of officers to 66 towns.

Conducted the first get-out-the-vote campaign following the final enfranchisement of women, August, 1920, including every device used in later campaigns with the addition of more instruction in the mechanics of voting and of election laws. It included

The first all-party candidates' meeting ever held in the state and the first state and county fair booths of non-partisan political information—at state fair and county fairs.

## *Second Year, 1920-21—*

Inaugurated the Woman Voter, a monthly bulletin of political education on League of Women Voters measures.

Led the public demand for calling the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments, the first League petition numbering 3500 names.

Supported among other successful legislative measures, one making women eligible for jury service.

Supported the acceptance by the legislature of the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act and the state's later cooperation with the federal government in organizing the work under the Act.

## *Third Year, 1921-22—*

Prepared and distributed the first state Digest of Election Laws which is still in use by public officials, teachers of civics in the public schools, and the general public.

## *Fourth Year, 1922-23—*

Supported the act by which the legislature appointed an interim committee on reorganization of the state departments. Without this committee for which the League of Women Voters was primarily responsible, reorganization, the most important governmental change in the state in recent years, might not have occurred or have been long delayed.

Inaugurated a radio service of unpartisan political education that has never since been discontinued.

Held the First Institute of Government in cooperation with the University of Minnesota. Such an Institute has since been held every other year.

## *Fifth Year, 1923-24—*

Gathered and carried to Washington a mile of signatures in behalf of the United States' adherence to the World Court—perhaps the most spectacular demonstration ever made in behalf of the World Court.

Held 34 one-day schools in 19 communities, with an attendance of 38000, as one part of an extensive get-out-the-vote campaign.

## *Sixth Year, 1924-25—*

Ended the get-out-the-vote campaign with the Passing-The-Torch tour from the Canadian to the Iowa border, 1,100 miles, with the final ceremony on the steps of the Capitol where it was met by the governor.

Carried on an intensive educational campaign in behalf of reorganization of state departments and in support of the bill which was passed by the legislature. Previous attempts at reorganization which had been supported by no such education of the public had failed.

### *Seventh Year, 1925-26—*

Inaugurated candidates' meetings by radio, all the candidates for governor speaking.

Prepared, published, and distributed for use in study groups 8,000 primers on "Current Questions in Government."

### *Eighth Year, 1926-27—*

Conducted a new kind of Survey of Voting Habits based upon a study of 8 elections over a period of four years in 12 voting districts.

### *Ninth Year, 1927-28—*

Conducted a second state-wide survey of jury service by women, to promote the inclusion of women in the jury panel in every county of the state.

Organized listening-in groups for the radio Voters' Service of the National League of Women Voters and the National Broadcasting Company as a part of an extensive get-out-the-vote campaign.

### *Tenth Year, 1928-29—*

Supported the act under which the legislature appropriated \$43,000 a year for infancy-maternity work, nearly compensating for withdrawal of federal aid.



These listed achievements are only illustrations from a large number of similar accomplishments of the League of Women Voters during 120 months of continuous day-by-day activity in behalf of good government and political education. They do not include 15 laws enacted with the support of the League, nor do they include a vast output of publications of political education. They do not include the accomplishments of Local Leagues such as support of city charter amendments and similar improvements in local governments; nor a multitude of devices for interesting and informing the voters at election time; nor constant observance of and reports on public boards and departments; nor do they include hundreds of study groups on government and politics throughout the state.

COMPLIMENTS OF  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MINNEAPOLIS

1200 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55403  
PHONE: 333-6319

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ABOUT THE ...  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS**  
OF  
**MINNESOTA**  
**1919—1971**



## PURPOSE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

## ORGANIZATION

The League is an association of individual members organized to act on local, state, and national levels of government. Membership is open to all women of voting age. Members choose the study-action programs, adopt budgets, and elect leaders at annual local meetings, state and national conventions. Boards of Directors are elected to carry out member decisions on behalf of the members.

There are 157,000 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. There are 1,275 local Leagues in 50 states, the District of Columbia, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. There are 68 local Leagues in Minnesota with a total membership of 5,600.

## HISTORY

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was organized in October, 1919, a few months before the national League emerged from its parent organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The new League's emphasis was in legislation to benefit women and children and on the importance of voting. Throughout the years, the League has greatly expanded its legislative program while continuing to stress the importance of its voters service work.

## THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in his right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a stable and expanding economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

## LEAGUE PROGRAM

Members of each local League choose a local program at their annual meeting. Leagues in Minnesota presently are concerning themselves with city charters, community planning and zoning, forms of government, courts, environmental quality, equality of opportunity, housing, juveniles, parks, playgrounds and recreation, police and law enforcement, schools and education, tax structure, urban renewal and voting laws and registration. The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, which is a special group formed by the local Leagues in the seven-county Metropolitan area to work on programs that are area-wide, currently is studying land use and environmental quality, and continues to have a vital interest in decision making in the Metropolitan area, including problems of financing services, fiscal disparities, mass transit and the area's transportation system.

## STUDY and ACTION

Study and discussion precede action. In small units and in large meetings, members get the full facts and weigh the pros and cons of an issue before taking a position. Majority opinion prevails, but the minority point of view is always respected. The League strives for substantial agreement, not for unanimity.

After the League reaches a position, it works to implement that position by providing information through public forums, the mass media, and League publications; by testifying at public hearings, by letters to local, state and national officials.

The League of Women Voters has earned a reputation for carefully researched, informative books, pamphlets and leaflets. These timely and readable publications are widely distributed to members and the general public.

## MINNESOTA'S STATE PROGRAM AS ADOPTED

1971 - 1973

- I Organization of State Government: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota legislature and executive branch.
- II Judiciary: Evaluation of structure and procedures as they affect the individual.
- III Education: Support of increased state responsibility in creating and financing equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children. Focus on the State Board of Education and State Department of Education including their relationships to local school districts.
- IV Equality of Opportunity: A. Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all citizens. B. Support of administrative enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. C. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.
- V Financing Government in Minnesota: Support of property tax reform.
- VI Election Laws: Support of party designation for legislators, the short ballot, an easy amending process, and improvements in election laws in the fields of election procedures and voting. Update: A review of campaign practices and regulations. A study of school district election procedures.

## VOTERS SERVICE

The League assembles pro and con information on issues to help voters cast an informed vote. At election time, the League prepares and distributes factual information about candidates, conducts public meetings to help voters meet and question candidates for elective office, and works to get out the vote.

Many Leagues serve their communities by publicizing precinct caucus information, dates and qualifications for filing for office, and dates for voter registration and elections. Leagues help with voter registration activities, demonstrate voting machines, and conduct citizen education projects.

## NONPARTISANSHIP

The League does not support or oppose any candidates or political parties. However, members, as individuals, are encouraged to work in the political party of their choice.

To protect the nonpartisanship policy of the League, members refrain from party activity while serving on the Board of Directors.

## FINANCE

Membership dues are set by local Leagues. The annual fund drive conducted by each local League focuses on member contributions and solicitation of a selected number of businesses and non-members.

Local Leagues annually pledge about one-third of their local budget to support state and national services, with the remaining two-thirds underwriting local services. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota's annual budget has been similarly proportioned with national services accounting for a third and two-thirds providing state-wide services.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

From study to action to law — The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud of the part it has played in the passage of historic legislation. Some victories in which it has shared:

**IN THE TWENTIES:** Departments of state government reorganized; mothers' pensions increased; jury service for women allowed; employment of women limited to 55-hour week, 10-hour day; tenure for teachers won, employment of children regulated; school attendance made compulsory; school term lengthened; state aid to schools revised.

**IN THE THIRTIES:** State income tax, unemployment compensation, and public relief instituted; funds for public employment office appropriated; civil service law passed; teacher retirement fund established; schools required to keep public health records of children; much legislation of twenties defended against amendment or repeal.

**IN THE FORTIES:** Merit system extended to county welfare employees; public health nursing bill passed; municipal housing act and enabling legislation for low-rent housing passed; Legislative Research Council established; common law marriages abolished; aid to dependent children increased; state aid to schools increased and distribution revised; school district reorganization law improved.

**IN THE FIFTIES:** Fair Employment Practices act forbidding discrimination on basis of race, color, creed or national origin; legislative reapportionment statute giving fairer representation to populous areas of the state; improved election procedures. Constitutional amendments adopted dealing with home rule, and election of state officials for 4-year terms beginning in 1962.

**IN THE SIXTIES:** Reapportionment defended. The State Act against Discrimination broadened. Employment on merit and non-discrimination in housing extended. An Indian Affairs Commission established to help find solutions to problems of Minnesota's Indian citizens. Minnesota's constitution modernized. New state residents permitted to vote for President. Some beginnings made in "conflict of interest" laws and lobby regulation. Unrealistic limits on campaign expenses raised. A Department of Human Rights was established and funded. Uniform precinct caucus date established.

(continued)

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION — continued

**IN THE SEVENTIES:** Constitutional amendments limiting tax exemptions and lowering the voting age. Legislative approval of "Flexible Sessions" and "Short Ballot" constitutional amendments. Tenants Rights legislation to assure maintenance of rental homes in safe and sanitary condition. Established State Housing Finance Agency, providing loans for low and moderate income housing. An Environmental Protection Act to allow citizens to sue polluters. State funds to assist in local sewage plant construction. Transportation aid for all school districts. Extending the minimum wage legislation to all workers.

## STATE BOARD of DIRECTORS 1971-1973

**PRESIDENT** . . . . . Mary Ann McCoy, Minneapolis  
**1st VICE PRESIDENT** . . . Liz Ebbott, Mahtomedi Area  
**2nd VICE PRESIDENT** . . Jerry Jenkins, Falcon Heights  
**SECRETARY** . Constance M. Szafranski, St. Anthony Vill.  
**TREASURER** . . . . . Sid Moss, Golden Valley

## DIRECTORS

Shirley D. Amundson . . . . . White Bear Lake  
Shirley M. Beyer . . . . . St. Peter  
Eleanor Bjostad . . . . . Columbia Heights  
Frances J. Boyden . . . . . St. Paul  
Mary Brascugli . . . . . St. Cloud  
Barbara L. Jones . . . . . Mankato  
Rita G. Kaplan . . . . . Minneapolis  
Gloria Phillips . . . . . St. Croix Valley  
Rosemary J. Rockenbach . . . . . St. Paul  
Marlene Roth . . . . . Burnsville  
Barbara Steinkamp . . . . . Edina  
Elsie Thurow . . . . . Edina

## LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of MINNESOTA

555 Wabasha Street

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

(612) 224-5445

September 1971



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FACTS

*about the*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*of*

MINNESOTA

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

## NONPARTISANSHIP

The League is nonpartisan. It takes action in support of or in opposition to selected governmental issues, but it does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

The League believes that by participating in LWV activity on selected governmental issues, members learn by doing. Members are encouraged to work as individuals in the political party of their choice. To protect the nonpartisanship policy of the LWV, Board members do not work actively in their parties while serving on the Board.

## IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The League of Women Voters is an outgrowth of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. It was founded in 1920, upon ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the vote.

From its inception the League has been an action as well as a study group and has worked in the public interest through:

*Open membership*—all women citizens of voting age are eligible for membership;

*Democratic procedure*—majority opinion prevails, but minority opinion is welcome; the LWV strives for substantial agreement on a position, not for unanimity;

*Study, discussion, action*—full facts, the pros and cons, are studied before the League takes a position; members discuss issues in small units and in large meetings. When a position is reached the LWV works to implement that position. Action methods include testifying at public hearings, the use of public forums, panel discussions, mass media, League publications, and letters to local, state and national officials.

## HOW IT IS ORGANIZED

The League is an association of individual members organized to act on local, state and national levels of government. Decisions on program, budget and leadership are made by members in annual meetings and in state and national conventions, and Boards are elected to carry out these decisions on behalf of the members.

There are 127,000 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States. There are 1,080 local Leagues in 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 5,676 members of the League of Women Voters in Minnesota. There are 58 local LWVs with 330 units in 44 of the 67 legislative and all of the congressional districts of the state.

## HOW IT IS FINANCED

The League is financed about 35% by membership dues assessed by local Leagues. The remainder of funds comes chiefly from contributions by members and public-spirited citizens outside the LWV. Local Leagues annually adopt a budget which includes a pledge for support of state and national Leagues. Expenditures at the three combined levels total about \$1.5 million a year.

Local League budgets in Minnesota totaled \$61,964 for the year 1958-59 with \$41,130 being spent on local work, and \$20,970 being spent on state and national work. \$19,679 of the income was received as dues (ranging from \$3 to \$5), \$6,506 was received as member contributions, \$26,438 was received from public spirited citizens in each community.

The state League budget in Minnesota totaled \$23,757 for the year 1958-59, with \$15,057 being spent on state work, and \$8,700 being sent to national for national work.

Local Leagues in Minnesota are working on local government charters, city planning, town surveys, county problems, improvement of services, taxation and finance, recreation, schools, registration of voters, and water and sewage problems.

## VOTERS SERVICE

The League publishes factual information on issues to help prepare the electorate to cast an informed vote. At election time it also issues factual information on candidates, conducts candidates meetings, and works to get out the vote.

## LEAGUE PROGRAM

The Program is chosen by the members at annual meetings and at state and national conventions. It is based on the principles adopted by biennial national convention, and consists of two parts—Current Agenda and the Continuing Responsibilities.

The Current Agenda of the League is limited to such current governmental issues as the members choose for concerted action.

The Continuing Responsibilities are positions on governmental issues to which the League members have given sustained attention and on which they may continue to act.

## MINNESOTA PROGRAM—1959-1961

### CURRENT AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will support improvements in Minnesota election laws and in the related area of ethics in government, and will promote party designation.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Constitutional Revision: constitutional convention, periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a convention, workable amending process, clearly fixed executive responsibilities, adequate length of legislative session, post auditor
- 2) Reapportionment by statute or amendment
- 3) Home Rule
- 4) Fair Employment Practices Commission

## HISTORY

**1919-24** Instituted citizenship schools in cooperation with University of Minnesota (700 women registered), 53 schools (1 to 5 day) held throughout the state, 8 conferences in 8 legislative districts. Conducted the first Minnesota get-out-the-campaign (1920), first Minnesota all-party candidates' meeting. Supplied for first time state and county fair booths with non-partisan political information. Led a public demand for the calling of Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments (petition of 3,500 names). Prepared and distributed first state "Digest of Election Laws." Primarily responsible for Act by which Legislature appointed Interim Committee on the Reorganization of State Departments. Inaugurated radio service on non-partisan political education. Institute on Minnesota Government begun (1922) in cooperation with University of Minnesota. Gathered and carried to Washington "Mile of Signatures" urging U.S. adherence to World Court.

**1924-29** Ended get-out-the-vote campaign with Passing-the-Torch Tour from Canadian to Iowa border, final ceremony on Capitol steps with Governor. Began study of tariffs. Extensive education campaign in behalf of state reorganization leading to passage of reorganization bill (1925). 8,000 primers, "Current Questions in Government," prepared and distributed.

**1929-34** Petition to World Disarmament Conference (5,918 Minnesota signatures). First series of legislative clinics held throughout state (1933). Marguerite Wells, former Minnesota LWV president, elected National president (1934). Conducted 35 county surveys (1934).

**1934-39** Participated in nationwide campaign for civil service and for trained personnel in government. Primarily responsible for organization of the Minnesota Civil Service Council (1937), conducted intensive educational campaign which enabled

Civil Service Bill to become law (1939). Conducted survey of school districts. Institute on Governmental Problems held in cooperation with University of Minnesota.

**1939-44** Published "Ninety Days of Lawmaking." Conducted Civil Service Survey as beginning of "Watch-dog" assistance to Civil Service Board; Civil Service meetings held throughout state; assistance in national extension of merit system. Conducted 30 campaign schools. Every member campaign to win the "Battle of Production." Broadside campaign (90,000 on 18 subjects delivered first five months) to teach understanding of government in war time. Special emphasis on good candidate choice ("Giants instead of Pygmies"), development of informed public opinion, intelligent voting, observation of administrative practices, and support of legislation. 150 LWV squads trained in Face-to-Face campaigning to educate the 103,000 Minnesotans approached on the need for U.S. to take lead in establishing international post-war cooperation; 50,000 quizzes on choosing sound foreign policy distributed. Active support of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program.

**1944-49** Pre-election activities geared to "measuring your congressman," congressional and legislative interviews, candidates' questionnaires. Emphasis on organized radio effort. The Legislative Research Council established, legislation to improve low-income housing, revision of state aids to schools passed, culminating long-time vigorous LWV effort. State-wide educational campaign on Dumbarton Oaks proposals; "Win the Peace" effort, teaching citizens to think in terms of United Nations organization. School for lobbyists held. Community education in selective buying. Legislative school and regional economic conference held. "You Are the Government" (handbook for Minnesota citizens) published by St. Paul LWV. Intensive constitutional revision effort begun. Minneapolis Star and Tribune Leadership-in-Minnesota Award given to Mildred F. Hargraves as President of the Minnesota League.

**1949-54** Special emphasis on the study of the United Nations, and legislative lobbying. Heavy work on passage of amendments crucial to revision of constitution (largely responsible for passage of amendment No. 3 to submit any revised constitution to the people, 1954). Intensive public education and lobbying on fair employment practices, party designation for legislators, improved veterans' preference law. National recognition of Minneapolis and St. Paul Television Candidate Interviews.

**1954-59** Intensive study of what a new constitution should contain. "Reapportionment in Minnesota: Democracy Denied" published (1954). A Fair Employment Practices Act passed (1955), much credit given to LWV. Intensive campaign to build public opinion for calling a Constitutional Convention, for Reapportionment, for Party Designation (1956-59). These bills all passed the House, only; great interest generated in the Legislature and among citizens (1957). Evaluation of election laws and procedures with a view to needed change begun (1957). Approval by voters of Home Rule and Special Legislation amendment and of four year term for governor and other elective officers (1958).

**1959-** A reapportionment statute and an amendment passed by legislature (1959), the latter to be submitted to voters in 1960. An amendment to improve election laws, also passed, will be submitted to voters in 1960.



## LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Child Welfare** Raising marriageable age of girls, child labor laws, minimum wage law, increase of mothers' allowance, increase of the appropriation for infancy-maternity work, aid to dependent children.

**Status of Women** Fifty-four-hour work-week for women, eligibility of women for jury service, removal of discrimination against employment of married women.

**General Welfare** Abolition of the common law marriage, five day waiting period, adequate lay representation on welfare boards, better housing for low income groups, extension of the public health services, establishment of fair employment practices.

**Education** Minimum school year increase from 6 to 8 months, enforced compulsory school attendance, physical education in all schools, revision of state aids to schools, teacher tenure law, reorganization of teachers' retirement fund, reorganization of school units, school reorganization survey.

**Structure of Government** Interim commission on reorganization of state departments, county assessor system, legislative research council, civil service system, ratification by Minnesota of the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, improved election laws, reapportionment statute and proposed amendment, home rule and special legislation amendment.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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THE LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of MINNESOTA  
1967 - 69

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

facts

ABOUT THE ...  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS  
OF  
MINNESOTA  
1919-1967

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

## ORGANIZATION

The League is an association of individual members organized to act on local, state and national levels of government. Decisions on program, budget, and leadership are made by members in annual meetings and state and national conventions. Boards are elected at each level to carry out these decisions on behalf of the members.

There are 146,000 members of the League of Women Voters of the United States belonging to 1,227 local Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. There are 5,800 members of the League of Women Voters in Minnesota belonging to Leagues in 69 communities.

## HISTORY

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was organized in October, 1919, a few months before the national League emerged from its parent organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The new League's emphasis was in legislation to benefit women and children and on the importance of voting. Throughout the years, the League has greatly expanded its legislative program while continuing to stress the importance of its voters service work.

## THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in his right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a stable and expanding economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

## LEAGUE PROGRAM

Members of each local League choose a local program at their annual meeting. Leagues in Minnesota presently are concerning themselves with city charters, town surveys, voter registration, county problems, improvement of governmental services, taxation and finance, recreation, schools, water, sewage, and a survey of library facilities and inter-governmental problems in the metropolitan area.

State and National programs also are chosen by the members through their delegates to biennial state and national conventions. Selection of all program items is guided by a set of principles adopted at national conventions.

## STUDY and ACTION

Study and discussion precede action. In small units and in large meetings, members get the full facts and weigh the pros and cons of an issue before taking a position. Majority opinion prevails, but the minority point of view is always respected. The League strives for substantial agreement, not for unanimity.

After the League reaches a position, it works to implement that position by providing information through public forums, the mass media, and League publications; by testifying at public hearings, by letters to local, state, and national officials.

League publications on subjects within its program are carefully prepared by League authors and checked by professional experts. The wide distribution of these publications, both inside and outside the League, speaks for the respect and confidence they enjoy.

## MINNESOTA'S STATE PROGRAM AS ADOPTED 1967 - 1969

1. Financing Government in Minnesota: Evaluation of revenue sources with consideration of state and local needs, emphasizing property tax reform.
2. Organization of state Government: Evaluation of the structure and procedures of the legislative and executive branches of Minnesota state government.
3. Election Laws: Support of party designation for legislators and improvements in election laws in the fields of campaign practices, election procedures and voting.
4. Equality of Opportunity: A. Support of policies to insure equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and other public services for all citizens. B. Support of commission administration of anti-discrimination laws. C. Support of state responsibility for Indian citizens.
5. Lobby Regulation and Conflict of Interest: Support of legislation to regulate lobbying and conflict of interest.
6. Constitutional Revision: Support of constitutional revision based on previously reached positions as follows:  
A. An easy amending process. B. Regular and equitable reapportionment. C. Legislative sessions of adequate length. D. Provision for a post-auditor.



## VOTERS SERVICE

The League publishes unbiased information on issues to help the electorate cast an informed vote. At election time it also prepares and distributes factual information about candidates, conducts candidates meetings, and works to get out the vote.

Many Leagues serve their communities by assisting in the voter's registration process and by demonstrating voting machines.

## NONPARTISANSHIP

The League is a nonpartisan organization. It does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. It does select a limited number of governmental issues for study, and after its members reach substantial agreement, the League takes action in support of or in opposition to these issues. In the action process its members "learn by doing."

To protect the nonpartisanship policy of the League, Board members refrain from party activity while serving on the Board. Other members, as individuals, are encouraged to work in the political party of their choice.

## FINANCE

Membership dues, set by local Leagues, and member contributions provide 40% of League funds. Sale of publications, election return reporting, and other sources account for 23%. The remaining 37% comes from public-spirited citizens who value the League's work. Every year each local League conducts a financial drive at which time a selective number of businesses and civic-minded people are called upon.

Local Leagues annually pledge about one-third of their local budgets to support state and national services; the remaining two-thirds underwrites local services. The Minnesota state League budget is similarly proportioned with one-third pledged for national services and two-thirds providing state-wide services.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

**Areas in which the League has made substantial contributions.**

**IN THE TWENTIES:** Departments of state government reorganized; mothers' pensions increased; jury service for women allowed; employment of women limited to 55-hour week, 10-hour day; tenure for teachers won; employment of children regulated; school attendance made compulsory; school term lengthened; state aid to schools revised.

**IN THE THIRTIES:** State income tax, unemployment compensation, and public relief instituted; funds for public employment office appropriated; civil service law passed; teacher retirement fund established; schools required to keep public health records of children; much legislation of twenties defended against amendment or repeal.

**IN THE FORTIES:** Merit system extended to county welfare employees; public health nursing bill passed; municipal housing act and enabling legislation for low-rent housing passed; Legislative Research Council established; common law marriages abolished; aid to dependent children increased; state aid to schools increased and distribution revised; school district reorganization law improved.

**IN THE FIFTIES:** Fair Employment Practices act forbidding discrimination on basis of race, color, creed or national origin; legislative reapportionment statute giving fairer representation to populous areas of the state; improved election procedures. Constitutional amendments adopted dealing with home rule, and election of state officials for 4-year terms beginning in 1962.

**IN THE SIXTIES:** Reapportionment defended. The State Act against Discrimination broadened. Employment on merit and non-discrimination in housing extended. An Indian Affairs Commission established to help find solutions to problems of Minnesota's Indian citizens. Minnesota's constitution modernized. New state residents permitted to vote for President. Some beginnings made in "conflict of interest" laws and lobby regulation. Unrealistic limits on campaign expenses raised.

WE would like to be able to assure our friends that we will fulfill all requests from . . . servicemen, wherever they may be, who want nonpartisan information about candidates and issues

. . . businessmen who turn to us for citizenship information and educational materials

. . . civics classes in search of information to increase understanding of self-government USA

. . . citizens or organizations or writers seeking factual information on issues

. . . would-be voters who want to know about eligibility, registration or election laws.

We'd like to do all of these things but we can't do them all by ourselves. We need our Friends around the Town. Will you help?

THE League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization working constantly to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. There are 1080 local Leagues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

THE LEAGUE  
OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
HAS FRIENDS

ALL  
AROUND  
THE  
TOWN





In the press . . . "We think they (the League of Women Voters) are important for very practical selfish reasons; they plow the fields of public opinion that we help to sow. Their job and their dedication is to be informed as citizens. Being informed, they become interested."

"Without such a cultivated desire to know, neither newspapers nor any other channel of communication could in fact communicate. As newspapermen we are grateful. . ."

*Detroit News, May 19, 1959*

On television . . . " . . . no more intelligent and unselfish assistance is available to the state legislature than that of the League of Women Voters."

*Editorial on WCCO-TV News, Minneapolis-St. Paul, April 4, 1959*

Business . . . "I have seen the League in action in Springfield (Illinois). I believe it is one of the bulwarks of our democracy."

*Richard Nelson, Inland Steel Company, Chicago*

"We were so pleased with the New York state League pamphlet (Facts for Voters) . . . that we saw fit to distribute copies to all Western Electric personnel in New York state."

*Jarvis M. Freymann, Public Affairs Assistant*

" . . . I've wanted . . . to tell the League of Women Voters how highly we rate the work in political education which they are doing."

*G. A. Lloyd, Coordinator of Public Affairs, Esso Standard*

"You are doing an outstanding job in your publications and getting women interested in . . . government and . . . will help make a better Fargo, a better North Dakota and a better America."

*William Stern, President, Dakota National Bank*

On the bench . . . "The education of public spirited women so that they may, by their agreed opinion deliberately and intelligently arrived at, influence legislators . . . to reach right decisions, is education of the most useful and laudable kind."

*Judge Madden, in the U.S. Court of Claims, January 20, 1960, Washington, D. C.*

In the legislature . . . "I thought you might like to know that it (*The Tax Structure of North Carolina*, a League publication) has been very much in evidence during the first weeks of the General Assembly."

*Member of General Assembly of North Carolina*

Schools turn to us for simple, factual studies on important issues of government, especially at the local level where such materials are rare.

Individual students do too. They want facts on elections, suffrage, education, planning, foreign policy as background for debates, term papers and themes.

Businessmen turn to us for materials in carrying out their courses on practical politics.

Governmental bodies turn to us for factual studies on issues on which they have to legislate. A recent example is the request of federal Executive Departments and Congressional Committees for local, state and regional studies on water.

Voters turn to us for objective nonpartisan information about candidates and ballot issues on which they want to make up their own minds.

Among these voters are servicemen away from home; we send them information on request; young men and women just coming of voting age.

Other organizations, some of whose aims coincide with ours, turn to us for materials.

Writers who need factual studies on reapportionment or water pollution or new charters, turn to us for background materials, successful techniques, and illustrative anecdotes.

## OUR FRIENDS TURN TO US



For encouragement . . . like this:

"Atlanta is forty times better for the forty years of service the League has rendered the city."

*Eugene Patterson, Executive Editor, Atlanta Newspapers, Inc.*

"Educators spend entire semesters on civics to provide what the League of Women Voters can provide in one week's mailing."

*Most Rev. John J. Wright, Catholic Bishop, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Press, June 23, 1959*

"A group of women (the League of Women Voters in the Boston area) have come up with a 32 page study of metropolitan planning in Greater Boston which may become established as one of the most lucid and comprehensive works published on the subject."

*Christian Science Monitor, October 19, 1959*

"It (The Great River of the West, written and published by the Leagues in the Columbia River Basin) is an extraordinary work."

*Murray Morgan in a letter to The Takoma (Washington) League, February 1960*

For support . . . like this . . . "Gentlemen, one dollar a week for every week of the year will buy you a membership in Washington's newest organization, the '52-Club' which is a 'sort of men's auxiliary of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia.' ' . . . Every man interested in the community should shell out the \$52!' says the businessman founder of the League Auxiliary."

*Washington Post, November 14, 1959*

The League's modest appeal for funds " . . . is made graciously, and the high purpose of its cause will prompt, we hope, an equally gracious response by Rhode Islanders."

*The Providence Journal, February 2, 1960*

## WE TURN TO OUR FRIENDS

## Can the LWV help you make it happen?

check  
here

Yes! Send me a copy of your free  
Publications Catalog. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like a speaker  
\_\_\_\_\_

subject \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I'm interested in joining, but  
would like more information. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to become a member  
because: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to belong to an organ-  
ization devoted to promoting  
citizen participation in  
government. \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be a more  
informed voter. \_\_\_\_\_

I want to read the local, state  
and national publications  
each member receives. \_\_\_\_\_

I want to find answers to  
questions about government. \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be active and  
attend unit meetings. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to address on next page ----->

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Facts about the LWV

- 160,000 members in the United States
- Local Leagues in the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands
- Minnesota League organized in October 1919
- 5,300 members in 67 local Leagues in Minnesota
- Membership open to men and women of voting age
- The LWV does not support or oppose candidates or political parties

The purpose of the LWV is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

*"It is a privilege for me to commend the League of Women Voters for their vigorous efforts over the years to improve the workings of our Democratic form of government, and to express my hope that the League will continue to serve as a truly effective and progressive force in Minnesota government at all levels."*

Governor Wendell R. Anderson

RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

THROUGH INFORMED

AND ACTIVE CITIZENS

THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
HELPS YOU  
MAKE IT HAPPEN



League of Women Voters  
of Minnesota  
555 Wabasha St., St. Paul, MN 55102  
(612) 224-5445



## The LWV serves . . .

Provides election information

Assists with voter registration

Sponsors: • candidates' meetings

- public forums on local issues
- state-wide conferences  
(*Corrections, Judiciary, U. S. Congress, Sex Bias in Education*)
- lobbyist-training workshops
- state-wide meetings to bring legislators and citizens together

Observes city councils, commissions, school boards and the Minnesota Legislature.

Provides speakers in the areas of corrections, judiciary, land use and environmental quality, campaign financing, education, equality of opportunity, election laws, organization of state government, housing, Indians, financing government and transportation.

## The LWV publishes . . .

(partial listing)

### INDIANS IN MINNESOTA

Updates problems and current programs affecting Indian lives on the reservations and in the urban areas — 1974 illus. ed. 196 pages.

### CORRECTIONS: PEOPLE, PRISONS AND PROGRAMS

Broad overview of the Minnesota corrections system, trends and budget — 1974 ed., 101-page loose-leaf ed.

### MINNESOTA JUDICIARY: STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

Study of the Minnesota court system and trends in court reform — 1972 ed., 64 pages.

### A DIGEST OF MINNESOTA ELECTION LAWS AND MINNESOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION LAWS

Includes registration and voting information — 16-page pamphlet.

### VOTERS GUIDE

Replies to state-wide candidates' questionnaires — 8-page tabloid newspaper.

(See attached order blank for free copy of Publications Catalog.)

## The LWV acts . . .

The LWV has actively participated in amending the Minnesota Constitution:

- Allowing limits on tax-exempt property
- Lowering the voting age
- Establishing flexible sessions

The LWV has worked for passage of laws concerning:

- State-wide voter registration
- More uniform election procedures
- Campaign financing
- Tenants' rights
- Establishment of a State Housing Finance Agency
- Equal rights
- Indian wild ricing rights
- Environmental Protection Act
- Establishment of Environmental Quality Council
- Party designation
- Transportation aid for all school districts
- Establishment of a Department of Finance
- Stronger minimum wage laws
- Legislative post audit



**THIS IS A P.I.V.**

A "Politically Informed Voter," knows how to tell the bad guys from the good guys because she makes it a point to hear about candidate's qualifications . . .

**COLOR HER BRIGHT.**



**THIS IS A C.V.**

She is a "Confused Voter". She wishes she knew more about the issues and candidates before casting her vote. Sometimes she doesn't even go out to vote on election day . . .

**COLOR HER BLUE.**



**THIS IS THE L.W.V.**

If these women look like P.I.V.'s, it's because they are!!

The League of Women Voters wants you to be one of them. It's easy and fun to join!

**COLOR THEM FRIENDLY.**



## BE A P.I.V. — JOIN THE L.W.V. TODAY!

The League of Women Voters is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Any woman citizen of voting age is eligible.

### LEAGUE IS ORGANIZED IN THESE MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES:

Afton	Falcon Heights	<i>Oakdale</i>
Albert Lea	Fertile	Orono
Alexandria	Fridley	Owatonna
Anoka	Golden Valley	Plymouth
Apple Valley	Granite Falls	Red Wing
Arden Hills	Hamil	Richfield
Austin	Hibbing	Robbinsdale
Battle Lake	Hopkins	Rochester
Bayport	Hutchinson	Rock County
Bemidji	Inver Grove Heights	Roseville
Blaine <i>Birkwood</i>	Jackson-Sherburn	St. Anthony
Bloomington	Lakeland	St. Cloud Area
Brooklyn Center	Lakeville	St. Croix Valley
Brooklyn Park	Long Lake	St. Louis Park
Buffalo	Mahtomedi	St. Paul
Burnsville	Mankato Area	St. Paul Park
Cass Lake	Maplewood	St. Peter
Chaska	Marshall	Shoreview
Chisholm	Medina	Silver Bay
Cloquet	Minneapolis	South St. Paul <i>Spring Rk</i>
Columbia Heights	Minnetonka <i>Minnetrista</i>	Stevens County
Crookston	Montecello	Stillwater
Crystal	Moorhead	Virginia
Deephaven	Mound	Wayzata Area
Duluth	Mounds View	Wells
Eden Prairie	Navarre	West St. Paul
Edina	New Brighton	White Bear Lake
Eveleth	New Hope	Willmar
Excelsior Area	New Ulm	Winona
Fairmont	Northfield	Woodbury
		Worthington



**THIS IS A V.I.P.**

Governments are full of "Very Important People". Most of them are good guys, but some are bad guys. It's hard to tell by looking at their pictures.

**COLOR THIS "GOOD GUY"  
RED, WHITE, and BLUE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA**  
555 Wabasha  
St. Paul, Minn. 55101

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*... "makes a  
difference"*

IT'S THE  
PLACE  
FOR  
YOU!



League of Women Voters of Minneapolis  
600 First Avenue North, Suite 780  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 2865



## QUESTIONS . . . most frequently asked about LWV & QUOTES . . . from our LWV members.

Have you ever gone into the polling booth wishing you knew more about the issues?

*"It [the League] was in the business of training leaders and educating the public long before other organizations saw the need."*

*—Diana E. Murphy, U.S. District Judge; past President LWV Mpls.*

Do news reports leave you wondering sometimes what is really going on under the surface?

*"The League was my introduction to the real world of government."*

*—Charlee Hoyt, Council Member, City of Minneapolis*

Do you feel you'd like to be more involved in your community and have a great impact on decisions that affect you?

*"It was my involvement with the League of Women Voters that gave me the background, confidence, motivation, and courage to run for public office."*

*—Joan Growe, Secretary of State*

Are you looking for opportunities to learn and develop new skills or gain management and leadership experience?

*"After . . . LWV experience, I was well qualified to find employment at the management level . . ." "An M.B.A. would have served me no better!"*

*—Frances Paulu, Executive Director, Minnesota International Center/World Affairs Center; past President LWV Mpls.*

Would you enjoy getting to know friends who share your interests and concerns?

*"If you answered YES, the League of Women Voters is  
THE PLACE FOR YOU!"*



# The League of Women Voters

... "makes a difference" ...

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS:

### ISSUES —

- keeps you informed about a wide variety of local, state and national issues from emergency housing and pay equity to hazardous waste, campaign funding and nuclear arms control.

*"I learned a great deal about the community we live in, the complexity of ever changing problems and the value of an objective, concerned organization in solving those problems."*  
—Susanne C. Sedgwick, Judge, Court of Appeals

### ACTION —

- researches the issues and reports its findings to its members, government officials and the public
- takes action on League positions established by study, discussion and consensus vote at the grassroots level.
- encourages citizen participation in government and the election process through voter registration, candidate debates and election judge training.

*"I know first hand the strength of League lobbying."*  
—Ann Wynia, State Representative

### PEOPLE —

- women and men of all ages, races, religions, occupations and political parties working together to better understand and influence the issues that affect us all.
- people like you and me, volunteering whatever amount of time, energy or financial resources they can to make a difference in their community and themselves!

*"My professional life as a legislator is greatly enhanced by being a member of the League."*  
—Ken Nelson, State Representative

### PERSONAL GROWTH —

- develops management and leadership skills
- provides opportunities for professional contacts
- promotes long-lasting friendships

*"Of all of my affiliations, my participation in the League of Women Voters has made the greatest difference to my career and to my sense of self."*  
—Jan Hively, Deputy to the Mayor of Minneapolis

### CREDIBILITY —

- has a long history dating back to 1919 and the women's suffrage movement.
- continues to enjoy the respect and trust of the community.

The  
League  
of Women  
Voters is an up-  
to-date, action-  
oriented group that  
wants people like  
**YOU**  
to help carry  
on the  
tradition

... "makes a  
difference"

IT'S THE  
PLACE  
FOR  
YOU!

I'd like to "make a difference" by joining the  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Job \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

☐ Individual Membership \$35.00

☐ Household Membership \$52.50

(Discount Rate for two or more  
members in the same household)

☐ Corporate Membership \$100.00

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Subsidized Membership

Amount (if any) enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not wish to join now  
but here is my contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To join, please mail this form and your check  
to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of MINNEAPOLIS  
600 First Avenue North, Suite 780  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

For further information, please call:

LWV Mpls Office/ 333-6319

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minn. 55102  
June 1970

Talk given by Connie Rabinowitz,  
national Board member,  
at the Leadership Workshop in June

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IT'S OUR LEAGUE AND WELCOME TO IT

Thank you Jerry.

It's your state and you've made me feel welcome in it.

I like it here.

This is my first trip to Minnesota. I've heard much about the rugged beauty of your northern lake country from my son, who 4 years ago spent an exciting, rewarding summer in the Outward Bound program whose base camp was in Ely. I've been told about the glories of St. Paul by a favorite cousin who's lived there most of his life. And in recent years, the entire nation has been made aware of the state's contributions to the political scene and the Supreme Court...but it took the Minnesota League of Women Voters to get me here. (You ARE a strong League.)

When I was as young as that Outward Bound boy, however, Minnesota had reached me, as it had my parents' generation, through one of its most successful and critical sons, Sinclair Lewis. We've all been concentrating on the League's 50th anniversary, but 1970 also happens to be the 50th anniversary of the publication of Main Street, that satirical, affectionate, devastating portrayal of the smugness and provincialism of a typical American small town of that time.

In the publishing world of 1920, it was a sensational, controversial event. In literary history at least, it was the most important happening to come out of Minnesota since 1901 when Teddy Roosevelt enunciated his "speak softly and carry a big stick" policy at a State Fair here. Through the retrospectoscope, Main Street appears more a sociological case study than a literary event. Gopher Prairie exists in every corner of the nation, not in the northern midwest alone. I assure you I've run into many Gopher Prairie customs and kinfolk in New England. And it is the Gopher Prairies, with variations, that have become the target of the League's long, unrelenting battle against complacency and apathy.

You Minnesotans may have known all that, as you may well know that Sinclair Lewis was the first American novelist to win the Nobel Prize. What is more significant in today's America is that in the 30s he wrote It Can't Happen Here and it was in the 20s when, having been honored with the Pulitzer Prize for Arrowsmith, he refused to accept it because the terms of the award state that it is to be given, not for literary merit, but for the best presentation of the "wholesome atmosphere of American life." And he chose to dissent.

Were he alive in 1970, Sinclair Lewis, who wrote about a Minnesota town (and a whole country) in his determination to expose and fight the wrongs he saw in a number of "establishments" in the 20s, probably would be very much "with it".



The League, which for 50 years has demonstrated the kind of analytical aptitude and undaunted integrity that characterized Lewis' early career, has proved to be very much "with it" indeed in 1970. I was particularly conscious of this during convention and the post-convention national board meeting when a number of young people who had come to Washington a bit early for the May 9 peace demonstration and stayed on a good bit after, found their way to the League. Those of you who were at the convention banquet and the final session were aware of their presence, I'm sure...and I want to talk more about the young of this country and the League's relationship with them later.

Their recognition of us is but one factor of our being a "Now" organization. To those of us who have worried about the League's relevance, that overused but irreplaceable word, it has become very important that the many sides of League program be pertinent to the country's major problems and a part of their potential solution.

Very briefly then, a few post-convention news highlights:

Air Force Col. Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., the second man to step on the moon, said in a press conference just last week that the most important aspect of America's space program may be pointing out the "fragileness of home-based earth". His, and others' concern, with our limited water supply, comes long after League's initiative, but we welcome them, and need their strength...and we join them simultaneously with a new study on air quality in our environment...plus a concentration on population.

The June 3rd primary nomination of George Wallace as Democratic candidate for Governor of Alabama has revived the heat of public interest in the Electoral College issue. We are ready nationally, and will be geared to lobby for state ratification throughout the country, should the direct popular election plan go through this session of Congress.

House Speaker McCormack's retirement announcement added impetus to answering the questions and objections of the new Young Turks in Congress about how that body operates, its systems and procedures...and thanks to the convention's adoption of a not-recommended item, we'll be there, too, as soon as we get a chairman.

McCarthy from Minnesota and Muskie from Maine, some weeks ago, were quoted as saying that Housing would be a major issue in the next year and next election. Objective housing surveys done by Leagues throughout the country have focused in on obvious problems as well as those previously unnoticed, through negligence or intent, a single example...all that time permits...which recently came into the office: An article from the Aiken Standard, Aiken, South Carolina, reports in some detail that League's findings after a year and a half study of the plusses and minuses in their county's situation vis-a-vis jobs, job training, public welfare and public housing.

Under our equality of Opportunity position, they made public their conclusions on employment and welfare patterns relative to black, handicapped, unemployed, aged or mentally disabled residents. The column notes that following a League recommendation, a person representing tenants of the Housing Project was appointed by the City Council to the Housing Authority, and a new director has been employed. Where there had been no names on a housing waiting list despite demonstrated need, there are now 40 names with 100 new units planned to be built as soon as land becomes available.

This is but one of more than 1400 local Leagues acting on national positions.....as well as state and local ones. It just happens to be the most recent one to reach me. What matters is that it represents one small part of the effect of action which is being mounted all over the country.

Some League work gets even more prestigious coverage. In the May National Civic Review devoted to the Year of the Voter, there's the LWV of Minnesota coming through loud and clear in the Citizen Action section with a publication on Equality of Educational Opportunity: What Does It Mean? What Is the State's Role in Providing It? (a typically brief League title) and You Are the Government.

Even in Voters Service, our most universally accepted component, there has been a healthy, restless move towards innovating new answers to new and old needs. In Detroit, registration and voting information was published in 6 languages including Ukrainian and Arabic. San Francisco Leaguers translated pros and cons of ballot issues into Chinese and the Wichita, Kansas League transcribed its Voters Guide into Braille. And I hear tell that February 24 was a very special day in the Year of the Voter in Minnesota when the Republican Party and the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party faced unforeseen and unprecedented turnouts at their precinct caucuses...and both parties gave praise where it was due, to the League of Women Voters.

It was a marvelous feeling reading your materials urging attendance at the simultaneous caucuses...delighting in your conviction that politics is a part of everyday life...and your determination that League members and all citizens must own a piece of the action. Perhaps the greatest testimony to faith in the democratic process is to acknowledge that it is just that: a process, not a static condition...and therefore can, and must be affected by our actions.

Part of the reason the League is "in" right now is because it, too, is not static. It is a process, a vehicle for ideas and actions. It can change and move with the times...affected by forces in the world and in turn, affecting those forces.

This is the sort of flexibility and adaptability we can and must maintain as a base for all League program even--or especially--in a society beset by severe conflict and growing chaos. And that represents a direct challenge to each of you, the local League leaders. Because it is you who are most deeply involved in, and most closely identified with, League in the public mind. It is your knowledgeability, sincerity and enthusiasm about League Program that will generate outward to your communities and inward to your memberships. And to your new and prospective members. And I know you need more members. Every League does.

Again, we could back that up with recent newsprint: It matters little, qualitatively, whether we refer to the 2 John Birchers elected to Congress in a special election in California last week or to the most recent Weathermen's ammunitions cache confiscated in New York. Both ends of the country; both ends of the political spectrum...both valid evidence that we need more members in an organization dedicated to rational, sometimes militant, always national, action based on fact-finding, debate, and considered agreement.

I'm not going to give you a membership pitch. I AM going to share with you some things I've learned...throw them into the pot, then take your choice. The first is that it is performance, deeds not words, (action not philosophy,) which gains community respect and acceptance and attracts members. That may sound odd for a PR person to say...but it's so. It's the doing, not the talking about it, that equals impact...then other people do the talking for you. (Of course, you help them.)

Second: Beware of Gopher Prairie. Complacency by any other name can be as destructive. Do a Spring and Fall housecleaning: Look at your League as dispassionately and objectively as you can. Against the backdrop of a rapidly changing society, ask yourself a few questions about that League you love:

What it is and what you would like to to be?  
How you view the League and how you would like others to view it?  
How various publics in your community see the League and how you would like them to regard it?

And you'll think of better questions...and probably arrive at some very fine answers, which I hope you'll share with me. Because I have some difficulty coming up with a succinct description of the League as an organization. I think of it as a non-partisan political organization. Catchy, isn't it? That'd be bound to attract new members by the ones...if at all.

If I seem suddenly sensitive on this subject, it's because we're working on a revised national recruitment flyer for you. And it isn't easy. For instance, how do you incorporate in one short, inexpensive flyer a synopsis of the many ways Leaguers see the League...for example:

- as adult education (for today's woman, enhancing her ability to fulfill her role)
- as an action organization (inextricably woven into the fabric of American political life)
- as a service organization (experienced in developing techniques of civic education and political action and capable of sharing that know-how with other organizations and individuals)
- as a link between the alienated citizen and the government, whether that alienation exists within the confines of the ghetto or the country club
- as leadership training (for women to enter professional or political careers)
- as a vehicle for a reasonable approach to change (in a world that is changing faster than it can comprehend)



as a molder of opinion, an interpreter of attitudes, an agitator for expanded thinking and acceptance of new ideas  
as a grass roots voice, unburdened by self-interest and with no axe to grind (that can affect a local school bond issue or a national clean water appropriation)  
as a persistent, prodding symbol to the American conscience...

all these and many more. That gets to be a pretty heavy pot I'm filling, but remember, you can take your choice...or is it choices by now? One thread runs throughout the organizational picture, however...that of informed participation and the value of the volunteer whose creativity and independence work in defense of an open society.

To describe the average member is even harder...she doesn't exist. We are indeed an organization of individuals (and nowhere is this more visible than at national convention. Interestingly, the average age at this convention had gone from between 35-45 to between 30 and 40. We are more doers than do-gooders, and there is a surging, energy throughout the country to make the League more and more competent to meet problems which grow more and more complex).

However, one trait seems true of all League members...and that is an ability to face ideas, to look at all sides of them, to believe that ideas can and do change the world and to get busy changing it for the better.

It is this which has brought us a new group of citizens and possibly future new members in the Year of the Voter. Out of painful crisis and confrontation, the young who want to reenter the system...and more of their older relatives...are seeing the League as an "in" organization, because they identify their goals with a number of basic League precepts:

1. personal participation, individual responsibility and organized response
2. The accent is on issues...understanding them and acting upon them
3. The method is through the system via persuasion, lobbying from strength of knowledge and numbers, with Great stress on registration, voting and campaigning in the fall elections.

Working for the 19 year old vote on the ballot, you will be in close contact with many of this group. They'll want your know-how and your techniques. And they will still want their freedom - and want to rejoin society on their own terms. But we need much more from them, and I mean more than youth or enthusiasm or hope for the future. It's a 2 way street right now. Example: Dartmouth boy in Washington office with our congressional staff...his computer.

Those of you who were at national convention saw the young people filtering in the evening of the banquet with makeshift badges and a quizzical air. I don't have to remind you of the mood that week. It is at our peril that we forget. They observed the banquet evening, decided we were somewhat over 30 but pretty much OK. And after May 9, a number returned to the League office. They came sandaled, barefoot or well shod, with varying lengths of hair. They were not angry...or at least their anger had been turned to energetic determination. And they were realistic... the best seller was The Art of Raising Money.

League people are used to ideas and unafraid; they don't crumble at the word revolution; they respect the value of dissent. But this is not true all over. In every League effort with a "human" problem at its root, we've found the hardest person to convince is our neighbor. Think of the Human Resources item.

When I got home to my League and non-League neighbors, young people, some from campuses, some not, were ringing door bells. The intent: to offer rational arguments to those of their elders who would lend an open ear or open mind. In too many cases, doors were shut before a word was exchanged.

Statistics appeared; only 35% of the college population is coming back to the system. That compares well with unit attendance in my local League. People who theoretically were all for the young people suddenly proved to be patronizing or uninterested when confronted with a real opportunity.

I don't know about Minnesota. I do know that in a lot of other parts of this nation, re-entry is difficult.

I hope we in the League, if we believe in what the Year of the Voter is really about, if we are to be "with it", will grab hold of this opportunity and welcome our new ally with an open mind and an open ear, without oversell or overtell. To me, at least, it seems imperative if the democratic enterprise is to succeed as a viable experiment and if the League structure is to prove itself an able vehicle of that experiment.

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# Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1960

## Women's SECTION

# Mrs. Paige Was a Suffragette And Values Her Hard-Won Vote

**By Barbara Flanagan**

Minneapolis Tribune Women's Editor

*"I should worry, I should fret,  
"I should be a suffragette."*

"Many of the leaders went to speak all over the country. To get a crowd, you used to stand and talk on the tailgate of a truck.

"You'd speak about anything to nobody. Just start out and begin a speech to nobody at all.

ter, Mrs. Walter Thorp, Mrs. J. B. Gilfillan, Mrs. H. G. Harrison, Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Florence Monahan, Marguerite Wells and Mrs. Clarkson Lindley as active workers in the campaign.

"In 1915 when women got the vote in New York state, we knew it wouldn't be long before the nation fol-





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NOV 14 1961

Nov. 14, 1961

Memo to Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Isaksen (Copy to Mrs. McQuarrie)  
On first steps of historical committee  
From Mary Evenson

*GV*  
*Copy to Mr J*

The first steps of the historical committee have been examination of materials and memos on the subject, telephone and personal conversations between Mrs. McQuarrie and myself and a visit by Mrs. McQuarrie and Mrs. Cant to the State Historical Society.

Mrs. McQuarrie will form her group of interviewers from persons she knows, possibly also from some of those to be interviewed and from an additional list of later members to be submitted by G. Wilson.

First procedure has been to round out the original list with names of charter members from the minutes. Earliest members will be interviewed first. Since Mrs. McQuarrie, Mrs. Cant and maybe some of the prospects on the list will take winter vacations, it will be ascertained how many interviews can take place before that time.

Procedure of interviewing will be kept flexible and adapted to the subject. No form will be used, in order to keep spontaneity and avoid sameness. Out-of-state persons can be questioned by mail. Those gifted in writing can be requested to set down their memories. If, after a preliminary study, a subject is found to be colorful or unusually expressive, this interview will be taped. There will not be mass taping.

In addition, Mrs. McQuarrie will consider checking impressions of such persons outside the League as newspapermen involved in League campaigns, and as Prof. Anderson.

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**FACTS**

*about the*

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**of**

**MINNESOTA**

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## FACTS

The LWV of Minnesota is an integral part of the LWV of the United States, therefore its by-laws, methods of work and policies are the same.\* The LWV is an association of individual members, organized to act on local, state and national levels; the state League is responsible for organization, finance and program.

In Minnesota there are 55 local Leagues, made up of 272 units comprising 5,472 members with annual dues of \$3.00 to \$5.00. There are local Leagues in 44 of the 67 legislative districts, and in all 9 of the congressional districts.

Local League budgets in Minnesota totaled \$51,126 for the year 1956-57, with \$33,286 being spent on local work, and \$17,840 being spent on state and national work. \$15,977 of the income was received as dues, \$8,058 was received as member contributions, \$23,393 was received from public spirited citizens in each community.

The state League budget in Minnesota totaled \$21,583 for the year 1957-58, with \$14,083 being spent on state work and \$7,500 being sent to national for national work.

Local Leagues in Minnesota are working on local government charters, city planning, town surveys, county problems, improvement of services, taxation and finance, recreation, schools, registration of voters, and water and sewage problems.

### STATE PROGRAM 1957-59

#### CURRENT AGENDA

- I. Constitutional Revision—support and work for:
  - A. The calling of a constitutional convention;
  - B. A constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention;
  - C. A constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature.

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\*See *FACTS, LWV of U.S. Pub. No. 221; 25 copies, 50c.*

- II. The LWV of Minnesota will evaluate election laws and procedures of the state of Minnesota and will work for changes if needed.

## CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Support revision of constitutional provisions for:
- A. A workable amending process;
  - B. Clearly fixed executive responsibilities;
  - C. Adequate time for consideration of legislation by the Legislature;
  - D. A post-auditor appointed by and responsible to the Legislature;
  - E. Increased home rule for local government.
- II. Reapportionment by statute.
- III. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- IV. Party designation for legislators.

## DEFINITIONS

**STATE CONVENTIONS**—At the state convention (held in odd numbered years) delegates chosen by their local Leagues meet to elect officers and directors, adopt a budget and choose a state program.

**STATE COUNCIL MEETING**—At the state council meeting (held in the even numbered years) delegates adopt a budget, and guide the state board on program and methods of work. They change the current agenda only in event of emergency.

**STATE PROGRAM**—The state program consists of current agenda and continuing responsibilities, based on the principles adopted by biennial national convention.

**CURRENT AGENDA**—The current agenda is limited to such current state governmental issues as the state convention shall choose for concerted action.

**CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES**—Continuing responsibilities are positions on state governmental issues to which the LWV of Minnesota has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the state convention.

## HISTORY

**1919-24** Instituted citizenship schools in cooperation with University of Minnesota (700 women registered), 53 schools (1 to 5 day) held throughout the state, 8 conferences in 8 legislative districts. Conducted the first Minnesota get-out-the-campaign (1920), first Minnesota all-party candidates' meeting. Supplied for first time state and county fair booths with non-partisan political information. Led a public demand for the calling of Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments (petition of 3,500 names). Prepared and distributed first state "Digest of Election Laws." Primarily responsible for Act by which Legislature appointed Interim Committee on the Reorganization of State Departments. Inaugurated radio service on non-partisan political education. Institute on Minnesota Government begun (1922) in cooperation with University of Minnesota. Gathered and carried to Washington "Mile of Signatures" urging U.S. adherence to World Court.

**1924-29** Ended get-out-the-vote campaign with Passing-the-Torch Tour from Canadian to Iowa border, final ceremony on Capitol steps with Governor. Began study of tariffs. Extensive education campaign in behalf of state reorganization leading to passage of reorganization bill (1925). 8,000 primers, "Current Questions in Government," prepared and distributed.

**1929-34** Petition to World Disarmament Conference (5,918 Minnesota signatures). First series of legislative clinics held throughout state (1933). Marguerite Wells, former Minnesota LWV president, elected National president (1934). Conducted 35 county surveys (1934).

**1934-39** Participated in nationwide campaign for civil service and for trained personnel in government. Primarily responsible for organization of the Minnesota Civil Service Council (1937), conducted intensive educational campaign which enabled Civil Service Bill to become law (1939). Conducted survey of school districts. Institute on Governmental

Problems held in cooperation with University of Minnesota.

**1939-44** Published "Ninety Days of Lawmaking." Conducted Civil Service Survey as beginning of "Watch-dog" assistance to Civil Service Board; Civil Service meetings held throughout state; assistance in national extension of merit system. Conducted 30 campaign schools. Every member campaign to win the "Battle of Production." Broadside campaign (90,000 on 18 subjects delivered first five months) to teach understanding of government in war time. Special emphasis on good candidate choice ("Giants instead of Pygmies"), development of informed public opinion, intelligent voting, observation of administrative practices, and support of legislation. 150 LWV squads trained in Face-to-Face campaigning to educate the 103,000 Minnesotans approached on the need for U.S. to take lead in establishing international post-war cooperation; 50,000 quizzes on choosing sound foreign policy distributed. Active support of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program.

**1944-49** Pre-election activities geared to "measuring your congressman," congressional and legislative interviews, candidates' questionnaires. Emphasis on organized radio effort. The Legislative Research Council established, legislation to improve low-income housing, revision of state aids to schools passed, culminating long-time vigorous LWV effort. State-wide educational campaign on Dumbarton Oaks proposals; "Win the Peace" effort, teaching citizens to think in terms of United Nations organization. School for lobbyists held. Community education in selective buying. Legislative school and regional economic conference held. "You Are the Government" (handbook for Minnesota citizens) published by St. Paul LWV. Intensive constitutional revision effort begun. Minneapolis Star and Tribune Leadership-in-Minnesota Award given to Mildred F. Hargraves as President of the Minnesota League.

**1949-54** Special emphasis on the study of the United Nations, and legislative lobbying. Heavy work on passage of amendments crucial

to revision of constitution (largely responsible for passage of amendment No. 3 to submit any revised constitution to the people, 1954). Intensive public education and lobbying on fair employment practices, party designation for legislators, improved veterans' preference law. National recognition of Minneapolis and St. Paul Television Candidate Interviews.

**1954-59** Intensive study of what a new constitution should contain. "Reapportionment in Minnesota: Democracy Denied" published (1954). A Fair Employment Practices Act passed (1955), much credit given to LWV. Intensive campaign to build public opinion for calling a Constitutional Convention, for Reapportionment, for Party Designation (1956-57). These bills all passed the House, only; great interest generated in the Legislature and among citizens (1957). Intensive campaign of public education on all three issues continued (1956-59). Evaluation of election laws and procedures with a view to needed change begun (1957).

## LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Child Welfare** Raising marriageable age of girls, child labor laws, minimum wage law, increase of mothers' allowance, increase of the appropriation for infancy-maternity work, aid to dependent children.

**Status of Women** Fifty-four-hour work-week for women, eligibility of women for jury service, removal of discrimination against employment of married women.

**General Welfare** Abolition of the common law marriage, five day waiting period, adequate lay representation on welfare boards, better housing for low income groups, extension of the public health services, establishment of fair employment practices.

**Education** Minimum school year increase from 6 to 8 months, enforced compulsory school attendance, physical education in all schools, revision of state aids to schools, teacher tenure law, reorganization of teachers' retirement fund, reorganization of school units, school reorganization survey.

**Structure of Government** Interim commission on reorganization of state departments, county assessor system, legislative research council, civil service system, ratification by Minnesota of the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15TH AND WASHINGTON AVE. S.E.

MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

FE. 8-8791

Pub. No. 080257X

Price: 25 copies, 50c

July 1957

January 27, 1958

Miss Carmen Richards  
4334 Oakdale Avenue  
Minneapolis 24, Minn.

Dear Miss Richards:

The date of the parade up Nicollet Avenue in support of World Peace was December 10, 1923. Sorry for the delay in answering your inquiry but it really took some digging. Finally found the information in the December minutes which went on to say that the petition is to be carried and the delegates escorted to the station. These delegates are to carry the petitions to Washington and to meet with President Coolidge, Secretary of State Hughes, Senator Lodge, and Minnesota's two senators.

I hope this is what you want. It was fascinating to read the minutes written twenty-five years ago.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. E. C. Williams  
Secretary



FILE COPY

## THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

... an unpartisan organization to promote responsible and informed citizen participation in government, submits this record of the past twenty years of

*"learning by doing"*

1919 - 1939



Affiliated with the  
National League of Women Voters

914 Marquette Avenue

MINNEAPOLIS

MINNESOTA

## FIRST YEAR, 1919-20 —

Prepared women for their first vote and laid a foundation for future work of the League of Women Voters by: a citizenship school in cooperation with the University of Minnesota at which 700 women registered; 53 schools of one to five days each and 72 lectures throughout the state; distributing 258,950 pieces of printed material of political education; holding eight conferences in eight congressional districts led by from five to eight speakers, the attendance for which was promoted by visits of officers to 66 towns.

Conducted the first get-out-the-vote campaign following the final enfranchisement of women, August 1920, including every device used in later campaigns with the addition of more instruction in the mechanics of voting and of election laws.

Held the first all-party candidates' meeting ever held in the state, and the first state and county fair booths offering non-partisan political information.

## SECOND YEAR, 1920-21 —

Inaugurated the Woman Voter, a monthly bulletin of subjects of interest to members of the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

Led the public demand for calling the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments, the first League petition, numbering 3,500 names.

Supported the acceptance by the legislature of the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act and the state's later cooperation with the federal government in organizing the work under the Act.

Supported the following successful legislative measures: Making women eligible for jury service; regulating the employment of children in street trades; increasing the maximum mothers' allowance; increasing the school year from six to eight months; and an amendment to make easier the enforcement of the compulsory school attendance law.

## THIRD YEAR, 1921-22 —

Prepared and distributed the first state Digest of Election Laws which is still in use by public officials, teachers of civics in the public schools, and the general public.

Sent out questionnaires to determine women's reaction to jury service.

Inaugurated the League's plan of sending questionnaires to candidates for public office.

## FOURTH YEAR, 1922-23 —

Supported the act by which the legislature appointed an interim committee on reorganization of the state departments. Without this committee, for which the League of Women Voters was primarily responsible, reorganization might not have occurred or have been long delayed.

Inaugurated a radio service of unpartisan political education that has never since been discontinued.

Held the first of four biennial Institutes of Government in cooperation with the University of Minnesota.

Supported the following measures passed by the Legislature:

securing physical education in all the schools;

providing for supplemental aid to poorer school districts and amendments representing an improvement in the method of distribution of this aid;

limiting the work of women in industry to 54 hours a week;

opposed an attempt to weaken the law providing jury service for women.

## FIFTH YEAR, 1923-24 —

Gathered and carried to Washington a "mile" of signatures in behalf of the United States' adherence to the World Court — perhaps the most spectacular demonstration ever made in behalf of the World Court.

Held 34 one-day schools in 19 communities, with an attendance of 38,000, as one part of an extensive get-out-the-vote campaign.

#### **SIXTH YEAR, 1924-25 —**

Ended the get-out-the-vote campaign with the Passing-the-Torch tour from the Canadian to the Iowa border, 1,100 miles, with the final ceremony on the steps of the Capitol where it was met by the governor.

Carried on an intensive educational campaign in behalf of reorganization of state departments and in support of the bill which was passed by the legislature. Previous attempts at reorganization which had been supported by no such education of the public had failed.

Conducted an active but unsuccessful campaign to secure the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.

#### **SEVENTH YEAR, 1925-26 —**

Prepared, published and distributed for use in study groups, 8,000 primers on "Current Questions in Government."

Organized first College League at St. Cloud.

Started a three year state-wide survey of jury service by women.

#### **EIGHTH YEAR, 1926-27 —**

Conducted a Survey of Voting Habits based upon a study of eight elections over a period of four years in twelve voting districts.

Supported the following measures passed by the Legislature:

providing a Teacher Tenure Law for cities of the first class;

providing for an appropriation to reimburse counties for one third of their expenditures under the Mothers' Allowance Law;

raising the marriageable age of girls from fifteen to sixteen, except with the approval of the Juvenile Court Judge.

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#### **NINTH YEAR, 1927-28 —**

Organized listening-in groups for the radio Voters' Service of the National League of Women Voters as a part of an extensive get-out-the-vote campaign.

#### **TENTH YEAR, 1928-29 —**

Supported the act under which the legislature appropriated \$43,000 a year for infancy-maternity work, nearly compensating for withdrawal of federal aid.

Supported the "Stage Child" bill which was passed by the legislature, prohibiting the theatrical employment of children under ten years of age.

#### **ELEVENTH YEAR, 1929-30 —**

Secured signatures to a Memorial to the London Conference on Naval Reduction.

#### **TWELFTH YEAR, 1930-31 —**

Supported the bill providing for a five day waiting period between the application for a marriage license and its issuance. The measure met with bitter opposition, but was passed in the last hours of the legislative session.

Supported the measure providing for the reorganization of the State Teachers' Retirement Fund which was passed by the legislature.

#### **THIRTEENTH YEAR, 1931-32 —**

Supplied educational material on the caucus and convention system in Minnesota and other information for voters.

Went "over the top" in securing signatures to a petition to the World Disarmament Conference by securing 5,918 signatures in Minnesota — 293 more than the quota assigned by the National League.

Sent questionnaires on party caucuses to members of the League.

#### FOURTEENTH YEAR, 1932-33 —

Assisted Professor Robinson of Yale University in making a Survey of the Voters' Mind, in cooperation with other state leagues.

Supported an amendment to the Street Trades Law which was passed by the legislature.

Supported a bill, which passed, providing a 54 hour law for women.

Opposed attempts to weaken the Teacher Tenure Law, for cities of the first class, to repeal the Five Day Waiting Period Law, and opposed a bill making it possible to discharge married women from public employment.

Held the first series of Legislative Clinics throughout the state following the legislative session.

Minneapolis and St. Paul Leagues were selected as two of the fifty city Leagues in the United States to cooperate with the Chief of Labor Statistics in obtaining weekly reports of retail food prices.

Supported the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, which was achieved in a special session, having failed in the regular session.

Supported the ratification of the Lame Duck Amendment which was passed in both houses of the legislature by a unanimous vote.

#### FIFTEENTH YEAR, 1933-34 —

Congratulated itself and rejoiced in the election of Miss Marguerite M. Wells, its former president, as National President of the League of Women Voters.

Conducted County Surveys in 35 counties, looking toward support of county reorganization in the future.

Conducted a survey of Public Emergency Relief throughout the state.

#### SIXTEENTH YEAR, 1934-35 —

Assisted the nine College Leagues in the organization of an All-College League Board.

Supported proposed changes in the Mothers' Aid Law, which were adopted by the legislature.

Supported four measures passed by the legislature providing for the revision of State Aid for Schools.

Opposed, successfully, repeal of the Five Day Waiting Period Law.

#### SEVENTEENTH YEAR, 1935-36 —

Participated in a nation-wide intensive campaign for civil service and trained personnel in government.

Supported a civil service bill in the special session of the Legislature, which did not pass.

Supported the clause of the unemployment compensation law requiring that employees be chosen on the basis of merit.

Conducted a survey of school districts.

Conducted a canned goods survey.

#### EIGHTEENTH YEAR, 1936-37 —

Invited all state-wide organizations endorsing the merit system in government to join with the League in organizing the Civil Service Council.

Worked intensively at the legislature for a civil service law based on merit, which did not pass.

Worked for adequate lay representation on County Welfare Boards, which was included in the law establishing these boards.

Supported an amendment to the Minimum Wage Law which made it cover girls as well as boys up to the age of 21.

#### NINETEENTH YEAR, 1937-38 —

Held the first of an annual series of Conferences on Governmental Problems in cooperation with the University of Minnesota at its Continuation Center.

Continued intensive state-wide education on civil service.

## TWENTIETH YEAR, 1938-39 —

Gave active support to the civil service bill which became a law on April 22, 1939.

Opposed successfully measures that would have barred practically all married women from public employment.

Opposed bills decreasing "lay" representation on County Welfare Boards, which failed to pass.

Opposed successfully repeal of the Five Day Waiting Period law.

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These listed achievements of the Minnesota League of Women Voters are illustrations of the organization's accomplishments during twenty years of continuous day-by-day activity in behalf of good government and political education. It does not include the preparation and distribution of publications for use in its educational work, the support of many federal measures, nor the accomplishments of local Leagues, such as support of city charter amendments, local civil service, and similar improvements in local government, nor a multitude of devices for interesting and informing voters at election time, nor constant observance of and reports on public boards and departments in state and local government.

Much effort is required to protect what has already been accomplished. Time and again it has been necessary for the League to oppose legislative measures the passage of which would have weakened or nullified laws for which the League has worked in the past. It also has constantly supported adequate appropriations for services worked for by the League.

This record has been achieved through the efforts of members of local Leagues scattered throughout the state in large and small communities.



FILE COPY

TRUE AND FALSE TEST    x-True    - False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The League of Women Voters is organized to promote the Republican party.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The League of Women Voters is a national, state and local organization.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The League of Women Voters is organized in only 20 states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The League of Women Voters is unpartisan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The League of Women Voters is 15 years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The League takes up any subject of interest to women.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The League aims to develop a responsible citizenship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The League never supports candidates or parties.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The League supports legislation without any previous study.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The National League of Women Voters is composed of affiliated state Leagues,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The state Leagues are made up of affiliated local Leagues.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The League is a political party for women.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The League limits its membership to certain groups.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The League is the only national, unpartisan organization existing solely for the political education of women.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The League works to secure law enforcement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The League urges women to enroll in political parties.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The National League program is adopted at the National League convention every two years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The League always cooperates with all organizations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The League usually endorses measures sponsored by other organizations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The League is made up of learners and not reformers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. The League has items for study and items for support.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. The League has a Department of Government and International Cooperation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. The Department of Government and International Cooperation does not include in its program support of the World Court.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. The department of Government and Its Operation studies taxation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. The Department of Government and Economic Welfare studies what?

# FILE COPY

National League of Women Voters  
726 Jackson Place  
Washington, D. C.

March, 1940

## FORTY QUESTIONS ON THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1. What is the purpose of the League?  
*Education  
action } public welfare  
in legis. w/ no personal group interest.*
2. Is the League program a restricted program?  
*to govt. action program restricted for effectiveness.  
e.g. library books*
3. Does the League attempt to cover completely the various program fields it works in?  
*6 fields*
4. Is the League's program concerned with public or private interests?
5. Why does the League never endorse candidates or parties?  
*unpartisan  
might set a precedent - even for non-partisan job.  
don't endorse appointive or elective officers.  
H. is middle of the road.*
6. Do you believe the League should cooperate with other organizations?  
*on according issue - e.g. State Bar Assoc. on Com. Bar Marriage  
e.g. Civil Ser. Council*
7. Name three members of the present National Board.  
*M. Wells  
L. R. Wright  
Fisher - two  
Meet 3-4 times a yr. for a wk.*
8. Name four members of your present State Board.  
*once a month, at own expense.  
att. 24 aver.  
are connecting link - nat'l. & local.*
9. What is the function of boards, local, state, and national?  
*determine policy & procedure  
know about membership, program, finance  
Same program working in every state.*
10. Who are the State Department Chairmen?
11. What is a local Department Chairman's job?  
*Teacher in a sense, of study groups.*
12. What would you do if you were a president or a chairman who did not agree with the League in its support of a given measure?  
*Mem. - Be a good sport - keep own opinion & be still  
Chr. - resign fr. chairmanship.*
13. What steps in League work are necessary to realize a program objective?  
*1. Get facts & workings  
2. Get Board O.K.  
3. Get backing of own membership  
4. Action: publicity - radio - talks - petition*
14. When is the national program adopted?  
*Natl. Con. - every 2 yrs.  
odd yrs. - Council Mtg. - determine policy - 2 f. ea. state*

## Study Groups:

1. Chr. -

Keep group running on date set  
delegate work  
not read papers  
Leave questions for discussion - panels;

15. How do you influence the formulation of the National Program of Work?  
*Can send in recommendations  
Show 3 more in advice  
Unity of purpose*
16. How do you influence the adoption of the National Program?  
*Can speak up at Con.  
Member fr. study chr. - city chr. - state chr. - nat'l chr. - Board*
17. What is the difference in nature between the National and State programs of work?  
*Co. state selects own items fr. reservoir of Nat'l. Program  
Nat'l. - general in scope  
State - specific " "*
18. Who is responsible for the proposed program presented at your state convention?  
*Members thru local boards.*
19. Did you consider the proposed program before the last state convention?  
*out 6 wks. before*
20. Does your League support local measures?  
*yes*
21. Does the League have a representative on "Capitol Hill" in Washington?  
*yes - Florence Kirkin - writes "Newsletter"*
22. Do we have a League representative in the state Capitol during legislative sessions?  
*yes - HH*
23. Should a local League make its program of meetings a year in advance?  
*yes - at first  
But can't tell what's ahead - flexible*
24. What have you individually ever done for Congressional, state, or local support of a League measure?
25. What are the main program objectives of the League in this state?  
*C.S.  
Child Welfare  
Legis. Council*
26. What is the National News Letter?  
*Congress  
\$1.00 a yr.*
27. Are you a subscriber?
28. What help if any is it to you in League work?
29. Does the state League issue study materials? *yes.*
30. Have you read The Program Explained?
31. How many League pamphlets have you used this past year?



32. What is the National budget for 1939-40? \$ 80,000,000 What is the state budget for 1939-40? 9,200,000 Minn. only state always paying natl. quota.
33. Where does this money come from? local - 70.00 thousand (1920 census)
34. Why send money to the state and national Leagues? Minn. more l.l. (55) than other states. Never affiliate w. Natl. L. if one is
35. How is the local League's share of the state budget determined?
36. Why does the League ask non-members for contributions? Natl. staff of 19
37. Does your League have any regular contributors?
38. What is the value of contributions besides the money received?
39. Has the League gained in prestige in the country this year?  
In the state? In your community?
40. Could you make a five-minute talk on the League of Women Voters?

1. Get l.l. in town
2. Get contribution
3. Get legislator to keep on w. C.S. Law



MAR 28 1930

Minnesota League of Women Voters.

It gives me pleasure to present to the League of Women Voters, a gavel, which was presented to Doctor Ethel E. Hurd, by an admirer and co-worker for Suffrag; (Mrs Lizzie McLeary) at the time when Dr Hurd was president of the P. E. Club of Minneapolis. It was fashioned from the wood of a tree grown at Mt Vernon. its further historic value I do not recall; Could it be endowed with human attributes It could tell you how it rapped to order groups of earnest women who labored for their emancipation and were thrilled by each small gain on a wide flung battle front till the final victory was won. It could recount how pennies + nickels and dimes were the usual dole and a five dollar bill was an occasion. It might impart to you the thrill of its owner when some brave woman invaded the "Sphere of Men" and proved her head not

all ivory, but capable of thought and  
business ability

It might tell you, how reluctantly she  
yielded to younger women the work  
she loved to do. when increasing  
disability made yielding imperative.

how she watched with approval the  
growth and aims of this younger  
organization.

I know she would be glad to have this  
little gavel rap to order the earnest  
women of today

Sincerely

Anna Hurd

Minnesota League of Women VotersCOMPARATIVE FIGURES OF ATTENDANCE AT STATE CONVENTIONS  
(As indicated by actual registrations recorded)

	Minneapolis	St. Paul	State	Total
Fourth Annual Convention St. Paul - Oct. 3,4,5, 1922	88	84	61	223
Fifth Annual Convention (in conjunction with Institute) Minneapolis - Nov. 5-9, 1923	104	26	65	195
Sixth Annual Convention St. Paul - Oct. 2,3,4, 1924	81	91	61	233
Seventh Annual Convention (in conjunction with Institute) St. Paul - Nov. 16-20, 1925	58	86	39	183
Eighth Annual Convention Duluth - Oct. 7,8,9, 1926	31	24	Duluth 36 - 83-174	
Ninth Annual Convention & Inst. Minneapolis - Nov.29-Dec. 3, 1927	92	34	74 - 8-200	
Tenth Annual Convention St. Cloud - Oct. 4,5,6, 1926	29	9	91 - 6 St. Cloud 42 32 19 students	129 delegates 42 visitors 19 students
Eleventh Annual Convention (in conjunction with Institute) St. Paul - Oct.30-Nov. 2, 1929	29	40	Duluth 70 - 10 19 students 8 coll. faculty members	139 delegates 19 students 8 coll. faculty members
Twelfth Annual State Convention Faribault - October 15,16,17-1930	34	23	District III 70	179 delegates 21 students 21 visitors
Thirteenth Annual State Convention St. Paul - October 1, 2, and 3 -1931				

NOTE: These figures are actual registrations and do not include the attendance of those who did not register as delegates or visitors. They are necessarily smaller than actual attendance but this is true for the earlier as well as the later years. (E. C.)

Sept 12,  
1930

<sup>mples. Tribune</sup>  
**A Woman's Public Service.**

There is no interest in Minnesota in any way touching its citizenship that does not appreciate the work Miss Marguerite Wells has done in her 10 years' service as president of the Minnesota League of Women Voters.



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*History of the Minnesota League*

### DO YOU REMEMBER TEN YEARS AGO?

WHEN The Minnesota League of Women Voters was organized at the Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, October 29?

WHEN Mrs. Ueland said in her call "We must confer in order first that we may become enlightened voters and second to consider plans by which this great power may be directed for the good of the state?"

WHEN Mrs. Catt, Miss Lathrop, Mrs. Katharine Waugh McCulloch, Mrs. Edward P. Costigan and Dr. Valeria Parker came out to organize us?

WHEN Dr. F. M. Eliot of the Unity Church of St. Paul, and President Marion LeRoy Burton of the University of Minnesota, spoke at the banquet?

WHEN the name of the education committee was American Citizenship, the name of the Committee on Legal Status of Women was Unification of Laws Concerning Civil Status of Women; the Living Costs Committee was called Committee on Food Supply and Demand and the Department of Efficiency in Government was a committee on improvement of Election Laws and Methods?

WHEN Mrs. Catt made a big speech on "What is the Proposed League of Women Voters and Why?"

WHEN Mrs. Ueland was elected first president of the Minnesota League of Women Voters?

*Woman Voter*  
*October 1929*

The League's Work by Years

1919 to 1929

FILE COPY

(As presented at the convention luncheon, November 1929)

First Year 1919

Mrs. Ueland was president

Citizenship school in November--700 registered

10 district organization meetings in 10 congressional districts

Gladys Harrison was executive secretary

Second Year 1920

Suffrage amendment was ratified--women were enfranchised

Woman Voter was founded--Mrs. Thorp editor

First convention--massmeeting speakers: Tiffany, Slade, Morrisson, McDowell

University Extension course in local government--45 out-of-town women

Maud Wood Park gave 6 lectures in Mpls. about Congress

Third Year 1921

Only one League bill defeated in Legislature--that one passed the next session  
(7 months' school)

3500 names on Minnesota's petition thanking President Harding for calling  
Washington Conference

Sheppard-Towner act passed Congress

St. Paul's first annual meeting--a pageant--Mrs. Jule Hannaford was Isabelle of  
Spain--Mrs. White was Joan of Arc--Eleanor Mitchell was Empress of China

New department called Efficiency in Government--Mrs. Marclay chairman

New committee on International Reduction of Armaments--Mrs. Boyd Nixon chairman

Mrs. George Morgan was Dearie in "Dearie Won't Do."

Women made eligible for jury service

Fourth Year 1922

Miss Lawrence became chairman of the committee on Education

First state convention held in St. Paul--chairmen White and Noyes

Duluth--Mrs. Grannis president--had speakers' bureau of 25 to speak on Washington  
Conference

Fourth Year 1922 continued

St. Paul League helped defeat ward-alderman charter. Miss Lusk headed campaign

League made first digest of state election laws

Gladys Harrison became editor of the Voter

Minneapolis holds annual meeting--many compliments--Professor Anderson said

"There is no more important single organization for political education"

Minnesota establishes a division of child hygiene to carry out infancy-maternity work

Fifth Year 1923

League begins broadcasting over WLAG

Mrs. Cant is state treasurer

Through efforts of DWV, Interim Committee on Reorganization of State Departments is formed

54-hour women's bill passed legislature

New Efficiency in Government chairman Mrs. Wittich.

A Mile of World Court signatures from Minnesota goes to Washington(McK and MxG)

First Institute of Government and Politics--Governor Lowden launches reorganization idea

Mrs. Paige leaves region--enters Legislature

Mrs. Catt makes a great speech in St. Paul and Mpls. on "Peace or War"

League of Women Voters defeated Blanket Equal Rights bill in Legislature

Permanent registration act passed

Sixth Year 1924

Mrs. Roulo becomes Duluth chairman--Mrs. Botsford becomes Winona chairman--  
Gladys Harrison becomes national executive secretary--Miss Beggin becomes  
field organizer--Miss Child becomes state executive secretary

Minnesota has 34 one-day schools--attendance of 3800

Get Out Vote campaign--passing the torch from Canadian border to Iowa--1100 miles  
Caravan escorted by 27 St. Paul cars ends tour on Capitol steps--met by  
Governor(Mrs. McKnight's skirts above ankles)

GOV campaign Minnesota vote increased 11 percent



Seventh Year 1925

Reorganization bill passes

Richmond convention--Minnesota sends 17 out of a possible 18 delegates

St. Paul made a miniature World Court for the State Fair--Mrs. Catt congratulates  
them

"The Last Word", authors McK, McG and Allisen(Mpls.)

Journal said "A witty little play"

Tribune said "Net result would be to give anti-feminists a sleepless night"

Voter inaugurates photographs on its cover

Eighth Year 1926

Gertrude Ely comes to Minnesota--charms young voters

Faribault first league to make campaign for permanent registration

St. Paul issues handbook--information on city government

St. Cloud held citizenship school

Winona campaign for permanent registration

First annual convention outside Twin Cities--Duluth

Minneapolis gives its first annual luncheon to fifth district legislative  
delegation

Mrs. Ringstad becomes chairman third district

Ninth Year 1927

First National Council--delegates Wittich, Spear--start vote surveys

Vote surveys Monticello, Olivia, Slayton, Hinckley

Interesting vote survey discoveries

Non-voting not always indifference--

Moving and absence(25% shift)

Lack of issues

The higher education, the better the voting habit

Average voting habit in one or more of 6 elections 90%

Judge Florence Allen speaks in St. Paul

Third Institute of Government--Mpls.

\$10,000 pledged at Convention

Tenth Year 1928-29

St. Paul completes organization by wards

St. Cloud takes hand in conducting city elections

Voters' Service national broadcasting inaugurated

State makes second state-wide survey about women on juries

Voting survey, Mpls. St. Paul, Duluth

League cooperates with other organizations in state conference for Paris  
Peace Pact

U.S. ratifies Paris Peace Pact Jan. 15, 1929

St. Cloud college League honorable mention NLWV contest for best report on  
GOV work

Mankato college won second place in college Homecoming day parade with GOV float

Mpls. cooperated with other organizations in successful 10-day campaign for  
centralization of street maintenance funds amendment to city charter

Mpls. 125 women in 8 study groups met every two weeks to study League measures

Never did the local Leagues do better work during a legislative session

Never did the local leagues work more steadily during the summer

Legislature appropriates \$43,000 for infancy and maternity work nearly compensating  
for the withdrawal of federal aid

Miss Helen Horr joins the League as organization secretary

St. Paul decides to work for a city manager charter--defeated by narrow margin



October 1929

List Circularized with Invitation to Sit at  
Founders' Table, TENTH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON  
Minnesota League of Women Voters

(Including State Boards of League 1919-1929 and last Suffrage board)

1. Mrs. Jane H. Burr, second vice-president, 1919 to 1922  
943 Summit Ave., St. Paul
2. Miss Cornelia Lusk, secretary, 1919 to 1922; 1st vice-president 1922 to 1923;  
4th district chairmen 1926 to - -  
Hotel Commodore, St. Paul
3. Mrs. S. T. McKnight, recording secretary, 1919 to 1921; fifth district chairmen 1921 - -  
2200 Park Avenue, Minneapolis
4. Mrs. Russell M. Bennett, treasurer 1919 to 1921; director 1921 - -  
2000 Pleasant Ave., Mpls.
5. Mrs. J. A. Malone, Rochester, 1st district chairmen, 1919 to 1921
6. Mrs. David L. Morse, Blue Earth, 2nd district chairman, 1919 to 1921
7. Mrs. C. M. Stockton, Faribault, 3rd district chairmen, 1919 to 1921
8. Mrs. Frances Buell Olson, St. Paul, 4th district chairman, 1919 to 1922  
238 Nelson Avenue
9. Mrs. Albert W. Strong, fifth district chairmen, 1919 to 1921  
2324 Pillsbury Ave., Minneapolis
10. Mrs. John R. Serrin, Glenwood, 7th district chairmen, 1919 to 1922
11. Mrs. Chauncey C. Colton, 8th district chairman, 1919 to 1925  
1802 E. 4th Street, Duluth
12. Mrs. Robert Hamah, Fergus Falls, 9th district chairman, 1919 to 1921
13. Mrs. J. E. Spencer, 10th district chairmen, 1919 to 1923  
717 S.E. Fifth St., Minneapolis
14. Mrs. William T. Coe, Org. Committee Chairman, 1919 to 1921 (also director)  
1904 Park Ave., Minneapolis
15. Mrs. Augustus L. Searle, Chairman, Finance Committee, 1919 to 1921 "  
1917 Logan Avenue S., Minneapolis
16. Mrs. Walter H. Thorp, Chairman, Press Committee, 1919 to 1922; director, 1919 to \* \*  
4428 Fremont Avenue S.
17. Mrs. John M. Guise, director, 1919 to 1922  
2214 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul
18. Mrs. William J. Logue, director, 1919 to 1921  
885 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul
19. Miss Hope McDonald, chairman, American Citizenship, 1919 to 1921  
201 Ridgewood Avenue, Mpls.
20. Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, chairman, Women in Industry, 1919 to 1927  
c/o Boston Public Library, Boston
21. Mrs. W. H. Gemmell, chairman, Child Welfare, 1919 to 1921  
Public Library, Mpls.
22. Miss Florence Monahan, chairman, Unification of Laws concerning Civil Status of Women,  
c/o State Reformatory for Women, Shakopee 1919 to - -
23. Mrs. C. E. Furness, director, 1919 to 1920  
265 S. Exchange St., St. Paul
24. Miss Ruth Rosholt, Research, 1919 to 1921  
Public Library, Minneapolis
25. Dr. Mabel S. Ulrich, chairman, Social Hygiene, 1919 to 1923  
71 S. 12th St., Minneapolis
26. Mrs. Walter J. Marcle, fifth district chairman, 1920 to 1921; chairman, E in G, 1922  
5110 Wentworth Ave. S., Mpls. to 1923
27. Miss Ruth Mitchell, sixth district chairman, 1920 to 1922; 2nd vice-president, 1922 to  
St. Cloud, Minnesota 1924
28. Mrs. F. E. Fregeau, director, 1921 to 1922  
Duluth, Minnesota
29. Miss Elizabeth Hall, chairman, American Citizenship, 1921 to 1922  
Leamington, Minneapolis

List for Founders' Table, Tenth Birthday Luncheon, 1929

-2-

30. Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, chairman, Food Supply and Demand, 1921 to 1924,  
Appleton
31. Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, chairman, Child Welfare, 1921 to 1926  
2011 - 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis
32. Miss Olga Hanson, Research, 1921 to 1922  
2248 Carter Ave., St. Paul
33. Mrs. E. L. Sylvester, Plainview, 1st district chairman, 1921 to 1922
34. Mrs. H. A. Patterson, Mankato, 2nd district chairman, 1921 to 1922
35. Mrs. H. W. Froelich, Thixef River Falls, 9th district chairman, 1921 to 1922
36. Mrs. Clifford S. Ashmun, treasurer, 1921 to 1922  
1318 W. 47th St., Minneapolis
37. Mrs. Boyd Nixon, corresponding secretary, 1922 to 1923; Int. Cooperation 1922 to 1924  
(Sent c/o Gladys Harrison, Wash.)
38. Mrs. Edwin White, recording secretary, 1922 to 1924  
767 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul
39. Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, treasurer, 1922 to 1923  
c/o Illinois League, 203 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago
40. Miss Rosamond Grant, Faribault, director, 1922 to 1923
41. Mrs. R. C. Jamieson, director, 1922 to 1923  
St. Paul
42. Mrs. C. P. Noyes, 4th district chairman 1922 to 1923; director \_\_\_\_ to - -  
89 Virginia Avenue, St. Paul
43. Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd, 6th district chairman, 1922 to 1923; director 1923-1926
44. Mrs. E. O. Webb, Brainerd, & 6th district chairmen, 1922 to 1923
45. Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, 7th district chairmen, 1922 to - -
46. Mrs. H. I. Yetter, Stephen, 9th district chairmen, 1922 to 1924
47. Miss Isabel Lawrence, chairman, Education, 1922 to - -  
417 - 2nd Ave. S., St. Paul
48. Mrs. L. D. Brown, corresponding secretary, 1922 to 1924  
3508 - 46th Ave. S., Minneapolis
49. Mrs. J. ~~W~~ F.D. Meighen, Albert Lea, director, 1923 to 1925
50. Mrs. F. A. Swartwood, Waseca, 1st district chairmen, 1922 to 1924
51. Miss Agnes Larson, Mankato S.T. College, 2nd district chairmen, 1922 to 1923
52. Mrs. Harold G. Cant, treasurer, 1923 to - -  
601 W. 50th St., Minneapolis
53. Mrs. N. C. Peterson, Fairmont, 2nd district chairman, 1923 to 1924
54. Mrs. F. W. Wittich, chairman, Efficiency in Govt. 1923 to -; 1st vice-president 1924- -  
1822 Emerson Ave. S., Minneapolis
55. Miss Alice Kercher, chairman, Law Enforcement, 1923 to 1927; women in industry 1927 - -  
Brookside, Minneapolis
56. Miss Electa Byrne, secretary, to 1925  
1324 E. 1st St., Duluth
57. Mrs. R. N. Marble, director 1924 to - -  
Devonshire Apartments, Duluth
58. Mrs. W. G. Tull, 2nd district chairman, 1924 to 1925  
Fairmont, Minn.
59. Mrs. A. J. McGuire, chairman 4th district, 1924 to 1925; Int. Cooperation 1927 - -;  
2nd vice-president, 1925 - -  
444 Otis Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota
60. Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, 6th district chairmen, 1924 to 1927  
St. Cloud
61. Mrs. L. C. Weeks, 9th district chairman, 1924 to 1926; Int. Coop. 1926-27  
Detroit Lakes, Minn.
62. Miss Mary Warren, 10th district chairman, 1924 to 1926  
1926 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis
63. Mrs. John M. Gaus, chairman, Social Hygiene, 1924 to 1927  
1904 Kendall Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin

List for Founders' Table, Tenth Birthday Luncheon, 1929

-3-

64. Mrs. R. T. Hargreaves, chairman, Int. Cooperation, 1924 to 1926  
c/o Teachers College, Cheney, Washington
65. Mrs. Woodard Colby, secretary, 1925 to 1927; chairman, Social Hygiene, 1927 - -  
2103 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul
66. Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, director, 1925 to - -  
214 S. Grotto, St. Paul
67. Mrs. George H. Spear, 8th district chairman, 1925 to 1929; chairman, Living Costs,  
2315 E. Fourth St., Duluth 1927 - -
68. Mrs. J.D. Morrison, 1st district chairman, 1926 - -  
556 W. Sanborn St., Winona
69. Mrs. Edward Ringstad, 3rd district chairman, 1926 to - -  
Northfield, Minnesota
70. Mrs. J. P. Wolfe, 9th district chairman, 1926 - -  
Moorhead
71. Mrs. Carroll Sherwin, Monticello, tenth district chairman, 1926 to - -
72. Mrs. Kurt Stai, St. Cloud, sixth district chairman, 1926 to - -  
207 - 15th Ave. S.
73. Mrs. Myra Griswold, chairman, Child Welfare, 1926-1927  
4628 Nicollet Avenue, Mpls.
74. Miss Martha Botsford, Winona, chairman, Living Costs, 1926-27
75. Mrs. O. M. Botsford, Winona, 1st district chairman, 1926-27
76. Mrs. Robert Harrigan, Stillwater, farm woman, 1926-27
77. Mrs. William Pearce, secretary, 1927 to - -  
116 E. Fifth Avenue, Faribault
78. Mrs. D. L. Grannis, chairman, Child Welfare, 1927 to - -  
204 Fifth Avenue N., South St. Paul, Minn.
79. Mrs. C. S. Roulo, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ eighth district chairman, 1929 to - -  
1825 Jefferson St., Duluth
80. Mrs. H. O. Tellier, farm woman, 1929 to - -  
Farmington, Minnesota

Former state board members not addressed - address not known etc.

Mrs. Charles H. Maxon, St. Cloud, 6th district chairman, 1919 to 1921  
Mrs. Harley Treloar, LeRoy, first district chairman, 1926 to 1926



List for Founders' Table, Tenth Birthday Luncheon, 1929

-4-

Organization Conference, Minnesota League

Mrs. Milton D. Purdy, International Settlement, Shanghai, China  
 Miss Gladys Harrison, 532 - 17th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 Mrs. A. W. Strong, 2324 Pillsbury Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. Denman Johnson, 2127 Pleasant Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. Victor Troendle -  
 Mrs. Horace Lowry, 1821 Logan Ave. S., Mpls.  
 Mrs. Manley Fosseen, 424 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. H. Weiskopf, 2444 Blaisdell Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. B. H. Timberlake, 4829 Garfield Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. Farnsworth -  
 Mrs. Carlyle Scott, 2305 Aldrich Ave. S., Mpls.  
 Mrs. Harvard Rockwell, 321 Longview Terrace, Mpls.  
 Mrs. Gerould -  
 Mrs. W. T. Cow, 1904 Park Avenue, Mpls. (not addressed - duplicate)  
 Miss Hope McDonald, Mpls. " "

Last Suffrage Board

Mrs. F. E. Kenaston, 2426 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. H. G. Harrison, 2000 Pleasant Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. M. M. Davidson, Waseca, Minn.  
 Mrs. H. J. Grannis, Duluth  
 Mrs. S. A. Stockwell, 3204 E. 51st St., Mpls.  
 Mrs. J. C. Holman, 2195 Berkeley Ave., St. Paul  
 Mrs. F. B. Snyder, 120 W. 22nd St., Mpls.  
 Mrs. David Simpson, Woman's Club, 410 Oak Grove, Mpls.  
 Mrs. I. E. Rose, 705 Summit Ave., St. Paul  
 Mrs. A. E. Zonne, 910 Mt. Curve Ave., Mpls.  
 Mrs. George H. Partridge, 1 Groveland Terrace, Mpls.  
 Mrs. Luther Farrington  
 Mrs. Peter Olesen, Northfield  
 Mrs. J.A.A. Burnquist, ~~1776 Franklin Ave.~~ 1161 E. Cook, St. Paul

Members not addressed - duplicate etc.

Mrs. Victor Troendle  
 Mrs. C. E. Severance  
 Mrs. A. M. Burt  
 Eugenia B. Farmer, St. Paul  
 J. B. Andrews, Mankato  
 James Forrestal, St. Paul  
 Mrs. J. M. Guise, St. Paul  
 Mrs. A. E. Zonne, Mpls.  
 Mrs. Jane H. Burr, St. Paul

### HISTORY

The state legislature gave to Minnesota women, in March 1919, presidential suffrage and members of the state suffrage association then became, automatically, members of the National League of Women Voters which was still an auxiliary body within the National Suffrage Association.

Immediately after the Minnesota legislation, in special session, ratified the federal woman suffrage amendment on September 8, 1919, plans were made for calling a conference to organize in this state a branch of the National League of Women Voters.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Andreas Ueland, president of the Minnesota Suffrage Association, it was decided to hold an organization conference <sup>in Minneapolis</sup> on October 28 and 29. A temporary committee on organization was appointed, consisting of Mrs. James Paige, chairman, Mrs. Andreas Ueland, member ex-officio, Miss Gladys Harrison, secretary and from Minneapolis; Mrs. Milton D. Purdy, Mrs. A. W. Strong, Mrs. Walter Thorp, Miss Marguerite Wells, Mrs. A. L. Searle, Mrs. W. T. Coe and Miss Hope McDonald; from St. Paul, Mrs. Jane Humbird Burr, Mrs. Cornelis Lusk and Miss Anita Furness.

Preliminary programs of the conference and letters urging attendance were sent out by the presidents of various organizations whose interest in the coming conference had been enlisted by the temporary committee and who were asked to appoint organization delegates. The organizations cooperating in this way in planning the conference were the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, the Degree of Honor, the Woodmen's Circle and the ~~xxGxTx~~ Minnesota Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The response to the appeal was excellent and brought together ~~142xxx~~ at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis 440 accredited delegates: 216 from Minneapolis, 105 from St. Paul and 119 from other parts of the state. The attendance at the conference sessions during the two days averaged 600 delegates and visitors while some 3000 men and women attended the mass meeting addressed by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt on "Our Nation - What Can We Do for It?"

<sup>general</sup>  
Mrs. A. W. Strong was chairman of x local arrangements and toastmistress at the banquet

Sub-committees working with Mrs. Strong had as chairman Mrs. Walter Thorp, publicity; Mrs. Victor H. Troendle, hotel and banquet committee; Mrs. Horace Lowry, reception committee; Mrs. George H. Partridge, ushers; Mrs. Robert Weiskopf, House Committee; Mrs. Hiram Ross, trans-



portation; Mrs. Manley Fosseen, information and Mrs. Denman Johnson in charge of an information service maintained at both railroad stations to welcome delegates and direct them to their hotels.

The first officers of the League, elected at this conference, were Mrs. Andreas Ueland, president; Miss Marguerite Wells, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Jane Humbired Burr, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight, recording secretary; Miss Cornelia Lusk, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Russell Bennett, treasurer. There were the following directors chosen Mrs. A. L. Searle, Mrs. Walter Thorp, Mrs. William T. Coe of Minneapolis; and Mrs. J. O. Sylvester, Mrs. W. J. Logue and Miss Anita Furness of Saint Paul. Committee chairmen immediately named were Miss Hope McDonald, American Citizenship; Mrs. James Paige, Unification of Laws for Women; Mrs. W. H. Gemmell, Child Welfare; Dr. Mabel Ulrich, Social Hygiene.

~~Exxxxxx~~ District vice-presidents, one for each congressional district, were also elected at the October conference as follows: Mrs. D. L. Morse of Blue Earth, district 2; Mrs. C. M. Stockton of Faribault, district 3; Mrs. Frances Buell Olson of St. Paul, district 4; Mrs. A. W. Strong of Minneapolis, district 5; Mrs. C. H. Maxson of St. Cloud, D 6; Mrs. John Serrin of Glenwood, D 7; Mrs. C. C. Colton of Duluth D 8; Mrs. William Russell of Moorhead, D 8; Mrs. A. C. Giddings of Anoka D 10.

The first work of the new organization was to extend organization into the political subdivisions of the state. The last of the congressional districts was organized by June 1920 and organization by counties was reported well under way. Minnesota was named as the "banner" state at the first convention of the National League of Women Voters, because of its success in building up a state organization in record time.

Registration for the first citizenship course to be given under the auspices of the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, at the Court House in Minneapolis beginning November 17 was begun during the conference session.

Miss Edna Akre of Minneapolis who selected the Minnesota League of Women Voters as the subject of her thesis for her Masters degree as a graduate student ~~inxxxx~~ in political science at the University of Minnesota in 1925-26, says of the League: "There are two unique things about the League.

In the first place, it is directing the study of government in order to discover what its defects are and then to create public opinion to correct these defects; secondly, it is the first organization to make a conscious attempt to prepare a newly enfranchised group for its own political duties. The purpose of the League may thus be said to be two-fold: it aims to educate the voter and to sponsor legislation.

# *Miss Wells, State President, Tells Of History of Voters' League at 10th Birthday Luncheon, St. Paul*

High spots in the history and activities of the Minnesota League of Women Voters in the 10 years of its life were touched upon by Miss Marguerite M. Wells, state president, as presiding officer at the 10th birthday convention luncheon today in the St. Paul hotel.

Teachers' college won second place in the college homecoming day parade with a Get-Out-the-Vote float. Minneapolis league conducted eight bi-weekly study groups with an attendance of 125 women.

ST. CLOUD TIMES,

Nov. 2, 1929



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E.C. I do not know whether this will be at all helpful, but it was the only way I was certain of not missing something - which I ~~have~~ I have not. AH

November, 1926, board meeting

1. Woman Citizen Drive
2. Candidates' adds in Women Voter
3. Radio Dialogues (number and subject matter?)
4. Interviews with Senators on Sheppard Towner, before their return to Washington. Letters sent also.
5. Delegates to Cause and Cure of War Conference (McKnight and Paige)

December, 1926, board meeting

1. Communications urging the president of U.S. to continue negotiations for World Court. Letter sent to pres. (suggestions of Mrs. Park)
2. Legislative work plans - state League chairmen for each department in charge of her subject (according to board minutes) ??
3. Interview with Governor for woman member on industrial commission
4. Questionnaire on direct primary sent to secretaries of state by JWW

February, 1927, board meeting

1. Questionnaire on Jury Service; also beginnings of Renville Co. Case
2. Filibuster on Sheppard Towner described by M. Owen.
3. Collection of suffrage opinions
4. Voting habits survey

March, 1927, board meeting

1. Resolution on Mrs. Ueland's death; memorial services; memorial Voter
2. Work on poll of house for C.L.A.
3. Peffer reprint on Adult Education

April, 1927, board meeting

1. Work on 54 hour bill and its defeat
2. Education bills
3. Report on Women in Public Office
4. Launching memorial to Mrs. Ueland (not really League, I guess)



*Julie Hennrichson*

## History

The LWV of the U.S. was born in 1919 as an offshoot of the National American Woman Suffrage Association which had just about completed its main goal of obtaining the vote for women of the U.S. Anticipating that the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Const. would soon be passed, the women involved in the NAWSA felt that a new organization would be most appropriate. This was the LWV which was founded to increase the effectiveness of women's votes in furthering better government. From 1920-24 the League took on a vast program of 69 items - at that time they called for a re-evaluation of the League in 5 years to see if it would be advisable to continue the new organization. Since that time the League has grown and prospered until there are 135,551 members in 1181 units in all 50 states. *(Find new members in National Facts)*

And what are these thousands of women trying to accomplish? Early League presidents had these thoughts on League purpose. Maud Wood Park, 1st pres, said ~~this~~ "The actual work of the League the end for which organization supplies the means - is, first of all, training for citizenship."

The second president, Belle Sherwin, termed it ~~this~~ "Study without action is abortive."

Marguerite Wells, 3rd president said, "The League's purpose in government." has been to promote active participation ~~throughout the~~

Today the purpose of the League remains basically the same. to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government - you notice that all citizens are included - not just women's voting effectiveness as expressed in the early days of the League. The informed and active participation remain the key words. This may be carried on through choice of a Program by League members, study of this

Program by members, consensus or agreement on the course of action and the action itself - all this makes up the Program portion of League activity. We may also carry <sup>on</sup> our informed and active <sup>citizen</sup> participation through our Voters Service activities which offer nonpartisan factual information to citizens on structure and function of government and of the political parties and on voting procedures, election issues, and candidates. This is done through <sup>ings</sup> cand. meet, speakers bureaus, questionnaires etc.

What are the policies of the League? The first is that the League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. Action in support of or in opposition to a particular item may be taken only on a limited number of subjects which the League has studied and reached agreement or consensus. If the League has no position on a subject, it may take no action aside from providing unbiased information on the subject, being sure that both sides of the question are presented as equally as possible.

The second policy is the Leagues nonpartisan policy which has been a part of the League from its inception. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidates. This has kept the League free to welcome women of all opinions to work together. It has kept the League free from pressures of parties or factions and kept it free to seek solutions in the public interest by fresh inquiry and objective study. It makes the League beholden to no one and gives added value to League position on issues.

To maintain this nonpartisan policy women who are in positions of League leadership such as Board members, refrain from engaging in partisan politics during their term of office. The ordinary League member is encouraged to be active in her own political party.

Report on OrganizationTHE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Organized Oct. 28, 29, 1919.

Report dated March 10, 1920.

In all its organization work the Minnesota League of Women Voters has adhered to three basic principles, which were deemed essential to large-scale and thoroughly democratic organization:

1. Individual non-dues paying memberships. (Organization memberships, with dues, are also provided for.
2. Organization following the political divisions - by state, congressional district, county, township, ward and precinct.
3. Finance under a system of budget and apportionment, quotas being assigned to every county in the state in proportion to its scientifically determined ability-to-pay.

Organization has proceeded from the top down, in a series of Conferences, the general plan of which will be described.

STATE ORGANIZATION

Under the constitution, the League is governed by the State Board, which is made up as follows:

- Officers - elected at the annual meeting
- President
- 2 vice-presidents at large
- 10 vice-presidents representing the 10 congressional districts
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- 6 Directors - elected at the annual meeting
- 8 State Chairmen of National Committees - appointed  
(6 actual appointments have been made)

The Board holds monthly meetings, and the traveling expenses of the 10 vice-presidents representing the congressional districts are paid by the League.

The Executive Committee consists of 5 women appointed by the Board from its own membership to transact certain necessary business in the absence of the Board.

The Advisory Council consists of 25 women appointed by the Board and representing important groups and organizations in the state.

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The various congressional districts are empowered to draw up their own constitutions, provided it conforms to the state constitution. A typical district organization is that of the Third Congressional District.



Chairmen (with position of vice-president on the State Board)  
2 vice-presidents  
Corresponding secretary  
Recording secretary  
Treasurer  
Auditor  
3 directors  
10 County chairmen (1 for each county in the district)

All these officers were elected at the district organization Conference. In future county chairmen will probably be elected at county meetings.

County chairmen are responsible for completing organization of their counties, appointing or providing for the election of township chairmen, and for raising the county's quota under the state budget.

#### HOW ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN SECURED

##### General Organization Conference, Oct. 28-29, 1919

The Minnesota League of Women Voters was organized at a two-day conference held in Minneapolis, which included

4 Conference Sessions  
a banquet &  
a general mass meeting

Preliminary work included circularization with letters and printed calls of state-wide lists as follows:

Hennepin County Suffrage Assn.	1100
State Suffrage Association	600
Ramsey County Suffrage Assn.	535
Farmers' Clubs	1200
Federated Clubs, W.C.T.U.	
Fraternal Women, etc.	
To a total of	<u>5500</u>

Intensive publicity work was carried on for three weeks preceding the Conference, including the carrying of street car cards in all Minneapolis and Minneapolis-St. Paul cars for four days. Much publicity work was carried on in the state at large so that the League of Women Voters was brought before the whole state at the same time in an authoritative and striking manner.

The co-operation of all women's organizations was enlisted and secured. A rough basis for the apportionment of delegates was worked out and delegate blanks furnished to the various organizations. Women coming from distant parts of the state were generally accepted as delegates from their particular communities and were registered as such at the Conference. The Credentials Committee reported 440 delegates, 216 being from Minneapolis, 105 from St. Paul, and 119 from other parts of the state.

Organization was effected by the adoption of a constitution and the adoption of the report of the nominating committee, each delegate being allowed to vote. Representatives of each congressional district caucused during the Conference to recommend a candidate for the district vice-presidency to the nominating committee.

The estimated attendance at the Conference was:

Conference sessions, average	600
Banquet	650
Mass Meeting	3000

The program was built up around the flying-team of visiting national leaders, Mrs. Catt, Mrs. McCullough, Miss Lathrop, Miss Costigan and Dr. Parker, with many local speakers.

#### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION CONFERENCES

A general plan has been worked out for the holding of district organization Conferences:

##### Circularization and publicity

At least three weeks before the Conference, letters of invitation signed by the district chairman are mailed to a list consisting of:

Suffrage Workers

Federated Clubs

Farmers Clubs

Additional names of prominent women secured by district chairman

These letters are typed and prepared at the state office but actually signed and mailed by the district chairman.

A second circularization of this list is made one or two weeks before the Conference with a printed call which includes a tentative program of the Conference.

Circularization of every paper in the district is done at least three times by the state press chairman. It pays to have thorough and responsible publicity done from headquarters, preventing possible misunderstandings and paving the way for county organization work later on.

A local press chairman for the Conference sees to special publicity in the local papers, the preparation of dodgers, stickers, etc. and the awakening of interest on the part of the local organizations. The state press chairman furnishes every district press chairman with a list of all the papers in her district.

##### Field Work:

A district organization conference can be successful only if every county is adequately represented. To insure the coming of delegates, a field worker, usually supplied from the state office but sometimes coming from the district, is sent around through the district. Her duties are to

Address meetings about the League and about the Conference.

Get women to attend - suggest to local clubs that they appoint and pay the expenses of a delegate.

Interview newspaper editors

Report possibilities for county chairmen to nominating committee

Appoint a temporary chairman in each town to forward names of delegates and suggestions for county chairman to conference headquarters.

Get women to sign membership blanks



### Program

The usual plan is for a two-day Conference with three or four regular Conference sessions, and one big evening meeting of a popular character. The program is made up by the state office in consultation with the local program committee. The principal speakers being secured by the state office.

### FINANCE

#### The Budget - Where the Money Goes

A budget of \$50,000 for the first year's work was adopted by the State Board. The chief expenditures allowed under this budget are:

1. Expenses of 10 district organization conferences-  
Circularization  
Speakers  
Attendance of 5 members of State Board  
Printing
2. Organization worker, 3 months in each district, to complete organization
3. Travelling expenses of district vice-presidents to State Board Meetings
4. Literature and circularization
5. Maintenance of State headquarters in Minneapolis (present staff 2 stenographers, executive secretary and press chairman.)

To this has been added the services of an educational director, who will divide her time among the various congressional districts, conducting schools of political education.

#### Quotas and Apportionment - How the Money Comes

The amount of the budget is apportioned among the 86 counties of the State, according to their resources and ability to pay. The proportions used have been scientifically determined, and are the same as those used by great organizations which conducted finance drives during the war. No complaint has been made against the fairness of this system of apportionment.

Each district is responsible for paying into the state treasury the entire quota for all the counties in that district. The county chairman, in turn, is responsible for paying into the district treasury the amount of the county quota. The county quotas vary from \$47. to \$11,452.

The work of raising funds falls roughly into three parts:

1. Preliminary canvass before the Conference.  
Personal solicitation from a selected list of generous givers.
2. Public appeal for funds at the Conference.  
This is done at the popular evening meeting, the appeal being made by a specially prepared speaker, and careful arrangements being made for the distribution of pledge cards, etc.

3. Follow-up work to raise the balance of the quota  
 Personal solicitation for large amounts  
 Letters to those expected to give \$5 and \$10 pledges  
 Distribution of coin-cards and pledge cards at meetings,  
 citizenship classes, etc.

The importance of the Conference as an occasion for raising funds cannot be over-emphasized. For example, at the state organization held in Minneapolis, the amount pledged from Minneapolis contributors (about \$6000.) amounted to about one half the quota for the Fifth Congressional District (Minneapolis) which is the largest in the entire state. The quota for the county in which the Third District Conference was held amounted to \$552. At the evening mass meeting the county quota was heavily over-subscribed, and the total subscriptions amounted to almost one third of the total district quota.

#### POLITICAL EDUCATION

The work of starting classes in political education has followed organization, and, like organization, has proceeded from the top down. The following brief outline shows how the work branches out until it reaches every woman voter in the community.

1. Intensive short courses given by the University of Minnesota in co-operation with the League of Women Voters

First course in Minneapolis - Attendance 750 - Fee for full course \$3, evenings \$1.50. The expenses of the district vice presidents were paid to enable them to attend this course. Women from all parts of the state attended.

Second Course in St. Paul for local women - Attendance 400 - fee charged.

2. Community mass meetings or citizenship rallies

In St. Paul first mass meeting at St. Paul Auditorium - Mrs. Raymond Robins, speaker, Capacity attendance

In Minneapolis first of a series of mass meetings in City Hall, State Speakers. Capacity attendance.

3. Citizenship courses arranged for women's clubs, industrial groups, girls' boarding houses, etc., with speakers furnished by the League. No fee.
4. House-to-house work in cities to reach the woman at home. In Minneapolis a house-to-house canvass is being made to secure the names of women interested in neighborhood citizenship schools, so that League schools may be conducted in every precinct.
5. In rural districts simple schools in political education, on the line recommended at the Chicago school, under the direction of the state educational director or of qualified district leaders. These schools are being placed as rapidly as possible in the towns easiest of access. This work is only begun.

Fees have been charged of necessity, for the University

courses; and clubs, asking for league speakers, are required to pay the traveling expenses.

In raising funds to make up the state budget, however, our strongest plea is that we aim to put free political education within the reach of all the women voters of the state, and it is probable, therefore, that no fee will be charged for schools conducted by the League itself.



## ORGANIZATION

The organization of the Minnesota League of Women Voters took place about a year and a half ago. The key-word of organization policy may, perhaps, be said to be decentralization.

The chairman of each of the states' ten congressional districts is vice-chairman of the League, member of the board, and attends, expenses paid, the monthly board meeting. She is to a large extent responsible for the organization of her district, appointing county chairmen or arranging for their election. After its organization a county is left as much as is feasible to its own devices.

During the first six months of the League's existence, district conferences were held in each congressional district, attended by state officers and speakers.

Instead of sending pair organizers from headquarters out into the state, the district chairman is encouraged to travel in her own district, expenses paid from the central treasury.

To each county is assigned a certain quota of the state budget, an amount arrived at on a strictly scientific basis according to population and resources computed from figures obtained from the Federal Reserve Bank of the district. Thus Minneapolis, for instance, paid a larger relative share of the budget last year than, for instance, the third district in which there is no large city.

Whatever success Minnesota has had in organization work accordingly is due to the district chairmen and to the fast and furious follow-up work of Miss Gladys Harrison, Executive Secretary, who in the interest of the women of the state has turned herself into a human encyclopedia legislative manual, timetable and congressional record.

## POLITICAL EDUCATION

Twice since its organization, the Minnesota League of Women Voters has cooperated with the University of Minnesota in holding University Extension Courses, once on general subjects of political education, and recently, in preparation for spring elections on the subject of municipal government. Both courses were well attended by women from the state.

Miss Emily Kneubuhl, director of political education, has held a round of schools, from one to three days in length, all over the state, 67 counties to date. In this work she has been only too successful--wherever she has gone she is urged to come again, and counties which have not yet been visited, knowing her by reputation, clamor for her. To meet this demand and to encourage self-reliance, Miss Kneubuhl has formed many Speakers' Bureaus of home talent and conducted classes in public speaking with a good deal of success.

## PRESS

The Minnesota League of Women Voters counts a good deal on newspaper publicity. The Minneapolis papers go into almost every county of the state and Mrs. Thorp keeps them full of League of Women Voters news. In addition she sends monthly bulletins to about 600 papers in the state. She also knows how to teach the League of Women Voters women out in the state how to get their activities into the papers. When anything happens in the state, we are likely to hear about it at headquarters through our press clippings.

*So many sent*



## LEGISLATION

Many months before the opening of the legislature this winter, the League of Women Voters set up a legislative council of which Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Honorary President of the League, is chairman. This Council is composed of the state chairman of the special committees and of the chairmen of the legislative committees of 15 women's organizations in the state. Before this Council had come, not only the recommendations of our own national committees but also suggestions from other sources, the whole to be made a matter of special study by subcommittees so that the final recommendation of the Legislative Council has been so well founded in every case that it has been accepted by the State Board of the League of Women Voters. The result has been a program of eleven bills, actively supported not only by Mrs. Ueland and her little group of lobbyists who are at the Capitol every day, but by the membership of the League throughout the state who are assiduous in their attention to the Legislature and by many other women of other organizations.

*has 100,000*

*1st Minn. League*

The Call to League of Women Voters Conference read:

"The Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association, according to instructions from the National American Woman Suffrage Assn., hereby issues a call to a State Conference to be held at the Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, October 28th and 29th, for the purpose of forming the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

"Our great national leader, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, will be with us and will personally take charge of the section on Citizenship. Such leaders as Julia Lathrop, Head of the National Children's Bureau, Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch, chairman of the Unification of Laws for Women Committee, Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, chairman of the Food Supply and Demand Committee, and other national leaders will make this one of the most notable meetings ever held in the Northwest.

"The work for woman suffrage is practically over. The right to vote for President of the United States has been given the women of the State, and the Legislature, called in special session, has ratified the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

"Great actual and potential power is now vested in the women of the State. We must confer in order, first--that we may become enlightened voters and, second--to consider plans by which this great power may be directed for the good of the State.

"Our Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association will soon cease to exist. Let us build in its place a mightier organization, which shall include all women and all organizations having for their purpose the raising of our standards of living and the safeguarding of our cherished institutions.

"COME TO THE CONFERENCE!

"Together the women of the state must make wise and farseeing plans to the end that our dreams of a democracy, in which men and women shall have an equal voice, must come true."

Clara Ueland



League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Permanent organization effected Wednesday, October 29, 1919.  
Officers elected were:

Mrs. Andreas Ueland, President  
Miss Marguerite Wells, First Vice President  
Mrs. Stiles Burr, Second Vice President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight, Secretary  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, Corresponding Secretary  
Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Treasurer

Mrs. Charles Mayo, V. P.	from the 1st District
Mrs. D. L. Morse	do 2nd "
Mrs. C. M. Stockton	do 3rd "
Mrs. Frances Buell Olson	do 4th "
Mrs. A. W. Strong	do 5th "
Mrs. C. H. Maxson	do 6th "
Mrs. John Serrin	do 7th "
Mrs. C. C. Colton	do 8th "
Mrs. William Russell	do 9th "
Mrs. John Irwin	do 10th "

The committee on organization included:

Mrs. James Paige, Mrs. Walter Thorp, Miss Nellie Merrill, Mrs.  
Milton Purdy, Miss Cornelia Lusk, Mrs. A. W. Strong, Mrs. Andreas Ueland,  
Mrs. Stiles W. Burr, Miss Marguerite M. Wells, Miss Gladys Harrison,  
Miss Anita Furness, Mrs. A. L. Searle, Mrs. Kenaston, Mrs. Troendle.

First annual convention held at Curtis Hotel, Mpls. Dec. 7, 8, 9th 1920.

At this time the officers were:

Miss Marguerite M. Wells, President  
Mrs. Stiles W. Burr, Second V. P.  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, Corresponding Secretary  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight, Recording Secretary  
Mrs. Russell M. Bennett, Treas.

Cong. Dist. V. P.s

Mrs. J. A. Melone, Rochester	1st Dist.
Mrs. David L. Morse, Blue Earth	2nd
Mrs. C. M. Stockton, Faribault	3rd
Mrs. Frances Buell Olson, St. Paul	4th
Mrs. Walter J. Marcley, Mpls.	5th
Miss Ruth H. Mitchell, St. Cloud	6th
Mrs. John R. Serrin, Glenwood	7th
Mrs. Chauncey C. Colton, Duluth	8th
Mrs. Robert Hannah, Fergus Falls	9th
Mrs. J. E. Spencer, Wayzata	10th

Directors: Mrs. Wm. T. Coe, Chairman Organization Com  
Mrs. Augustus L. Searle, Chairman Finance Com  
Mrs. Walter H. Thorp, Chairman Press Com  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Chrmn. Leg. Council  
Mrs. John M. Guise  
Mrs. William J. Logue

State Chairmen of Natl Committees:

Miss Hope McDonald, American Citizenship  
Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson, Protection of Wom. in Industry  
Mrs. W. H. Gemmell, Child Welfare

Dr. Mabel S. Ulrich, Social Hygiene  
Miss Florence Monahan, Unification of Laws concerning Civil Status of Women  
Miss Ruth Rosholt, Research  
Miss Emily Kneubuhl, Director of Political Education  
Miss Gladys Harrison, Executive Secretary  
Mrs. James Paige, Director 5th Region Natl. LWV (Minn, Iowa, N. Dako, S. Dak.,  
Montana, Wyoming)

District representatives on Convention Committee (1st Convention):

1st Dist. Mrs. J. F. D. Meighen, Albert Lea (still a contributor)  
2nd Dist. Mrs. C. V. Everett, Redwood Falls  
3rd Dist. Mrs. C. W. Newhall, Faribault  
4th Dist. Mrs. C. A. Severance, St. Paul  
Mrs. J. T. Hale  
Miss Alice O'Brien  
6th Dist. Miss Marguerite Bunnell, St. Cloud  
7th Dist. Mrs. C. F. Ewing, Wheaton  
8th Dist. Mrs. Frank Fregeau, Duluth  
9th Dist. Mrs. O. M. Dickerson, Fergus Falls  
10th Dist. Mrs. Gus Peterson, Anoka

Parliamentarian of Convention - Mrs. A. K. Gault, St. Peter

General Conv. Committee: Chairman, Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight; Vice Chairman,  
Mrs. A. E. Zonne

Mrs. James Paige	Mrs. Walter J. Marcley
Mrs. A. E. Helmick	Miss Nellie L. Merrill
Mrs. Louis L. Swarthe	Miss Gladys Harrison
Mrs. John A. Bovey	Mrs. Walter H. Thorp
Mrs. George H. Partridge	Mrs. Robert F. Pack
Miss Lillian Ritchie	Mrs. Milton D. Purdy
Miss Ruth Eggleston	Miss Sophia Hall
Mrs. Harry W. Rubins	
Mrs. W. A. French	
Mrs. Eugene Yeates	

On program of Organization meeting 10/29/19 were:

Miss Hope McDonald, Minn. Chrm. Amer. Citizenship Com. LWV  
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Pre. Natl. Amer. Woman Suffrage Assn.  
Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, 2nd V. P. Genl. Fed. of Women's Clubs  
Mrs. James G. Swan, Minn. Chrmn. Child Welfare Com LWV  
Mrs. James Paige  
Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, Natl. Chairmn. Food Sup. and Demand Com LWV  
Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch, Natl. Chrmn. Unification of Laws Com LWV  
Dr. Mabel S. Ulrich, Minn. Chrmn. Social Hygiene Com LWV

Mrs. C. E. Wise was Chairman Dist. Publicity Committee 1920



A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE  
ASSOCIATION INTO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. by L. Chalmers

The National American Woman Suffrage Association was started in 1820 and held its first Convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls New York, the home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This association had been carrying on for 50 years when, it being apparent that its objective was about to be attained, it created The National League of Women Voters, having as its avowed purpose "to foster education in citizenship and support improved legislation".

All state suffrage associations where there was full woman suffrage became automatically members of the League of Women Voters. Those associations where there was presidential suffrage retained their name and relation to the National Woman's Suffrage Association, but took part in the new League of Women Voters' work. This National League of Women Voters was actually created at the convention in St. Louis in March, 1919, but it was at that time made an auxiliary of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association.

About a year later, the NAWSA held its final convention in Chicago, the Victory Convention, to wind up its affairs and start the League of Women Voters as an independent organization. The NAWSA left the last details of its affairs in the hands of the board to be finally disposed of when the National Woman Suffrage became an accomplished fact. Its final session was held Saturday morning February 14, 1920, and was called the Victory Convention. The first session of the National League of Women Voters was held that afternoon.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, famous feminist and former president of the NAWSA, had passed away, but recently, so the convention took time to honor her memory in a special ceremony. Also, later, a special memorial performance was given in honor of the hundredth birthday of Susan B. Anthony.

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It was on June 4, 1919, that the Congress of the United States passed the 19th, the "Anthony Amendment", and handed it to the states to be ratified. Minnesota ratified at a special session of the legislature on August 26, 1919, and we had a parade and a jollification in the rain on the steps of the capitol at that time.

At the time of the NAWSA convention of 1920 in Chicago, the 36th state needed to ratify the amendment to make it part of the constitution was still lacking. The Convention sent a resolution to the Suffrage Association of Washington State, urging it to be the 36th state, because altho it had women suffrage statewide, it had been slow about ratifying the amendment to the national constitution. As it turned out, Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify, due to the special efforts of Mrs. Catt with its legislature, which ratified on August 26, 1920

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt was president of the NAWSA and the inspiration of the about-to-be League of Women Voters. The idea was hers. The scheme of organization was hers, and so was its avowed purpose. She was particularly strong for education in citizenship. She thought, though as did others of its leaders at the time that its life need not be long, that it would accomplish its mission in a few years, maybe five, and then disband!

Mrs. Catt presided at the 51st Annual Convention of the NAWSA held February 12, 13, and 14, and at the First Congress of the NLWV held February 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, 1920. She presided wonderfully.

A Constitution and By Laws were drawn up and ratified and Mrs. Maud Wood Park was elected President. She was succeeded in 1924 by Belle Sherwin and she in turn by Miss Wells in 1934.

In the original organization of the National League of Women Voters, the country was divided into seven regions and seven directors were elected for these regions. They were: Miss Catherine Ludington of Connecticut, Mrs. F. Louis Slade of New York, Miss Della Dortsch of Tennessee, Miss Elizabeth of Ohio, Mrs. James Paige of Minnesota, Mrs. George Gelhorn of Missouri, Mrs. C. B. Simmons of Oregon.

Eight departments, then called committees, of the League had been created at the St. Louis Convention of 1919. They were:

1. Protection of Women in Industry, Mrs. Raymond Robins.
2. Food Supply and Demand, Mrs. Costigan.
3. Social Hygiene, Dr. Valeria Parker.
4. Child Welfare, Mrs. Percy Pennybacker.
5. American Citizenship, Mrs. Bagley.
6. Unification of Laws Concerning the Legal Status of Women, Mrs. McCulloch.
7. Election Laws and Methods, Mrs. Catt.
8. Research, Mrs. Mary Sumner Boyd, Washington, D. C.

These committees, having been appointed previously, had been at work, and now made extensive reports and recommendations to the Convention. The Sheppard Towner bill that became our friend for so long was first endorsed by the League at this convention.

Miss Grace Abbott was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, but the report of that committee was given by Alice Stone Blackwell, that sweet little old lady who embodied for us not only her own labor and devotion but that of her mother, Lucy Stone.

Jane Addams and Florence Kelly took prominent parts in that convention. Maria Sanford made one of the best addresses of all the fine ones made there. A beautiful pageant was given on Saturday evening, St. Valentine's Day, wherein the periods of time through which the suffrage movement had struggled were portrayed by women dressed in costumes of those periods. It was a gorgeous display and appropriately climaxed by a living picture of Miss Blackwell beautifully gowned and framed.

A combination session of the NAWSA and the N.L.W.V. was held on the last day, Wednesday, February 18. It adopted resolutions and recommended Mrs. Catt's plan for citizenship schools. Since 1920 was a year for adding new names to the Hall of Fame, the convention recommended that of Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Julia Ward Howe.

The memorial program in memory of Susan B. Anthony on the hundredth anniversary of her birthday followed that final session. That evening a school for citizenship began under the direction of Mrs. Catt and lasted a week.

The League of Women Voters lost no time in getting into its program for political education of women. It passed a resolution at that convention that each woman should join the party of her choice and make her influence felt in its councils. Though the League as a whole determined to take no partizan stand and endorse no candidates, it wanted its members to carry into the parties League principles and policies.

The League sent a delegate to each party convention of 1920 with planks that it wanted endorsed. There were 13 of these planks: on Child Welfare, Living Costs, Education, Women in Industry, Public Health, Citizenship of Married Women, etc. League members did their best to get elected as delegates to the party conventions that summer with some success.

### Minnesota

The Woman Suffrage movement began in Minnesota as far back as 1869 when on Miss



Miss Jane Gray Swisshelm, (an aunt, by the way, of our present State President, Ruth Mitchell), spoke for it. She was editor of the St. Cloud Democrat and a woman of exceptional intellectual attainments. Another early speaker was Harriet Bishop of Duluth.

#### Equality

In 1880 the Minneapolis Political Club was started by Dr. Ethel Hurd who remained its president until it was merged in the Henn. Co. Suffrage Association in 1912. This club was well sprinkled with doctors. Dr. Mary Whetsone, Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, Dr. Margaret Koch. Prominent among its members also were Mrs. S. A. Stockwell, Mrs. A. H. Bright. It was a struggling unpopular movement. The dues were \$50¢

About 1912, Mrs. Andreas Ueland was taken with a bright idea. She organized the Hennepin County Women's Suffrage Association, putting the dues at \$5. At once many rich and socially prominent women joined and suffrage became popular. The legislature began to take notice.

Later we rented a room on the ground floor on Nicollet where we held meetings every week. Business was conducted by those present and an open forum took place with appointed speakers to lead.

Mrs. H. G. Harrison was one of the presidents. Other faithful workers were Mrs. Finsterbach, Mrs. Milton Purdy, Mrs. David Simpson and others.

The club was organized by districts. When U. S. entered the war the group met and did war work making bandages. The headquarters were turned over to war work.

Some of the districts held their organization together thru the war, getting ready for the final ratification campaign, but most of them did not do so. When the time for the ratification campaign came, Miss Wells was put in charge and a whole new organization was created for the purpose. That was in the spring of 1919.

The organization of the Minnesota State Women's suffrage Association followed that of the Minneapolis Political Equality Club by about one year. It was started in 1881 with Sarah Berger Stearns as its president. Other presidents were Julia B. Nelson of Red Wing Mrs. A. H. Bright, Mrs. C. F. Lutz, and Mrs. S. A. Stockwell became its president in 1901 to serve for 10 years. Mrs. Andreas Ueland became its president in 1914 and continued in that office until its end in 1920. The State Legislature gave Minnesota women presidential suffrage in March, 1919.

The organization meeting of the Minn. League of Women Voters was called by the Minn. Suffrage Association on October 28 and 29, 1919 at the Radisson Hotel. All possible womens groups were asked to send delegates to help in its organization. Hope McDonald was then president of the Hennepin County W. S. A. and Mrs. Ueland was president of the State. W. S. A.

Mrs. Ueland was elected president of the first State League of Women Voters. Miss Marguerite Wells became the first vice-president, Miss Cornelia Lusk secretary, Mrs. James Paige, chairman of a temporary committee on organization. The conference lasted two days, ending with a mass meeting at the auditorium (now the Lyric Theatre) in which many prominent men as well as women took part. A list of prominent men was obtained for an advisory committee for publicity purposes.

After a few months, Miss Wells succeeded Mrs. Ueland as State President and served until 1931 when Miss Ruth Mitchell became President.

correct for Miss Lusk

The first citizenship school of the League of Women Voters was held at the University of Minnesota, November 17-21, 1919. It was hoped that the 36th state would have ratified the suffrage amendment by the time of the primaries in the following spring. District League's were soon formed in the ten state congressional districts. The League was the first group to make conscious attempt to educate voters for political duties. It was also the first to hold unpartisan candidates meetings. A Legislative Council (representatives from various women's organizations interested in legislation) was started by the L.W.V. in July, 1920.

As the League was first organized by districts our Minneapolis League was known as the Fifth District League for several years. Its organization meeting was held October 19, 1919. The first president was Mrs. A. W. Strong. She was succeeded in a short time by Mrs. McKnight who served nearly ten years. Mrs. Harrington Beard followed her and was succeeded by Mrs. Charles M. Denny, then by Mrs. Harold G. Cant. Ruth Haynes Carpenter was the first Executive Secretary. Sumptuous offices were obtained at tenth and Nicollet with a room large enough for general meetings which were always crowded.

Among the early workers in the League, to mention only a few, were Mrs. E. W. Hawley, Mrs. Walter Marckley, Miss Nellie Merrill, Mrs. James Paige, Mrs. Emily Smith, Mrs. Ruth Haynes Carpenter, and Mrs. Jean Wittich. The city was organized by wards. Each ward chairman had an organization and held meetings in her ward.

Committees were formed to visit the city boards and commissions. Each committee consisted of several women. They met and talked over what they had heard. A monthly meeting of all the League was held to hear the reports of these committees. Sometimes these reports were amazingly frank, and dangerously so, for there were reporters present and we began to get in wrong with the personnel of the city government. We had to become more circumspect. Naturally, at first, the League consisted largely of older women for it was started by the old warhorses of the suffrage movement, but its appeal is to all serious women who want to be good citizens and its is gratifying to see increasing numbers of younger women taking part.

At first, there were no dues. It was intended to be as open to membership as a political party. Its support was obtained from contributions, rich and poor alike and many influential people were interested in it. Any woman could become a member by expressing her interest by signing a card. By that means, some 3000 members were obtained. But this number was found to constitute a too expensive mailing list, so a minimum of \$1 was required from those who wished to remain on the mailing list. All members were expected to contribute what they could. Later this \$1 was increased to \$2, and in 1935 regular membership was set at \$5, with a "partially sustaining membership" of \$2. Large contributions became harder to get with the depression, and the League runs along now on less than half of what it used at first. The Minneapolis League membership numbers about 600.



FILE COPY

**Five  
Questions  
?**

Fifth District League of Women Voters  
321 Meyers Arcade Minneapolis, Minn.

# FIVE QUESTIONS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1. Does the League of Women Voters intend to become a separate party for women?

Emphatically not, we urge our members to enroll in the political parties of their choice, and expect to have their help inside party lines in securing party support for our measures.

2. Will the League duplicate the work already done by other organizations of women?

In places, yes, but as a whole, no. At various points we overlap slightly, and with relation to these branches of work we arrange for co-operation with those existing organizations already engaged in such work, but no other organization is devoting its energies exclusively to organization in citizenship and the interests of women as voting citizens. Other organizations are eagerly welcoming our assistance along the lines where their interests touch ours and the National League of Women Voters presents the co-ordination on a large scale of women's energies behind women's interests.

3. Does it interfere with the work of women for their political parties?

No, the work for the parties and the work for the League are not in any sense antagonistic but rather supple-

mentary. Well-rounded human life needs a period for consideration and reflection and then a time for action. Too much reflection does not bring results. Too hasty action brings results which must be reconsidered. The League of Women Voters gives women time to learn all sides of public questions as a basis for their party affiliations. In the same way, it gives women an opportunity to come together as women and to consider the measures women want and to see the advantage of these measures not from the point of view of party bias but rather from that of public welfare.

4. Is it a mistake to segregate women as voters in a request for special legislation for women and children?

We hope it will not be necessary to do this long, but it is necessary until we catch up with the present inequality of legislation which has been enacted by men from a masculine point of view.

5. Is the League of Women Voters merely the suffrage organization under another name?

No, because our organization numbers in its membership many women who were indifferent to or opposed to the granting of the ballot to women and who in this new field for women's work are manifesting a splendid spirit and a desire to make their vote effective.

(Excerpt from a speech delivered by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, President of the National League of Women Voters.)

# WHY JOIN

## The League of Women Voters?

**BECAUSE** It provides a meeting ground for women of all parties and all groups, where they may exchange ideas, make plans, and work together for things in which they have a common interest.

**BECAUSE** It gives disinterested unpartisan information on parties, candidates and measures.

**BECAUSE** It develops the intelligence of the individual voter through forums, discussions and the spread of information on public affairs, and offers programs for practical civic work.

**BECAUSE** It works for better legislation and for better law enforcement.

**BECAUSE** It unites the country's woman power into a new force for the humanizing of government.

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If ever the world sees a time when women shall come together purely and simply for the benefit and good of mankind, it will be a power such as the world has never known.

—Matthew Arnold.