



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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LWV of MINNESOTA

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS - 1957

# THE MINNESOTA VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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NO. 6

## TOGETHER WE EVOLVE A PROGRAM

### The New Delegate With Know-How

"I won't be home early after all—this is a hot convention," explained the League of Women Voters delegate in the Nicollet Hotel phone booth. "Besides, I have to stay and caucus!"

This conversation was repeated by many of the 257 delegates and 62 observers on May 16, the first day of the 36th state Convention in Minneapolis. The typical delegate was young, had small children and was attending her first Convention. She soon found that program-making for the League is exciting. She was relishing the process and was entirely equal to the task. It was clear from the start that she wanted the state program from 1957 to 1959 to have a "new look." To achieve this, she applied her liveliest efforts to the Current Agenda.

#### Whose Convention?

If there was any question in the new delegate's mind about who controlled the Convention, it was answered in the opening minutes of the program presentation.

The initial program, proposed earlier by the state Board after the first round of local League suggestions, had as Current Agenda "Conservation: A study of Water Resources." According to the state by-laws, the Board may "modify" the Current Agenda after the second round of suggestions. At this point the Board had dropped Conservation from the Current Agenda and had substituted as recommended items "Constitutional Revision" and "Financing Public Education."

#### "Point of Order"

A delegate from St. Paul "rose to a point of order," questioning the authority of the Board in so completely "modifying" the initial proposed program. The parliamentarian ruled the state Board had acted within its powers. However, another delegate appealed the ruling and the Convention voted the Board had overstepped its bounds.

Conservation fans had an excellent reason for their move: it restored their item to the recommended list, needing only a majority of votes instead of the two-thirds required to pass non-recommended items.

Now there were three recommended items. All were voted a place in the deliberations to be held the next day.

*(Continued on page 2, column 1)*

### What the Board Does Before Convention

In the League of Women Voters' role as a "democracy in microcosm," program-making is its legislative branch, its congress. Representatives of the membership go to the state Convention as uninstructed delegates to vote a program they believe will best serve the purpose of the League—to promote active participation of citizens in government. The state Board function is that of the executive branch: to formulate and present to the Convention what it believes is the best program. The Convention then makes the choice.

After the first round of program suggestions, the Board must quickly choose an initial proposal and send it out to be considered by the Leagues. Two things happen before the Convention:

1. The local Leagues send in second round suggestions based on the initial proposal.
2. The state Board formulates its final recommended program.

This act is preceded by an intense, though obviously not complete, Board study of the items it has proposed to see whether they will meet that all-important requirement: catch the interest and fire the imagination of the current and potential League member.

It was the Board procedure following the second round of suggestions which seemed, for a time, to puzzle Convention delegates.

An illustration of the pre-Convention program-making role of the Board may be seen in its handling of "Conservation: a study of Water Resources," the item the Board at first recommended for the Current Agenda.

Before making the final proposed program, the Board obtained and studied a policy statement of the President of the United States, Governor Freeman's recommendations on conservation to the 1957 Legislature, the report of an interim commission on water resources of the 1955 Legislature, the 1957 report of the Commissioner of Conservation and other documents from his department, materials on water pollution from the State Department of Health, and materials on water from the national LWV.

It consulted with experts in the State Department of Health and the political science department of the Uni-

*(Continued on page 4, column 1)*



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

## State Program 1957-1959

"The Program consists of state governmental measures on which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may take action. The Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities . . . constitute the Program."—State By-Laws

### CURRENT AGENDA

The Current Agenda is limited to such current state governmental issues as the state Convention chooses for concerted action. Action includes: 1. providing information; 2. building public opinion; and 3. supporting legislation.

- 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.
- II. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will evaluate election laws and procedures of the State of Minnesota and will work for changes if needed.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Continuing Responsibilities are those positions on state governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has given sustained attention, and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the state Convention.

- 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.

### The New Delegate

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

Two non-recommended items were also introduced. Delegates voted 83 to 139 not to give consideration to the proposal, "The LWV of Minnesota will study the tax problems of Minnesota." Upon a motion to reconsider, the proposal again lost, 84 to 138.

The second item was, "The LWV of Minnesota will evaluate the election laws and procedures of the State of Minnesota and work for changes if needed." This item was voted consideration, 123 to 104.

Although the delegate had earned an evening's relaxation, after dinner she rushed to a caucus to root for her favorite program items. Here, in the light of other Leagues' problems and attitudes, she saw the proposals more clearly.

Following much lively debate pro and con, the final score on Friday was: Conservation, lost by a vote of 54 to 204; Constitutional Revision, won by voice vote; Financing Public Education, lost by a vote of 72 to 171;

Election Laws, won by almost unanimous voice vote, to become the "new look." The recommended Continuing Responsibilities were approved without any changes.

What the state Board does on the first and second days of a Convention was never more clearly illustrated than this year. In presenting its proposed program on the opening day, the Board gives the best "pitch" it can to those items it recommends. The second day, the delegates must carry the debate. A state Board that fought possessively for "its" items on the second day would deserve just what it might get—a two-year "let-the-Board-do-it" program! The best measure of the membership's interest in the program and willingness to work on it is the delegates' debate and vote.

Who controlled the Convention? The delegate—and no doubt about it! She took home the program she wanted.

### Book Review in Brief

The 1957 Legislative Report is witty, exciting. Obtain for 50c at State Office.

### Dark Horse

"How appropriate." "Why didn't we think of that before?" "It's a good program item." These expressions reflected the reactions of the state Convention delegates to the dark horse in the Current Agenda Sweepstakes. Result: Minnesota Election Laws, a non-recommended item, gathered speed as the Convention progressed and swept across the finish line in the number two spot on our program for 1957-1959.

What were some of the reasons for the enthusiasm which greeted this entry into the program discussion? There was, first, the simple fact that League members wanted to know more about election laws. Our Voters Service activities are well received in the community; it was felt that we could do an even more effective job if more of us knew the rules and regulations of voting. Many of us, just because we are League members, are asked questions about voting, and we don't always know the answers. Study of the election laws item would help put each of us in a better position to serve voters. (Of course, in using what we learn, we will have to be careful not to mix Voters Service and program. Voters Service must be informative only, not critical.)

### Reform Is in the Air

Some of the information brought to the Convention indicated election law reform is in the air, and rightly so. The present state of our election laws causes confusion, misunderstanding and inefficiency. The 1957 session of the Legislature appointed an interim commission to examine our election laws and make recommendations for their improvement. This, therefore, seemed the right time to get in on the ground floor.

Because the act of voting is, for many citizens, their only participation in government, it is fundamental that they understand the mechanics of voting and that elections be properly conducted. Some of the particulars on which we will be working are absentee balloting, residence requirements, registration, administration, election costs and political party procedures and regulations.

Very soon, then, we will be studying, analyzing, making recommendations and ultimately supporting improvements in our election laws. We will be working in an area essential to the successful function of our democracy; certainly, voting is the key.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
15TH AND WASHINGTON AVES. S.E., MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

MRS. O. H. ANDERSON . . . . . President

MRS. HOWARD EVENSON . . . . . Editor

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### Our Golden Egg

Budget-making at the Convention was not a column of dull figures, but a series of delightful surprises, all leading to the conclusion that strong membership and strong finance go hand-in-hand.

Mrs. E. C. Williams, chairman, presented the proposed budget of \$21,688, a new high for the state League, constructing with colored paper a house that "jack" built, from foundation up. (Plug for publications: this idea, also used by the *St. Louis Park* League, is taken from the new national publication, "How to Spend Money for the League.")

*Cass Lake*, the little League with major-league spirit, was the first to pledge more than suggested, offering \$10 extra. *Owatonna* and *Rochester* each pledged \$25 more than recommended. A large number of Leagues met suggested increases.

The local League enthusiasm was typified by *Golden Valley*, which gave a \$25 "nest egg" check encased in a gilt shell. *St. Paul* also contributed \$25 to the special gifts fund. More good news came from three provisional Leagues. Their healthy pledges were: *Crystal*—\$125; *Minnetonka Village*—\$100; and *Robbinsdale*—\$125.

As a result, the final revised budget was \$21,583. The reduction of \$105 from the proposed budget was the least in memory. It was apparent that the state League has an intangible golden nest egg: the fact that, whether they give extra or whether they can't quite make the suggested pledge, the local Leagues are still contributing their utmost.

### Leading Lady

Amid applause and the popping of flash bulbs, Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves of Rochester was named winner of the annual Hope Washburn Award for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The first regular presentation of the certificate came during the Convention.

Mrs. Hargraves, who has just retired as constitutional revision chairman on the state Board, was state President from 1947 to 1951 and a member of the national Board from 1953 to 1955.

Fifteen other women from 10 local Leagues were nominated by 21 individuals, units and state Board members and by 13 local League Boards. Other nominees were Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Mahtomedi; Mrs. T. O. Everson, Mrs. Norman Grossman, Mrs. Reynold Jensen, Mrs. Elsbeth Parker, Miss Barbara Stuhler and Mrs. Frederick Winston, Minneapolis; Mrs. Gordon Grunditz, Richfield; Mrs. Donald Guthrie, Birchwood; Mrs. Stanley Kane, Golden Valley; Mrs. Roger Klein, Brainerd; Miss Dora Pletka and Miss Amelia Japs, Excelsior; Mrs. Gert-rude Wallinder, Duluth; Mrs. Basil Young, Hibbing.



## Spotlight on Keeping up With the Joneses

Curiosity about the neighbors is always natural; but it is actually praiseworthy in the League, where the price of keeping up with the Joneses is originality and hard work. One of the rewards of the final session of the Convention was the Spotlight on Local Leagues who won prizes or commendation in a number of fields. Their thumbnail success stories provided inspiration and many practical tips.

Prizes of office equipment were awarded as follows:

### Public Relations

*Bloomington*, for work on the Bloomington master plan as the most effective public relations job on a local level; *Edina*, for the Convention exhibit showing work on national, state, and local levels; *Richfield*, for the best job of building public opinion for a constitutional convention; *Minneapolis*, for the Convention exhibit on League orientation.

### Publications

*Roseville* was named best in all-round use of publications, *Mrs. D. A. Honetschlager*, Stillwater, best in promotion by an individual of "Well What D'Ya Know," and *Jackson, South St. Paul* and *Roseville* won awards for best promotion by local Leagues of the same booklet.

Special commendation was given in:

### Finance

*Roseville, Granite Falls, Rochester, and Minneapolis.*

### Local Current Agenda

*Jackson, White Bear Township, and Edina.*

### Voters Service

*Duluth, Bloomington, Cass Lake.*

## What The Board Does

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

versity of Minnesota, with the national LWV Board and staff members and with officers of state Leagues which have water items on their programs.

After much discussion, the Board decided it could not, after all, recommend a water item.

Similar research was done on taxation and education, the other two suggestions receiving the greatest consideration by the local Leagues. In addition, the Board restudied the placing of the constitutional revision item. As a result of these deliberations, Constitutional Revision and Financing Public Education were recommended as Current Agenda on the final proposed program.

If there had been no possibility of changing the first proposed program before offering it to the Convention, there would have been no point in going through the carefully worked-out procedure of the second round of suggestions and the re-examination of the program by the Board.

## The President Has the Last Word

Your perspective will, of course, be different from mine, but this is how it has looked to me from where I have sat these past four years.

Every phase of League activity must move in the direction of our purpose—work toward making more citizens aware of their relationship to government. I believe we are doing that through our program . . .

But we know that the effectiveness of a program item is not determined by legislative success alone. It is only one-third of our three-fold definition of action. We use another yardstick. Have we given information; have we influenced public opinion? The answer comes quickly and positively. We need only to read the stacks of newspaper clippings we have on file; ask leading citizens in League communities, "What is the LWV doing in the field of state government in your town?"; remember the legislative debate in committee room and on the floor (of one house, anyway) and be convinced that many more people in Minnesota know more about their state constitution than they did ten years ago.

### We Make Progress

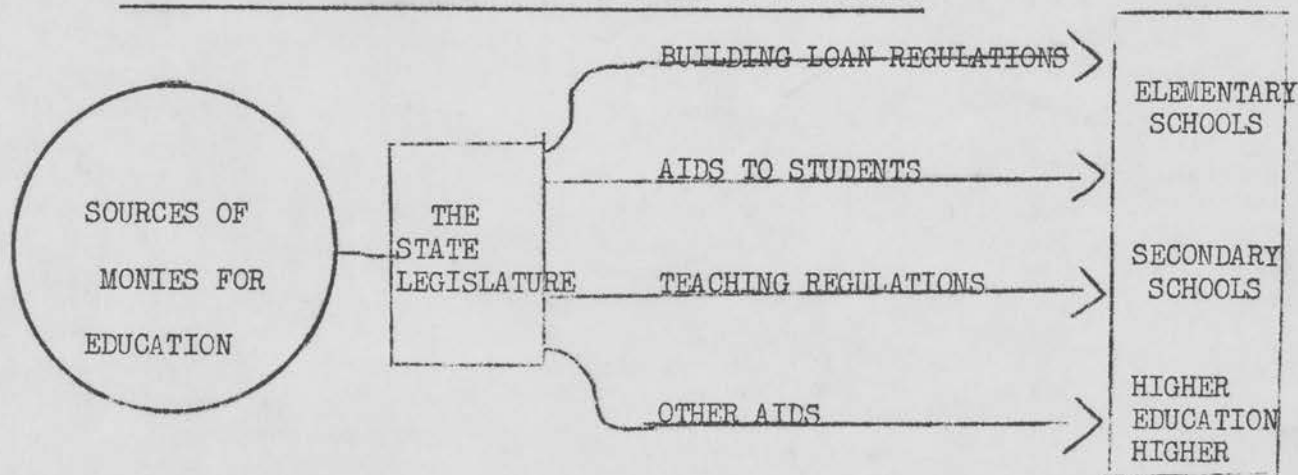
We are also moving in the right direction and making our influence felt more and more through our Local Current Agenda items . . . I believe we are making more effective use of the committee system . . . We are learning the value—the necessity, I should say—of cooperation between committees . . . we are making progress in working with other groups.

In order to do an efficient job we must, like a swimmer, throw off all excess baggage; we cannot become weighted down by endless procedure. We need to travel light, using the most streamlined, uncomplicated methods of work that we can devise. We are consistently doing this in the League.

You may well take pride in your membership. You are the recipients of a priceless heritage gained for you 37 years ago by a small handful of dedicated women. They thought the League would be necessary for perhaps five years, but soon learned—and it is more true with each passing year—that there will always be a need for the League of Women Voters, as long as we believe that successful government depends on how well we use our power as citizens.

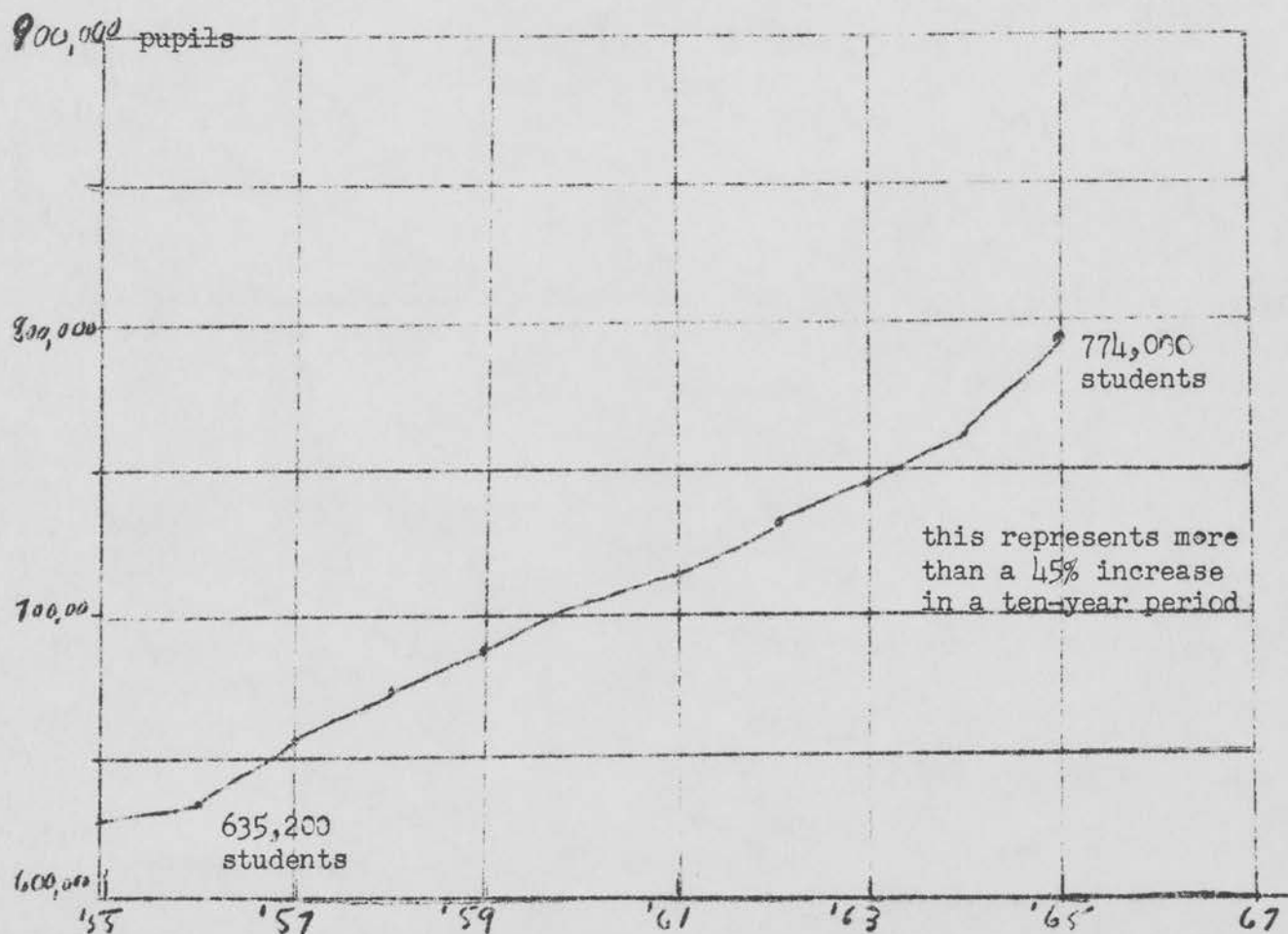
Mrs. Basil Young in her President's Report

# AREA OF STUDY AND ACTION OF FINANCES OF EDUCATION



HOW BIG IS EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA? Did you know that of the total money appropriated by the 1957 legislature, \$409,000.00, over 50% of this amount, \$220,000.00 was appropriated for educational purposes?

## PROJECTED ENROLLMENT FIGURES FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS





League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th and Washington Avenues S.E  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

April 5, 1957

TO: Local League Presidents  
FROM: Mrs. Basil Young, President

FINAL CALL TO CONVENTION Enclosed you will find credentials for you as president and the delegates to which your League membership entitles you for the 36th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, May 16 and 17. Delegates are official representatives of their League. They may introduce motions and vote. Observers are all other members who wish to attend. A League may send as many observers as it wishes. They may participate in discussion but may not introduce motions or vote. Both delegates and observers must register.

Enclosed is a blank to be used for advance registration and reservations. Advance registration and reservations for the dinner and two luncheons should be made by May 3rd. Be sure to enclose a check payable to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota covering the cost for each individual listed. A convention workbook will be mailed to every member who has registered by May 3rd. If you find you cannot meet the May 3rd deadline, please delay registration until the day of the convention. Enclosed are copies of "What Every Delegate Should Know" for your delegates, containing some highlights of the convention. A complete program will appear in the next Voter. Will you assign the responsibility of taking exhibits to the convention (and taking them back) to one delegate. We are anxious to have as many exhibits of your success stories, publications and methods of promoting state, national and local program as possible. Important business will be transacted at this convention, and I'm sure you will find it fun, too. We will do our best to make it a stimulating and rewarding experience. I shall be looking forward to seeing you there.

SECOND ROUND OF PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS The absolute deadline for the second round of program suggestions has been set for April 24. However, it would be most helpful to the Board, if we could have them in the office by April 18th which is the date we must have our next board meeting.

LEGISLATIVE It was an exciting experience to sit in the House Gallery on March 20th, hear the debate on the Constitutional Convention bill, and witness the final vote for passage, 89-38. It was the first time in its legislative history that this bill has been approved by either House. Whether or not we will have the opportunity of seeing action on this bill in the Senate depends on the Senate Judiciary Committee. As you know, it is at this writing deadlocked 9-9, which neither passes it out of committee nor defeats it.

You have a list of the members of this committee (Legislative bulletin dated 2/1/57). WE URGENTLY NEED letters, wires, phone calls, to the members of this committee asking them to give the members of the Senate the chance to debate and act on this bill and urging their support. (See Mrs. Hargraves' letter to the editor, Minneapolis Star, March 29.)

Will those Leagues who visited the Legislature (other than on the February 20th Legislative Day) send a report to the state office telling their estimate of the number who attended, and any comments on their experience they wish to make?

**LEGISLATIVE** The Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee is in the process of amending the Bergerud Reapportionment Bill and until that is done, we cannot tell whether it is still an acceptable bill according to League standards. There will be an open hearing on the bill on Thursday evening, April 4th. Soon after that you will be receiving a legislative bulletin on reapportionment, if there is anything to report.

If the Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee finishes the work on the Reapportionment bills Thursday night, Party Designation could come up at the committee meeting on April 8, 9 a.m.

**DISCUSSION** The film referred to in my March 8th letter "How to Conduct a Discussion" which may be rented for \$3.50 for a 3-day period from the Audio-Visual Department at the University, is also available from the Minneapolis Public Library, for 25¢ and a library card.

Only three Leagues have responded to our request for a sample copy of your Unit Report Forms. We know there must be more. Would you please send them to us so we can share them with other Leagues.

**LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA** Many of the Leagues have, during the year, given printed resource or background material on their local government item to their members. It may have been articles in the local League bulletin, a separate mimeographed sheet or sheets, an outline used by members at unit meetings, or any information gathered by your League on your local item.

The state Local Current Agenda committee would appreciate your sending in a copy of any material you have used for the state file. Other Leagues working on similar items may be able to use this information, as we feel that having this on file in the state office would facilitate the exchange of information. Could we have the material by April 15th, please? Also, would you please list any outside sources of information which you used in the preparation or study of your items?

"Methods of Election" - We have in the state office four copies of a booklet prepared by the Bloomington League on "Methods of Election." This is an excellent evaluation of the number of city councilmen, the length of their terms of office, the methods of nomination and the various methods of election. Any League interested may borrow a copy by writing or calling the state office. We recommend it to you.

**HOPE WASHBURN AWARD** The deadline for nominations for the Hope Washburn Award is April 15. We hope that each local League board will submit nominations and that many individual League members will do the same. Anyone in your League, some other League, or a state board member may be nominated. The January-February Voter carries full details, and the nomination form was enclosed in the February President's mailing. A number of persons have already been nominated - the significance of the award will be greatly enhanced by the number of nominations received.

**MENTAL HEALTH** The Minnesota Association for Mental Health has asked us to announce a Program Planning Workshop, May 1, at the Minneapolis Woman's Club, and to invite you to attend. See enclosed letter for details.



April 5, 1957

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Displays at State Convention. What has your League done this year to build public opinion for a constitutional convention? To improve the relationship of your League to your community? Have you had an unusual Voters Service program? Finance Drive? Have you done a good job of public education? Bring your displays to the State Convention so we may all share your ideas and applaud your successes. Will you let us know immediately what your space requirements will be so we can plan accordingly?

Prizes at State Convention. Prizes will be awarded at State Convention for the best job done by local League in: 1) building public opinion for a constitutional convention and 2) influencing the citizens of the community in any field of League work. These prizes will be awarded on the basis of the displays and the reports you send us of your outstanding accomplishment.. We'd like to receive these reports by May 1st.

ENCLOSURES

Delegates Credentials  
Hotel Registration Card  
Advance Registration and Reservation  
What Every Delegate Should Know  
Mental Health Letter and Card  
List of Publications needed by LL Board

*File*

738183

(program making)

April 5, 1957

The Honorable Sally Luther  
House of Representatives  
St. Paul 1, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Luther:

Thank you so much for the statement on H. F. 455; it will be very helpful I know.

There is a great deal of interest in the conservation item, and it stands a good chance of being on the agenda.

Again, my thanks for all your wonderful work and support for the Big Three issues.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young  
President



*Mrs. Young,*

F-3D1D 3

(Program Meeting)



## State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 11, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young,  
League of Women Voters,  
84 S. 10th Street,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mrs. Young:

I can't wait for the League of Women Voters to plunge into the water problems of Minnesota. The legislation on this subject is getting more complicated daily.

This statement on H. F. 455 I thought would be helpful for your files because it indicates the difficulties encountered when public and private interests clash on water.

Sincerely yours,

*Sally*

Sally Luther,  
Representative  
30th District

SL:ff



*Send to LWW*

# MINNESOTA WATER WELL CONTRACTORS ASS'N

1495 W. Larpenteur Ave.

MIDWAY 6-0382

MIDWAY 5-2297

St. Paul 13, Minnesota

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AL MILLER, SPRING VALLEY

February 25, 1957

RELATIVE TO SENATE BILL 2222

HOUSE BILL 455

This act is for the purpose of amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 105.39 and while we do not question the necessity of several of the statute clarifications, we do question that clause of the act whereby the State of Minnesota USURPS ALL PUBLIC WATER AND WATER WHICH IS NOT PUBLIC BUT SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE STATE WHICH MAY LIE OVER OR IN LAND WHICH IS PRIVATELY OWNED.

The English or common law rule holds that the percolating waters are as much a part of the land as the soil, sand, or gravel found therein and the fee owner, in the absence of contractual or statutory limitations, owns the water. This rule is based upon the old maxim, "To whom the soil belongs, he also owns to the sky and to the depths."

The second rule, or the American rule is usually referred to as the doctrine of reasonable use and correlative rights. This doctrine follows the old maxim that "One must so use his own as not to injure another." Each land owner is limited to a reasonable and beneficial use of the waters upon his land or to some useful purpose connected with its occupation and enjoyment, and each land owner can take only his fair, proportionate share. The following uses have been held to be reasonable uses: agriculture, manufacturing, irrigation, mining and others connected with the beneficial use of the land. The extraction for sale of water for use off the land itself has been held to be an unreasonable use.

Senate File No. 1218, Chapter 468, session laws of the State of Minnesota for 1937. Protection of Water Resources reads: In determining the use of water under (B) Sec-4. Written permission for use of water must be obtained from the Commissioner with the reservation that nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the use of water for domestic purposes serving at any time less than 25 persons, or to the use of water for any purpose originating within the geographical limits of any municipality.

Where there have been abuses in the consumption of water, COURT action has corrected those abuses. Now under Senate File 222 and House File 455, the Commissioner desires legislation giving the Commissioner the exclusive right to determine who shall have water and how much. This applies to THE FARMER, THE HOME OWNER AND THE MUNICIPALITY. In a State where we have ample supplies of water and where the Division of

## TENTATIVE PLANS 35th Annual Northwest WELL DRILLERS CONVENTION

and  
MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS EXPOSITION  
MARCH 12-13-14, 1957 -- HOTEL NICOLLET — MINNEAPOLIS

MARCH 12 & 13, 1957, EXPOSITION ALL DAY, CONVENTION SESSIONS 3 P.M.—MARCH 14, 1957, TECHNICAL SESSIONS  
6 P.M. ANNUAL BANQUET & SHOW—8 P.M. FOURTH ANNUAL DANCE



Waters acknowledges it does not have sufficient information to determine how much water is available for consumption, it certainly appears that giving that Division the absolute authority to issue permits or to refuse to issue permits until extensive tests reveal the available quantities of water, cannot help but materially increase the costs of water, not to consider delays and time losses.

This without question will lead to another large bureaucracy spearheaded by Federal authorities out of Washington with a lavish expenditure of funds, both from Washington and our State. It would lead to very extensive and expensive so-called studies to determine how much water is under the ground.

A first move to gain control of the water under the ground was initiated several years ago, and Governor Youngdahl was prevailed upon to call a meeting of interested citizens of the State. The U.S. Geological Survey were the speakers, and stated that this State did not want to be like Arizona where the ground water tables were falling, and we in turn should do something before it was too late. In the first place the State of Arizona gets less than 4" of rain fall per year, whereas this State averages an excess of 6 times as much. At the same time they have a hot climate that adds greatly to evaporation.

It was also pointed out at that time by the Department of Conservation that they had no one who was capable of taking charge of this program. This is where the U. S. Geological Survey stepped into the picture. Funds for this come from the so-called cooperative program that exists between the States and the Federal Government, and our Congressmen and Senators hear about the need for studies and consequently should appropriate money. Our legislators are then approached to match the money appropriated by Washington. In the event the State takes over all ground water rights, a huge bureaucracy will be built up between the Federal forces and the State forces on a program that has yet to show any value for its work anywhere in the country.

\$100,000.00 has been spent in three counties in the northwestern part of the State in an area where there is no ground water in any quantity, but the \$100,000.00 has been spent anyway. There are several examples where many thousands of dollars have been spent and wasted in doing so-called studies for municipalities in an effort to locate more water, and in each case any capable well driller could have done the work for a small fraction of the cost, and in a fraction of the time.

The State of Minnesota has many failures in its promotional work as an attractive industrial State. Anyone looking for a site for a plant, when they learn the additional red tape they must go through before locating will call it off in favor of going to a State where the climate is reasonable.

This proposed law will make the State a still more expensive state to live in, plus one requiring a lot more red tape to move ahead industrially. IT SHOULD BE OPPOSED!

This State has in its Geology Department at the University of Minnesota some of the best information on basic Geology of any State in the Country. It has been developed by a very small amount of money, most of it coming from the University, that has been developed by the great people and professors there plus the work of graduate students. They have the talent and have demonstrated it by development of an excellent basic ground water geology.

In view of the above facts, can there be any necessity to give any one man the authority to control the life blood of our State? Speaking for the farmer, the home owner, and the municipalities, you are urged to defeat that part of the act whereby the State takes ownership of all waters.

Minnesota Water Well Contractors Assn.

Norm Dunsm  
Exec. Secy.

# THE MINNESOTA VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

VOL. 35

March-April, 1957

NO. 5

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA 36TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

**Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17, 1957**

**Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

### Thursday, May 16

REGISTRATION—8:00 a.m. .... Mezzanine

*All sessions will begin promptly; no one will be admitted during the conduct of a session, except at such time as a recess may be called.*

OPENING SESSION—9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. .... Terrace

Presiding: Mrs. Basil Young, *President*

Recording: Mrs. Thomas Simmer, *Secretary*

Organization of the Convention .... Mrs. Basil Young

Welcome .... Mrs. Frederick King

Introduction of State Board, Staff and Visitors

Report of the Nominating

Committee .... Miss Barbara Stuhler

Presentation and Vote on Proposed

Amendments to the

By-Laws .... Mrs. C. R. Humphries

Report of the Treasurer .... Mrs. Gertrude Wallinder

Presentation of Proposed Budget .... Mrs. E. C. Williams

Announcement of Pledges .... Delegates

Legislative Report .... Mrs. Donald Guthrie  
and Committee

LUNCHEON—12:30 p.m. .... Junior Ball Room

REGISTRATION—1:30 p.m. .... Mezzanine

SECOND SESSION—2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. .... Terrace

Presiding: Mrs. Basil Young

Presentation of Proposed Current

Agenda .... Miss Eleanor Salisbury

Presentation of Non-recommended Items .... Delegates

Presentation of Proposed Continuing Responsibilities

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves and Mrs. Kenneth Sigford

Presentation of Non-recommended Con-

tinuing Responsibilities .... Delegates

Discussion

DINNER MEETING—6:30 p.m. .... Terrace

Presiding: Mrs. Basil Young

Presentation of Hope Washburn

Award .... Miss Barbara Stuhler

Introduction of Speaker .... Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves

"Pooling Skills for Human

Progress" .... Mrs. Werner J. Blanchard

*League of Women Voter's Alternate Observer  
at the United Nations*

### Friday, May 17

REGISTRATION—8:30 a.m. .... Terrace

THIRD SESSION—9:00 a.m. to 12 noon .... Terrace

Presiding: Mrs. Basil Young

Report of the National Council Meeting

Mrs. O. H. Anderson and Mrs. Kenneth Sigford

Election of Officers and Directors

Final Action on Budget .... Mrs. E. C. Williams

Discussion and Action on State

Program .... Miss Eleanor Salisbury

LUNCHEON MEETING AND FINAL

SESSION—12:30 p.m. .... Junior Ballroom

Presiding: Mrs. Russell Duncan, *First Vice President*

Spotlight on Local Leagues .... Mrs. O. H. Anderson

Mrs. Norman Grossman, Mrs. John R. Hill, Mrs.

C. R. Humphries, Mrs. Fred Kaehler, Mrs. Robert W. Leshner

Report of the Credentials Committee .... Mrs. Phillip Hill

Report of the President .... Mrs. Basil Young

Presentation of New Board of Directors

Adjournment



## MATCHING SHOES WILL BE WORN

—At the 36th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Special notice is given of this point of etiquette because at least one member of the organization in question has been known to appear in the hallowed halls of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota in shoes—indeed—but in shoes which did not match. (That the lady in question was a hurried, harried League lobbyist goes without saying.) This informality simply will not be tolerated at the League Convention.

Etiquette-wise, no other strict forms of social behaviour will be required, although an impartial observer will probably note the following group mores:

1. The women in attendance will be intelligent looking as well as attractive—no mean feat in itself.

2. There will be an air of brisk, but good-humored, determination about the gathering.

3. The rules of parliamentary procedure will hold, but no tricks of parliamentary maneuvering to thwart the will of the group or the intent of the question under discussion will be allowed.

4. A remarkable amount of information will be dispensed and absorbed.

5. Several sides of many questions will be presented, so that our "impartial observer" will be pulled in several directions by most persuasive arguments. He will be lucky if he is still impartial at the close of the convention.

—And so will you.

Now look the Convention program over again and decide you can't bear to miss any of it.

The legislative report will bring you a picture of your legislators you will never get from the newspapers. Mrs. Werner Blanchard, who will speak at the dinner meeting, has remarkable facility in the use of language and combines profound knowledge and real discernment with a sparkling wit. The Hope Washburn award and awards in the several areas of League activity will be a surprise and an inspiration to all of us.

But the major purpose of a convention is to formulate the Program for the next biennium. With a completely new item being proposed for the Current Agenda, the Program discussion will be wide open—which should make it particularly exciting this year.

The Program is chosen within the framework of Article X of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota:

**Article X: Section 1.** Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

**Section 2.** Program. The program consists of the state governmental measures and policies on which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may take action.

The Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities as hereinafter defined constitute the Program.

**Section 3.** Current Agenda. Current Agenda shall be limited to such current state governmental issues as the Convention shall choose for concerted action . . .

**Section 4.** Continuing Responsibilities. Continuing Responsibilities shall be those positions on state governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has given sustained attention, and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the State Convention.

"Action," as referred to in Section 3, is defined by the LWV as: 1) providing information, 2) building public opinion, and 3) supporting legislation.

The First Proposed Program was formulated by the State Board, from the suggestions sent in by Local Leagues, and sent to the Leagues on March 6. The Final Proposed Program will be presented at the Convention, which may amend it under the By-Laws and which then votes a Program.

The First Proposed Program looked like this:  
**Current Agenda.** Conservation: A study of Water Resources.

**Continuing Responsibilities.** Constitutional Revision; Fair Employment Practices Commission; Party Designation; Reapportionment.

Conservation was a suggestion of major interest by 14 Leagues and of minor interest by three Leagues. The coordinated study of water resources on the state and national level would effect a saving of woman power, enable us to do a more thorough job and permit us to take action at the state level, if necessary.

Twenty-one other items were suggested, from which the Convention may choose to amend the Proposed Program.

**Taxation** was suggested in various forms by 17 Leagues, as follows: nine, the overall tax structure; two, the Governor's Tax Commission Report; one each, sales tax, withholding tax, personal property tax, dedicated funds; two did not specify.

**School Problems** were suggested by 12 Leagues: five, overall study of public education in Minnesota; five, school finances; one each, school district reorganization and higher education.

**Constitutional Convention:** nine Leagues.

**Youth Conservation:** five Leagues.

**Minnesota Election Laws:** major interest, three Leagues; minor interest, three Leagues.

**Highway Safety Laws:** major interest, two; minor, six.

**Mental Health:** major interest, two; minor, one.

These items were all suggested, two: *judicial reorganization and reform, state hospitals, home rule, St. Lawrence Waterway as it would affect Minnesota trade,*  
(Continued on page 3)

## CHECKLIST FOR A PROPER PROGRAM

There are two measures of the suitability of proposed Program items. They are the list of *criteria* found in the state leader's handbook and the *principles* enumerated in the National Program. Every proposed item should be thoughtfully checked against these two measures.

The *criteria* are:

- Is it an issue of state government?
- Is it authorized by principles of the National League Program?
- Is it a good tool to develop citizen responsibility for government?
- Will it give members good experience in participation in government?
- Will it be a good issue to take to communities?
- Is it a significant issue which warrants League time and energy?
- Does it duplicate the work of other organizations?
- Is the work load, when added to national and local programs, feasible for the local Leagues?
- Are there the experience, aptitude, sufficient personnel, and funds to carry it out?
- Is it a balanced program with enough variety to interest a wide cross-section of membership and community?
- Is there a good combination of exploratory work and legislative action?
- Is there likelihood of some tangible League success?

The *principles* are:

- The principles of representative government and individual liberty established in the Constitution of the United States.
- A system of government which is responsible to the will of the people and which enables the voter to carry out his obligations as a citizen.
- A system of government in which responsibility is clearly fixed.
- A system of government which promotes coordination of the operations of federal, state, and local governments.
- Governmental organization and administration which contribute to economy and efficiency.
- A merit system for the selection, retention, and promotion of government personnel.
- Legal protection of citizens in their right to vote.
- A system of free public education which provides equal opportunity for all.
- Protection of minority groups against discrimination.
- Removal of legal and administrative discriminations against women.
- A system of federal, state, and local taxation which is flexible and equitable.
- Fiscal and monetary policies that promote a stable and expanding economy.
- Responsibility of government to share in the solution of social and economic problems which affect the general welfare.
- Adequate financing of government functions and services.
- Conservation and development of natural resources, in the public interest.
- Domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.
- Cooperation with other nations in solving international problems and promoting world peace.
- Development of international organizations and international law to achieve permanent means of cooperation.

### Matching Shoes (continued)

*penal system, civil service, civil defense, extension of library services, lobbying regulation, Indian problems, needs of the aged, state aids for gifted children, measures for the protection of consumers in purchasing products and services.*

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

15th AND WASHINGTON AVES. S.E., MINNEAPOLIS 14, MINNESOTA

MRS. BASIL YOUNG . . . . . President

ELEANOR SALISBURY . . . . . Editor

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## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Five officers, six directors and three members of the Nominating Committee will be elected at the State Convention, to serve until 1959. The following report is submitted:

### Officers

PRESIDENT . . . . . Mrs. O. H. Anderson, *Mahtomedi*

1947, joined Mahtomedi League; vice president, voters service chairman, local agenda chairman, president. 1953-57, state board; organization co-chairman and later chairman, county council adviser, second vice president.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT . . Mrs. Kenneth Sigford, *Roseville*

1941, joined University of Minnesota League; president. 1950, joined Minneapolis League. 1955, joined Roseville League; individual liberties chairman. 1956-57, state board; individual liberties and national CR's 1-5 chairman.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Mrs. J. W. DuShane, *Rochester*

1949, joined Rochester League; voters service chairman, vice president, president. State board committees on organization, publications, finance.

TREASURER . . . . . Miss Eleanor Salisbury, *Minneapolis*

1951, joined Minneapolis League. 1952-57, state board; editor of "The Minnesota Voter."

SECRETARY . . . . . Mrs. Robert L. Carlson, *Granite Falls*

1950, joined Granite Falls League; secretary, treasurer, vice president, president. Member state organization committee.

### Directors

MRS. WALTER ANGRIST . . . . . *Deephaven*

1950, joined Minneapolis League, 1953, joined Deephaven League; budget, trade, unit organization, bulletin chairman, vice president.

MRS. HOWARD EVENSON . . . . . *Minneapolis*

1950, joined Minneapolis League; unit chairman. 1955-57, press chairman on state public relations committee.

MRS. O. J. JANSKI . . . . . *Richfield*

1951, joined Minneapolis League; Richfield unit chairman, unit organization chairman of provisional Richfield League, president

MRS. HOMER MANTIS . . . . . *St. Paul*

1950, joined St. Paul League; constitutional revision chairman, legislative chairman. Member state legislative committee, state representative to Minnesota FEPC Council.

MRS. JOHN NEUMAIER . . . . . *Hibbing*

1951, joined Hibbing League; local agenda chairman, president. Member state organization committee.

MRS. A. J. OLSON . . . . . *Owatonna*

1948, joined Owatonna League; six portfolios on board, president. Member, state organization committee.

### Nominating Committee

CHAIRMAN . . . . . Mrs. Basil Young, *Hibbing*

1947, joined Hibbing League; president. 1952-57, state board; secretary, president.

(Continued on page 4)



### Nominating Committee (continued)

MRS. NICHOLAS DUFF ..... *Deephaven*  
1945, joined Minneapolis League. 1952, joined Deephaven League; resource chairman, unit organization chairman, president.

MRS. DON Y. MOORE ..... *St. Paul*  
1944, joined St. Paul League; membership chairman, county council representative, president.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Clarence Arlander, *Roseville*

Mrs. William Bierne, *St. Louis Park*

Mrs. John Grindlay, *Rochester*

Mrs. Gertrude Wallinder, *Duluth*

Miss Barbara Stuhler, *Minneapolis*, Chairman

### PROPOSED BUDGET 1957-58

#### EXPENDITURES

General Administration			
Board of Directors .....	\$	700	
President's Account .....		125	
Delegates .....		400	
Committee Meetings .....		50	
Insurance .....		15	
Personal Property Tax .....		35	
Bank Charges .....		20	
Salaries & Salary Taxes .....		4,420	
Office Operation .....	3,500		\$ 9,265
National Publications: Cost .....	\$	300	
Less Sales .....		50	250
Bulletin—Minnesota Voter .....			1,380
Field Services			
Staff Salary .....	\$1,658		
Travel .....	700		
Conferences .....	96		2,454
Public Relations .....		550	
Legislative Accrual .....		200	
National Services (Pledge) .....		7,500	
National Municipal League .....		5	
TOTAL .....			\$21,604

#### INCOME

Local League Support .....	\$19,650	
New League Support .....	200	
State Members at Large .....	24	
Direct Contributions .....	350	
State Publications Sales .....	\$2,400	
Less cost .....	1,400	1,000
State Meetings Income .....	\$1,200	
Cost .....	900	300
Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund Interest .....		80
TOTAL .....		\$21,604

### THE PRESIDENT HAS THE LAST WORD

For the 36th time, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will assemble in convention (at 9:30 a.m. on May 16th), review past work and chart a course for the next biennium.

According to our By-Laws, the purpose of a convention is to consider a program and authorize it for action, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget for the current year, and transact such other business as may be presented. But it is much more than that. All organizations do the same things—adopt programs, budgets, elect officers and transact business. The difference lies in the program-making process of the League.

League program is authored, directed, produced, and acted out by the membership. When delegates and observers from our 54 local Leagues throughout the state convene at the Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis next month, a program will be presented to them. It will not be something devised for their rubber-stamp approval, but it will be their own brain-child coming back to them, the will of the majority, the culmination of several months of full membership discussion in unit, board and general meetings. The delegate body will then have another go at it, consider, discuss, debate, amend, substitute, add, delete, subject only to parliamentary procedure, its self-adopted By-Laws and Convention rules. League conventions have always been, and always will be, dramatic demonstrations of the democratic, efficient and responsible manner by which the League governs itself.

Although state Program will occupy the major portion of our time, you will note from the Convention program that the international, national and local levels of our work will not be overlooked. Exciting reports will be presented in these fields; awards will be presented.

The duly elected delegates from your League will be your uninstructed representatives; they will have the responsibility of introducing motions, debating and voting. However, any member may attend all sessions as an observer and participate in the discussion. She may not introduce motions or vote.

We hope many of you will attend. Come and invest two days with your League associates. Contribute—and learn—and have fun in the process!

MRS. BASIL YOUNG, *President*

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM - 1957-1959

CURRENT AGENDA

Issues of state government on which the League will take concerted action:

- I. CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - support and work for:
  1. The calling of a constitutional convention;
  2. A constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention;
  3. A constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature.
- II. FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Positions on state issues to which the League has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act:

- I. SUPPORT REVISION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR:
  1. A workable amending process;
  2. Clearly fixed executive responsibility;
  3. Adequate time for consideration of legislation by the Legislature;
  4. A post auditor appointed by and responsible to the Legislature;
  5. Increased home rule for local governments.
- II. REAPPORTIONMENT BY STATUTE.
- III. FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION.
- IV. PARTY DESIGNATION FOR LEGISLATORS.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Aves. S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

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STATE PROGRAM 1955-1957  
(As adopted at State Convention, May 13, 1955)

"The Program consists of state governmental measures on which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may take action. The Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities . . . constitute the Program."  
- State By-Laws

CURRENT AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for revision of the constitution of the State of Minnesota.

To do this it will:

- A. Build public opinion for the calling of a constitutional convention.
- B. Support revision of constitutional provisions for:
  - 1. Review of the constitution by periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention.
  - 2. A workable amending process.
  - 3. Fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature.
  - 4. Clearly fixed executive responsibility:
    - a. Fewer elective offices;
    - b. Longer, uniform terms for elected executive officials;
    - c. Provision for self-executing succession to governorship;
    - d. Provision for an executive budget.
  - 5. Adequate time for consideration of legislation by the Legislature:
    - a. More frequent regular sessions permitted and/or length of session determined by the Legislature itself;
    - b. Special sessions called at discretion of the Governor or the Legislature.
  - 6. A post-auditor appointed by and responsible to the Legislature.
  - 7. Increased home-rule for local governments:
    - a. Realistic restrictions on special legislation;
    - b. Broader provisions for adoption and amendment of home-rule charters.
- C. Study, for the purpose of supporting, revision of constitutional provisions for:
  - 1. An integrated and flexible tax article.
  - 2. An article providing judicial reform.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Continuing Responsibilities are those positions on state governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has given sustained attention, and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the state Convention.

- I. Reapportionment by statute.
- II. Fair Employment Practices Commission.
- III. Party designation for legislators.
- IV. Civil service system.



League of Women Voters of Minnesota

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CURRENT AGENDA

I. CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - support and work for:

1. The calling of a constitutional convention;

The League will continue to build public opinion for the calling of a constitutional convention and support a bill submitting the question to the voters.

2. A constitutional amendment providing for periodic submission to the people of the question of calling a constitutional convention;

We will examine and evaluate the various methods of periodic submission to the voters of the question of calling a convention, determine the best method, and perhaps initiate and support an amendment in the next legislative session. For example: we might propose an amendment that would automatically place the question on the ballot every 20 years beginning in the year 1970, or some other formula.

3. A constitutional amendment providing for fair and enforceable apportionment of the Legislature.

We would make a broader study of acceptable constitutional amendments. Here again we might propose an amendment that would meet the standards, "fair and enforceable." The last legislative session has made obvious the necessity for this type of examination and evaluation.

II. FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION

You have been watching the progress of the legislative session just concluded and are aware of the tremendous burden to the state of providing funds for education. Under this item we would make a study of the sources of funds for public education at all levels and their distribution.

We would try to determine if there are inadequacies in revenues and if so, how they might be resolved.

We would look at the distribution of educational funds in terms of current needs and in anticipation of future needs.

This could lead to action in any of these areas if we reach consensus in the next biennium.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Conservation

Taxation

- Overall Tax Structure
- Governor's Tax Commission Report
- Sales Tax
- Withholding Tax
- Personal Property Tax
- Dedicated Funds

Highway Safety Laws

Study of Minnesota Election Laws

Youth Conservation

Mental Health

Judiciary - reorganization and reforms

State Hospitals

Home Rule

St. Lawrence Waterway

Penal System

Civil Service

Civil Defense

Extension of Library Services

Lobbying Regulations

Indian Problems

Needs of the aged

State aids for gifted children

Measures for protection of consumers

## PROPOSED PROGRAM

Conservation: A Study of Water Resources

Seventeen of the Leagues which sent in program suggestions mentioned Conservation and for fourteen of that number it was a major or sole interest. The coordinated study of water resources on the state and national level would effect a saving of woman power, enable us to do a more thorough job and permit us to take action at the state level when it might become desirable.

## NOT RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Taxation was also suggested by seventeen Leagues but the interest was scattered over the various fields of taxation. Nine Leagues wanted to study the overall tax structure in Minnesota. Two Leagues wished to study the governor's tax commission report. Other areas mentioned were sales tax, withholding tax, personal property tax and dedicated funds. While the total number of Leagues suggesting a tax item was as large as the number suggesting conservation, the fact that the taxation interest was spread over so many different phases influenced the state board to recommend the conservation item, where the interest was largely concentrated on water resources.

School Problems were suggested by twelve Leagues but here again the interest was scattered over many areas. Five Leagues wanted an overall study of public education in Minnesota. Five Leagues wished to study school finances. School district reorganization and higher education were mentioned as possible fields of concentration.

Constitutional Convention was recommended by nine Leagues, while several asked to have it moved to a Continuing Responsibility.

Youth Conservation was the choice of five Leagues, one of which wanted Juvenile Courts particularly.

Highway Safety Laws was mentioned by eight Leagues, but six of them indicated that it was definitely a minority interest.

Study of Minnesota Election Laws was the suggestion of six Leagues, three of whom said it was a minority interest.

Mental Health was desired by two Leagues and was a minor interest of another.

The following items were all suggested once:

1. Judiciary - reorganization and reforms
2. State Hospitals
3. Home Rule
4. St. Lawrence Waterway as it would affect Minnesota trade
5. Penal System
6. Civil Service
7. Civil Defense
8. Legislation for the Extension of Library Services
9. Lobbying Regulations
10. Indian Problems
11. Needs of the Aged
12. State Aids for Gifted Children
13. Measures for the Protection of Consumers in Purchasing Products and Services



CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Constitutional Revision: The Board recommends moving this item to a continuing responsibility.

However this is not an action which would be taken lightly or with any sense of being relieved of responsibility for action. If a bill for the calling of a constitutional convention should pass this session of the legislature, the League would work for its passage when it comes to a vote of the people. If the bill fails of passage in this session, the League would work for it in the 1959 legislature. The Board suggests that the League bear in mind how much time and effort we would be spending on this item as a continuing responsibility when we are considering current agenda in terms of the total work load.

Fair Employment Practices Commission, Party Designation, and Reapportionment are recommended to remain as continuing responsibilities.

Civil Service - The Board recommends dropping Civil Service from our CR's because it has been so long since we did any work on it, that we would need to start all over again with study of the question before we would be in a position to take any action.

## PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Thirty-six leagues have sent in program suggestions and thirty-two items were mentioned, many closely allied in subject matter. Several leagues expressed a desire for a one-item agenda. Some said they would welcome a two-item agenda if it included conservation (which would not require additional manpower since it is already on the national agenda) and election laws (considered to be an uncomplicated problem). The areas of most interest were constitutional revision, conservation, school problems, youth problems, tax structure, election laws and highway safety.

Constitutional Revision was suggested by seven leagues for a current agenda item. It was mentioned as a secondary consideration by one more. Three leagues expressed a desire to move it to continuing responsibility status.

Conservation - asked for by 13 leagues and once as a minority suggestion. Apparently the letter which Minneapolis sent out on this question had an effect, for that letter was mentioned several times. Two leagues mentioned water pollution as their special interest.

Tax Structure - suggested by 13 leagues and mentioned 5 additional times as a minority interest. Areas mentioned included overall present tax structure, governor's tax commission study (so that we could act on any proposed legislation resulting from it in the 1959 legislature), sales tax, income tax, personal property tax, and dedicated funds.

Problems in the Educational field were suggested by 8 leagues. Study of higher education is wanted by Cass Lake. Two leagues want to study school district organization. School financial structure and possible new sources of revenue were suggested several times. State aids for gifted children is an interest of the South St. Paul league. A Study of Public Education in Minnesota was suggested by three leagues. Hibbing sent in an excellent outline of points that could be developed in such a study including responsibilities of public education, financing public schools and new horizons in higher education.

Problems of Youth apart from education were suggested by five leagues. Juvenile delinquency was mentioned twice, hospital facilities for maladjusted children once, and youth conservation in general was mentioned twice, in one instance with emphasis on juvenile court problems.

Minnesota Election Laws and Procedures was asked for by five leagues.

Mental Health was recommended by two leagues and was asked for by two other individuals or units.

Highway Safety was the suggestion of one league but 6 other leagues indicated that it was a definite minority interest.

The following items were all suggested once:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Judiciary - reorganization and reforms                                     | 2. St. Lawrence Waterway as it would affect Minnesota trade. |
| 3. State Hospitals  | 5. Home Rule   |
| 4. Penal System in Minnesota  | 7. Legislation for the Extension of Library Facilities       |
| 6. Indian Problems  | 9. Civil Service   |
| 8. Civil Defense  | 10. Lobbying Registration                                    |
| 11. Measures of Protection for consumers in Purchasing Products and Services. |  |

One league recommended dropping Civil Service from the CR's. Two Leagues suggested dropping FEPC.

January 19, 1957

Mr. Max R. Williamson  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Association for  
Mental Health, Inc.  
309 East Franklin Ave.  
Minneapolis 4, Minn.

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Thank you for your letter of December 18th regarding the mental health program, and the possibility of its being placed on our program.

There has been a great deal of interest in this program among our league members, and it has from time to time been suggested as an item for our program, but has never received sufficient number of votes to be adopted, chiefly because we have concentrated our efforts on constitutional revision these past 9 years, and convention delegates have felt additional items would prove too much of a workload.

Under our by-laws, program suggestions cannot be initiated by the Board, but must come from the local leagues. We have had reports that it will again be proposed this year for consideration at our convention May 16th & 17th, but will not know for certain until February 16th, the deadline for sending in suggestions.

Thank you for your offer to give us further information; we will no doubt be taking advantage of it a little later on in our program making process.

Best wishes for every success in this vital program, and thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basil Young  
President





# MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, Inc.

309 EAST FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS 4, MINNESOTA

FEDERAL 5-8883

A Division of National Association for Mental Health

December 18, 1956

A non-profit educational  
and service corporation  
supported by voluntary  
contributions.

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Angus T. Morrison  
Secretary  
Mrs. Malcolm A. McCannel  
Treasurer  
Merrill H. Gibbs

MAX R. WILLIAMSON  
Executive Director

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
Minnesota League of Women Voters  
117 W. Howard  
Hibbing, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:

It has been suggested to us that the Minnesota League of Women Voters might be interested in undertaking a much needed study of the mental health program in the state of Minnesota. This Association has long recognized the need for a body of factual information available to administrators, legislators and the public at large to be used as a basis for planning a long-range program.

Although positive steps are proposed to the coming legislature for rectification of the more obvious gaps in the program for the mentally ill, we do lack a comprehensive approach which will embrace prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and thus involve all departments of the state government. We would be happy to have an opportunity to meet with you and/or members of appropriate committees of the League of Women Voters to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

I am sure that the Board of Directors of this Association would authorize our staff to give any assistance possible in instigating and implementing such a study and would be willing to generally place the resources of this Association at the disposal of a group contemplating such a worthwhile project.

I am sending a copy of the results of the recent study done in the state of Iowa which may provide a perspective on the kind of survey which we feel is necessary in this state.

I should be delighted to have an opportunity to discuss this matter with you in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

*Max R. Williamson*  
Max R. Williamson  
Executive Director

MRW:lj

Encl. (under separate cover)



# MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, Inc.

309 EAST FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS 4, MINNESOTA  
A Division of National Association for Mental Health

FEDERAL 5-8883

A non-profit educational  
and service corporation  
supported by voluntary  
contributions.

December 18, 1956

MAX R. WILLIAMSON  
Executive Director

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Treasurer  
Merrill H. Gibbs

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
Minnesota League of Women Voters  
117 W. Howard  
Hibbing, Minnesota

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I should be delighted to have an opportunity to discuss this matter with you in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

Max R. Williamson  
Executive Director

MHW:lj  
Encl.

F 3 D 1 D 3

FIRST ROUND



AFTON-LAKELAND

2 PAGES

Lakeland, Minn.

January 10, 1957

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Avenue S.E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Ladies:

These are our suggestions for state current agenda items as decided by a general membership meeting.

1. Continued work toward calling of a constitutional convention.
2. Study with view to action of measures of protection for consumers in purchasing products and services.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen Stevens, Sec'y  
Afton-Lakeland League

P.S. Also included are board minutes from our last several meetings - delayed because of a new baby and an unexpected move.

AFTON - LAKE LAND

2 PAGES

23 January 1957

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Since I am not certain that our resigning secretary sent you a copy of the action taken at our January 1957 general membership meeting with reference to suggestions for the current agenda for the State program. Motions were carried to propose the following:

- 1) Continued work toward calling of a constitutional convention.
- 2) A study with view to action of measures of protection for consumers in purchasing products and services.

S. Kerr

→ Afton - Lakeland

Suggestions for State  
Item:

1. Study of State Sales  
Tax.
2. Study St. Lawrence  
waterway as it affects  
Minnesota Trade.

Alexandria  
League



Anoka

ANOKA

3 PAGES

10330 Mississippi Blvd.  
Coon Rapids, Minn.  
February 14th, 1957

State Board  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Ladies:

The Anoka Board of the LWV put out a strong call to our membership for suggestions for State Current Agenda. Two members submitted the enclosed outlines. We are sending them to give you some indication of member interest.

The Board itself was unable to select any one item for recommendation because so many areas of state government seem to need attention. The need for highway, welfare, tax, and school district reorganization legislation was discussed. Add to these the sensible arguments prepared by the Minneapolis League for a state water conservation program and you have utter confusion. We turn the whole business over to you. Aren't we awful?

Yours truly,

*Marian Fletcher*  
Marian Fletcher, Pres.



Proposed topic for study  
Need for welfare legislation

a. To obtain legislative authority and funds to construct a residential center where intensive treatment could be given emotionally disturbed children.

b. Make state funds available to cities, counties or combinations thereof of 50,000 people or more, for setting up out-patient mental health clinics.

c. Obtain legislative authority for the governor to appoint a board to act in an advisory capacity to the Commissioner of Education, Health, and Welfare in formulating policies and programs for exceptional children.

~~SUGGESTED ITEM FOR LOCAL AGENDA~~  
~~(ANOKA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS)~~

CONSERVATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Study of local ordinances relating to use of highways and streets
2. Study of bills which may come before the state legislature relating to:
  - Chemical tests to determine intoxication
  - Periodic examination of automobiles
  - Periodic physical and mental examinations of all who are issued drivers licenses
  - Examination of elderly drivers
3. Study of educational opportunities for classroom and behind the wheel training in the use of automobiles
4. Study the age at which a person should be permitted to drive - when ~~he~~ is he psychologically ready to drive

SUGGESTED ITEM FOR STATE AGENDA

Study of state laws relating to use of highways and their implementation to reduce the slaughter on the highways

(Balance of suggestions same as 2, 3 and 4 above)



ARDEN HILLS

Arden Hills  
League of Women Voters

ST. PAUL 13, MINNESOTA

Feb. 13, 1957

L. W. V. of Minn.  
Mrs Basil Young, Pres.  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Mrs Young,

The L. W. V. of Arden Hills  
offers the following suggestions for  
State Program agenda:

The study of the needs of  
education and schools in the State  
of Minnesota.

The study of "Water" in the  
State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Isaksen  
Pres. L. W. V. of Arden Hills.

AUSTIN

# League of Women Voters of Austin

Austin, Minnesota



The Austin L W V offers these suggestions  
for State Program Study:

1. Make a thorough study of the  
state tax structure.
2. Continued study and action  
on the calling of a constitutional  
convention in the state of Minnesota.
3. Study water resources on a  
state level.

BEMIDJI



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

B E M I D J I - M I N N E S O T A

February 7, 1957

To: League of Women Voters of Minnesota

From: Hazel Shimmin, League of Women Voters of Bemidji

Re: Suggestions for State Program 1957-59

1. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will make a study of the sales tax.
2. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will study the schools financial structure and possibilities of additional sources of revenue.

*Hazel Shimmin, President*



BLOOMINGTON

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF BLOOMINGTON



February 11, 1957  
4301 Overlook Drive  
BLOOMINGTON 20, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
TSMc, University of Minnesota  
15th and Washington Avenues S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:

Re: State Program Suggestions

As a result of program discussion in our eight units, with seven units favoring a constitutional revision item, our Board suggests that this issue be the 1957-59 Current Agenda. Unfortunately only one unit expressed interest in a specific area under this subject - "study of Model Constitution with a view towards making recommendations to a constitutional convention." Probably the other units wish to continue with a public opinion building item such as the one under which we are now working.

Two units each suggested that the Current Agenda include 1) the Indian problem and 2) tax study.

We were sorry not to have received the letter from the Minneapolis League regarding water resources before our unit meetings. After hearing the reasons why the Minneapolis Water Resources committee is interested in working on this issue, our entire Board expressed a great interest in it. The fact that we have not yet discussed water resources in our units may be the reason for lack of membership interest at this point.

With three units favoring retention, two opposing, and three not reporting, our Board recommends the dropping of Fair Employment Practices and Civil Service from the list of Continuing Responsibilities. Our recommendation is based on the need for a lessening of the Program load.

Sincerely,

*Lulla Newstrom*

Mrs. E. H. Newstrom  
President

*We didn't work out no working. Sorry.*

BRAINERD

## League of Women Voters

of  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA

2-16-57

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

This is to report to you the recommendation of the Board of the Brainerd League based on the heavily weighted proposal of the membership on the State Agenda for the coming year.

Our Board recommends Water Resources of Minnesota as the State Agenda but would choose to leave the wording to the decision of the LWV's of Minneapolis. Their best judgment in wording will be acceptable to our local League.

There may be a form on which this report was supposed to have been made, but I cannot find one, nor do I remember seeing one. Trust that this letter will cover the report situation satisfactorily.

I am sorry not to be able to attend Legislative Day on Wednesday next, but two of our membership are looking forward to it keenly, with reservations having been made through the Sargent-at-Arms for three other members to use the day in the same general fashion as has been followed in previous Legislative Day trips. This grew out of their disappointment when they learned that our delegate representation was this year to be limited to two only. We are glad plans could be made for them by our legislative chairman, Mrs. Brown. Though she is new in the work, we feel she has the makings of an outstanding Leaguer. You will be glad to meet her on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely,

*(Mrs.) Georgiana H. Darling*

President, Brainerd League of Women Voters

## CASS LAKE

" A study of the system of higher education in Minnesota ; to know our present organization and the need for expansion and reorganization . "

State program suggestion submitted by the LWR of Cass Lake.

Mrs. C. R. Swenson (pres.)



DEEPHAVEN

## DEEPHAVEN LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. Harold Wilson  
Executive Secretary  
League of Women Voters of Minn.  
University of Minnesota

February 6, 1957

Dear Grace,

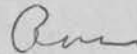
Here's a proposal for the 1957-1959 Current Agenda of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, as suggested by the members of the Deephaven league and refined by the Board:

"Evaluation of the tax structure of the state of Minnesota with particular emphasis on the income tax and the possibility of a sales tax."

The Deephaven league would like to add to the Continuing Responsibilities the following item:

"Continued support for the calling of a Constitutional Convention."

Cordially,



Mrs. Nicholas E. Duff, pres.

DULUTH

Program Suggestion from Duluth

(via telephone)

1. To continue to work for the calling of a  
Constitutional Convention.
2. Conservation: a study with view to action of  
of Water Resources

EDINA

5100 Oxford ave. S.  
Edina, Minn.  
Feb. 14, 1957.

League of Women Voters of Minn.  
15th & Washington ave. S.E.  
Minneapolis, 14, Minn.

Dear President Mrs Young:

The Edina League suggestions for the State Program are as follows:

I Taxation - sales tax, withholding tax especially but every unit that responded placed Tax study first.

II Mental Health - because of Dr Menninger's recommendations to the Legislature.

III Election Laws

IV Schools and water conservation were evenly divided in interest.

V. Censorship of obscene material was of particular interest to a couple of our sixteen units.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that went out to all our members before our local bulletin, "The Eager Leager", was sent out. Though the suggestions I made were the ones voted upon, I had had sufficient contact to feel these items would be of most interest to our local units.

We would like three reservations for Legislative Day, Feb. 20, for Mrs Hal Burton, our president, Mrs Neil Riley, Morningstar and myself as Legislative Chairman for Edina.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs E. Palmer Tang



EXCELSIOR

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EXCELSIOR  
EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA

Feb. 14, 1957

To: State League

Re: Program Suggestions

Our League wishes to propose the following items for consideration for Agenda for the coming two year ~~period~~:

1. Conservation: A Study of Water Resources
2. A study of Governor's Interim Tax Committee Report of 1956.

In explanation of the first item, we agree with Minneapolis that it appears that action would be at the State Level and we should be in a position to take a stand. Water on the State level seems to be very much in the foreground in Minnesota affairs at the present time.

On the second item, we feel it would be desirable to be in a position to take a stand on many proposed changes in Minnesota's Tax structure.

*Norma Schanfield, Pres.  
Excelsior League*



Affiliated with the  
League of Women Voters of the U. S.

# FALCON HEIGHTS

1463 W Lanes  
St Paul 13, Minn

League of Women Voters of Minn.  
1546 + Washington  
Minneapolis, Minn

Board of Directors:

After much thought and discussion  
The League of Falcon Heights would  
like to recommend that we repeat our  
efforts toward a Constitution Revision  
with special emphasis:

1. Information that would show  
the areas where constitutional  
revision is not accepted how  
they would specifically would  
benefit by revision.
2. Four year term for elected  
State officials.

Our thought on item one was that we  
may find something positive to work on  
rather than a negative approach.

Sincerely

Mrs Philip Stacker  
League of Women Voters  
of Falcon Heights

GOLDEN VALLEY

*League of Women Voters  
of Golden Valley*

February 14, 1957

To: Mrs. Basil Young  
From: Mrs. J. Earl Costigan

The Golden Valley League of Women Voters at the last board meeting felt that they would like to send in these two State Agenda items as representative of our League members thinking.

- I. Conservation of our water resources with special emphasis on correcting and preventing pollution of our water sources.
- II. Consideration of school districts as to the possibility of their reorganization.

These two items were so close that we felt the Board must turn in both. We do not mean that there should be two items on the State Agenda necessarily .

The Board felt that for the League to do State work on the water item at the next Legislature it would have to be on the Agenda for 1957-59.

Golden Valley League of Women Voters

*Mrs. Earl Costigan  
President*



# GRANITE FALLS

Granite Falls,  
Minnesota

Feb. 13, 1957

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

At our meeting last evening we discussed program suggestions and here are subjects our leaguers would like to study:

1. A review of the Judiciary (reorganization and reforms)
2. School district reorganization
3. A sales tax study item
4. An outline of Civil Defense, if this falls within League areas.

Or will we steel to doing Constitutional Revision? Let's hope we will have a Convention in the making!

Asteri Schmidt

Granite Falls

HIBBING

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HIBBING

HIBBING, MINNESOTA  
February 11, 1957

TO: League of Women Voters of Minnesota

SUBJECT: Program Recommendation

The League of Women Voters of Hibbing respectfully submits the following program item:

### "STUDY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA"

In studying this suggested item, the following points would be developed:

- I. Responsibilities of public education in the state. (Problems of facilities, teacher needs, administration, etc.)
  - A. As it concerns normal children.
  - B. As it concerns gifted children.
  - C. As it concerns handicapped children.
  - D. As it concerns delinquent children.
- II. Financing of the public schools of the state.
  - A. Where the monies come from and how they are distributed.
  - B. Inadequacies in revenue sources and their distribution, and what can be done about this.
- III. New horizons in higher education. (How "big" is public higher education to become?)
  - A. Enrollment trends.
  - B. Types of institutions of higher learning.
  - C. Their cost to the taxpayer - their services to community and state.

All the abovementioned items are currently of major concern to the legislature and the people of Minnesota--and probably will remain so for many years to come. To lend the league "study-action" technique to this urgent problem would be a great contribution to our State..

*Virginia M. Neumaier*

Mrs. John J. Neumaier, pres.  
League of Women Voters of Hibbing

TO: ALL LEAGUES IN THE STATE  
FROM: LWV OF HIBBING  
RE: STATE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

*Circulated to all leagues*  
2206 Ninth Avenue East  
Hibbing, Minnesota  
April 10, 1957

We would like to draw your attention to the coming State Convention and the most important business which it is to accomplish; namely, the adoption of a State Current Agenda for 1957-59. With all respect to the many opinions on this subject and the good reasons for such points of view, we in Hibbing are recommending a study of public education finances in the state.

In the original round of suggestions we recommended a very broad "Study of Public Education in Minnesota." This item could have been limited, we felt, in convention to reflect the interests of all the leagues in the state. As we saw it such a broad study could have included three important areas of concern to us:

- I. Responsibilities of public education in the state. (problems of facilities, teacher needs, administration, etc.)
  - A. As it concerns normal children.
  - B. As it concerns gifted children.
  - C. As it concerns handicapped children.
  - D. As it concerns delinquent children.
- II. Financing of the public schools of the state.
  - A. Where the monies come from and how they are distributed.
  - B. Inadequacies in revenue sources and their distribution, and what can be done about this.
- III. New horizons in higher education. (How "big" is public higher education to become?)
  - A. Enrollment trends.
  - B. Types of institutions of higher learning.
  - C. Their cost to the taxpayer--their service to community and state.

In the coming second round of program suggestions we are going to recommend --and we would welcome your local league's support and suggestions in this matter-- a more limited education item:

#### "FINANCING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MINNESOTA"

If you have been watching the progress of the current legislature you are aware of the tremendous burden to the state of providing funds for education. Essentially, this modified recommendation is Section II above; however, you can readily see that the problem involves decisions in the areas outlined in I and III.

If there is anything of which league members can be proud, we believe it is the study-action procedure which the league has refined to an art. As league members we may be modest about praise of the league, but we are all genuinely concerned with upholding league standards not only through doing a good job in a chosen area, but in choosing the area of government which can benefit most from a "good job." Just what, then, should be our focus in 1957-59?

We believe that of the top three items listed in the first round of suggestions, only education involves an area of ~~urgent~~ concern to the state as a whole. This memo is not the place for a deluge of statistics; however, we believe it is not ill considered criticism to suggest that Minnesota is not prepared to meet the increased demands of education, and that unless informed opinion is developed, haphazard decisions may be made. In planning for a new state program for our league we would ask you to follow for a moment our line of reasoning and to consider briefly



these three questions: What advantages are there to an education item in itself? What possible disadvantages are there to a conservation item? What possible advantages might an education item have over a tax study item?

We think the league stands to gain most from an education item. The primary reason, of course, is the crying need for information throughout the state on which the citizenry can base intelligent planning. The individuals are so few and far between who understand the emergency in education, and it is not democratic to shift the burden of planning for the future to them. And even if we were willing to shift the burden, how do we know who the "experts" are?

Outside of the league we stand to gain in many ways through the adoption of an education item. It would be an asset to the league in the state to take an active part in the solution of the crisis in education. Most certainly that dying breed, the anti-feminists, would see that league women actually are interested in what happens to our children. From the standpoint of growth of league membership, what better selling point could we have to the young mothers of Minnesota than that the League is studying the state's problems of education? While all issues of government do have "human content," the issue of education has the double effect of touching people where they love most (their children) and where they hurt most (their taxes).

A study of financing education in our state is ideally suited to the purpose and method of the league, and therefore is an item to which all league members would naturally respond. It would provide a new challenge to our membership and a new direction for our energies. At the same time we would be rendering a necessary and worthwhile contribution which Minnesota seriously needs--a broad-based, objective approach to educational finance. We are convinced that the league is ready and able to make this contribution.

Our league, while interested in studying conservation as a national item, does not want to see this item become a state item as well. We feel that just as the nation includes the states, the national item will include state problems. We do not feel that the argument of "less work" is one which league members should endorse. It might even be a serious handicap to the league in Minnesota in the future to restrict itself on more than one level to a specific problem or area of study.

One cannot honestly be completely opposed to a state tax study item and still be for an education item, or vice versa, for neither item is completely independent of or different from the other. To our way of thinking it is a difference of scope, one item (state tax study) encompassing a much broader area, and the other (education) being limited to meet an emergency. Education item supporters naturally are concerned with the finances of the state as a whole. State tax study item supporters eventually are concerned with that large part of state finances involving funds for education. In a nutshell, in our opinion the state tax study item presents a much more complex problem than the education item, which it includes.

Convention time comes fast and passes just as quickly. This particular convention will be of unusual moment because it may present the opportunity for our state league to initiate a new direction of study. We hope that you are considering as seriously as are we the program which will come out of this convention. We are devoted to the arguments sketched above, and would welcome a chance to hear your points of view. If you were one of the leagues interested in a study of education, you probably will want to suggest your preference again in the second round of suggestions. If you are interested in cooperating with us in working for the adoption of a current agenda item in the field of educational finances, we would be most anxious to hear from you.

HOPKINS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOPKINS

HOPKINS, MINNESOTA

February 8, 1957

Mrs. B. Young  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Young:

The Hopkins League wishes to submit these suggestions for  
the State Current Agenda:

A study of the state tax structure

A study of the conservation of our  
water resources.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. J.E. Cummings*  
Hopkins League of Women Voters

HUTCHINSON

526 Hassan S.  
Hutchinson, Minn  
~~Feb. 10, 1957~~

League of Women Voters of Minn.  
15th 7 Wash. Aves., S.E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Madam;

✓ We wish to make two reservations for the Legis-  
lative Day Feb. 20; for Mrs. Mark Roufs, and  
Mrs. Alex Rathmanner, both from Winsted.

Our leagues suggestions for the state agenda for  
the next two years are as follows:  
A study of the states institutions - penal, as  
well as those for the handicapped and mentally ill.  
Minnesota Highway Safety Program.  
A study of the problems of the aged and the states  
responsibility in relation to the needs.  
A study of laws of particular interest to women  
concerning inheritance, property, work and wages.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. G. I. Brende*



JACKSON

Jackson, Minnesota  
February 16, 1957

The Jackson League of Women Voters present the following items to be considered by the board when state program for the next biennium is being planned:

1. That we make a thorough study of existing Highway Safety Laws in Minnesota to learn what laws have been passed in this very important field and what steps may still be needed in the way of legislation to help decrease the number of highway accidents.
2. A study of how Minnesota's schools are financed to include an explanation of sources of income for the schools and also to include an explanation of what change the passage of Amendment #3 at the last election will have on the amount of money available for current use in Financing Minnesota's Schools.

MAHTOMEDI

The League of Women Voters  
of Mahtomedi

Mahtomedi 15, Minnesota

February 12, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota,  
15th and Washington Ave. S. E.,  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

The following is a list of recommendations for the  
State agenda made by members of the Mahtomedi League:

1. Study of Conservation of Natural Resources in Minn.
2. Study of present highway safety program with view  
to improve.
3. Study of Election Laws of Minnesota aiming toward  
clarification and unification.
4. Study of Water Conservation in state.
5. Study of personal property tax.
6. Study of dedicated funds.

Yours very truly,

*Miriam E. Ahlberg*

President

1725 Park Avenue

Mahtomedi 15, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS

Feb. 13, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
117 West Howard St.  
Hibbing, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

The following state program items were recommended by our board at its meeting February 6:

1. Promote better understanding of conservation practices in relation to water resources with a view to support research and conservation measures that conserve, protect and develop water resources.
2. An examination of the Minnesota nominating procedures and election laws.

The Board also voted to recommend that constitutional revision become a continuing responsibility.

In making these decisions the Board reviewed suggestions from 19 units. We have found a tremendous amount of interest in a water resources item. Two workshops have been well attended and Mrs. W. E. Balcom, water resources chairman, reports that she has received evidence of widespread interest. This was reflected also in the suggestions from the units.

The Board was particularly eager to have the wording of the water resources item such that action under it could be taken in the 1959 legislature provided consensus was reached.

The reason advanced for including the item on election procedures was that our agenda would have some variety and in terms of work load the water resources item would not require as much new study as a completely new item, since it already is on our national agenda.

Best regards.

Cordially,

MK:j  
cc: State office

Mrs. Frederick E. King  
President



F3D1P3

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Telephone: Atlantic 6319

Feb. 13, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young, President  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
117 West Howard St.  
Hibbing, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

The following state program items were recommended by our board at its meeting February 6:

1. Promote better understanding of conservation practices in relation to water resources with a view to support research and conservation measures that conserve, protect and develop water resources.
2. An examination of the Minnesota nominating procedures and election laws.

The Board also voted to recommend that constitutional revision become a continuing responsibility.

In making these decisions the Board reviewed suggestions from 19 units. We have found a tremendous amount of interest in a water resources item. Two workshops have been well attended and Mrs. W. E. Balcom, water resources chairman, reports that she has received evidence of widespread interest. This was reflected also in the suggestions from the units.

The Board was particularly eager to have the wording of the water resources item such that action under it could be taken in the 1959 legislature provided consensus was reached.

The reason advanced for including the item on election procedures was that our agenda would have some variety and in terms of work load the water resources item would not require as much new study as a completely new item, since it already is on our national agenda.

Best regards.

Cordially,

*Marquette King*  
Mrs. Frederick E. King  
President

MK:j  
cc: State office

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 407, Minneapolis 3, Minnesota  
Telephone: Atlantic 6319

Jan. 10, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young,  
117 West Howard St.,  
Hibbing, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Young:

At the Dec. meeting of the Minneapolis Board I stated some of the reasons I thought that Water Resources should be on the State Agenda. As a result of that discussion, other Board members suggested that I contact other Leagues in the State to try to discover their thinking on this matter, and also to try to build support for the item. Enclosed is a copy of the letter that was sent, and to whom.

I prepared the enclosed "Outline of Year's Work on Water Resources" originally for the Mpls. Board so that they would have a basis for deciding how our work was progressing. Since then, however, it has proved valuable, as it was given to each unit so they could use it for the same purpose, and to aid them in discussing whether Water Resources should have a place on the state agenda. I also spoke at the Dec. Chairman's meeting explaining the time factors involved.

In addition, our League-O-Gram this month will feature our Workshop on Water Resources, Febr. 1st; it is a panel of top speakers, Dr. Malcolm Hargraves, Water Pollution Control Commission; Mr. Sidney A. Frellsen, Director Division of Waters, State Dept. of Conservation; and Mr. Thomas A. Schrader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who will show slides. The League-O-Gram is also listing reasons why Water Resources should be on the State Agenda, May 1957.

Our radio programs on Water Resources will probably come in April, the month the units will be studying the subject. We will work with St. Paul on these.

The bibliography I enclose to show how it has grown - many worthwhile suggestions for it have come in from Water Resources Committee people, and have been included in the current bibliography.

I think that you can judge from these few examples, together with the fact that there were over 100 persons at our Nov. workshop, that Mpls. is enthusiastic about our National Item # 2.

We will be watching the State Legislature closely this year, and because of the need and as a result of the governor's message, some related legislation is apt to be proposed. Truly, this is something of statewide concern and interest.

Best regards and Happy New Year!!!!

Very sincerely,

*Winona Balcom*

Winona Balcom (Mrs. W.E.)  
Chairman, Water Resources Com.  
Minneapolis.

Letter re Water Resources being sent to all Hennepin County Leagues, plus

Anoka  
Austin  
Bemidji  
Brainerd  
Duluth  
Hibbing  
Moorhead  
Red Wing  
Rochester  
Roseville  
St. Paul  
Virginia  
Worthington



Jan. 8, 1957

Mrs. William Fletcher, President  
League of Women Voters of Anoka  
20330 Mississippi Blvd.  
Coon Rapids, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Fletcher:

C  
O  
P  
Y  
The Minneapolis League is considering the possibility of having a Water Resources item on the State Agenda, to be adopted at the State Convention in May. As you know, February 16 is the deadline for suggestions for the State Agenda.

Some considerations which have led us to this conclusion are:

1. An item must be on the agenda at the level where action is eventually to be taken. Our National directives indicate that we are expected to do much of our work in the state area.
2. Our state convention meets AFTER the legislative session; hence if this item is not put on the 1957 State Agenda, it won't be possible to put it on until May 1959 and to support or oppose conservation measures until the 1961 legislature. An item cannot be put on the Agenda in Council years.
3. We (Minneapolis) have not as yet discussed a specific wording for this item; however, our Water Resources Committee is meeting this month to suggest a wording to present to the Minneapolis Board. We feel it should not be specifically designated as a study item, since by the 1959 legislative session, we shall have been studying the subject for 2½ years. Enclosed is an outline of what our present year (1956-57) has included.
4. The conservation of our water resources and the cleaning up and prevention of pollution are primarily the concern of the state; hence, this item should be at the state level.
5. This would not increase our work load to the extent that any other new item would, since we already have it on the national level.
6. Many members feel that this item would attract new members to the League, particularly out in the western part of the state where we need more members, and where the water supplies generally are not as abundant.

We hope you, too, are interested in putting a Water Resources item on our State Agenda. You may remember a conservation item was proposed by some Leagues both in 1953 and in 1955.

Sincerely yours,

Winona Balcom (Mrs. W. E.)  
Chairman, Water Resources Committee

Encl.

MOUND

Feb 14, 1957

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board  
FROM: Mound LWV  
RE: State program suggestions

Suggested item: "Conservation: A study of water resources"

Comments: Membership opinion in our league predominately favored this item in order ~~to~~ 1) to enable us to take action on a state level in 1959 if desirable and 2) not to increase work load unduly. However, two things should be born in mind:

1) this conclusion was arrived at somewhat blindly as we have not as yet considered the national water resources item and will not before late April. Thus we are actually very much in the dark concerning State water problems and possibilities of our wanting to take action.

2) future work load will depend on what passes (said she hopefully) the 1957 legislature.

Yours very truly,

*Nadene Jones*

Mrs. Talbot Jones, president  
League of Women Voters of Mound  
Route 1, Wayzata, Minnesota

NEW ULM  
February 15, 1957

To: League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
From: New Ulm, Minnesota, L.W.V.  
Subject: State Program Suggestions

The New Ulm League of Women Voters wishes  
to make the following program suggestions

- 1 - A top study for the state of Minnesota  
using the Report of the Governor's Minnesota  
Top Study Committee
- 2 - Continue working for state constitutional  
revision
- 3 - a study of the state's mental health  
program.



NORTH ST. PAUL

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NORTH ST. PAUL 9, MINNESOTA

February 14, 1957

The following are the suggestions of the North St. Paul League of Women Voters for the state program in order of preference:

Continue to concentrate on constitutional revision  
Financing schools through state aid and dedicated funds  
A study of the proposed withholding tax

OLIVIA

Olivia, Minn.

Jan. 18, 1957

Minnesota League of Women Voters,  
15th & Washington Ave. S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

State Officers:

Due to our meeting dates  
we were unable to get our suggestions  
for next year's study program  
in at any earlier date.

We are especially interested in  
the following:

Local Highway safety.

Present Tax structure

Juvenile Delinquency laws.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. E.A.) Bertha Erickson (Sec.)

# PARK RAPIDS

2 PAGES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
PARK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

For State Agenda:

"Back legislation for  
increased library service  
in the State of Minnesota"

or

"Promote legislation for  
extension of library services  
(or facilities) in the State  
of Minnesota".

(or any modified version)

If what we hear — That  
 Minnesota has only about  
 50% coverage as far as  
 library facilities and library  
 services are concerned, it  
 would seem that the League  
 could do some promotional  
 work. After all, inherent in  
 our program is the idea  
 of an enlightened public!

Myrtle Hallett



SUGGESTED STATE PROGRAM ITEMS, 1957.

CONSERVATION: Study of water resources

YOUTH CONSERVATION: Study ways of more efficiently developing our youth physically, mentally, and Morally.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeanette Wittich*

Jeanette Wittich, sec'y.

Red Wing League of Women Voters

RED WING  
Feb 25 57  
2 PAGES

Re: State Program —

Is it too late to ask that  
Const Revision be kept on the  
State Programs as a continuing  
responsibility?

Actually, it wasn't discussed  
much at the League meetings  
when we were talking about  
state items but I find many  
seem to take it for granted  
<sup>that</sup> we are committed in that  
direction — & rightly so —

Sincerely,  
Mary Miller  
Pres — Red Wing League

The Board of the Richfield League of Women Voters suggest the following for the 1957-59 state program:

Current Agenda

1. Conservation: Study of water resources
2. Study of Minnesota Election laws

Continuing Responsibilities

1. Constitutional Convention
2. Reapportionment by statute
3. Party Designation for legislators

How we arrived at this decision:

A study of the tax problems facing Minnesota (with some emphasis on sales tax and dedicated funds) seemed to be the first choice for current agenda of the majority of our units. The second choice was water conservation. On February 5th at our regular Board meeting, unit chairmen were also present and we chose conservation as our first item with their help for the following reasons:

1. We have many new members in our units who have had little experience in program planning. A study of taxes was given to them as an example for current agenda. In our units in Richfield, we will not take up the national conservation topic until April so we have had little background in conservation. The unit chairmen and the board members felt that if conservation had been more under discussion and if taxation had not been so much in the news that our members might have voted differently.
2. We in the Minnesota League have done a broad<sup>to</sup> study in the past and this material is available. Much work is being done in the tax field by many organizations and much publicity is being given to taxation at this time so that the individual member can keep herself well informed if she wishes. Unless we are to come to some concrete decision about support or rejection of certain types of taxes, it seemed to some Board members that another general study would not be good. We were not sure that we could get a majority decision among League members about accepting or rejecting dedicated funds as well as such things as a sales tax. In addition, taxation is such a complicated problem that we wondered whether professional help might be needed in the study.
3. We all felt that state program has been too heavy in the past and that any lightening of the load would be desirable.

Page 2--Richfield League of Women Voters Program suggestions for State

A study of state water conservation would be feasible at this time because of the background we have from our National study. The two could be coordinated and the timing seemed good from the viewpoint of saving both effort and woman power.

4. We felt that conservation is a topic which would appeal to those rural areas which probably have not been too active on the state program in the past several years. Because of our sustained work on constitutional convention and related topics, it seemed to us well to have an entirely different type of current agenda so that new interest in the state program among all Leagues could be aroused.

Even though we want the program load lightened, the study of election laws was added for two reasons:

1. We feel that league members need to know more about our election laws since we are a League of Women Voters. It would be a topic which is of interest to all members without being too involved and difficult to understand. It would be a concrete problem with enough difference in opinion to make study interesting.
2. If we did get conservation on the state level as well as on the national level, it seemed to us we should have another item to appeal to those who might not be as vitally interested in conservation as some of our members.

Continuing Responsibilities

All of our units felt that we will have to continue to work for constitutional convention whether our bill passes or not. We all agreed, however, that it could be handled as well on a C.R. basis as on the current agenda.

F.E.P.C. and Civil Service were cut out mainly because of the reality of lack of woman power and time. It seemed to us that any movement for modification of veterans preference will have to come from veterans organizations.

Other items which were suggested for current agenda besides taxation and conservation but not recommended by us: 1) Highway safety laws, 2) Juvenile court laws, 3) Mental health

Dorothy Schepers

Muriel Grunditz  
State Item Chairmen

*Muriel Grunditz*



ROCHESTER



# ROCHESTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

MRS. JOHN SILLIMAN  
PRESIDENT

MRS. R. D. MILLER  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
MRS. SPENCER BURRINGTON  
SECRETARY

MRS. FRED SAUER  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
MRS. ROBERT GARWOOD  
TREASURER

February 14, 1957

## DIRECTORS

MRS. JOE R. BROWN  
MRS. R. L. FAWCETT  
MRS. J. M. PUNDERSON  
MRS. STANLEY DRIPS  
MRS. KENNETH HUIZENGA  
MRS. LYLE WEED  
MRS. JOHN CALLAHAN  
MRS. LOUIS MURPHY  
MRS. ROBERT SIEKERT  
MRS. GEORGE SPOO

## UNIT CHAIRMEN

MISS JENNIE CONWAY  
MRS. W. A. MERRITT  
MRS. DAN ENGELS  
MRS. OLIVER DORSCHNER  
MRS. T. R. EHRHORN  
MRS. HOMER GOEHRS  
MRS. E. M. CLAPPIER  
MRS. T. K. KEARNS  
MRS. JOHN A. CALLAHAN  
MRS. J. C. HAAS

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Madam:

Our State program suggestions from the various units are finally in. I'm including all the suggestions although the Rochester League highly recommends one item on the State current agenda.

This is the list in what seems to be the order of preference.

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Conservation   | 3 units |
| 2. School finance   | 2 "     |
| 3. School redistricting   | 2 "     |
| 4. Constitutional Revision  | 2 "     |
| 5. Highway Safety   | 2 "     |
| 6. Open space conservation<br>of the juvenile courts                    | 1 "     |
| 7. Taxation   | 1 "     |
| 8. Study of Governor's<br>program for bringing<br>industry to Minnesota | 1 "     |

We have nine units but some suggested more than one item -

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Silliman  
(Mrs. John F.)

# ROSEVILLE

The items our units suggested they suggested to be  
to be on the State Agenda  
(in order of their popularity)

1. Basic Job Structure
2. School Finance
3. Conservation
4. Election Laws
5. Sales Tax
6. Withholding Tax
7. Little Hoover Report

Mr. C. O. Simpson  
1836 Alta Vista  
Roseville League  
St Paul 13,  
Minn

ST. CLOUD

St. Cloud

Feb. 6, 1957

Dear State League Office:

AT our board meeting last night I was asked to send on to you the St. Cloud League's suggestion for the Current Agenda. The suggestion is as follows:

A study of the state tax structure and financial problems underlying the state programs.

There was a good deal of interest in various areas of study as discussed by unit members, specifically, in highway safety laws, juvenile problems of all sorts and mental health. However, our members tend to feel that basic to all programs is the need for adequate funds. We feel that a better understanding of the whole financial setup in the state would be most helpful. In gaining an understanding of

The financial problems underlying state programs we would not only become much more familiar with the programs themselves but also be better prepared to know where to place future efforts either as league members or as citizens of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elizabeth Zamminkle  
St. Cloud league of Women's



ST. LOUIS PARK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of St. Louis Park



St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Affiliated with the  
League of Women Voters of the U. S.

February 7, 1957

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th & Washington Ave., S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Madam:

The St. Louis Park League has considered the possibility of having a Water Resource item on the State Agenda. Therefore it is our recommendation that "Adequate planning for conservation of water resources and the cleaning up and prevention of pollution in the State of Minnesota" be placed on the coming years agenda.

Sincerely yours,

*Laurene H. Koch*

Laurene H. Koch (Mrs. C.C.)  
Secretary

ST. PAUL

League of Women Voters of St. Paul

123 W. Fifth Street  
Saint Paul 2, Minnesota

CA. 2-3178



February 8, 1957

Re: Program Suggestions

The following suggestion was decided upon after evaluating the the suggestions sent to the board from the units:

- I. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will work for the calling of a Constitutional Convention.

(It appeared that our membership doesn't feel they have had enough on Tax Structure, Financing Public Schools, Home Rule, and we felt this could be achieved under the above item without making the wording bulky)

The following suggestion is from the St. Paul board, 16 members were present:

- II. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will evaluate the election laws and procedures of the State of Minnesota and will work for changes if needed.

(this item would, of course, include primary laws, registration laws, etc.)  
This item was also suggested by two units.

St. Paul League would not change the Continuing Responsibilities.

*Mrs. Don Y. Moore*  
Mrs. Don Y. Moore, President

SOUTH ST. PAUL

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN.



February 14, 1957

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th and Washington Avenue S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Dear Madam:

The South St. Paul League submits the following suggestions for the State Program.

1. Study of Youth conservation with a view toward the needs for the control of increase in Juvenile delinquency.
2. Study and a program for state aids for the gifted child

We, also, recommend that the present Consitutional Revision be carried as a continuing responsibility, if there is no action on this item by the end of the presant legislative session.

The "Tired Old Leaguers" in So. St. Paul would like something new on the State program to work on.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fred C. Jones

VIRGINIA

The Virginia League of Women  
Voters would like to suggest  
these items for the State Current  
Agenda 1957-58.

1. Establishment of Mental Health  
Clinics throughout the State.
2. The tax structure of Minnesota  
and its revision.

Florence B. Rykken  
(Mrs N. T.)

39 Taconite Drive  
Virginia, Minn

Feb 13, 1957



WASECA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASECA

ELAINE TENNEY HERBIG

February 11, 1957

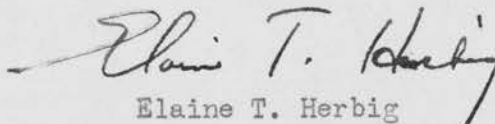
League of Women Voters  
of Minnesota  
84 South Tenth Street  
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Dear State Agenda Suggestions Chairman:

The Waseca Chapter has asked me to submit the  
following list of suggestions for your consideration :

1. Tax Study
2. Civil Service
3. Highway Safety Laws
4. Lobbying Regulations
5. Youth Conservation
6. Juvenile Court Problems

Sincerely yours,



Elaine T. Herbig  
Corresponding Secretary,  
League of Women Voters of Waseca

WAYZATA

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAYZATA

Feb. 11, 1957

League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th and Washington St. S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attention: State Program Committee

Mesdames:

The League of Women Voters of Wayzata submits the following  
suggestion for the 1957-58 State Current Agenda:

"A study of the present Minnesota tax structure  
in order to take action on tax bills presented  
in the State Legislature."

Yours truly,

League of Women Voters of Wayzata

By:

*Harriet Saepke*  
Secretary

# WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP

The following suggestions were given for state agenda items:

- State hospitals
- State education system - the way it operates, how financed, etc.
- Penal system
- Highway safety
- Governmental agencies for care of maladjusted children.
- Election procedures on state level.

WORTHINGTON

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA



845 Winifred St  
February 1, 1957

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Madam:

The Worthington League is in favor  
of adding Water Conservation to the state  
current agenda. Will you please give  
this information to the state board?

Yours truly,

Janice B. O'Malley (secretary)



 ECOND  OUND

CA - Taxes -

ALEXANDRIA

League of Women Voters  
of Alexandria

Alexandria, Minnesota

April 17, 1957.

The League of Women Voters of Alexandria  
recommends the following as a state agenda item  
for 1957-58:

"The Study of the tax structure of the  
State of Minnesota with the purpose of  
seeking additional means of revenue".

Lucille O. Puthy  
President.

BEMIDJI

Bemidji

9/25

Agree w. Awatonne mtape,

# BIRCHWOOD

B'wood	water Conservation
4/17	



# CASS LAKE

Second round program suggestion  
from L.W.V. of Cass Lake:

"Financing the Public Schools  
of Minnesota"

Our 1<sup>st</sup> round suggestion had to do with a study of  
highered. in Minn. — we feel the above limited  
ed. item as suggested by Publishing League is at the root  
of the ed. study on all levels. We had no reg. or Board meeting  
after 9<sup>th</sup> of April so had to decide by phone. — there for late

CA - Union

DEEPHAVEN

Deephaven League of Women Voters

Mrs. Harold Wilson,  
Executive Secretary  
League of Women Voters of Minn.  
15th & Washington Ave. S.E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minn.

April 5, 1957

Dear Grace,

We have no recommended changes for the Proposed Current Agenda, but we wanted to report the following for your information.

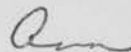
In the first round of program suggestions, the Deephaven league sent in a proposed agenda item in the field of taxation. At that time our members favored a local agenda item in the field of water resources - interest being centered mainly in the problems of Lake Minnetonka.

When we received the Proposed State Agenda, our members re-evaluated our local ideas and decided we could be more effective with a purely Deephaven item. Hence, our proposed local agenda for next year is a continuation of our present tax study.

As you see, we still have "area" problems in our league but I think we're on the right track anyway. Our interest in water resources is high - particularly in the pollution problems of Lake Minnetonka. Our members are pleased to drop our original state agenda tax item and support the Proposed Current Agenda:

Conservation: A Study of Water Resources

Affectionately,



Mrs. Nicholas E. Duff, president  
League of Women Voters of Deephaven

DULUTH

352 Leicester Avenue  
Duluth 3, Minnesota  
April 15, 1957

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
15th and Washington S. E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mesdames:

The following is the recommendation of the Executive Board and the membership of the League of Women Voters of Duluth:

Inform the State Board that the recommendation from our League was overwhelmingly in favor of the Water Item.

The Board moved that we strongly recommend the words "with a view to action" be inserted in the Water Item on the State Agenda.

The Board moved that Education with Emphasis on the Financial Situation be included on the State Level Agenda. The vote was 8 in favor and 7 opposed.

The Board moved that the Constitutional Revision item be placed on the Continuing Responsibilities. This vote was unanimous.

The Board also moved that we continue Civil Service on the list of Continuing Responsibilities. This vote was also unanimous. We feel the need of this because locally this subject is to be considered at great length by our new city government. There is State material now available which we hope to restudy during the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sylvia L. Myers*

Mrs. Donald H. Myers, Jr.  
State Item Chairman

EXCELSIOR

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EXCELSIOR  
EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA

April 19, 1957

To: State League

Re: Program Suggestions

Our League wishes to propose the following items for consideration for Agenda for the coming two year period:

1. Conservation: A Study of Water Resources
2. A study of the general tax structure of the State

After considering the items sent back from the first round our League feels that there is enough interest in the second item to warrant its inclusion on the Agenda. Such a study would enable League members to be informed about proposed tax legislation a timely and vital part of State legislation.

Yours truly,

Mrs. John Schmitt  
Pres. Excelsior LWV



Affiliated with the  
League of Women Voters of the U. S.



# FERGUS FALLS

7 Falls  
5/1 Conservation Study of Water Resource.

HIBBING

3 PAGES

April 11, 1957

TO: League of Women Voters of Minnesota

RE: Program Suggestions

The League of Women Voters of Hibbing would like to suggest that the following program item be considered by the State Board:

"FINANCING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MINNESOTA."

This item is a modification of the broader education item which we suggested in the first round of suggestions.

The amount of work which can be anticipated under this item would be in direct proportion to the desires of the membership, expressed at convention. It could be a well-rounded, absorbing study which could easily occupy the place of a one-item agenda, or it could be, if Constitutional Revision were to continue on the current agenda, a new, second item, taking a subordinate place on the program.

Specifically, the work which we would anticipate, if it were to be the only item on the current agenda, would be:

To present an accurate picture of the scope of state financing of education;

To project from this picture the additional demands on education which result from the unprecedented enrollment increases;

To reconcile the anticipated needs in education with the sources of revenue available to provide those needs.

We believe it would be a very great contribution by the League to the people of Minnesota if we could help to clarify public opinion on these three points; namely, what have we got in education, what do we have to get in the future, and how are we going to get it.

*Mrs. John J. Neumaier*

Mrs. John J. Neumaier, pres.  
League of Women Voters of Hibbing.

TO: ALL LEAGUES IN THE STATE  
 FROM: LWV OF HIBBING  
 RE: STATE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

2206 Ninth Avenue East  
 Hibbing, Minnesota 3 PAGES  
 April 10, 1957

We would like to draw your attention to the coming State Convention and the most important business which it is to accomplish; namely, the adoption of a State Current Agenda for 1957-59. With all respect to the many opinions on this subject and the good reasons for such points of view, we in Hibbing are recommending a study of public education finances in the state.

In the original round of suggestions we recommended a very broad "Study of Public Education in Minnesota." This item could have been limited, we felt, in convention to reflect the interests of all the leagues in the state. As we saw it such a broad study could have included three important areas of concern to us:

- I. Responsibilities of public education in the state. (problems of facilities, teacher needs, administration, etc.)
  - A. As it concerns normal children.
  - B. As it concerns gifted children.
  - C. As it concerns handicapped children.
  - D. As it concerns delinquent children.
- II. Financing of the public schools of the state.
  - A. Where the monies come from and how they are distributed.
  - B. Inadequacies in revenue sources and their distribution, and what can be done about this.
- III. New horizons in higher education. (How "big" is public higher education to become?)
  - A. Enrollment trends.
  - B. Types of institutions of higher learning.
  - C. Their cost to the taxpayer--their service to community and state.

In the coming second round of program suggestions we are going to recommend --and we would welcome your local league's support and suggestions in this matter-- a more limited education item:

#### "FINANCING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MINNESOTA"

If you have been watching the progress of the current legislature you are aware of the tremendous burden to the state of providing funds for education. Essentially, this modified recommendation is Section II above; however, you can readily see that the problem involves decisions in the areas outlined in I and III.

If there is anything of which league members can be proud, we believe it is the study-action procedure which the league has refined to an art. As league members we may be modest about praise of the league, but we are all genuinely concerned with upholding league standards not only through doing a good job in a chosen area, but in choosing the area of government which can benefit most from a "good job." Just what, then, should be our focus in 1957-59?

We believe that of the top three items listed in the first round of suggestions, only education involves an area of ~~urgent~~ concern to the state as a whole. This memo is not the place for a deluge of statistics; however, we believe it is not ill considered criticism to suggest that Minnesota is not prepared to meet the increased demands of education, and that unless informed opinion is developed, haphazard decisions may be made. In planning for a new state program for our league we would ask you to follow for a moment our line of reasoning and to consider briefly



these three questions: What advantages are there to an education item in itself? What possible disadvantages are there to a conservation item? What possible advantages might an education item have over a tax study item?

We think the league stands to gain most from an education item. The primary reason, of course, is the crying need for information throughout the state on which the citizenry can base intelligent planning. The individuals are so few and far between who understand the emergency in education, and it is not democratic to shift the burden of planning for the future to them. And even if we were willing to shift the burden, how do we know who the "experts" are?

Outside of the league we stand to gain in many ways through the adoption of an education item. It would be an asset to the league in the state to take an active part in the solution of the crisis in education. Most certainly that dying breed, the anti-feminists, would see that league women actually are interested in what happens to our children. From the standpoint of growth of league membership, what better selling point could we have to the young mothers of Minnesota than that the League is studying the state's problems of education? While all issues of government do have "human content," the issue of education has the double effect of touching people where they love most (their children) and where they hurt most (their taxes).

A study of financing education in our state is ideally suited to the purpose and method of the league, and therefore is an item to which all league members would naturally respond. It would provide a new challenge to our membership and a new direction for our energies. At the same time we would be rendering a necessary and worthwhile contribution which Minnesota seriously needs--a broad-based, objective approach to educational finance. We are convinced that the league is ready and able to make this contribution.

Our league, while interested in studying conservation as a national item, does not want to see this item become a state item as well. We feel that just as the nation includes the states, the national item will include state problems. We do not feel that the argument of "less work" is one which league members should endorse. It might even be a serious handicap to the league in Minnesota in the future to restrict itself on more than one level to a specific problem or area of study.

One cannot honestly be completely opposed to a state tax study item and still be for an education item, or vice versa, for neither item is completely independent of or different from the other. To our way of thinking it is a difference of scope, one item (state tax study) encompassing a much broader area, and the other (education) being limited to meet an emergency. Education item supporters naturally are concerned with the finances of the state as a whole. State tax study item supporters eventually are concerned with that large part of state finances involving funds for education. In a nutshell, in our opinion the state tax study item presents a much more complex problem than the education item, which it includes.

Convention time comes fast and passes just as quickly. This particular convention will be of unusual moment because it may present the opportunity for our state league to initiate a new direction of study. We hope that you are considering as seriously as are we the program which will come out of this convention. We are devoted to the arguments sketched above, and would welcome a chance to hear your points of view. If you were one of the leagues interested in a study of education, you probably will want to suggest your preference again in the second round of suggestions. If you are interested in cooperating with us in working for the adoption of a current agenda item in the field of educational finances, we would be most anxious to hear from you.



CA Tax Structure

OWATONNA

Owatonna League of Women Voters  
April 12, 1957

Dear Local League President,

The Owatonna League of Women Voters recommended the following item for the state current agenda on the first round of suggestions:

"The study of the tax structures of Minnesota with the purpose of procuring additional means of revenue."

Our league still prefers this item to the water resources item recommended by the state board. While we do not question the importance of the water resources study, we feel the state tax study is much more vital at this time to the well being of our state. We feel, too, that the presence of the water resources item on both the state and national agenda is poor programming, and will result in too narrow a scope of interest.

The Owatonna League would like you to consider these factors before you make your second round suggestion to the state office. (This must be done by April 24, preferably by April 18.) If you are one of the seventeen leagues which recommended a taxation item the first round, perhaps united interest behind one wording would offset the interest in water resources, since the vote was seventeen water resources vs. seventeen for some form of taxation. We hope a taxation study will include some of the more specific items suggested, but feel an inclusive wording has the best chance of passing.

If you would be interested in the wording we used, please use it as your second round suggestion also. If you are one of the leagues that suggested another not recommended item, please consider suggesting a taxation item. If you are one of the leagues that recommended water resources, please consider the advisability of changing your choice.

Although time is limited, we would be glad to have you contact us if you wish to discuss this further. If you wish to support a taxation item at convention, we would appreciate your instructing your delegates to this effect.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*Barbara L McCarthy*

The Owatonna League of Women Voters  
(Mrs. Harold McCarthy, President)

*Rec. to list of Local League presidents.*

## League of Women Voters

of Roseville SAINT PAUL 13, MINNESOTA

April 15, 1957

Mrs. Basil Young,  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota,  
15th and Washington Ave., S.E.,  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

Dear Mrs. Young:

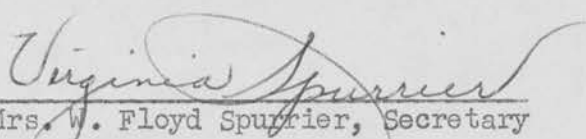
The proposed State Agenda item on "Conservation" has been seriously considered and discussed at the last two meetings of the local board of the Roseville League. At tonight's meeting, the board voted to recommend a substitute item for the State Agenda, namely, "State Aids to Education".

We urge your consideration of this substitute item before making your final recommendation.

Very truly yours,

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROSEVILLE

By

  
Mrs. W. Floyd Spurrier, Secretary

ST. CLOUD  
St. Cloud, Minn.  
April 22, 1957

To: State Board of the L W V of Minn.

Re: Second round of program suggestions

The St. Cloud L W V recommended a study of the tax structure of Minnesota in the first round of program suggestions. As our second suggestion we would like to concur with the Owatonna L W V in the following:

"The study of the tax structure of Minnesota with the purpose of procuring additional revenue."

Yours truly,  
Irene A. Nordling  
St. Cloud L W V  
923-9th Ave. S.E.  
St. Cloud, Minn.

ST. PAUL

CA - water

St. Paul telephoned

D say they agree  
with S7 Board

proposed program



VIRGINIA

Virginia  
4/23

Finance, of P. Schools of State

Net Letter

WELLS

League of Women Voters

WELLS, MINNESOTA

April 3, 1957.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis 141 Minnesota -

Dear Madam.

When I first presented the new proposed state program "Conservation: A Study of Water Resources" to our board, it seemed like a good choice although we had not thought of it ourselves. But the more some of us have thought about this, the more unwise it seems. We wonder if so much of the same subject matter might not make it difficult to present enough interesting programs - that they may become tiresome. Several League representatives at the Area meeting in Ansonia last Tuesday expressed similar feelings and will likely be writing in about this.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Manville Oren, Pres.

Memo :- Please check Mrs. Fred Roberts,  
15  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South, Wells, for your mailing  
list for the Voters. She joined our League  
in January and has received no votes.

Mrs. Chen.

# League of Women Voters

WELLS, MINNESOTA

April 25, 1957

League of Women Voters  
15th and Washington Avenue SE  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Madam:

Inclosed is a copy of our annual meeting minutes, our  
April board meeting minutes, and our budget for 1957-58.

At our last board meeting a motion was passed to recommend  
that a phase of taxation be considered for the state agenda  
instead of water conservation because of the duplication with the  
national agenda.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Eldon Coyle*  
Mrs. Eldon Coyle,  
Secretary



# THE MINNESOTA VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

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NO. 6

## TOGETHER WE EVOLVE A PROGRAM

### The New Delegate With Know-How

"I won't be home early after all—this is a hot convention," explained the League of Women Voters delegate in the Nicollet Hotel phone booth. "Besides, I have to stay and caucus!"

This conversation was repeated by many of the 257 delegates and 62 observers on May 16, the first day of the 36th state Convention in Minneapolis. The typical delegate was young, had small children and was attending her first Convention. She soon found that program-making for the League is exciting. She was relishing the process and was entirely equal to the task. It was clear from the start that she wanted the state program from 1957 to 1959 to have a "new look." To achieve this, she applied her liveliest efforts to the Current Agenda.

#### Whose Convention?

If there was any question in the new delegate's mind about who controlled the Convention, it was answered in the opening minutes of the program presentation.

The initial program, proposed earlier by the state Board after the first round of local League suggestions, had as Current Agenda "Conservation: A study of Water Resources." According to the state by-laws, the Board may "modify" the Current Agenda after the second round of suggestions. At this point the Board had dropped Conservation from the Current Agenda and had substituted as recommended items "Constitutional Revision" and "Financing Public Education."

#### "Point of Order"

A delegate from St. Paul "rose to a point of order," questioning the authority of the Board in so completely "modifying" the initial proposed program. The parliamentarian ruled the state Board had acted within its powers. However, another delegate appealed the ruling and the Convention voted the Board had overstepped its bounds.

Conservation fans had an excellent reason for their move: it restored their item to the recommended list, needing only a majority of votes instead of the two-thirds required to pass non-recommended items.

Now there were three recommended items. All were voted a place in the deliberations to be held the next day.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

### What the Board Does Before Convention

In the League of Women Voters' role as a "democracy in microcosm," program-making is its legislative branch, its congress. Representatives of the membership go to the state Convention as uninstructed delegates to vote a program they believe will best serve the purpose of the League—to promote active participation of citizens in government. The state Board function is that of the executive branch: to formulate and present to the Convention what it believes is the best program. The Convention then makes the choice.

After the first round of program suggestions, the Board must quickly choose an initial proposal and send it out to be considered by the Leagues. Two things happen before the Convention:

1. The local Leagues send in second round suggestions based on the initial proposal.
2. The state Board formulates its final recommended program.

This act is preceded by an intense, though obviously not complete, Board study of the items it has proposed to see whether they will meet that all-important requirement: catch the interest and fire the imagination of the current and potential League member.

It was the Board procedure following the second round of suggestions which seemed, for a time, to puzzle Convention delegates.

An illustration of the pre-Convention program-making role of the Board may be seen in its handling of "Conservation: a study of Water Resources," the item the Board at first recommended for the Current Agenda.

Before making the final proposed program, the Board obtained and studied a policy statement of the President of the United States, Governor Freeman's recommendations on conservation to the 1957 Legislature, the report of an interim commission on water resources of the 1955 Legislature, the 1957 report of the Commissioner of Conservation and other documents from his department, materials on water pollution from the State Department of Health, and materials on water from the national LWV.

It consulted with experts in the State Department of Health and the political science department of the Uni-

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

F 3 D 2  
State Program

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

## State Program 1957-1959

"The Program consists of state governmental measures on which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may take action. The Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities . . . constitute the Program."—State By-Laws

### CURRENT AGENDA

The Current Agenda is limited to such current state governmental issues as the state Convention chooses for concerted action. Action includes: 1. providing information; 2. building public opinion; and 3. supporting legislation.

- 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.
- II. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will evaluate election laws and procedures of the State of Minnesota and will work for changes if needed.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Continuing Responsibilities are those positions on state governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has given sustained attention, and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the state Convention.

- 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.

### The New Delegate

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

Two non-recommended items were also introduced. Delegates voted 83 to 139 not to give consideration to the proposal, "The LWV of Minnesota will study the tax problems of Minnesota." Upon a motion to reconsider, the proposal again lost, 84 to 138.

The second item was, "The LWV of Minnesota will evaluate the election laws and procedures of the State of Minnesota and work for changes if needed." This item was voted consideration, 123 to 104.

Although the delegate had earned an evening's relaxation, after dinner she rushed to a caucus to root for her favorite program items. Here, in the light of other Leagues' problems and attitudes, she saw the proposals more clearly.

Following much lively debate pro and con, the final score on Friday was: Conservation, lost by a vote of 54 to 204; Constitutional Revision, won by voice vote; Financing Public Education, lost by a vote of 72 to 171;

Election Laws, won by almost unanimous voice vote, to become the "new look." The recommended Continuing Responsibilities were approved without any changes.

What the state Board does on the first and second days of a Convention was never more clearly illustrated than this year. In presenting its proposed program on the opening day, the Board gives the best "pitch" it can to those items it recommends. The second day, the delegates must carry the debate. A state Board that fought possessively for "its" items on the second day would deserve just what it might get—a two-year "let-the-Board-do-it" program! The best measure of the membership's interest in the program and willingness to work on it is the delegates' debate and vote.

Who controlled the Convention? The delegate—and no doubt about it! She took home the program she wanted.

### Book Review in Brief

The 1957 Legislative Report is witty, exciting. Obtain for 50c at State Office.

### Dark Horse

"How appropriate." "Why didn't we think of that before?" "It's a good program item." These expressions reflected the reactions of the state Convention delegates to the dark horse in the Current Agenda Sweepstakes. Result: Minnesota Election Laws, a non-recommended item, gathered speed as the Convention progressed and swept across the finish line in the number two spot on our program for 1957-1959.

What were some of the reasons for the enthusiasm which greeted this entry into the program discussion? There was, first, the simple fact that League members wanted to know more about election laws. Our Voters Service activities are well received in the community; it was felt that we could do an even more effective job if more of us knew the rules and regulations of voting. Many of us, just because we are League members, are asked questions about voting, and we don't always know the answers. Study of the election laws item would help put each of us in a better position to serve voters. (Of course, in using what we learn, we will have to be careful not to mix Voters Service and program. Voters Service must be informative only, not critical.)

### Reform Is in the Air

Some of the information brought to the Convention indicated election law reform is in the air, and rightly so. The present state of our election laws causes confusion, misunderstanding and inefficiency. The 1957 session of the Legislature appointed an interim commission to examine our election laws and make recommendations for their improvement. This, therefore, seemed the right time to get in on the ground floor.

Because the act of voting is, for many citizens, their only participation in government, it is fundamental that they understand the mechanics of voting and that elections be properly conducted. Some of the particulars on which we will be working are absentee balloting, residence requirements, registration, administration, election costs and political party procedures and regulations.

Very soon, then, we will be studying, analyzing, making recommendations and ultimately supporting improvements in our election laws. We will be working in an area essential to the successful function of our democracy; certainly, voting is the key.

### Our Golden Egg

Budget-making at the Convention was not a column of dull figures, but a series of delightful surprises, all leading to the conclusion that strong membership and strong finance go hand-in-hand.

Mrs. E. C. Williams, chairman, presented the proposed budget of \$21,688, a new high for the state League, constructing with colored paper a house that "jack" built, from foundation up. (Plug for publications: this idea, also used by the *St. Louis Park* League, is taken from the new national publication, "How to Spend Money for the League.")

*Cass Lake*, the little League with major-league spirit, was the first to pledge more than suggested, offering \$10 extra. *Owatonna* and *Rochester* each pledged \$25 more than recommended. A large number of Leagues met suggested increases.

The local League enthusiasm was typified by *Golden Valley*, which gave a \$25 "nest egg" check encased in a gilt shell. *St. Paul* also contributed \$25 to the special gifts fund. More good news came from three provisional Leagues. Their healthy pledges were: *Crystal*—\$125; *Minnetonka Village*—\$100; and *Robbinsdale*—\$125.

As a result, the final revised budget was \$21,583. The reduction of \$105 from the proposed budget was the least in memory. It was apparent that the state League has an intangible golden nest egg: the fact that, whether they give extra or whether they can't quite make the suggested pledge, the local Leagues are still contributing their utmost.

### Leading Lady

Amid applause and the popping of flash bulbs, Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves of Rochester was named winner of the annual Hope Washburn Award for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The first regular presentation of the certificate came during the Convention.

Mrs. Hargraves, who has just retired as constitutional revision chairman on the state Board, was state President from 1947 to 1951 and a member of the national Board from 1953 to 1955.

Fifteen other women from 10 local Leagues were nominated by 21 individuals, units and state Board members and by 13 local League Boards. Other nominees were Mrs. O. H. Anderson, Mahtomedi; Mrs. T. O. Everson, Mrs. Norman Grossman, Mrs. Reynold Jensen, Mrs. Elsbeth Parker, Miss Barbara Stuhler and Mrs. Frederick Winston, Minneapolis; Mrs. Gordon Grunditz, Richfield; Mrs. Donald Guthrie, Birchwood; Mrs. Stanley Kane, Golden Valley; Mrs. Roger Klein, Brainerd; Miss Dora Pletka and Miss Amelia Japs, Excelsior; Mrs. Gert-rude Wallinder, Duluth; Mrs. Basil Young, Hibbing.

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## Spotlight on Keeping up With the Joneses

Curiosity about the neighbors is always natural; but it is actually praiseworthy in the League, where the price of keeping up with the Joneses is originality and hard work. One of the rewards of the final session of the Convention was the Spotlight on Local Leagues who won prizes or commendation in a number of fields. Their thumbnail success stories provided inspiration and many practical tips.

Prizes of office equipment were awarded as follows:

### Public Relations

*Bloomington*, for work on the Bloomington master plan as the most effective public relations job on a local level; *Edina*, for the Convention exhibit showing work on national, state, and local levels; *Richfield*, for the best job of building public opinion for a constitutional convention; *Minneapolis*, for the Convention exhibit on League orientation.

### Publications

*Roseville* was named best in all-round use of publications, *Mrs. D. A. Honetschlager*, Stillwater, best in promotion by an individual of "Well What D'Ya Know," and *Jackson, South St. Paul* and *Roseville* won awards for best promotion by local Leagues of the same booklet.

Special commendation was given in:

### Finance

*Roseville, Granite Falls, Rochester, and Minneapolis.*

### Local Current Agenda

*Jackson, White Bear Township, and Edina.*

### Voters Service

*Duluth, Bloomington, Cass Lake.*

## What The Board Does

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

versity of Minnesota, with the national LWV Board and staff members and with officers of state Leagues which have water items on their programs.

After much discussion, the Board decided it could not, after all, recommend a water item.

Similar research was done on taxation and education, the other two suggestions receiving the greatest consideration by the local Leagues. In addition, the Board restudied the placing of the constitutional revision item. As a result of these deliberations, Constitutional Revision and Financing Public Education were recommended as Current Agenda on the final proposed program.

If there had been no possibility of changing the first proposed program before offering it to the Convention, there would have been no point in going through the carefully worked-out procedure of the second round of suggestions and the re-examination of the program by the Board.

## The President Has the Last Word

Your perspective will, of course, be different from mine, but this is how it has looked to me from where I have sat these past four years.

Every phase of League activity must move in the direction of our purpose—work toward making more citizens aware of their relationship to government. I believe we are doing that through our program . . .

But we know that the effectiveness of a program item is not determined by legislative success alone. It is only one-third of our three-fold definition of action. We use another yardstick. Have we given information; have we influenced public opinion? The answer comes quickly and positively. We need only to read the stacks of newspaper clippings we have on file; ask leading citizens in League communities, "What is the LWV doing in the field of state government in your town?"; remember the legislative debate in committee room and on the floor (of one house, anyway) and be convinced that many more people in Minnesota know more about their state constitution than they did ten years ago.

### We Make Progress

We are also moving in the right direction and making our influence felt more and more through our Local Current Agenda items . . . I believe we are making more effective use of the committee system . . . We are learning the value—the necessity, I should say—of cooperation between committees . . . we are making progress in working with other groups.

In order to do an efficient job we must, like a swimmer, throw off all excess baggage; we cannot become weighted down by endless procedure. We need to travel light, using the most streamlined, uncomplicated methods of work that we can devise. We are consistently doing this in the League.

You may well take pride in your membership. You are the recipients of a priceless heritage gained for you 37 years ago by a small handful of dedicated women. They thought the League would be necessary for perhaps five years, but soon learned—and it is more true with each passing year—that there will always be a need for the League of Women Voters, as long as we believe that successful government depends on how well we use our power as citizens.

Mrs. Basil Young in her President's Report