



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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June 2, 1930

MEMO - from Marguerite M. Wells

After the League of Women Voters convention at Chicago when the League was organized in 1920 probably within the month I submitted the program there adopted to several men and women in Minnesota both individually and as a group as the Minnesota Committee on Social Welfare. I wished to get from them their several ideas as to the nature, scope, practicability and timeliness of the program as adopted in Chicago and also their ideas as to the applicability of any parts of it to Minnesota. In several instances I assured these men and women that my request for comment was made in the personal capacity but I do not think that they were ever particularly reserved about the use that should be made of it and I am quite sure that with time any reserve that they may have had has passed. I am therefore filing, together with these first programs, the comments to which I have here referred.

The men to whom I made these references were all more or less experts in the field of public welfare. There was Judge E.F. Waite, at the time judge of the Juvenile Court in Minneapolis; there was Mr. Otto Davis, Sec'y of the Associated Charities; Mr. Wm. Hodson, chief of the Children's Bureau of the State; Mr. O.M. Sullivan, Director of the Dep't on the Re-Education of Injured Persons in the Dep't of Education of the University of Minnesota; E.G. Steger of the St. Paul Associated Charities and Frank J. Bruno, Gen'l Secy. of the Associated Charities of Minneapolis.

Miss Hope MacDonald, Chairman of the ^{State} Committee on American Citizenship, also submitted certain items of the program of that committee to authorities in the state, and copies of letters on that subject are attached herewith.

The people to whom I referred the program were asked to indicate approval, doubt, or that they knew nothing about the item in question. They were also asked to indicate what items they thought should be pushed by the League of Women Voters at the time.

Items on the program of American Citizenship Committee to be pushed were, according to F.J. Bruno, the Smith-Towner bill and direct citizenship for women, not citizenship thru marriage as a qualification for the vote, the naturalization bill, and according to Mr. O.M. Sullivan also the Smith-Towner bill. The attached copy of the American Citizenship Committee was checked on the above points by Judge E.F. Waite. Mr. Sullivan's advice on that program was to push for things without too much appropriation.

Items on the program for the Committee of Food Supply & Demand were marked as follows:
That considering the advisability of establishing public markets, abattoirs, milk depots and other terminal facilities marked by O.M. Sullivan "Beware!"

Item on spreading knowledge of legitimate co-operative associations and of endorsement to suitable national and state legislation favoring their organization and use marked by Bruno "Push" and by Sullivan "Beware!"

Committee on Women Industry marked by Judge Waite with signs before noted.

- ITEM 1 - Collective bargaining - marked by Waite "Approval"
" " Bruno "push"
- ITEM 2 - Wages paid on basis of occupation not sex - Waite, "approval"
- ITEM 3 - (1) Establishment of women's bureau - Waite - "approval"
Sullivan - "push"
(2) Appointment of women on industrial commissions, etc. -
Waite - "approval"
(3) Joint federal and state employment service with women's dep't -
Waite - "Do not know enuf about"
Bruno - "push"
(4) Constitutional Child Welfare amendment -
Waite - "Do not know enuf about"
Bruno "Disapproval"
(5) Participation of U.S. in internat'l labor conferences and
the appointment of a woman delegate to the next conference -
Waite - "Approval"
Bruno - "Push" - except last
phrase of which he disapproves
- ITEM 4 - (1) 8 hrs. for women - Waite - "Approval"
Bruno - "Approval"
(2) Prohibition night work - Bruno - "approval"
Waite - "Does not know enuf about"
(3) Minimum wage - Bruno - "Approval"
Waite - "Approval"
(4) Adequate appropriation for labor laws, etc. - Waite - "Approval"
Bruno - "Approval"
- ITEM 5 - Vocational Education, etc. - Waite - "Approval"
- ITEM 6 - (1) Merit system of appointment, etc. - Waite - "Approval"
(2) Reclassification Federal Civil Service - Waite, "Approval"
(3) Minimum wage in civil service, Waite - "Approval"
(4) Equitable retirement system, Waite - "Does not know enuf about"
(5) Enlarging federal and state civil service commission and
(6) Delegating to such commission full power, etc. -
Waite - "Does not know enuf about"
(7) League of Women Voters to keep in touch with women's bureau, etc. -
Waite - "Approval"

The program for the Committee on Social Hygiene also has been marked by Judge Waite, and certain items on it by Mr. Bruno as follows:
Mr. Bruno approves of elimination of system of petty fine, public laboratories for diagnosis, reformatory farms for delinquents, industrial farm schools for boys and girls; and he advises "pushing" legal age of consent to be not less than 18, etc.

The program for the Committee on Legal Status of Women Judge Waite has marked and discusses in the letter which is attached. Mr. Bruno advises pushing individual citizenship for married women and the minimum age of consent 18 years. Mr. Sullivan advises pushing the entire program. Mr. Bruno disapproves of federal legislation on marriage and divorce, thinking that should be left to the state.

The program on Child Welfare Judge Waite has marked as follows:
1 - Shepard-Towner bill - "Approval"
2 - Physical Education bill - "Do not know enuf about"
3 - Appropriation for children's bureau - "Approval"
4 - Gard-Curtis child welfare bill - "Do not know enuf about"

The Minnesota WOMAN VOTER

Vol. 10

November 1930

No. 10



—Courtesy of Sweet Studio, Minneapolis

MRS. GEORGE HOKE, *Wayzata*
Tenth Congressional District Chairman

Published Monthly by
THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Program of Work

Adopted by

The Twelfth Annual State Convention

Faribault, October 15-17, 1930

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

Child Welfare

Support of state appropriation for maternity and infancy hygiene work not less than that of 1929.

Women in Industry

Amendment of the minimum wage law to make it apply to girls as it now does to boys under the age of 21.

Support of legislation limiting hours of work for women in industry.

Study of methods of stabilizing employment.

Education

Revision of the state teachers retirement fund to place it on a sound financial basis.

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Amendment of the marriage law to provide for a five-day waiting period between the application for and issuance of a marriage license.

Amendment of the marriage law to require a license and a record of all valid marriages.

Promotion of the service of women on juries.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Study of the fee system in county government.

Study of taxation.

State Government—

Observing the operation of nomination and election procedure.

Support of

1. Coordination of administrative departments toward greater efficiency and according to function.
2. Improved administration of public personnel by recruitment and promotion through merit, and by standardization of salaries and position.
3. Improvement of the budget so that it will show a complete picture of the state's finances.

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

(Designated by the National League Convention for active support in 1930-31)

Support of a federal program for maternity and infancy hygiene.

Support of government operation of Muscle Shoals.

Support of the "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Support of proposals leading to the entry of the United States into the World Court.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
for submission to
The Twelfth Annual State Convention
October 15-17, 1930

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Child
Welfare | Support of state appropriation for maternity and infancy hygiene work not less than that of 1929 |
| | Amendment of the minimum wage law to make it apply to girls as it now does to boys under the age of 21 |
| Women in
Industry | Support of legislation limiting hours of work for women in industry |
| | Study of methods of stabilizing employment |
| Education | Revision of the state teachers retirement fund to place it on a sound financial basis |

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

- Amendment of the marriage law to provide for a five-day waiting period between the application for and issuance of a marriage license
- Amendment of the marriage law to require a license and a record of all valid marriages
- Promotion of the service of women on juries

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

- Study of the fee system in county government
- Study of taxation
- State Government-
 - Observing the operation of nomination and election procedure
 - Support of
 - 1) Coordination of administrative departments toward greater efficiency and according to function
 - 2) Improved administration of public personnel by recruitment and promotion through merit, and by standardization of salaries and position
 - 3) Improvement of the budget so that it will show a complete picture of the state's finances

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

(Designated by the National League Convention for active support in 1930-31)

- Support of a federal program for maternity and infancy hygiene
- Support of government operation of Muscle Shoals
- Support of the "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution
- Support of proposals leading to the entry of the United States into the World Court

Minnesota League of Women Voters
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

October 1930

RECOMMENDED POLICY

Supplementing the Proposed Legislative Program

- 1) That in case any of the legislative measures enacted into law with the support of the League are threatened by new legislation proposed in the 1931 legislature, active work in their behalf shall be undertaken;
- 2) That if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program should be attacked by new legislation, such measures shall be defended by the League as part of its legislative work in the 1931 session.
- 3) That to the state board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

FILE COPY

PROGRAM OF WORK
Adopted by Minnesota League of Women Voters
October 3, 1931

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Citizenship Schools

Candidates meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.

Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, conventions and elections.

Encouragement of appointment or election of qualified women to public office

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

For Study

Proposed changes in taxing methods

Changes to improve the direct primary law

The operation of municipal and county government

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

For Study

Women in Industry Administration of laws affecting working women in Minnesota
Methods of stabilizing employment

Education Distribution of state aid to schools
County unit system of public school administration

INTERNATIONAL CHILD WELFARE PROPOSALS TO PREVENT WAR
Proposals to secure the entry of the United States into the State work for the hygiene of maternity and infancy
Laws affecting the employment of children in Minnesota

Living Costs International reduction of armaments by action of World Disarmament Conference in 1932
The tariff

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Promotion of the service of women on juries

Observance of operation of 1931 amendment of marriage law

For Study

Laws and customs relating to marriage

Discriminations against women in public and private employment

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

Designated by the General Council of the National League of Women Voters
For active support in 1931-1932

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

The "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution

Women in Industry Measure for an adequate coordinated system of federal and state employment offices

Living Costs Development of Muscle Shoals as a national asset

Child Welfare A federal program for maternity and infancy hygiene

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR
Proposals to secure the entry of the United States into the World Court

International reduction of armaments by action of World Disarmament Conference in 1932

Ratification of Pan-American Arbitration Treaty

Ratification of the moratorium proposal

PROGRAM OF WORK

Adopted by State Convention October 3, 1931

Pre-election Activities

Citizenship Schools

Candidates' meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.

Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, conventions and elections.

Encouragement of appointment or election of qualified women to public office.

Public Welfare in Government

For Study

Women in Industry Administration of laws affecting working women in Minnesota.
Methods of stabilizing employment

Education Distribution of state aid to schools
County unit system of public school administration

Child Welfare State work for the hygiene of maternity and infancy
Laws affecting the employment of children in Minnesota

Living Costs The tariff

Legal Status of Women

Promotion of the service of women on juries
Observance of operation of 1931 marriage law amendment

For Study

Laws and customs relating to marriage
Discriminations against women in public and private employment

Efficiency in Government

For Study

Proposed changes in taxing methods
Changes to improve the direct primary law
The operation of municipal and county government

Congressional Measures

Designated by the General Council of the National League of Women Voters for active support in 1931-32

Efficiency in Government The "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution

Women in Industry Measure for an adequate coordinated system of federal and state employment offices

Living Costs Development of Muscle Shoals as a national asset

Child Welfare A federal program for maternity and infancy hygiene

International Cooperation to Prevent War

Proposals to secure the entry of the United States into the World Court

International reduction of armaments by action of World Conference in 1932

Ratification of Pan-American Arbitration Treaty

Ratification of the moratorium proposal



Numerous references for use as study material on these subjects are available at state League headquarters in the form of printed or mimeographed material issued by the national or state League. A list of these references with the nominal charges we make for them will be sent upon request.

How We Are Taxed

In 1930 there was \$160,566,688 levied in taxes in the State of Minnesota. . . . Now 160 million dollars is a large amount of money and, of course, we want to know who spends it.

Almost three-fourths of that 160 million dollars last year was levied for the use of localities and only a little more than one-fourth was to be spent by the state government of Minnesota. To talk of the state tax problem then, we must consider it largely a matter of local rather than state affairs, since localities spend \$116 millions to the state's \$44 millions. Some taxes, such as most of the gross earnings taxes, the occupation tax on iron ore and the royalty taxes, go entirely into the state treasury. This leaves most of our chief tax—general property—to go to the localities. Of the \$122 millions tax collected on general property, \$114 millions is spent by localities and only \$11 millions by the state.

One thing not as generally understood as it should be is that in Minnesota the localities are the largest tax spenders. One reason for that is that we have about ten thousand different local governments. We have 87 counties, 1,973 townships, 728 cities and villages, 7,780 school districts, to say nothing of our drainage districts, our sanitary districts, or other special areas of government. One house on one lot is subject to taxes for all the governments in that area, and there will be a state tax, a county tax, a city or village tax, a school district tax and possibly a sanitary district tax. One reason why tax reduction is such a huge problem is that it means a paring of budgets in every government operating in an area.

The property tax is the most important tax from the standpoint of producing revenues. It yields 122 millions or a little more than three-fourths the total income from taxation. The property tax is an old tax and has been conceded for many years to be the means by which money can most readily be obtained. Suppose a governing body needs \$10,000 to spend during the year. In the community there is, we will say, about a half million dollars worth of property. If we divide the \$10,000 by 500,000 we get a figure of two per cent, or twenty mills, and so it is decided that each person in the community shall pay to the common fund two per cent of the value of his property.

This is the principle on which the general property tax rests. You all know it is not the practice in Minnesota. At the very first it was agreed that churches, schools, cemeteries, institutions of charity or public property should not be taxed.

An exemption of \$100 assessed value of personal property for every household has been established. Early in the state's history some classes of property came to be assessed at lower rates than others. A man with a great deal of furniture will claim that he ought not to be taxed at the same rate for goods which produce no income as the man who has the same investment in an industrial plant yielding large profits. The farmer says that he has to have a larger investment for the amount of income he gets than the owner of an apartment house, and that his machinery costs more and produces less than industrial machinery. The result is that property has come to be assessed at various proportions of its true value. The state legislature established five different classes of property to be assessed at different ratios. Iron ore is assessed at 50% of its value, household goods at 25%, farm land, livestock, machinery, tools, and merchandise is assessed at 33⅓% of its value, farm machinery and feed or seed grain owned by a farmer and intended for his own use is assessed at only 10% of its full value. Platted land and all personal property not included in other classes is assessed at 40% of its value.

It will be seen that valuation is the big problem in administration of the property tax. This is left largely to the local assessor of which there are 2,800 in Minnesota. . . . If all people were honest, the assessor's work would be simplified. . . . If a man has a piece of real estate, he cannot hide the fact, and it is apt to be assessed. If he has cash or stocks or bonds, he can hide it away and the assessor has no way of bringing such property out of hiding. To get people to report this intangible property Minnesota, in 1911, provided a special low tax of 3 mills on the dollar's full value for all money and credits. More revenue came to be collected at this low rate than had previously been collected at a high rate. So the tax has been hailed as successful, but it has given rise to peculiar situations. An assessor in one of our country districts last spring drove into the yard of a farmer. This farmer had a thousand dollars' worth

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
For Submission to the Annual State Convention
October 1-3, 1931

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Citizenship Schools

Candidates meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.

Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, conventions, elections.

Support of appointment or election of qualified women to public office.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Study of

Proposed changes in taxing methods

Changes to improve the direct primary law

The operation of municipal and county government

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

Women in Industry

Study of

Administration of laws affecting working women in Minnesota

Methods of stabilizing employment

Education

Study of

Distribution of state aid to schools

County unit system of public school administration

Child Welfare

Study of

State work for the hygiene of maternity and infancy

Laws affecting the employment of children in Minnesota

Living Costs

Study of the tariff

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Promotion of the service of women on juries

Observance of operation of 1931 amendment of marriage law

Study of

Laws and customs relating to marriage

Discriminations against women in public and private employment

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Support of

International reduction of armaments by action of
World Disarmament Conference in 1932

Ratification of Pan-American Arbitration Treaty

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

Designated by the General Council of the National League of Women Voters
For active support in 1931-1932

INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION TO
PREVENT WAR

Proposals to secure the entry of the United States into the
World Court

EFFICIENCY IN
GOVERNMENT

The "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution

WOMEN IN
INDUSTRY

Measure for an adequately coordinated system of federal
and state employment offices

LIVING COSTS

Development of Muscle Shoals as a national asset

CHILD WELFARE

A federal program for maternity and infancy hygiene

Study Material On
SUBJECTS IN PROGRAM OF WORK, 1931-32
(For use in Local League Meetings)

Note: A charge to cover the actual printing or mimeographing cost (not including the overhead cost of preparation and distribution) is made to local Leagues for reference material. Let us know the date and subject chosen for your meeting and we will forward these references to you, with questions for assignment to different women so that several may take part in the program. Unless otherwise noted, these references are pamphlets printed by the National League and available at state League headquarters - 1004 $\frac{1}{2}$ Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis.

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

A Handbook of Pre-Election Activities	10 cents
Digest of Minnesota Election Laws	10 cents
Political Parties in Minnesota	2 cents
(Outlines machinery for nominating president)	
How We Nominate and Elect Our President and	2 cents (mimeographed)
Select Our Party Officials and Committees	
Chart illustrating this machinery	3 cents
Skit on voting in precinct caucuses	Loaned on request

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Taxation	Taxation: An Introductory Study	15 cents
	Current Questions in Government pamphlet published by state League	5 cents
	A Model System of State and Local Taxation, by Professor Groves of Wisconsin University	10 cents (mimeographed)
	Outline of Our Minnesota Tax System, by Miss Violet Johnson at 1931 Convention	5 cents (mimeographed)
Direct Primary	Of, By and For the People, by Albert J. Beveridge	10 cents
	The Convention and the Primary, by Charles E. Merriam	5 cents
	The Direct Primary - Objections Answered (Suitable for general distribution)	45 cents per hundred
	Dialogue on the Direct Primary	Loaned on request
Local Government	County Government	20 cents
	An Outline for the Study of County Government	10 cents
	Know Your Town	5 cents

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

Women in Industry	Laws Affecting Working Woman in Minnesota, by Miss Alice Kercher	15 cents (mimeographed)
	Kit on Unemployment	25 cents
	Wisconsin Plan of Unemployment Insurance	6 cents
	Unemployment Insurance Kit - in preparation	40 cents
Education	Education and Finance	7 cents
	The Problems of State Aid to Education	10 cents
	County unit - material in preparation	
Child Welfare	Minnesota's Work for Mothers and Babies	5 cents (mimeographed)
	Dialogue - What Price Mothers and Babies	Loaned on request
	New pamphlet in preparation by National League	
	Samples of Child Hygiene Division material	No charge

Child in Minn.

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Living	An Introduction to a Study of the Tariff	40 cents
Costs	Study Questions on the Tariff	5 cents
	Other general questions on the tariff	5 cents (mimeographed)

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Discriminations against Women in Public and Private Employment		
	Dialogue - Married Teachers	Loaned on request
	Statement by Miss Monahan at 1931 Convention	3 cents (mimeographed)
Jury	Women on Juries in Minnesota	3 cents
Service	Minnesota Woman Voter, December 1930	
	Jury Service for Women	7 cents
	Where Women Serve on Juries (comments of judges, attorneys, court officials)	5 cents
Marriage	Laws and Customs Relating to Marriage	5 cents (mimeographed)
Laws	Dialogue - Shall We Improve Our Marriage Laws	Loaned on request

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

The "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States Constitution		
	Popular Will Postponed	5 cents <i>10 Revised</i>
	An Interview on the Lame Duck Amendment (a skit)	10 cents (mimeographed)
Federal and State Employment Services		
	Kit of references (Also under Women in Industry)	25 cents
Muscle Shoals		
	Kit of references	20 cents
	Facts about Muscle Shoals	15 cents
Federal Program for Maternity and Infancy Hygiene		
	The Nation's Concern for Mothers and Babies	10 cents
	Dialogue - Federal Aid for Maternity and Infancy	Loaned on request
	In Behalf of Mothers and Children	25 cents
	(The Story of the U.S. Children's Bureau)	
	Current Questions in Government	5 cents
	pamphlet on Federal Aid (state League)	5 cents
	Federal Aid to the States,	20 cents
	by Dorothy Kirchwey Brown	
The World Court		
	The Root Formula and the World Court	10 cents
	Eight Questions on the Root Formula	1 cent
	The World Court, by Mrs. A. J. McGuire	5 cents (mimeographed)
World Disarmament Conference of 1932		
	Disarmament, by Mrs. A. J. McGuire	5 cents (mimeographed)
	National League pamphlet on this subject (30 pp.)	15 cents
	Leaflet published by Federal Council of Churches	2 cents, 1½ cents per hundred
	(Good to distribute in connection with securing signatures to petition)	
	Problem of Disarmament	10 cents
	The London Naval Treaty	10 cents
	What Do You Know About Naval Disarmament	5 cents
Pan-American Treaties		
	National League pamphlet on this subject	10 cents
Moratorium proposal - material in preparation		

Minutes of Meeting of
MINNESOTA LEAGUE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

At the home of Miss Child, June 24, 1932

Present: Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Colby (Social Hygiene), Mrs. Dobson (Legal Status)
Mrs. Pearce (Education), Miss Kercher (Women in Industry) and Miss Child.

Miss Mitchell spoke of the fact that this is a preliminary meeting to begin discussion of recommendations for submission to the Board. Another opportunity will be afforded for further discussion the day preceding the August meeting when it is hoped every chairman will be present.

Miss Mitchell then read the letter of June 9 from Miss Sherwin conveying the 1932 Platform of the Times which was read aloud by Mrs. Colby.

Women in Industry

The discussion with Miss Kercher of subjects for possible legislative support in her program resulted in the listing of the following:

Amendment of the minimum wage law -- as supported in previous legislatures
Hour legislation for women - providing there is an adverse Supreme Court decision on the ~~constitutionality of the~~ validity of the 1923 law.

Dean Stevenson's suggestions for improving the employment service situation

Unemployment compensation or insurance

Mandatory measure for appointment of a woman member of the State Industrial Commission

Education

The two measures suggested by Mrs. Pearce which she will confer with the Minnesota Education Association to learn their attitude toward them and their plans for legislative work are:

Extension of permissive county unit law to whole state

Opposition to repeal of teacher tenure law - for 1st class cities

Legal Status of Women

Mrs. Dobson thought that continued work in behalf of the 5-day law and any necessary support of it in the legislature is all that should be proposed for her department program. Mrs. Pearce asked whether it might not be well to offer an amendment providing for compulsory publication of licenses. It was thought that this might be a possible danger to the law and that the same results can be accomplished by asking local Leagues through their Legal Status chairmen to interest their newspaper editors in publishing the names. A ruling of the attorney-general's office established the accessibility of these records to inspection for such legitimate purposes.

Social Hygiene

Mrs. Colby had no recommendation for state legislation.

Lame Duck Amendment

Miss Mitchell spoke of the fact that ratification of this amendment will be an item in the Efficiency in Government program.

Reported by
Emily Child

Explanation of Proposals for
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRY
in Proposed Program of Work 1932-33

Support of amendment of the minimum wage law to make it apply to girls as it now does to boys up to the age of 21

Support of improved legislation limiting hours of work for women in industry

These items are legislative goals that the League has had in its program practically since its organization. The 1913 minimum wage law for women and minors was rendered inoperative for adult women in June 1925 following court decisions in cases involving similar legislation in other states. The law still applies to boys and girls up to the age of majority, resulting in the unjust situation of boys being protected by the law up to the age of 21 but girls only up to the age of 18 years. Since it is recognized that women and girls in industry need such protection even more than men and boys, we believe every effort should be made to equalize the provisions of the minimum wage law as it now operates. For a summary of reasons for proposing support of legislation limiting hours of work for women, see attached printed leaflet.

Support of an adequate system of public employment exchanges as one factor in the prevention as well as relief of unemployment

Among federal measures supported by the National League in the last Congress was the Wagner bill proposing federal aid to develop a system of employment exchanges in which federal, state and local personnel and funds would be used cooperatively to develop the best service possible in the interest of relieving and preventing unemployment. That bill failed of passage but will be before the Congress again when it reconvenes in December. In the meantime we have in Minnesota the assistance of the Spelman Fund grant of \$80,000.00 for the two year period 1931-33 supplementing a state appropriation for public employment exchanges of \$35,000.00 a year or \$70,000.00 for the biennium. There is in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth a further contribution from municipal funds to provide for local cooperation in the conduct of this employment service. The pending federal legislation mentioned above is very important to Minnesota if the standards set up through the Spelman Fund aid are to be maintained permanently. It is also very important that public opinion support adequate state and local appropriations to provide for continuance of the services as now established. No governmental service is more important in the "prevention as well as relief of unemployment" providing as it does a central clearance for all such effort and for the building up of statistics and experience that must be the basis for all attempts to meet the problem now and in the future.

Support of a state and local system of public unemployment relief

In the present emergency it is unfortunately not enough to offer only the help of a publicly supported employment service to the unemployed. Where unemployment is at such low ebb that a large body of workers are unable to earn a living and must exhaust their savings with no possibility of being able to earn when they are gone, it becomes a responsibility of government to relieve their suffering. Private resources that suffice in normal times cannot shoulder the burden of the present need. Therefore funds raised by taxation in municipality, township, county, state and federal budgets must be drawn upon. A relief measure passed in the final days of the Congressional session last July, supported by the League of Women Voters in accordance with national convention action, provides for a

federal loan to the states to be used in relieving the hardship resulting from unemployment. The act provides that the governor shall "certify the necessity for such funds and that the resources of the state including moneys then available and which can be made available by the state, its political subdivisions, and private contributions, are inadequate to meet its relief needs." Whether or not Minnesota can prove to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which administers the act that the state has exhausted its own public and private relief resources, the possible need of a state appropriation for public relief still remains. In fact it is plain that the federal grant is intended to be, not in lieu of, but merely supplemental to local and state funds and private contributions. One of the most important and difficult subjects in next winter's legislative session, therefore, may be the question of state relief legislation. We must be ready to help in arriving at a wise decision. The wording "state and local" is used because any measure considered will undoubtedly aim to coordinate relief provided from state, county, township or municipal budgets.

Promotion of administrative standards assuring the wisest use of federal, state and local funds for unemployment relief

Experience has proved that inexperienced or irresponsible efforts in the administration of "outdoor relief" result in more harm than good to the individuals affected. The waste of the money provided is only one of the ill effects of such administration. At best it is difficult to avoid destroying the self-respect and ambition of those who must accept relief. The injury resulting from unwise relief giving can only be avoided when standards developed by social service organizations and workers as a result of years of practical experience are observed. The most efficient use of the funds available must also be protected in their disbursement. Therefore we propose the support of administrative standards assuring the wisest use of relief funds from whatever source.

Study of methods of improving employment opportunities

While meeting the present emergency our citizens should be alert to discover possible ways of improving the situation in respect to unemployment for the future. We should be aware of what methods are being discussed to stabilize employment and to adjust to the changes in industry resulting from the invention of machinery and the loss of world trade which has heretofore drawn off our surplus manufactured products. We should study "methods of improving employment opportunities."

RECOMMENDED POLICY
Supplementing the Proposed Program of Work

- 1) That in case any of the legislative measures enacted into law with the support of the League are threatened by new legislation proposed in the 1933 legislature, active work in their behalf shall be undertaken;
- 2) That if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program should be attacked by new legislation, such measures shall be defended by the League as part of its legislative work in the 1933 session.
- 3) That to the state board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL STATE BOARD MEETING
at State Convention
October 19, 1932

Present: Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Beard, Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Colby, Mrs. Botsford, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Everett, Mrs. Hampton, Miss Kercher, Mrs. Hawkinson, Mrs. Musser, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Shafer, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Swain.

In the absence of the secretary, Mrs. Shafer was asked to act as secretary, at this special meeting called to resume discussion on the proposed program of work in the Department of Efficiency in Government. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m., Miss Mitchell presiding.

Mrs. Richards introduced the discussion of the first item in the department proposals. She explained that the special committee with three women from each of the Twin Cities, appointed by the local president, had conferred with her on the wording of the department program following authorization by the Board at its September meeting that she formulate the proposed items after consultation with anyone she wished. The committee had recommended that the state Board go on record as favoring income tax legislation but not in support of the specific amendment.

This brought up discussion of the vote at the September 16 Board meeting. Mrs. Wittich inquired as to its terms. The minutes of that meeting were read and showed that the Board had then voted to ~~unanimously~~ recommend to the convention action in support of the income tax amendment. Mrs. Beard spoke of the need for clarifying the issues between the amendment and legislation. The chair asked if the Board wished to rescind its action at the September meeting.

IT WAS VOTED upon motion of Mrs. Botsford, second of Mrs. Musser that the Board rescind its vote to recommend to the convention placing the income tax amendment upon the program for support. Those voting in the negative were Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Colby, Miss Kercher, Mrs. Wittich.

The second item was then discussed. It was pointed out by Miss Wells that the wording of the proposed item pledged the League to an impossible task. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Richards, second of Mrs. Cant, that the proposed item be changed to read: "Opposition to destructive economy which threatens state and local services essential to the welfare of the people such as" etc.

Mrs. Richards recommended the transfer of the item dealing with the study of military expenditures from the Efficiency in Government program to that of the department of International Cooperation To Prevent War. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Richards, second of Mrs. Hawkinson that the recommendation be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth R. Shafer
Secretary Pro Tem

1932-33 PROGRAM OF WORK
Adopted by the State Convention
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
October 18-20, 1932

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Support of

Revision of Minnesota's Tax System through

- a) Income Tax legislation uniformly administered by trained personnel as a replacement tax to effect a more equitable distribution of taxation
- b) Improved methods of assessment under existing tax laws

Opposition to destructive economy which threatens state and local services essential to the welfare of the people such as public health nursing, child welfare, and agricultural extension services

Ratification of the "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States constitution.

Study of

Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county

Operation of state government under the Reorganization Act of 1925

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Support of

Amendment of the minimum wage law to make it apply to girls as it does to boys up to the age of 21

Improved legislation limiting hours of work for women in industry

Adequate system of state public employment exchanges as one factor in the prevention as well as relief of unemployment

A state and local system of public unemployment relief with adequate appropriation and administrative standards assuring the wisest use of federal, state and local funds

Study of methods of improving employment opportunities

EDUCATION

Support of measures to extend the benefits of the county unit or other larger units of school administration in the interest of economy and efficiency

Opposition to amendments to weaken the teacher tenure law

CHILD WELFARE

Support of adequate appropriations for the Division of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Health to provide for continuance of work for maternity, infancy and child hygiene

LIVING COSTS

Study of
The relation of tariff legislation to living costs
Power in relation to living costs

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Support of right of women to paid public employment without discrimination

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Study of
The foreign policy of the United States toward the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics
Reparations and War Debts
Expenditures for military purposes in the federal and state governments in relation to the problem of tax reduction

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

Designated by the General Council of the National League of Women Voters
For active support in 1932-33

International Cooperation to Prevent War	Adherence of the United States to the World Court Treaties emerging from the Geneva Disarmament Conference
Women in Industry	A coordinated system of federal and state employment exchanges in which system there is due regard for the interests of women Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Women's Bureau
Living Costs	Development of Muscle Shoals as a national asset Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Bureau of Home Economics
Child Welfare	A federal program of maternity, infancy and child hygiene administered by the U.S. Children's Bureau Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Children's Bureau
Efficiency in Government	Federal suffrage in the District of Columbia

September 1933

EXPLANATION OF NEW ITEMS
1933-34 Proposed Program of Work

EDUCATION

Study of

Education and its relation to the unemployed youth of Minnesota.

Leading educators in the state have felt that there is a great need at the present time of offering opportunity for further education to the large number of unemployed youth between the ages of 17 and 24.

Questionnaires have been sent out to the school superintendents in the state and information obtained as to the number and location of these young people. A commission appointed by the Governor and headed by the Commissioner of Education, Mr. Phillips, has met in conference to study the problem and the facts obtained and to decide what it may be possible for schools, colleges and communities to do in the way of providing extra classes, scholarships, free tuition, free lectures, or opportunity for part-time work. A committee of six is working at the present time on a plan evolved from this conference.

There is need for the League to be informed about this problem in order that it may be able to give intelligent support and cooperation to the plan that will be offered.

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Study of

The revision of the Nationality Law with particular reference to children.

The special reason for adding this item to our program for study is that President Roosevelt has appointed a committee consisting of the Secretary of State, the Attorney-General, and the Secretary of Labor "to review the nationality laws of the United States, to recommend revisions, particularly with reference to the removal of certain existing discriminations, and to codify those laws into one comprehensive nationality law for submission to the Congress at the next session."

"The next regular session of the Congress convenes on January 3. On that date, of course, the League will not be empowered to state a position one way or the other on the nationality of children. However, if study of the question is vigorously pushed in the states between now and the National League convention next spring," it may be possible "at that time to formulate a point of view that the delegates would vote to adopt as the League's 'stand.' And, barring previous passage of an act or code by the Congress, League action might well bear considerable weight in a final revision of such a law." The State Department is aware of the League's great interest in the matter and has informally consulted the National League on several occasions as to provisions acceptable to us. The National League has explained that at present we are studying the matter and are therefore unable to endorse any specific proposals. It is greatly to be desired, however, if it can be done within our established procedure and with adequate deliberation, that the League be in a position to contribute to sound thinking and intelligent legislation on this very important question.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Study of

The National Industrial Recovery Act as a method for improving public employment opportunities.

See article "In Step with the Nation" in September 1933 VOTER for explanation of this item.

PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1933 - 1934

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Candidates meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.
Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, convention and elections.
Encouragement of appointment or election of qualified women to public office.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Study and support of

Constructive economy in all units of government and opposition to destructive economy which threatens state and local services essential to the welfare of the people such as public health nursing, child welfare, schools, libraries, agricultural extension services, and other items which are on the League program.

Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county.

A merit system in public service.

Study of

Minnesota's tax system with a view to revision along the following lines:

- a) More equitable distribution of the tax burden
- b) Improved methods of assessment
- c) State control of expenditures and indebtedness in all local governmental units
- d) Abolition of duplication in state and local taxes

Budgets

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Support of

Improved working hours for women
Adequate system of state and public employment agencies
State and local system of public unemployment relief

Study of

National Industrial Recovery Act as a method for improving public employment opportunities

Unemployment insurance

EDUCATION

Study of

Different units of school administration in the interests of economy and efficiency

Education in its relation to the unemployed youth of Minnesota

CHILD WELFARE

Study and support of

Child Labor Amendment

Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration

" " maternity-infancy work

" " public health nursing

LIVING COSTS

Study of

Relation of tariff legislation to living costs

Power in relation to living costs

Bureau of Home Economics

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Support of right of women to paid public employment without discrimination

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Support of all measures included on national support program

Study of

Foreign policy of the United States toward the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics

Report of Conference on Cause and Cure of War

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FEDERAL MEASURES

Without convention action the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as relate to League program when they are designated for action. The General Council of the National League in 1933 designated the appropriation of five government agencies for support throughout the year and the following, whenever they become active in Congress:

International agreements controlling the
manufacture and shipment of arms
Entrance into the World Court
Treaties or agreements arising from the
Disarmament Conference or the World
Economic Conference

Federal provision for continuance of
maternity-infancy hygiene programs
Removal of discriminations against women
in administrative practice

International Cooperation
to Prevent War

Child Welfare

Legal Status of Women

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
To be submitted to the State Convention
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, October 18-20

Note: See A Platform for the National League of Women Voters (attached) for suggestions that have been taken into consideration by the department chairmen and the state Board in formulating these proposals.

DEPARTMENT OF EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Support of

Revision of Minnesota's Tax System through

- a) Income Tax legislation uniformly administered by trained personnel as a replacement tax to effect a more equitable distribution of taxation
- b) Improved methods of assessment under existing tax laws

Genuine reduction in all governmental costs eliminating waste and inefficiency without sacrificing state and local services essential to the welfare of the people such as public health nursing, child welfare, and agricultural extension services

Ratification of the "Lame Duck" Amendment to the United States constitution

Study of

Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county

Operation of state government under the Reorganization Act of 1925

Expenditures for military purposes in the federal and state governments in relation to the problem of tax reduction

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Support of

Amendment of the minimum wage law to make it apply to girls as it does to boys up to the age of 21

Improved legislation limiting hours of work for women in industry

Adequate system of public employment exchanges as one factor in the prevention as well as relief of unemployment

A state and local system of public unemployment relief

Promotion of administrative standards assuring the wisest use of federal, state and local funds for unemployment relief

Study of methods of improving employment opportunities

EDUCATION

Support of

The county unit or other larger unit of school administration in the interest of economy and efficiency

Opposition to amendments to weaken the teacher tenure law.

CHILD WELFARE

Support of

Adequate appropriations for the Division of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Health to provide for continuance of work for maternity, infancy and child hygiene

Improvement in legislation affecting the employment of children in Minnesota

LIVING COSTS

Study of

The relation of tariff legislation to living costs

Power in relation to living costs

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Support of

Amendment of the marriage law to require registration of all marriages

Right of women to paid public employment without discrimination

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Study of

The foreign policy of the United States toward the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics

Reparations and war debts

CONGRESSIONAL MEASURES

Designated by the General Council of the National League of Women Voters
For active support in 1932-33

International Cooperation to Prevent War	Adherence of the United States to the World Court Treaties emerging from the Geneva Disarmament Conference
Women in Industry	A coordinated system of federal and state employment exchanges in which system there is due regard for the interests of women Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Women's Bureau
Living Costs	Development of Muscle Shoals as a national asset Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Bureau of Home Economics
Child Welfare	A federal program of maternity, infancy and child hygiene Adequate appropriation for the U.S. Children's Bureau
Efficiency in Government	Federal suffrage in the District of Columbia

FILE COPY

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1933 - 1934

*Miss Hall's proposed
reassignment
considered at pre-convention
board mtg.*

Recommended to the State Convention for adoption, by the Board, and prepared with the especial assistance of the chairmen of program departments.

If adopted, responsibility for carrying out the program lies with the local Leagues, directed by the State Board, while especial assistance will come from the departments involved.

New items are underlined.

FOR SUPPORT:

Administration and enforcement of measures passed by the 1933 Legislature, with League support, as follows:

A more equitable distribution of taxes	Efficiency in Government
Limited hours of work for women	Women in Industry
State public employment exchanges	" " "
State and local system of unemployment relief	" " "
Appropriation for maternity and infancy hygiene	Child Welfare
Amendment to Street Trades Law	" "

New:

<u>Reorganization of local governmental units</u>	Efficiency in Government
<u>The merit system in all governmental offices</u>	" " "

Continued:

Opposition to destructive economy in government	" " "
Opposition to discriminations against women in public office	Legal Status of Women

FOR STUDY:

*With a view to future continued support, measures supported by the League of Women Voters that failed of enactment in the 1933 Legislature:

Improved methods of tax assessment as part of study of <u>Minnesota tax system with a view to revision</u>	Efficiency in Government
Amendment to the Minimum Wage Law	Women in Industry
County school unit	Education
Child Labor Amendment	Child Welfare

* These measures are subject to support whenever they become active in the State Legislature.

FOR STUDY:

New:

Administrative Budgets	Efficiency in Government
N.R.A. in relation to the League of Women Voters' program	" " "
	Child Welfare
	Education
	Legal Status of Women
	Women in Industry
	Living Costs
Unemployment insurance	Women in Industry
Education with specific reference to the unemployed	Education

Recommended for Study, from the National League Program:

The relation of tariff legislation to living costs	Living Costs
The relation of power to living costs	" "
<u>The Bureau of Home Economics</u>	" "
The foreign policy of the United States toward the U.S.S.R.	International Cooperation to Prevent War
<u>The procedure of the Disarmament Conference</u>	International Cooperation
<u>New psychology of peace</u>	" "
<u>Report of Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, 1933</u>	" "

FEDERAL MEASURES

Without convention action the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as relate to League program when they are designated for action. The General Council in 1933 designated the appropriation of five government agencies for support throughout the year and the following, whenever they become active in Congress:

International agreements controlling the manufacture and shipment of arms	International Cooperation
Entrance into the World Court	" "
Treaties or agreements arising from the Disarmament Conference or the World Economic Conference	" "
Federal provision for continuance of maternity-infancy hygiene programs	Child Welfare
Removal of discriminations against women in administrative practice	Legal Status of Women

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

It is also customary among local Leagues to carry on pre-election activities of various kinds throughout the year.

1933-34 PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Candidates meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.

Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, convention and elections.

Encouragement of appointment or election of qualified women to public office.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Study and support of

Constructive economy in all units of government and opposition to destructive economy which threatens state and local services essential to the welfare of the people such as public health nursing, child welfare, and agricultural extension services.

Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county.

The merit system in all governmental offices.

Study of

Minnesota's tax system with a view to revision along the following lines:

- a) More equitable distribution of taxes
- b) Improved methods of assessment
- c) State control of expenditures and indebtedness in all local governmental units
- d) Abolition of duplication in state and local taxes

Administrative budgets

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Support of

Improved working hours for women

Adequate system of state and public employment agencies

State and local system of public unemployment relief

Study of

* National Industrial Recovery Act as a method for improving public employment opportunities.

EDUCATION

Study of

Different units of school administration in the interests of economy and efficiency.

* Education and its relation to the unemployed youth of Minnesota.

CHILD WELFARE

Study of

Child Labor Amendment

Study and Support of adequate

Local Child Welfare organizations and administration

Local maternity-infancy work

Local public health nursing

*New items to be followed by explanatory statement from respective chairmen.

LIVING COSTS

Study of
Relation of tariff legislation to living costs

Power in relation to living costs

Bureau of Home Economics

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Support of right of women to paid public employment without discrimination

*Study of the revision of the Nationality Law with particular reference to children.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Support of
Adherence of the United States to the World Court

Treaties emerging from the Geneva Disarmament Conference

Membership of the United States in the League of Nations

Proposals and measures permitting international agreements controlling the manufacture and shipment of arms.

**Revision of the War Debts

Study of
Foreign policy of the United States toward the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The procedure of the Disarmament Conference

New Psychology of Peace

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1933-1934

Adopted by the General Council April 27, 1933

Support of appropriations for

Federal Trade Commission

Office of Education

Children's Bureau

Women's Bureau

Bureau of Home Economics

Whenever timely:

International agreements controlling the manufacture and shipment of arms
Entrance into the World Court

Such other international measures as are presented to the Congress and relate to the Program of Work. (Probably treaties or agreements arising from the Disarmament Conference or the World Economic Conference.)

Federal provision for continuance of maternity-infancy hygiene programs

Removal of discriminations against women in administrative practice

The Council further indicated its strong sense of the importance of the merit system in the Civil Service and voted that the League of Women Voters undertake work in its behalf as soon as it is financially expedient.

* New item -- to be followed by explanatory statement from chairman.

** From its study "the League recognizes the fact that payment in full according to the original agreement is impossible for the majority of the debtors, and therefore, we are confronted with the question of an appropriate revision of the debt in each case or the political decision to force complete repudiation of the debt by the debtors. It is believed, politically and ethically, that in public life this last course would not be wise. Therefore, a just revision of the debts is required."

PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1933 - 1934

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Candidates meetings, vote surveys, information headquarters, etc.
Encouraging participation by all qualified voters in every step by which
public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries,
convention and elections.
Encouragement of appointment or election of qualified women to public office.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Study and support of

Constructive economy in all units of government and opposition to destructive
economy which threatens state and local services essential to the welfare
of the people such as public health nursing, child welfare, schools,
libraries, agricultural extension services, and other items which are on
the League program.
Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the
county.
A merit system in public service.

Study of

Minnesota's tax system with a view to revision along the following lines:

- a) More equitable distribution of the tax burden
- b) Improved methods of assessment
- c) State control of expenditures and indebtedness in all local government-
al units
- d) Abolition of duplication in state and local taxes

Budgets

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Support of

Improved working hours for women
Adequate system of state and public employment agencies
State and local system of public unemployment relief

Study of

National Industrial Recovery Act as a method for improving public employment
opportunities
Unemployment insurance

EDUCATION

Study of

Different units of school administration in the interests of economy and
efficiency
Education in its relation to the unemployed youth of Minnesota

CHILD WELFARE

Study and support of

Child Labor Amendment

Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration

" " maternity-infancy work

" " public health nursing

LIVING COSTS

Study of

Relation of tariff legislation to living costs

Power in relation to living costs

Bureau of Home Economics

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Support of right of women to paid public employment without discrimination

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Support of all measures included on national support program

Study of

Foreign policy of the United States toward the Union of Socialist Soviet
Republics

Report of Conference on Cause and Cure of War

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FEDERAL MEASURES

Without convention action the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as relate to League program when they are designated for action. The General Council of the National League in 1933 designated the appropriation of five government agencies for support throughout the year and the following, whenever they become active in Congress:

International agreements controlling the
manufacture and shipment of arms

Entrance into the World Court

Treaties or agreements arising from the
Disarmament Conference or the World
Economic Conference

Federal provision for continuance of
maternity-infancy hygiene programs

Removal of discriminations against women
in administrative practice

International Cooperation
to Prevent War

Child Welfare

Legal Status of Women

October, 1934

CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK

1. That items for study be designated merely as "study" and not as "directed study", but that items to be given special emphasis be starred.
2. That item 1 under study be designated "trained personnel in public office" instead of "merit system in public office".
Service -
3. That a third item be added under study: "Federal and state activities which tend to protect the interests of the consumer."
4. That a fourth item be added under study: "Old age pensions".
5. That an item to be numbered "4" under Recommended Policy be added:
"That the League of Women Voters may support measures to provide sufficient funds for maintaining a high standard of education with equalization of educational opportunities."

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1934 - 1935

Support

1. Larger units of school administration
2. Revision of state aid for schools
3. Commission for tax revision
4. Improved methods of assessment
5. Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county
6. Adequate system of state public employment agencies
7. State and local system of unemployment relief
8. Right of women to paid public employment without discrimination
9. Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration
10. Public health nursing
11. Adequate local maternity and infancy work
12. Jury service for women

Directed Study

1. Merit system in public office
2. Unemployment insurance

RECOMMENDED POLICY

In addition to these specified recommendations, it is understood:

1. That the League shall be active in supporting the administration and enforcement of measures passed by former legislatures with League support.
2. That in case any of the legislative measures enacted into law with the support of the League are threatened by new legislation, active work in their behalf shall be undertaken at the decision of the Board.
3. That if laws embodying standards defined in the National League Program should be attacked by new legislation, such measures shall be defended by the League as part of its legislative work in the 1935 session.
4. That to the state board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

FEDERAL MEASURES FOR LEGISLATIVE EMPHASIS

Without convention action, the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as are selected from the League Program by the National Council. The following items have been selected for emphasis in Congressional interviews:

- I. Civil Service
 1. Adherence to the merit system in all branches of the United States Government
 2. Removal of discriminations against married persons
- II. Federal encouragement of state unemployment compensation legislation
- * III. Federal activities protecting the Consumer
 1. Appropriation for the Bureau of Home Economics
 2. Cooperative extension work in home economics
 3. Appropriation for the Federal Trade Commission
 4. Extension of Food and Drugs Regulation
- IV. Social Services and Unemployment Relief
 1. Appropriation for the Children's Bureau
 2. Appropriation for the Women's Bureau
 3. Appropriation for the United States Employment Service
 4. Appropriation for Unemployment Relief
 5. Appropriation for the Office of Education
- V. Renewal of federal funds for maternal and child hygiene to be administered by the Children's Bureau
- * VI. International Cooperation
 1. American adherence to the World Court
 2. Arms Embargo (to prohibit the exportation of arms from the United States under certain conditions)
- * VII. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment
- VIII. Federal Suffrage for the District of Columbia
This can be obtained only through a congressional resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification

* Items recommended for special study

If adopted, responsibility for carrying out this program lies with the local Leagues, directed by the State Board, with special assistance from the Department Chairmen, as follows:

Department of Government and Its Operation

Commission for Tax Revision
Improved Methods of Assessment
Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county
Merit system in public office

Department of Government and Education

Larger units of school administration
Revision of State Aid for Schools

Department of Government and Child Welfare

Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration
Public health nursing
Adequate local maternity and infancy work

Department of Government and Economic Welfare

Adequate system of state public employment agencies
State and local system of unemployment relief
Unemployment Insurance

Department of Government and International Cooperation

Items on National League Program

Department of Government and Legal Status of Women

Right of women to paid public employment without discrimination
Jury service for women

Minnesota League of Women Voters
State Convention

October, 1934

CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK

1. That items for study be designated merely as "study" and not as "directed study", but that items to be given special emphasis be starred.
2. That item 1 under study be designated "trained personnel in public office" instead of "merit system in public office".
3. That a third item be added under study: "Federal and state activities which tend to protect the interests of the consumer."
4. That a fourth item be added under study: "Old age pensions".
5. That an item to be numbered "4" under Recommended Policy be added: "That the League of Women Voters may support measures to provide sufficient funds for maintaining a high standard of education with equalization of educational opportunities."

PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1934 - 1935

Support

- ✓ 1. Larger units of school administration
2. Revision of state aid for schools
- ✓ 3. Commission for tax revision
4. Improved methods of assessment
5. Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county
6. Adequate system of state public employment agencies
7. State and local system of unemployment relief
8. Right of women to paid public employment without discrimination
9. Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration
10. Public health nursing
11. Adequate local maternity and infancy work
12. Jury service for women

Study

- * 1. Trained personnel in public service
- * 2. Unemployment insurance
- 3. Federal and state activities which tend to protect the interests of the consumer
- 4. Old age pensions
- * Items recommended for special study

FEDERAL MEASURES FOR LEGISLATIVE EMPHASIS

Without convention action, the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as are selected from the League Program by the National Council. The following items have been selected for emphasis in Congressional interviews:

- I. Civil Service
 1. Adherence to the merit system in all branches of the United States Government
 2. Removal of discriminations against married persons
- II. Federal encouragement of state unemployment compensation legislation
- * III. Federal activities protecting the Consumer
 1. Appropriation for the Bureau of Home Economics
 2. Cooperative extension work in home economics
 3. Appropriation for the Federal Trade Commission
 4. Extension of Food and Drugs Regulation
- IV. Social Services and Unemployment Relief
 1. Appropriation for the Children's Bureau
 2. Appropriation for the Women's Bureau
 3. Appropriation for the United States Employment Service
 4. Appropriation for Unemployment Relief
 5. Appropriation for the Office of Education
- V. Renewal of federal funds for maternal and child hygiene to be administered by the Children's Bureau
- * VI. International Cooperation
 1. American adherence to the World Court
 2. Arms Embargo (to prohibit the exportation of arms from the United States under certain conditions)
- * VII. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment
- VIII. Federal Suffrage for the District of Columbia
This can be obtained only through a congressional resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification

* Items recommended for special study

Responsibility for carrying out this program lies with the local Leagues, directed by the State Board, with special assistance from the department chairmen, as follows:

Department of Government and Its Operation

1. Commission for tax revision
2. Improved methods of assessment
3. Reorganization of local governmental units with particular emphasis on the county
4. Trained personnel in public service

Department of Government and Education

1. Larger units of school administration
2. Revision of state aid for schools

Department of Government and Child Welfare

1. Adequate local child welfare organizations and administration
2. Public health nursing
3. Adequate local maternity and infancy work

Department of Government and Economic Welfare

1. Adequate system of state public employment agencies
2. State and local system of unemployment relief
3. Unemployment insurance
4. Federal and state activities which tend to protect the interests of the consumer
5. Old age pensions

Department of Government and International Cooperation

Items on National League Program

Department of Government and the Legal Status of Women

1. Right of women to paid public employment without discrimination
2. Jury service for women

RECOMMENDED POLICY

In addition to these specified recommendations, it is understood:

1. That the League shall be active in supporting the administration and enforcement of measures passed by former legislatures with League support.
2. That in case any of the legislative measures enacted into law with the support of the League are threatened by new legislation, active work in their behalf shall be undertaken at the decision of the Board.
3. That if laws embodying standards defined in the National League Program should be attacked by new legislation, such measures shall be defended by the League as part of its legislative work in the 1935 session.
4. That the League of Women Voters may support measures to provide sufficient funds for maintaining a high standard of education with equalization of educational opportunities.
5. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

GENERAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

During the past year, the National League of Women Voters has been actively engaged in support of the League Program by the National Council. The following items have been selected for emphasis in Congressional action:

- I. Civil Service
 1. Reference to the merit system in all laws.
 2. Removal of discrimination against women.
- II. Federal encouragement of state employment
 1. Federal activities protecting the consumer.
 2. Appropriation for the Bureau of Home Economics.
- III. Cooperative extension work in home economics
 1. Appropriation for the Federal Trade Commission.
 2. Extension of food and drug legislation.
- IV. Federal activities and employment relief
 1. Appropriation for the Children's Bureau.
 2. Appropriation for the Women's Bureau.
 3. Appropriation for the United States Department of Labor.
 4. Appropriation for the Department of Education.
 5. Appropriation for the Office of Education.
 6. Removal of Federal funds for maternal and child hygiene to be administered by the Children's Bureau.
- V. International Cooperation
 1. American education to the World War.
 2. State exchange (to provide the opportunity of work from the United States under various conditions).
- VI. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment
 1. Federal activity for the Bureau of Columbia.
 2. This can be obtained only through a congressional resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

Items recommended for special study:

GENERAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

During the past year, the National League of Women Voters has been actively engaged in support of the League Program by the National Council. The following items have been selected for emphasis in Congressional action:

- I. Civil Service
 1. Reference to the merit system in all laws.
 2. Removal of discrimination against women.
- II. Federal encouragement of state employment
 1. Federal activities protecting the consumer.
 2. Appropriation for the Bureau of Home Economics.
- III. Cooperative extension work in home economics
 1. Appropriation for the Federal Trade Commission.
 2. Extension of food and drug legislation.
- IV. Federal activities and employment relief
 1. Appropriation for the Children's Bureau.
 2. Appropriation for the Women's Bureau.
 3. Appropriation for the United States Department of Labor.
 4. Appropriation for the Department of Education.
 5. Appropriation for the Office of Education.
 6. Removal of Federal funds for maternal and child hygiene to be administered by the Children's Bureau.
- V. International Cooperation
 1. American education to the World War.
 2. State exchange (to provide the opportunity of work from the United States under various conditions).
- VI. Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment
 1. Federal activity for the Bureau of Columbia.
 2. This can be obtained only through a congressional resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

Items recommended for special study:

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
Minnesota League of Women Voters
1935 - 1936

FILE COPY

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cooperation with National League in Campaign for Trained Public Personnel
2. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
3. Survey of Schools in Support of Larger Units of School Administration
4. Cooperation with National League on all active Federal Measures

CONTINUED RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support of Efficient Operation of Federal-State Employment Service
2. Opposition to Discriminations against Women in Public Employment
3. Encouragement of State and Local Public Welfare Organization
 - a) Public Health Nursing
 - b) Child Welfare
 - c) Maternity and Infancy
 - d) Mothers' Aid

STUDY

1. Coordination of Public Social Service Activities
2. Reorganization of Local Governmental Units
 - a) Consolidation of Counties
 - b) Improved methods of finance: budgets, purchasing, accounting, fee system
3. Taxes and Tax Trends in Minnesota
4. Consumer Problems
5. Social Insurance
6. The Civil Service Law Proposed for Minnesota

Responsibility for carrying out this program lies with the Local Leagues, directed by the State Board, with special assistance from the department chairmen, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPERATION

1. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
2. Reorganization of Local Governmental Units
 - a) Consolidation of Counties
 - b) Improved Methods of Finance: budgets, purchasing, accounting, fee system
3. Taxes and Tax Trends in Minnesota
4. The Civil Service Law Proposed for Minnesota

Federal

Adherence to the merit system in all branches of the United States Government

Federal Suffrage for the District of Columbia

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

1. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
2. Survey of Schools in Support of Larger Units of School Administration

Federal

Appropriation for the Office of Education

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND CHILD WELFARE

1. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
2. Encouragement of state and local Public Welfare Organization
 - a) Public Health Nursing
 - b) Child Welfare
 - c) Maternity and Infancy
 - d) Mothers' Aid

Federal

Appropriation for the Children's Bureau

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC WELFARE

1. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
2. Support of Efficient Operation of Federal-State Employment Service
3. Coordination of Public Social Service Activities
4. Consumer Problems
5. Social Insurance

Federal

Cooperative Extension work in Home Economics

Extension of Food and Drugs Regulation

Appropriations for: Bureau of Home Economics
Women's Bureau

U.S. Employment Service

Unemployment Relief

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1. American Adherence to the World Court
2. Government Control of Munitions
3. Revision of War Debts

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

1. Survey of Public Personnel in Minnesota
2. Opposition to Discriminations against Women in Public Employment

Federal

Opposition to the "Equal Rights" Amendment

Removal of Discriminations against Married Persons

PROGRAM OF WORK 1936 - 1937
Minnesota League of Women Voters

FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

1. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota

CONTINUED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUPPORT WHEN NECESSARY

1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
2. Opposition to Discriminations against Women in Public Employment
3. Units of School Taxation and Administration large enough for economy and efficiency
4. Protection of academic freedom as basic to sound education
5. Coordinated state and local organization for public and child welfare services
6. Application of the Social Security Act to Minnesota: Unemployment Compensation, Child Welfare Services, Adequate provision for Maternity, Infancy and Child hygiene.
7. Commission for Tax Revision
8. Statewide, uniform system of tax assessment
9. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures, including all questions of Foreign Policy

STUDY

1. Expenditure control as a practicable method of tax limitation
2. Fee system as applied to County Officers
3. Consumer Problems
4. Labor Problems: (a) Collective Bargaining; (b) Status of Minimum Wage Legislation

Responsibility for carrying out this program lies with the local Leagues, directed by the State Board with special assistance from the Department Chairmen, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPERATION

- *1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
- *2. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota
- *3. Statewide, uniform system of tax assessment
- *4. Commission for Tax Revision
5. Expenditure control as a practicable method of tax limitation
6. Fee system as applied to county officers
- *7. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

- *1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
- *2. Units of school taxation and administration large enough for economy and efficiency
- *3. Protection of academic freedom as basic to sound education
- *4. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND CHILD WELFARE

- *1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
- *2. Coordinated state and local organization for public and child welfare services
- *3. Application of the Social Security Act to Minnesota: Child Welfare Services, Adequate provision for maternity, infancy, and child hygiene
- *4. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC WELFARE

- *1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
- *2. Coordinated state and local organization for public and child welfare services
- *3. Application of the Social Security Act to Minnesota: Unemployment Compensation
4. Consumer Problems
5. Labor Problems: (a) Collective Bargaining; (b) Status of Minimum Wage Legislation
- *6. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

- *1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service
- *2. Opposition to Discriminations against Women in Public Employment
- *3. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY

- *1. Downward Revision of tariffs through reciprocal trade agreements
- *2. A foreign policy of this country as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace
- *3. Participation in the collective system for the prevention of war; including implementation of the Pact of Paris, and membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice and the League of Nations
4. The evolving foreign policy of the United States

*Indicates Support Items

RECOMMENDED POLICY

In addition to these specified recommendations, it is understood:

1. That the League shall be active in supporting the administration and enforcement of measures passed by former legislatures with League support
2. That in case any of the legislative measures enacted into law with the support of the League are threatened by new legislation, active work in their behalf shall be undertaken at the decision of the Board.
3. That if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program should be attacked by new legislation, such measures shall be defended by the League as part of its legislative work in the 1937 session.
4. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK 1936 - 1938

FOR EMPHASIS

1. Qualified personnel in government service
2. A coordinated federal, state and local system of taxation to provide adequate revenue for essential government services through an equitable distribution of the tax burden.
3. Sufficient and scientifically apportioned public funds for public education
4. Reorganization of government to promote efficient administration
5. Units of school taxation and administration large enough for economy and efficiency
6. Coordinated state and local organization: for public health; for public welfare
7. Social Security: unemployment compensation, old age assistance, and measures affecting children
8. Child labor legislation including ratification of the Child Labor Amendment
9. Legislation improving conditions of work, wages, and hours of womenworkers
10. Protection of consumers; including adequate food labeling for consumers' goods, strengthening of public agencies dealing with consumers' interests
11. Downward revision of tariffs through reciprocal trade agreements
12. A foreign policy of this country, as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace
13. Participation in the collective system for the prevention of war; including implementation of the Pact of Paris, and membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice and the League of Nations
14. Opposition to all discrimination in public employment based on sex or marital status
15. Opposition to proposed Equal Rights Amendment and similar blanket type of state legislation

responsibility for carrying out this program lies with the local law enforcement agencies, assisted by the Department of Justice.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPERATION

1. Qualified personnel in public service
2. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota
3. Statute, uniform system of tax assessment
4. Commission for Tax Revision
5. Expenditure control as a practical method of tax limitation
6. Fee system as applied to county officers
7. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

1. Qualified personnel in public service
2. Units of school taxation and administration large enough for economy and efficiency
3. Protection of students freedom as basis for sound education
4. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND CHILD WELFARE

1. Qualified personnel in public service
2. Coordinated state and local organization for public health and child welfare services
3. Application of the Social Security Act to Minnesota: Child Welfare Services, Adequate provision for maternity, infancy, and child hygiene
4. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC WELFARE

1. Qualified personnel in public service
2. Coordinated state and local organization for public health and child welfare services
3. Application of the Social Security Act to Minnesota: Unemployment Compensation
4. Consumer Problems
5. Labor Problems: (a) Collective Bargaining; (b) Labor Legislation
6. Cooperation with National League on all active federal measures

PROGRESS REPORT 1936 - 1938
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

FOR EMPHASIS

1. Qualified personnel in government service
2. A coordinated federal, state and local system of taxation to provide adequate revenue for essential government services through an equitable distribution of the tax burden.
3. Sufficient and scientifically apportioned public funds for public education
4. Reorganization of government to promote efficient administration
5. Units of school taxation and administration large enough for economy and efficiency
6. Coordinated state and local organization: for public health; for public welfare
7. Social Security: unemployment compensation, old age assistance, and measures affecting children
8. Child labor legislation including ratification of the Child Labor Amendment
9. Legislation improving conditions of work, wages, and hours of womenworkers
10. Protection of consumers; including adequate food labeling for consumers' goods, strengthening of public agencies dealing with consumers' interests
11. Downward revision of tariffs through reciprocal trade agreements
12. A foreign policy of this country, as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace
13. Participation in the collective system for the prevention of war; including implementation of the Pact of Paris, and membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice and the League of Nations
14. Opposition to all discrimination in public employment based on sex or marital status
15. Opposition to proposed Equal Rights Amendment and similar blanket type of state legislation

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1937 - 1938

*To be attached
to minutes for
filing. 1937.
Oct. 6 '37.
M.W. Sec.*

FEDERAL MEASURES

Cooperation with the National League on all active federal measures, including all questions of Foreign Policy (see below)

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR EMPHASIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Qualified Personnel In Public Service | Applicable to all Departments |
| 2. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota | Department of Government and Its Operation |
| 3. Reorganization of School Units | Department of Government and Education |
| 4. Effective County Welfare Administration | (Department of Government and Child Welfare
(" " " " Economic Welfare |
| 5. Operation of the Social Security Act in Minnesota | (Department of Government and Child Welfare
(" " " " Economic Welfare |
| 6. Protective legislation for women workers | (Department of Government and Economic Welfare |

FOR STUDY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Reorganization of State Welfare Administration | Department of Government and Economic Welfare |
| 2. Government and Collective Bargaining | Department of Government and Econ. Welfare |
| 3. Food and Drug Protection in Minnesota | Department of Government and Econ. Welfare |
| 4. Sources and allocation of school funds | Department of Government and Education |
| 5. Standards of selection, tenure and retirement of teachers | Department of Government and Education |
| 6. Present and possible new sources of revenue | Department of Government and Its Operation |
| 7. Review of structure and functions of state and local government | Department of Government and Its Operation |

LOCAL PROJECTS

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

ACTIVE FEDERAL MEASURES ON NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK

- | | |
|--|---|
| Qualified personnel in government service | Amendment to federal Constitution to make process of ratification of constitutional amendments less difficult and more responsive to the will of the electorate |
| A coordinated federal, state and local system of taxation to provide adequate revenue for essential governmental services through an equitable distribution of the tax burden. | Protection of consumers; including adequate food, drug and cosmetic laws |
| Reorganization of government to promote efficient administration | Downward revision of tariff through reciprocal trade agreements |
| Child labor legislation, including ratification of the Child Labor Amendment | A foreign policy of this country, as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace |
| Legislation improving conditions of work, wages and hours for women workers | |
| Opposition to all discriminations in public employment based on sex or marital status | Participation in the collective system for the prevention of war; including implementation of the Pact of Paris, and membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice and the League of Nations |
| Opposition to proposed Equal Rights Amendment | |

RECOMMENDED POLICY:

I. That the League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work:

a) In support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; or for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

b) If laws, which in their passage were supported by the League, or if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.

II. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota

PROPOSED

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

PROGRAM

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

PROGRAM

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

PROGRAM

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

PROGRAM

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

914 Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota

1937 - 1938

WORK

OF

PROGRAM

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1937 - 1938

FEDERAL MEASURES

Cooperation with the National League on all active federal measures, including all questions of Foreign Policy (see below)

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR EMPHASIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Qualified Personnel In Public Service | Applicable to all Departments |
| 2. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota | Department of Government and Its Operation |
| 3. Reorganization of School Units | Department of Government and Education |
| 4. Effective County Welfare Administration | (Department of Government and Child Welfare
(" " " " Economic Welfare |
| 5. Operation of the Social Security Act in Minnesota | (Department of Government and Child Welfare
(" " " " Economic Welfare |
| 6. Protective legislation for women workers | (Department of Government and Economic Welfare |

FOR STUDY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Reorganization of State Welfare Administration | Department of Government and Economic Welfare |
| 2. Government and Collective Bargaining | Department of Government and Econ. Welfare |
| 3. Food and Drug Protection in Minnesota | Department of Government and Econ. Welfare |
| 4. Sources and allocation of school funds | Department of Government and Education |
| 5. Standards of selection, tenure and retirement of teachers | Department of Government and Education |
| 6. Present and possible new sources of revenue | Department of Government and Its Operation |
| 7. Review of structure and functions of state and local government | Department of Government and Its Operation |

LOCAL PROJECTS

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

ACTIVE FEDERAL MEASURES ON NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK

- | | |
|--|---|
| Qualified personnel in government service | Amendment to federal Constitution to make process of ratification of constitutional amendments less difficult and more responsive to the will of the electorate |
| A coordinated federal, state and local system of taxation to provide adequate revenue for essential governmental services through an equitable distribution of the tax burden. | Protection of consumers; including adequate food, drug and cosmetic laws |
| Reorganization of government to promote efficient administration | Downward revision of tariff through reciprocal trade agreements |
| Child labor legislation, including ratification of the Child Labor Amendment | A foreign policy of this country, as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace |
| Legislation improving conditions of work, wages and hours for women workers | |
| Opposition to all discriminations in public employment based on sex or marital status | Participation in the collective system for the prevention of war; including implementation of the Pact of Paris, and membership in the Permanent Court of International Justice and the League of Nations |
| Opposition to proposed Equal Rights Amendment | |

RECOMMENDED POLICY:

- I. That the League, by a two thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work:
 - a) In support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; or for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.
 - b) If laws, which in their passage were supported by the League, or if laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
- II. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1937-1938

REPORT

1. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, during the year 1937-1938, has been active in its efforts to secure the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

2. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

3. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

4. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

5. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

6. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

7. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

1937-1938

8. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

9. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

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43. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

44. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

45. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

46. The League has been successful in securing the passage of laws which will protect the rights of women and children.

FILE COPY

1937-1938

SUGGESTED CHANGES IN THE RECOMMENDED
POLICY ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM
OF WORK

1. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
2. That the League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
3. That the League, by a two thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

Suggested Change in Heading
over National Items

ITEMS ON NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK FOR EMPHASIS FROM WHICH FEDERAL MEASURES
MAY BE DESIGNATED FOR SUPPORT

*To be attached to minutes for
filing.
Oct. 6, 37 adopted.
M3W-Sec.*

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PROGRAM OF WORK
1937-1938

FEDERAL MEASURES

Without convention action, the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as are selected by the National League from the National program of work. The following items have been indicated for discussion in Congressional interviews:

Qualified personnel in government service

Protection of consumers; including adequate food, drug and cosmetic laws, quality standards and labeling for consumers' goods, strengthening of public agencies dealing with consumers' interests.

Child labor legislation

Opposition to proposed Equal Rights Amendment

A foreign policy of this country, as a non-belligerent nation, which will not obstruct the efforts of other nations to achieve peace.

Note: See the Program of Work of the National League of Women Voters, which gives the complete field within which action is authorized and from which concrete measures are from time to time chosen.

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

F O R E M P H A S I S

Qualified Personnel in Public Service	Applicable to all Departments
A Civil Service Law for Minnesota	Department of Government and Its Operation
Reorganization of School Units	Department of Government and Education
Effective County Welfare Administration	Department of Government and Child Welfare " " " " Economic "
Operation of the Social Security Act in Minnesota	Department of Government and Child Welfare " " " " Economic "
Protective Legislation for Women Workers	Department of Government and Economic Welfare Department of Government and Legal Status of Women

F O R S T U D Y

Reorganization of State Welfare Administration	Department of Government & Economic Welfare
Government and Collective Bargaining	Department of Government & Economic Welfare
Food and Drug Protection in Minnesota	Department of Government & Economic Welfare
Sources and Allocation of school funds	Department of Government and Education
Standards of selection, tenure and retirement of teachers	Department of Government and Education
Review of structure, functions and finance of state and local governments	Department of Government and Its Operation

LOCAL PROJECTS

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

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY:

1. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
2. That the League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
3. That the League, by a two thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

FOR THE YEAR

Minnesota

Legislation

Administration

Enforcement

Improvement

Legislation

FOR THE YEAR

MINNESOTA

Legislation

Administration

Enforcement

Improvement

Legislation

Administration

Enforcement

MINNESOTA

FILE COPY

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1938 - 1939

FILE COPY

FEDERAL MEASURES

Without convention action, the Minnesota League of Women Voters cooperates with all other state Leagues in support of such federal measures as are selected by the National League from the National program of work. The probable national legislative program covers the following three major subjects:

Public Personnel Reciprocal Trade Agreements Neutrality

In addition, state Leagues are committed to study the following:

Amendment to the Federal Constitution to make the amending process less difficult
and more responsive to the will of the electorate
Federal aid to education

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR SUPPORT

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Qualified Personnel in Public Service | Applicable to all Departments |
| 2. A Civil Service Law for Minnesota | Dept. of Government and Its Operation |
| 3. Reorganization of School Units | Dept. of Government and Education |
| 4. Reorganization of State Welfare Administration | (Dept. of Govt. and Economic Welfare
(Dept. of Govt. and Child Welfare |

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

1. That to the State Board shall be left the decision as to when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
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3. That the League, by a two thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

FOR STUDY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Organization and functioning of state legislatures | Dept. of Government and Its Operation |
| 2. Sources of state income in relation to expenditures and services | Dept. of Government and Its Operation |
| 3. Sources and allocation of school funds | Dept. of Government and Education |
| 4. Legal Status of Common Law Marriages | Dept. of Govt. and Legal Status of Women |
| 5. Public Housing for Low Income Groups in Minnesota | Dept. of Govt. and Economic Welfare |
| 6. Standards of Selection, Tenure and Retirement of Teachers | Dept. of Government and Education |

FILE COPY

Minnesota League of Women Voters

1938-1939

PROGRAM OF WORK

• • •

FOR SUPPORT

A Civil Service Law for Minnesota

Integration of state and of local welfare administration

Aid to dependent children

Reorganization of school units

Qualified personnel in public service

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

1. The State Board shall decide when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
3. The League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

FOR STUDY

Organization and functioning of state legislatures

Sources of state and local income in relation to expenditures and services

Sources and allocation of school funds

Standards of selection, tenure and retirement of teachers

Improvement of marriage laws

Public housing for low income groups in Minnesota

(See Other Side)

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

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

A SUPPLEMENT TO STATE LEAGUE PROGRAMS OF WORK

Forecast for 1938-39 of possible federal responsibilities under the National Program offered as a help to state Leagues adopting their year's program of work in the fall of 1938; also to all Leagues in planning their year's work.

POSSIBILITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Measures under the following program items:

- Qualified personnel in government service
- *Organization of government to promote responsible and efficient administration
- Social security; unemployment compensation, federal-state employment service, old age assistance, and measures affecting children
- **Child labor legislation; a constitutional amendment authorizing federal child labor legislation
- Suffrage for the District of Columbia
- **Opposition to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment
- Amendment of the Neutrality Act of 1937
- Downward revision of tariffs through reciprocal trade agreements
- **Appropriations for Civil Service Commission; for Food and Drug Administration

MANDATE FROM CONVENTION "FOR ACTIVE STUDY BY STATE AND LOCAL LEAGUES"

Amendment to the Federal Constitution to make the amending process less difficult and more responsive to the will of the electorate

Federal aid to education

* At least education on, and possibly support of, any proposals that meet with League standards

** More or less likely, depending upon circumstances

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Washington, D. C.

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

1939 - 1940 Proposed Program of Work
Submitted by Department Chairmen
for consideration of State Board

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

Continuing responsibility for previous support items, with special emphasis on operation of:

Minnesota's Civil Service Law

State and Local Administration of Welfare

Jury Service for Women

For Study:

Development of Library Service

Standards of Selection, Tenure and Retirement of Teachers

State Aid to Education

Organization of state legislatures to promote efficiency
and responsibility

Sources of state income in relations to expenditures and services

Improvements in the Direct Primary

1939 State Reorganization Act

Labor Relations in Minnesota

Prevention and treatment of Juvenile Delinquency

State-wide Public Health Nursing

Uniform Marriage and Divorce Legislation

Some statement indicating continued interest in qualified personnel
in public service

FILE COPY

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1939 - 1940

FEDERAL

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

STATE

C O N T I N U I N G R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y F O R

Minnesota's Civil Service Law

State and Local Administration of Welfare

Renewed study and observation of operation of all laws which were previously supported by the League

F O R S T U D Y

Organization of state legislatures to promote efficiency and responsibility

Improvements in the Direct Primary

Special State and Federal Aids for Public Schools

Standards of Selection, Tenure and Retirement of Teachers

Development of Library Service in Minnesota

Prevention and Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency

State-wide Public Health Nursing

Labor Relations Legislation in Minnesota

Qualified personnel and sources of income in relation to services and expenditures are subjects applicable to all the program, and may be adopted for action in relation to any part of it when occasion requires and the League is prepared

LOCAL

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

FILE COPY
Minnesota League of Women Voters

1939-1940

PROGRAM OF WORK

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR

Minnesota's Civil Service Law

State and local administration of welfare

Qualified Personnel (applicable to all departments)

Renewed study and observation of all laws which were previously supported by the League.

FOR STUDY

The cost and the method of financing each service is applicable to all departments.

Organization of state legislatures to promote efficiency and responsibility

Special state and federal aids for public schools

Standards of selection, tenure and retirement of teachers

Development of library service in Minnesota

Prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency

State-wide public health nursing

Labor relations legislation affecting Minnesota

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

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

[See other side for Federal Legislative Forecast.]

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE FORECAST 1939-1940

Supplement to State League Programs of Work

The National Convention authorizes federal subjects for support from which the National Board selects the specific congressional measures to be acted upon.

PROBABLE ACTIVITY

1. Foreign policy. Emphasis on support of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements program, revision of the Neutrality Act, opposition to war referendum measures
2. Qualified personnel in government service. Extension of federal merit system to positions exempt by law; increased appropriations for personnel administration
3. Food, drug, and cosmetic legislation. Protection of 1938 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; increased appropriations for Food and Drug Administration

POSSIBLE ACTIVITY

1. Child labor legislation
2. Suffrage for the District of Columbia
3. Opposition to so-called Equal Rights Amendment
4. Public housing for low income groups
5. Statutory guarantees of collective bargaining
6. Co-ordinated system of relief for unemployed

September 1939

NATIONAL LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS
Washington, D. C.

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

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1940 - 1941

Objectives on the League's program can be effectively carried out and study can be really comprehensive only if consideration is given to the coordinated problems of qualified personnel, finance, and structure of government.

FOR SUPPORT:

Minnesota's Civil Service Law

State and local administration of welfare

A Legislative Council for Minnesota

The State Board decides when action shall be taken on subjects authorized by this or previous conventions.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES which may become active include:

Legislation affecting marriage laws

Minimum wage law for women and minors

Opposition to discriminations in public employment based on sex or marital status

Reorganization of school units

FOR STUDY:

Development of library services in Minnesota

Special state and federal aids for public schools

Public housing for low income groups

State-wide public health nursing

Public health administration

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

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

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1941 - 1941

FOR SUPPORT

Minnesota's Civil Service Law Surely no one would think of abating activity on this subject! Every day our attention is called to efforts being made to undermine in some way the effectiveness of civil service, and undoubtedly attacks will be made at the next session of the legislature. Our resourcefulness will be called on as never before to re-vitalize our work. The public meetings, surveys, carried out this year throughout the state are showing us that we must become better and better educated ourselves on the subject and able to answer the various questions as they arise. Suggestions should be coming in from League members as to what further material is needed to help you in your work. As this item is talked over at convention, every League member should have suggestions for new approaches.

State and local welfare administration The Leagues throughout the state should be prepared to oppose any attempts to weaken laws affecting local and state welfare administration. The county commissioners went on record at their annual convention as opposing lay representation on County Welfare Boards. There is a movement on in the state to work for the repeal of the amendment to the Federal Social Security Act providing merit system standards for County Welfare Board employees administering Social Security funds. The League worked for both of these and must further work to protect them.

A Legislative Council for Minnesota The State Board recommends that we support, but not introduce, a bill establishing such a council. What we can do on this third item will depend upon the amount of work required on civil service and other League measures already enacted into law. It will, however, include interviewing legislators, and, if a bill is actively supported, it will mean letters to your legislators. If your League has not studied this question this year, it should be done before convention; if already studied, review the material prepared.

Qualified personnel in public service As you will see, this is part of the introductory statement but should mean far more than mere words to you as you visualize your next year's work. Cities that have civil service in whole or in part have much work to do in maintaining high standards. The question of county civil service will be coming to the attention of some of the Leagues. If your town has no civil service, there are many ways in which you can help secure qualified personnel. At the convention you will hear many of them.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES Experience has taught us that much of our work during a legislative year must go toward carrying on good work done in the past which is threatened, and again supporting measures which failed to pass. This is always the uncertain quantity on our program in a legislative year, but must be seriously considered as we look at the whole program.

FOR STUDY In considering on what subjects you wish directed study during the coming year, keep in mind that "support" measures and "continuing responsibilities", as well as federal measures, all will require intensive and continuous study. The study items proposed are a continuation or an extension of subjects studied the past year or so on which there has been evidence of desire for continued study. It seems impossible at this time to continue study of public health nursing without considering it in relation to the general question of Public Health Administration. This item will not include any study of medical care.

FILE COPY

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

PROGRAM OF WORK
1940 - 1941

Objectives on the League's program can be effectively carried out and study can be really comprehensive only if consideration is given to the coordinated problems of qualified personnel, finance, and structure of government.

FOR SUPPORT:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Minnesota's Civil Service Law | (Government and Its Operation) |
| State and local administration of welfare | (Government and Social Welfare) |
| A Legislative Council for Minnesota | (Government and Its Operation) |

The State Board decides when action shall be taken on subjects authorized by this or previous conventions.

CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES which may become active include:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Legislation affecting marriage laws | (Govt. and Legal Status of Women) |
| Minimum wage law for women and minors | (Government and Economic Welfare) |
| Opposition to discriminations in public employment based on sex or marital status | (Govt. and Legal Status of Women) |
| Reorganization of school units | (Government and Education) |

FOR STUDY:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Development of library services in Minn. | (Government and Education) |
| Special state and federal aids for public schools | (Government and Education) |
| Public housing for low income groups | (Government and Economic Welfare) |
| Interstate trade barriers | (Government and Economic Welfare) |
| Public health administration
(including state-wide public health nursing) | (Government and Social Welfare) |
| Facilities for care and control of the mentally retarded | (Government and Social Welfare) |

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

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

Minnesota League of Women Voters

April 1940

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1941 - 1941

FOR SUPPORT

Minnesota's Civil Service Law Surely no one would think of abating activity on this subject! Every day our attention is called to efforts being made to undermine in some way the effectiveness of civil service, and undoubtedly attacks will be made at the next session of the legislature. Our resourcefulness will be called on as never before to re-vitalize our work. The public meetings, surveys, carried out this year throughout the state are showing us that we must become better and better educated ourselves on the subject and able to answer the various questions as they arise. Suggestions should be coming in from League members as to what further material is needed to help you in your work. As this item is talked over at convention, every League member should have suggestions for new approaches.

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CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES Experience has taught us that much of our work during a legislative year must go toward carrying on good work done in the past which is threatened, and again supporting measures which failed to pass. This is always the uncertain quantity on our program in a legislative year, but must be seriously considered as we look at the whole program.

FOR STUDY In considering on what subjects you wish directed study during the coming year, keep in mind that "support" measures and "continuing responsibilities", as well as federal measures, all will require intensive and continuous study. The study items proposed are a continuation or an extension of subjects studied the past year or so on which there has been evidence of desire for continued study. It seems impossible at this time to continue study of public health nursing without considering it in relation to the general question of Public Health Administration. This item will not include any study of medical care.

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis

May 2nd,
1941

Dear Board Member:

Mrs. Charles G. Ireys, of 401 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis, has asked the members of our State Board to be her guests for supper the evening before our convention opens. It is therefore important that this office know by Monday, the 12th, whether you are able to accept this invitation. Supper will be served at 6:30 (Tuesday, May 13th), and the evening will be given over to our pre-convention board meeting.

This convention is such a very important one that it is most urgent that you make every effort to attend all of it. It is being planned for a two-day session, with the hope that the majority of delegates will remain for the whole time.

The following suggestions have so far been made in regard to changes in our program. Please give these enough advance thought so that recommendations made to the convention will be well considered.

New items -- Household employment
 Proposals for constitutional amendments
 Federal aid for relief

Changes in wording or emphasis --
 Specific tax item, rather than in statement of general
 policy
 Labor Relations; legislation and administration
 Change in wording of Housing item to obviate necessity
 for presenting all points of view

A credential for registration at the convention will be on hand for you at the Registration Desk at the convention.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth H. Mitchell

Ruth H Mitchell,
President

Minnesota League of Women Voters,
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
August 1941

FILE COPY

THIS YEAR'S RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

CONTINUE RESPONSIBILITY FOR

Administration of Minnesota's Civil Service Law

Administration of state and local welfare services

Establishment of a Legislative Council for Minnesota

GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING IN RELATION TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

IN THE STATE

Taxation

Public education services

Public housing for low income groups

Administration and financing of relief

Labor relations

Social Security Services

Public Health Services

IN THE NATION

Taxation

School facilities in defense areas

Housing in defense areas

Relief

Collective bargaining

Inter-American Cooperation

Living costs

Civil liberties

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

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

HELP WIN THE BATTLE OF PRODUCTION

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

PROGRAM OF WORK
1941 - 1942

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

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

CONTINUE RESPONSIBILITY FOR

Administration of Minnesota's Civil Service Law

Administration of state and local welfare services

Establishment of a Legislative Council for Minnesota

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

Taxation

Public education services

Public housing for low income groups

Administration and financing of relief

Labor relations; legislation and administration

Social Security Services

Public Health Services

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

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

1942-43

Authorization is given to the State Board for support of Civil Service

1941-42 the Leagues in Minnesota will continue responsibility for
the Administration of Minnesota's Civil Service Law

40-41 For Support: Minnesota's Civil Service Law

"Surely no one would think of abating activity on this subject!
Every day our attention is called to efforts being made to undermine
in some way the effectiveness of civil service, and undoubtedly attacks
will be made at the next session of the legislature. Our resourcefulness
will be called on as never before to revitalize our work.

39-40 Continuing responsibility for Minnesota's Civil Service Law

38-39 For Support - A Civil Service Law for Minnesota (Established 1939)

37-38 A Civil Service Law for Minnesota

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

SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC DISPATCH
November 18th, 1942

FILE COPY

HOW TO DISCUSS BROADSIDES

Broad-sides should be discussed, and never merely read aloud. A talk based upon a broadside and having additional background and supplementary material, may properly be given where a talk is requested. For League groups, however, discussion, guided by a leader who has carefully studied the broadside and who is armed with information which will clear up all questions likely to be raised, is a far more fruitful method.

Broad-sides fall roughly into three categories: The type of earlier broad-sides, such as "Why Buy Defense Bonds?" and "This is Rationing" are simple explanations of established facts, issued to prepare the public mind for action already set in motion. This type of broadside is best presented by means of skits or illustrations.

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The second type is an informational digest of a large subject. Each of this class of broadside is complete in its field, and carries its message; but each also permits of elaboration to any extent desired according to the time allotted for discussion. In this category fall such broad-sides as "The Next Congress," "Lend-Lease," "Next Year's Taxes," "Bigger Taxes are Better Taxes," "OPA." For some of these, according to the particular form, a round-robin reading by paragraph, with discussion of points as they are brought up, is quite a satisfactory method. For others, the leader may bring out discussion by presenting sub-headings in the form of questions.

The third type is more complicated. These broad-sides, such as "Wanted: Clear-Cut Labor Policies" and "Manpower" deal with questions of policy and legislation not yet clearly defined. The leader, to be adequate, must have a background of research and must guide the discussion carefully, seeking to draw out and define group opinion.

All three classes of broad-sides have three attributes in common: each is public opinion-forming; each points to action; each has a definite purpose, a key, which is the real spirit of the broadside, the essence and reason for its having been issued. This key must be found by the leader. For instance, in "Next Year's Taxes" the key is in the sub-title, "Will they be adequate?" Often the key is at the very end, but always it can be found.

If our discussion leaders will look for this key, and see to it that, however far afield the discussion may range, it is always brought back to this purpose and meaning of the broadside, we shall have reached an understanding of how to discuss a broadside.

- Mrs. F. W. Grahame, St. Paul
Pres., Ramsey County LWV

HOW TO DISTRIBUTE BROADSIDES

A good plan is a regular individual clientele for all members, with a check-back at the next meeting to see whether distribution was made.

The booklet system with new broad-sides inserted as they come out is an extremely popular device. These are placed not only in doctor's and dentist's offices, but barber shops, beauty shops, hotel lobbies - in hospitals, libraries, banks and schools. "We want to see if they are frayed - then we know they are being read" reported one League.

(over)

Make a special effort to reach your civics teachers and librarians - they will welcome these broadsides.

Pick out the public officials in your community who should be interested in a particular broadside and send or take it to them. For instance, your rationing board officials would be interested in "This is Rationing"; your War Bond chairman in "Why Buy War Bonds?". Be sure your newspaper editor receives a copy of each new broadsides with a release telling how you are planning to use it.

HOW TO TALK ABOUT BROADSIDES

Don't be satisfied with just passing out broadsides. Have all your League members so well informed on every broadside that when its subject comes up in conversation (and these subjects do come up, because they are all current, crucial problems and very much "in the news"), she will be able to add some pertinent point, or some clarifying statement. Many opportunities will present themselves for a comment here and there - take advantage of them!

Invite your neighbors in for a "cracker box" discussion of each new broadside. In one town, four members of the League who live near together collect their neighbors for an hour in the morning or afternoon to discuss the subject of one of the broadsides. With rationing coming and transportation difficulties, such neighborhood discussion groups become more and more necessary.

Take your broadsides to your Red Cross group, to your church circle, to your PTA, to your canteen service - and start the conversational ball rolling!

- - - - -

The Minnesota League's "standing order" with the National League for broadsides has been increased by 50% - from 3,000 to 4,500 - with additional orders placed for most broadsides. "The Next Congress" holds top place, with 7,000 copies distributed. "Manpower" - the latest one - is pushing it hard - already at 5,500 copies!

Minnesota League of Women Voters,
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
May 1942

FILE COPY

PROGRAM OF WORK

1942 - 1943

PURPOSE: To help make the kind of citizens democracy needs

METHOD: To use the technique developed by the League through the years for meeting problems of government; to divide its fields of interest and its activities into small enough tasks for any individual to undertake but large enough, in the aggregate, to contribute materially to the maintenance of that democracy for which we are fighting.

SPECIFIC AIMS TO EMPHASIZE THE FOUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP:

HELP TO DEVELOP INFORMED PUBLIC OPINION

The League commits itself to reaching a larger public than ever before with information on matters of vital importance in federal, state and local government.

VOTE INTELLIGENTLY

The League will stimulate citizens to realize the necessity for the election to office of persons who are capable of dealing with the problems which will arise. The League does not endorse or oppose candidates.

OBSERVE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES

In such fields as public health, welfare, education, particularly to see that principles of qualified personnel, high standards of service and sound finance are maintained as far as possible.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION

Federal measures are selected by the National Board from the National Program.

Authorization is given to the State Board for support of

Civil Service

Legislative Council

County Assessor System

Larger Units of School Administration

Enabling Legislation for Housing

Improvement in Drivers' License Law

Also such measures in the field of League experience which might arise from the war emergency

PROGRAM OF WORK

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

- PURPOSE: To help make the kind of citizens democracy needs
- METHOD: To use the League for legislative work, for the purpose of making the League a more effective force in the state.
1. The State Board shall decide when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
 2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
 3. The League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.
- THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE ITSELF TO TEACHING A LARGER NUMBER OF CITIZENS
- THE LEAGUE WILL ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF PERSONS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE. THE LEAGUE DOES NOT ENDORSE OR OPPOSE CANDIDATES.
- LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES
- In each field as public health, welfare, education, particularly to see that principles of qualified personnel, high standards of service and sound finance are maintained as far as possible.
- SUPPORT LEGISLATION
- Federal measures are selected by the National Board from the National Program.
- Authorization is given to the State Board for support of:
- Civil Service
 - Legislative Council
 - County Auditor System
 - Large Unit of School Administration
 - Enabling Legislation for Housing
 - Improvement in Drivers' License Law
- Also such measures in the field of law enforcement which might arise from the war emergency.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
May 1943

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK
1943--1944

PURPOSE: To help make the kind of citizens democracy needs.

METHOD: To use the technique developed by the League through the years for meeting problems of government; to divide its fields of interest and its activities into small enough tasks for any individual to undertake but large enough, in the aggregate, to contribute materially to the maintenance of that democracy for which we are fighting.

SPECIFIC AIMS TO EMPHASIZE THE FOUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP:

HELP: TO DEVELOP INFORMED PUBLIC OPINION

The League commits itself to reaching a larger public than ever before with information on matters of vital importance in federal, state, and local government.

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In such fields as public health, welfare, education, particularly to see that principles of qualified personnel, high standards of service and sound finance are maintained as far as possible.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION

Federal measures are selected by the National Board from the National Program.

Authorization is given to the State Board for support of
Civil Service
Legislative Council
County Assessor System
Larger Units of School Administration
Enabling Legislation for Housing
Improvement in Drivers' License Law
Also such measures in the field of League experience
which might arise from the war emergency.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

FILE COPY

PROGRAM OF WORK
1944-1945

FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
EXTENSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

1. The State Board shall decide when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
 2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
 3. The League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.
-

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Proposed Leg. Program
April 7, 1944

Dear Local League President:

The following items have been recommended by the Board for continued legislative support:

Civil Service
Legislative Council
Larger Units of School Administration

Revision of Court System *Selection of Judges*
Another proposal has been made, not soon enough for careful Board discussion, but which will be proposed and voted upon at Convention:

The removal of judgeships from competitive election. Each judge will run against his record. A vacancy due to failure of public endorsement at the polls will be filled by appointment by the Governor from a list submitted by a committee created by the statute. It is also proposed to revise the state court system so as to make it an integrated body.

Enclosed is the list of nominations for the National Board. Note the leading lady! Don't we rejoice!

For President	Miss Ruth H. Mitchell, St. Cloud, Minnesota
For 1st V.P.	Mrs. Roscoe Anderson, Webster Groves, Missouri
For 2nd V.P.	Mrs. Richard Field, Weston, Massachusetts
For Secretary	Mrs. J. S. Schramm, Burlington, Iowa
For Treasurer	Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin, Washington, D.C.
For Directors	Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin, Galveston, Texas
	Mrs. Marion A. Cheek, Snyder, New York
	Mrs. Geo. Engels, Mill Valley, California
	Mrs. Chas. E. Heming, New York, New York
	*Mrs. Marc A. Law, Highland Park, Illinois
	Mrs. John G. Lee, Farmington, Connecticut

*Acceptance tentative pending personal conference on return from California April 4th.

Sincerely yours,

Helen J. Duff
Mrs. Philip S. Duff
President

Minnesota League of Women Voters
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

FILE COPY

PROGRAM OF WORK
1944-1945

FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT -

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-

FILE COPY B. Sumner

Minnesota League of Women Voters
84 South Tenth Street, Room 515
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

January 2, 1944

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

1945

--

The State Legislative program of the Minnesota League of Women Voters will include three items:

Legislative Council.

Public Health Nursing Bill, and

Civil Service.

It will be advisable to supplement the material in this Legislative Kit with any information available in newspapers or magazines. Not all newspaper articles are unbiased but they do give a good picture of the current trend of opinion. An alert local League can do much to influence good legislation on these measures by seeing that its legislators realize that the League is on the job.

Do not say that someone should write to a legislator; DO IT YOURSELF. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Many of them will not have given these problems much thought. An informed, articulate electorate is one of the best safeguards of Democracy.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

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2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program, are threatened by new legislation.
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List sent to -

Vogel Red Wing -

List names -

5 questionnaires -

Baker Hulchison -

2 questions

1 name -

Downal - South Paul -

2 questions -

1 name -

Reyes - 5 questionnaires -

5 names -

Graham
Richardson)

3 names

4 questionnaires

Megarry -

5 names

6 questionnaires

Workman

2 names -

3 questionnaires -

Mrs Wall -

7 names -

1 qu
1 name -

Walton

(Holland
Cant. 3 quest
3 names -

8 questionnaires

Wright 3 names
4 quest

ON AND AFTER MARCH 27TH OUR NEW ADDRESS WILL BE:
832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

84 South Tenth Street, Room 515

MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

March 22, 1946

Dear Local League President:

Now that we have completed our work on the proposed National Active List which will be presented to the National Convention for final determination, we in Minnesota must begin to look ahead to the State Legislative session of 1947.

In accordance with the State by-laws, your State Board herewith submits to you an Active List for State Legislation to be followed and supported by the Minnesota League of Women Voters. For your consideration we suggest the following:

A Legislative Council (The Legislative Research Bill)
Subsidized Housing for Low Income Groups
Extension of Public Health Services
Larger Units of School Administration

As provided in our legislative support policy we exercise always continued watchfulness of the successful functioning of the State Civil Service law.

The following is a statement of legislative support policy:

- "1. The State Board shall decide when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
- "2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program are threatened by new legislation.
- "3. The League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law."

All leagues are requested to give serious thought to the question of what state legislation they consider the League should sponsor and whether the State League can be most effective on a short or a long list of support items.

Any items submitted by you will be carefully considered by your State Board and a proposed Active List compiled for presentation to the membership at the State Convention May 16th and 17th. Any rejected items may be brought to the floor of the convention for discussion and vote. A two-thirds favorable vote is required for adoption of such items.

Your recommendations should reach the State office not later than April 15th.



Affiliated with the
National League of Women Voters

We shall hope to see you and a goodly representation from your league at the State Convention to be held in Minneapolis on May 16th and 17th. Details of this convention will be sent to you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Frederick W. Grahame
President

MCG:s

Minnesota League of Women Voters
832 Lumber Exchange Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

April 19, 1946

ACTIVE LIST FOR STATE LEGISLATION 1946-47
SUBMITTED TO LOCAL LEAGUES BY STATE BOARD 3/22/46

A Legislative Council (The Legislative Research Bill)
Subsidized Housing for Low Income Groups
Extension of Public Health Services
Larger Units of School Administration

STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT POLICY

1. The State Board shall decide when the measures, adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
2. The League, by vote of the State Board, may undertake active work in support of the administration, enforcement and improvement of laws, which in their passage were supported by the League; and if such laws or laws embodying standards defined in the National League program are threatened by new legislation.
3. The League, by a two-thirds majority of the members of the State Board present and voting, previous notice having been given, may undertake active work for measures previously supported by the League and not enacted into law.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES
FOR 1946-47 ACTIVE LIST

- MINNEAPOLIS LEAGUE - Requests that following item be placed on State Active List for 1946-47:
- "State responsibility for providing local governments with adequate financial resources to carry on their governmental services."
- ROCHESTER LEAGUE - Approves the four items on proposed Active List and wishes to submit a proposal for legislative action on a Bill for Enrichment of White Flour and Bread. Considers this a vital health measure.
- KASSON LEAGUE - "Wishes to go on record as approving the Active List for State Legislation as submitted by the State Office."

HOW TO START NEIGHBORHOOD DISCUSSION GROUPS

PRELIMINARY STEPS

1. The person responsible for organizing will find one woman who believes that democracy must be strengthened. She will talk to her about the League idea, pointing out that in the 26 years of League experience it has demonstrated its potential power, that it is now time to buckle down to the task of spreading the work of the League to achieve a much larger effectiveness.
2. Provide her with an abundant file of the following League documents and suggest that they are exciting:
 - Year's file of TRENDS
 - Year's file of ACTION
 - Year's file of selected President's letters
 - Current MEMOS
 - Current BRIEFS FOR ACTION
 - Current Tools and Techniques
 - Sample copies of broadsides, What's at Stake in the British Loan?
 - 25 Years of a Great Idea
 - Let Freedom Ring
 - Let's Have a Discussion
3. Make a date to talk to her again as soon as she has read at least some of the above. She will have questions. Answer them and explain how League materials work together to accomplish our purpose. Only when she is excited about the possibilities do you go on. She will want to do something if she is excited.
4. Suggest that she organize a small discussion group, of which she will be the temporary leader -- anywhere within her community. It need not be in her own neighborhood. Indeed, it may be better if it is not. It may better convey the idea of serving, which is basic to good League work. She may want suggestions on how to form a discussion group. The simplest way is to find some other woman who may be interested and will act as hostess. The latter may be willing to invite in some of her friends and neighbors. Seven to ten women is enough to form a nucleus.
5. Announce the first meeting of the discussion group in whatever way is appropriate to the neighborhood so that it is an opportunity open to any woman who is interested. The leader and the hostess may together put out a small flier which can be distributed in the neighborhood announcing the meeting. Or they may go to some central source for suggestions. It is important to avoid a nucleus which may have already been built up around another organization. It is better to build a new nucleus, trying to assure from the first meeting that it is a cross-section of women within walking distance, and not a coterie of any kind.
6. At the first meeting the hostess will introduce the leader, saying that she will tell the group about the work the LWV is doing. The leader will talk briefly about something the League as a whole is currently doing, and which shows that the League helps citizens think through important public questions and

FIRST MEETING

11,086

answer them. This can be done easily by having copies of some recent League publication or publications for everyone present (not too many, and on one subject only). The League should be clever enough to draw out a spontaneous discussion, encouraging all points of view. The subject should be one which is currently under discussion in many places. For example, food for famine ridden countries, or the British Loan. The broadside on the British Loan furnishes an excellent basis. The important thing is to get spontaneous discussion. That means the development of interest for the next discussion. It is not important that every aspect of the question be treated with complete thoroughness. The important thing in this meeting is that the individuals participating realize that there is a great need for them to think about such questions and see that the League contributes to such thinking and thus to the solution of the problems. It is important that they leave with the feeling that they want to meet again. The leader will let the discussion proceed until she feels sure that there are these realizations and then ask: "Would you like to meet again, to discuss this further -- or to discuss some other subject?" (mentioning other possibilities). Have a table of the most popular League publications and sell them to anyone who is interested. Give them copies of LET FREEDOM RING and any other inexpensive materials.

7. The group will discuss the idea. Guided by the interest of the hostess, the group will plan where and when it can meet again. (Do not let more than two weeks elapse.) After agreement on a subject, the leader will indicate some basic materials which can be read, and give copies to everyone. (The leader has brought extra copies of MEMOS on several likely subjects.) She will suggest other sources which may be readily followed. They need not be profound sources. She may suggest that individuals volunteer to follow all news and editorial comment in certain papers or magazines, so that they can bring in samples of varying points of view at the next meeting. It is important to show the correlation between League work and what is happening every day.
8. Before the group adjourns stress with final emphasis the theme that the League is not merely something nice and profitable to the individual member. Suggest that those who have come are likely to be more concerned about government than those who did not come and that it is the League's job to go to the uninformed, the uninterested, the careless, the busy citizen and help him realize what is at stake in the next few years. Suggest that talking about these things in normal conversation is a good way to help ourselves and others realize the necessity of citizen participation.
9. Talk informally with those who linger, or make a special appointment with anyone who wants to talk but has to get home to the baby at the moment. Go to see her within the next few days. There is no substitute for personal attention to the individuals in your basic group. Seeing them in their homes is extremely helpful. Good League work is good personnel work. If you can get acquainted with several members of the group before the second meeting there is greater likelihood of success. It is easier to do good personnel work with people who are not your intimate friends. This is one of the advantages of starting your first group in a neighborhood other than your own.

10. If you find someone in the basic group who is capable of leading a discussion or has a special contribution to make, plan to use her in some special way in the second discussion, but do not allow her to dominate the group or intimidate the group because of her special subject-matter. Ask her to think about several important questions and help "lead off" in the discussion. Do not let anyone be a prima donna.

SECOND
MEETING

11. Before your second meeting you will want a last minute round-up of reminders to be sure you have a good group. If you have found someone in the course of your getting acquainted who can do the telephoning or writing cards, get her to do it. Get a group at least as large as the first group -- one way or another get it. Telephoning is better than sending cards.
12. Begin the discussion by a few minutes summary of what a good discussion is like. Give out sheet, "Your part in a discussion." Point out the reasons why discussion is democratic. Stress the point that in a democracy everyone has a contribution to make -- that everyone has some experience and some intelligence which it is her duty to use.

Explain that the citizen has a dual role in the formulation of public policy. First of all it is his duty to represent himself -- not selfishly, but to tell how things look from his own point of view. That is often underrated and considered something less than desirable. It is not. It is essential, because no one can represent you better than yourself. Second, he must learn to consider the welfare of the whole people, and to consider what is wise from the point of view of public policy. In this second function, each one is a statesman. Sometimes there will be a conflict between the individual's interest and the public welfare. The trouble with many citizens, is not that they represent their own interests, but that they do so without perspective, without considering the whole. The League helps you to do the latter. Democracy is not merely one gigantic compromise of individual interests -- it should be more. It should be a searching for a better common life through a better common institution -- government, which is the only institution of all the people.

Suggest that League helps you practice citizenship -- and to help others to practice citizenship.

13. Theory of group thinking. Remember that in discussion you will show your confidence in the average citizen. You will assume that he will have opinions and that they will not be based upon complete knowledge. Discussion is a way in which the participants express, test, improve their opinions by getting rid of their prejudices so far as possible, by getting all possible points of view, by correcting misinformation, and gaining more facts (not all knowable facts). One or more persons, working with the leader will be able to do a better job. Of course the leader must see to it that factual material is available and that resource people will be ready with some of the most important facts. But she is not the teacher. The process teaches. The leader can be puzzled, but she should not be frustrated. The same is true of

members of the group. The first step in searching for the truth is to admit that you do not fully know it. If the leader does not fully know it the group is more likely to search for it.

Discussion is action. The very process of getting an attitude or opinion is an act. It is the first step in action. People with opinions and convictions usually do something about them. People who love study for study's sake love to duck the moral responsibility of making up their mind. The verbal skeptic is saved the pain of saying what he means and what he has convictions about. One must admit there is a risk in having an opinion, but who has perfect knowledge and judgment on political questions?

14. HAVE A GOOD DISCUSSION. Make it better than the first one.

15. PLAN THE NEXT ONE. MAYBE IT IS TIME TO ASSIGN SOME DUTIES TO OTHERS.

NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
CHAIRMAN

16. The original hostess may turn out to be the neighborhood chairman, or someone else may prove better suited. Let the group discuss and decide it with the leader's guidance. They will resent the imposition of a particular person as neighborhood chairman.

QUALIFICA-
TIONS OF
DISCUSSION
LEADER

17. Have the group discuss the qualifications of a good discussion leader at the second or third meeting and designate one person to be the discussion leader at the next few meetings. Then it is absolutely essential that the original leader work with this new discussion leader by explaining more of League philosophy of discussion, giving her LET'S HAVE A DISCUSSION and suggest other aides. Be sure that she understands that it is not discussion for the sake of discussion, but discussion leading to action that the League is talking about.

INDIVIDUAL
CITIZEN
ACTION

18. At each meeting say something informally about the possibilities for individual citizen action -- conversations, writing letters to public officials and representatives, giving League material to others. If there is anything current like broadsides, urge each one to try talking to a few other persons and reporting back to the group what some of the results are.

19. There is likely to be a request to know more about the way the League is set up and how it functions. Don't start talking By-laws, League organization, program, etc. until you have captured their interest in what the League is doing. If you can demonstrate that the League is a vital organization with a dynamic program that goes beyond its own education you have shown them the heart of League work. By-laws, program, etc. come as they ask for it.

THIRD
MEETING

20. As part of the third meeting the leader will give a simple description of the organization of the League. She will emphasize League action. She will show that it may take the following forms: (1) public opinion building; (2) information giving; (3) legislative support. She will point out that the League is interested in a process, a full-functioning democracy in which citizens take responsibility for considering and acting in the public interest.

Her talk may be based upon the chart, "League Action." Preferably, the chart should be reproduced on a large show-card in two colors. League organization should always be described and referred to as a vehicle for doing a job. The job is action by citizens in the public interest.

INDIVIDUAL
CITIZEN
ACTION

21. Stress the philosophy of the League that each individual must act in the common interest if democracy is to succeed. Stress that it is not enough that the League as an organization acts. The League exists to provide practice -- a demonstration that citizens can act effectively in the public interest. The League is concerned with the growth of the whole citizen -- and to that end points up and helps him to assume his whole responsibility.
22. Show how this particular discussion meeting can lead to action. Suggest the specific form action can take. If it is writing letters to their Congressmen, provide assorted note paper and postal cards and get them to write then and thoro. Reading aloud the article by a Congressman's wife in the January 1946 ACTION will stimulate the process.

SECOND AND
THIRD
DISCUSSION
GROUPS

23. As soon as the original leader feels that the first discussion-action group is well established she will proceed to form a second group, using the same methods. And then a third. And then a fourth, etc. When there are at least three discussion-action groups functioning and practicing individual citizen action, the leader will begin to have regular meetings with the chairmen of the groups.

If it is a new League, the meetings will be given to planning for the establishment of a League.

If it is an established League, the Leader (or chairmen of neighborhood groups) will use these meetings to bring knowledge of the League, the Board, and news of what it is currently doing to the chairmen, who will in turn take it back to their groups.

ORGANIZATION
IF IT IS A NEW LEAGUE

24. The leader will probably have to come back to the representative of the LWV for help with the mechanics of organization. The organizer will give her sample by-laws, copies of the by-laws of the National League, National Program and the Leaders Handbook. She will be assured tools to work with and personal assistance for problems. She will have specific questions which have been asked by members of the group, and she will need help in answering them.

A committee composed of the leader, the chairman of neighborhood groups and perhaps one other representative from each group, should plan the organization meeting, which should be announced well in advance. It should be held in an attractive meeting place. Large halls, dank and dark, are to be avoided like poison. It is better not to organize a new League in a private home, because we wish the League to be a real cross-section of the community. The neighborhood groups should have a wide geographic distribution within the community. Together they

should represent a cross-section of women of the community.

The organization meeting for a new League should follow the usual procedures of organization. There should be a temporary chairman who should preside. There should be the election of a nominating committee which will present a slate of candidates at a future meeting. The organizer should be present and should talk about the history of the LTV and give a broad and challenging picture of what the League is doing today. This should precede the mechanics of organizing.

BUILDING A
BOARD

25. If it is a new League, after the officers have been elected they should have a meeting to plan. They should meet in an attractive place and under friendly and inviting circumstances. Clearing the dining room table and perhaps adding a leaf provides an atmosphere of round-the-table planning which is conducive to League thinking.

The neighborhood chairman should be members of the Board for a time, until the number of groups becomes great. Then there will be so much to do that it will be better to have the Board meeting and the meeting of neighborhood chairmen separately.

The Vice-President should be in charge of neighborhood groups. This leaves the President free to develop the whole League pattern and to be effective administratively.

The Board will appoint whatever members with whatever duties it deems wise, consulting frequently with the Leader's Handbook. There shall be resources chairmen from the beginning, but they will probably have a double portfolio in the early stages because it will be so desirable to keep the Board a small, compact, working unit.

RESOURCES
CHAIRMEN

Resources chairmen are not expected to be "experts" in their fields, although it is true that a steady adherence to duty produces a satisfaction of amateur expertness for many League members. This is a splendid result so long as the individual retains her interest in the whole work of the League and uses her "expertness" in its larger services.

The duties of resources chairmen are as follows:

1. To keep informed through the use of the best sources on the subject assigned to her;
2. To keep a file of materials, both League and non-League, which will constitute a ready source of information for the Board;
3. To read and keep in mind everything in publications by the National League, President's letters, Memos, Briefs for Action, ACTION magazine, TRENDS, tools and techniques, wherever they fall within her field of subject matter;
4. To advise the Board in its consideration and planning of community action where the subject matter falls within her field. This is probably best done by leading a discussion in Board meeting in the early stages of consideration of League action;

5. To prepare or provide supplementary materials in her own field when there is special need;
6. To assist in the training of discussion leaders, with special reference to her subject-matter field;
7. To follow and be familiar with proposed legislation which falls within her field through Congress, particularly legislation on which the League has taken action or may take action;
8. To assist the President in planning response to National Action calls;
9. To be watchful for the application of her interests to state and local problems.

There will also be one or more resource chairmen for local subjects, i.e., Election work, Education, etc., but their duties must be worked out according to the local need.

And it shall be made clear from the beginning that they are the slaves, not the masters, of the LWV!

BOARD
PLANNING

26. If it is a new League, it is the first and fundamental duty of the Board to plan how to keep the interest of the discussion-action groups and how to get action. Action at this stage means individual citizen action and information or public opinion building. The League is not yet ready to take legislative action. It must first establish its prestige.

(During summer months meetings should be left to the discretion of the neighborhood chairman; a skeleton organization should be maintained so that chairmen can get materials, suggestions, and aid if they need it.)

Board meetings must be kept free for planning the League's most serious business -- that is, what public questions are in need of decision? How can many citizens be stimulated to think about the issues involved? How can individuals take action? How can the League act in order to stimulate this entire process?

Routine organizational business, although important, must not be allowed to monopolize the greater part of board meetings. If such business becomes heavy, the Executive Committee of the Board should meet regularly and attend to it, submitting a full account to the whole Board.

Discussion groups should meet twice monthly. The meetings should be planned by the Board in advance for three or four meetings, but if for some reasons it seems more timely or convenient to shift subjects, that should be done -- (not by one group, but by the Board). A Plan for action should be outlined. There should be an organized method of getting it and some method of reporting on results. It may seem wise to suggest several different kinds of action and let each group choose and work out whichever suggestions it wishes to. But it will be important to work on

one thing together in order to feel that it all adds up to something and so that there will be good publicity in the community.

The Board is itself a discussion group that gets somewhere. The Board itself must be thoroughly informed on a subject and must believe it is important to work on it. The president and the resource chairman together will stimulate the Board thinking which is necessary. The Board is the fountain head. Unless every Board member believes it is important to work on a given subject, the League machine is not ready to roll. Board interest and concern is the ethyl gas.

Board meetings can be divided into two parts. A Board can meet at 11 a. m. for the exciting job of planning-discussing. Sandwiches around the table and coffee furnished by the hostess make a break. After lunch the details of the plans and the necessary administrative matters can be handled. Board meeting can be over in time for mothers to be home when Johnny comes home from school.

Distribution of materials, special training for a particular subject to be discussed, training in techniques of discussion leadership, discussion of special problems relating to neighborhood groups, general announcements, reports of Board action become the subjects for the regular meetings of the neighborhood chairmen. As the neighborhood pattern matures some of these subjects will claim special attention: for example, a series of meetings for discussion leaders, meetings sponsored by the resources chairmen according to the need, to give chairmen, discussion leaders, and any others background.

THE IMPORTANT THING, WHATEVER THE JOB, IS THAT IT CONTRIBUTE TOWARD EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ACTION -- LEAGUE ACTION -- INDIVIDUAL ACTION.

IF IT IS AN ESTABLISHED LEAGUE

Board planning for neighborhood groups may begin with an experiment: -- to have someone, preferably a board member, go into a new part of the city and start a neighborhood group, following the methods which have already been suggested. It is of course, possible to begin neighborhood groups solely according to where present members of the League live. This has the advantages and disadvantage of the familiar. It probably will not result in the fresh impetus that a successful experiment with a wholly new group of women will bring to the League. It will not demonstrate so well how the League can work toward becoming a true cross-section of the women citizens of the community.

The leader will proceed with the fervor of one starting a new League. She will not urge the new women to come to all of the subject-matter meetings and larger all-member meetings at first. She will build up an interest in and loyalty to the small group. Gradually, she will show the women how it fits into the local League and how the League becomes politically effective through concerted action.

In reporting back to the Board, the leader will show what it is possible to do with entirely new material in new neighborhoods. She will take board members to visit the neighborhood groups occasionally, but never to make a speech to them. Others on the Board will probably want to take a hand at helping to start more neighborhood groups. Prestige on the Board will gradually come to those who are willing to leap into the democratic fray and accomplish something with a real cross-section of women citizens. It will gradually be recognized that merely to work with one's own social and economic group is a comfortable, restricted, and only partially effective way of working for democracy.

If the Board catches the vision of the wider effectiveness of the League through the development of many neighborhood groups, board members will not be able to resist the challenge of becoming leaders who help to establish neighborhood groups.

Board members or former Board members, women who have a good basic knowledge of the League and how it works, can be used as a committee to organize neighborhood groups. If a number of persons are working to establish neighborhood groups their work must have the careful attention of the Board and their activities must be well coordinated by it.

If more than one leader is working on the formation of neighborhood groups, there must, of course, be a chairman for the project. The Board will need to plan what neighborhood groups to give time and energy to and in what order. They will want to take into account such factors as community need, leaders available, potential neighborhood chairmen available, and finances. It is important that the Board analyze its community need. If there are neighborhoods which seem especially likely, the Board should not hesitate merely because no board member "knows someone." A street with many play-pens and tricycles is sure to mean there are a good many young mothers who are "tied down" to family routine. Take the League to them! If they can't meet in the afternoon, meet in the evening. Younger women are less likely to be already involved in other organizations. They have not voted many times and are most in need of the help the League can give them. There are ways of finding some individual on such a street who might be your starter. Talk to neighboring ministers, editors, the management of garden apartment developments--or ring door bells, using some League publications such as the Quiz: "Have you caught up with the atom?" Note the response of the women. The League must not wait for neighborhoods to come to it. Democracy cannot afford so leisurely a process.

After a successful experiment with neighborhood groups, the Board may need to be reorganized to provide a better vehicle for the neighborhood group-action pattern. If it does, many of the suggestions under "If it is a new League" may be adapted. The Board will want to re-evaluate every position, every committee, every type of meeting, every activity sponsored by the League.

KEEP THE ACTION FLOWING

Once a neighborhood group has the idea of action, both League action and individual citizen action, the leader, and the Board will find that groups will begin to show initiative and imagination in taking action in their own neighborhood.

At the meeting of neighborhood chairmen, the Vice-President or the Action Chairman (sometimes the same person) will present action plans which have been approved by the Board. There will be some plans that require a unified and concerted response from the neighborhood groups in order to be effective. There will be other plans which will allow for a variety of forms of action, allowing the group to choose that which seems most suitable for its neighborhood.

For example: if the action is pre-election work and a popular digest of facts about candidates and issues have been prepared and printed, there may be an overall plan which will provide for a certain kind of distribution at a certain time. Or the action may be planned around a subject, say food, and a variety of suggestions made for action. The neighborhood group may want to have booths with information, window displays, a float in a neighborhood parade, to distribute broadsides through other groups, to do a door-bell-ringing campaign, to have a public meeting with a panel discussion, to sponsor a certain number of special small discussions, etc. Writing letters to representatives, letters to the editor, and interviews with key people such as editors, teachers, and preachers, will of course be standard techniques, used round the clock.

Once the groups get the feeling of action a wholesome and good natured kind of competition develops among them to turn in good action jobs. Their reports are given at the meeting of the neighborhood chairmen, in their bulletin, and occasionally at all-member meetings (not more than three all-member meetings and an annual meeting are needed; they should be planned to stimulate the corporate feeling and not merely occasions for featuring a big-name speaker).

INDIVIDUAL
CITIZEN
ACTION

Neighborhood chairmen will remember to give some attention to individual citizen action at each meeting. If a member wrote a letter to the editor and had it printed, the chairman might read it, commenting favorably. If a member who has been a "shut-in" did her bit by writing ten letters to friends and commenting on some important current problem, that can be described. Occasionally the chairman will have a variety of note paper and pens and everyone will write a letter during the meeting to her representative or senator. At later meetings the answers can be read. Members who differ from the League's position can be encouraged to express their varying point of view in such letters, so long as they do not mention the League.

Someone in each neighborhood group will be in charge of publications, which the chairman will regularly bring back from the

chairmen's meeting, and have them for sale. Individuals will be encouraged to buy them for distribution through individual citizen action. Sometimes special packets will be made up for a certain round figure. Individuals will be given a chance to tell how they used them at the next meeting.

WHAT COMES OUT?

The vehicle is built; the wheels are turning; precious woman-power is being expended. What comes out?

Hopefully, a rich, energizing current of effective political action quickens the democratic stream.

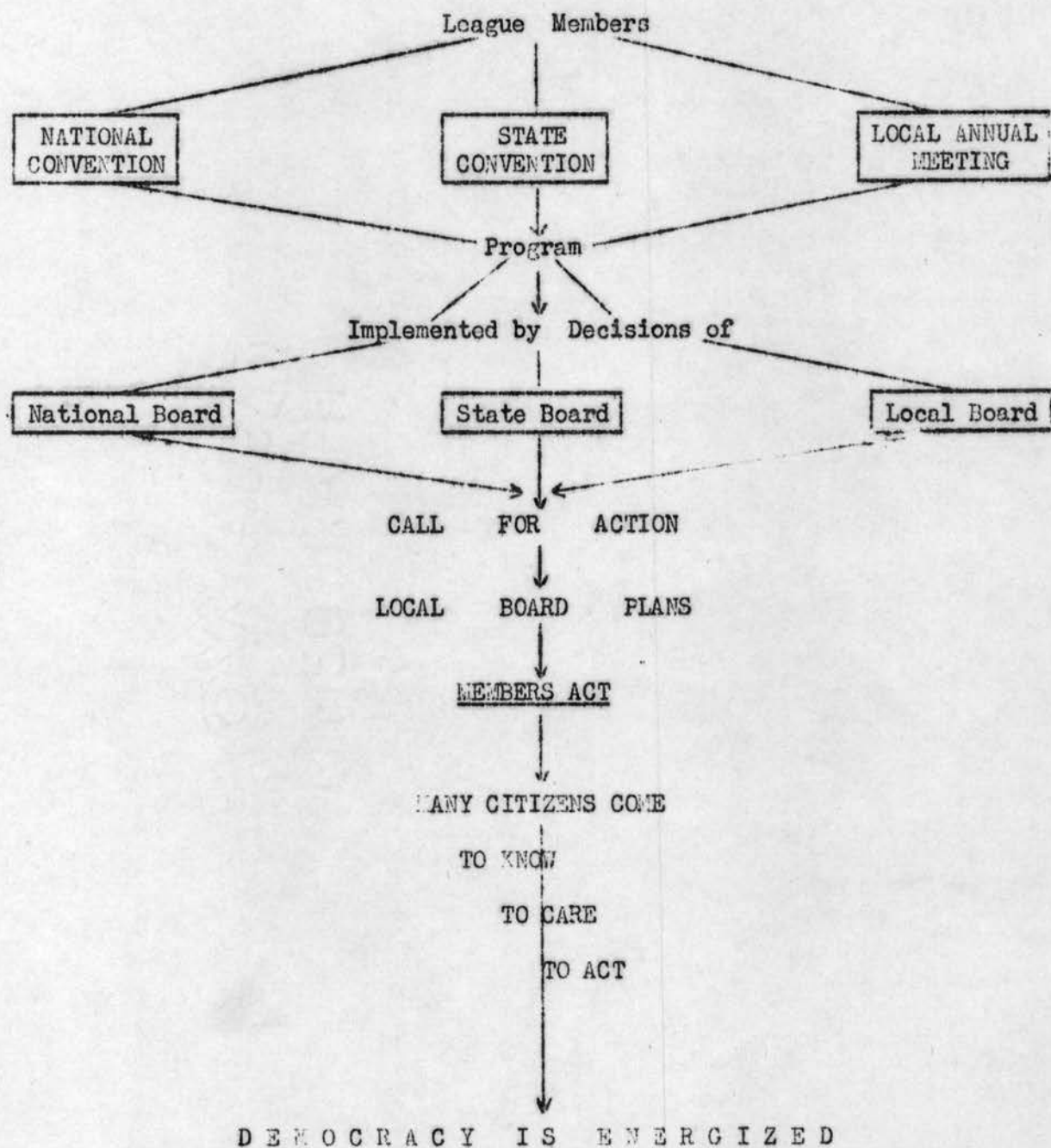
The facts are fully considered; public opinion is enlightened; individuals act according to their own consciences; League members, in addition, act in the name of the League, thus practicing the practical art of arriving at decisions together, as well as individually.

Precaution: Because the League believes so thoroughly in the democratic process; because we so value the worth of the individual citizen and believe that each has some life experience and some intelligence to bring to bear upon our common problems, the League will avoid any action which may appear to be manipulating unthinking public opinion.

The League has a program; the League has a position on specific legislation; the League acts because we believe that it is the essence of democracy that we achieve together, share values and convictions. Although the League's program has never been a complete program of political action, it has through the years built solidly on broad issues of fundamental importance a community of thought and action. Any who will enter in may help to shape its present and its future course. That a cross-section of women voters, who are members of various political parties, and social and economic groups, can achieve together such considerable agreement on political action in the public welfare augurs well for the continued improvement of democracy.

LEAGUE ACTION

League Purpose: To Promote Political Responsibility



THE MINNEAPOLIS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

84 South Tenth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Telephone: Atlantic 6319

February 24, 1947

MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Irvine McQuarrie

From: Mrs. J. R. McNamara

Re: Proposed items for Current Agenda, Minnesota League of Women Voters

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters on February 20, 1947:

"Mrs. McNamara asked for suggestions for items for the State program of work and made the point that on this year's program we should be thinking of study items as well as action items.

"Mrs. Burgess suggested study of the state revenue structure and the principal sources of income so that we will have a general equation; study the sales tax; also the potential utilization by the state of revenues released by the reduction in federal income taxes.

"Mrs. Gale suggested reapportionment as an item.

"Mrs. Moen suggested that since we backed the State Aid bill we should again actively support reorganization of school districts and a state-wide system of county assessments."

"All present concurred in these suggestions."

Study of State Fiscal System under

Rev -

Efp

Aid to various govt. units -

Reorganization - Sig.

Educational System of Minn.

*Eve
Hauge
L05688*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

PROGRAM 1947-1948
(As adopted by 1947 State Convention)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It is composed of all of the recognized Local Leagues within the State.

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

The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. Action may include providing information, building public opinion, supporting (or opposing) legislation.

IT SHALL NOT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR CANDIDATE.

C U R R E N T A G E N D A

1. Financing of Government in Minnesota
2. Our State System of Public Education.
3. Reorganization of State Legislature, constitutional revision, and reapportionment of legislative districts.

L E G I S L A T I V E S U P P O R T P O L I C Y

The State Board shall decide when

- (a) The measures adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
- (b) Active work is needed in support of the administration, preservation, improvement or enforcement of legislation originally supported by the league.
- (c) Active work for measures previously supported by the league but not enacted into law shall be resumed.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA
832 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

September 11, 1947

Dear President:

Has your league discussed the national "Current Agenda" for 1948-50?

THIS IS YOUR LEAGUE'S OPPORTUNITY AND THE OPPORTUNITY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATING NATIONAL PROGRAM AND POLICY! We therefore suggest that you plan to spend a portion of your next league meeting with your copies of the present National Program and of Miss Strauss' program letter (a copy of which is enclosed) at hand, and that you

1. Review the present National Current Agenda:
Which items should be continued?
Which items should be amended?
Which items should be dropped?
Which new items should be added?
2. Evaluate your suggestions according to the check-list in Miss Strauss' letter.
3. Fill in the enclosed sheet for national program suggestions with your specific recommendations and mail to the State League Office not later than October 17th.

At its October 23rd meeting your State Board will summarize the recommended items and send them on to the National Board for its consideration. We hope to receive numerous recommendations.

Because each local league must support local and state activities as well as the national program, there was a strong feeling at the last National Convention that the "Current Agenda" should be very limited -- possibly even shorter than it is now. Does your league agree?

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Hargraves
Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s
Encs.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
832 Lumber Exchange Building, Minneapolis 1
September 11, 1947

NATIONAL PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS
from

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1. We suggest that the following new items be added to the National Current Agenda: (If necessary for clear understanding, this should be a detailed statement of what you have in mind)

2. We suggest that the following items be dropped from the National Current Agenda:

3. We suggest that the following items be amended as indicated:

4. On which national program items do you feel the League has been most effective?

Why?

5. On which items could our effectiveness have been improved?

How?

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
832 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis 1
(At. 0941)

COPY OF MISS STRAUSS' LETTER ON PROGRAM

"The program-making period is the opportunity given to every member of the League to participate in the formulation of program and policy. We begin now to lay the groundwork for the final decisions which will be made at the Convention next spring. Our new By-laws provide for program recommendations to be made by the local Leagues, in line with the new emphasis on the local group and the individual member. Recommendations are also made by state Leagues. It would be helpful to the National Board in reaching its decisions on the proposed Current Agenda if the state boards correlated the recommendations of the local Leagues within their states. We are asking therefore that copies of all local recommendations be sent to the state League as well as to the National office.

"In order that we may clearly understand your intent, each proposed item should be in as concise form as you would have it appear on the Current Agenda. It could be followed by a brief explanation of the specific action your League would foresee might be taken under such an item during the 1948-50 biennium. Action may include providing information, building public opinion, supporting legislation.

"It may be helpful for the membership groups considering program recommendations to use the following check list in evaluating specific proposals:

1. Would the proposal serve as a good vehicle throughout the country in giving citizens practice in participating in government? Has it wide appeal? Is it too technical?
2. Is the League prepared with sufficient background to act? If not, is this a field which we want to explore and furnish leadership for community education?
3. Are other groups better prepared to assume responsibility in this field?
4. Is there the large area of League agreement which we need in order to be effective?
5. Is action likely to come within the near future, thus furnishing an opportunity to be effective? If not, is this an issue on which we are prepared to devote time for many years before we can hope to reach our objective?

"We must remind ourselves that League shoulders are not broad enough to carry all worthy causes. If the League is to serve its role of demonstrating how citizens can be effective, we must not set out to accomplish more than we can handle well. The Current Agenda should outline a block of work on the national level to be accomplished within the next two years. At the same time it is equally important that the League be furnishing practice on the state and local levels. The national Current Agenda therefore cannot be considered by itself but must form just one part of the local League's commitment for political action. There is no remote "national" to carry out the national program in isolation from what your local League is prepared to undertake. Success on "national" items depends directly on local League activity.

ANNA LORD STRAUSS, PRESIDENT"

NOTE: All program suggestions as outlined above should be sent to the State League Office not later than October 17th.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

832-33 LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

Atlantic 0941

December 8, 1947

Dear President:

Local Leagues have now had time to evaluate in some degree the State Program for which they voted at the State Convention in May. They have received "Syllabus for Detailed Study of Minnesota Government", "Overview 1947-1948 State Program Items Pertaining to Education", and two broadsides - one on "Reorganization of School Districts" and another on "Constitutional Revision".

Our by-laws require that "The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations which have been sent in by the local Leagues four months prior to the Convention and shall formulate a proposed Current Agenda. Such proposed Current Agenda shall be submitted by the Board to the Local League Boards at least two months prior to the Convention."

This means that the Board must receive these recommendations before January 22nd, the date of its next regular meeting. Plan now to have your League coordinate its thinking on State Program and put it into concrete form for presentation to the Board. In so doing, please consider:

- (1) The size and portent of the National Program, your local responsibilities and what you feel able to undertake on the state level in a legislative year.
- (2) The relative importance of these items:

Financing Government in Minnesota
Our State System of Education
Reorganization of State Legislature, Constitutional Revision and Reapportionment of Legislative Districts

Are we able to do justice to all three items? If not, on which of them is 1948-49 the year to concentrate our efforts?

The Board will prepare a proposed program on the basis of your suggestions and the program accepted at Convention will obligate us to provide information and the league at large to build public opinion and take legislative action.

Save time during the first two weeks of March for a Regional Conference on Finance, Local Projects and Public Relations. These will be spaced geographically for the convenience of the greatest number of leagues. Two State Board members will lead the discussion at each conference (of which there will be eight throughout the State). Details will be sent to you in January.



Local League Presidents

- 2 -

December 8, 1947

Although references in this letter may seem to hasten the coming year, what we really wish for every league member is a thoroughly satisfying finale to the present one.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Hargraves

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President

MH:s
Encs.

P. S. To date 14,898 of the "Reorganization of School District" Broad­sides have been distributed throughout the state - through local leagues, through other organizations and through 18 County School Superintendents, many of them in counties where there is no league. Of the meetings held, 63 counties have approved the survey and 20 have rejected it. What has been accomplished in your county?

MH

TO BOARD MEMBERS:

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING STUDY PROGRAM.

THIS MATERIAL WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD MEETING ON THE 24th
OF JULY, THURSDAY.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
932 Lumber Exchange Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING STUDY PROGRAM

Our State Program of work this year calls for a thorough study of Minnesota Government. Two suggested study programs are being submitted for your consideration, together with a very complete list of references. Do not think you have to have all of them. Some Leagues (or local units) may wish to conduct a more intensive study than others. If you have a few meetings it would probably be better to select one of the topics and make a thorough study than to try to cover too much in a sketchy way.

This summer consult your local school and city library as to material available for the year's study. The starred books on the accompanying list are so necessary that you should urge the library to buy them if they are not already accessible.

You might arrange with your library or some central office for a special shelf of all your material for the year so that every member may become acquainted with it, at least learn what information is contained in the books and reports.

The Library Division of the State Department of Education will lend books to libraries.

Many valuable articles on Minnesota local government will be found in the monthly publication of the League of Minnesota Municipalities. If your city or village is a member, this magazine is sent to your city officers, council members, health officers and also to some public libraries. You can doubtless borrow copies from them.

To interest the whole community you might arrange one or more special meetings to hear a talk by one of the state administrators from the Department of Administration, Taxation, Health, Education, Women in Industry, Resources Commission, or the newly created Legislative Reference Bureau.

A final summary meeting might be arranged to consider the points you would like the League to put on its program for action in 1949.

Start now to interest members in the Institute to be held at the Continuation Center (, 1947).

Detailed information of this institute will reach you later.

Minnesota League of Women Voters
832 Lumber Exchange Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR LEAGUE STUDY
1947 - 1948

1. The State Constitution

Amendment and revision procedure
Sections that are obsolete
Sections that are inflexible
Sections that tie the legislature

2. The Legislature

Numbers in comparison with those of other states
Committee membership
Committee procedure
Need for redistribution of members

3. State and Local Finance

A. Chief Sources of State Revenue

Where and how levied (administration)
Who pays?
How large are the proceeds
in dollars?
as per cent of total tax revenue?
Where do the proceeds go -
to State General Fund or special purpose?
to Local units?

B. Local

- (a) How is your County financed?
Taxes?
State Aids?
Has new supervisor of assessment been appointed?
Who was selected?
His qualifications?
Salary?
- (b) Your city or village budget
Chief expenditures
Chief revenues
Amount of Aid from State
- (c) School Districts
Improvements under new School Aid plan
County committee for studying reorganization

Minnesota League of Women Voters
232 Chamber Exchange Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

SYLLABUS FOR DETAILED STUDY OF MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT
1947-1948

- - - - -

1. POPULATION, RESOURCES

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 1
Reports of the Minnesota Resources Commission
Reports of the Minnesota Conservation Commission

2. CONSTITUTION

Amendment and revision procedure
Obsolete provisions
Inflexible provisions

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 1
Minn. Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 20
Legislative Interim Committee, appointed 1947
Anderson and Lobb, "A History of the Minnesota Constitution"

3. LEGISLATURE

Organization
Need for redistricting
Revision of Committee procedure

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 2
Minn. Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 20

4. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS (ESPECIALLY THE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1939)

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 3
Minn. Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 20
Hinderaker, "Administrative Districts and Field Offices of the Minn.
State Government".

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Structure
Proposals for revising state court system

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 4
Anderson, Chapter 14

6.

6. PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government", Chapter 6
Anderson, "Local Government and Finance in Minnesota"
Report of Department of Conservation

7. STATE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, the State and Its Government",
Chapter 7
Hinderaker, "Administrative Districts and Field Offices of the Minne-
sota State Government"
Anderson, "Local Government and Finance in Minnesota"
Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 19
Reports of the Department, including monthly bulletins

8. INDUSTRY AND LABOR (ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDUSTRY)

References:

Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, The State and Its Government",
Chapter 8
Hinderaker, "Administrative Districts and Field Offices of the Minne-
sota State Government"
Reports of the Industrial Commission

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

General survey of local units

Emphasize unit in which you are most interested

References:

General

Anderson, "Local Government and Finance in Minnesota"
Kise and Sjoselius, "Minnesota, The State and Its Government",
Chapter 5
Anderson, "The Units of Government in the United States"

FINANCING THE STATE AND LOCAL UNITS

1. STATE NON-TAX REVENUES

Borrowed money
Interest on investments, trust funds, ore leases
Rent, licenses
Fines, fees
Departmental earnings
Aid from the federal government
Welfare, Education, Health, Highways
Sale of timber, etc.

References:

Auditor's Reports
 Public Examiner Reports
 Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research Bulletins 17-20

2. STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

For each tax, study the following:

Where and how levied (administration)
Who pays it?
How large proceeds are
 (a) in dollars
 (b) as per cent of total revenue
Where proceeds go (distribution)
 To state
 General fund
 Allocated to special purpose
 To local units
 How distributed?
 Population?
 Percentage of amount paid in

3. PROPERTY TAXES

State levy
Amount
Purposes

Local
County
City or Village
Township
Schools

Problems

Assessed Valuation
Functions of County Supervisor
Department of Taxation (Equalization)
Reassessment
Forest Lands
Utilities

References:

Blakey, "Taxation in Minnesota"
Minn. Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 21

References (cont)

Department of Taxation Biennial Reports

Anderson, "Local Government and Finance in Minnesota", Chapter 7

4. INCOME TAXES

Individuals

Corporations (excluding Railroads, Mining Companies)

5. INHERITANCE AND GIFT TAXES

6. GROSS EARNINGS TAXES

Railroad

Telephone

Telegraph

Sleeping Cars

Freight lines

Express

References:

Blakey, "Taxation in Minnesota"

7. MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES

Drivers Fees

Licenses

8. MOTOR FUEL TAXES

Excise - Refunds

Inspection fee

References:

Blakey, "Taxation in Minnesota"

Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research Bulletin No. 21

Report of Motor Vehicle Division, Secretary of State

Report of Department of Highways

"Highway Facts" 1941

Biennial Report, Department of Taxation

Report of Division of Petroleum

9. TAXES ON CONSUMPTION

Alcoholic Beverages

Licenses (State - Local)

Excise

Profits of Municipal Liquor Stores

Cigarettes

10. TAXES ON OTHER BUSINESS

Insurance

Premium tax

Fire Marshall tax

Dealers in grain

Banks

Mining

Occupation - Royalty

References:

Blakey, "Taxation in Minnesota"

Blakey and Johnson, "Problems of Iron Ore Valuation" in Minnesota

References (cont.)

Municipalities, May 1941
Report of Interim Commission on Iron Ore Taxation (1941)

STATE GRANTS IN AID TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES, FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE
2. DISTRIBUTION BY JURISDICTION

County
School Districts
Township
City or Village

References:

V. D. Key, "Administration of Federal Grants to States"
H. J. Bittermann, "State and Federal Grants in Aid"
Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research Bulletins 18, 19, 20.

3. DISTRIBUTION BY PURPOSE

Welfare
Highways
Education
Health
Miscellaneous

References:

Same as above

Minnesota League of Women Voters
233 Lumber Exchange Building
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

LIST OF REFERENCES

***MINNESOTA STATE GOVERNMENT - STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION CHART**

Prepared by Division of Administrative Management. Department of Administration Sept. 1, 1944. Available in two sizes - small (8 x 11) - large (48" x 60)

May be obtained without charge by writing to Mr. E. I. Berg, Commissioner of Administration, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, "The Units of Government in the United States", Chicago, Public Administration Service, Publication No. 83 (1942). \$1.00

WILLIAM ANDERSON AND A. J. LOBB, "A History of the Minnesota Constitution", University of Minnesota (1921). \$1.75

HAROLD F. KUMM, "Constitution of Minnesota Annotated", University of Minnesota Press. \$2.25

*IVAN HINDERAKER, "Administrative Districts and Field Offices of the Minnesota State Government", University of Minnesota Press (1943). \$3.00

*ROY G. BLAKEY, "Taxation in Minnesota", University of Minnesota Press (1934)

*MINNESOTA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH BULLETIN 18, 19, 20, 21.

*WILLIAM ANDERSON, "Local Government and Finance in Minnesota", University of Minnesota Press (1935)

OSCAR JESNESS AND RENOLDS I. NOWELL, "Program for Land Use in Northern Minnesota", University of Minnesota Press (1935) - available on loan from State Library

*JOSEPH KISE AND GEORGE B. SJOSELIUS, "Minnesota, The State and Its Government", Melberg Press, Moorhead, Minn. (1944). \$1.50

REPORT OF MINNESOTA INTERIM COMMITTEE ON IRON ORE TAXATION (1941).

REPORTS OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES (mostly biennial):

Auditor

***Department of Taxation**

Motor Vehicle Division of the Office of Secretary of State

Liquor Control Commissioner

Unemployment Insurance Division

***Department of Education**

***Department of Conservation**

***Minnesota Resources Commission**

Department of Highways

Division of Social Welfare (Monthly Bulletin)

***Department of Health**

Department of Agriculture, Dairy and Foods

Aeronautics Commission

Motor Fuel Division of Department of Taxation (Annual)

***Revenues of State local units, Public Examiner (Annual)**

Public Examiner

Minnesota League of Women Voters

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM
1947-1948

To help promote discussion by your board and your members, the following explanation of the proposed program is submitted.

Paragraph one is designed to give to new members, friends and the public, an overall picture of the makeup and purpose of the League.

Current Agenda: Since this is a non-legislative year we shall have ample opportunity to become familiar with some vital problems of government before legislative action is called for. A breakdown of the agenda follows.

1. FINANCING OF GOVERNMENT IN MINNESOTA

A. Expenditures for State Governmental Services

1. General Government: Legislature, Courts, Administrative Offices.
2. Special Problems: Schools, Highways, Health, Welfare, etc.
3. Machinery of Government:
 - (a) Appointed officers
 - (b) Elected officers
 - (c) Civil Service

B. Grants in Aid

Federal Aid to States

1. Amounts, conditions, distribution, etc.
2. Kinds
 - (a) Social Security, Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Unemployment Compensation, Health, etc.
 - (b) Highways, Matched Grants, Aeronautics, Vocational Education, etc.

State Aids to Local Governments

1. Services: Highways, Education, Welfare, etc.
2. Jurisdiction: Counties, Schools, Cities, Towns, etc.

C. Debt

1. State: Rural Credit, Highways, Relief, Buildings, etc.
2. Local: Counties, Townships, Cities, Villages.

D. Revenues

Sources:

1. Taxes
2. Earnings of Departments
3. Fees and Licenses
4. Fines and Penalties
5. Interest on Investments
6. Moneys obtained from borrowing (sale of bonds)

The State government performs many services for its citizens which cost money. These expenditures are paid for largely by taxes. It is important, therefore, that citizens understand what the state government does; what it costs; and where the money comes from to pay those costs.

Minnesota League of Women Voters

Source material would be provided on all subjects, e. g. mimeographed material and Departmental reports, explanation of different departments, what they have, what their recommendations are, etc.

Department personnel are available as speakers, e. g. Mr. Driscoll, State Commissioner of Administration, is glad to speak to groups throughout the State when the Legislature is not in session. Also members of the Department of Education, Department of Taxation etc. will speak to groups throughout the State.

2. OUR STATE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- A. Reorganization of School Districts.
- B. Improved Method of Assessment.
- C. Training, Recruitment and Retention of Competent Teachers.
- D. Budget of Department of Education.
- E. Problems of Higher Education.

Reorganization of School Districts is of prime importance. If the necessary permissive legislation is passed much work will need to be done to develop understanding and get the program started within counties.

Improved methods of assessments are basic to a fair system of equalization aids. Progress can be made if County Supervisors of Assessment are provided for by this legislative session.

Our state program of training, recruiting and retention of competent teachers should be studied including

- 1. A Correlation of Department of Education and College of Education Reciprocity in Certification.
- 2. More liberal interpretation of standards for teachers.
- 3. Adequate salaries and changed public attitudes, both of which are needed to attract and hold qualified teachers.

Does the Budget of the Department of Education provide sufficient funds for research (including problems of curriculum), adequate salaries for staff, etc.

Powers and policies of Board should be understood.

Problems of higher education are becoming more acute due to increased costs, increased enrollment and need for more highly trained division of responsibility of Junior and Senior Colleges, etc.

3. REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

The League of Women Voters of the United States took an active part in supporting reorganization of Congress. The need for reorganizing and modernizing the Minnesota Legislature is just as imperative. We have one of the largest legislative bodies of any state and still it is not truly representative because there has been no redistricting since 1913.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

PROGRAM 1947-1948
(As adopted by 1947 State Convention)

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C U R R E N T A G E N D A

1. Financing of Government in Minnesota
2. Our State System of Public Education.
3. Reorganization of State Legislature, constitutional revision, and reapportionment of legislative districts.

L E G I S L A T I V E S U P P O R T P O L I C Y

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A. Expenditures for State Governmental Services

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2. Special Problems: Schools, Highways, Health, Welfare, etc.
3. Machinery of Government:
 - (a) Appointed officers
 - (b) Elected officers
 - (c) Civil Service

B. Grants in Aid

Federal Aid to States

1. Amounts, conditions, distribution, etc.
2. Kinds
 - (a) Social Security, Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Unemployment Compensation, Health, etc.
 - (b) Highways, Matched Grants, Aeronautics, Vocational Education, etc.

State Aids to Local Governments

1. Services: Highways, Education, Welfare, etc.
2. Jurisdiction: Counties, Schools, Cities, Towns, etc.

C. Debt

1. State: Rural Credit, Highways, Relief, Buildings, etc.
2. Local: Counties, Townships, Cities, Villages.

D. Revenues

Sources:

1. Taxes
2. Earnings of Departments
3. Fees and Licenses
4. Fines and Penalties
5. Interest on Investments
6. Moneys obtained from borrowing (sale of bonds)

The State government performs many services for its citizens which cost money. These expenditures are paid for largely by taxes. It is important, therefore, that citizens understand what the state government does; what it costs; and where the money comes from to pay those costs.

Source material would be provided on all subjects, e. g. mimeographed material and Departmental reports, explanation of different departments, what they have, what their recommendations are, etc.

Department personnel are available as speakers, e. g. Mr. Driscoll, State Commissioner of Administration, is glad to speak to groups throughout the State when the Legislature is not in session. Also members of the Department of Education, Department of Taxation etc. will speak to groups throughout the State.

2. OUR STATE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- A. Reorganization of School Districts.
- B. Improved Method of Assessment.
- C. Training, Recruitment and Retention of Competent Teachers.
- D. Budget of Department of Education.
- E. Problems of Higher Education.

Reorganization of School Districts is of prime importance. If the necessary permissive legislation is passed much work will need to be done to develop understanding and get the program started within counties.

Improved methods of assessments are basic to a fair system of equalization aids. Progress can be made if County Supervisors of Assessment are provided for by this legislative session.

Our state program of training, recruiting and retention of competent teachers should be studied including

- 1. A Correlation of Department of Education and College of Education Reciprocity in Certification.
- 2. More liberal interpretation of standards for teachers.
- 3. Adequate salaries and changed public attitudes, both of which are needed to attract and hold qualified teachers.

Does the Budget of the Department of Education provide sufficient funds for research (including problems of curriculum), adequate salaries for staff, etc.

Powers and policies of Board should be understood.

Problems of higher education are becoming more acute due to increased costs, increased enrollment and need for more highly trained division of responsibility of Junior and Senior Colleges, etc.

3. REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

The League of Women Voters of the United States took an active part in supporting reorganization of Congress. The need for reorganizing and modernizing the Minnesota Legislature is just as imperative. We have one of the largest legislative bodies of any state and still it is not truly representative because there has been no redistricting since 1913.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM
1947-1948

To help promote discussion by your board and your members, the following explanation of the proposed program is submitted.

Paragraph one is designed to give to new members, friends and the public, an overall picture of the makeup and purpose of the League.

Current Agenda: Since this is a non-legislative year we shall have ample opportunity to become familiar with some vital problems of government before legislative action is called for. A breakdown of the agenda follows.

1. FINANCING OF GOVERNMENT IN MINNESOTA

A. Expenditures for State Governmental Services

1. General Government: Legislature, Courts, Administrative Offices.
2. Special Problems: Schools, Highways, Health, Welfare, etc.
3. Machinery of Government:
 - (a) Appointed officers
 - (b) Elected officers
 - (c) Civil Service

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Minnesota League of Women Voters

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File

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

PROGRAM 1947-1948

(As adopted by 1947 State Convention)

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It is composed of all of the recognized Local Leagues within the State.

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

The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. Action may include providing information, building public opinion, supporting (or opposing) legislation.

IT SHALL NOT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR CANDIDATE.

C U R R E N T A G E N D A

1. Financing of Government in Minnesota
2. Our State System of Public Education.
3. Reorganization of State Legislature, constitutional revision, and reapportionment of legislative districts.

L E G I S L A T I V E S U P P O R T P O L I C Y

The State Board shall decide when

- (a) The measures adopted in principle by the convention, shall be made subjects for active legislative work.
- (b) Active work is needed in support of the administration, preservation, improvement or enforcement of legislation originally supported by the league.
- (c) Active work for measures previously supported by the league but not enacted into law shall be resumed.

Minnesota Library Association

RUTH M. JEDERMANN, SECRETARY-TREASURER

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

April 9, 1948

APR 15 1949

Mrs. Dewey Gruenhagen, State Chairman
League of Women Voters
230 New York Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Gruenhagen:

The League of Women Voters has always supported free public education in the interest of a better informed, more alert American citizenry. For that reason, we know you are interested in public libraries in your own community and in your own state.

Many leaders have commended the fine services established by existing libraries. Few are aware of the many inadequacies existing in the smaller libraries and in the large areas in the state which have no library facilities, whatsoever. Thirty-six per cent of our total population in Minnesota is without public library service. Of the other sixty-four per cent many are receiving only the most meager kind of service.

The Minnesota Library Association, an organization of all people and institutions interested in the improvement of library services in our state, is concentrating its efforts this year on informing people of the need of libraries and revision of existing library laws. We need the endorsement of your organization and other leading citizens in bringing these laws and library services up-to-date. May we depend upon your valuable support for the extension and improvement of these services in Minnesota?

At the present time, we are particularly interested in obtaining the following information:

- (1) Would you include a speaker to discuss library needs briefly on one of your state or local programs?
- (2) Do you have any publications that would carry an editorial or news story?
- (3) How many chapters are in your state organization?

- (4) When is your annual meeting held? Do you also have a designated time for district meetings?
- (5) Do you have a member who might be designated as library representative and to whom we could send information to present to your membership?

This letter comes as an urgent appeal for "Friends of the Library." We need such friends to help us acquaint the people of Minnesota with the need for improved library laws and services. This year our association offers a special DOLLAR-A-YEAR membership to interested citizens who are not librarians. We will appreciate all the assistance you can give to this program.

I am enclosing a self-addressed envelope, hoping we may receive an early answer to the information we are seeking.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Anita Saxine
Chairman
Publicity Committee

Miss Anita Saxine
Winona Free Public Library
Winona, Minnesota

June 1, 1948

Miss Anita Saxine
Winona Free Public Library
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Miss Saxine:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota went on record at its annual convention in May as supporting the following objectives of the Minnesota Library Association:

- (1) \$15,000 to be included in the State Department of Education budget for the biennial salary and travel expenses of a professional field worker, in the Library Division, for the purpose of assisting and aiding libraries now in the state, and helping to establish library service where none exists in Minnesota today.
- (2) \$25,000 for a state wide all inclusive survey of libraries and library services to be conducted under the auspices of the State Department of Education to be included in its budget.

In answer to a letter from you forwarded by Mrs. Gruenhagen of St. Paul: we do not at the present time have a specific library item on our Current Agenda, but the League during 1940-1941 had for study "Development of Library Services in Minnesota".

There are 46 local Leagues in Minnesota. Two of these Leagues last year had library projects for their local program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Malcolm Hargraves
President