

League of Women Voters of Texas



DICKINSON PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539 • PH. 713-337-1722

MRS. DARVIN M. WINICK, PRESIDENT

July 28, 1974

Dear Corsicana League Member:

Regretfully, because of lack of activities by the League of Women Voters of Corsicana, and its failure to meet recognition standards for a local League as outlined in the Local League Handbook, the League of Women Voters of Texas feels that a meeting must be held to discuss and vote on disbandment of the League of Women Voters of Corsicana.

Jo (Mrs. T.R.) Coker, state board director, will conduct this meeting at 2 p.m., on August 8, 1974 at the Lone Star Gas Company in Corsicana. The League will be disbanded upon a majority vote of the membership. Failure to attend the meeting constitutes a silent vote for disbandment.

In compliance with Art. IV, Sec. 2, of the national bylaws, the state League receives all funds remaining in the local League's treasury.

Cordially,

Deta Winick

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President
League of Women Voters of Texas

VW/ag

cc: State Board



League of Women Voters
of the United States
1730 M STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

APR 5 1974

March 29, 1974

Mrs. Mackey Harral
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Harral:

It is with real regret that we hear from Mrs. Darwin M. Winick, President, League of Women Voters of Texas, that the League of Women Voters of Corsicana, Texas, has disbanded. We know this step was taken with reluctance and only when it was clear the League could no longer continue.

Names listed in the Voter file for Corsicana will be withdrawn. However, we hope that some of you will choose to maintain your affiliation with the League by transferring your membership to a nearby local League or by forming a member-at-large unit of the Texas League of Women Voters. It goes without saying that money remaining from the Corsicana League treasury after all outstanding bills have been paid reverts to the state League. No doubt the transfer of funds has already taken place.

It is always a sad occasion when we lose a League. Perhaps the time will come when there can be a League in Corsicana again. We hope so.

Sincerely,

Lucy Wilson Benson
President

LWB(vcs)

cc: State

Mr. Murphree
Finance and Administration
Org.
Files
Lamp1

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March 27, 1974

Ms. Gwen Murphree, Organization Dept.
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dear Gwen:

The League of Women Voters of Texas has formally disbanded the League of Women Voters of Corsicana. All funds and files have been received by the state office.

Would you please advise the proper departments to stop all mailings.

Cordially,

Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President
League of Women Voters of Texas

bc - Holmes



C O P Y

NOV 30 1973

November 29, 1973

Mrs. Mackey Harral
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Harral:

We at the state level are curious as to the current status of the LNV of Corsicana. Our last report from you was ^{an} indirect and unofficial report from Mrs. Jo Coker saying that you were experiencing difficulty and she planned to go to Corsicana to discuss the situation with you.

Recently the state office received dues from a resident of Corsicana to become a member-at-large of the LNV of Texas because the LNV of Corsicana had disbanded. We certainly hope that this is not the case. However, if you do wish to disband, there are certain official procedures which must be followed.

I am looking forward to your reply and would like to encourage you not to disband. If you feel there is no other course, I will send you information on the procedures for disbanding a League. If there is any way at all that I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Cordially,

Mrs. O. H. Ulrickson
Organization Vice-president

cc: State Office, Coker

(R)

OCT - 5 1973

October 2, 1973

Mrs. Mackey Harral, President
League of Women Voters of Corsicana

Dear Mrs. Harral,

It has come to my attention that, since your League was not represented at the state convention in Beaumont, we have no formal pledge for support of state services from the Corsicana League.

Your requested support was \$300 which is the minimum support (under present state policy) from a local League.

Please advise state office as to your formal pledge of support for this fiscal year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. R. J. Jochim, Treasurer

cc: SO, file

SO: This was accompanied by a note to Anita Harral (Mrs Mackey) asking her to forward it to Sharon _____, who has agreed to be the new president. Sorry I failed to get enough carbons in.

Wacky

APR 16 1973

April 13, 1973

League of Women Voters of Corsicana
c/o Mrs. Mackey Harral

Dear Sharon:

I hang my head in shame for two reasons - first because I am so long getting this plan to you, and second because I have managed to misplace your address, and with it, your last name. So, I hope you will forgive my funneling this to you through Anita.

I hope the plan works to your advantage, and that you will experience no difficulty in implementing it. The new Organization Vice-President, Carolyn Ulrickson, will be happy to assist you in any way she can. Her address is

Mrs. O. H. Ulrickson

My day in Corsicana was most pleasant, and I enjoyed so much meeting all of you. I sincerely feel that there are many hidden strengths within your group, and that you will have in store for you a most successful future.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Jack W. Wackerbarth)

Encl.:
Devel. Community League Plan

P.W.

Please send to the state office IMMEDIATELY your correct name and the address at which you wish to receive the League mail. Next week you will receive a form for sending in the names and addresses of your Board members, to be returned as soon as you have completed the organization of your Board.

FEB 26 1973

February 23, 1973

Mrs. Mackey Harra
League of Women Voters of Corsicana

Dear Anita:

In reference to our recent telephone conversation, I am enclosing a copy of Guidelines for Units of the LWV of Texas, which I believe is self-explanatory. Go over this with the Board, and if this appears to be the best solution to your problem, please let me know. The final decision, of course, must be made by the membership as a whole, at a meeting specially called for the purpose. Every member should be contacted either by telephone or by a personal letter, and advised of the importance of the meeting.

I regret very much the turn of events which has made necessary contemplation of an action so drastic as this. However, I am fully aware of the effort which has been made by your group during the past three years since the convention at which we discussed the matter at some length, and I do feel that in view of the circumstances which you outlined, it may be wise for you at least to consider becoming a state League unit rather than attempting to carry on as a local League.

As to the disposition of your assets, at this time I cannot tell you. That is one thing which the state Board overlooked in the Guidelines. The state Bylaws call for the assets of a disbanding League to revert to the state League; however, a group which continues as a state League unit is not really disbanding, so it will be necessary for the state Board to establish a policy.

Please let me know if I can be of further service.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Jack W. Wackerbarth)

CC: State Office
Ulrickson

MEMORANDUM FROM:

League of Women Voters of Texas

DICKINSON PLAZA CENTER • DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539

FEB 8 1973

Wednesday Feb 7-1973

Dear Veta:

Had telephone call from Corsicana. They are down to 15 active members of a total of 30, none of whom will agree to be pres. Told Anita Harrell, who called, would send Guidelines for their consideration as alternative to disbanding. Will send ~~written~~ typed confirmation of this, but just wanted you to know what was going on.

Love, Wacky

president's letter to members

Who?

APR 16 1970

Corsicana

Dear League Member,

First I want to thank you for all your help and support since I assumed the presidency when we lost Luzi Nix to Laredo. I have found the job both challenging and rewarding.

We can point to several accomplishments during the past year. These accomplishments are due in large measure to the untiring efforts of your Board. They have my heartfelt thanks and gratitude. First we had a very successful coffee and style show pointing up the highlights of League history. The first local subscription service was launched. In terms of administrative detail both our local Policy Sheet and local By-laws have been updated. In recent months we were successful in contacting and interviewing three out of four legislators assigned to this League. Then in Feb. the city manager Bob Brockman spoke to us and held a lively questions and answers discussion.

But in spite of these "good works" the size of our League is dwindling. To paraphrase a TV commercial, we're working more and enjoying it less! I feel that we are deluding ourselves if we do not come to grips with the basic problem facing us. That problem is a lack of interested, working League members. The Board and I feel that unless we can gain a sizable nucleus of concerned women, the League is dead in Corsicana.

In Luzi's remarks at Annual Meeting this time last year, she stressed the fact that this League was struggling to stay alive, and that we needed to concentrate on membership. And we have worked on membership. But somewhere along the way we lost sight of our goal of increasing our ~~membership~~ numbers and became involved with the every day chores of a League. Now we are reaping the fruits of neglect, and though we have gained some new members our out-go is larger than our income.

Therefore in view of this drastic situation, the Board recommends (the following is my idea for use as a departure for discussion) that we cease all normal League activity through next fall and concentrate totally on membership. Instead of our regular unit meetings we will have monthly or bi-monthly "Talk League" coffees with prospective members. We hope that by September or October we will have gained that sizable nucleus of concerned women who will breathe life and vitality into this League.

If you want to be a part of the nucleus I am speaking of; if you want to see this League come alive; if you are willing to work to make these things happen then I urge you to come to Annual Meeting prepared to offer your time, your energy, and your resources. Without your help, this may be your last call to Annual Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

(R)

SEP 12 1969

September 10, 1969

Mrs. J. R. Billingsley

Dear Sandra:

I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter, but we just returned Monday evening from a brief vacation. I do hope this delay hasn't inconvenienced you too much.

I, too, learned the day of the regional conference that Luzi was moving to Laredo. This seems to be the apparent catastrophe that occasionally hits a League, but usually it turns out not to be such a catastrophe after all and things work out fine. I am so very glad that you are accepting the presidency, and I feel reassured that the Corsicana League is in good hands. Your approach is good, take things step by step, and everything will be all right.

Now to answer your questions. I don't see any reason to keep a permanent file of Times for Action, particularly state TFA's. What is done is done. Sometimes some of the information sheets that come with national TFA's may be helpful in the future, so exercise your judgement on these. It is helpful to have at least the replies on file--as a record of what the Corsicana League has done, and as "sample" for future replies.

As for a great many of the other memos already received and that will be received, many of them have only temporary value, and should be filed accordingly. Keep only those that may have historical value for the permanent file. A simple system is to mark them as they come in--"T" for those of only immediate value; "P" for those of historical value. You may find pages 20-23 of the PRESIDENT'S COUNSELLOR helpful in setting up the files.

Each president receives, without charge to the local League, both a state and a national "president's mailing." Be sure that both state and national have your name and address as the new president so that you will begin receiving these mailings as soon as possible. According to my records, Juanita, as Publications Chairman, is receiving the national DPM. This costs \$10.00 a year, and is transferrable. She also receives the standing order for five National Board Reports and she should be responsible for distributing these to the other Board members. I would suggest that if the League has sufficient funds, a national DPM be ordered for each vice president.

State automatically sends a DPM to each vice president and to the publications chairman. There is no set price on the state DPM, but the price is based on the amount of material sent. Corsicana also has five state standomg prders ~~which~~ which are sent to Juanita for distribution to the other board members.

As long as we are discussing publications, I would urge that the Corsicana League make an effort to obtain and use publications for the membership. This was discussed when I was in Corsicana. Perhaps Joyce can give you more information on this since she sat in on practically all of the discussions.

I also understand from the minutes that I receive that you need a new treasurer. I recommended in July that the books be audited and I hope that this is done for the new treasurer. The auditor will then be in a position to give some tips to the treasurer. She should also find the budget explanation in the pre-annual meeting Voter most helpful. It is very explicit.

When you have other questions, please feel free to ask them. If I don't know the answers, I will at least try to get them for you.

Maybe we can find a few minutes to chat when you come to the workshop in Denton on October 8. Also, Lois Braunagel will be here, and she may have some helpful suggestions for you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Albert Barstis
Consultant

cc: State Office
Winick
Braunagel



JAN 27 1969

Corsicana

Corsicana, Texas
January 24, 1969

BOARD MEETING

LWV

The Board of the League of Women Voters met at 10:00 a. m. in the home of Bertha Ellis. Those present were Vera Remonte, Sue Criddle, Joyce Clayton, Bertha Ellis, Anita Harral and Mickee Kelley.

Treasurer's report showed balance on hand \$314.78.

Program topic for February meeting will be "Executive Department".

Voters Service reported the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce offered their assistance to the League. The suggestion was made by Sue Criddle that we ask the C of C to make copies of our Legislative Guide.

The Board accepted the resignation of Nadine Baron as Publications Chairman. The name of Juanita Washington was submitted to fill this vacancy. The Board voted its approval.

The President announced a call meeting to be held Thursday, February 20 at 10:00 in the home of Anita Harral. Budget report and nominating committee report will be submitted.

The Voters Service will again assist in registering voters during the last three days in January at the banks and supermarkets.

Meeting adjourned.

Mickee Kelley
Secretary

Correia

JAN 27 1969

November 22, 1968

BOARD MEETING

LWV

The Board of the League of Women Voters met at 11:00 a.m. at the YMCA. Those present were Vera Remonte, Sue Criddle, Bertha Ellis, Anita Harral, Joyce Clayton, Nadine Barron, Vern Lucas and Mickee Kelley.

Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer reported balance as of November \$381.78.

Joyce Clayton moved the LWV enter cars in the Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade. Posters advertising League would be attached to cars. Motion carried.

Joyce also suggested that the League members register voters at the mobile chest x-ray unit during November and set up registration booths during Christmas shopping time.

Meeting adjourned.

December 13, 1968

BOARD MEETING

LWV

The Board met at 9:30 at the YMCA. Quorum not present.

Results of parade discussed. Announcer at judges stand commended League. First car - Volks having poster urging people to register to vote before Jan. 31, 1969.

Second car - League President and family rode in antique Packard car with sign "Our vote goes for Santa".

Joyce Clayton reported the Tax Office requested that we wait until the first of the year to register voters so that ~~xx~~ duplications will not occur.

May 29, 1970

Dear Edna:

cc: SO, Braunagel

Corsicana is in deep trouble. It had rocked along for some time without accomplishing much beyond Voters Service and Finance (both done well), guided by a few of the "old guard." The semblance to a functioning League was difficult to discern. Board meetings and unit meetings were held on the same day, one following the other, attended primarily by the same people. Unit meetings were held at lunch time so the employed members could attend. Program presentation frequently consisted of reading to one another from League publications received on state and national DPMS.

Then about two years ago, a couple of things happened that began to rock the board. They began to get new members -- young women, new to the community, who wanted to do things. They also accepted two or three black members. This latter event forced them to change their meeting place from the Woman's Club, the social center of the town, to, I believe, the YMCA.

A year ago they had no place to go and were considering disbanding, when finally Luzi Nix, a dynamic young Mexico-American woman and a new leaguer, agreed to accept the presidency, in spite of the fact that she already had three very young children and was expecting her fourth child. But this seemed to be their salvation and there was much enthusiasm about the future of the Corsicana League.

Then I came along, as their consultant, and further rocked the boat by suggesting that units and program presentation could be improved. They did change their plan of meetings, organizing a day unit and a night unit, both meeting at a reasonable time. Reports indicated that this plan was working out well, and that program presentation had improved too.

But in the meantime, last August, Luzi's husband accepted another position in another town, so there went Luzi, and again they were in despair. Finally, Sandra Billingsley, employed, and former Voter editor, accepted the presidency. She proceeded to take over in a rather methodical way, so I thought things were going to work out. But they lost some of the "old" members. They really didn't feel too badly about this since they were members in name only -- but then they have been completely unsuccessful in getting and involving new members. They had a most exciting 50th Anniversary party last October -- excellent attendance, but not one new member as a result.

Now their attitude is that if they don't get new members by fall, they will consider disbanding. As far as I know, no annual meeting was held -- or else I missed it. They have not planned a spring finance drive, but rather plan to have a fall drive -- if they build up the membership.

They have done excellent Voters Service, with emphasis on getting information into the black community. Finance drives are usually successful. The business community thinks the League is great, but also has the attitude that it is (the League) for other women, not their wives.

League of Women Voters of Texas



1841 BINGLE ROAD • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055 • TEL: A.C. 713 HO 5-3705

MRS. WILLIAM E. JOOR, President

As per the attached carbon, I am suggesting an exploratory type meeting - hopefully to evaluate what potential they do have. If this works, then I think we need the fine touch of Louis to outline a course of action for them.

If you don't hear from them within the next few weeks, I think you should write to them, offering your services for whatever type of meeting they want. But let's see what happens.

Sincerely,

Gladys

Mrs. Albert Barstis
Organization Vice President

Enc. Letter to Corsicana

®

bcc: SO, Wooster, Braunagel

May 29, 1970

Mrs. J. R. Billingsley

Dear Sandra:

I have been giving considerable thought to the problems of the Corsicana League. From conversations with Joyce, Anita, and Sharon; from the minutes; from no Voters; from evidently no annual meeting; apparently there is a cloud of gloom hanging over Corsicana, the biggest cloud being membership, or rather the lack of membership.

However, there are positive aspects. There are some of you who really want a League in Corsicana, and evidently this feeling is shared by the community since financial support does not seem to be a problem. When Joyce called me about a Voters Service problem, she indicated that the two units were functioning well and that program presentation had improved. You do excellent Voters Service. (I hope the isolated problem you had this year worked itself out satisfactorily.) Your Voters are good. You have made your pledge for state and national services.

In assigning Edna Wooster as your consultant, it was hoped that someone from an East Texas League might better understand the political and social climate of Corsicana.

Instead of inviting Edna to come in to do a regular Board training, may I suggest that you invite her to come in for one day to meet not only with the Board, but to include the members that are interested, and just talk League. Discuss your problems, find out what the membership wants, explore possible solutions to your membership problems, and even the possibility of going on reorganization.

If something positive comes out of this meeting, then we could plan for more specific help in the fall, develop a plan for positive action to help the League to really begin functioning again. This could include a plan for building membership and for involving the membership; and if so desired, a plan for going on reorganization.

Do give this careful consideration. I know right now that those of you who have tried so hard are discouraged. Think about it, and let me know what we can do to help. We want a League in Corsicana.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Albert Barstis
Organization Vice President