

TO: LL Presidents; DPM

RE: COUNCIL WRAPUP

LWV-Texas

March, 1982

LL Pres. Mailing (2); DPM

I. H. 2.

Council - State

The Abilene League provided super people, a truly unique hotel, and everything needed for a wonderful Council 1982. Council Chairman, Kay Dillard; Co-chairman Pennie Boyett, and their entire hard-working-yet-ever-smiling committee with Indian feather headbands were constantly on hand to make sure everything ran smoothly.

Planned totally indoors due to expected cold, bad weather in Abilene in March, Council was not all work. Delegates were spotted during breaks unwinding in the hot tub, playing video games, relaxing in the sauna, or eating good food in the Sidewalk Cafe. The weather was undeniably spring-like, and in west Texas that can often be violent. Around 2:00 A.M. Sunday morning thunderstorms descended on the county and tornadoes danced destructively just 20 miles south of the peacefully sleeping delegates!

Coffee breaks were truly inspired. The Abilene League had them underwritten by a local bank -- Saturday afternoon with cookies, and Sunday morning a continental breakfast. With the price of hotel coffee, it was a welcome assist for the budget.

Official Council business was to debate and adopt the LWV-T budget for fiscal year 1982-83. No amendments were offered and the figures were adopted as presented.

The highlight of Council was, by all accounts, the keynote speech by Ellen Solender, Professor of Law at SMU. Speaking about "Women Under Texas Law," she had high praise for the booklet written by Lavora Arizaga. Stating that Texas is producing an "interesting class of welfare recipients because of unjust divorce laws," Ms. Solender suggested that the League consider supporting legislation of the following type:

"The court shall be empowered to provide for reimbursement to the spouse whose contribution to the marriage has caused him/her to suffer reduced earning capacity or whose contributions to the marriage have caused the other spouse to have enhanced earning capacity. This reimbursement may be in a lump sum or by means of periodic payments from the future earnings of the benefitting spouse and shall be in an amount sufficient to make the contributing spouse whole."

It was a fascinating presentation and reaffirmed the timeliness of our study of laws affecting women.

Saturday night's festivities began with the state board reception held on the putting green overlooking the pool (filled with hotel-guest children, a few of whom were seen sampling the hors d'oeuvres). Dinner was delicious and beautifully served. The entertainment included a singing duo from Abilene Christian University doing wonderful Gershwin classics, and Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts performing Indian dances. The evening was highlighted by the Abilene League's presentation to Diana Clark of an "Arrow of the Order of the Splitting Headache." The hilarious contraption appeared to be a highly-decorated "Steve Martin" arrow. Diana proved once again her remarkable ability to be a good sport while maintaining the decorum befitting a president.

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Caucuses convened at random to discuss Women Under Texas Law, national convention in Houston, and the gubernatorial debates. So much happening this year and all exciting!

LWV-T Treasurer, Jeanette Vanderwater, had a most interesting report. Using charts and graphs she demonstrated how local Leagues use their monies per member. It was a new use of data and a new look at ourselves.

Council 1982 ended on the somber yet still-relevant words of Susan B. Anthony. Pat Greenwald of Dallas, dressed in clothes as worn by Ms. Anthony, answered questions posed by Diana Clark in a simulated 1982 news interview. It was sobering to realize how much we've accomplished and how little has changed. Few members left thinking of defeat, feeling, instead, resolve to keep working for everything that is the League of Women Voters.