LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1212 Guadalupe, #109
Austin, Texas 78701

July 20, 1977

Dear friend,

It is an unhappy time for all concerned when a local or provisional League disbands. The case of the provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville is no exception. The Huntsville League had accomplished much in the community, and the state board was always mindful of your diligent efforts.

At this time, we would like you to consider becoming a member-at-large (MAL). Members-at-large are members of the League of Women Voters who reside outside the area of, and are not enrolled in, a local League. Many members-at-large are former members of disbanded Leagues or former local League members who have moved to non-League communities. They receive the LWVUS VOTER, the LWV-Texas VOTER, other selected publications, Voters Service materials, periodic reports from the state League, and are notified of state conferences and other state League meetings.

The state board greatly values its members-at-large. There is still much League work and many activities in which they may take part, such as distributing state Voters Service and program materials, promoting the League, and lobbying their legislators. MAL dues are $15.00 per year and are payable to the state office. Please use the attached form and enclosed return envelope. When we hear from you, we will send you the names of all those from Huntsville who choose to become members-at-large. Ten or more MALs in the same community can form a state unit, a viable option for Huntsville. We will be happy to assist you in forming such a unit.

Your group was a great asset to the League of Women Voters, and you demonstrated your ability to be an influence in your community. Someday you may again wish to have a local League in Huntsville. It would be helpful to continue your visibility in the community until that day comes. Meanwhile, the state League offers these alternatives and whatever assistance you might need. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Betty Anderson

Betty Anderson
President

- -

MEMBER-AT-LARGE APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, Texas _____
Zip Code

Telephone _____ Dues: $15.00 _____
(Enclosed)

MAR 7 1974

League of Women Voters of the Huntsville Area, State of Texas

Budget for Remaining 6 months of this fiscal year, December 1, 1973 to June 1, 1974

EXPENDITURES:

A. Operating costs

1. General Supplies	$12.50
2. Postage	10.00
3. Telephone	7.50
4. Bank Charges	7.50
Sub total	$37.50

B. Board and administrative committees

1. President	$12.50
2. Secretary	7.50
3. Treasurer	7.50
4. Board tools and expenses	37.50
5. Administrative committees	
a. finance	25.50
b. membership	12.50
c. unit organization	2.50
d. public relations	2.50
e. budget	2.50
f. nominating	2.50
Sub total	$112.50

C. Observers, travel, and affiliations

1. President's C Council	$100.00
2. Annual meeting	10.00
Sub total	$110.00

D. Financial support for League

1. Support for state and national services	$100.00
2. Per member payment (None due until 9 mos. after organization)	
Sub total	$100.00

E. Bulletin

1. Supplies	$42.00
2. Postage	48.00
Sub total	$90.00

F. Educational activities

1. Publications	
a. purchase plus distribution costs	$57.50
2. Program committees	
a. national	7.50
b. state	7.50
c. local	25.00
3. Voters service	37.50
Sub total	$135.00

G. Position support

1. Publications on League positions	$15.00
Sub total	$15.00
Grand total	$600.00

INCOME:

A. Dues (40 members at $15.00)	$600.00
B. Contributions (Finance drive to come Fall 1974 - next fiscal year)	
Total	$600.00

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of
HUNTSVILLE AREA, TEXAS

Board of Directors

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS - Huntsville, TX 77340
President	Harriett (Nrs, Rucgard) Payne	[redacted]
1st Vice President	Mary Lou (Mrs. Ray) Agan	
Vice President for Public Relations	Jaspyr (Mrs. Paul) Sanford	
3rd Vice President	Beverly (Mrs. Ed) Davis	[redacted]
Treasurer	Norma (Mrs. Dan) Slater	
Secretary	Karin (Mrs. Charles) Whitson	
Membership	Marlene (Mrs. R. R.) Moldenhaur	
National Program	Melanie (Mrs. Glen) Kercher	
State Program	Lelia Hightower	
Local Program	Peggy (Mrs. Richard) Miller	
Unit Organization	Nancy (Mrs. R. J.) Bicker	
Publications	Donna (Mrs. Billy) Wilson	
Voter Service	Jimmie Jo (Mrs. Gary) Copus	
Publicity	Maureen (Mrs. Thomas) Parriott	
VOTER	Pat (Mrs. Charles) Friel	

MAR 13 1974

MEMORANDUM

Date

To State Offices, LWV of Texas From Huntsville Area

Please note the enclosed list of board members which is being provided a second time. The reason is that mailings of material pertinent to the various board members is not being received. This is true also of the general membership mailings, i.e. VOTER. If you need another copy or an update of the general membership list of the Huntsville Area Provisional League, please advise.

Thank you.

Karin Whitson kw
Secretary

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

January 1974

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE OF HUNTSVILLE

President's Phone_____

Local Board of Directors

Portfolio	Name	Address	Zip
President	Mrs. Richard Payne	[redacted]	
1st VP	Mrs. Ray Agan		
2nd VP			
3rd VP	Mrs. Ed Davis	[redacted]	
Secretary	Mrs. Charles Whitson		
Treasurer	Mrs. Dan Slater		
Finance			
Membership	Mrs. R. R. Moldenhaur		
Public Relations	Mrs. Thomas Parriott		
Publications	Donna Wilson		
Unit Organization	Mrs. R. J. Bicker		
VOTER	Mrs. Charles Friel		
Voters Service	Mrs. Gary Copus		
Legislative Chm.			

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Local	Mrs. Richard Miller	[redacted]
State	Lelia Hightower	
National	Mrs. Glen Kercher	

Nominating Chm.

Budget Chm.

The League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1770

PRESIDENT
RUTH C. CLUSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lampl

MAR 19 1977
Huntsville

March 16, 1977

Mrs. Betty Jane Anderson, President
League of Women Voters of Texas
1212 Guadalupe
Suite 109
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

The list of local Leagues attached to the annual report form from the League of Women Voters of Texas does not include the LWV of Huntsville. Has this League disbanded? We do not seem to have any record of this and hope to receive official notification of this League's status soon so that we may update our files.

Many thanks in advance.

Cordially,

Dianne Pellicori

Dianne Pellicori
Organization Staff

Huntsville APR 4 1977

APR 4 1977

The League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1770

PRESIDENT
RUTH C. CLUSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lampl

March 31, 1977

Betty Anderson, President
League of Women Voters of Texas
1212 Guadalupe, Suite 109
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Betty,

Ann Viner is in Europe at the moment but we wanted to respond to your letter concerning the demise of the provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville. The circumstances are particularly tragic in this instance but it sounds as if the League had been faltering for some time. The former president's letter is such a discouraged one and this does seem a case where training in management techniques could have helped. I wonder why they never thought to complain about not receiving materials from National for over a year or were frustrated about not being able to take action at the local level while complaining that their very existence was controversial in the community. As you say, we can all learn something from the Huntsville experience, mostly that every League is a special one requiring personal handling.

Thank you for notifying us officially of the disbandment which we will now process. Here's to happier news the next time you write.

Cordially always,

Ruth C. Clusen

Marcia McDonough
Organization Staff

APR 5 1977

Huntsville Corres.

March 31, 1977

Marie Lisi, Organization Department
League of Women Voters of the US
1730 M Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Marie:

We have ganther problem to solve regarding the Huntsville Provisional League. As you know they didn't function as a League for several months and faltered and finally disbanded in spite of all efforts to save them. They did not even collect dues last year.

Our question refers to their PMP to LWVUS. We have received their files and a check for $19.41, the balance in their account. According to the LWVUS memo of Feb. 22 they did not make a payment last year. They disbanded in December, 1976 so owed 6 months on the PMP at that time.

What do you suggest we should do about it? Is LWV/Texas responsible? I would appreciate your help and advice.

Sincerely,

Helen Hunter, Org. Vice President
8930 Beechnut #3
Houston, Texas 77036

Huntsville Cases

MAR 15 1977

14 March 1977

Ann Viner
Organization Division
LWVof the United States
1730 M Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Ann:

The LWV of Huntsville, Texas voted to disband on December 18, 1976. I'm not sure whether you have been officially informed or not since our state files are in Austin and the organization files in Houston. I regret the delay if this is your first notification. The recent printout indicated that Huntsville had not paid its PMP; Helen Hunter is checking on this.

Their provisional president Harriet Payne died quite suddenly last month. But I thought you would be interested in a letter she had written to Helen Hunter in December. These are the reasons she felt had stymied them:

- the requirements were too complicated; members were overwhelmed by the program requirements;
- the provisional period dragged on and interest waned;
- could not get a real committment from enough members to carry on the League work;
- the Board "burned out" from overwork and became discouraged;
- not being able to work on the local scene from the beginning caused them to lose active members;
- they became controversial by just existing; women in Huntsville may work for their church or the PTA, and belong to social clubs but nothing else;
- many felt that Huntsville is not large enough for a League;
- most of the members joining at the organization meeting did not receive any national pubs until it was time to renew their memberships;
- the president did not get national DPM until they were 15 months into the provisional period.

COPY

Their first organizational meeting was held in October 1972, so admittedly their provisional period had gone on too long. We are now exploring forming a Unit at Large with the interested nucleus remaining.

We are now developing more flexible approaches toward provisional Leagues and encouraging Units at Large. Hopefully, we have learned something from the Huntsville experience.

Sincerely,

Betty Anderson
President

cc: State Office
Helen Hunter

COPY

BOOKLAND
1108 16TH STREET
PHONE: 295-5771
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS 77340

MAR 30 1977

2/23/77

Helen Hunter
Organization Vice President
[redacted]

Dear Helen:

Enclosed is all the Huntsville Provisional League material that I have so that you will have no questions about our operation from the money standpoint.

Along with the membership records there are samples of memos sent to the group to try to encourage more participation.

We had regular editing and typing sessions in 1976 but the community survey was never finished. It had been started in 1974 and it was apparent that re-research was necessary on parts of it. We bogged down.

Harriet's Unit-At-Large efforts were not successful.

Our work in the league here was not a complete waste to any of us. We had a very active board for two years, but the general participation by the membership was inadequate.

The voters of Huntsville are more informed and activated now since they have observed that a group of women could question the "establishment" without reprisal. Other groups and individuals are continuing what our league started with voter service.

Enclosed is the check that closed our account at the bank.

Sincerely,

Norma Slater

Norma Slater

January 17, 1976

Copy

Huntsville Cross

JAN 20 1976

TO: Helen Hunter
FROM: Sue Taylor
RE: Provisional LWV of the Huntsville Area

On Thursday, January 15, I spent the day in Huntsville. At the time of my conversation with the President in early December, we had planned to meet that month with the PR chairperson, who had agreed to rescue the local government survey and try to get it edited for typing and distribution, so that they could be ready to apply for recognition. Huntsville works on a college schedule and unless something is done by mid December, there is no hope again until mid January because of the Christmas holiday.

In the morning of January 15 I met with Harriet Payne, President, and Maureen Parriot, Public Relations chairperson, to discuss the local government survey. Maureen had been willing to do the editing of the material, but the job turns out to be more than editing. Some of the sections need redoing because things have changed since the material was gathered, some sections are just in the form of notes and actually need to be written up, the section on financial structure was the most complete and well written dissertation imaginable but, to have any kind of a balanced survey, will need to be condensed. The job looked pretty big and Maureen did not feel too happy about rescuing the project. After much discussion and Harriet's offer to help, the plan now is to have a meeting of a committee, composed of Maureen, Harriet, one other who had worked especially well on the earlier committee, and hopefully the most recent chairperson of the item, who is an especially busy person and probably the main cause of this breakdown in progress on completing the project. They will meet with or without her and this meeting will take place within the next two weeks. The plan is to try to have it completed as rapidly as possible, probably by the end of February. I believe the problem has been partly an impression that the survey had to be more elaborate than is actually necessary. So the plan now is "to get it done" and perhaps later do it in the form of a publication.

There have been several meetings on parts of the survey (6 unit meetings and 2 general meetings). These meetings included education, health care, finance, and structure of county government. I feel that they have done an adequate job of keeping the membership informed and, when the survey is completed and distributed, I believe this group will have met this requirement for recognition.

The second area that needs to be strengthened before the Provisional LWV of the Huntsville Area will be ready for recognition is in the area of Finance and this is the other subject that we concentrated on in our meeting. Although they had a successful money raising project, this past year, they have yet to conduct a traditional finance drive, securing non-member contributions and reporting the results. They plan to carry on such a finance drive during the first two weeks in February, although in general it will be a board effort since they are again without a Finance chairperson.

When the two above requirements are met, the Provisional LWV of the Huntsville Area will be ready to apply for Local League Recognition. This should be around March 1st if all goes as scheduled.

Harriet is still feeling that this League could possibly fail, so we discussed this at great length. She feels that too much money, time, and work have gone into the effort to have it possibly fail after a few months. I assured her that this has been the most difficult period and that after they attain local League status, it will be up to them to adjust their calendar to fit the needs and ability of the group. If they are able to get a president to agree to carry on, this could easily be accomplished. Harriet will be working on getting the nominating committee to find that person. She will offer to be Program VP and strength will definitely be needed in that area. She does seem to feel there is a strong nucleus wanting a League and willing to work, but she feels they are all tired after this provisional period. I feel she will be sure the above two requirements will be met, but this League will need much encouragement in the next few months or even years.

It appears also that help is needed in the membership area. Even the strongest members do not feel they know enough to orientate new members and for this reason, shy away from encouraging prospective members. An Area Membership Workshop could be very helpful to them and since membership seems to be a common problem, I would like to see an emphasis in this area in the coming year. In a provisional League where practically all members are new to League they hesitate to work in this area. How about a membership workshop of some kind at Presidents Council?

I hope everything goes as scheduled, so that Huntsville Provisional League of Women Voters will apply for recognition by March 1st.

3/1/76

Dear Members,

The provisional period of the Huntsville Area League of Women Voters is nearing an end. Before we apply for local chapter status, the present board is taking a poll of the membership to determine whether the League will be able to continue.

We need to know who of the members is interested in being active. Participation has been at a low ebb for over a year. The attendance at meetings has sometimes been non-existant. For example, at our February unit meetings when we were to take consensus on criminal justice, no one other than the hostess and the program leader was there.

The League needs to have people who will accept some reponsibility for League activities. We all want to be informed, attend candidate rallies, receive publications, etc., but somebody has to gather information, have it printed and distributed to the members and the public, and arrange for meetings. We all would like to be "on top" of things, but somebody has to be out there "climbing".

The present board has been in office for 2½ years. Our terms expire with the provisonal period.

It is time for the nominating committee to select a slate of new board members. There are a variety of jobs that must be filled. Twelve people are to be elected and six more to be selected by the new board.

The new board cannot carry the League by itself. The membership must also be active. We need more than monetary support.

If the nominating committee cannot find enough people who will be on the board, and there are not enough people who will be committee members to help the board, the League will cease to exist in Huntsville.

If you want the League to continue, please send in your reply. A self-explanatory post card is enclosed. Drop it in the mail.

Sincerely,

The Board
Provisional League of Women Voters
of the Huntsville Area

Dear League Member,

You are invited to a business meeting to discuss discontinuing as a provisional League. Your failure to attend the meeting will constitute a silent vote to discontinue. The meeting will be held on December 14, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. at my home, Summer Lane, Spring Lake Estates.

Those of you who are still interested in being active in the League may be interested in forming a Unit-at-Large, or being a Member-at-Large. I am enclosing a fact sheet on Units-at-Large for your information.

Sincerely,

Harriett R. Payne

Xerox for Helen & Sue

SEP 29 1975

September 23, 1975

Ms. Harriet Payne, President
Provisional League of Women Voters
of Huntsville
Route 2, Box 159
Huntsville, Texas 77340

Dear Ms. Payne and members of the board:

Your interim report was received and reviewed by members of the National organization committee. Our comments and suggestions for your further progress follow.

But first, please put our minds to rest about your name. Are you the Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville or of the Huntsville Area? According to our official records, it's "Huntsville", yet you call yourselves "Huntsville Area" in your interim report. The organization committee is more than academically interested because, as you may know, "What's in a name" has special significance in the case of local Leagues. A League's name indicates its geographical and political basis of organization; when a League changes its name, it generally does so to indicate a change in its jurisdictional basis, such as expansion from a municipal League to an area League (which includes more than one municipality) or to a county League or vice versa. Furthermore, such a change must be made with the knowledge and approval of the state board. For more about this, see In League, page 14. And don't forget to let us know who you are!

Having mentioned, In League, the new local League handbook, I cannot resist a plug for it. You wrote in your interim report in relation to the subject or fund-raising that "we do not use the Local League Handbook as we should." Well, perhaps you were inadvertently lucky, since you can now start off right with the updated, improved, contemporary version of the handbook, the first new model in ages. It really is good, and should be given a lot of use by all Leagues - old and new alike. In the understandably biased opinion of the organization committee, no member of a League board should be able to get along without one.

Now that the commercial is over, I'd like to say that the Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville (as we shall call you until we learn otherwise) seems to have been getting along very well, indeed. Your membership growth has been very good - a sure sign that you are making a real effort to recruit new members and involve them in League activities and to hold membership meetings on a schedule that is convenient and attractive. When you found that you seemed to be having too many meetings, you decided to change your schedule. Fine. You rose to the challenge of involving your male members and came up with your highly successful "come double" couples unit. Great.

I'm sure that you'll also come to grips with the paradox of having low attendance at your night unit even though a majority of your members work. (Any possibility of transforming your "doubles" group into a regular unit and your male members into committee members, board members, the whole bit?)

Of even greater significance to your growth and success, in our view, is your awareness of the value of good community relationships you've established with the media and city officials, as well as the acceptance accorded your observers. They reveal that you are off on the right foot in your public relations. The extensive voters service activity you have undertaken with your well-received candidates rallies, distribution of Voters Guides, pollwatching, etc., your encouragement of public attendance at meetings, your plans to provide League publications to the library and the forthcoming production of your local survey all indicate that you are making and will continue to make many valuable contributions to your community.

The national organization committee has a collective hunch that many people in Huntsville would be happy to reciprocate by making contributions to the League - if they were asked. In fact, it's practically an axiom of League organization that good community relations go hand-in-hand with successful fund-raising. Why don't you give it a try? Pages 48-50 of In League will help you, but you can best help yourselves by just deciding to do it!

Although it can be both productive and fun to hold a special fund-raising event like your Flea Market of last year, don't forget that financial development is a year-round job of making League friends in the community and keeping in touch with them by providing them with selected publications, invitations to League functions and so on. There's no such thing as too much financial success. The budget of a healthy League grows along with its membership and the scope of its activities.

Your 1975-76 budget is basically a sound one, but it could have been a bit more optimistic in view of your potential. Instead of having lowered your sights on estimated contributions because of your 1974-75 carryover, you could have raised your spending sights. For example, you could have made provision for sending an observer to national convention, or decided to purchase some Duplicate Presidents' Mailings, or looked ahead to some possible action opportunities (like ERA). I don't know whether or not the $115 you budgeted for "Educational Activities-Publications" is intended to pay for publication of your local survey. If not, and you haven't produced it yet, why don't you consider raising and using tax-decuctible money for that purpose? (In League, page 49.)

One expenditure about which I'm afraid you have no option, however, is the Per Member Payment of $4.25 that must be sent to LWVUS. Did you include it in your budget? Is that what "Support for National Services" is? Frankly, the organization committee couldn't figure that item out, because we couldn't divide $217.00 by $4.25 and come up with an even number of members. (Or did you calculate that $4.25 times 51 members was $216.75 and decide to round it off?) In any case, even if you budgeted for your Per Member Payments, according to our records, you haven't sent them to the national office. Did you receive the PMP form that was sent to all local Leagues in April? In case you didn't, additional copies are enclosed. If you did receive the form and were not sure what to do about it, or are still not sure of the procedure, please let us know.

On the whole, your interim report gives every indication that you have a well organized and energetic board. You have accomplished much and deserve to be congratulated. You've demonstrated that you know how to plan, organize and implement program and communicate with your members through the Voter. Your coverage of program on all levels and your venture into action and coalition work on ERA are impressive. While you may be having difficulty getting "volunteers" to serve on program committees, I suspect that this problem may right itself when you start working on local studies and newly chosen state and national items.

The national organization committee agrees with Helen Hunter, Texas Organization Vice President, that you have "shown excellent progress" and are "an asset to the Texas League." We look forward to adding the Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville to the roster of full-fledged Leagues in the not-too-distant future.

Sincerely,

Ruth J. Hinerfeld
Organization Committee
Vice President and International
Relations Chairman

RJH/ml

cc: Organization
Files
Hinerfeld
Janski
Lampl
State

encl.

LWV Huntsville Area

9/22

SEP 25 1975

LWV Texas

If it wouldn't be too much trouble - I would prefer you sent bills or statements to this address:

NORMA SLATER
1108 - 16th St
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
77340

This bill was misplaced ever since it was sent - I will send a change of address notice thru regular channels.

Norma Slater, Treas.

thanks: Helen
Huntsville

The League of Women Voters of the United States

1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1770

Huntsville

MAR 14 1975

PRESIDENT
RUTH C. CLUSEN

OFFICERS

Vice Presidents
Virginia S. Sweet
New Canaan, Connecticut
M. Joanne Hayes
York, Pennsylvania
Ruth J. Hinerfeld
Larchmont, New York
Carol Toussaint
Madison, Wisconsin

Secretary
Ellen S. Walters
Webster Groves, Missouri

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Madison, Wisconsin
Dorothy Ann McKinney
Chevy Chase, Maryland
Gwen C. Murphree
St. Croix, Virgin Islands
Marion Nichol
Durham, North Carolina
Virginia H. Nugent
Morgantown, West Virginia
Ruth L. Sims
Riverside, Connecticut
Nan F. Waterman
Muscatine, Iowa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peggy Lampl

March 12, 1975

Mrs. Veta Winick, President
League of Women Voters of Texas
Dickinson Plaza Shopping Center
Dickinson, Texas 77539

Dear Veta:

I think we've discovered and eliminated the problems regarding mailings (or the lack of them) to the Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville.

To begin, we've checked the Voter file and find that our computer list for Huntsville is up-to-date (it contains the new entries forwarded to us in February). In fact, we know that the Voters are being sent out to Huntsville so can only assume that the problem of non-delivery is probably at the other end. Please have the Huntsville League check with their Post Office to find out why the magazines aren't coming to them.

Secondly, the Huntsville president apparently moved in August, 1974 but had not sent in a change of address for her presidents' mailing. We found that new address when poring over the Voter records and have adjusted our records accordingly for the presidents' mailing.

That should take care of the problems -- but if not, please be sure to let me know!

Best Wishes,

Rita

Rita Wasmuth
Organization Staff

DEC 16 1974

December 13, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne
[redacted]

Dear Harriet and/or Mary Lou,

In this letter I am enclosing an outline that you may or may not want to use at your unit meetings next week. Because you will be covering so much that day, I do not forsee that you will be able to discuss the material on program very fully.

I know that you plan to discuss the Texas Water Plan and take consensus if possible, which will take quite a big share of the time you will have. As you may have noted consensus deadline on this is January 15, as well as concurrence on State Election Authorities. The September Texas VOTER has most of the material you will need on these subjects. Also you might refer to the September State Board Report on both subjects and the Enviro-Notes from Sept.-Oct. issue for information on Texas Water Plan.

Then I know you also plan to cover Program Making for which you also need to refer to the September Texas VOTER. This, along with the enclosed outline, the Local League H andbook (pages 22-38), and your experience from other Leagues should help in leading this part of the meeting.

At this point you are probably completely overwhelmed, but do the best you can with it and know that you can always come back and repeat or add to your discussion on any of these subjects. Even if you mainly whet their appetites for further discussion you have accomplished a great deal.

I shall put in the entire outline on "What Becomes of Program" or "Program from Start to Finish" or whatever you want to call it, but I do feel that you will have limited time so cannot cover fully anything but the first section on choosing program, which, by the way, needs to be in state office January 10. Later, perhaps when and if you all decide on a training session for discussion techniques, we could better stress the whole program picture in more detail. For this next week'S meeting perhaps just briefly giving the five steps listed on the outline will be enough (1. Choosing Program, 2. Program Development or Study, 3. Consensus, 4. Statement of Position, and 5. Action. Then you could just concentrate on program selection, which will take plenty of time. Rushing thru the more complete picture could just confuse or overwhelm the members at this time.

Since there are three deadlines in mid January, I am thinking that in order to meet them, you might need to have a Board meeting in early January. I think, Harriet, you mentioned that you have planned for the end of January. But I do think you need to try to make a response to these three deadlines.

I am sure you have the materials for references that I have mentioned here and I know you will do well on your own. I'm sorry not to have gotten this letter off sooner and I do hope you get it in time to be some help. Perhaps I was overcautious about not trying to come up - it turned out that my problem may be inflamatory arthritis and I am now on medication to see if that is the problem. January I will also be rather useless to you because I am scheduled for surgery on my feet on January 6. I may not be able to drive for a few weeks, but undoubtedly I'll be sitting home and can answer the phone! By February I should be able to be more helpful if you want to plan on my coming up then for whatever you feel most needs doing.

I feel very proud of all of you and I constantly hear many compliments about the Huntsville League. Merry Christmas to all of you and yours and best wishes for a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Susan F. Taylor

cc: Agan, Hunter, SO

50

SEP 16

September 10,1974
[redacted]

Mrs. Richard Payne
[redacted]

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for a well planned, well organized training session, and thanks to all those really great board and committee members for showing up on time in spite of the flood. Do hope the rains let up in time for you to salvage your new home and at least part of your yard and street. Sorry I forgot to get your new address.

I really expect great things from the Huntsville group. I wasn't joking about the strength of the board. Don't forget the importance of training new leaders for the future so we don't lose any of that quality.

Probably the next program person (or persons) Mary Lou should try to find is in the area of Voting Rights. There is a consensus coming up on this and a chairman would feel more comfortable if she had time to become informed on the subject. In addition, I'm concerned about the Voters Service Chairman. She is doing a really great job and is anxious that her area of responsibility be clearly defined. Will you see that she has a copy of The Thin, Fine Line, a mimeographed couple of pages on yellow paper dated February,1974. 3 copies were sent direct to the president with one copy to be given to Voters Service and one to the Voting Rights Chairman. It also went out on DPM from State Office. You may have a few additional copies. It would probably be a good idea if you called this to the attention of the entire board as there is confusion on the subject in Leagues much older than yours.

Do encourage the board to use their publications. This isn't the easiest thing in the world to do when you are just getting organized and just beginning to fill some of the program slots and to get going in units, finance etc. The VPs can take responsibility for this. I would suggest that you build a complete file for every portfolio with the publications you have on hand and order any additional material you need. Then each chairman will add new publications as they come to you. It is also important to build up a file for each portfolio not yet filled. The VPs could keep these and just think how nice it will be to hand each new chairman a complete file on her portfolio when she accepts a job. We do have excellent leadership tools so let's use them to the very best advantage.

Don't forget to train new people as they come on the board or as they accept off board positions. Again, the VPs could accept responsibil for doing this. Don't ever get so busy that you forget how a new

chairman or a new member feels.

I hope that you follow through on the discussion leader training and that you include the role of the member in a discussion meeting in the training. This will be valuable regardless of what the final decision is on the type of meetings you have. I'm still excited about the idea of a couples unit. It really has a lot of possibilities.

Take board time to evaluate what you are doing in your various activities but do encourage committees to come to board meeting with a plan (or plans). The board should not waste time acting as a committee of the whole.

Don't worry any more about your provisional status. Take this period of time as a learning process to enable you to take your place with Leagues all over the country on an equal basis.

Thank you again for a delightful two days. I had a marvelous time and I hope that our discussions were helpful for your group.

I still think about that delicious supper. I don't know when anyone had time to prepare such a spread with all the rain and the meetings but everything was just perfect.

Have fun and I know you will with such a great group of people.

Sincerely,

Lois

Mrs. M. S. Braunagel

cc State Office
Hunter
Taylor

January 31, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Payne:

According to your Bulletin and the correspondence I have read, it looks to me like Huntsville has really been the fastest moving group toward provisional recognition that we on the state board have dealt with.

I congratulate the members of the Huntsville League for their determination to have a League of Women Voters and commend you on the great amount of work already accomplished. It is hoped that you will now find it possible to move as rapidly with the same spirit and enthusiasm toward becoming a recognized League.

Cordially,

Veta Winick

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

VW/cf

BC: SO
Ulrickson
Holmes

SEP 3 1974

August 30, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne
% Mary Lou Agan
[redacted]

Dear H arriet,

What a busy two days we all had and I hope all of you enjoyed the experience. There is no one more inspiring than Lois and, in this case, there was never a League more fun and rewarding to work with than the Provisional LWV of H untsville. I practically burst with pride as I saw and heard you in your Board Training sessions. I have always felt you all were pretty exceptional people, but somehow Board Training brought it all together and made obvious how fantastically you have progressed in a very short time. It showed too that it doesn't stop there, for every one of you had more great plans for the future.

Since I cannot come to Board meeting this Wednesday, I wanted to write to tell you how pleased I was. The meetings were well scheduled and wonderfully attended. Lois and I were both impressed with the fine turnout at the Membership Tea. You all had worked hard to make the two days a success and I want to thank you all.

Harry and I are leaving for a two week vacation September 11, so I shall be away for both of your meetings in September. I expect also to be away the first week in October, but I will see you after that. It might be well to meet with you, Harriet, to follow up on things that came out of the training session after there has been time to absorb it all. Anyway I shall talk to you when I get back home.

Again thank you and love to you all.

Mrs. H arry G. Taylor

CC:- S.O. Hunter

Hi! Lois Lee

Sat - 24th

AUG 6 1974

Dear Sue:

Huntsville

Our letters seem to be crossing in the mail. Of course I want you to sit in. I think I said so on the first carbon copy you got from me.

Harriet called me today. Moving and company had kept her swamped. I told her that it was okay with me for us to stay with the member kind enough to offer her hospitality so that part is okay. She said she was going to call and talk to you also so I expect she did.

I think our only remaining problem is whether you can meet me at the bus station Tuesday. If you can't, guess you'd better call me Monday and let me know as I leave here at 9:45 A.M. Tuesday. You surely will get this note by Monday - I hope. I'm allowing three days for this to get to you.

We should have fun and it sounds like we'll be busy.

Love
Lois

cc - SO
Hunter

JUL 24 1974

July 22,1974

[redacted]

Mrs. Richard Payne

[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Payne: (Sorry I don't know your first name yet.)

August 28, 29 sounds fine to me for board training and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to visit with your group.

At the moment, we are taking the grandkids on a train ride and I find it difficult to think.

All I need in advance is the time you want me to start the training session and about the time it will end. I will let you know later how I'll come to Huntsville. My husband will at least bring me to Houston and we'll decide from that point.

Please feel free to use every minute of my time and do include as many people as you like in the training sessions including committee members or people who might be interested. I enjoy working with large numbers of people. Try to schedule at least two or two and a half hours with the entire board and set the indiviqual sessions any way that suits your board.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Lois

Mrs. M. S. Braunagel

cc State Office
Hunter
Taylor

JUN 10 1974

June 2, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne

[redacted]

Dear Harriet,

It was nice being with you all last Wednesday night at your Board meeting and to hear first hand your plans and any problems.

To follow up on the areas we talked about at the Board meeting, I called Veta Winick on Friday. She was at Helen Hunter's, new Organization VP, so I had an opportunity to talk with both of them. Firstly on the Voters Service project of Pollwatching, Veta and Helen both agreed that as long as you feel there is no criticism or misunderstanding from the community and as long as you offered your service to both parties, that you can safely do it and with their blessing! We talked also of the problem of a Board member working as an Election Precinct Judge and Veta agreed with me that it was allright. We both agree that if the League makes too many restrictions like that we lose our people who are generally our best and most active, so do tell Lou Ann (is that her name?) that she can go ahead with no worry about her Board position. Please try to keep the B oard realistic in their approach to the nonpartisanship policy for it should not be a straight jacket. Y ou will instinctively know if something will hurt your image in the community and then with Board discussion you can do the thing that is best for the League.

As for registering voters, yes, you can and are encouraged to do it. So do not hesitate to do what you want in that area. Veta felt that on this point you might have misundertood Fumi for registering voters is most certainly a voter service.

Now for the Board training - I talked to Helen and to Veta about your request fo have Lois Braunagel come to do the training. They saw no reason why it could not be arranged that way. I did tell Helen you would be mailing in the request form and she will work it from there, so be sure you get that off to her, if you haven't already done so.

I think Mary Lou is planning a meeting on Environmental Quality to take place soon. In to-day's Chronicle there was an article on Land Use legislation so I am enclosing it for the Resource committee on this item to use, if they want it for their file. On all these items, it would be good to have someone clipping the newspaper. This can be a good involvement job for a member.

On the subject of legislative interviews, as a Provisional League you may do that also. The only thing as I understand it, is that you cannot take action as a League during your provisional period without special permission from the State Board. As individuals, of course you can.

Y ou were nice to include Harry and me in an invitation to your picnic on June 15. However, I am afraid we will not be able to be there because Harry won't be getting in from a business trip until late that day. Have a good day and I will try to get up to Huntsville, perhaps your next daytime unit meeting. Perhaps this summer you can have Mrs. Rogers (or someone) write up some summary material on especially some of the National items and get it into your VOTER. For actual meetings, I should think programs could be planned on Trade and Campaign Financing, both of which are very timely. Then your Environmental Quality which is planned would help to give you study and discussion on the more active national items.

I am so glad that you have a Finance chairman to start work on a limited drive this fall. Also your new local study chairman looks great.

Let me know if you have any other questions and I will try to answer them for you. When I come up for the day unit meeting, I will plan to stay over to go over anything that you may want to discuss. It surely helps to have someone with your League background, because I feel that you have the knowledge and experience necessary to prevent any major mistakes in the handling of situations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harry G. Taylor, Advisor

cc: SO, Hunter

JUN 3 1974

[redacted]

June 1, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne
[redacted]

Dear Harriet:

I read with interest the item in your April VOTER of "The Other League." The Southwest Collection of Texas Tech University is the repository of the state League files. Yesterday I went through several boxes of materials, looking for information on a Walker County LWV during the 1920's era. I have not met with any success yet, but I shall try again. I didn't find what I was looking for, but it was surely fun browsing through the collection. The 1920's material is somewhat limited, and some of the state board minutes are even missing for that period. However, we do have a most interesting scrapbook from El Paso from the '20s.

When time permits, I shall go back and see if I find anything about a Walker County League, and I will let you know the results of my search.

We are all very proud of the provisional League of Huntsville--keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Betty Anderson
Program Vice-President
LWV of Texas

cc: State Office

C

May 8, 1974

To: Harriet Payne cc: Hunter, SO, Anderson
From: Fumi Sugihara
Re: Primary election, elections in general

Congratulations to Huntsville Provisional for arousing public interest in, and demand for, well-run elections! The fact that so many irregularities and violations were exposed and documented shows how well you did your groundwork. And when you have an indignant and vocal public with you, half the battle has been won!

The hardest part for you and your board will be having to stay in the background because of your provisional status. As I understand it, however, provisional Leagues can take certain kinds of action with the approval of the state board. I am not at all clear bout the rules, so I am sending a copy of this memo to Helen Hunter, Organization Vice President, with an explanation. She can tell you more precisely what public action the League can take. The fact that your League already has such a good reputation for objectivity and nonpartisanship within the community will be a contributing factor, I am sure.

At the risk of being tiresome, I will sing my old refrain once again: Pollwatching and serving as pollworkers (judges or clerks) in primaries and general elections are now regarded under Texas laws as partisan activities. Pollwatchers can only be appointed by candidates or by petition on behalf of candidates or for/against issues. Pollworkers are chosen in primaries or general elections from among the party faithful. (Since local elections are generally nonpartisan, League board members can serve as poll workers.)

I am as pleased as punch about what you have been doing! Keep up the good work and please call on me whenever I can help.

May 8, 1974

To: Helen Hunter
From: Fumi
Re: Huntsville Provisional

Hamiet Payne called last Sunday (May 5) to ask about some points of election law because many irregularities were reported by pollwatchers and others in Saturday's election. She wanted to know the procedure for filing complaints with the district attorney.

In the course of our conversation, it became evident that she was also concerned that members of the local board may have overstepped the rules. League members (some of whom were on the board) were serving as pollwatchers or poll workers in both Republican and Democratic primaries. (She said she had checked with Montgomery County League whose policy permits this activity by the League as long as members were present in both Democratic and Republican polling places.)

I told her that in the future, it would be better if the Huntsville League did not engage in pollwatching until the law is changed. Non-board League members acting as individuals could and should.

From what she said, however, it seemed to me that the public was not aware that the League was doing anything partisan in nature and simply regarded pollwatching as another public service. I don't think anything would be gained at this point by trying to enlighten it.

Luckily, the persons who witnessed the irregularities are off-board people and are free to take action as individuals. Is there a possibility that the League can make a public statement or do something that is supportive of this action? They may need guidance on this point.

I thought you should know about this matter in case flack within the community should develop with the filing of complaints. I am sending an extra copy in case you think that Mrs. Taylor should have one. I don't have her address.

APR 22 1974

April 18, 1974

Mrs. Richard Payne
[redacted]

Dear Harriet,

We moved a week ago and are still hunting for all those tucked away things. But we are pretty well settled in, surrounded by uncurtained windows. That may take time but fortunately we have no close neighbors as yet. Anyway I was finally able to unearth my League files so that I can function a little.

Because of the move, I feel neglectful of the Huntsville League. I did want to write to tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed the March Unit meeting I attended and the report on the units in your VOTER was excellent and the attendance something to be proud of by you all. You handled the one I attended particularly well, Harriet, making everyone feel that they had a part in the decision making. All too often Leagues feel that the Board makes all the decisions so this approach was especially good for a new League. Obviously the night unit must have gone similarly.

The results of your first School Board Candidates meeting were excellent. Your plans for your Candidates meeting in April sound well formulated and all ready to go. I shall try to come up for that on April 27th. My out of town visitors leave that day, but since your Rally is in the afternoon I should be able to get there, and I look forward to being with you for your big event.

This leads to my sad news about Predident's Council. I had so hoped I could come but it is pretty doubtful at the moment. My cousin will be visiting from Wednesday to Saturday so if I did come I would need to return home Wednesday morning. I still might be able to plan it but it is a long way for only parttime attendance. I especially wanted to come to be with you all, but you'll have no problems, I am sure. As always in the League, everyone will be ready and anxious to help in any way. You have no idea how I hate to miss it for State meetings are one of the greatest things in League. I hope several of you will be able to attend.

I was sorry to miss your March Board meeting but I feel so very confident about your League and your ability to cope. The one thing I do have concern about is the Community Study because it begins to be urgent to get started. The May meeting, however, sounds as though it will be great and a good step into learning about local government. Perhaps with your plea for volunteers to work on it, you are already on your way. Also the May meeting may generate interest in local government and could be a good incentive to involve more members in the item. Progress on State Items has been

exceptionally good and by now you should be receiving your National Presidents mailing. So I would suggest that as soon as possible you select one of the pertinent N ational items to plan either a meeting or some good background coverage in your VOTER for next month. Much of the program coverage , especially of the less active items, can be handled in this way very well.

I should think by Fall you might be ready to send in an Interim Report. At that time you should be about half way through your program coverage (state and national), and half way into your Community Study. Y-ou will want to show membership growth, which you do very nicely already. You would want to demonstrate Voters Service ability, which you already are doing admirably. And finally you will want to have at least a limited Finance Drive, or if not, you should have well formulated plans for one. I envision all these accomplishments by October. If you keep on as you are going your provisional period will be over before you know it.

I feel so good about you and your League and the caliber of, not just the Board, but the members as well. Y our strenghts far outweigh any weeknesses and I see no reason to anticipate any real difficulties along the way.

I do hope strongly that several of you can attend President's Council. Have a good time and I know you will love it and benefit much from the experience. Be sure to share it with your membership via your VOTER.

Thank you all for the wonderful job you are doing and keep up the good work. If all provisional Leagues are like you, with your dedication, enthusiasm, and sincerity, there would be little need for Advisors! Y-our night meetings make it hard for me to come as regularly as I would like, but I will continue as your Advisor and I feel certain we can work things out to suit everyone. Since our move I am further away, but we will see how it works and when you need me, please feel free to write or call and I can always manage to get to Huntsville some way.

Sincerely,

Susan F. Taylor, Advisor

cc: SO, Holmes

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

April 1, 1974

Ms. Harriett R. Payne, President
Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville
[redacted]

Dear Ms. Payne:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Provisional League of Women Voters of Huntsville. Word of your recognition has just reached us from Mrs. Darvin M. Winick, President, League of Women Voters of Texas. We know your state Board will be happy to give you help and guidance. The national Board and staff are here to serve you, too. We hope you will feel free to call on us.

Under separate cover we are sending you several items which we believe will be useful. First, the January, 1974, and September, 1973, issues of the National Board Report. Board reports will help you keep up with voters service, publications, and most important, program. You will receive copies of the Publications Catalog; I urge you to read particularly the pages on subscriptions and to discuss with your advisor which services would best keep your program chairmen supplied with needed materials. The President's Packet (sent annually to all provisional and local Leagues) contains information on communications, a suggested list of publications for a local League Board, information on subscriptions services, per member payments, copyrighting, and some forms to be completed and returned to the national office as requested. Finally, copies of our latest VOTER are being sent to you for distribution to your members.

The Board has asked me to call to your attention the purpose of the Interim Report (sample enclosed), which provisional Leagues make when they are about half way through the provisional period. The provisional Board fills out the form under the guidance of its advisor, and sends it to the state Board which forwards it to us with comments. The national Board then makes suggestions to you on completing preparations for recognition as a local League. The purpose is to help new Leagues ready themselves for the privileges and responsibilities which accompany local League status. I am enclosing the Convention material which has been mailed to Leagues. It includes a credential to send an observer to Convention. Although

COPY

your League is very new, we do hope you will be represented. It is a great way to become acquainted with the League as a national organization.

We share the enthusiasm of your State Board for the advent of a League in Huntsville. As a provisional League, you have an important role to play, for your community thinks of you as the League of Women Voters, and it is partly through your activities that the people in Huntsville will form their opinion of our organization of more than 1,300 Leagues and 160,000 members.

Sincerely,

Lucy Wilson Benson
President

LWB/vcs
encls.
cc: State
Lampl
Murphree
Org.
Files

March 25, 1974

Mrs. Bruce Benson, President
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Lucy:

The Huntsville Provisional League of Women Voters was granted recognition at the January state board meeting. I completely concur with Mrs. Murphree's comments in a recent letter to our former Organization vice president on the long unnecessary delay of this application.

It upsets me that the Huntsville League had to be penalized and fully intend to apologize to the group for this neglect. It has been a most frustrating experience because our steady drop in membership should have certainly propeled action on our part to establish new Leagues as rapidly as possible once all the requirements for recognition have been met.

The Huntsville group is great and under the fine leadership and guidance of a former state board member who has agreed to give them the help they need during their provisional period.

Cordially,

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

VW/ag

cc: Gwen Murphree, Organization Dept.

bc: Holmes, Taylor