

Dear Madam,

OCT 14 1975 10-9-75

u

Enclosed please find our
check in the amount of \$177.⁰⁰
which closes out the account of
the League of Women Voters of
Jefferson County.

Sincerely yours,

Mary M. Salow
Treasurer

Mary M. Salow
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Lo. Jff. Co

December 12, 1974

Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for your letter with the names of your officers and the programs and the activities you all have had.

I am sorry that I did not telephone you last Monday. It was on my calendar and I even placed a note by the phone about 4:00 p.m.--but with getting dinner and to a meeting at 7:30, I just forgot. Therefore, this letter.

I conferred with Helen Hunter about your suggested transportation study. Fine. Go ahead with the information gathering if the members agree. However, the unit should not engage in any fund raising with or without other organizations. Your fund raising identity with the community should be for LWV. Individual fund raising is acceptable, but is not as a unit of the LWV-T. As we all know, local program study involves members. Because we are genuinely interested in the health of every unit or local League, we feel we must accept your desire for this local study under a national item.

Congratulations to you on the birth of your grand daughter, and best wishes for a blessed Advent and a merry Xmass.

Sincerely,

Jane

cc: ✓ State office
Hunter

file



OCT 18 1974

OCT 21 1974

October 10, 1974

Mrs. B.C. Pryor
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Pryor:

It is with real regret that we hear from Darvin M. Winick that the League of Women Voters of South Jefferson County, 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Names listed in the Voter file for the League of Women Voters of South Jefferson County will be withdrawn.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 South Jefferson County 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 South Jefferson County again. We hope so.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Clusen
President

RC/ml

cc: State
Janski
Kincaid
Organization
Files
Lamp1

October 1, 1974

Mrs. Rita Wasmuth
Organization Department
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Rita:

The League of Women Voters of Texas has formally disbanded the League of Women Voters of South Jefferson County. Their funds and files have been transferred to the Orange Unit of that League. The members of the Orange Unit have completed the preliminary work and are now applying for recognition as a local League.

Would you please make the appropriate changes in your records?

The members of the South Jefferson County League who wish to retain their membership in the League have held a meeting and voted to become a unit of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Cordially,

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

VW/ag

bc: Hunter, Peterman



SEP 20 1974

memorandum

The League of Women Voters of the United States

September 16, 1974

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

From: Organization Department / Rita Wasmuth

Re: LWV of South Jefferson County

In checking the basic records for the following local League(s)
we have found some discrepancies which we would like to clear up.

We would appreciate receiving the correct information as soon as
possible so that the appropriate changes can be made.

Thank you very much for your help and cooperation.

Hi Veta -- it's me again. Enclosed is copy of note from LWV of South
Jefferson County saying they've become a state MAL unit. Once we
receive a notice from you recommending disbandment, will move ahead
on their requests.

Many thanks.



S. Jeff

AUG 26 1974

August 23, 1974

Mrs. B. C. Pryor
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Pryor:

Helen Hunter informed me that South Jefferson County has decided to be a unit of the League of Women Voters of Texas. As advisor to units-at-large I say "welcome" to all of you.

Please send 1 copy to me and 2 copies to the state office of your proposed program for this year, and the names of any officers or chairmen. We would like to approve your calendar at our board meeting September 10-12. Also, any publications you will need can be ordered following approval.

Setting a specific date (such as Sept. 30 or Oct. 15) for payment of dues before being dropped has been helpful in other units. Be sure to include the name and address for each membership with the check to the office.

If I can be of help in any ^{way,} please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jane Peterman (Mrs. Edwin D.)
[REDACTED]

Houston, Texas 77025
[REDACTED]

cc: ✓ State office
Hunter
File

APR 5 1973

State

March 30, 1973

Mrs. Leroy Halcomb, Jr., President
League of Women Voters of South Jefferson
County

Dear Mrs. Halcomb:

Your comments and suggestions on the annual report form, as usual, are quite provocative. Your suggestion about "long" and "short" forms for small leagues is the most intriguing we've had in years. I do want to assure you that we are continuing our analysis of the best way to gather, annually, an accounting of all the activities of all 1,300 local leagues. Our current experience with using a computer to tabulate, analyze, and correlate the Solid Waste Management consensus leads us to believe that this holds promise for simplifying the annual report forms. So don't give up hope - we'll get there.

Re your comment about state and national budgets. We continue to work at finding ways to communicate better the financial needs of an organization operating at several levels. The proposed national budget is not a "standing still" or "hold the line" budget, rather, because of the continued increase in the cost of "doing business" (the cost of everything increases every year: pencils, paper, electricity, waste disposal, air fares) and built-in increases such as social security, medical care, retirement benefits, the budget is in reality a "step backward" in services to local and state leagues and our effectiveness in carrying out action on existing Program. Known state pledges at this moment indicate that the proposed budget income will be short at least \$50,000.

Local and state leagues have moved forward in this past year of transition in trying to find short and long term solutions to the fiscal crunch felt at every level of league. Those leagues who made the effort and sacrifice to carry their full, 100% fair share of the state and national budget are becoming somewhat impatient with those leagues who seem unwilling to make similar efforts and sacrifices. I am enclosing a copy of a letter written by the Lynchburg, Virginia President which says it better than I and puts the whole matter of financial support for the league in proper perspective. Will South Jefferson County meet its fair share of the proposed Texas budget?

Mrs. Leroy Halcomb, Jr., President
League of Women Voters of South Jefferson
County

March 30, 1973

- 2 -

It may not always be true in specific instances, but the trend toward higher dues in the League has not resulted in a corresponding loss in membership. Rather we have seen an increased willingness and a recognition of the need for members to pay more, to close the gap in the cost of servicing and what they pay. Generally speaking, dues in the LWV are lower than any other national organization, most of which do not function at every level, nor do they involve the member as effectively or allow her to participate so directly in the decision-making process. And as an aside to the Women's Lib influence, what mens organizations think so little of themselves to have annual dues as low as the average in the LWV, \$7.50?

Your comment about member interest in local issues is well taken, but what is a local item? I would like to submit for your thoughtful consideration the proposition that Program is Program is Program in the League. For example, Solid Waste Management or garbage disposal is a local problem; so is housing, clean air, mass transportation, the tax structure (everybody has a pocketbook), land use, employment levels, representative government be it the election of a congressman, a state legislator, a city councilman, a county commissioner, a school board member, a special district board member, or the sheriff. The right to vote with equal access to the polling booth takes place locally. The Massachusetts League has just finished a state study on abortion. Some old timers and "strict constructionists" in the League would call this a state item. I call it a personal item, about as "local" as one can get for it has personal, family implications for women as women, and in addition has local, state, and national implications in so far as the law is concerned. It's peripherally related, of course, to population growth and all other human resources elements - housing, education, employment, land use.

Constitutional revision in Texas is local because not much can be accomplished in solving local problems without recourse to state solutions. Many solutions are blocked by constitutional barriers. The recently passed amendment to allow local governmental units to grant homestead exemptions to persons over 65 years is a case in point. Solutions to local school problems are rooted in the state's prime responsibility for education and its additional reliance on federal funding. How will local school districts in Texas approach their increased financial burdens now that the President has cut out federal funds for federally impacted areas and in view of the implications of the Rodriguez Supreme Court decision?

My own local League is planning a series of meetings on land use pulling together its position on planning and zoning with the housing and the water/air problem. And, of course, the recent devaluation of the dollar has its local effect here (we are a freeport) as it will on you, too. International trade and the multi-national corporation problem is important to everybody in South Jefferson County, since the petro-chemical industry is such a large part of your local economy. The price of meat, a cup of coffee, a teaspoonful of sugar is local and yet is the heart of the League's long-time concern with international relations. Think about it.

Mrs. Leroy Halcomb, Jr., President
League of Women Voters of South Jefferson
County

March 30, 1973

- 2 -

Leagues across the country assert their priorities each time they go through the Program-making process, and we really do have a "handle" on what local Leagues are thinking - all the time. We read annual reports, local Voters, letters from members and Leagues, minutes; we visit local Leagues all over the country all the time. There is a constant flow of information between local League members and your state and national offices. Our present most difficult problem is how to manage our Program concerns. League members are interested in everything, and each issue that we take up is increasingly more complex. The national Board is in the process of responding to the many requests on this problem. We hope to formulate a proposal in time for local League use in the Program-making process to begin this fall. We will be anxious to know how workable you think it is.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold E. Murphree, Jr.
Organization Chairman

GM/ft

Encl.



Return
S.O. COPY.

So Jefferson Co.

JUL 9 1970

JUL 1 1970

Dear Mrs. Benson,

As it approaches time for the U. S. Postage Stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage, I thought you might be interested in the commemorative stamp issued in August 26, 1936 on the 16th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. I am enclosing this first day stamp and envelope for you to keep or use in any way you may want to.

Miss Anthony's nurse at the time of her death was Miss Margaret Shanks who was also a nurse to the Dana family, and she left them a copy of a speech which she delivered in Washington D.C. honoring Miss Anthony. The content of the speech follows:

I shall speak very briefly on my impression as the nurse who attended Susan B. Anthony three weeks previous to her death on March 13, 1906, at 17 Madison Street, Rochester, N.Y.

I was received in a kindly manner by her sister, Mary Anthony, and led into the room of my distinguished patient. I noted quickly her distress in breathing from pneumonia as I shook her hand, telling her my name and that I had come to get her well again.

I soon learned that I was nursing a different person from any I had ever cared for before. No complaint at any time in the face of all she was called upon to bear up under. I also realized with what fortitude and courage she had faced life in order to make this attitude possible at the end.

What few words passed between us were both friendly and satisfactory for I was determined to give her my very best.

Dr. Marcena Ricker, a notable physician was in constant attendance. She procured a night-nurse, Miss Mae Nichols, so Miss Anthony could have constant care.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, her very dear friend, arrived and was the only one permitted to see her. She was a great comfort, as was her sister Mary who slipped out and in like a shadow. Once I heard her say, "Mary, your hands are like a benediction on my head."

One morning, she surprised us by telling the doctor that her nurses were without parallel, but we advised Dr. Ricker at once that it was the other way around-"we had a patient without parallel."

I would like you to carry away with you what I am now going to say, even if you forget all the rest. I had read in the Bible of the majesty of death, and for the first time, I was permitted to see it, in the closing days of my distinguished patient's life. The ominous gray shadow had descended on her face, but still she lived on for three days.

"Even death stands still
And waits for such a will."

She slept peacefully away on the morning of March 13, 1906. On that memorable morning, the citizens of Rochester wended their way to their daily tasks and stopped to gaze at the Stars and Stripes hanging at half-mast from the City Hall, first time in its history for a woman. All honor was paid her as she lay in state in the Central Presbyterian Church, her honor guards College women from the Rochester University, for it was through her efforts that co-education was made possible for them.

Margaret Shanks

I hope this will be of interest to you. Congratulations on the wonderful job you are doing as President of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sincerely,

Maryann Dana

Mrs. Jack Dana
President, LWV
South Jefferson County

Dear Mrs. Winick,

*I thought you would be
interested in this information.
Many thanks for your reply
on our "Operation Crime Stop"
in Port Arthur. I endorsed
it in League's name.*

*Sincerely,
Maryann Dana*

®

L. W. V. OF TEXAS EDUCATION FUND

[REDACTED]
WACO, TEXAS 76710

MAY 27 1970

[REDACTED]
Mrs. Ivan Smith
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Smith:

The League's state office has forwarded your letter about A CITIZEN'S HANDBOOK to me since the Texas Education Fund was the organization that paid for printing the first 10,000 copies of the book. We agree with you that it is a very wonderful publication and regret that more weren't available for wider distribution. The problem was (and is) money. The state League and the Texas Education Fund were not the main beneficiaries of the 50th Anniversary campaign, very simply because the drive was not as successful as we had hoped. The local Leagues were guaranteed (and received) the full 125% of their best previous finance drive effort; too much of the remainder of the money raised by the local Leagues was for the national tax-deductible Education Fund and Overseas Education Fund. Instead of \$5.00 per member, the state League has received only \$1.00 per member.

However, I am pleased to tell you that at a meeting of the Education Fund Trustees last Friday, when we learned of the imminent receipt of the first payment on a 3-year 50th Anniversary pledge, we decided to go ahead with another printing of 10,000 copies. We are still working for a grant to print the full 50,000 copies we had originally planned but this will fill the gap until that money is received.

There is and can be no charge for the book when it is printed with tax-deductible funds. We will continue to make it available at no charge except postage from the state office. Local Leagues will be notified when the second printing is ready for distribution.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Maurice H. Brown
Chairman

cc: State Office

S. J. H.

SEP 3 1969

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Jack Dana, President
League of Women Voters
of South Jefferson County

[REDACTED]

Dear Mary Ann,

I am looking forward to Board training September 9 and 10. Thank you all so much for changing the dates to fit my schedule.

I really appreciate the kind invitation to stay overnight with the Dana family and am happy to accept. Since I will be in Beaumont Monday night I can come over early Tuesday morning, and plan to stay until late Wednesday afternoon. Just so I get home by dark. It is only a two hour drive.

Please let me know what needs particular emphasis in the training. We should allow as much time as possible for how to carry out League program and how to reach the goal of the 50th Anniversary Campaign. Also I think plenty of time must be allotted for questions.

Be seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Mrs. D. A. Ballard
Organization Consultant

cc: Winick, State Office

®

original
to M F Ballard

Lo Jff

MAY 23 1969

Dear Mrs Jeor,

You will remember that about 18 months ago South Jefferson County sponsored a unit in the city of Orange. This of course went over county lines and was the subject of much discussion. It has just come to my attention that the Orange unit is planning a meeting on May 28th at which the speaker will be Mr. Bob Axelsson of the Orange Leader. His topic is rather vague but is to encompass the past history of the regional planning (ROG) and his picture of the current jurisdictional dispute with Port Arthur over land including that area housing the new Gulf States Utilities facilities. There will be much very emotional feeling generated by this issue and in the past Mr. Axelsson has been somewhat less than unbiased over these topics. At this time I am urging the local women to consider having another speaker at a near date to present the other side of the issue but it occurred to me that someone from the state office might like to know about this meeting and possibly to attend it to hear what goes on. This may all be a tempest in a teapot on the other hand it could be the means of giving League a somewhat less than non-partisan appearance. Any help you could give on this would be appreciated.

Yours truly

Rosemarie Kresser

(I could bed down an observer if you should want to send one)

®

L. J. J.

MAY 19 1969

Mrs. G. Boy Rualing

Dear Audrey:

The territorial jurisdiction dispute is unfortunate, and although it graphically points up the need for area wide planning and cooperation, it very likely will harden already existing ill feelings in the communities and delay the establishment of a GOC.

You will want to continue to cover meetings concerning the dispute, and it is good that you are encouraging the Grange unit to do the same. You may want to share the "facts and feelings" you are gathering with all the League members, but you can not make a public statement, talk to public officials in support of your position, or take any other form of action under your study of GOC. Only after a League has studied an item which it officially adopted at an annual meeting, and then reached consensus on that item, can it take action. If at some earlier time you made a study of territorial jurisdiction and have a clear-cut consensus covering this situation, then you can take action in the community. You can help your members become better informed and they, as individuals, not in the name of the League, may work in the community. In fact, our purpose as a League is to promote informed and effective participation in government, and League members will naturally want to become involved. Use your discretion about Board members who are known as Leaguers in the community speaking out on this issue if there is danger that whatever they say will be attributed to League, and not accepted as coming from them as individuals.

To begin your GOC study, your plans to talk with officials sounds good. You may or may not want to include the Chamber of Commerce. Before you approach community officials decide what your objective in talking with them is, and formulate questions to carry out this objective. Officials are almost always pleased to talk with Leaguers who come seeking information and understanding instead of grinding axes.

I have only one other suggestion. Before you begin your interviews write Mr. Crow in the Division of Planning Coordination Department and ask his suggestions for what might be included in the interviews, and also he may name some specific people that you should contact. His address:

Mr. Charles Crow
Office of the Governor
Division of Planning Coordination
Drawer P, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Sincerely,

(Mary Litch)

cc: Mrs John Dana

APR 2 1969

Mrs. G. Roy Rusling

Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Mrs. Rusling:

To recap our Austin conversation--I was told when I visited the Department of Planning Coordination and asked what the League in Port Arthur could do to help your community move toward the joining of COG there, that responsibility for Planning for Criminal Justice on the local level has been delegated to Councils of Governments and Regional Planning Commissions. In areas that do not have COGs, special committees have been set up to do the planning. The Golden Briage Criminal Justice Committee, established for this purpose, is composed of the mayors from Port Arthur, Beaumont, and Orange, and the County Judges from Orange and Jefferson Counties. Since sheriffs and other law enforcement officials are anxious to have money from the criminal justice kitty, and it is impossible to get funds without this planning on the local level, this may be a foothold in the door toward forming a COG. Health planning requires a similar approach, and Federal grants have been held up from HUD in your area.

The County Judge of Orange County is pushing for a COG. The Jefferson County officials seem to be causing the problem. Perhaps when they realize that certain funds will be withheld, they will be more amiable. Sometimes officials do not like COGs because they do not understand that they are voluntary associations of local governments, and they are not metro governments. They fear that a "super-government" will replace their local governments, which of course is not true at all. Also those who oppose federal control fail to realize that local planning keeps the control in the hands of the local officials.

It was suggested that you contact Mr. Wendle Bedicheck, Department of Government, Lamar Tech. I was told that he is very knowledgeable about COG and may be able to make specific suggestions as to how the League can go about influencing opinion in Port Arthur.

I think that your plan to invite the lawyer to discuss the legal aspects of COGs is fine. In case that takes only part of the meeting time, or you are interested in using them for another meeting, I am enclosing a

®

a set of questions which were used to play a game (remember Twenty Questions). Unit members took a true-false test on the questions. The answers, which had been typed on separate slips of paper were handed to the different members of the unit. When the quiz was completed, the correct answers to the questions were given by members. It was a fun way to disperse information, which could otherwise be very dull.

Incidentally, did you know that there is a push to change the name of the Orange County COG to Sabine-Neches COG so that it can include a larger area.

I am glad that I got to meet you and talk with you at Presidents Council.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Brient