

# TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

AUSTIN, TEXAS

October 20th, 1941

Open Letter to All State Board Members  
(in which the State President: 1) Takes stock, 2) draws conclusions, and 3) seeks advice.)

Dear Fellow Board Members:

## Section I

At the National Convention in New York on April 29, 1940, I received the hot-off-the-press National League pamphlet, "The State Board" at the close of a Clinic on Board Planning held that evening for members of local, state and national boards. Since no other copies were available then, I tore off the first page of this pamphlet and sent it air-mail special to my new secretary, Miss Stullkin to have copies made of it and sent to the members of the State Board before the May 1940 Board Meeting, my first as State president.

From that time on I have looked upon this pamphlet as the League Law and Gospel for the conduct of state Board meetings. I ordered copies to be given to members who were elected to the State Board. I admonished old as well as the new members to study this gospel tract with its fine catechism (20 Test Questions) on the last two pages.

To the two new members on the Board in particular, but to all in general, I solemnly declare that this five cent pamphlet is your indispensable tool (it is helpful to local board members also) and should be among your other "household helps" viz "Know Your League" and "Portrait of the League" (recently re-printed). No State Board member can do the job expected of her without being familiar with the contents of these pamphlets.

In case we have become hazy may I restate: What acceptance of membership on the State Board means?

1. Willingness to assume State-wide Leadership.
2. Willingness to wear and live up to continually the badge of Responsibility.
3. Willingness to arm ourselves with the Power which Knowledge of the Whole Job-to-be-done gives each of us. (This may mean at times assuming an attitude of interest in a department or task not ordinarily interesting to you until you do become sufficiently interested to help in the general planning.)

May I restate for emphasis what our Whole Job is?

1. Our job is so "to manage the affairs of the Texas League that we fuse in a joint plan - Program, Legislation, Organization and Finance".

Here I pause to say that we have a right to be proud of the progress Texas League has made. At the Council in May, Miss Roach named Texas as one of six states which showed a "stronger tone" or growth! Our increased capacity to carry out the League's purpose was rewarded in a manner pleasing to all - Texas now has a national officer, Mrs. D. B. Calvin, National League of Women Voters Secretary.

2. Of the twenty members on the Texas Board - Who is responsible for the Effectiveness of the Board as a Whole?  
The answer is - All twenty of us!
3. What then is the president's job on the Board?  
The answer is - "To Facilitate the Board's Job".

## Section II

How has the present president acted to facilitate the Board's Job? Answer -

- a. Furnished each Board member at each Board meeting a typed copy of the agenda.
- b. Worked closely with the State Secretary in making out agenda topics so that between the two of us nothing important should be over-looked, so that having some idea of decisions to be made we should allow enough time for each topic.
- c. First year wrote resumé of each Board meeting and had typed copy sent to each State Board member. This year the State Secretary (and the acting State Secretary) took care of this duty with president's check-over only. (I am proud of this year's Resumés and appreciate the relief given me.)
- d. Advocated and inaugurated regular and more frequent Board meetings. (Regretted the May move which cut them down but appreciate the September decision which provided the extra meeting on November 21, 1941.)
- e. Advocated and inaugurated meetings of longer duration necessitated by an enlarged and expanding State League.
- f. Restored (if not inaugurated) the custom of sitting around a table at every Board meeting to facilitate discussion.
- g. Formulated routine matters as much as was possible. (Some State Leaders who have failed to report on time or report at all have handicapped this work at times. When a leader fails to respond - after written requests sometimes three- then data essential to work has to be collected at State Board meetings and this should not happen. Let us collect data prior to Board meetings.)
- h. Requested frequently that State Chairmen bring (or send if unable to attend) written reports; 1) to save time, or 2) for future reference, or 3) for copying for general distribution.
- i. Written numerous letters to stimulate State Chairmen to perform their respective tasks by offering
  - 1) The help of the State Office.
  - 2) Suggestions for implementing programs and carrying out plans.

Here are some questions I ask and answer personally.

Do I believe the State Board has shown progress?

Yes, we have made very forward strides in our learning to think together and to plan as a whole.

Can we do a better job on State Planning?

Yes, I have great faith in our ability to show marked improvement. I am far from satisfied with my handling of the job but I am greatly pleased with the State Board's personnel.

### Section III

What improvements can YOU suggest? Here are mine:

1. Self-restraint. (Try not to take up time with wordy digressions or too-long discussions which are relevant but not very important)

2. Objectivity of mind.

3. Magnanimity.

(These three goals I set for myself this year. How far short of them I have fallen has left me almost without hope. But these words of the one who furnished them, Walter Lippmann, also encourage me: "The display of self-restraint, objectivity of mind, and magnanimity are rare indeed in public life. Mechanical provisos and limitations are not a real substitute for consultation, common council and continuing responsibility".) Therefore since a State Board must be continually accountable for wise counciling and planning I suggest:

4. Devise a plan for a small State Board - one capable of really deliberative action, perhaps 15 members.

(We need to consider now, I believe, this recommendation which looks to a greatly expanded League, by preparing a recommendation to present to the May Convention for action.)

5. Bring written data or recommendations re your particular job or the Board's job and leave these reports with the Secretary, but if possible, send same to the State Office a week prior to the State Board meeting.

6. Be prompt in answering all letters. Be beforehand in ordering material. (We have a big supply of fine pamphlets)

7. Be on time at all Board Meetings. When exhausted ask for brief recess so as to improve your ability to concentrate.

8. Let us endeavor to discover new devices for facilitating group thinking. Let us watch the tones of our voices.

I promise to do better advance planning and to strive for the three rare goals!

Will you help me by sending your answer to the question under Section III before November 15th?

Very sincerely

Mary Esther R. Hill  
(Mrs. Claude Hill)

October 20th

A supplementary message  
from the State Secretary-

### Section I

I heartily endorse Mrs. Hill's statement of the duties and responsibilities of board membership.

### Section II

Having personal knowledge of the State League only since my appointment in the Spring I shall only comment on that period.

During the May meeting I offered to serve as a sort of clearing house between State Board members and Local League personnel and have rendered service along this line whenever it has been requested. In order to facilitate such service, following the meeting I promptly notified the proper people in each League of any action taken by the Board which affected their work and also requested from all Leagues any information not already at hand as to the official personnel of each League. In addition I supplied each member of the State Board with a resumé of the minutes of the meeting.

### Section III

1. First and foremost I would stress objectivity of mind - Let us not be guilty of that fault of most organizations, especially women's organizations, that is, losing sight of goals, aims, issues in the complexities occasioned by our several personalities; or of another fault frequently found in women's groups, that is, making the organization itself the end - all and be - all, rather than the purposes for which it exists.
2. Let us, without being rash, try always to be fearless in championing as well as defending those issues which we as an organization have accepted as part of our aim or purpose.
3. Inspirational leadership, coupled with devotion to duty, should always be given acclaim - Example par excellence, Mrs. Rainey.
4. Let us strive for a perfect reporting record this year: To have each study group in each Local League at the conclusion of its study project, submit through it's chairman, a report to the State Chairman. Then surely the State Board could reflect the membership as a whole much more adequately in its planning.

Here's for a bigger and better League.

Alice Taylor

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

La Marque, Texas  
June 12, 1942

Dear Board Member:

The Presidents Council held in Houston June 8th & 9th was attended by seven local League presidents, one proxy--Mrs. Allensworth for Mrs. Smith of San Antonio. Mrs. Dillan served as Council Secretary. Mrs. McCollough is in Florida on a vacation. Mrs. McCollum attended all Meetings at the request of the state president. Mrs. Gershinowitz presented the congressional campaign and tax campaign plans to the council. The agenda covered the four summer campaigns, By-Laws, finance & Membership, radio, voters handbook, publications, services to Leagues, and New Leagues. Minutes for your information will follow at a later date.

The Houston League Board entertained the council at dinner Monday night. The Houston Leagues hospitality and arrangements for the Council were largely responsible for the success of the meeting/ I believe I can report the council as a pleasurable and profitable experience for all who participated.

Wednesday June the 10th, Mrs. Hill and I were guests at an all day board meeting of the Port Arthur League. It is gratifying to report to you that the Port Arthur League is becoming a League-like League. Plans are in the making for a finance campaign plus the program jobs.

Thursday June the 11th, through the efforts of Mrs. Wampler, Messrs Wampler, Hall, Munds, Brown, and Holloway of Port Arthur, Mrs. Gill and I were entertained as luncheon guests by a groupe of Beaumont women who wished to know about the League of Women Voters. The Beaumont of thirteen women asked for the organization of a Beaumont League. We explained our organization procedure and reviewed the affiliation standards.

The groupe appointed a temporary chairman, Mrs. Fortenberry,-- a lawyer. League material will be sent to the groupe immediately. I believe the board can anticipate a request for membership in the very near future. I heartily the advance efforts of Mrs. Wampler and the cooperation of the Port Arthur League. If a request for membership is received by the state office you will be asked to vote by mail on the acceptance of this groupe. I believe the Texas League will be very fortunate to have this groupe of women assume the leadership in a Beaumont League of Women Voters.

Please keep all communications on file you may be asked to refer back to earlier communications from the state office from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

*Davella Calvin*

Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin  
President

NC:DECJ

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Sincerely yours,

*Dovella Calvin*

Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin  
President

NC:DBCJ

1516 Avenue H (or Ball)  
Galveston, Texas  
August 17, 1942

To Board +  
H. H. Files.  
Dear Board Member:

Please note change of address. Most of the moving is over and it is a fine thing to have behind us.

Re. Bulletin: Mrs. Taylor has not received a line from any of the people she asked to contribute to the summer issue of the bulletin. It is my impression that we must do more and better planning for the compilation of bulletin material. We, as a board must plan what we want the bulletin to do for us. The extreme success of the bulletin last year was due to the excellent staff and to the accessibility of material for the staff. In your opinion, since we have waited this length of time and since much material has gone out to the member this summer (through the extra activity of all local Leagues) should we plan to wait until immediately following the late September or early October board meeting to publish the next issue of the bulletin?

Re. election Campaign: Mrs. Taylor has sent to the state office a news release written by Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Gardner of Austin. Mrs. Taylor suggests that it be used as a Texas release. Due to lack of time I am following that suggestion without consulting anyone on the board. It is a fine piece of work. (My standbys, Mesdames Mc Collough, Dillon and Gill are on vacation.) I hope in the future we can have more state releases.

Will you give your full support to the election efforts planned by your local League for this week?

Tax Campaign: I trust all of you have been instrumental in securing letters by the public sent to Senator Connally re the Senate war tax bill. You will note by the papers the progress of the bill and continue your efforts until the bitter end.

Re. Houston League Success: Most of you remember the Houston convention of five years ago. The Houston League taught all of us about the city manager form of government. Five years ago the Houston League was not successful in their efforts or so it seemed at the time. Their success was in sowing the seed. On Saturday they reaped the harvest. Houston voted for the city manager form of government and the ~~vote~~ majority vote was for it. CONGRATULATIONS HOUSTON LEAGUE!

I am enclosing a letter from Miss Wells. Her letters give me the necessary shot in the arm to keep plugging along in this heat of a Texas summer. I hope it gives you the lift it gave to me.

Most sincerely yours,

Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin  
President

# Next Year's Taxes

## Will They Be Adequate?

### It's up to the Senate

#### What's Wrong with the \$6.2 Billion House Bill?

It falls short of the \$8.7 billion Treasury program in almost every respect and the Treasury proposals should have been considered a minimum, not a maximum. Even if the Treasury total were reached, it would be necessary to borrow close to \$50 billion during the next twelve months.

The House not only failed to write a big enough tax bill, but it also rejected all of the recommendations designed to close loopholes: requirement of mandatory joint income tax returns by husband and wife, taxation of the interest on state and local bonds, and removal of certain privileges now granted to the owners of mining and oil producing properties. These provisions would bring in several hundred million dollars.

But probably the most serious defect of both the House bill and the Treasury program lies in the personal income tax provisions. Neither set of proposals recognizes the need for putting a brake on inflation by taxing away a large part of the money people have in excess of what can be spent on the diminishing supply of goods and other services. Under the Treasury program a married man with two children and a \$2500 income would be taxed \$118 or about 5% of his income, under the House bill \$80 or only about 3%. In England where strenuous steps have been taken to drain off excess buying power through taxes, a person in such circumstances would pay \$387 or about 15% of his income plus \$143 that will be refunded after the war. And in Canada the comparable tax will probably be \$217 next year plus \$218 to be refunded, although the latter payment will be smaller if the person is making insurance or mortgage or retirement payments.

#### Is Heavy Taxation Cheaper than Inflation?

Yes. If we do not tax on a very much heavier scale, people will bid against each other for the limited supply of goods, and the prices of essentials—food, clothing, rent—will go up in spite of price controls. The dollar will buy less and people will find that it takes most of their income to supply the basic needs of living and there will be less and less left over for such items as medical service, savings, education, recreation.

But isn't this just what heavier taxes will do—limit spending money to essentials like food, clothing and rent? It is worse, because taxation is more certain in its effects—people can plan how to adjust themselves since they will have some warning of how much money will be taken in taxes and how much they will have left to spend, and taxation can be fairer to all groups of people. Inflation is hard on people with fixed incomes—salaries or pensions—as against those

receiving wages or business income; it is hard on creditors compared with debtors. Also inflation increases the cost of the war now and the burden of post-war debt, since everything the government buys goes up in price.

## Is It Necessary to Levy Big Taxes on Small Incomes in Order to Check Inflation?

Yes. Regardless of the value of certain government expenditures or the efficiency with which public money is spent, the basic facts continue to be: increased war production means less production for civilians, fewer goods mean that standards of living for all persons will go down. If we do not tax everyone heavily, including the low income groups who buy most of the nation's diminishing supply of goods, we court inflation.

## What About the Sales Tax?

The sales tax would get money from the groups that spend most of their incomes on goods; the money would be paid in driblets; it might seem more painless to Congress and the taxpayers than the income tax; it would reach farmers more completely than the income tax.

But the usual form of sales taxation, unlike the income tax, does not allow personal exemptions or exemptions for dependents. Therefore, a larger proportion of the income is taxed in families that spend most of their money on goods. Under a sales tax steep enough to be useful in checking inflation—perhaps 10% if it were a retail sales tax—a person with a very small income and many children might pay almost 10% of his income, but under an income tax he would pay only on the part of his income left after exemptions were deducted and even with a very steep rate—30% or more—this is easier on the man who has little more than enough to feed and clothe his family than is the sales tax.

The suggestion has been made, however, that coupons representing the tax reduction secured from income tax exemptions might be issued to everyone to be used in payment of the sales tax until they were gone. After that the sales tax would be paid in currency. This idea has not been widely considered, but it might overcome the basic objection to sales taxation.

A big sales tax either with or without such a coupon feature, may very soon be necessary if we fail to develop the income tax on an adequate scale.

## What Should the Senate Do?

Adopt a more anti-inflationary program than that proposed by the Treasury. This does not mean substituting a sales tax for the income taxes proposed by the Treasury for the middle income groups. It means levying in addition to the Treasury proposals, much heavier income taxes through lower exemptions and steeper rates especially in the lowest income tax brackets, or a sales tax.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

726 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

MISS MARGUERITE M. WELLS, President

National League of Women Voters  
726 Jackson Place  
Washington, D. C.

July 28, 1942

**COPY FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

To Press Chairmen:

The attached press release on "Next Year's Taxes--Will They be Adequate? " has been sent to all papers on our nation-wide mailing list. If it is not carried within a reasonable time in your papers, will you reissue it to newspapers in your state, adding a paragraph on your League's plans for distributing the broadside? This is an important move in the League's tax campaign.

Virginia M. Mannon  
Publicity Secretary

Press Department  
National League of Women Voters  
726 Jackson Place  
Washington, D. C.  
July 28, 1942

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National League of Women Voters today charged the U. S. Senate with responsibility for an "adequate" 1942 tax bill and advocated adoption of an anti-inflationary program exceeding the \$8.7 billion revenue recommendation proposed by the Treasury.

As the Senate Finance Committee took over jurisdiction of the House tax bill, \$2.5 billion short of the Treasury's proposals, the League threw its weight squarely behind a tax program even heavier than the Treasury's, by issuing a broadside titled "Next Year's Taxes--Will They Be Adequate? It's Up To The Senate!" The League will distribute the leaflet on a national scale as part of its wartime service of interpreting current governmental issues to the public.

Branding the House of Representatives with failure to write a big enough revenue measure, the League broadside points out that Senate adoption of a more anti-inflationary program than that suggested by the Treasury does not mean substituting a sales tax for the income taxes proposed for middle income groups. "It means levying in addition to the Treasury proposals much heavier income taxes through lower exemptions and steeper rates especially in the lowest income tax brackets, or a sales tax."

The most serious defect of both the House bill and the Treasury program lies in the personal income tax provisions, the broadside states. "Neither set of proposals recognizes the need for putting a brake on inflation by taxing away a large part of the money people have in excess of what can be spent on the diminishing supply of goods and services."

The League takes the position that heavy taxation is "cheaper" than inflation and that it is necessary to levy big taxes on small incomes in order to check inflation. The broadside cites a suggestion regarding a possible sales tax: that

coupons representing the tax reduction secured from income tax exemptions might be issued to everyone to be used in payment of the sales tax until they are gone; thereafter the sales tax would be paid in currency. It says a big sales tax-- 10 per cent or more--either with or without such a coupon feature, "may very soon be necessary if we fail to develop the income tax on an adequate scale."

Aug 18

AN APPEAL FOR AN INTELLIGENT VOTE!

"The League of Women Voters will seek to elect a Congress which is capable of dealing with the problems it will face, particularly that of post-war organization for peace. For upon this next Congress may well hang the fate of that kind of civilization for which we are now pledging our all."

--Declaration of the National League Council, Janl, 1942.

The election of a creditable Congressman is the most important issue before Texas today.

Our representative should be of the best to be found.

The second best will not do.

In this hour of crisis, the desire of the people for capable representation must be expressed at the polls on August 22!

The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose candidates for public office. It is interested in the qualifications of candidates and in the issues they will face in the performance of their duties.

Qualifications for a Congressman

A Congressman should have

- Intellectual integrity
- Determination to subordinate party interest to national interest
- Independent judgment
- Broad background in civic affairs
- Political sagacity

Four Issues That Are Important

WINNING THE WAR.

- \* Does your candidate's record show that he has an understanding of the importance of the outcome of this war?
- \* Has he ever attempted to hamstring our national government's efforts toward preparedness?
- \* Will he be willing to subordinate personal and minority gain to a concerted effort to win the war?

WRITING THE PEACE.

\* A Congressman should have vision and a mature view of the world.

\* He should see the need for participation by the United States in the making of plans for world-wide reconstruction.

\* He should see the need for a post-war organization for peace, which will eventually include all peoples regardless of race, religion or political persuasion.

\* Is your candidate one who will lead us back into the isolation of the past or forward to a policy of international cooperation?

UNITY AT HOME.

\* Winning the war demands sacrifice on the part of all of us: the housewife, the farmer, the professional worker, the laborer and the business man.

Sacrifice to prevent inflation!  
Sacrifice to pay higher taxes!  
Sacrifice to keep production high!

\* Is your candidate willing to inspire equal sacrifice, or will he discriminate in favor of any group?

A MAN WHO WILL BE HEARD.

\* Texas is playing a major part in training the country's fighting men.

\* We want a Congressman who will maintain this fine record of participation in the war effort.

\* We want a man who will take his place in the nation's Congress with a dignity, integrity, and forcefulness in keeping with the traditions of our great state!

Sponsored by the \_\_\_\_\_ League of Women Voters, and having no connection with the campaign of any candidate.

TEXAS LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS  
1516 Avenue A (or Ball)  
Galveston, Texas  
August 17, 1942

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Most sincerely yours,

*Novella Calvin*

Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin  
President

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
1516 Avenue H  
Galveston, Texas

September 9, 1942

Dear Board Member:

You will be happy to know that Miss Semmerling will be in Texas October 5th. She will stay in the state until October 30th.

Miss Semmerling believes the following will be profitable ways to spend the month. I have not ~~yet~~ received a "yes, I will visit all local Leagues"; but I believe the plans cover that point.

Setting up state office routines and procedures;

Some time in planning the board agenda;

Meetings with committees on Wartime Service, Better Congress Campaign and finance;

Planning any National legislative campaigns that may be in swing at the time;

Visiting local Leagues with special attention to Service to the Public;

Setting it up if not already in operation and following up problems of unit leaders;

Meetings with local finance and Better Congress Campaign committees;

Following up any new organization leads .

Of my statement that the Congress Campaign is a dead issue in Texas, Miss Semmerling has this to say:

"If I am going to be in Texas I am not going to let the Better Congress Campaign be a dead issue-- you can count on that. I know your letter was written in one of those blackest moments, but I don't believe that any of us really expected to have an effect on individual personnel elected to the Congress, but I think that what we hoped the campaign would do would be to have an effect on the individual voters and what they expected of their Congress and to give the individuals who are elected a little different idea of what we thought the job of a Congressman was.

"Miss Dennison has just been looking up some quotations on democracy and she found one by Fosdick which I think is very good--"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people." I think that is what our Better Congress Campaign is: To bring out the Extraordinary possibilities in the ordinary Congressmen which we elect. I think the campaign is a training job to make individuals--public officials and voters--do the kind of jobs that they have never done before."

Our board meetings will be held less frequently for the duration. We should plan to meet for the better part of two days under the circumstances. The local League Presidents meeting held on Monday and Tuesday seemed to be the best time for the majority. I am calling our next board meeting for October 19 and 20, to be held in Houston. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Monday and will

the Tuesday session will end at 4:00P.M. I believe that timing will fit in with everyone's transportation plans. I will send you more explicit information later. This notice is to ask you to reserve the 12th and 13th of October for the Texas League.

Will all of you be thinking about the board meeting. What do we want it to do for us? Do you have any special suggestions? We must remember that the board meeting gives the state office instructions to follow until the next board meeting, therefore we must be conscious of making plans for the next three or four ~~months~~ months.

Would you approve inviting Mrs. Bradner, former president of the Tenn. League to the meeting, with the idea in mind of using her on the board in some capacity later?

I hope all of you are as excited about the prospect of having Miss Semmerling as I am. I believe she can do a tremendous amount to help us at this time.

Sincerely yours,

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1516 Avenue H  
Galveston, Texas  
January 6, 1943

Memorandum to Board Members  
From Novella Calvin

The January board meeting will be held in Austin Tuesday and Wednesday, the 26 and 27.

The Tuesday meeting will be called to order at 1 PM. The Wednesday sessions will adjourn at 5 PM. Please reserve all of your time for the board meetings. We may find it desirable to meet Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Taylor is making arrangements for us. You will be sent that information with the Agenda for the meeting in a few days.

Carrying out the Board plans made at the October meeting Mrs. Gill will visit several Leagues before the January board meeting.

It will be necessary at this meeting to appoint one or two people to the State Board. Please be thinking of women in the state who would be good material for this service. Qualifications I think of are; must be able to attend board meetings, a realist rather than an idealist, a person who sees the League as a whole in contrast to a "special interest" in the League, not an expert but a well balanced, well integrated citizen, one with the kind of vision that can be adapted to use by a planning board.

You will hear from me again very soon.

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1516 Avenue H  
Galveston, Texas  
January 13, 1943

Dear Board Member:

This is a request for ACTION!

The Legislative Committee in Austin is swamped with work to be done on the Legislative front.

You can help and help is the thing we need most. Sit down right now and write to at least a dozen people you know who live in non-League communities. Tell them what we are doing and ask them to create public opinion in their home towns. They will be glad to write to their Legislators encouraging them to support a secret ballot bill. They and their friends may make the difference in the success or failure of this job.

Please do not wait until tomorrow. Today is late enough.

Mrs. Strong writes, "In the legislature we have found widespread interest. Lovelady in the Senate is interested and even wants to put in other amendments effecting a complete reform of election laws. There are rumors of a bill duplicating our own being already prepared but we haven't tracked it down. Shivers in the Senate is rumored to be the author of it. Jimmy Phillips in the House is said to have done a complete research job on the subject. The general opinion seems to be that the time is ripe and we could get a surprising amount passed."

There is much more I could tell you but I think it is more important to begin writing to others in the state asking them to get to work. You have fertile brains, put them to work and see just how much you can do to help push this thing along. It will take all of the ingenuity all of us have to put the thing across and it must be done right away.

Mrs. Taylor has asked me to tell you that the Austin League is planning overnight hospitality for you. The Austin League Board is also inviting you to dinner the night of the 26.

Tentative agenda enclosed.

You might get your friends to write to their friends.

Sincerely yours,

*Novella Calvin*

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

February 23, 1943

Memorandum to Board Members

From Novella Calvin

The current is swift but I believe we will make it across the stream. First may I tell you what a pleasure it was to be with you at the board meeting. I have the definite feeling that we made progress in planning. This is a progress report.

SECRET BALLOT BILL Mrs. Strong and Miss Daniels will represent the League at the Senate Committee hearing to be held Thursday at 2 PM. Miss Daniels has wired that Mr. Reid is trying to arrange a joint House and Senate Committee Hearing at that hour. If he is unsuccessful the House Hearing will be Thursday night.

Mrs. Strong's Committee is going great guns. More work, more fun, more success! Mrs. Strong has AAUW and the Council of Church Women behind the bill.

Mrs. Merriam, Dallas, has written 12 letters to editors she knows personally asking for their support.

Mr. Winchester wrote a letter and sent broadsides to his organizations all over the state.

Junior

The Galveston Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the bill and has written to all Jr. Chambers in the state re bill.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP Miss Sarah Daniels has accepted Board membership. (Thomas Building, Dallas) Lady Luck is sitting on our shoulder.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL Dallas, April 6,7.

CONVENTION Houston, June 9, 10.

Mrs. McCollum has suggested having the local Boards approve the limitation of delegates. She says "War or no war, by-laws are by-laws." If I do not hear from you opposing the suggestion, I will follow her suggestion.

Mrs. McCollum's Letter By this time you will have a copy of the fine letter Mrs. McCollum wrote at your request. She took the responsibility of tying and mailing to treasurers, presidents and board members.

Mrs. Hill's Letter Mrs. Hill has written a stimulating Handbook promotion letter. Mrs. McCollough typed and mailed to you with the MINUTES of the Board meeting. I mailed the letters to presidents.

Mrs. Gill's Field Trip Mrs. Gill had a successful trip to Port Authur. (Mrs. Hodge will be PortAuthur's President next year, PREVIEW) She will go to Houston, March 17.

FINANCE SUCCESSES Galveston, one man contributed a check for \$100 to the Galveston League on the strength of the secret ballot work. Dallas, Mrs. Perry has written of a contribution of \$15 for secret ballot broadsides-- which means a \$25 contribution to the Dallas League by one man this year.

McKellar Bill Six Leagues sent in prompt reports on the McKellar bill action. Three board members reported.

Lone Star Voter Mrs. McCollough hopes to have the Voter at the Printer's early in March.

Memoranda At least two Leagues have placed standing orders for the Memoranda. More will follow suit soon.

Quiz Games 5200 have been distributed in the state. Everyone I have shown the Quiz is enthusiastic about it.

Human interest stories.

A seventeen year old used it in History class. Students made low scores. much discussion followed. They took the Quiz home to try on parents.

Was used at a discussion group meeting- soldiers, British and American sailors, medical students, nursing students and town girls. scores high. Lots of earnest discussion on all questions.

Will be used by the Galveston League at a luncheon meeting with the YWCA on Thursday. ~~Will~~ Program TOMORROW GROWS OUT OF TODAY. The four League members will discuss Lend-Lease (try to get some of those present to write to their Representative) , Reciprocal Trade Agreements.

The Galveston Rotary Club has given the League permission to distribute the game at the door of a public meeting to stimulate thinking about the post-war world. (Wednesday night)

More Finance Success On a recent report from Mrs. Gellhorn and Mrs. Fisher sent to state Treasurers and state presidents it was good to have Texas listed 100% paid.

Re Lend-Lease Request Will all of you work hard at this job?

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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I have talked with Mrs. Strong. She has everything under control.

Wire sent to local League presidents-- SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARINGS SECRET BALLOT-THURSDAY AFTERNON-- URGE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS SEND WIRES TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS--SEE LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Mrs. Strong's committee is going great guns. More work, more fun, more success! Mrs. Strong has AAUW and Council of Church Women behind the Bill.

Mrs. Merriam Dallas, has written 12 letters to editors she knows personally asking for their support.

Mr. Winchester has written a letter and sent broadsides to his organizations all over the state.

Mrs. Smith San Antonio, has written to numbers of people in the state.

The Galveston Jr. Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the bill and has written to all Jr. Chambers in the state re bill.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP Miss Sarah Daniels has accepted Board membership. (Address, Thomas Building, Dallas) Lady Luck is sitting on our shoulder.

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CONVENTION Houston 9, 10. June.

Mrs. McCollum has suggested having the local Boards approve the limitation of delegates. She points out war or no war by-laws are by-laws. If I do not hear from you to the contrary I will follow her suggestion.

MRS. McCOLLUM'S LETTER By this time you will have a copy of the fine letter Mrs. McCollum wrote at your request. She took the responsibility of typing and mailing to treasurers, presidents and board members.

MRS. HILL'S LETTER Mrs. Hill has written a stimulating Handbook Promotion letter. Mrs. McCollough typed and mailed to you with the MINUTES of the board meeting. I mailed to presidents.

MRS. GILL'S FIELD TRIP Mrs. Gill has reported a successful trip to Port Authur. She will go to Houston March 12.

FINANCE SUCCESSES One man in Galveston has contributed \$100 to the League on the strength of the secret ballot work. Total to date \$205. Mrs. Perry has written of a contributio of \$15 which means a total of \$25 by one Dallas man to League this year.

MORE FINANCE SUCCESS In a recent report from Mrs. Cellhorn and Mrs. Fisher sent to state treasurers and presidents it was good to have Texas listed 100% paid.

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Used at a discussion group meeting-- soldiers, British and American sailors, medical students, nursing students and town girls. Scores High. Lots of earnest discussion on several questions.

Will be used by the Galveston League at a luncheon meeting with the YWCA on Thursday. Program TOMORROW GROWS OUT OF TODAY. The four League members handling program will put on a skit using LEND-LEASE ( will urge those present to write to Representatives) Reciprocal Trade Agreements and Quiz Game.

LEND-LEASE Each Board member should get a number of people to write their Representative.

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1516 Avenue H  
Galveston, Texas  
April 18, 1943

Memorandum to Board of Directors

From Novella Calvin

Mrs. J.W. Bradner, Jr. 420 Crestwood Drive, Ft. Worth has accepted your invitation to serve as third vice-president of the Texas League. Mrs. Bradner met with us for a short time at the Presidents Council. All of us enjoyed being with her and were fired with enthusiasm to find another woman willing to give her time to help improve the quality of representative government. We are indeed fortunate to have her serve on the Texas League Board.

The Presidents Council meeting was a success. With the exception of San Antonio, all Leagues were represented by their presidents. The group agreed to follow your suggestions and concentrate on membership and finance drives to be held in April and May. It was decided to strive to double the membership of local Leagues and to secure contributions from citizens in order to have adequate budgets to meet the present needs of the League.

We have every right to be pleased with the fine presidents of the local Leagues. It was an inspiration to meet with them. I believe they understand the purpose of the League and will demonstrate fine leadership abilities this year.

This is to report that I will be out of the state for three weeks. Mrs. McCollough will carry on while I am away. Please direct all communications to her during this period. (Until May 12) I will attend the Kansas, Iowa and Kentucky state conventions.

Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Gill have assured me that they are "ready to go" to Washington.

MRS. CLAUDE E. HILL, PRESIDENT  
1904 PEARL ST.  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

MRS. ALFRED TAYLOR, SECRETARY  
3102 KERBY LANE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

MRS. BURTON MCCOLLUM, TREASURER  
2949 CHEVY CHASE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

## TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

MRS. GEORGE ABBOTT,  
6321 WESTCHESTER DRIVE  
DALLAS, TEXAS

MRS. D. B. CALVIN,  
LA MARQUE, TEXAS

MRS. J. W. FULLER,  
302 E. EUCLID  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

*Copy*

June 18, 1943

Memorandum to Board of Directors

From Novella Calvin

Several "love letters" have come to the state office. They are for you and I want to share them with you. Messages of encouragement like these give me a lift and shorten the hours spent in doing the job. I believe they will do the same for you.

You are the backlog of strength in the Texas League. League members know it and I am grateful for it.

"As you know this was my first League of Women Voters Convention but I have been to a good many conventions in my long life and I want you to know that I have never seen a more successful one."

"We have spoken of the personnel of the State Board and we were impressed with the unusual qualities of the members. It is easy to see that each one present occupies a place in her own community."

"I think the Convention was a grand success."

"The Convention was an inspiration to me."

"The fact that each League raised its pledge is concrete evidence of every one's confidence in plans for League growth. It is a great inspiration to have been present and our other delegates feel the same as I!"

*personal*

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

June 10, 1943

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Several "love letters" have come to the state office. They are for you and I want to share them with you. Messages of encouragement like these give me a lift and shorten the hours spent in doing the job. I believe they will do the same for you.

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TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Memorandum to the Board of Directors

August 5, 1943

From Novella Calvin

Storm or no storm-- probabby should say house or no house--I must share with you the satisfaction that comes from seeing a job well done. Mrs. Gill is doing that kind of job, as we knew she would. The Texas Leagues are responding magnificiently, as we knew they would.

Mrs. Gill met with the Dallas League and Mrs. Bradner on Thursday July 22. Mrs Gill has reported that the Dallas League will recruit the necessary number of individuals to reach more than their quota of the \$,600,000 people the League intends to reach. Reports from Miss Daniels assure us that the Dallas League is well on its way.

Mrs. Bradner says, "The day I spent in Dallas was good for my soul whether it helped the League or not. --anytime spent with Mrs. Gill is valuable." It was good for the League too for Mrs. Bradner is laying the foundation for a permanent League in Ft. Worth.

Miss Daniels took the mobilization plan to Midland Saturday, July 24. She says "so far as I am concerned the trip to Midland was a huge success. If the results are proportionate to my own enjoyment of the contact Isolationism is scotched in West Texas." Mrs. Fuhrman reports that Miss Daniel's visit was thoroly enjoyed by the Midland League. She reports a reorder of the Prelude to Peace Broadside--900 this time. 1000 broadsides for Midland to send on their way to the people. She also reports an order of 500 Choose Your Foreign Policy "We plan a downtown general distribution."

On Monday and Tuesday July 26,27, representatives from the Austin, San Antonio, Houston, La Marque and Galveston Leagues met in Austin with Mrs. Gill. Mrs. Holbrook, President of the Austin League made arrangements for an air-conditioned meeting place, for overnight hospitality and the Austin League entertained the group with dinner at Mrs. Hill's home.

A report from Mrs. Scott of San Antonio is ample evidence of the success of those meetings. "Called a special board meeting this a.m. Agenda: Presentation of campaign plan, Its adpption, Groundwork for organization. Very successful and enthusiastic meeting. Vote 100% in favor--All assumed responsibility toward organization to go forward at once. Donations of money-- I can now ask you to order 5,000 quizzes for me." 5,000 quizzes for the San Antonio League--Will the larger Leagues accept the challenge as well as San Antonio has?

Friday, August 6, Mrs. Gill will meet with the Houston League.

Wednesday, August 11, Mrs. Platt and Mrs. Gill will meet with the Port Arthur League. Galveston and La Marque will have Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Platt later.

We will continue to keep you posted!

*File*

January 12, 1944

Dear Board Members:

These proposed By-Laws are submitted after a study of the latest recommendations from the National office, and a perusal of those of the Illinois and Connecticut Leagues. These two did not seem to fit our needs, but I did get a few suggestions from them.

Most of the subject matter covered in our present By-Laws is included here excepting those sections which are out of date and those dealing with affiliation standards. It seems to me that the latter should be re-written and appended to the list of affiliation standards we now have if they are not already included. The matter of pledges from local Leagues to the State League belong under affiliation requirements it seems to me, and that is why it is omitted from these By-Laws. Also a pledge from the State to National is omitted because the National By-Laws require it for affiliation.

Here are a few points I want to raise for you to be thinking about:

1. Should the affiliation requirements be included in these By-Laws or be in a separate document as I have recommended?
2. The staggered election system is recommended by National and I think it is better than having too big a turn-over each two years. How does it strike you?
3. Please give particular attention to the section on nominations. I do not like it. National has always, since I can remember, recommended that the nominating committee be chosen by the Board. That seems to me undemocratic and could work out for the perpetuation of the same people or faction in office. The most severe criticism I have ever heard of the Houston League by outsiders was on this point, so we have now changed our By-Laws so that two members of the nominating committee are chosen from and by the Board, and three from and by the general membership. I think also that a five member committee is clumsy and three is better. If we wish to change this and still permit the Board to choose the committee, we could specify that one member should be from the Board and act as chairman and the other two members be selected from the general membership. That does not do away with the above objection entirely, but helps. If you have a better solution, come prepared to offer it.
4. Now that we have three directors, could we get along with two vice presidents instead of three?
5. Some of the larger Leagues limit their officers to not more than two successive terms in the same office. A frequent turn-over in personnel is democratic and gives new life to an organization in some instances and as a general rule, but I question whether we are big enough to make such a requirement yet.

6. Some Leagues do not enumerate the duties of officers. In that case the By-Laws say "The duties of the officers shall be those usually pertaining to such officers." Remembering some of the past history of the Texas League, it seems to me desirable to leave these in.

It will save much time in our Board meeting if each of you will take time at home to study carefully these proposed By-Laws as outlined here, and come prepared with well thought out criticisms and suggestions. Let's try to get them as nearly adequate and satisfactory as possible this time, so we wont have to bother with changes for a long time to come. And be sure to BRING THE ENCLOSED COPIES WITH YOU, as well as copies of the present By-Laws, if you have them.

/s/ Jessie C. McCollum

Revisions Chairman.

*mailed Board members + National Office 1/12/44*

*File*

January 5, 1944

Memorandum to the Board of Directors

From Novella Calvin

The Year 1944 is unrolling its days. May we help make this a better year than it otherwise might be for the world and for you.

The next Board meeting will be held January 19, 20. Our tentative dates were the 12, 13. For several reasons it seems necessary to have the meeting a week later. I trust this will not inconvenience any member of the Board.

Wednesday, January 19, the first session will start promptly at 2 p.m. in the Houston League office. The Thursday afternoon meeting will adjourn at 4 p.m. Please make arrangements for your overnight accommodations.

A bird's eye view of League organization work--

In November the Ft. Worth group was organized as the Tarrant County League with 41 charter members. Acting upon your instructions the League was accepted as a member of the Texas League when the affiliation standards were met. Mrs. Bradner deserves our sincere appreciation for the splendid results she has accomplished in Ft. Worth.

Mrs. Wooten, Dean of Women at TSCW, has requested that we organize a TSCW Campus League. I held out for the organization of a town as well as Campus League until I realized the futility of it. Mrs. Bradner will organize the TSCW Campus League, January 12. Miss Daniels made a pre-organization trip to Denton. I sincerely hope this will serve as an entering wedge for a town League.

Mrs. Strong has been to San Antonio on a field trip. (Mrs. Smith has written that it was fine for San Antonio to have Mrs. Strong). With Mrs. Scott's help she made an effort to follow through on a contact with a prospect in Schertz. We now know that Schertz is out of the picture.

I have continued contacts in San Angelo. As yet organization is not in sight. The prospects in Tempel seemed excellent but they have fizzled completely. "As soon as the war is over, we will be interested in organization." Mrs. Gill is continuing her contacts in Orange. Mrs. McCollough is just about ready to organize a League in Texas City, an outgrowth of the squad group she has there.

*Copy to National League*

mailed 2/1/43 Board only  
and nat'l L

February 1, 1944

Memorandum to Board of Directors  
From Novella Calvin

Miss Wells wishes me to inform you that she will present the Texas League Board's recommendation to the National Board at the special meeting to be held this month.

She gives us a lift by saying, "Texas is a great state and the Texas League is a fine League."

mailed 2/9/44

File

February 9, 1944

Memorandum to Board Members  
From Novella Calvin

The March Board Meeting will be held,  
Wednesday and Thursday, the 29 and 30  
in Houston. Check your calendar and hold  
those dates for the Texas League of Women  
Voters.

File

March 8, 1944

Memorandum to Board of Directors

From Novella Calvin

From time to time members of the Board have expressed the desire for closer contact with the League presidents and for more information about the functioning of the Leagues.

The March Board meeting seems an ideal time for us to have a joint meeting of the Board and the 1944-45 League presidents elect. I propose that the State League finance the travel expenses of the presidents to this meeting. There is money available in the "League Promotion Travel Fund." Unless we receive a majority vote by the Board against this plan by March 15, League presidents elect will be sent invitations to meet with the Board March 29, 30.

Every local League in Texas has had at least one state visitor this year. Three new Leagues have been organized. (Texas City is our third.) There has been one meeting of the 1943 presidents of local Leagues which was financed by the State League. A joint meeting of the State Board and the 1944-45 presidents elect will round out a successful year of service to local Leagues by the State League and will give us momentum and enthusiasm to enter the new League year April 1.

The March 29, 30 Board meeting has been called to plan for the State Convention, to discuss 1944-45 State budget and program of work, to adopt affiliation standards for College Leagues, to appoint delegates to the National Convention, to discuss National League proposed program, and proposed By-Laws.

March 14, 1944

Memorandum to Board of Directors

From Novella Calvin

Today I am sending you a copy of the National By-Laws with the proposed revisions. All of you will be interested to check them carefully to see how many of the recommendations made by the Texas Board to the National Board are incorporated in them.

March 29, 30 we will have full discussion of the proposed changes. If you will read the proposals several times before that time, we will be able to use our time to better advantage.

Texas City Mrs. McCollough is ready to present the Texas League with a new local League. Pre-organization and organization meetings have been held in Texas City. At the March Board meeting you will receive a request for affiliation by the Texas City group. The last information I had, 19 women had signified a desire to be active members. The group voted to have a \$3 minimum due with the understanding that every member receive a subscription to TRENDS. For a new group to recognize that it will do a better job by having all of its members exposed to TRENDS seems significant to me.

Board Meeting---- Date, March 29-30; Place, Houston League Office, YWCA Building, Houston; Time, Wednesday 2p.m. to Thursday 4 p.m. Yes, you may take a few hours for sleeping. Please make arrangements for doing it. Tomorrow invitations to meet with us will be mailed to the League presidents.

To National office  
From Texas League

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# TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

21st AND AVENUE G

GALVESTON, TEXAS



Affiliated with the  
National League of Women Voters

## MEMORANDUM TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From Novella Calvin

May 5, 1944

The National Convention decided to recommit the proposed by-laws with the exception of the sections dealing with six directors, on annual convention, and eliminating the departmental structure. The proposed change in structure re state leagues was not debated.

I am setting the wheels in motion for the State Convention.

Do you approve of the first or second week in June for the convention? I am suggesting Austin for the convention city. Do you approve?

The pre-convention board meeting will be held the day before the convention.

Mrs. Joseph Perry, 3230 South Western Avenue, Dallas; Chairman of the State Nominating Committee will expect and welcome suggestions from you.

File  
Copies of this sent to Messrs. Gill, Bradner, Dodge, Adkins,  
McCollum, Meadows & Calvin & Sarah Daniels, since  
they were the ones mentioned in the clipping enclosed by Mr.  
Overturf.  
E. J. B.

July 31, 1944

TO: ~~State Board members~~ Elected state directors and officers  
FROM: Elizabeth F. Brownscombe  
RE: Free subscription offer to National Union Farmer

I have received the following letter from Frank Overturf,  
of Amarillo, state Secretary of the Farmers' Educational and Co-  
operative Union of America (commonly known as the Farmers Union).

"I notice the report of your election as President of the  
Texas League of Women Voters, together with the list of your other  
officers.

"Texas is so largely agricultural that four hundred eighteen  
thousand families live on farms either as owners, tenants, share-  
croppers or wage earners. Their plight is pitiful in many parts  
of the state. It seems to me that you and your staff of officers  
in Texas would like to know more of the problems agriculture is  
facing in America at this critical time. If you would send me the  
addresses of the names as listed in the enclosed clipping we will  
be glad to send them the National Union Farmer for one year free of  
any cost to them."

In reply to this I sent the following:

"Speaking for myself, I would be pleased to receive the Nat-  
ional Union Farmer, as mentioned in your letter of July 11th. I am  
sending copies of your letter to each of the other members of the  
Board of the Texas League of Women Voters, that they may contact  
you directly if they also would care to receive the paper. And I  
am also enclosing herewith the newspaper clipping which you sent me,  
listing the Texas League officers and directors.

"The national organization of the Farmers Union has, I believe,  
been an active supporter before Congress of anti-inflation measures  
such as consumer subsidies and real price control. The position of  
the National League of Women Voters on these questions has been sim-  
ilar, and the state and local leagues, in May and June, waged a vig-  
orous campaign to secure passage, without amendment, of the bill to  
extend price control.

"In addition to taking action, as requested by the National  
League, on items on our national program, the Texas League of Women  
Voters has a program of state work which, for the next two years,  
consists of the two items: (1) support of a secret ballot law in  
the next legislature; and (2) support of a resolution to create a  
joint legislative committee to revise Texas election laws, giving  
consideration in this connection to the advisability of lowering the  
voting age to 18 years. Our method is to concentrate on one or two  
items--when we have achieved our objective with them, we pass on to  
others. As a state League, our concern at present is primarily with

July 31, 1944

good government--with fundamentals like the secret ballot, for instance, which is basic to true democracy, to the voters expressing their will freely and effectively.

"Thanking you for your kind offer, I am"- "

It seems to me that it is proper to accept Mr. Overturf's generous offer, since the League itself sends material to non-members and since in my letter I was careful to explain the scope of our state program, so that there could be no thought that we could, as an organization, actively work for any measures in the legislature other than the secret ballot and the joint committee to revise the election laws. I feel myself that acceptance of his offer can be advantageous to the League, since our knowledge will be increased by hearing a point of view on farm problems which is seldom presented in the newspapers and since it will give us a contact with this group. Such a contact might sometime be helpful if we organize local leagues in the Panhandle counties, and, more immediately, it could be helpful in acquainting rural legislators with the desirability of the secret ballot and joint committee. (W. O. Reed, Dallas County legislator who was active in behalf of the secret ballot during the last session, tells us that the legislators from urban counties are mostly for the secret ballot, but that the rural county legislators are the stumbling block.)

In order to get an idea of the organization I talked to a Farmers Union member. It is the liberal, progressive farmers' organization and is organized in many states. Texas is the state in which the National Farmers Union was first founded, about 1890. Afterwards the organization became inactive here, but it has recently become active again and is now organized in the Panhandle counties and somewhat in East Texas. Its membership includes people who are noteworthy in other lines in addition to farming, as Dr. W. T. Ellis, of the Univ. of Texas and the Hogg Foundation, and Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham. The state officers are: Mike Britten Jr., Groom, President; John Rice, Munday, Vice-president; Frank Overturf, Amarillo, Secretary; and five directors--Leon Rice, Ropesville; Andrew Peterson, Canadian; W. W. Heckathorn, Childress; A. L. Carter, Perryton; and August Loran, Munday. The National president is James G. Patton, of Denver, Colo. The other national officers are from Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Arkansas, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Ohio.

Mr. Overturf's address is: Box No. 1445, Amarillo, Texas.

If you write Mr. Overturf, I would suggest referring to my letter of July 27 to him and his letter of July 11 to me, and signing your letter with your state league title, as an aid to identification.

File  
August 15, 1944

Dear State Board Member:

Good news! Beginning today the state League has an office in downtown Dallas. Our new address is:

Texas League of Women Voters,  
1209½ Main Street, Room 6,  
Dallas 2, Texas

The office is large--10' x 25'--and in a very accessible location close to the center of the business district. It is, tho, on the second floor of an old two-story building, and it is definitely unpretentious. However, it is so much better than I expected to find at our price in war-crowded Dallas that I am quite thrilled about it.

The room was the campaign headquarters of an unsuccessful candidate in the July 22nd primary, but I trust no taint of partisanship, or of unsuccess either, will accrue to us from the former occupant!

The Dallas League will share the office with the state League and is making plans to staff it on the days when I'll not be there. They are also collecting furniture and may later supply a desk and an honest-to-goodness filing cabinet. The present plan is to have office hours five mornings a week from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M., and I will be there at least two of those days. Until we can have longer office hours, however, anything requiring really prompt action had better be sent to me at my home address: 1420 El Campo Drive, Dallas 18.

The rent is \$17.50 per month, including light, gas and water, and telephone service is \$10.00 per month (including amortization over a 10-month period of the \$3.50 telephone connection charge), making a total of \$27.50. This amount is \$3.50 per month more than the budgeted allotment for rent until next June 15, (\$240, total budget rent allowance, divided by 10 = \$24 monthly rent allowance). We will thus overspend our rent allotment by \$35.00 in the ten months ending next June 15. However, I do not feel this to be serious, since the \$100 budgeted amount for telephone and telegraph expense should take care of this overcharge.

When you are in Dallas please be sure to visit the new state office!

Cordially,

President

1209½ Main St., Room 6

Dallas 2, Texas

September 30, 1944

Dear State Board Member:

As planned last June, the autumn meeting of the Board of the Texas League of Women Voters will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, October 11 and 12, at the Texas State hotel, Fannin Street at Rusk Avenue, Houston. A meeting room on the mezzanine has been reserved for our use, and Board sessions are scheduled for the following times:

Wednesday, October 11: 2:00 P. M. to 6:00 P. M.

Thursday, October 12: 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M.

This is an exceedingly important Board meeting, for on the agenda are items such as the appointment of Legislative chairman and Publicity chairman and the detailed planning of the campaigns for the secret ballot and for the revision of Texas election laws. I will send a complete agenda next week. But in the meantime, please plan to save Wednesday and Thursday, October 11 and 12, for the Texas League of Women Voters.

Yours,

President

October 10, 1944

TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

TO STATE BOARD MEMBERS:

I went to Austin last Friday (October 6) to see Mr. Dean Morehead of the Attorney General's office and Dr. Douglas Weeks of the Department of Government of the University of Texas, in order to get information which would help us plan, at this Board meeting, the campaigns in support of our two items on the state program of work-- a secret ballot bill and a joint legislative committee to revise the Texas election laws. Information I received there, especially from Mr. Morehead, showed me that the Texas League is confronted with a big problem, unprecedented as far as I know, and at this Board meeting we have really weighty decisions to make.

Mr. Morehead told me that already there has been a bill drafted to evade the U. S. Supreme Court decision regarding negroes voting by removing state controls over the activity of political parties and making political parties private organizations. The Southern Governors' Association has pushed this; resolutions passed by the Democratic state convention in Dallas on September 12 and 13 were in accord; the attorney generals' association of the southern states asked our attorney general's office to help in drafting the bill, but the reply was that since the object was to take the state out of party affairs it seemed inconsistent to have a state office help draft the bill which would do this. Excellent private legal talent has been employed to draft this bill, it will be introduced immediately when the legislature convenes, and Mr. Morehead is sure it will quickly pass the legislature. From the tone of newspaper comment over the state, I think that we too can be pretty sure it will pass.

Immediately this, of course, brought up thoughts as to the possibility of the legislature passing our item--a joint committee to work between this session of the legislature and the next to revise the election laws. Mr. Morehead said, and I quite agree with him, that there is little possibility of the passage of two bills regarding election law revision--with this first measure passed, legislators will figure that they have done their duty by revision and will go on to other matters.

That would be bad enough from the point of view of achieving success with our item on revision, but as one thinks further about this situation even worse consequences appear. If the revision bill which passes calls for removing parties from state control, the state will not be regulating any except the general elections--the conduct of primary elections will be a matter of party rules rather than of laws passed by the legislature, so revision of election laws by the legislature would seem to be a dead issue. Furthermore, the same reasoning applies to the secret ballot--a secret ballot bill passed by the legislature would be of use only in the general elections if the conduct of primary elections is removed from state control.

Several courses of action are open to us.

1. We can continue to work on the secret ballot and election law revision just as we had planned and as the State Convention of last June intended us to, in the hope that the conduct of primary elections will not be removed from state control or in the belief that even if it is, a secret ballot and election law revision which apply only to the general elections are worthy of our very best efforts in a concentrated legislative campaign. We might do this feeling that the U. S. Supreme Court will soon declare unconstitutional the attempt to evade its decision and that then Texas would have to return to state control of elections and the secret ballot and our election law revision proposals would, if they have been passed, be applicable to all elections, as they are meant to be. However, in view of the long time it usually takes to get a decision from the Supreme Court and in view of the fund of ingenuity which is evidently at hand in the South for evading Supreme Court decisions about negroes voting, so that another Supreme Court decision may well be met by further legal evasion and that process continued indefinitely--in view of all this, I think it would be decidedly unrealistic for the Texas League of Women Voters to go ahead with the program of work just as we would if there were no proposal to remove state control of primary elections. I think we would find it difficult indeed to arouse enthusiasm among League members for hard work on bills which, if passed, would affect only general elections, in a state where the primary is of much greater importance.

2. A second course of action suggests itself. We would not work on the secret ballot, feeling that present circumstances make the item a dead issue and that our time can be much better spent on the election law revision item of our program. Our work for the latter would be two-edged--it would include work for the passage of our proposal and work against the bill to remove state control of primaries. Our item calls for carefully thought out revision--the joint committee recommending revisions would be working for two years--and we are therefore justified in opposing hasty revision by this coming legislature. We can continually emphasize the need for revision which is the result of long and careful consideration, as against revision which is hasty. But we do not necessarily need to stop there.

3. We can, in addition, oppose hasty revision on the grounds of the principles involved--the principle of the direct primary, for instance. This would not be a new field for the League of Women Voters, for the 1940 National program of work included "strengthening of representative government through...direct nomination of candidates for office", and the present platform of the National declares "authority in a democratic government comes from the people...legal obstacles which keep the citizen from fulfilling his obligations should be removed". I realize that the State Convention did not authorize us to defend the direct primary and state control of elections, but they did authorize working for a two-year study by the legislature of election law revision. Sometimes the most important part of working for a measure is working against another measure, and work can usually be much more effective if we realize that we

are fighting for some of the basic principles underlying representative government as well as fighting against being hasty in revising very complex procedures such as the election laws.

Let us imagine what life would be like for the League of Women Voters if state control of primaries were removed. Two members of the Department of Government of the University of Texas, with whom I talked, said they did not see how it would be feasible to hold primaries if the state was not in control. It would, at any rate, be so impracticable that we would probably have the convention system of nomination, the evils of which became so great that around 1900 the country was swept by a wave of abolition of convention nominating. If the convention system were to return, the League of Women Voters would have to deal with party executive committees for any improvement of elections regulations, and the fight would be never ending, for even if we did persuade the executive committee at one time to adopt a secret ballot, for instance, rules would be much more subject to change than they now are and we could very well find ourselves the next year with the secret ballot rescinded and all our work to do over again. We find it hard enough to deal with legislators, but they at least represent the whole state, while executive committees represent only the few influential people in their political party. We regret that only 30 to 40% of our potential voters select our county officials, but the percentage would be a great deal smaller if party conventions nominated them. As the number of voters who elect an official decreases, he feels less responsibility to the citizenry as a whole, and the difficulty of the League's task in pressing for governmental improvements of any sort is greatly augmented.

4. I have mentioned that we could conduct our campaign against hasty revision of the election laws on a basis of principle and suggested support of the direct primary as an example. Of course another very important principle is involved and one which is on the National's Active List for 1944-45, namely: "...protection of minority groups against discrimination". So a further course of action is open to us--opposing hasty revision of the election laws because the intent of such revision is to discriminate against negroes by preventing them from voting in the Democratic primary.

5. If we believe that we have the time, energy and personnel, we can enlarge the second, third and fourth plans mentioned above to include work on the secret ballot, so that if state control of primaries is retained we will be in position to secure enactment of our secret ballot bill as well as of our proposal for election law revision.

Summarizing, in the difficult situation for the League which is created by the virtual certainty of the legislature passing a bill to remove state regulation of primary elections, we have several courses of action open to us, of which the following are samples:

(1) Continue working for the secret ballot and our item on election law revision as if nothing had happened.

(2) Suspend for the time being work on the secret ballot

and concentrate our legislative activity on working against the hasty revision which is proposed, simply because it is hasty and ill considered and because our item calls for long and careful study before attempting revision.

(3) To #2, add opposition to hasty revision on the basis of a very important principle involved--the direct primary.

(4) To #2, or #3, add opposition to hasty revision because the intent of this revision violates the National's Active List item of "protection of minority groups against discrimination".

(5) Enlarge #2, 3 or 4 to include work for the secret ballot.

About this whole matter, the Austin League recommends as follows:

"It has become apparent that one of the first measures that will be presented at the coming legislature will be a revision of Texas election law that will have the effect of taking control of party primary elections away from state law. The implications of this step are numerous and intricate. Here are a few:

"1. No secret ballot bill would have any effect whatever because the legislature could not control the one important election in Texas.

"2. The whole regulation of primary voting procedure, including settling fraudulent and contested elections would fall back on the party.

"3. A more comprehensive Revision of Election laws designed to strengthen election procedure against fraud, unify laws, adapt reform measures, etc. would be impossible, because the state would have no control over the one important election anyway.

"The Austin League believes such a step is not only away from good government, but is a direct violation of our program item demanding a considered, carefully thought-out two year study resulting in a comprehensive revision. Now it would still be possible for the League to disregard the profound implications of the step contemplated, i.e., taking control of primary elections away from state statutes. In this case, the League would disregard that step, take no stand on it, and continue to hammer away for a secret ballot bill, voluntarily blinding itself to the fact that it was working for a ghost.

"The Austin League urges that some way be found for the League to work for the real meaning and substance of an election law reform; that the League be free to work in the Legislature for something real and fundamental, rather than be bound by strict interpretation of phrases to ignoring a vital issue while it works for a ghost. In other words, we want to fight a hasty and ill-considered move to take the primary out of state law, so that we will then be free to work for a real revision and a real secret ballot."

PROPOSED BY-LAWS  
of the  
TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Texas League of Women Voters. It shall be affiliated with the National League of Women Voters.

ARTICLE II

Object and Policy

Section 1. Object. The object of the Texas League of Women Voters shall be to promote political education thru active participation of citizens in government.

(Alternative - to develop an intelligent and active electorate.)

Section 2. Policy. The Texas League of Women Voters shall not ally itself with nor support any political party, but it may indorse and sponsor measures and policies. It urges every women to become a qualified voter.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Membership. The membership of the Texas League of Women Voters shall consist of members of affiliated local Leagues, of which there may be but one in each city or town, and members-at-large.

Section 2. Eligibility. Any women over twenty years of age who subscribes to the object and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

(This is recommended by National, but I feel it belongs in local By-Laws rather than here, and I recommend its omission.)

Section 3. Members-at-Large. Any women over twenty years of age living in a community where there is no organized League of Women Voters may become a member-at-large of the Texas League by subscribing to its purpose and policy and by paying to the State treasurer annual dues of two dollars.

Section 4. Affiliation of Local Leagues. The State Board of Directors shall set up and maintain affiliation standards, and shall be responsible for the recognition of new local Leagues. The Board, by a three fourths vote, may withdraw recognition from any local League for failure to meet the conditions of affiliation, for the non-payment of its pledge, or for the commission of acts contrary to the declared object, policy, or program of the Texas League, provided that a hearing has been granted to the president and delegates of such local League.

ARTICLE IV  
Officers and Directors

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Texas League shall be a president, three vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, all elected for a term of two years. The president, secretary, and second vice president shall be elected in the even numbered years; the first and third vice presidents and treasurer in the odd numbered years.

Section 2. Directors. There shall be three directors, elected for a term of two years, one of whom shall be elected in the even numbered years, and two in the odd numbered years.

Section 3. For the purpose of inaugurating this staggered election system, all officers and directors shall be elected at the 1944 State Convention. The president, secretary, second vice president and one director shall be elected for a term of two years; the first and third vice presidents, treasurer and two directors for a one year term only. At the 1945 Convention the last named will be elected for two year terms, as prescribed in Sections 1 and 2.

(This section can be eliminated from the By-Laws after the 1945 Convention.)

ARTICLE V  
Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition and Authority. The officers, directors, and chairmen of standing committees shall constitute a Board of Directors which shall transact the general business of the League between conventions.

Section 2. Committees. The Board of Directors shall designate chairmen of whatever standing committees may be necessary to carry on the work of the League.

Section 3. Meetings. The Board shall hold at least four regular meetings annually, including a pre-convention and post-convention meeting. Special meetings may be called by the president or by a majority of the Board.

Section 4. Quorum. Members present shall constitute a quorum provided all members are notified in writing one week prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Duty of Members. It shall be the duty of members of the Board of Directors to attend all meetings of the Board. Failure to attend a majority of the meetings in the first year of tenure shall create a vacancy in that office.

Section 6. Vacancies. The Board shall have power to fill all vacancies which occur between conventions.

Section 7. Executive Committee. The officers of the Board shall constitute an executive committee to transact urgent business in the interim of Board meetings, provided that nothing shall be done contrary to the policy adopted at the annual convention nor to any action of the Board. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI  
Finance

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be from April 1 thru March 31.

Section 2. Budget. The Board shall submit to the annual convention for adoption a budget for the ensuing year, including recommendations for financing the League.

(The last clause can be omitted if we are going to depend upon pledges from the local Leagues exclusively.)

Section 3. Treasurer. The treasurer shall make a detailed report to the Board of Directors at all regular meetings, and an annual report to the convention.

Section 4. Audit. The books and records of the treasurer shall be audited by a public accountant previous to the annual convention.

ARTICLE VII  
Program

Section 1. A State Program of Work shall be adopted at the convention as a two year program, with any necessary modifications permitted in alternate years. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for preparing a proposed program and shall submit it to the local Leagues prior to the convention.

Section 2. The convention by a two thirds vote may order the consideration of new matter for the program of work which is not included in the proposed program as submitted by the Board of Directors. Adoption of such proposed new matter shall require a two thirds vote, which shall not be taken on the same day the new matter is presented.

ARTICLE VIII  
Convention

Section 1. Place and Date. There shall be an annual convention held between May 1 and June 31, the exact date and place to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Representation. Members of the Board of Directors, and local League presidents or their alternates, shall be delegates and shall each have one vote. Local Leagues may have one additional delegate for each ten members (in good standing).

Section 3. Duties. The convention shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, adopt a program of work, approve affiliation standards as prescribed by the Board, elect officers, and transact any other business that may be deemed necessary.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of accredited delegates, or alternates, present and voting, shall constitute a quorum to transact convention business.

Section 5. National Conventions and General Council. Delegates and alternates to conventions and meetings of the General Council of the

National League of Women Voters shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The president shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur in the delegation.

ARTICLE IX  
Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations. There shall be a nominating committee of five members, two from the Board, one of whom shall be chairman, and three from local membership, elected by the Board of Directors at least four months before each convention. Immediately thereafter the State Secretary shall send the name and address of these members to Board members and to local League presidents soliciting suggestions for nominees for the offices to be filled, such suggestions to be sent to the chairman of the nominating committee not later than sixty days before convention. Names of nominees selected by the Committee, one for each office, shall be reported to the Convention one day before the election. Additional names for each office may be presented from the floor when consent of nominees has been obtained.

Section 2. Election. Elections shall be by ballot. When there is but one nominee for any office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for the Convention.

ARTICLE X  
Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. She shall preside at all meetings and perform such other duties as regularly pertain to the office. She shall be empowered to call one or more meetings annually of local League presidents, such an assembly to be known as the Presidents' Council.

Section 2. The Vice Presidents in the order of their rank, shall, in the absence, disability or death of the president assume all the duties of that office for the unexpired term. They shall perform such other duties as the president or the Board shall designate.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Convention, the Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, in permanent books provided for that purpose, in which shall also be kept a copy of the current By-Laws, the Affiliation Standards, and Standing Rules. She shall perform all other duties incident to her office, and deliver to her successor within one month after the annual convention all organization records and property in her possession.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all funds of the organization; shall deposit them in a bank approved by the Board, and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board or president, or in accordance with the adopted budget. She shall keep a full and accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and deliver to her successor within one month after the annual convention all records and property in her possession.

ARTICLE XI  
Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds vote of those present and voting at any convention, such amendments having been approved by the board and notice of the subject matter having been given to the affiliated local Leagues at least thirty days in advance.

ARTICLE XII  
Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern the organization when not in conflict with these By-Laws.

Memo To Bulletin Chairman :

From Mrs. James W. Bradner, Jr.  
2nd Vice-President  
Acting for the President

Members of the National Board and of the Texas Board would like to receive your bulletins. It is an easy and pleasant way to know what is going on in each local League. If you can afford it, please send the bulletins direct, otherwise send as many copies as you can spare to both offices.

League mailing lists are confidential.

The NLWV want seven copies sent to the office and one each to the Board members listed :

National Board :

Mrs. Marc A. Law, 27 W. Linden Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois  
Mrs. John G. Lee, Old Mountain Road, Farmington, Connecticut  
Mrs. Daniel E. Earley, 5956 Belmont Ave., Cincinnati 24, Ohio  
Mrs. W.H. Peterson, 304 Princeton Ave., Madison, Wisconsin  
Mrs. Harold D. Dyke, 204 Robineau Road, Syracuse 4, New York  
Mrs. George H. Engels, 333 Marion Ave., Mill Valley, California  
Mrs. Charles E. Heming, 1010 5th Ave., New York City 16, N.Y.  
Mrs. Tom Ragland, 1525 Riverview Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Mrs. Maurice A. Pollak, 605 Bronson Lane, Highland Park, Illinois

Texas Board :

Mrs. E.R. Brownscombe, 1420 El Campo Drive, Dallas 13, Texas  
Mrs. G.H. Gill, Lamarque, Texas  
Mrs. J.W. Bradner, Jr., 420 Crestwood Drive, Fort Worth 7, Texas  
Mrs. Fred P. Dodge, 2625 Lake Shore, Port Arthur, Texas  
Mrs. L.L. Adkins, 6113 Fordham, Houston 5, Texas  
Mrs. Burton McCollum, 2949 Chevy Chase Dr. Houston 6, Texas  
Miss Sarah Daniels, 3902 Windsor Ave. Dallas 5, Texas P.O. Box 3131  
Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin, 1516 Avenue H, Galveston, Texas  
Mrs. John K. Meadows, 904 Garner, Austin 22, Texas  
Mrs. Elwood Street, 3115 Reba Drive, Houston, 6, Texas  
Mrs. Wm. Brockhausen, R.2 Box 366 F, San Antonio 1, Texas

Local Presidents :

Mrs. Donald S. Strong, 3006 Lafayette, Austin 22, Texas  
Mrs. H.A. Trexler, 3509 Purdue, Dallas 5, Texas  
Mrs. ~~Donald~~ David B. Trammell, 3903 Monticello Dr. Fort Worth 7 Tex  
Mrs. Raymond Gregory, 1419 24th St., Galveston, Texas  
Mrs. A. Ferd Morris, 1934 Addison Rd., Houston 5, Texas  
Mrs. Chas. Blair, Lamarque, Texas  
Mrs. John J. Redfern Jr., Box 921, Midland, Texas  
Mrs. Fred P. Dodge, 2625 Lake Shore Dr., Port Arthur, Texas  
Mrs. James Carney, 524 Nashville, Port Arthur, Texas  
Mrs. Geo. H. Smith, 210 E. Carson St., San Antonio 3, Texas  
Mrs. J.H. McCullough, 302 Second St. N., Texas City, Texas  
Miss Christine Roebuck, Box 3616, TSCW, Denton, Texas  
Miss Kathy Bland, 2613 Wichita, Austin, Texas

February 3, 1945

Dear State Board member:

In two separate packages I have mailed you the following material from the National League. In one package:

1. "Your Part in a Discussion"
2. "Suggestions for Seizing Our Second Chance"
3. Complete set of United Nations campaign plans

In the other package:

1. Copies of Miss Strauss' letters to local and state presidents, with enclosures, dated October 20, December 4, December 5 and December 20, 1944, and January 19 and 24, 1945. (Under the letter service recently established by the National Board we are now receiving automatically 15 copies of all of Miss Strauss' letters to local and state presidents, for distribution among our state board members. This is a splendid innovation, I think.)
2. Proposed By-laws of the National League of Women Voters. (Because there will be no National convention this year the deadline on recommendations regarding the by-laws has been extended to June 1st. I suggest that we all ponder these by-laws changes and each of us send in her own recommendations, which will supplement Augusta Street's excellent report which was presented to the Board meeting last week. Also, please tell your local league of the change in deadline and get them to consider these by-laws carefully and send in their recommendations. If they favor increased direct contact between National and local leagues they should give special consideration to plans for financing it. Additional copies of the proposed by-laws can be obtained from Miss Jean E. Benton at the National League office, and apparently are free. Mrs. G. H. Gill, LaMarque, has a few extra copies of the by-laws which are available if requested.
3. National League Board of Directors, Jan. 1945
4. Mailing list for local bulletins, Jan. 1945. (Can you see to it that your local league sends its bulletins as requested on this sheet? It is ideal if 17 copies can be sent, but fewer than that would also be very acceptable. And the state office would always like a copy for its files too.

I was very much impressed by Miss Strauss' letters and the enclosures. They give a beautifully connected picture of National League thinking and planning for the United Nations organization campaign and contain many ideas for little jobs which we can all do, such as clipping and sending to the National League office favorable newspaper statements --editorials, "columns", letters to editors, etc.--on congressional re-organization, abolishing two-thirds treaty ratification, Bretton Woods

*File  
a copy of Feb. 1945  
broadside "Power Politics"  
encl. with this to each Bd member E.F.B.*

February 3, 1945

agreement and other phases of the United Nations campaign.

Miss Strauss' letter of January 24th is a REQUEST FOR ACTION on two-thirds Senate treaty ratification. This letter went direct from the National to all local league presidents. We should all see that this request for action is heeded in our local league. Requests for action will probably be coming quite frequently now, and they will always go direct to local leagues from the National, so will each of you please undertake the continuing responsibility of seeing that your local league acts on these requests.

Mrs. Gill has one or two extra copies of the letters from Miss Strauss of October 20, December 5, December 20, January 19 and January 24. Altho National sends us these additional copies for distribution to state board members only, I am sure there would be no objection to extra copies being disposed of outside the Board if they would fill a real need. I think that the United Nations campaign chairman of a local league, for instance, might be greatly helped by these letters. Requests should be sent to Mrs. Gill at LaMarque.

In accordance with Board action last week I have written local league presidents that Mrs. Gill will be United Nations Campaign chairman for the state league. I have also turned over to her our surplus supply of the National's publications and have notified the National to send future orders direct to LaMarque for distribution from there rather than from the state office. In order not to break the arduously created habit of having local leagues apply to the state office for any help from the state league, I will not notify local leagues of the above change in distribution methods for National publications. Requests for material from local leagues will be turned over to Mrs. Gill, but as there are not likely to be many of them I hope that we can preserve our hard-won advantage of centralization of requests to the state league in the state league office while at the same time enjoying the advantage of decentralization.

Will the State Convention committee--Mrs. Adkins and Mrs. Brockhausen--please hold off on making any arrangements for awhile, until I can get further information regarding the probable adjournment date of the Legislature. Mr. Markle is sure that the Legislature cannot adjourn before June 15th, but I want to get other opinions, for, as discussed in the Board meeting last week, successful timing of our state league convention depends a great deal upon the Legislature's adjournment date, yet we all agreed that a June convention is in most respects less preferable than a May convention.

Yours,

*Elizabeth B.*

President

Sent to all State Bd + State Legislative Comm. members, also to local presidents + local legislators.

2/15/45

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LEAGUE SECRET BALLOT BILL AND REPRESENTATIVE SMITH'S SECRET BALLOT BILL

- | <u>1</u> | <u>League Bill</u>  | <u>Smith Bill</u>   |
|----------|---|---|
|          | <u>H.B. 36 and S.B. 48</u>  | <u>H.B. 140</u>   |
| 1.       | For general election ballots, perforate a stub 1/2" x 3" in size, in the upper right hand corner of the ballot; and for primary election ballots, perforate a stub 1/2" deep for the whole width of the ballot. | 1. For all elections, divide the ballot into two sections by means of perforations. The perforations are to extend the whole width of the ballot, but their distance from the top edge of the ballot is not specified.  |
| 2.       | On the back of the perforated stub, number the ballots consecutively, beginning with No. 1 for each precinct.   | 2. On the top section (exact location not specified) number the ballots consecutively, beginning with No. 1 for each precinct.  |
| 3.       | The serial number is the only mark appearing on the perforated stub.  | 3. The top section of the ballot shall contain a place for the signature, address and voting precinct of the voter, together with a certification of eligibility to vote. Instructions regarding marking the ballot shall also be printed on the top section. |
| 4.       | The presiding election judge signs the back of the ballot only once.  | 4. The presiding election judge signs the back of the ballot twice--once on the top section and once on the lower section.  |
| 5.       | When delivering the marked ballot to the election judge, the <u>judge</u> tears off the stub carrying the serial number.  | 5. When delivering the marked ballot to the election judge, the <u>voter</u> tears off the top section bearing the serial number.   |
| 6.       | Does not mention Article 3009.  | 6. Expressly repeals Article 3009 of the election laws which forbids the voter having a marked ballot or paper in the polling place.  |

February 24, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: State Board members

FROM: Elizabeth Brownscombe

RE: Local presidents' council; change of address; request for action from National

LOCAL PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL:

Lenore Bradner has sent postcards to all local leagues notifying them of the forthcoming presidents' council, March 27 and 28, in Austin, for both incoming and outgoing local league presidents. But she is snowed under with speaking engagements, organization work in connection with San Angelo, and morale building in Midland, and she needs help pronto. Will each Board member please send to the state office RIGHT AWAY suggestions for the agenda for the local presidents' council. Thanks a lot.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Because of illness in her family which necessitates being away from Texas for an indeterminate period, Mrs. John J. Redfern, Jr., has resigned the presidency of the Midland League of Women Voters. Mrs. George Putnam is filling out her term and will probably be the next president. Her address is:

Mrs. George Putnam,  
611 West Kansas,  
Midland, Texas

So please change your address list of local presidents accordingly.

REQUEST FOR ACTION FROM NLWV

I received via air mail this morning a request for action in support of the constitutional amendment to change treaty ratification procedure from 2/3 of the Senate to a majority of both Houses of Congress, which has unexpectedly run into trouble in the House of Representatives. Each local president also received the request, by air mail, direct from the National, but the package containing our standing order of these requests will undoubtedly go by a slower form of mail and consequently will be several days in reaching Annie Laurie and in being sent on by her to individual state board members. So in this memo I'm summarizing the request and the action National desires. They want letters or telegrams to be in the hands of Congressmen by March 5th, for debate begins March 6th and a vote will follow shortly. National says that newspaper comment is also needed and suggests taking the 2/3 memorandum to local editors and then clipping the resulting editorials and sending them to our Congressmen. The League requests action only on members of the House of Representatives; not Senators at this time.

*File*  
*not sent to N.W.U.*  
February 24, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: State Board members

FROM: Elizabeth Brownsoabe

RE: Local presidents' council; change of address; request for action from National

LOCAL PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL:

Lenore Bradner has sent postcards to all local leagues notifying them of the forthcoming presidents' council, March 27 and 28, in Austin, for both incoming and outgoing local league presidents. But she is snowed under with speaking engagements, organization work in connection with San Angelo, and morale building in Midland, and she needs help pronto. Will each Board member please send to the state office RIGHT AWAY suggestions for the agenda for the local presidents' council. Thanks a lot.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Because of illness in her family which necessitates being away from Texas for an indeterminate period, Mrs. John J. Redfern, Jr., has resigned the presidency of the Midland League of Women Voters. Mrs. George Putnam is filling out her term and will probably be the next president. Her address is:

Mrs. George Putnam,  
611 West Kansas,  
Midland, Texas

So please change your address list of local presidents accordingly.

REQUEST FOR ACTION FROM NLEV

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March 31, 1945

Dear State Board Member:

I am very happy to announce that Mrs. William Brockhausen, of San Antonio, our fellow Board member, has expressed her willingness to serve as State Treasurer, and I heartily recommend that the Board appoint her to that position.

I am sorry to be so late with this announcement, for Mrs. Brockhausen consented to serve quite a while ago, but a week of flu for me, another week for my husband, and the intervening week crammed full of arrangements for the Local Presidents' Council meant that many important pieces of League work are only just now being attended to. Since the middle of March, as I have talked to several State Board members, about various matters, I have recommended Mrs. Brockhausen's appointment and asked their views regarding it. In every case they have approved the appointment and expressed pleasure at her willingness to serve.

I am particularly sorry that this letter was not out before Mrs. Bradner's letter about San Angelo went to Board members, and you must have been rather mystified at the topsy turvy proceedings of proposing a woman for Mrs. Brockhausen's successor as state director before you had been asked to transfer Mrs. Brockhausen to the state treasurership. Well, the blame for this goes to me, and I--and the flu--apologize for such unorthodox procedure.

The League's fiscal year ends today, and Mrs. McCollum wishes to turn over her books to another treasurer as soon as possible, so will you please fill out and return immediately the enclosed postal card. Thank you.

ELIZABETH F. BROWNSCOMBE

President

Incl.

April 9, 1945

Dear State Board Member:

I hope each of you has a comfortable chair handy to sink into as you read this, for I am sure you will be surprised at the news in this letter! The Brownscombes are expecting a baby in November; and I am therefore resigning from the state presidency, effective April 25th, and from the state legislative chairmanship, effective before the 25th I hope. According to our by-laws our first vice-president, Annie Laurie Gill, succeeds me, and I know that under her leadership the State League will be in excellent hands. In order that our new president may have an opportunity to catch her breath and work into things over a period of time instead of all at once, my thought is to transfer presidential affairs to her rather gradually between now and the 25th. In that way I think we can make the transfer orderly and as easy as possible for both of us. Items which I am transferring to Annie Laurie with this letter are: completion of arrangements for our part in the General Council in Washington in early May; state convention; and the recently received Request for Action from the National regarding Bretton Woods. I mention these because I am sure she will want your ideas and suggestions regarding the first two items and will be asking for your cooperation with the third item as soon as the remainder of our copies of the Request are received. Since time is pressing I thought I could start the ball rolling and be helpful to Annie Laurie by mentioning the items. (Regarding the General Council, I wrote to the National reserving two rooms for Texas delegates and expressing my sorrow at not being able to attend the Council).

All votes are in, and the Board is unanimously in favor of appointing Juliette Brockhausen as our new state treasurer. With great satisfaction I therefore announce Mrs. Brockhausen's appointment, with the transfer of the treasurer's duties to be made to her as soon as is convenient for herself and Mrs. McCollum. I know I am expressing the thoughts of the whole Board when I take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to Jessie McCollum for the wonderful service she has rendered the State League as treasurer and Board member. I am very glad also, and again I know that I am speaking for the whole Board, to welcome Mrs. Brockhausen as our new treasurer and a worthy successor of Mrs. McCollum.

I am very pleased to announce also that Mrs. McCollum, chairman, Mrs. Street and Mrs. Adkins are serving as the Budget Committee which is preparing the State League budget for presentation to the state convention. A tentative budget was presented to the Local Presidents' Council recently held in Austin and was well received, says the Dallas League president.

With regard to my successor as state legislative chairman I have written Emily Jo Strong, of Austin, asking her consent to my recommending that the State Board appoint her to be legislative chairman. And if she is willing to accept the assignment I do heartily recommend her appointment to the position on either a short-term or long-term basis, as she wishes, and either with or without State Board membership, as she prefers. (The completion of the present secret

ballot activity would be the short-term assignment, and the long-term assignment would include, in addition to that, making plans for state legislative activity for submission to the Board and state convention and putting them into operation as the Board directs until the expiration of her term in June, 1946, when the present terms of all State Board members expire.) If Emily Jo is willing to be state legislative chairman and wishes the position to carry with it membership on the State Board, I think it will be an advantage to the Board and to the legislative program, and I feel also that it is about the only means we have for compensating in any measure for a very difficult and important job. Therefore, I feel that on all counts the chairmanship should carry with it state board membership if Emily Jo wants it to.

The next two weeks are crucial to our legislative activity, and because time now means so much in determining the success or failure of the secret ballot, I am taking the liberty of asking you to vote now on Emily Jo's appointment in the hope that she is willing to accept the position of state legislative chairman. Will you, therefore, please fill out and return immediately the enclosed postal card, with the understanding that your vote becomes operative only if Emily Jo is willing to accept the state legislative chairmanship. Thank you.

Our legislative situation, briefly, is this. At the time of the state board meeting last January considerably less than half of the legislators had been personally interviewed, but since then all except about five Senators and five Representatives have been seen, owing to the work of Miss Margaret Phillips and her committee in Austin, the state legislative committee, other state board members, and the local presidents' council. The problem now is to get the bill out on the floor in the Senate and House, and that requires a great deal of effort, for the calendars of both houses are exceptionally crowded and the Speaker seems rather unfavorable to our efforts--his introduction of the local presidents' delegation week before last was almost cold. Sarah Daniels, Emily Jo Strong and Miss Phillips are meeting in Austin on the 11th to discuss the situation with Representatives Markle and Smith and Reed of Dallas and to take what action seems wise. Other members of the state legislative committee will go to Austin the following week if desirable. Sarah has secured admirable publicity for the secret ballot in several Texas newspapers, and the clippings have just begun to come in from the U. of Texas Clipping Service. So far we have had editorials in the Temple Telegram, the Galveston News, the Weslaco paper, the Big Springs paper, the Austin Daily Texan, the Lufkin News and the Bryan Eagle (whose editorial was almost two columns long). There have been news articles in Fort Worth and Houston papers also.

Yours,

*Elizabeth*

Elizabeth F. Brownscombe

*P.S. The postal card is not enclosed - for Emily Jo has declined the nomination to the state legislative chairmanship because, with the two children and all, she cannot give it the necessary time. E.*

April 14, 1945

Dear State Board Member:

The first running of this letter went out on the 11th to the State Board members whose duties would be most affected by the news that the Brownscombes are expecting a baby in November, and that I am therefore resigning from the state presidency, effective April 25th, and from the state legislative chairmanship effective as of now. The second running of this letter has been delayed by house guests and more pressing League business, but I believe all of you have heard the main news of this letter by now.

According to our by-laws our first vice-president, Annie Laurie Gill, succeeds me, and I know that under her leadership the State League will be in excellent hands. In order that our new president may have an opportunity to catch her breath and work into things over a period of time instead of all at once, my thought is to transfer presidential affairs to her rather gradually between now and the 25th. In that way I think we can make the transfer orderly and as easy as possible for both of us. Items which I have already transferred to Annie Laurie are: completion of arrangements for our part in the General Council in Washington in early May; state convention; and the recently received Request for Action from the National regarding Bretton Woods.

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With regard to my successor as state legislative chairman I had hoped to secure Emily Jo Strong, of Austin, but she has declined the nomination to the chairmanship because, with the two children and all, she cannot give the work the necessary time. Alice Kilman would be an ideal chairman, but with all the work she has as Houston League president I simply haven't the nerve to suggest that she undertake this additional assignment. The alternative seems to be for the state legislative committee to proceed without a chairman, with each member working along her own line and keeping in very close touch with all other members of the committee. For example, Sarah Daniels has been doing publicity and will continue to do so, Emily Jo and Margaret Phillips are watching the situation in Austin, Alice Kilman and Dolores Adkins have also had their eyes on the Legislature and have contributed very good ideas on procedure, various members of the state legislative committee can go to Austin on occasion. With all the committee members so

interested in getting the secret ballot bill passed and so willing to do whatever is necessary to achieve that, I am sure that this is one time when a committee without a chairman will do a splendid job, altho efficiency experts do shake their heads at that type of organization!

The next two weeks are crucial to our legislative activity. The situation now, briefly, is this. At the time of the state board meeting last January considerably less than half of the legislators had been personally interviewed, but since then all except about five Senators and five Representatives have been seen, some of them more than once, owing to the work of Miss Margaret Phillips and her committee in Austin, the state legislative committee, other state board members, and the local presidents' council. The problem now is to get the bill out on the floor in the Senate and House, and that requires a great deal of effort, for the calendars of both are exceptionally crowded and the Speaker seems rather unfavorable to our efforts--his introduction of the local presidents' delegation week before last was almost cold. Sarah Daniels went to Austin this week, where she consulted with Representatives Markle and Reed of Dallas about the situation, discussed things with Emily Jo and Margaret Phillips, did good work in the Senate, and came back with a plan of action in mind which should do as much as we can toward getting the bill out on the floor. Sarah has secured admirable publicity for the secret ballot in several Texas newspapers, and the clippings have just begun to come in from the U. of Texas Clipping Service. So far we have had editorials in the Temple Telegram, the Galveston News, the Weslaco paper, the Big Springs paper, the Austin Daily Texan, the Lufkin News, the Bryan Eagle (whose editorial was almost two columns long) and the Houston Post. There have been news articles in Fort Worth and Houston papers also.

Yours,

Elizabeth F. Brownscombe

I am in favor of One Year's Compulsory Military Training. 8

I am apposed to One Year's Compulsory Military Training. 21

I am in favor of adding Compulsory Military Training to the League's Active List. 8

I am apposed to adding Compulsory Military Training to the League's Active List. 22

I am in favor of removing No. 5 from the League's Active List. 18

I am apposed to removing No. 5 from the League's Active List. 9

Sent also to N L W U 4/18/45

Memo to: State Board Members

Re: Requested changes in the National program of work

From: Elizabeth F. Brownscombe

In early March Miss Strauss' letter containing two proposals for modification of the National League program, to be considered at the General Council meeting next month, was sent to all state board members. Expressions of the attitude of several of you have come in, but I have not yet heard from all Board members, and I am sure our delegates to the General Council would like to know how each of you feels about these proposed modifications--addition of an item on compulsory military training to the Active List, and removal of Item 5 on the present Active List.

At the Local Presidents' Council meeting in Austin three weeks ago these proposed modifications were used as the basis of a short exposition and discussion on the local leagues' part in making the National League program. Each delegate took back to her local league the two proposals for modification, with the understanding that either the general membership of her local league or the Board of Directors were to discuss the proposed changes and vote on them during April, in time for the results to be of value to our delegates to the General Council.

The Dallas League had a meeting this morning on these proposed changes. It took the form of a debate on the merits and demerits of compulsory military training itself; a talk on the advisability of adding the compulsory military training item to the League program, no matter what one's feeling about compulsory military training itself; and a talk on the advisability of removing the present Item 5 from the program. The two points of view on program length were brought out--long versus short--and with regard to Item 5 the additional consideration was advanced, of which was most truly representative of the opinion of the whole League, the large delegate body which last year at the National Convention approved Item 5, or the small delegate body, the General Council, which this year is asked to remove the item. The vote was as follows (yes, it was by secret ballot):

25% of the meeting favored compulsory military training in itself; 75% opposed it. 23% of the meeting favored adding compulsory military training to the League's Active List; 77% opposed it. 66 2/3% of the meeting favored removing Item 5 from the League's Active List; 33 1/3% opposed it. So the Dallas League is against compulsory military training itself; against having it on the National program; and in favor of removing Item 5 from the program.

How do your local leagues feel about these issues?

April 24, 1945

MEMO TO: State Board members

RE: Legislative chairman; local presidents' council

FROM: Elizabeth F. Brownscombe

Legislative chairman:

I am very happy to announce that Mrs. Ed Kilman, of Houston, has expressed her willingness to be State Legislative chairman and have charge of continuing the campaign for the secret ballot, which has practically reached its climax. Alice Kilman needs no introduction to any of you, I am sure - she has been doing excellent work for our bill for many months, and we are indeed fortunate to have the benefit of her very extensive legislative knowledge, contacts and experience. It gives me great pleasure to recommend to the Board that Mrs. Kilman be appointed State Legislative chairman and a member of the State Board of the T. L. W. V. Please fill out and return the enclosed postal card, which is addressed to Mrs. Gill, who will assume the state presidency day after tomorrow.

Local Presidents' Council:

Time moves so fast and so much happens so quickly that the Local Presidents' Council of three and a half weeks ago seems rather out-dated, but we were all in on the beginning of it and the arrangements for it, so I'd like us all to have the finish of the story.

All comments on the Council are most enthusiastic, with special praise for the agenda and the discussion-group type of meeting (Lenore Bradner, please take a bow), for the leadership of Helen McCullough, Annie Laurie Gill, Emily Jo Strong and Alice Kilman, and for the excellent reports of all the presidents and the contributions of each delegate to the discussion. Leagues represented were: TECW Campus, by Miss White, their faculty advisor; Fort Worth; Austin; San Antonio; Galveston; Houston; Texas City; Lamarque; Port Arthur; Dallas; and the new league of San Angelo. The only two not represented were Midland and the University of Texas Campus League.

A stenographer took full notes on all the discussion, boiled them down, and furnished us with several copies for distribution among state board members. There are not enough for each one of us, so I am making the following distribution: a copy for Juliette Brockhausen, to be passed on to Dorothy Meadows; a copy for Jessie McCollum, to be passed on to Augusta Street and to Dolores Adkins and to be kept in Dolores' files as secretary; a copy for Lenore Bradner; a copy for Sarah Daniels; and a copy for the state office files. (Mildred Dodge read the report when she was in Dallas last week, and Helen McCullough has offered her copy to Annie Laurie and Novella if they need it before the state office files arrive in Lamarque.)

ELIZABETH F. BROWNSCOMBE

# TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

21st AND AVENUE G

GALVESTON, TEXAS



Affiliated with the  
National League of Women Voters

June 6, 1944

**Memorandum to Board of Directors**

**From Novella Calvin**

**Re Pre and Post Convention Board Meetings.**

**The Pre-Convention Board Meetings are scheduled as follows:**

**Monday - 3:30 p. m. to 5:30 p. m.**

**8:00 p. m. to 10:00 p. m.**

**Tuesday - 9:00 a. m. to noon**

**The Post-Convention Meetings are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, meetings subject to change by the 1944-45 Board.**

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