

VICTORIA

LCA - 1958-59

A continuation of the study of whether or not there is a need for establishing a family court in Victoria; and also an evaluation of facilities for handling juvenile problems in Victoria.

Chairman: Mrs. L. E. Sample

*Correspondence -*

*Letter May 13 '58 - Report June 25 '58*

*" July 13*

*Letters - S.O. + Brownage*

*Memo from SO - Jan 53*

*Report sheet + note File 55*

*Report recd.*

LOCAL PROGRAM: *Annual Report*

Describe any activity on your local Program.

*Victoria 58-59*  
Worked hard toward establishment of a Juvenile Youth Council for

Victoria County. Had a speaker - consultant from the National Probation  
and Padole Assn. at a public meeting.

# League of Women Voters of Texas

o AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

January 30, 1959

TO: Local Current Agenda Chairmen  
FROM: Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, State Chairman, LCA

Let's share our work on our LCA items this year! At President's Council in Austin we will have a LCA Browsing Table, where Local Leagues may display materials about their local programs. We have limitations as to space at the Driskill, so we must limit our display to materials which can lie on a table; such as, Know Your Town booklets, study outlines, newspaper publicity on LCA, outlines for work, or anything pertaining to your local program. Won't you arrange to have such a display? It will be helpful to other Leagues to see what you have been doing.

## LCA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at [redacted] before February 20.)  
Mrs. Ida Sample until moving.  
As Jan 10, Mrs. Harlan Argo

League Victoria Chairman [redacted]

I. A study of Family Relations Courts and a survey of Victoria  
LCA Item County to determine if there is a need here.

(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee? 8
2. How did you inform your members?  
Units Many small reports General Meetings One formal one  
Voter Several notices Go-see trips By comm. to County offices  
Special bulletins or fact sheets [redacted]
3. Was this an interesting item to most members? Yes, very much so as evidenced by the response to reports at
4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? Yes Units
5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community? Yes
6. Did you recommend this to continue as an active item for another year? No  
Or, made a continuing responsibility? No
7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?  
(Description and space required on display table.)

---  
Please use the back of this sheet for anything you wish to report about your plan of work and accomplishments.

# League of Women Voters of Texas

o AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

Dear Mrs Sample - 2 hope your year of study about family courts has been successful. Your report in July  
January 30, 1959

TO: Local Current Agenda Chairmen  
FROM: Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, State Chairman, LCA

was very encouraging. Any chance of your coming to President's Council in March? I'd love to meet you. Cordially,  
Ruth Hughes

Let's share our work on our LCA items this year! At President's Council in Austin we will have a LCA Browsing Table, where Local Leagues may display materials about their local programs. We have limitations as to space at the Driskill, so we must limit our display to materials which can lie on a table; such as, Know Your Town booklets, study outlines, newspaper publicity on LCA, outlines for work, or anything pertaining to your local program. Won't you arrange to have such a display? It will be helpful to other Leagues to see what you have been doing.

LCA REPORT, 1958-59

(Please return this report to me at [redacted] before February 20.)

League Victoria Chairman Jan - Mrs. Harlan Argo  
II. An evaluation of the facilities for handling the juvenile  
LCA Item A problems in Victoria County.  
(Use 2nd Report Form for LCA II or local Continuing Responsibility on which you worked this year.)

1. How many members on your committee? 8

2. How did you inform your members?

Units ✓

General Meetings ✓

Voter ✓

Go-see trips       

Special bulletins or fact sheets       

3. Was this an interesting item to most members? Very much so.

4. Do you think that you accomplished your purpose in 1958-59? Yes

5. Do you feel that you made a contribution to your community? Yes

6. Did you recommend this to continue as an active item for another year? ✓ in a

Or, made a continuing responsibility? different form

7. What can you bring (or send with your delegation) for display at Council?  
(Description and space required on display table.)

Please use the back of this sheet for anything you wish to report about your plan of work and accomplishments.



# League of Women Voters

VICTORIA, TEXAS



February 20, 1959

Mrs. Eugene Hughes, State LCA Chairman

Dear Mrs. Hughes:

Victoria, as all Leagues sometimes do, has suffered from the moving bug. At the first of the year we lost our wonderful president and also at the same time, our very hard working LCA chairman. Mrs. Harlan Argo has taken over in a pinch but wanted me to make this report. The delay is unfortunate as your letter was forwarded to Mrs. Sample, then she returned it to Mrs. Argo. And I have been in bed a week with the flu, ---anyway, enough for the excuses. Let's see if I can bring you up to date on our LCA.

First of all, I must state something that I know from Lois Braunagel has been bothering you and indeed me too. Next year Victoria is placing on their LCA as no. 1, Completion of the County Survey; I have forgotten the exact wording. This has been a very bad misunderstanding on the part of the League here as a whole. All those who originally worked on this item "swore" that it had been done, but nobody could make heads or tails of the material that was found. But now I hope that things can be brought up to date and really bring this item to completion. There seems to be much interest among the newer members for this item.

As of Jan. 1, 1959, we were still at a stalemate on any real progress. ~~Sample~~ The County Judge hadn't done any more on the Juvenile Youth Council for several months. In Mrs. Sample's files we referred to a letter from the National Probation and Parole Assn. office in Austin. They had stated the opinion that our case load didn't seem to warrant the establishment of a separate Family Court at this time. However, they did suggest that we needed more personnel with our Probation Department and also offered a free consultation visit.

The first week in January, we wrote to the Nat. Prob. and Parole people and inquired about the consultation service. They shocked us by a return phone call to Mrs. Argo stating a Mr. Elliott could come for one day on January 21. And come he did. Mr. Elliott had lunch with the LCA comm. and the county judge. Then had interviews with the school super., chief of police, county attor., present probation officer, and county judge. Poor man was really running his legs off. Then at a general meeting that night with public invited, Mr. Elliott gave some very general recommendations. These were very well received and the meeting was very well attended, not so much by League members (night meetings are usually not good here) but by many, many other people from the community interested in youths problems.

# League of Women Voters

VICTORIA, TEXAS



The suggestions Mr. Elliott had to recommend were something like the following:

1. Send a police officer to the Univ of So. Calif. for a free training course in juvenile problems. Then he becomes the juvenile police officer and can in turn teach others. We are writting about this and the police chief seems very interested.
2. Hire "visiting teachers" in the school system. This money is already available but the Superintendent has been unable to find any one for the jobs. We hope that he will continue his search.
3. Hire a full time, qualified Probation Officer or maybe two with at least a part time staff. At present we have one man who is doing three jobs- paid by the schools, county, and city.

Our League discussed this at great length at the units and asked the board to push for the last recommendation in the coming year. Hence our new item no 2. reads something like this: Working toward a full-scale Probation Department for Victoria County. We will have to educate our county commissioners as the main step. We feel the County Judge is on our side, but we may be wrong. Also the commissioner from the city precinct won't be hard to sell. That leaves three men from the country that may be hard, but we plan to have breakfast with them, etc. With our County Survey also in progress, they may get to know us and respect us before we ask for the money to hire these men. Ha! Sorta coming in the back door.

Now, one other thing.. When Mrs. Argo and I interviewed Judge Crain(County) he thought we had come to fuss about the Youth Council. We were asking him to talk with Mr. Elliott. So he was surprised that we wern't there to fuss at him and of his own accord suggested we try to get the Council rolling again, using the enthusiam Mr. Elliott would stir up as a base. At long last this was done. And last Monday night, Feb. 16, the organizational meeting of the Victoria Youth Council was held. We feel the man chosen as president has great merit and that we have at least done something for the community, at long last. Mrs. Argo is secretary to this Council and we have two other members on the executive comm. Surely hope that it will continue to get community support.

I think this is about all. Things happened so fast here the last six weeks that we are all in a whirl. We also had our Finance drive and a visit from Cookie Smith. I would appreciate your helping Mrs. Argo with some suggestions as she is a hard worker when she is stirred, but she gets flustered and needs stablizing. It was her deep interest in the problem that prompted the localboard to ask her to fill Mrs. Sample's shoes. I hope she can come to Austin at least for one day and she can talk with you personally.

I believe this is all. I hope we can all get things ironed out here soon. I am still very much in the dark about being president and Boots Wiggins is a terrible person to have to follow. She was so good at organizing, etc.

Hope to see you in Austin,

Sincerely,  
Martha Coleman

February 11, 1959

Dear Mrs. Hughes,

We moved from Victoria when my husband accepted a position as an agricultural engineer with the Soil Conservation Service. After he completes his training here in June, we will be located in San Antonio, so perhaps I'll again become "involved" in League work.

Mrs. Harlan Argo (1802 East Warren) replaced me as LCA Chairman, and I am forwarding the report form to her for completion.

Shortly before I left the city, the Board of Pardons and Paroles (isn't it?) in response to a letter I sent advised they did not believe on the basis of the information submitted there was in Victoria County at this time a sufficient caseload to warrant setting up a Family or Domestic Relations Court. (What a sentence!). They suggested we take advantage of the professional <sup>assistance</sup> available to cities and plan to have one of their workers visit Victoria so he could make an on-the-spot study of the town's problem, particularly as it pertained to the juvenile. This has been done since I left with, I understand, an excellent response at the public meeting staged by the League.

I guess I was lacking in faith, but when I moved in December, I was completely disillusioned and felt the proposed youth council would not be formed and put in operation until we had a change in the county judgeship. However, within recent weeks an outstanding Presbyterian layman has agreed to be nominated as council president, and now with all nominations filled a public meeting has been scheduled. At that time the constitution will be adopted, the officers duly elected, and the council will be in business!


I had become discouraged because Judge Crain had <sup>done</sup> nothing but stall and delay the council's formation since February 4, 1958!! All of us on the steering committee were just about to admit our defeat when things suddenly began to happen. There's a moral to my story!

Maybe our paths will cross one of these days, but in the meantime my best wishes remain with you in the work you are accomplishing.

Sincerely

*Ida Sample*

(Mrs. L. E. Sample)



# League of Women Voters of Texas

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

• AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

Ruth, I'm not sure you've ever been told the "inside" story of Victoria's LCA --- it was adopted (the court item) two years ago when their incoming president was head of the Child Welfare Unit of the Dept. of Public Welfare.....an impossible situation, of course. I think you have copies of whatever I've written to Boots since she's been pres. Let's don't fret over this -- they're doing fine. If they can democratically adopt a Know Your County Survey next year --- good.

Their County Judge is young and, I gathered, rather progressive. I am told, however, that he is the nephew of MRS. VICTORIA COUNTY.... for whatever this is worth. I believe the League has a rather good rapport with him --- he was quite "at home" with and complimentary of the Victoria LWV the time I was there on a panel with him.

Well, seems I still haven't said much -- I just want you to know that the Victoria group now "in power" is rather beautiful -- the first League-like board this League has ever had. Seems to me you can encourage them in almost anything they are doing -- and I hope you will.

love,

c

Sept. 9, 1958

To: Braunagel  
From: Hughes  
Re: Victoria LCA

Thanks for returning Mrs. Sample's letter. It seems they are off to a good start. I appreciate all the background material you gave me about them and their LCA. They are doing so well, that we shouldn't get excited, even if they are working on a county item.

Ruth

cc:SO

Cookie: I have been in correspondence with Lois about Victoria and their LCA. You got carbons, I think, of all correspondence. She also sent me part of their file to read again - it has been returned to her.

R



1715 Bowie Drive  
Victoria, Texas  
June 25, 1958

*Beane  
return*

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Hughes:

It seems we have been negligent in keeping you posted on the activities of the L.C.A. Committee of the League in Victoria. Family illnesses have added to the difficulty of sending the information you requested in your letter of May 13. It would be wonderful if we could talk with you in person!

Our L.C.A. Committee was formed with seven members shortly after the beginning of the new club year in 1957, and plans were made for a study of whether or not there is a need for a family court in Victoria. We studied available material on the subject, then talked with law enforcement officers, school officials, clergymen, child welfare representatives, the county judge, and the two district judges. We explained the League's procedure in making a study and taking a stand on any given issue and discussed with them the present set-up for handling family cases contrasting it with the manner in which they would be handled in a family court system.

In order to determine the case load of such a court, we secured the cooperation of the county and district clerks who compiled for us case statistics covering the past five years, the period during which Victoria has experienced her dynamic growth.

As we approached the end of the club year, the committee members became increasingly aware of the tremendous juvenile delinquency problem which the city faces. The delinquency rate has risen sharply within the past two years, and there is seemingly little organization or cooperation between agencies concerned with delinquents. So when the Texas Youth Council's handbook on the "Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency" was released the first part of February of this year, we secured copies and recognized it as an opportunity to get a local Youth Council organized. With the aid of all the members of the League letters were either sent to or personal contacts made with civic clubs, church groups, and P.T.A.'s informing them of the juvenile problem in the county, outlining the work of a youth council, and asking them to write the county judge urging him to organize such a group.

Mrs. Hughes, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] page 2

Since this is an election year, the judge was hesitant we learned to take any action until he was certain he would have no opponent for office, and our hands were tied since he had publicly announced in early February his intention of forming the council. Shortly after the filing deadline, he called a citizens meeting for May 8, sending special invitations to those individuals and organizations from whom he had received letters and oral approval of the plan. The response was gratifying, and a steering committee of nine (including three League members, incidentally) was appointed to work on the constitution and a slate of nominees for a Victoria County Youth Council.

There have been three meetings of this committee, and it is hoped that soon interested citizens will again be assembled to put the council in operation.

Realizing that our study of the family court would necessarily be a lengthy procedure and recognizing the urgent need for action with regard to our juvenile delinquency problem, we adopted the second item because it seemed to be a natural development and one in which we could accomplish something immediately.

Our work on the second item has brought us to date much favorable publicity, and the only discouragement we have faced so far has been the failure of the county judge to make the most of public enthusiasm. His delay in organizing the council has, we feel, hurt its chances for success.

On our family court item we have reached the point where we must secure professional advice as to whether or not the current case load would warrant the formation of a family court, and if so, we must work out an accurate budget for such a court for presentation to the commissioners, provided, of course, consensus is favorable. We realize the necessary funds will be the major stumbling block, but we are happy in the knowledge that so far we have received nothing but encouragement in our study.

Yours very truly

*Ida Sample*  
Mrs. L. E. Sample

CC: Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith

# League of Women Voters of Texas

MRS. HORTON W. SMITH, President

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

AUSTIN 5, TEXAS



August 30, 1958

TO: Ruth Hughes  
FROM: Braunagel  
RE: Victoria LCA

How was that c-o-o-l vacation? Hope you feel like a new man.

I am returning your copy of the letter from Ida Sample. (SO sent me one.) Martha Coleman was here last week end and we spent about two hours in good old LWV talk. Victoria is really doing unusually well. Looks like they are about to increase their membership too. Anyway they are aware that they have a county item on their hands. They did a KY County about three years ago. It was never printed and according to Martha, not in too good shape. They tried to see about printing it this year but found that it needed too much additional work for a committee to do it. They plan to put it on LCA next March and get to work on it. Being the only League in that county, they feel that they may need to work on the county level fairly often.

They took a stand on a bond issue to be voted on this week under CR. Scared them to death as this is a new experience for them. They started to write to SO for advice and then decided it was time for them to grow up and act on their own.

Thanks for your kind words about Port Arthur. I am holding my breath. I haven't heard recently and they are supposed to be doing a finance drive among other things. Guess I'd better get a note off to them today.

Bad form--two subjects on one page but the real purpose of this letter is Victoria's LCA. I'm holding my breath on whether Martha will act as a consultant too.

cc SO, Pettis, Baggett

Isn't Mrs Herman the one you suggested that I asked to do organization work? Her name & address isn't on the Board list. If she is the right one, will you send me her name and address?

Love,  
Lois

# League of Women Voters of Texas



Sept. 4, 1958

TO: Hughes  
FROM: Brauhagel  
RE: Victoria-action on a CR

Excerpt from a personal letter to me from Martha Coleman:

"By the way-off the record, I talked with Boots about our LCA on County Survey (KYCounty) and she was quite pleased to have a better understanding. Also we didn't do our stand on the bond issue in quite the right way. There seems to be a lack of minor point understanding in our League and we don't know just where to turn for answers or don't know just when we are not quite League-like. The Leader's Handbook doesn't answer all the little questions. Do we write to you? or other Board members?"

I told her to write to you with a carbon to me and one to SO. I told her you had a lot of League background and knowledge about LCA. Quite frankly, I don't know just who should get this, but I do think we need to work out some sort of answer for local Leagues on this. There seems to be rather general lack of understanding on how, when and why they can act on a CR. I remember quite well Galveston sweated over this a couple of times to my knowledge. We tried to follow the pattern set by State and Nat'l. when they act on a CR but there isn't a great deal to serve as a guide in a rather new local League. I am rather proud of them for growing up and making a decision on their own even if it is not quite according to Hoyle. Thought I'd give you this advance notice so you could be thinking about it.

cc SO, Pettis, Baggett

July 2, 1958

To: Smith  
From: Hughes  
Re: Victoria LCA

I think that a carbon was sent to you of Mrs. Sample's report on LCA in Victoria.

I'm pretty confused about a phase of this. It would seem that they have barged into a county item, since this Youth Council is to be appointed by the County judge. I'm not just sure that this is according to Hoyle. However, they seem to be doing a good job, have other organization involved, are enthusiastic, and have received good publicity. So I sure hesitate to throw cold water on them.

They have really involved 2 items in 1 - it would seem to me that they should have had 2 items - but too late to say anything about this, too.

I'd like to have your comments on this. I don't know what to write Mrs. Sample.

R

cc: Braunagel



# League of Women Voters of Texas

MRS. HORTON W. SMITH, President

1007 WEST 24TH STREET

AUSTIN 5, TEXAS



July 5, 1958

TO: Hughes  
FROM: Braunagel  
RE: Victoria LCA

I did not get a copy of Mrs. Sample's letter to you. If you send it, I'll return it after I have read it.

Victoria is the first League I visited after I went on the state board. They have a grand new president and one of Galveston's best VPs and I think they are going to be one of our best Leagues. I couldn't have been greener when I went to do board training for them, but with all I have learned since then, I still feel the same way. (And with all I still need to learn.)

I am going to dig back in the files and send you some background material. I thought their item was very closely related to a State CR and Cookie sent me a lot of material that helped me. I'll send it to you to read. Be sure to send it back for the file.

There isn't another League anywhere around Victoria and when you consider juvenile problems--it gets into county real quick. (Texas City wanted to do a juvenile item before they adopted this year's LCA and they invited two Galveston members to come discuss it with them. Edna Mae Shaw and I went. Since we are very conscious of county problems, we saw from discussion that it would reach county level almost at once.) I do not know the answer to Victoria's problem, but if we possibly can, let's not discourage them.

This is a League that had an unhappy experience from a visit from a state Board member. Some of the "You MUST" kind of thing. Cookie went last year and I was there this year and I think we now have them back in the fold.

Maybe some of this background material will help when you answer and if they are too far off the beam maybe Cookie has some suggestions. They have been real smart in the way they have gone about getting somewhere with this item, and since they are a small League, they did an expert job of getting community participation.

cc SO, Pettis

July 13, 1958

To: Braunagel  
From: Hughes  
Re: Victoria

After reading the background material from Victoria that you sent me, I knew that I must not say one word to them to discourage them. They are certainly doing a fine community job on their LCA and are to be commended for that, for sure. And since there has been some bad feeling about state "telling them", I'm sure that I should be very careful not to say the wrong thing to them. Therefore, the letter is just sort of a pep letter.

I do think that they have barged in on a county item without having done a KYC survey - but I don't know when the time to tell them that they should really do that survey would be. Apparently they have every body's blessing as they are proceeding so that's that.

I'm sending you the letter I got from Mrs. Sample to ready. Will you please return it? I'm also returning the background material you sent me.

CC SO  
Pearl

R

3812 Certin  
Houston 4, Texas  
July 13, 1958

Mrs. L. E. Sample  


Dear Mrs. Sample:

Thank you so much for the fine report on your LCA which you sent me. You have really been making progress, and doing a wonderful League job. Getting other organizations and members of the community in on a League project is the finest kind of community action.

I do hope that you will keep me posted as your item progresses. I know that an item such as this will bring you lots of favorable publicity and a great deal of new interest among your members.

With best wishes for further success  
on this item, I am,

Cordially,

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes  
State LCA Chairman

cc:SO  
Braunagel  
Pettis

3812 Gertin  
Houston 4, Texas  
May 13, 1958

Mrs. L. E. Sample  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Sample:

This is the time of year when you as local current agenda chairman of the LWV of Victoria will be getting a committee and making plans for carrying out your present LCA item. You really have a long one, haven't you? It would seem to me that it might be divided into separate projects. I don't believe that you would do the same sort of planning for a study of whether or not there is a need for a family court in Victoria, and an evaluation of facilities for handling juvenile problems. There must be many juvenile problems that would have nothing to do with family courts - at least we would hope that they could be handled before it is necessary to take them to court.

As state chairman of LCA, I am much interested in how you will plan to proceed with making these studies. When you and your committee have made your plans, I hope that you will write me and give me your outlook for work.

Do you have the new state publication: "On the Home Front"? If not, by all means get it before you start your planning. You will find that the 10 steps for a successful current agenda most helpful. It would be a good idea for every member of your committee to have this tool.

I might also suggest that you ask someone on your committee to keep a running account of the steps you take in carrying out this item - and I really believe that I would treat it as two separate items. This will furnish a record of your accomplishments for your League files, and will be building for the future of LCA items.

I'll be looking forward to hearing from you with your outlook for work.

Yours cordially,

cc:SO  
Braunagel  
Pettis

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes



VICTORIA

LCA - 1959-60

I. Complete the County Survey

Chairman: Mrs. Warren Kennedy [REDACTED]

II. Work toward a Probation Department for Victoria

Chairman: Mrs. Harlan Argo [REDACTED]

Memos, Correspondence, etc.

Memo - April 9, 1959

" - May 1959