

the



# Voter

AUGUST 1956

Mrs. H. Wayne Smith  
1007 W. 24th St.  
Austin 5, Texas

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - A SEVEN-SIDED SERVICE

As a summary of what the Leagues in Ohio found out about our Department of Natural Resources last year, and as a lead into our study of water as a national program item, Peg Cooke, our state chairman of this study, has written this article.

Ohio is one of the few states which brings together into one Department the administration of seven of its natural resources. Two most important aspects of the administration of this Department our Leagues have found to be (1) a high degree of cooperation both between the separate divisions of the Department and between this Department and other Departments, state and federal, and (2) continual effort toward voluntary cooperation rather than enforcement by regulations between the Department and the individual farmer to induce him to improve his farming methods.

The **Division of Forestry** points up these two aspects. It provides the Highway Department with the posts, specially weather-proofed, which are used as guard rails. In its three state nurseries it raises the trees which are sold, in lots of 500, to further the "Plant Ohio" program inaugurated several years ago to augment soil conservation and the prevention of soil erosion. Its work in fighting forest fires, more than 99.5% of which are man-made, is of tremendous value to the entire state. Through the work of its 15 project foresters, information on diseases and insect pests that attack trees and on techniques of growing and harvesting to bring maximum long-term yields is made available free of charge to any farmer who wishes it.

The **Division of Land and Soils** also gives to any landowner upon request free technical advice on farming, crop rotation and planting, drainage, tiling and contouring through its Soil Conservation Service experts, 86 of whom are located through the state. This has been a definite help in the development of better conservation practices. And because the Soil Conservation Service expert is paid by the federal government and employed by the state at the wish of the landowners in a county on the basis of a majority vote to set up such a service, this is a prime example of cooperation between the different levels of government. The Land and Soils Division is currently making a complete soil survey of the state, county by county, which it expects to com-

plete at least by 1970, and which will provide in detail a great amount of basic information for future conservation work and for better farming plans.

The **Division of Geological Survey** is, of course, cooperating with the Division of Land and Soils in this soil survey. It also gives to cities, industries and organizations interested in expansion or new locations free technical advice regarding possible sources of water and free information on the basic geological strata of an area.

That part of the state which touches Lake Erie may get assistance from the **Division of Shore Erosion** in determining what kind of construction will best suit its particular area in combating erosion. The Division will assist financially any area in the construction of state approved protection by paying two-thirds of the cost if the benefit affects public property, and one-third of the cost if it benefits only private property.

The **Division of Parks**, which develops and manages the 55 state parks, cooperates particularly with the Division of Wildlife in stocking its lakes, and with the state penal system by using trustworthy prisoners for development work.

The **Wildlife Division** cooperates with the schools, as does the Division of Land and Soils, in making available to the schools films and publications dealing with different aspects of conservation work. The Division of Wildlife also cooperates with conservancy districts in stocking their recreational areas as desired with fish and game.

The **Division of Water** is spearheading, and all other Divisions are cooperating in, the preparation of a "Water Plan for Ohio". This is being done by means of a detailed survey of each of the 108 water-shed basins of the state to determine for each: (a) how much water is available, (b) how much water will be needed in the foreseeable future according to the potentialities of the area, (c) how to get additional water where needed, and (d) what other problems might be involved. When this is finished, perhaps in 1960 or 1962, the implementation of the plan will be the re-

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## SUMMERTIME

What happens to the League in the summertime? More than you think on casual observation. Like the iceberg, we don't show much on the surface. For some of us this means we are happily submerged in the local pool, for others it means being up to our necks in plans for the coming year.

Back in June there was a flurry of general meetings, largely featuring convention reports, fun and food. **Canton** had a Smorgasbord at a park. **Mansfield** called theirs a covered dish dinner and included husbands and prospective members. **Painesville** members took pot-luck, **Shaker** had tea, and **Marion** enjoyed lemonade and cookies in the park. **East Cleveland** Leaguers took a deep breath after the year's work and had a "Get Acquainted Night" for their own members. **Lakewood** and **Cincinnati** each had a garden party, and **Willoughby** savored their annual strawberry festival, spiced with talks by representatives of the Republican and Democratic parties.

A number of Leagues still had serious program business to do in June. Along with their lemonade in Marion, they discussed traffic, parks and recreation. **Kent** had a meeting with a speaker on their new local current agenda program, survey of juvenile delinquency in Kent. **Wooster** members heard the pros and cons of fluoridation presented, since the issue will be on their local ballot in November. This controversial subject also came up at the **Yellow Springs** final meeting, along with Mrs. Fred Davis and a talk on the Ohio General Assembly.

Back in May, **South Euclid** members dressed in slacks and jeans rode around a farm in wagons, observing good conservation practices. Sounds like a wonderful idea for other leagues to copy. Combine National Item II with an old-fashioned hayride!

A Public Relations Workshop for **Cuyahoga County** Leagues took place in June. Led by appropriate experts, discussions were held on public relations principles and problems, radio and TV, League orientation to public public relations, and newspaper publicity. Another inter-League activity was a small-sized area conference of the boards of the three Lake County Leagues, **Mentor**, **Painesville**, and **Willoughby**. A morning session on board

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## THUS FAR IN CONSERVATION

We in Ohio have a head start on the new national conservation item because of our work on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources this past year. The wealth of information we discovered about the Department is indicated in the article on the first page of this **Voter**.

Besides the information about the Department which was sent to the local Leagues during the year, they also received two or three questionnaires to help direct their study. One was on the soil conservation service, one on local water situations, and one on shore erosion for those Leagues located along Lake Erie.

In interviewing the soil conservation service man in each county, the Leagues found excellent cooperation between the local, state and federal agencies involved. They found that there has been a marked increase in the use that farmers and landowners are making of this free service in recent years, with a corresponding increase in better farming methods as a result.

In reporting on their local water situations the great majority of Leagues spoke of recent improvements and expanding facilities. Some Leagues indicated that their improvements were still in the planning stage, but that there were definite commitments. Many League reports showed that the drought of 1953 was the emergency which spurred their communities to action. Only one League reported that its water situation was still bad and that there were no specific plans for the immediate improvement of the condition.

Of the Leagues reporting on shore erosion all indicated that their areas had suffered loss, one as much as 15 feet a year in some places. Most of them said that what work had been done to combat erosion had been paid for by the individual landowners, although one League reported state cooperation on this.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

At State Convention, the Cincinnati League indicated their strong interest in county reorganization by bringing a resolution regarding this before the session on state continuing responsibilities. Because the Legislature will meet before the League has another convention, they wished the delegate body to go on record as favoring some legislative action toward county reorganization.

The resolution as passed by the convention, said in part, "Be it Resolved that there will be a mandate from this convention to the State Board to use the good efforts of its legislative committee to help promote legislation for the solution of county government problems as included in state continuing responsibilities."

## NEW STATE BOARD MEMBER

We are happy to announce that Mrs. John B. Nicholson, Jr. of Kent has accepted appointment to the State Board. She will have the newly-created portfolio of Membership Chairman.

## SUMMERTIME—Continued

planning was led by Mrs. Truehaft, and an afternoon session on Ohio Public Finance featured Mrs. Francis explaining her plans and answering questions.

We don't know of any membership meetings in July or August, but **Fairview Park** enjoyed themselves at a picnic and later at a card party, and **Mentor** sampled summer stock at Rabbit Run Theatre.

Boards and individual board members do a lot of meeting and planning during the summer months. Some Leagues find they can skip a board meeting during the summer, but they usually make up for it with longer hours at another meeting to meet to demands of orienting new board members and making plans for the coming year. Fall always comes much too soon, and everything happens with a rush, League-wise. Membership chairmen are kept busy now, some in getting new members and most of them in getting new members lined up in committee work which will interest them. **Perrysburg** had a form in their bulletin for members to return, indicating their preferences in committee assignments.

Another particularly busy person during the summer is the finance chairman, who is going over the prospect file, and lining up workers for the drive, which starts early in September in many places.

We hardly need to mention that voters service is hustling this election year. **Columbus** had an excellent statement of the League's non-partisan position in their June bulletin. "The League believes the party system is an integral part of our form of government. It urges its members, **except for its leaders during their term of League office**, to work as individuals in the parties of their choice." As part of their voters service work, the **Bedford League** is doing a survey of voter registration in their seventeen precincts. Cards will be sent to those not registered.

As an example of a local agenda committee at work during the summer, we have **Lakewood** studying its city charter so that they will be ready with a report to the membership in the fall.

Lots of individual League members have caught up on their reading of publications and of books suggested by League program. One member devoted her summer to **The Tree of Liberty** by Elizabeth Page. It is the story of a family during the revolutionary period of American history, and makes you realize the extent of the controversies which went into the making of our government. There are other books in those Freedom Agenda bibliographies which are equally good reading.

So whether your summer has been full or free of League, we hope you are eagerly awaiting the fun and interest of the more normal activities of fall, winter and spring.

## NEW STATE BOARD JOB

Many of you, we hope, noticed in the June **Voter**, that our many-faceted Esther Dealey has a new job on the State Board, called **Local Current Agenda Chairman**. This is a brand new portfolio on the Ohio Board, and for all we know, on any state board. You have indicated that there is a real need for coordination and help in this important area of League work. It has been one of the few jobs on the local board which did not have a counterpart on the State Board. Organization has handled it to a limited extent, but Organization covers a multiplicity of things, and local current agenda is far too vital to be just a part of anything else.

In the introduction to a memorandum just sent to local current agenda chairmen, Mrs. Dealey says, "As part of a National organization, your League has great prestige in your community, but it is widely known through your local activities. Good public relations, success in finance drives, membership participation in voters service and your program depend on your League's ability to choose the best possible agenda items, and to carry them through successfully." The memorandum has a diagram of the steps involved in developing a local agenda item, an outline for the study of a subject, and detailed suggestions for committee, board, and membership participation in a project.

We know that a local League in starting a new local study feels somewhat at a loss. If you knew what other local Leagues had been active in this field, what steps they had taken, what material they had found useful, you might be given a big boost toward your own success. Write to Mrs. Dealey and watch her coordinate!

## NATURAL RESOURCES—Continued

sponsibility of each area involved. It is within the foreseeable future that flood waters may be retained to provide additional water supplies for drought years, which now occur on an average of every six or seven years, and that we will then cease to lose so much of our good topsoil by erosion.

## THE OHIO VOTER

Mrs. A. A. Treuhaft, President

Mrs. Raymond A. Densmore, Editor

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# The League Bulletin

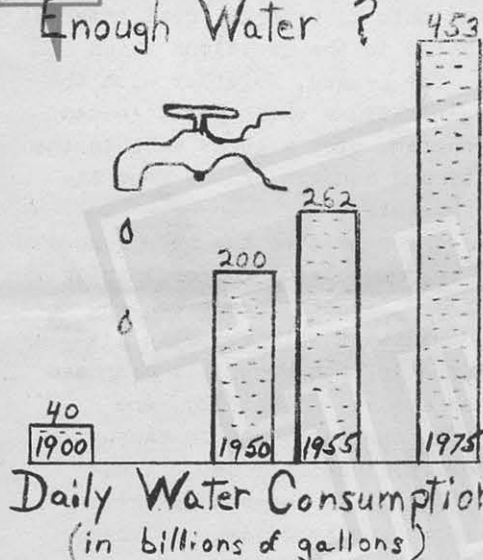
## Ann Arbor League of Women Voters



Editor: Mrs. Lyle Craine  
President: Mrs. C.W. Spooner

April, 1957

### Enough Water ?



GENERAL MEETING ON WATER PROBLEMS  
Wednesday, April 24, 8p.m. Unitarian Church  
1917 Washtenaw Ave.

Films: "Waters of Coweeta"  
"Clean Waters"

Discussion Lyle E. Craine, Conservation Dept.  
Leader: School of Natural Resources

Purpose: To launch our National Item on  
Water Conservation

As a first step toward our ultimate goal of recommending a desirable water resources policy for the nation, this meeting will present some of the many problems relating to water.

The two films will show characteristics of waterflow in streams and below the ground, and will demonstrate some of the specific techniques of controlling and improving water supplies. Dr. Craine will answer questions concerning the policies and practices of government agencies dealing with water, and recent trends toward integrated watershed management. Some of our national water problems are reflected on a small scale right here in our Huron Valley. The meeting will be open to the public.

### VOTERS SERVICE APRIL 2 ELECTION

| City Candidates | Moderators                | WPAG-TV (Channel 20) | WPAG- Radio    |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                 |                           | 10-10:30 P.M.        | 5:30-6 P.M.    |
| Mayors          | Sam Estep                 | Fri. March 22        | Mon. March 25  |
| Councilmen      | 1st Ward Helen Dempster   | Mon. March 25        | Tues. March 26 |
|                 | 2nd Ward Arthur Bromage   | Tue. March 26        | Wed. March 27  |
|                 | 3rd Ward Allen Smith      | Wed. March 27        | Thur. March 28 |
|                 | 4th Ward Lawrence Ouimet  | Thur. March 28       | Fri. March 29  |
|                 | 5th Ward Marshall Knappen | Fri. March 29        | Sat. March 30  |

Are you finding out about your local candidates views through the radio and TV programs listed above? (Barbara Hough arranged the series.) Are you reading the Ann Arbor News for reports of the programs and our candidate interviews? (Louise Piranian with the help of Lois Maugh, organized the interviews.) Do you want information on the ballot issues? Read our miniature Guide in the News - that is, if the bus issue is still on the ballot along with the jail and Pittsfield Park annexation. At the moment of writing, the bus situation is very fluid. Mary Jane Atkinson is keeping an eye on it for us. Will you still have questions on election day? Call Telephone Service at the home of Laura Moore who is in charge.

Patty Zander

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The choice of a local agenda item is the most crucial decision League members have to make during the year. I have four reasons to back up this statement.

First: A League is best known in a community for the work it does on the local level. When you mention the League to your friends, what comes to their minds? Is it not the work we have done locally on children's services, on charter revision, on city planning and particularly our Voters Service activities that is fresh in their memories? Our studies of local problems and the resulting action we have taken on local governmental issues make the name of the League best known. Our membership growth, in turn, largely depends upon the amount of community interest in our activities, present and past.

Second: The purpose of the League is to help women learn about government. We do this by encouraging them to actively participate in government, basing their action on objective information.

It is natural and easy for them to start in their own community. At best, action on the state or national level is far more difficult to accomplish than on the local level. This is particularly true for most League members who are more or less tied down to their homes.

Third: In order to take action on any level there first must be clear-cut membership agreement. In the past, when there were merely 500 local Leagues in the USA, it was far easier to arrive at consensus on a national issue than it is now when we have over 1,000 local Leagues. On the state level it of course is less difficult to arrive at consensus, where there are only 27 local leagues, but it is even easier to reach consensus at the local level.

In the future we may find that on the national level mere size will more

## CONCLUSION OF TOWN TALKS

Professor George Peek concluded the 1957 Town Talks on Feb. 27th with a frank and hard-hitting presentation of the price we must be prepared to pay for a foreign policy designed to secure international peace. Though attendance was smaller at this last Talk, great interest was reflected in the questions which followed. The League, together with the other organizations which participated in the program, owes a great debt to the generosity and concern of the four excellent speakers.

A steering committee has been formed to carry responsibility for organizing next year's Citizens' Committee, and to provide continuity with retiring committee. The interim group is composed of persons active in the city, the schools, the churches, and on campus. A full report will shortly be in their hands detailing all aspects of this year's effort and embodying recommendations for the next program. Suggestions or recommendations from any League member will be welcomed by Mrs. W.B. Willcox, 2650 Heatherway, NO2-1365. Faith Willcox

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Cont'd)  
and more hamper us in reaching consensus. For instance, for many years the League had supported Federal Aid to Education. In 1949, due to opposition by sufficient number of local (southern?) Leagues, National was no longer able to say that there was wide-spread membership agreement on this subject. As a result the League now takes no stand on this most important issue. Although we are an action organization, the time may come when most League action will be limited to the local level.

Fourth: Often we see how a local item can grow into a state or even into a national item. This occurs when our local activities are hampered by the need for state legislation, or when we find that a local item involves not only our own but other communities as well.



MATERIAL FOR JOINT UNIT MEETING APRIL 4.

(Please bring this with you)

GOALS OF DISCUSSION: 1. To have members discuss the suggested local agenda items for the next two years and to determine where members' interest lies.

2. To suggest any other topics the group considers worthy of League study at this time.

PRESENT LOCAL AGENDA ITEM: "Study of Urban Renewal as it applies to Ann Arbor."

REASONS WHY LEAGUE WORKS ON AN AGENDA ITEM: 1. To obtain information. 2. To help build public opinion. 3. To support or oppose legislation. All current agenda items imply some aspect of action even though at a later date, but study is necessary before arriving at agreement on a position. Once agreement is reached, a study item may become an action item.

LOCAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES....1956-57

When considering an item for the Local Agenda, we must keep in mind our Continuing Responsibilities. These are items which have been "moved from" the Current Agenda after having received sustained attention by the members and upon which the Board may decide to take action if the membership is informed and in agreement and if the League can be politically effective.

Our total list now reads:

1. Support of a city administration in which the administrative function is centered wholly in the departments under the direction of a full-time paid city administrator, appointed and responsible to the City Council.
2. Provision for municipal systems of centralized finances and of personnel management including a merit system for the city employees.
3. Support of improved public services to children; including;
  - a. adequate detention facilities.
  - b. adequate facilities for the Detention Home.
  - c. adequate and trained staff for the Detention Home, City Youth Bureau, the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court, and the School Counseling Services.
4. Measures to promote the orderly growth of Ann Arbor and its fringe areas, including support of:
  - a. A City Planning Commission with the powers allowed under State Law.
  - b. A well publicized, integrated Master Plan for Ann Arbor.
  - c. Zoning which takes into account the city's overall needs, including those of industry, and working toward mutually restrictive zoning where-ever feasible.
  - d. Development of annexation policies which encourage orderly growth, taking into consideration the ability of the city to finance services to new areas.
5. Measures to promote orderly development of Washtenaw County including an adequately staffed County Planning Commission.
6. Measures to help solve local public health problems including adequate garbage and rubbish disposal and maintenance of high standards of milk and food inspection.
7. Support of a coordinated City-County Health Department.
8. Promotion of understanding of the methods of financing local units of government.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN LOCAL AFFAIRS  
(Sept. '56 - March '57)

Last September the opening membership meeting heard a panel of professionals discuss Urban Renewal as it applies to Ann Arbor; Mr. Guy Larcom, moderator, Mr. Ray Eastman, Mr. A.D. Moore, and Mr. Wendell Edwards. They told us that the proposed project for a 75 acre area in north-central Ann Arbor would not be a slum clearance undertaking. Buildings in good shape would remain, those that are in need of renovation would be rehabilitated, and those that must come down would be razed.

We learned that the city would buy properties for clearance and re-sell much of the vacant lands to private developers. The overall cost of the proposed project is about 3-1/2 million dollars. Re-sales of the properties are estimated to cover some \$2,000,000 of that total. Of the remaining 1-1/2 millions, the federal government would be responsible for two-thirds of the cost and the city for one-third.

We heard how the plans for the proposed project are developed. First there is the original application and then a preliminary study is made to estimate the cost and scope of the project including tentative plans for the area, blocking it out into residential, park and business areas. Next, a survey is made to determine how many buildings will probably be razed, and how many people will have to be moved out of the area to do this. The city council and the federal government must approve the plans for the proposed project. In the final stage, conferences with interested groups are held, and there are public hearings. It was pointed out that in order to come to any agreement among all interested parties, many plans might have to be drawn. If all went smoothly, it still might be three years before the actual proposed project could begin.

The October units on Urban Renewal were told about the statutes which pertained to renewal projects and the types

of areas that need an Urban Renewal program. They discussed the procedures for starting a project, and found out how to carry thru such a procedure. Difficulties that are encountered on projects of this kind in other cities were considered.

The resource group met in November to hear Prof. Wm. Muschenheim of the School of Architecture tell of plans his students had made for an urban renewal project here in Ann Arbor. The various plans they drew up enlarged upon the area currently being considered. Colored slides as it could look were shown and all went home with great, gay technicolor dreams of what might be done, (if we but had the chance and also the money to spend!)

During December and January the Local Affairs group concentrated its efforts on studying the Capital Improvements program, presenting the results of this study to the members at the general meeting in January.

In February all League activity, aside from Voters Service, was concentrated on "Town Talks".

Mr. Amos Washington, Ypsilanti Housing Director, spoke to the resource group at a meeting in March about his effort to get an Urban Renewal project started there.

Meanwhile the preliminary survey, being prepared by the City Planning Commission, has taken longer to complete than was anticipated. It probably will be finished in March. Hence we will not know until April, or perhaps May, whether Ann Arbor will proceed on an Urban Renewal project. If the federal government does not approve the survey, it would have to be done over again, strengthening the weak spots, or the the project might be dropped altogether.

If the plan is accepted, the Planning Commission would publish the survey, hold public hearings to determine the degree of public support, and make final



plans for the area.

It is at this point that the League could take action. We would study the plans and testify at the public hearings, particularly concerning the sociological and geographical arrangements, and relocation of the residents of the area, and make recommendations on any necessary bond issue. Most serious is the problem of relocating the present inhabitants in suitable dwellings, the building of new housing at a price which would be covered by F.H.A. mortgages, and finding low-cost housing.

A real service the League could offer, would be that of informing the community about the project. Of prime importance is getting information to the residents of the area involved, many of whom are now opposed to the proposed program, because of "rumors" they have heard.

In view of our slow progress to date do you think we should continue Urban Renewal as a local agenda item for the next two years?

Add Pidd

#### TIPS ON PRESENTING AN AGENDA ITEM

Are you enthusiastic about a pet idea you want to present to the members? If so, listed below are some tips on how to get your item across.

1. Check it against the yardsticks.
2. Word it clearly.
3. State whether it is a study and/or an action item.
4. Present background information in support of your proposal.
5. If it fits under our present Continuing Responsibilities, tell why it should be moved to the Current Agenda.
6. Line up ahead of time board and non-board members who will speak in favor of your item.
7. Explain just how this item might be implemented.
8. Give a written statement to the secretary.
9. Have your say, and sit down.

#### LEAGUE YARDSTICKS

In considering the proposed items, check each with the yardsticks used for determining a good agenda item.

1. Does it come within the Principles of the League of Women Voters?
2. Is it a governmental problem?
3. Is it a problem to be solved by local government?
4. Is this the best time to take up the proposed item?
5. Is the problem basic or only part of a larger problem?
6. What would be the source of public funds if they are necessary to carry the proposed item to a successful conclusion?
7. Can the League offer a solution, or work toward a solution?
8. Will it give League members good experience in citizen action?
9. Have we the experience, aptitude, and sufficient personnel to carry out this program?
10. Will the League duplicate unnecessarily the work of other organizations in the community?
11. Is this the area in which the League can make its most valuable contribution to the community?
12. What is the present attitude of the community toward this problem and what is their response likely to be?
13. Is there likelihood of tangible success?
14. Will it involve decisions of a professional or technical nature which the League is not equipped to make?
15. Do you like the item and will you help to work on it?

## SUGGESTED TWO-YEAR LOCAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR 1957 - 59

### I. URBAN RENEWAL IN ANN ARBOR

Further study of the federal statutes concerning Urban Renewal is still needed. If and when the Planning Commission's design is accepted for a project, the League could have an important role to play in evaluating it. Other action on Urban Renewal would include interpretation to the community and to residents of the area, testimony at public hearings and recommendations on any bond issue needed for a project. (For details see article on local affairs.)

### II. STUDY OF A RECREATION COMMISSION FOR ANN ARBOR

The need, organization and function of a recreation commission for Ann Arbor as permitted in the city charter would be a local item of limited dimensions and popular appeal. An examination of our present recreation program, its administrative problems and anticipated expansion should give us an indication of needs. Understanding of organization and function would be gained through comparative studies of recreation commissions and departments in other cities. These studies would serve as a basis on which to make recommendations on the kind of commission that would best serve Ann Arbor.

### III. STUDY OF THE PRIORITY AND FINANCING OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND CITY SERVICES

Failures of past capital bond issues point to the necessity of looking at our public improvement needs as a whole rather than piecemeal. Likewise our city services require an over-all evaluation. Our background of work in planning and finances equip us to undertake such a long-range study. Sources of revenues would be explored such as excise taxes, an amusement tax on admissions over \$1.00, and a 1% income tax, in addition to property taxes.

### IV. STUDY OF OVERALL NEEDS AND FINANCES OF THE COUNTY, SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CITY.

Competition by the county, school district and city for the property tax dollar becomes more acute each year. The League could perform valuable service by examining the expressed needs of these three units of government and their budgets, budget procedures, assessing practices and sources of revenue. The League has considerable background in this area, and might arrive at a method of establishing priority among needs. This study would terminate with a final report made available to the entire community. It also fits in well with the revision of the Washtenaw County Government booklet which is due this year.

### V. A STUDY OF THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED.

A study on how to meet the growing demands upon the Huron River is already being conducted by a committee composed of representatives of the planning boards of the four counties involved. With our background in the principles of planning, aided by the study we will be doing under the national item on water conservation, we should be able to evaluate this study through its interim reports. Although this item would be on our local agenda, it could best be handled by the resource group studying the national item on conservation. Therefore it might be carried with little additional effort as a second item on the local level.

### VI. OTHER SUGGESTED POSSIBLE ITEMS

Should we bring our planning background up to date by examining annexation and zoning practices?

Should we make our own study of capital improvements?

Are community services to our many troubled children adequate?

Are the advantages of our city charter being fully realized in practice?



## CONCENSUS REACHED ON LOYALTY-SECURITY

At the March units on the Federal Loyalty-Security Programs, consensus was reached in all units that more individual protection is necessary and a more liberal program should be developed. There is agreement on the need for a four-step program with (1) centralized responsibility under one director, (2) clearance required only for more important and sensitive positions, (3) a redefined, simplified, and uniform standard, (4) more fair and efficient procedure.

Qualifying statements were individually expressed regarding an awareness that a program of any type depends on the caliber of the personnel as well as on the machinery and that changes in the program should be in the realm of emphasis rather than of pure mechanics.

Jean Johnson

## INTERVIEW WITH REP. MEADER

Representative George Meader gave three League members an hour's interview on our National Continuing Responsibilities. On Friday, Feb. 22nd, Mesdames Spooner, Balta, and Willcox talked with him about the United States aid program through the U.N., our contribution to the U.N., our bilateral economic assistance program, and the possibility of our joining the Organization for Trade Cooperation. On the latter subject, Mr. Meader had had expressions of unfavorable opinion from Argus Camera, Eberbach & Son and the Clinton Woolen Mill. He was interested in the League's position also on the Bricker Amendment, a subject he has studied in some detail, but which he feels is not likely to come before Congress in the immediate future.

## President's Corner (Cont'd)

For instance our 1947 item on children's services expanded into a state item in 1949. Likewise our new national item on conservation developed from local agendas in other states.

I urge you to attend the April 4th meeting.  
Vera Spooner

## ARE YOU OVERWORKED?

or

Your Unit Needs Not Only You, But  
Someone Else You Take Along.

If you are a conscientious unit member perhaps you find yourself agreeing to do one more little League job than you'd really like because there seems to be no one else to do it. But there is a simple solution to this dilemma. Let's adopt the motto "Never Go Alone to a Unit Meeting--Take Someone Else Along." Of course a newcomer won't be asked right away to lead a discussion or be a unit meeting hostess, but if you help her assimilate into the unit group, she'll soon be volunteering for some of the jobs you'd rather not take the time for if you weren't so badly needed.

In considering our work load we ought to bear in mind that a unit is not a level of League organization, but merely a device for increasing member participation in the total activity of the League. Units continue to be perhaps the ideal spot for a new member to get her bearings in the League and discover which activities interest her most. She doubtless feels far freer to participate in a small, informal unit discussion, for instance, than to speak up in a general membership meeting.

However, the very characteristics of unit meetings that suit them for an induction spot for new members (as well as a meeting place for old friends) may make some people hesitant to go to a unit meeting alone. Because it's at someone's house, rather than at a public place, because she may not have met the hostess, someone in your neighborhood may appreciate your invitation to go with you.

So "Never go Alone to a Unit Meeting -- Take Someone Else Along". You'll be glad you did if the League gains another active member. And after all, isn't our goal many active members, each participating with enough moderation that she continues to enjoy League work.

Martha Cannell

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 - JOINT UNIT MEETING  
8 P.M. Unitarian Church

A NEW IDEA! FIRST TIME IN HISTORY FOR AA LEAGUE TO TRY THIS DARING EXPERIMENT!

Each year in April the discussion at unit meetings focusses on possible topics for next year's local agenda item(s). Although members are always urged to make their suggestions in advance, invariably one or two sparkling ideas are born just at meeting time. The result: a unit is apt to see one of these new-born ideas as superior to all that are routinely being discussed at the other meetings. If the other units do not so much as touch on this subject it is never known whether, if they had, they too might have preferred it to the ones which in their units got the bulk of membership approval. Also it is difficult to estimate just how many members would want to work on a particular item.

Many expressions of dissatisfaction with this method have led to trying a new plan this year.

Here is how it will work: First, at the April 4 joint unit meeting, previously suggested items will be presented to the entire group by the Local Affairs Resource Committee. Members will be invited to propose and describe any additional possible items that have come to mind. Then, during a "coffee break", members will gather into their unit groups to assess the items under consideration and weigh the pros and cons of those most appealing to them. The whole meeting will then reconvene, with each unit reporting its choice up to that moment. Ensuing discussion may point out the superiority of some items over others. By adjournment time, each unit member will have the benefit of the thinking in all the other units, and the Board in recommending an item for adoption at the annual meeting in May, will be confident of knowing the membership preference.

OTHER MEETINGS IN APRIL

| Meetings        | Time                   | Place                                  | Topics   |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Local Affairs   | Tue. Apr. 16<br>8 p.m. | Mrs. Robert Pidd<br>2801 Brockman      | Urban Renewal                                    |
| Conservation    | Wed. Apr. 17<br>1 p.m. | Mrs. Clinton Castor<br>1415 E. Stadium | Preparations for<br>General Meeting              |
| GENERAL MEETING | Wed. Apr. 24<br>8 p.m. | Unitarian Church<br>1917 Washtenaw     | Water Problems<br>Films-Discussion               |
| State Affairs   | Wed. May 1<br>8 p.m.   | Mrs. Harold Helbig<br>2671 Maplewood   | State-local Relations: Counties<br>and Townships |

Everyone is welcome to these meetings - members and non-members alike.

NEW MEMBERS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Miss Trenna Deane Edmonson<br>1434 Roxbury<br>NO 2-2890 | Mrs. Robert Juvinall<br>619 Eberwhite<br>NO 28360 | Mrs. Morris Greenhut<br>1103 Ferdon Rd.<br>NO 21671 |
| Mrs. Harm Buning  | 2322 Fernwood                                     | NO 2-2685   |



msc

"ATOMIC ENERGY and NUCLEAR RADIATION"

a Pilot Study

by the LWV of Cleveland Heights, Ohio

When: In May of 1957.

Who: The LWV of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, set up a committee of nine.

What: To study in detail the benefits, hazards and safeguards of atomic energy and nuclear radiation.

Why:

1. The tremendous increase in exposure of man and his environment to nuclear radiation from all sources (X-ray, fissionable materials for research, industrial and military purposes, fallout) is cause for gravest concern.
2. Since production and use of all radioactive materials (except medically used radium and X-ray) are government-controlled, this constitutes a legitimate area of inquiry for the League.
3. The study was planned as a preliminary to a National Agenda Item proposal in this field.

How: A 2-page bibliography of books and articles on the subject form the basis for the study. Its foundation are the Summary Reports by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, The Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation, the Hearings of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Congress of the U.S. (Part I and II), Lapp and Schubert "Radiation - What It is and How It Affects You", also to date 6 scrap books of news clippings covering 5 dailies (including the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post and Times Herald) for the past 2 years.

A 3-page subject outline, 6 study posters and a discussion brief (18 pages) were developed from the study. Letters were written to State and some local Leagues informing them of our project and inviting suggestions. The study was presented to our 6 Units in December and received with great interest and support. Since then, several Leagues in this area have used our material for presentations to their groups.

Conclusions:

1. Atomic energy and nuclear radiation in all of their basic facts and most of their aspects are well within the technical comprehension of League members. The subject can be presented in everyday language. A wealth of material is available from government sources (much of it free) and public libraries.
2. League study and action can and should be undertaken on all levels of government. Much new legislation is urgently required and some of the existing is in dire need of overhauling. The problems range all the way from the danger of X-ray shoe-fitting machines and industrial accidents involving fissionable materials (Local), interstate transport of radioisotopes and X-ray codes (State) to knowledge of the function of the AEC and the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy (Federal) as well as to the atomic energy aspects of foreign policy, U.N. committees, and global fallout with concomitant health and genetic dangers.
3. Atomic energy and nuclear radiation are a subject of crucial importance to every human being and to future generations. As no other issue today it concerns all the people. Since in a democracy it is the people who must decide, we need to be candidly and intelligently informed. The League with its unique method of study and information is not only singularly equipped to do its part in the all-important task of public education but has a clear obligation to do so.

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For copies (at cost) of bibliographies, outlines or discussion briefs write to:  
Mrs. K. F. Welte, 1522 Wilmar Road, Cleveland Heights 21, Ohio.

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## Explanation

Continued from Page 3

fication measures to the provision of one subject per bill."

The new material to be studied will deal with the judiciary provisions. Our study will concentrate on Court organization and the Minor Judiciary, to learn what is best in modern practice in these fields and the kinds of constitutional provisions that would make these changes possible. Now that League support for the Pennsylvania Plan for the selection of judges is reaffirmed, all the Leagues will want to acquaint members with this proposal and the reasons for our support.

II. A proposed constitutional amendment authorizing wider use of the absentee ballot has passed two successive Legislatures and will be before the voters in November. While concerned with any measure "which enables the voter to carry out his obligations as a citizen" (National Principle No. 2), and aware of the importance of an established League position by fall, the Convention was not prepared to support this proposal without an opportunity for further study of the local Leagues. The proposed amendment is general in nature. Extensive, intensive work would not be required to reach a position, for or against, in time for the November election. The League's greatest usefulness might come, if the amendment is adopted, at the time when enabling legislation is under consideration. Leagues will examine the experience of other states and agree on criteria against which such legislation could be measured.

## Pledges

Continued from Page 3

money at the local level? 3) Does it result in a fair distribution of the burden?

Each plan was applied to all Pennsylvania Leagues and the results compared. Two facts were quickly realized: it is impossible to apply any method without subjective judgment and adjustment; all had a levelling effect, bringing the pledges of stronger Leagues down and those of weaker Leagues up.

### The State College Plan

Its chief merit is that it guarantees the State treasury certain income from April 1 until the local pledges start to come in. The Committee unanimously felt this time could be better bridged by an adequate Cash Operating Balance. The minimum of \$1.50 per member would provide only one-half the amount necessary and the remainder would have to be pro-

## THANKS

The former editor of the VOTER is very grateful to the local bulletin editors for their help in the display of local bulletins at convention. This display was popular, and she feels sure that changes will be made in some bulletins as a result.

vided by a "subjective" method.

### The New York Formula

A complicated one based on percentages between local and state membership, local pledges, size of local community and total League area in the state—all weighted. It seemed utterly unrealistic as applied to Pennsylvania—for instance it would assign 24% of State support to our only First Class City League

### The Wilkes-Barre Plan

Based on \$2 per member plus 10% of Finance Drive results did not yield sufficient income, would be more variable from year to year and did not meet the criterion of equitable distribution of burden.

### The York Plan

Based on a straight \$3 fee per member, would yield sufficient income for the State budget but those Leagues that still have \$3 dues would not have money enough for local expenditures. Where dues are \$5, it is still not an equitable distribution of the burden.

### Other Plans

Two other plans for determining pledges were prepared by Committee members. The first: a flat one-third of the local budget, the second: one-third of the budget with weightings. Neither proved satisfactory.

The Temporary Finance Committee made and the State Board concurred in certain recommendations: 1) State funds should be used to strengthen existing Leagues as well as to organize new ones. 2) Leagues should be reminded of the National Board's recommendation of \$5 dues. 3) New Leagues should start with \$5 dues. 4) A League shall assume full financial responsibility for state and national support three years after its organization.

The Committee was unanimous in feeling that it is dangerous in the extreme for the state Operating Cash Balance to fall as low as it did April 1, 1956. It recommends that a proper balance shall not be less than two and one-half to three months running expenses and suggests a minimum of \$3,000. A conscientious effort should be made to build up such a balance and to safeguard it carefully—not use it lightly to balance the budget when local support is not forthcoming. Several gifts, one anonymously pledged at Convention, others from concerned Leagues, have been made to the O. C. B.

## Citizens' Committee

### To Press For Constitutional Revision

In recent weeks League members all over the state have been active in the formation of a new state-wide committee, The Citizens' Committee for Revision of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Impetus was provided by a luncheon given by Gov. and Mrs. Leader in Harrisburg, on April 24th. The League-backed legislation (S.433 and H.1489) was explained to some 95 guests. Many of those present, who represented various organizations and areas in Pennsylvania, expressed the wish to form a permanent committee which could not only coordinate legislative action but could plan for a continuing program of public education.

At a subsequent meeting the new organization was begun. Co-chairmen are Attorney Arlin Adams of Philadelphia, and Susan Baker, former State League President.

The Citizens' Committee's first task is to work for passage of legislation (S.433 and H.1489) which would authorize the appointment of a 15-member study commission to do research, hold hearings, and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature early in 1959. (The League has long backed this as the soundest and most intelligent approach to constitutional revision.) Republicans and Democratic leaders have been approached by the Citizens' Committee and have been told that any reasonable compromises on method of appointment of the study commission or on amount of the appropriation would be acceptable if needed to insure passage.

By the time this VOTER is in your hands the legislative session may be over and you will know the results. Regardless of success or failure on legislation, however, it is hoped that League members will rally to the task of providing public information about Pennsylvania's constitution. Here is a way to capitalize on our years of study. When the Citizens' Committee announces plans for an educational campaign, the League will be on its mettle.

## THE PENNSYLVANIA VOTER

Vol. XIX June, 1957 No. 5

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OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Mrs. John D. Kenderdine, Editor  
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# Voter

PUBLISHED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

## BALLOT ISSUES IN NOVEMBER

Absentee Voting.  
Korean Veterans' Bonus.  
Taxation of Forest Reserves.

## Legislative Roundup

### BILLS SUPPORTED BY LEAGUE

#### Constitutional Revision

S433: After the formation of the Citizens' Committee for Revision of the Pennsylvania Constitution, there was some hope that this bill for a Constitutional Study Commission would pass. Instead, the Senate adopted Resolution No. 121, directing the Joint State Government Commission to make a study of the constitution. The Resolution then moved to the Rules Committee of the House. The State League opposed this resolution on the grounds that the J.S.G.C. is already overburdened and that this is a job better done by a specially qualified group responsible to both the legislature and the Executive.

H1489: A House Bill with the same provisions for a study commission was introduced, happily under bipartisan sponsorship. We withdrew support of S433, stymied by resolution, and urge support of H1489. It was amended to change the method of appointing the commission and to cut the appropriation severely.

#### Annual Sessions

H2: The House passed this Annual Sessions Bill some time ago and has now concurred in a Senate amendment to strike out the provision enabling the governor to submit any matter of state-wide importance to the mid-term session.

#### Home Rule

S229: A Home Rule for 3rd Class Cities bill (see last VOTER) passed the Senate while we were in Convention. We sent a resolution expressing our pleasure and later urged that the House Committee on Cities of the 3rd Class report the bill out promptly.

H84: This would complete City-Consolidation for Philadelphia. Its  
Continued on Page 2

## WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWERS

A local study is a challenge to every local League. It concerns the level of government which touches us most closely, about which we know the most — or do we? — and where we can best measure both effort and results.

When the Annual Meeting is over and the local government area for League study and action (local current agenda) has been adopted, what comes next? Usually a long list of questions and a golden opportunity for fascinating sleuthing in the process of finding answers.

Since there are no convenient discussion outlines and publications from state or national offices, no periodic letters from state or national resource chairmen, it should appeal to those with initiative and curiosity. It does not need experts. Chairman and committee members go far with an attitude of "I don't know much about this, but I am willing to find out."

### What Questions

What do we need to know first? What does our municipal code say or not say on the subject? Does the solution lie within the authority of our local governing body? What are the facts necessary for decisions in the special field of our study? How do other municipalities of our kind, size or location handle this problem? What is a desirable solution for us? By what means do we achieve this desirable solution? By a quiet presentation of facts to elected officials? To key citizens in the community? To parties? Through a referendum? How shall we take our facts to other groups in the community? How can we spark community action?

The answers will not be found assembled and packaged for consumption like a frozen TV dinner — to be warmed up. There are basic ingredients at hand though and there are many authorities and sources of information available. Since nothing is ever wasted in the League of Women Voters, what is not applicable today may kindle next year's local program.

### Where Do We Find Answers?

You might start with some easily come by basic materials: a copy of the state constitution, of the state laws that affect your type of local government, a list of officials—their duties and salaries, a reference book

on state and local government. Your Constitution and Voters' Service chairmen can help. "Know Your Town" and "Know Your County", published by National, are useful.

The Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, maintains a Bureau of Municipal Affairs which compiles all sorts of information from local municipalities and publishes a monthly bulletin, sent on request.

Institutes of State and/or Local Government at Penn State and the Universities of Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh are cooperative, have trained staffs and faculty, extensive libraries.

The National Municipal League is another font of information. So are state and national organizations devoted to specific areas as child welfare, planning, recreation, etc.

People are wonderful — the best source of all. Talk with local officials, people in private agencies. Don't tell them, let them tell you what the problems are—the answers.

Don't overlook the usefulness of a big map of both your county and local community.

Of course not all important questions have been raised nor all materials and sources listed. Why spoil the joy of discovery? Fortunately the great motivating power in the League is constructive curiosity. One thing always leads to another and frequently to success. When the facts speak for themselves to League members, they will so speak to the community — if made available. The League goal is not to seek credit for an achievement in a community. Perhaps you have heard that our purpose is to increase political responsibility of all citizens through informed and active participation in government.



## Summary Conclusions on Legislative Articles

The questions around which the year's work centered involved democratic principles as they relate to the power and the procedure of the legislature. Our final conclusions are formally stated in the "Explanation of Current Agenda". This then is a brief statement of the reasoning back of them.

Several Leagues were convinced that a unicameral legislature is worth great effort but the majority believe that bicameralism is here to stay and that there are reasons other than political acceptability that make its continuance valid in so large and diverse a state as ours.

However, bicameralism should and could be improved. One suggestion is the indirect initiative, which gives citizens an opportunity to petition for action on measures upon which the legislature has failed to act. If the legislature still does not act within a reasonable time, the measure is put on the ballot for a referendum such as now exists for amendments to the constitution. By not by-passing the legislature, the indirect initiative fits into the pattern of representative government.

We agree that the committee system needs renovation, that the Joint Committee idea merits consideration. Under this plan there are parallel committees in each House which meet as one, use one bill and hold one set of hearings. The result is more clearly fixed committee responsibility, a saving of time and money, fewer committee assignments and possibly better committee work.

We believe that citizens have a right to be heard before committees. Public hearings should be scheduled far enough in advance to allow citizens to come prepared to support their views. Permanent records of committee proceedings should be kept and be available to the public.

A discharge rule that would allow the minority to get bills onto the floor for debate and action seems most necessary if we are to avoid the prevailing pattern of committee chairmen wielding inordinate power over legislation.

In regard to legislative procedures, three readings of a bill does not seem to insure careful deliberation. Two readings by title, the bill printed and available for study, and a full reading before final vote, might be more realistic. There is almost unanimous interest in a more efficient method of voting than the present recording of "ayes and nays".

Although we recognize the virtue of continuous sessions, again we are practical and favor annual sessions without limiting time or subject.

The Joint State Government Commission, which was created by statute, has important enough functions to warrant a constitutional basis to insure its continued existence.

Finally, the provision that only one subject be contained in one bill ought to spell out provisions for the budget and for codification thus bringing the constitution abreast of current practice.

These conclusions, together with earlier decisions on reapportionment, home rule and the fiscal provisions, round out a sizeable area of agreement on ways to strengthen and improve the legislature. They confirm our belief that the strength of state government is highly dependent on the power of the legislature to deal firmly and promptly with modern problems and because it speaks for the people it should be responsive to their will.

## Legislative Roundup

Continued from Page 1

enemies from both parties rallied to defeat it at a closed hearing of the sub-committee. The Convention sent telegrams expressing regret at the secrecy.

### The Pennsylvania Plan

S153: After a fairly conclusive roll call vote at Convention the State Board again put the Pennsylvania Plan for the Selection of Judges on our LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. In making this decision the Board considered the size and geographical spread of the Leagues supporting the Plan and the lack of any direct opposition and also the fact that the Leagues had been given ample opportunity for renewed appraisal. The Senate Committee and the Pa. Bar Assn. were notified of our support.

### Public Health

We again were forced to protest irresponsible cuts proposed in the Health Department budget. These cuts, if sustained, will directly affect the decentralization of the State's Public Health Services and the reorganization of the Department.

H111: This bill would make Philadelphia eligible for matching funds under the County Health Unit enabling act. We supported this bill as consistent with the principle of decentralized health services.

### Education

H677: We gave support to this bill early in the session. An increase in teachers' salaries seemed clearly defined under our C.R. and might contribute toward solving the problem of teacher recruitment. It is still in the Committee on Education.

S630: Amends the 4th to 8th class county assessment law by extending

## Convention High Spots

As Seen by the Delegates

A tally of the 87 evaluation sheets returned by delegates gives these answers to the question on what were the High Spots of the convention.

### Tied for Tops

"Dr. Willis' talk"—a witty analysis of the relations between local and state government with a fine balance between what is and what should be. "Norman Thomas' speech"—an indictment of an apathetic, self-centered America in a world of atomic fall out.

"Informed exchange of ideas with other Leagues."—bouquets tossed at the delegates such as "calibre of the women of the LWV", "well-informed delegates" accounts for this.

### Tied for Seconds

"Floor debate, general meetings"—reinforced by "work meetings", "discussion on CA and CR's", "watching and hearing convention unfold", "seeing democracy work".

"Everything about convention, all of my stay"—lovely sweeping approval!

"Round tables" especially that on Membership—we do like to talk.

the time for the establishment of uniform permanent records. It has passed the Senate and is now in the House Committee on Municipal Corporations. We have expressed our concern over a bill that postpones again a measure so necessary to the improvement of the educational systems of these counties.

## BILLS OF INTEREST

### Health

H1529: A bill with no future, it would make County Health Departments mandatory by 1962.

### Education

H183: This widely publicized bill calls for changes in the complex school subsidy program. In its original form it seemed like a good bill, as it provided funds for meeting the mandated salary increases and attempted to promote greater local effort toward school support. In its amended form it would aid the poor districts at the expense of the more wealthy, such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It is said that it would be disastrous for these areas, bankrupting their school systems by 1960.

S525: Provides for intermediate school service areas, a special facet of educational administration not anticipated in our earlier work and so outside the range of League action.

S35: One of the few bills that has become law, it affects certain temporary restrictions on the taxing authorities of sub-divisions affected by the 4th to 8th class county assessment law and embodies the same principle.

## BUDGET

Revised and Approved

### EXPENDITURES

#### General Administration

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Board of Directors    |        |
| President's Expense   | \$ 300 |
| Board Travel          | 1100   |
| Del. to Nat'l Council | 280    |
| Committee Meetings    |        |
| Nominating Committee  | 60     |
| Budget Committee      | 90     |
| Legislative Costs     | 100    |
| Operating Costs       |        |
| Rent                  | 810    |
| Insurance             | 11     |
| Supplies              | 500    |
| Tel. and Tel.         | 400    |
| Postage               | 425    |
| Bank Charges          | 5      |
| Salary and Taxes      | 2835   |

#### Fees

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Audit            | 15 |
| Bond (Treasurer) | 9  |
| Public Relations | 75 |

#### Capital Expenditures

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| New Equipment | 100 |
|---------------|-----|

#### Publications

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| National     | 165 |
| State        | 100 |
| Penna. Voter | 850 |

#### Organization

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Program | 240 |
|---------|-----|

#### Finance

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| National Services | 4200 |
|-------------------|------|

#### Miscellaneous

|  |    |
|--|----|
|  | 50 |
|--|----|

Total Expenitures ---- \$13,265

### INCOME

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Established Leagues | \$13,175 |
| Provisional Leagues | 60       |
| Members at Large    | 5        |
| Miscellaneous       | 25       |

Total Income ----- \$13,265

## PLEDGES

How Should They Be Determined?

The Convention adopted an adjusted budget of \$13,265—\$695 less than proposed. On the whole there was gratifying response from most of the Leagues to the increased pledges suggested. One League voluntarily added \$100. Even so, services we would like from the State must be curtailed and each League the poorer thereby because there are still too many Leagues who feel they can not or who do not accept the suggested pledge.

At this time the part of the Temporary Finance Committee's report dealing with pledges is pertinent. Four methods for setting pledges were considered: The three general criteria used in evaluating these methods were: 1) Does it provide sufficient funds to balance the State budget? 2) Does it leave enough

Continued on Page 4

# PROGRAM :: 1957-1958

As Adopted by the State Convention May 1957

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, a non-partisan organization, works through its Voters Service and Program to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

### VOTERS' SERVICE

A year-round activity to help the individual citizen to be politically effective. It develops understanding of the essentials of individual liberty and representative government; it provides non-partisan factual information on candidates and issues; it increases citizen participation in political processes in the interest of responsible government.

### CURRENT AGENDA

One or more governmental issues chosen by the State Convention for concerted action.

I. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, believing that a thorough revision of the Constitution of the Commonwealth is desirable, will: 1) continue to seek improvements in its legislative provisions, 2) study to reach agreement on other

desirable changes giving first attention to judiciary provisions.

II. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania will study and evaluate, with a view to action, proposals for the extension of absentee balloting privileges for qualified voters.

### CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Measures which the State League as a whole has supported in recent years.

I. Reorganization of state, county and local governments to secure professional competence and sound administration.

child in Pennsylvania.

1. Adequate salaries for qualified teachers.

2. Adequate state aid, equitably distributed, to assure basic educational opportunity throughout the state.

3. Attendance areas and administrative units large enough to be economical in operation and diversified in curriculum.

4. Equitable real estate assessments as a basis for support of public schools.

IV. Constitutional Revision.

1. Establishment of a qualified preparatory commission prior to a constitutional convention.

2. Support for annual legislative sessions.

3. Elimination of the "uniformity clause".

4. Opposition to a monetary debt limit, but support of procedural restraints on the Commonwealth's borrowing capacity.

III. Provision for an adequate program of public education for every

### EXPLANATION OF CURRENT AGENDA

I. Convinced that constitutional revision is still the paramount governmental issue in the State, the League moves forward in its efforts to reach agreement on major areas of the constitution. In order to make the best use of all the work done in the past, decisions previously determined, were placed on Continuing Responsibilities and those reached during this last year were made a part of the Current Agenda.

Under part one of the Current Agenda we will evaluate and act on any developments that affect the following conclusions accepted by the Convention:

"The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania believes that constitu-

tional provisions for a bicameral legislature would be improved by:

1. Indirect initiative and limited use of referendum.

2. Improved committee structure and procedures such as: a) Joint Committee system, b) permanent and public records of committee proceedings, c) public hearings, d) an effective discharge rule for bills.

3. Modernized legislative procedures in regard to: a) reading of bills, b) method of voting.

4. Annual sessions without limitation as to time and subject.

5. Constitutional provision for a Legislative Council.

6. Exceptions for budget and codi-

Continued on Page 4



# Voter

Pennsylvania

DECEMBER, 1957

MRS. HORTON WAYNE SMITH, PRES.  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS  
1007 WEST 24TH ST.  
AUSTIN 5, TEXAS

PUBLISHED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

## YORK REFERENDUM

The operation was a success but the patient died.

That just about sums up the activity for a county health department in York, which was defeated at the polls this November.

Why did it fail?

We knew by primary time that the referendum would be on the ballot this fall; that to succeed, the voters among York's 215,000 people had to be educated to the need. But no one was willing to take the leadership for such a stupendous job. In July, the Council of Community Services took on the responsibility and the York County Health Referendum Committee was formed. It included groups who whole-heartedly favored a county health unit, some who were luke-warm and some who insisted they were not opposed.

### Referendum Committee

However, it was not until September that the Referendum Committee held its first meeting and working committees were appointed. The finance committee immediately sent letters to some 200 organizations in the county, appealing for funds. Publicity was started with press releases and posters.

The burden of the battle was borne by the Speakers Bureau, an outgrowth of the League Bureau. Double cards were sent out to several hundred organizations requesting time for a speaker on county health. At the same time the Bureau was enlisting speakers and trying to train them. In all 49 speakers addressed 150 meetings. Endorsements from organizations totalled 82.

The League was active in all this. Our telephone committee did yeoman duty. We set up and manned a booth four of the five days of the York Interstate Fair to demonstrate voting on referenda on machines. Members helped in the office, with publicity and with the distribution of materials.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society sent two large displays which were

(Continued on Page 4)

## LOCAL ACTION

### Two Case Histories

This VOTER carries two stories of local League action. Each points up problems and hazards as well as some of the satisfactions of community action. We know that other Leagues have carried out equally news-worthy projects. Wouldn't it be nice if they'd tell us about them?

## How To Tell

### A League Member—

Eyes . . . piercing, slightly fanatic, sharp glint.

Hair . . . uncombed . . . who has time?

Mouth . . . set, grim, determined, usually open.

Voice . . . well developed, not loud . . . sounds something like a telephone operator from exposure to same.

Posture . . . erect, leaning slightly forward to give appearance of motion while standing still . . . although usually in motion.

Special Case . . . hang-dog look . . . doesn't agree with consensus.

### A League Husband—

Eyes . . . sleepy from walking with baby, waking up at odd hours when wife comes home from meeting.

Hair . . . tending toward the bald, for obvious reasons.

Voice . . . slightly atrophied from inability to compete.

Posture . . . bent slightly forward . . . appearance of listening intently . . . the sports page cleverly hidden in curve of left elbow.

General Data . . . sometimes confused by the children with the baby sitter . . . is well versed in all domestic arts . . . wife makes out his voting and shopping lists.

Final Test . . . suggest women should stay at home . . . if he ardently defends extra-curricular activities . . . the importance of their contribution, etc.—that's it!

Special Cases . . . holes in socks and baggy pants—wife a board member . . . expert on (almost anything)—wife a resource person.

—From a Pittsburgh Husband

## BOROUGH BLIGHT

"Fight Blight" is the slogan the West Chester League is using in its attack on the shocking slums found in the Borough, the county seat of one of Pennsylvania's wealthiest counties. It was generally known that bad housing conditions existed, but a community does not act on generalities, nor does the League.

In approximately six weeks last summer, 429 housing units were inspected, 423 families interviewed. As many of the homes in the area to be studied are occupied by colored families, the help of leading negro women was asked and generously given. Each of the 40 two-women teams making the survey was bi-racial, a fact which opened many doors. "Fear Alley" is what a NEWS reporter called one section because those who lived there were so afraid that by talking they might lose what little they had. The survey was completely confidential. Later it was possible to arrange to take pictures that are now being used to arouse the community.

### Some Significant Facts

About 10% of all houses in West Chester were covered and significant facts reported on water supply, toilet facilities, fire hazards, over-crowding, rentals. Some of the findings: 15 families have no water supply whatever, 30 more share 20 pumps; there are 32 outside flush toilets, 45 privies, 103 families with no tub or shower, 38 who share such facilities. There is pathetic evidence of attempts to keep homes and persons scrupulously clean. Fire hazards are numerous: 84 dangerous space-heaters, 89 houses with extension cord networks from a single outlet that serves several rooms and often more than one floor; and 55 houses, with families on the second or third floors and only one rickety stairway, no fire-escapes.

Only 38 households reported over-crowding, but the figure is doubted. League members who have done social or church work in the area feel

(Continued on Page 4)

## A Nation-Wide Local Finance Survey

While a large part of League program is carried by devoted volunteers, we cannot escape the need for cash in the bank. Pennsylvania has been scrutinizing its finance methods and now there is a nation-wide look at local League fund raising.

Seven of our Leagues, too new to have a finance history, were not asked to fill out the survey. A very high percentage of the others answered. Some of their replies are of interest to all of us:

Factors responsible for lack of success in drive:

1. Lack of financial resources in the community—4 Leagues.
2. Local restrictions on fund raising—none.
3. Tax status of gifts to League—7.
4. Insufficient League prestige to get community support—9.
5. Members lack of understanding of need for raising more money—13.
6. Resistance to method among Board or membership—15.
7. Poor planning, prospect list or solicitor training—7.
8. Insufficient imagination or zeal in making Drive fun—8.

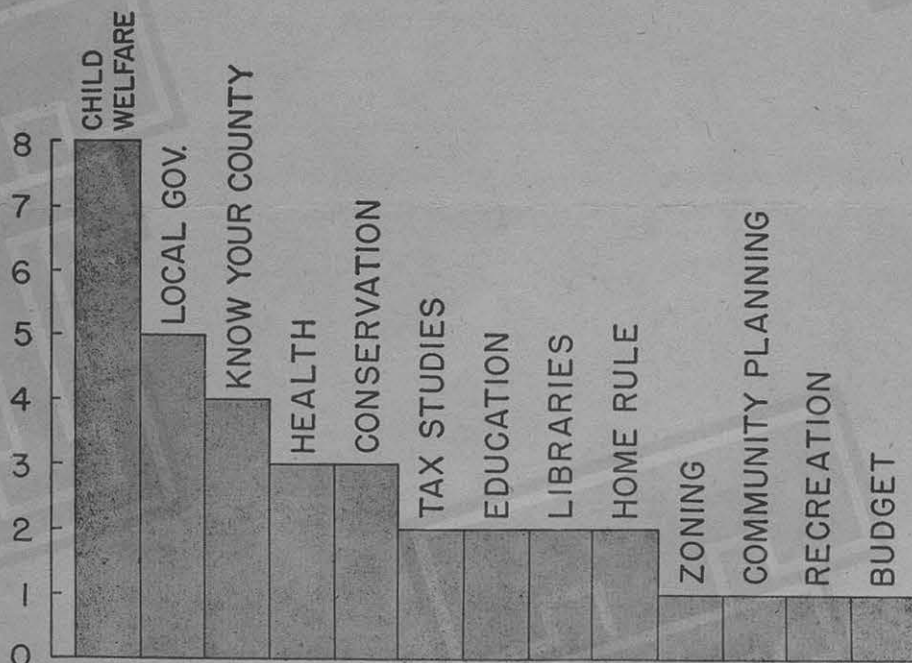
The thought given survey questions is shown by these comments: "We feel there is sufficient material provided. We suggest personal work be done with the local Leagues to aid in their finance programs."

"Area finance conferences such as we just shared, are the most helpful tool I can think of. Our League, being small, wide-spread and in a low-income community, has local problems, but I feel our Finance drives in the past two years have been well-directed, ably and swiftly executed. Organization has made the difference."

"Even though our Finance Drives have not been as successful as we wished—we still feel this is the best way to raise money, and the steps outlined in 'How to Raise Money' the best plan. It is mainly a question of carrying them out properly and educating our membership as to the need for finance. The recent NATIONAL VOTER, highlighting finance, was very helpful."

"I never worked on a Finance Drive before, to say nothing of being chairman. As our goal was \$520 and we raised \$930, I was very gratified. I can attribute this to two factors: more solicitors and more prospects."

"We approve the present approach to the membership and the community. Community response is good. Contact with interested contributors from year to year is valuable in giving us first-hand information concerning our service—what they like and what they think we should be doing, too. We started with the idea that we should apply funds locally. It has been difficult to re-educate all of us to the need for state and national support. New Leagues should have this presented factually, emphatically and inflexibly."



LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA of 29 Leagues, six with two items each.  
For detailed list of agenda items see next page.

## Our Ever Present Past

A column to keep us up-to-date on State Continuing Responsibilities. Once Current Agenda, these CR's were agreed upon in Convention as issues which we continue to support and upon which we act when need and opportunity for effectiveness arise.

C.R.I.—1. Reorganization of the Department of Health; development of a merit system for administrative, technical and professional personnel, and the establishment of county or multi-county health units."

Except for what may be termed holding actions, this CR is now more of a local than a state issue. Its three objectives were state Current Agenda from 1949 to 1953.

By 1951 a qualified Secretary of Health had been appointed. Reorganization was underway. Later in that year, the desired legislation was passed. League action contributed decisively to these victories.

Act 322 set up a merit system, but Act 315 concerns us now. It permits home rule in public health through the creation of county or multi-county health units by resolution of the Commissioners or by popular referendum.

### What Has Been Done

In spite of the need, only four county health units have been established: Butler, Bucks, Erie and Allegheny. Lehigh, Northampton and York put up valiant fights and lost.

The '57 legislature cut appropriations for county units and stipulated that no Health Department funds could be used for new county units. The Atty. Gen. declares this provision unconstitutional. It may presage a renewed fight for the principle of decentralization.

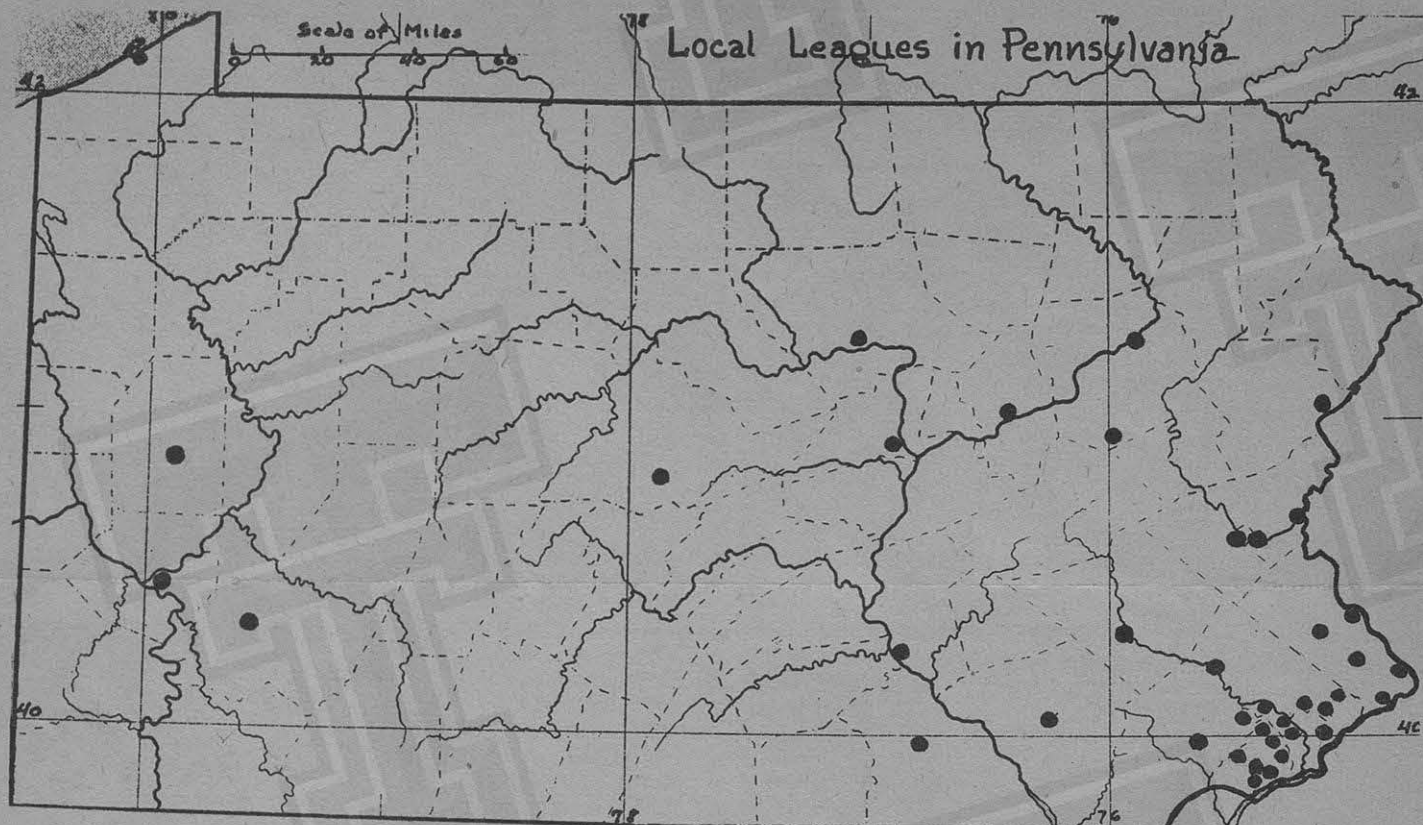
Public understanding is basic to the establishment of local health units. This is, and will be for many years, a challenging League job. So miss no opportunity to keep your League and your community informed. Of course, when it comes to a full scale referendum campaign you must have county health as local Current Agenda or as a CR—this is League policy—but it is also an absolute necessity if you are to be effective. Your county has special needs. You must know all about them.

This is a vital and exciting subject, regardless of age, wealth, poverty or politics, if you breathe air and drink water you are affected by local health conditions.

"How's Your Public Health I. Q.?", a popular tool, is available from the state office, 10 cents a copy.



Brown



## LOCAL LEAGUES AND THEIR LOCAL AGENDA

### ALLEGHENY

\*Pittsburgh: County administration emphasizing Home Rule Charter.

### BERKS COUNTY

Berks (\*Reading): Juvenile Delinquency.

### BUCKS COUNTY

Bristol Twp.: No information.

\*Doylestown: Know Your County.

New Hope - Solebury - Buckingham: Promotion of a soil conservation district in County and local watershed associations.\*\*

Newtown: Taxes for education and child welfare.

Yardley-Morrisville: City manager form of government.

### BUTLER COUNTY

\*Butler: Libraries.

### CENTER COUNTY

State College: Reassessment of local tax structure. Overall community planning.

### CHESTER COUNTY

Tredyffrin (P): Know Your Town.\*\*

\*West Chester: Housing.\*\*

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

\*Bloomsburg: Study of Zoning.

### DAUPHIN COUNTY

\*Harrisburg: Tax problems and assessments.

### DELAWARE COUNTY

Haverford Twp.: Library. Refuse disposal (when Lib. study finished).

Nether Providence: Public school system. Establishment of Planning Commission.\*\*

Radnor: Conservation (Creek Valley)

Swarthmore: Appraisal of educational procedures and costs. Conservation (Creek Valley).

Thornbury Twp.: Recreation and culture.

Upper Darby Twp.: Twp. budget as it relates to police, library and recreation. Conservation (Creek Valley).

Upper Providence Twp. (P): Know Your Town.\*\*

### ERIE COUNTY

\*Erie: Study of school districts.

### LANCASTER COUNTY

\*Lancaster: Governmental problems in a growing community.

### LEHIGH COUNTY

\*Allentown: Home Rule. County Health.

### LUZERNE COUNTY

Hazleton: Public Health.

\*Wilkes-Barre: Local gov't with a view to merger with surrounding community.

### LYCOMING COUNTY

\*Williamsport: Know Your County. Health, safety and education.

### MONROE COUNTY

East Stroudsburg (P): Local gov't survey.\*\*

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Cheltenham Twp.: Juvenile delinquency. Local gov't problems.

Hatboro: Child welfare.

Lower Merion Twp.: Juvenile delinquency.

North Penn: Study of juvenile delinquency leading to child welfare plan.

Pottstown: Reapportionment of borough wards.\*\* (Issue now in court; new item to be chosen in Dec.)

Springfield Twp.: Child welfare.

Upper Merion Twp.: No information.

### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Bethlehem (partly in Lehigh Co.): Various types of local gov't.

\*Easton: Know Your Town.

### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

\*Philadelphia: Rights of juveniles in courts.

### UNION COUNTY

\*Lewisburg: Local area survey of community growth and development.

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY

\*Greensburg: Forms of local gov't with special attention to city manager plan.\*\*

### YORK COUNTY

\*York: County health.\*\*

\*County Seat.

\*\*Information too late to be included in chart on page 2.



## What Is A Consultant?

The fall training session for Organization Consultants was held in Philadelphia on November 14. Twenty-one members of the Organization Committee attended, and Mrs. Cleveland and Miss Walls of the National League Staff were present as observers. Consultants have now been assigned to all local Leagues. The consultant system assures that every local League has at least one direct contact with the State Board. Through personal visits and letters, detailed knowledge of minutes and bulletins, the consultant helps the state League know local Leagues better, so that all can benefit from our individual accomplishments. She is, of course, ready to help local Leagues with problems if they wish, but primarily she is a human link between local and state Leagues, far more effective than reports and questionnaires, however necessary.

### YORK REFERENDUM

(Continued from Page 1)

placed strategically. Small "tents" for restaurant tables were distributed, leaflets sent out by cleaners and labor unions.

Paid newspaper advertisements were limited: a two column ad that listed all the endorsing groups, and a second showing the referendum itself and urging "Vote Early—Your Health Is Your Wealth", the official campaign slogan. There was also paid time on radio and television.

Publicity in general, however, was not well organized although all radio and television stations cooperated and most, but not all, newspapers. There was no telephone committee for a last-minute reminder to voters, nor were the polls manned on Election Day. Posters urging "Vote Yes" were not fully distributed—not because we lacked manpower, but because some members of the committee objected to such pressure tactics.

Because of the haste with which the Referendum Committee was set up, talent and energy were wasted.

The Department of Health sent two full-time health educators to help but their efforts were not fully utilized. The voluntary agencies and the medical groups deserve every praise for their cooperation.

The statistics are encouraging: of 99,971 voters registered, 58,734 voted. Of these, 34,599 voted on the referendum: 13,831 for and 20,768 against.

In spite of losing we feel we did an excellent job when so many York Countians voted to establish a health department here. As one committee member put it election night: "If we could do so much in two months, what couldn't we have done in six!"

### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. S. M. Viele and Mrs. G. W. Dusinberre have been appointed from the state Board to serve on the Nominating Committee.

### BOROUGH BLIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

that many are reluctant to disclose the facts. Of the cases reported, a family of 11 has three rooms, one of six with four roomers lives in five.

Rents for such housing run from \$25 a month to \$100. A family of six pay \$68 a month plus utilities for two rooms, toilet and bath. Each room is about 6 x 8 ft., one a kitchen, the other a living-bedroom where the parents sleep in a single bed, three children on a sofa, the baby in a crib. Above them, up a dilapidated stair, is another family of six, paying \$12 a week and utilities. The alley this house is on was never completely surveyed. After five houses the women were too ill to continue.

Such areas are not only health and fire hazards but a community expense. As one Leaguer put it: "We are subsidizing our slums." While only 6% of the borough taxes come from these areas, 45% of the accumulative taxes are spent there.

#### Extent of League Work

These facts, tragic and dramatic, which have awakened the community's interest, are neither the beginning nor the end of the League's work. It started last spring with a study and comparison of existing codes, zoning, building and health codes, with a new Housing Ordinance prepared for Council consideration. The comparisons were presented to the League Board and membership. It was decided to back the proposed ordinance with two recommendations: the creation of a grievance board to which tenants and owners might appeal and the formulation of a standardized check list for housing inspectors. The Borough Council was informed of the Leagues position and the plans for a survey announced.

Long before any announcement, committees had been set up: to consult and prepare the survey questionnaire, to gather information and map the areas to be visited, to mobilize women-power and assign teams, to handle public relations. Almost 40% of the League's members took part. Perhaps the two most difficult jobs were preparing the questionnaire and approaching the community. The nearby teachers colleges, West Chester and Cheney, helped with both. The Delaware County Housing Authority checked the survey questions to be sure that it would produce the facts needed in case of

## Summer Workshop

Offered League by University

Bucknell University in Lewisburg has suggested that the League join it in sponsoring a summer workshop on the state Constitution and, perhaps, discussion techniques. Four or five days in that lovely part of the state, with a stimulating program and time out for summer sports, has delightful possibilities. The last week in June or the second in July are under consideration with a tentative registration fee of only \$30 (including room and board). A large enrollment would reduce even that modest cost. If you are interested, at all, let your local president know. Of course, the workshop will not be limited to League members but we should find it particularly rewarding—and fun.

a later appeal for federal funds. The job, from the first studies to tabulating the results of the survey, was done in only four months.

#### What Lies Ahead?

This is not all. The League well knows that the passage of a Housing Ordinance, is only the first step in alleviating intolerable conditions. Enforcement and the development of ways to improve conditions must follow. This is the next step on the League's Agenda. A committee will study sources of low-cost housing for purchase or rental. Publicly financed housing, private funds for private housing, renewal of slavageable housing and a "Fight Blight" fund will be considered and a report made to the League next March.

In the meantime, results of the survey have received wide newspaper coverage and acclaim; League members, armed with facts and color slides, are speaking before church groups, service clubs and others. They hope to generate enough interest to make possible a Citizens' Housing Commission that will work for the health, welfare and safety of West Chester.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA VOTER

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A DECISION, A STUDY, A BATTLE, A VICTORY mac

## The Story of the Los Angeles League and Rubbish Collection

The Los Angeles League decided to study rubbish collection at the local level as a result of a report published in 1955. This report cited backyard incinerators as one of the major contributors to air pollution in the Los Angeles Basin and recommended that they be banned. The County Board of Supervisors' immediate movement to institute such a ban caught the City of Los Angeles completely unprepared to cope with the disposal of combustible rubbish.

After numerous conferences, between the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors, a delay was agreed upon to permit the city to study the situation and decide upon the most effective method of handling combustible rubbish.

The League had adopted rubbish as a Local Study Item prior to the conferences of City and County authorities. It was heartily approved as an active issue with greater interest to local citizenry than some esoteric item of local government which would be a study rather than an action item. We had had a long series of these "study" items and our membership was champing at the bit for something on which they could actually work effectively now.

The item was scheduled for discussion at the first round of meetings after the summer slump in 1955, and all research and interviewing was done during that summer. This work included several meetings with city authorities as well as with representatives of the private rubbish collection companies who were attempting to get the City Council to pass enabling legislation in favor of private residential pick-up rather than city collection.

By the time unit discussions began, the city newspapers were carrying almost daily stories about the question of "Who shall pick up and dispose of our combustible rubbish?" This, of course, aroused considerable interest in the study and made for fine group discussions.

The end of the first year of study, June 1956, found the membership in agreement that, from the standpoint of efficiency and economy, the city was the logical agency to handle rubbish collection.

As this issue had become a "hot" one locally, by the time of our Annual Meeting, it was decided to continue the item for another year to keep membership interest high and information current.

During the summer, 1956, the City Council passed an ordinance for municipal collection, but private collectors obtained sufficient signatures to cause a referendum election on municipal collection in June, 1957. The League went into action to bring its stand to the attention of the City of Los Angeles voters, armed with the latest factual information and agreement of the membership.

We had the facts. The problem was to find a way to get them to 360,000 residences. Our committee did a remarkable job. An advertising agency agreed to take our facts and incorporate them into a two-color flyer. The Citizens Committee for Municipal Collection agreed to print 150,000 copies for us, without cost or obligation on our part. Our Public Relations Chairman obtained Television coverage, our Press Chairman got us very good newspaper coverage, our Voters Service Chairman arranged speaking engagements for us, and our membership cooperated to the last woman.

We set a date for house-to-house distribution of the flyer. We made each area responsible for distribution of the flyer. We made each unit responsible for distribution in a specified area, with each person responsible for about 350 home deliveries, plus approximately 500 more per unit to be distributed at neighborhood banks, stores, etc. The unit assigned specific blocks to each member.

In February, 1957, the City Committee addressed the area executive committees (The Los Angeles League is subdivided into four geographical areas because of its size), outlined distribution plans, and gave a pep talk to increase enthusiasm. The areas devoted part of a unit meeting for a briefing and a call to action, and on April 19, 1957 the Los Angeles League of Women Voters marched from house to house in all areas of the city. This involved about four hours of door-to-door walking to place a flyer in the doorknob of every house and apartment in each woman's territory. The voters' response was tremendous and our office received numerous calls for further information which we sent out in mimeographed form.

The election results gave the city the power to collect municipal rubbish, by an overwhelming majority. We felt that we had won a real battle.

Knowing that the collection of combustible rubbish would present many problems to the city, as it was a completely new project, we felt that we should continue our active interest in it. Consequently, at the 1957 Annual Meeting, our members voted to make the item a Continuing Responsibility. Since then we have sponsored a public fact-finding meeting and addressed the City Council in support of a reclamation site which it approved.

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This item (Survey of the Adequacy of Community Facilities for Children with Special Problems - physical, educational, emotional) was placed on the local agenda of the Eugene League the second time around. When an item of this nature was first proposed, it was defeated, primarily for two reasons: a community council had just been organized and it was felt this group would be better able to handle such a study; and it was recognized that the work load would be heavy and that the place of the League was not clear.

Interest in a "welfare" item continued to be strong and in March, 1957, when it became apparent that the community council was not completing the type of study the League envisioned, the item was adopted. It was regarded as a subject on which something probably could be accomplished, but also it was felt that a study in this area would be of value in attracting new interest in and members to the League.

From the beginning, the study proved of great interest and the committee attracted a good number of members, among whom were several professionally qualified in various areas of work with children and sociological and psychological problems, as well as "just plain interested citizens." This committee make-up discouraged superficial study and at the same time kept an impetus toward accomplishment, rather than bogging down in technicalities.

One of the first things apparent was the need to define areas and to avoid spreading the work so thin that nothing would be accomplished. At committee meetings, started during the summer, the bulk of the time was spent in discussion to give some form to the research and arrive at a degree of objectivity in approach. It was decided that in the first unit (because of interest in the topic, it was to lead off the year and serve as discussion material for two unit sessions), concentration would be on: definition of terms and general nature of the problems; background on applicable legislation; general description of agencies in the field, preliminary interviews with school personnel. The state law covering handicapped children and other applicable legislation were studied and definitions were drawn from this and other material. The local school systems superintendents and school special services personnel were interviewed, since most of the children involved come into contact with the schools at one time or another. This background material was submitted to the membership at the October unit meetings. Reports indicated much interest, especially in: the gifted child, the emotionally disturbed, and the mentally retarded.

The next research step involved interviews with personnel of child care agencies, public and private, University facilities, and schools; attending meetings on the subjects; discovering what other organizations were set up and what they were doing; compiling research leads. More than 20 more or less formal interviews were supplemented by many informal talks with persons in or interested in the field. This material was compiled in a printed survey and chart under the headings of: Agency, Service and Screening, Caseload and Estimated Need, Professional Staff, Physical Plant, Finance, Problems, Summary of Comments, Recommendations for Community.

Because of the timeliness and interest in the gifted child, a sub-committee went to work in this area, where it was felt something definite might be accomplished this year by way of cutting down on the size of the item. This research, together with a suggested consensus statement, was submitted to members in the March unit meetings. Background (leaders) material was offered to members at 5¢ a copy and the Summary Chart also was sold for 5¢.

Work for next year will begin with the recommendations of the various agencies and will include study of the feasibility and possibility of the proposed improvements in the local community. Among the possibilities: the League might work toward the establishment of a citizens committee to organize a family counseling or similar agency (suggested in most of the interviews); further recommendations may be made to the schools; steps might be considered toward setting up transitional facilities in the community, etc.

It might be noted that in this community the interest of agency and school personnel was high and most expressed the hope that the League would be able to help with the problems of which they were aware but which they had too little time to work on. One of the larger needs seemed to be public education and information on the kind and extent of these problems and their interrelation; also evident was the need for a sense of proportion on the amount of time, money and effort to be devoted to each, pressure groups notwithstanding.



CHILD WELFARE

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Interest in a "welfare" item continued to be strong and in March, 1957, when it became apparent that the community council was not completing the type of study the League envisioned, the item was adopted. It was regarded as a subject on which something probably could be accomplished, but also it was felt that a study in this area would be of value in attracting new interest in and members to the League.

From the beginning, the study proved of great interest and the committee attracted a good number of members, among whom were several professionally qualified in various areas of work with children and sociological and psychological problems, as well as "just plain interested citizens." This committee make-up discouraged superficial study and at the same time kept an impetus toward accomplishment, rather than bogging down in technicalities.

One of the first things apparent was the need to define areas and to avoid spreading the work so thin that nothing would be accomplished. At committee meetings, started during the summer, the bulk of the time was spent in discussion to give some form to the research and arrive at a degree of objectivity in approach. It was decided that in the first unit (because of interest in the topic, it was to lead off the year and serve as discussion material for two unit sessions), concentration would be on: definition of terms and general nature of the problems; background on applicable legislation; general description of agencies in the field, preliminary interviews with school personnel. The state law covering handicapped children and other applicable legislation were studied and definitions were drawn from this and other material. The local school systems superintendents and school special services personnel were interviewed, since most of the children involved come into contact with the schools at one time or another. This background material was submitted to the membership at the October unit meetings. Reports indicated much interest, especially in: the gifted child, the emotionally disturbed, and the mentally retarded.

The next research step involved interviews with personnel of child care agencies, public and private, University facilities, and schools; attending meetings on the subjects; discovering what other organizations were set up and what they were doing; compiling research leads. More than 20 more or less formal interviews were supplemented by many informal talks with persons in or interested in the field. This material was compiled in a printed survey and chart under the headings of: Agency, Service and Screening, Caseload and Estimated Need, Professional Staff, Physical Plant, Finance, Problems, Summary of Comments, Recommendations for Community.

Because of the timeliness and interest in the gifted child, a sub-committee went to work in this area, where it was felt something definite might be accomplished this year by way of cutting down on the size of the item. This research, together with a suggested consensus statement, was submitted to members in the March unit meetings. Background (leaders) material was offered to members at 5¢ a copy and the Summary Chart also was sold for 5¢.

IT'S IN THE BAG!  
(or)  
CACHED IN CHEMISE

Local  
current

agenda

item:

Control and Prevention

area.  
Eugene

in the  
Pollution  
of Air

1950: Adopted as current agenda item. Statewide governor's committee appointed with 2 Eugene leaguers as members. Interest developed because of smells, unburned sawdust, and soot polluting the air of our valley.

1952: Item continued on local C. A. Eugene testing stations reveal 10-25 tons of dust materials fall in winter months. League shocked! Members increase efforts with renewed vigor. Meetings held with State Authority, while we gathered more statistics, and decided private cars, individual trash burners also offenders.

1951: State enabling act passed by legislature. Eugene has no position as yet, so members urge adoption by individual letters. League conducts extensive research, carries on much correspondence with similar communities. One unit meeting held, bulletin articles inform members.

1953: Unit Material reveals economic magnitude of air pollution - \$200 million nationally each year. League decides to ask Mayor to appoint local citizens committee, also request State Authority to take steps toward control as worst offenders outside city limits.

1954: Mayor appoints committee, includes League member. Committee uses League materials. League speaks before many groups, continues study. Continued to publish facts.

8021

The  
League of Women Voters of Eugene, Oregon  
believes this was

A GOOD CURRENT AGENDA ITEM BECAUSE; it comes within Principles, can be solved by local government, the time seems right, gives good experience in citizen action, funds available in city budget. League had woman-power, knowledge and funds, no other organization was working on these problems, we felt it could be done.

1955: Mayor's committee works out proposed ordinance. State Air Pollution authority speaks at League annual meeting, proposed ordinance presented to city council. League attends council meetings, answers critics. When a group outside the league presented complaint to council, League welcomed their help, and supplied information.

1956: Council debates ordinance. League only group supporting. Council adopts ordinance to become effective January, 1958. This gives industry time to correct methods of controlling wastes. League moves to Continuing Responsibilities.

1957: League appears at city budget meeting to urge adequate financing. Budget adopted, inspector appointed. Item retained on CR.

1958: Inspector assumes duties, League watches.



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\*\*\*\*\* LOCAL CURRENT AGENDA ITEM \*\*\*\*\*

I. DEVELOPMENT OF ITEM

- A. Wording - "Juvenile Delinquency - Treatment Facilities in Camden County, New Jersey. Scope:
1. To examine existing facilities; laws governing these services; past and current national, state and local studies; and other state and county facilities.
  2. To develop recommendations for possible improvements.
  3. To act to carry out these recommendations."
- B. Why item was chosen
1. Wide membership interest in local problem
  2. Apparent need for a study in area
- C. How eight member committee developed program
1. Research and study
  2. Formulated recommendations
    - a. An adequate number of Juvenile Probation Officers
    - b. Additional qualified personnel at the Detention Home including a program director and a case worker
    - c. The appointment of one of the County's four judges to be solely responsible for the Juvenile Court along with his other assignments
    - d. The appointment of a citizen's Board of Trustees for the Detention Home
    - e. The activation of the municipal Juvenile Conference Committee program
3. Action
- a. Published recommendations in newspapers
  - b. Gave panel presentation to interested organizations
  - c. Testified at County governmental Hearings
  - d. Cooperated with other interested organizations

II. ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITEM

- A. Single Juvenile Court Judge appointed
- B. One Probation Officer assigned to work with juveniles
- C. Citizen Board of Trustees appointed to govern Detention Home
- D. Recreational Director employed at Detention Home
- E. Juvenile Conference Committee Program inaugurated

III. REASONS FOR SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS OF ITEM

- A. League and Community interest in subject
- B. Timeliness in choice of item
- C. Were well informed before consulting government officials
- D. Had full League support
- E. Committee was willing to work overtime
- F. Had lots of good luck

IV. ULTIMATE GOAL OF ITEM

- A. Continued implementation of recommendations for a well rounded Juvenile Court Program
1. Requisites
    - a. Citizen interest, understanding and support
    - b. Adequate services, personnel and facilities
    - c. Constant interest and financial support of government

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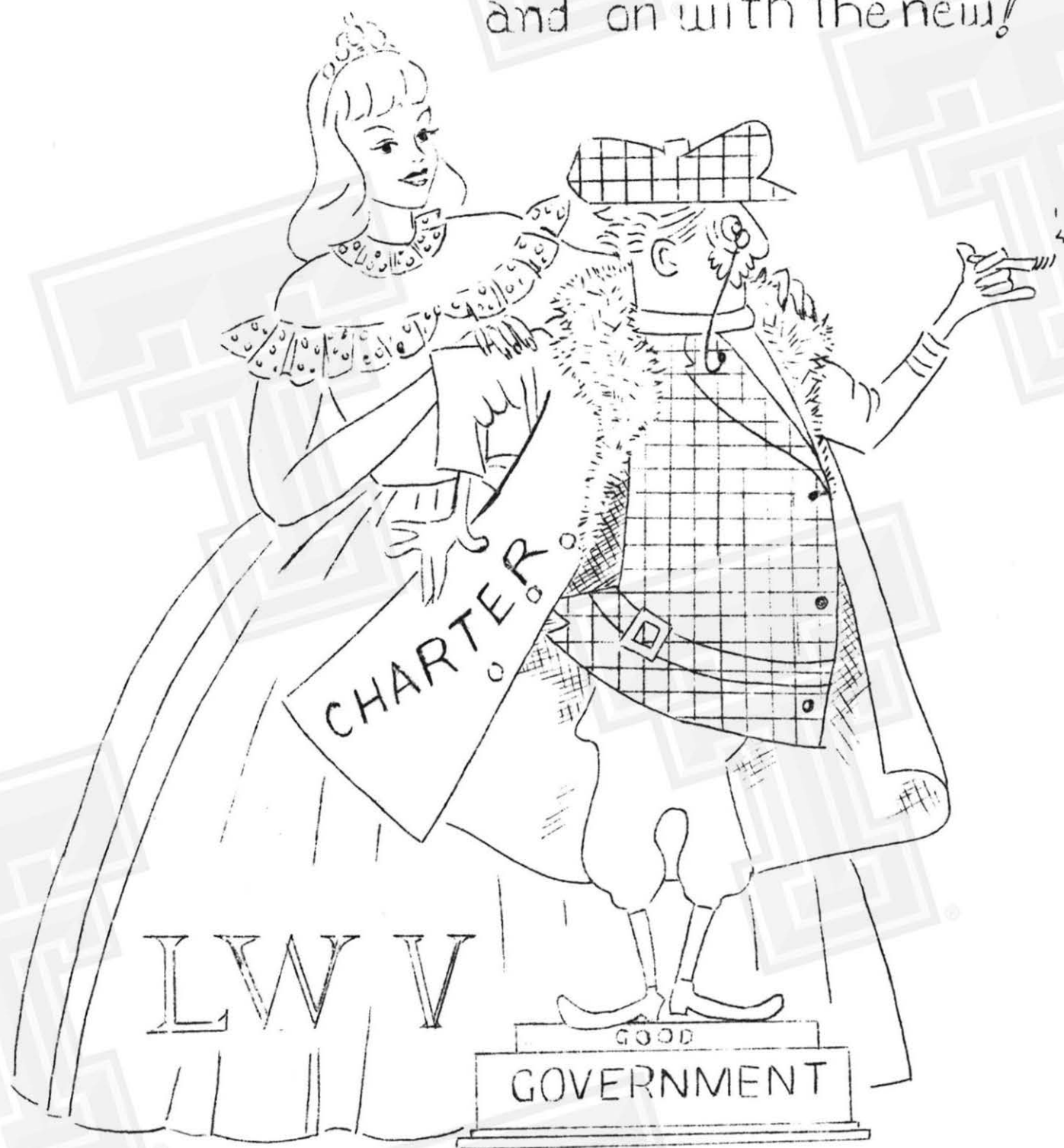
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misc

and on with the new!



THIS IS YOUR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

JEFFERSON PARISH

1949

1958

Dedicated with appreciation and affection to all our hard-working members and generous benefactors.

Illustrated by Mrs. Dawn McGuire

Edited by Mrs. Margaret Garlepied

Mrs. Doris Roggenkamp

FROM THE BEGINNING  
(An Introduction)  
by  
Mrs. Carl Bankston

Since its inception as a provisional League of February 24, 1949, to the present, the Jefferson Parish League of Women Voters has been a vibrant, active group, growing in membership and in influence throughout the Parish.

From the time when Mrs. C. V. Treigle and her committee of ten ladies started work on the first "Know Your Parish Government" booklet, when there were only three organized Units, when a poster contest highlighting the importance of registration was League sponsored in the Parish grammar schools, to 1958 when local civic groups sponsored League handbills, a League representative served on the Charter Commission, and the League set up its own office, the Jefferson Parish League of Women Voters has striven to serve the community intelligently by awakening the citizenry to the realization that the government, local, state, and national, is the responsibility of every individual residing in the parish.

Growth of the League must, necessarily, be measured by the political awakening of the community. Did you know that, as early as 1951, the Jefferson Parish League was studying forms of parish government, and planning to introduce a Bill in the Legislature offering the citizens a choice of governments? Were you with us when the League worked so hard -- and got -- permanent registration? Do you remember all of the Bills the League has backed in the Legislature to improve the Jefferson Parish School Board system?

Can't we pat ourselves on the back for being the first organization in the Parish to work for planning and zoning? Wasn't it fun when we all pasted names on cards, and canvassed our neighborhoods on foot for the successful registration campaign of 1956? Don't you feel more a part of our community since the survey of the effects of foreign trade on local businesses?

Looking back over the past 9 years, the League has gained in stature in the community through honesty of principle and dedication of purpose, making hopes for the future unlimited.



JEFFERSON MAKES HISTORY  
(A Political Summary)

by Mrs Wm. Haspel, Jr.

In 1949 Sheriff Frank J. Clancy, long-time political boss of Jefferson Parish (County), Louisiana, while addressing a meeting of the League of Women Voters of Jefferson Parish announced that he thought it was time to change the form of government of the Parish. Like most counties, Jefferson Parish was operating under a decentralized rural-type government even though it was actually a part of metropolitan New Orleans. It had a 14-man governing body (police jury), members of which were elected by wards and which grew larger with each increase in population. In addition there were numerous special function districts and boards.

Sheriff Clancy called together representatives of many civic organizations including the League of Women Voters. They organized themselves into the "Independent Citizens' Committee." Serving as chairman was Samuel D. Reeks, editor-publisher of the weekly Jefferson Parish Times, later the official parish journal. The committee agreed on a five-man commission as a governing body for the Parish and appointed a policy committee to work out details. The policy committee brought out a plan including a five-man governing body but also including a "planning group" (actually a charter commission) to submit to the voters alternate plans of government, one of which must be the parish manager form. Upon receipt of this report, the chairman and officers of the Independent Citizens' Committee decided that the policy committee had exceeded its authority and relieved it of its duties. The new policy committee which replaced it returned a bill which would create a true commission council form of government for Jefferson Parish.

One member of the committee held open hearings. A delegation from the League of Women Voters testified, principally with regard to the inclusion of sound fiscal procedure and mandatory civil service. The first was particularly important as Jefferson Parish had never known such a thing as a parish budget.

In April of 1950 a referendum was held (a straw vote) to determine whether the people approved of the change to a commission council form of government. The vote was 8,687 for to 485 against. In May, 1950 a bill was introduced into the State Legislature authorizing the change. It passed the House but was killed in the Senate.

Two years passed during which the Legislature did not meet. The League of Women Voters took advantage of the opportunity to study county government in workshops and units. It was the only group in the Parish so engaged at the time.

In February, 1952 a committee of the League called on Sheriff Clancy to find out whether he intended to resubmit the proposal in the coming session of the Legislature. He urged the League to arouse public interest in the matter, to continue its study and to let him know of the results of this study. On March 4, 1952, at a general meeting, the League voted to sponsor legislation to set up optional forms of government for Jefferson Parish; namely, the police jury, the commission council and the parish manager forms. League speakers fanned out to numerous organizations. Many groups endorsed the League's stand. Two public meetings were sponsored by the League at which the parish manager, police jury and commission council forms were discussed. Mr. Clancy and Representative James Beeson agreed to propose legislation embodying the League's idea, but when the Legislature met the legislation introduced was the same commission council bill that had been defeated in 1950. The League was prepared to offer amendments. However, the bill was reported out of the House Committee with no advance notice of the hearings and passed by the House. It was received by the Senate June 15, reported out of the Senate Committee on June 16, after the League had received only four hours' notice of the hearings, and passed by the Senate June 17. The act so passed did require a referendum of the people of Jefferson Parish. In August the League published an analysis of the act pointing out its advantages and disadvantages. The principal advantage was that the special districts, which were increasing in number every year, were consolidated into five departments. In October the general membership voted to oppose the act for the following reasons:

- (1) The inherent weaknesses in the commission council form of government such as vesting legislative and administrative responsibility in the same officials.
- (2) The undemocratic way in which the bill was formulated and passed.
- (3) The possibility of reaching a better solution in the 1954 Legislative session since any officers elected under the new form would not take office until 1956 anyway.

The press carried the League's views and handbills were distributed in shopping centers and house-to-house. However, the time before the referendum was short, and the people were restless for a change and a more modern form of government. The referendum took place November 4, 1952. The vote was 17,368 for and 3,834 against and the commission council became law.

In January, 1956, a new phenomenon appeared on the political horizon, a faction which might offer Sheriff Clancy true opposition. The election took place in an atmosphere of mounting excitement. The new faction, called the JDA and headed by Jules Mollere, had swept into power, electing a councilman-at-large, two of the four district councilmen, a sheriff and a clerk of court.

Three days before the newly elected councilmen were to take office the Supreme Court of Louisiana, deciding a suit brought by four members of the outgoing Police Jury, declared the act setting up the commission council form of government unconstitutional on the grounds that the Legislature should have offered the same choice to all 64 parishes. An inaugural banquet was cancelled and all concerned set out to Baton Rouge where the Legislature was in session.

The court decision did not affect the office of sheriff, and so, Wm. S. Coci, elected on the new ticket, remained in office and Clancy was out. Sheriff Coci and his former running mates soon became bitter political opponents.

The unseated councilmen urged the Legislature to reenact the commission council bill as a constitutional amendment, thus assuring its constitutionality and representatives from the League spoke in its behalf, since it did have such widespread approval by the voters. However, Sheriff Coci favored a constitutional amendment which would permit Jefferson Parish to appoint a Charter Commission.

The latter passed. The League mailed out to its membership a digest of the amendment and listed the pros and cons. At a meeting on April 29, 1957 the general membership voted to oppose the amendment. One reason: the selection of the Charter Commission was set up in such a way that the majority of members was to be appointed by incumbent elected officials. In a fifteen member commission the appointments were as follows:

- 3 by the Police Jury (which was continuing as the de facto governing body of the Parish although some of its members had been defeated at the polls.)
- 1 each by the governing bodies of the four municipalities in the Parish.
- 1 by majority vote of the three Parish Legislators.
- 1 by the District Attorney.
- 1 each by Tulane, LSU, Loyola, The League of Women Voters of Jefferson Parish, Jefferson Parish Bar Assn. and the Chamber of Commerce.



Other reasons: insufficient time to study and submit a plan of government - nine months; failure to set a date for a new Police Jury election if the plans submitted were rejected by the voters; restrictive provisions making it impossible for the Charter Commission to interfere with the powers and function of the sheriff, the assessor, the clerk of court and the district attorney.

In November, 1956 the people throughout the State voted on the amendment. The vote was 185,713 to 151,255. The Jefferson Parish vote was 20,708 to 9,712.

As soon as the amendment was adopted, the League gave its whole-hearted support to the work of the Charter Commission. The League appointed Mrs. Richard McCarthy, immediate past president of the League, to serve as its representative on the Commission.

The commission council form of government had its advocates at the Charter Commission table, but it was defeated at an early meeting and the decision made to submit to the voters alternate plans of government: the parish manager, the elected executive (mayor-council) and the police jury. This decision was considered by many a triumph for the League of Women Voters which had been for years talking parish-manager. To such an extent was this opinion held that one local columnist, a staunch advocate of the commission council (harping on the theme that it was the people's choice) had this to say:

"In any case, the purpose of this column is not to mourn, not to exclaim, 'Alas Poor Council Plan' -- but to congratulate the J. P. L. of W. V. which set out 7 or 8 years ago to defeat the Commission proposal, and now sees its purpose handsomely accomplished, - - - - -."

Actually, the decision to scrap the ill-fated commission council form followed the recommendation of the Charter Commission consultant, Mr. Robert D. Stover, of Public Administration Service, and other experts called before the Commission, who pointed out what students of government consider to be the weaknesses in the commission council form.

The Charter Commission, having made its basic decision, was then free to proceed with writing two proposed charters so that the voters of Jefferson Parish might choose between them. The Charters were identical in all respects except for the methods of choosing the chief administrative officer. In the parish-manager form he was to be appointed by the council, in the elected executive form (later called by the Charter Commission the parish president) he was to be elected by the people.

The local affairs committee of the League met weekly in workshops to review the work of the Charter Commission step by step. The League attempted, in its news releases, which were accepted by the newspapers at intervals of three to five days, to point up the major achievements of the Charter Commission as, section by section, the new charter took shape. Some of the subjects covered in these news releases were:

Approval of provisions for sound fiscal management, including central purchasing, budgeting and accounting. Approval of consolidation of all special function districts, inclusion in the Charters of civil service, explanation of existing special function districts, legislative and administrative functions, creation of councilmanic districts, inclusion in charters of a section on planning.

During these early stages of the Charter Commission's deliberations, members of the local affairs committee called on the editors of the daily papers to discuss ways and means of informing the public every step of the way. The two-fold responsibility of the League was explained to the editors:

- (1) To place the issues clearly before the people so that the voters might vote intelligently and
- (2) Possibly to take a position, after careful study, as to which of the two proposed forms was better and more suitable for the Parish.

To implement the former aim the League submitted a series of articles by recognized authorities in government, analyzing the two proposed forms of government. These articles, published in full by the newspapers, were evaluations by:

- 1) H. G. Pope, Executive Director of Public Administration Service
- 2) Emmett Asseff, Executive Director of the La. Legislative Council
- 3) Robert S. Friedman, Asst. Professor of Government, LSU  
Research Assoc., New Orleans Metropolitan Survey
- 4) Dr. L. Vaughn Howard, Tulane University

In addition, the newspapers welcomed the help of the League (through its regular news releases) in clarifying some of the issues.

The people of Jefferson Parish owe a great debt to the newspapers of our community, which, true to the finest traditions of our great free press, devoted a great deal of news and editorial space to giving the public the facts, emphasizing the importance of this change, and urging citizens to vote.

In order to have plenty of time to publicize its conclusions, the League meeting before the rough draft had even been completed. All members had received in advance an analysis of the two proposed forms of government and the present form, with advantages and disadvantages of each. Mr. Robert Stover, consultant to the Charter Commission was present at the meeting, held on August 28, 1957. The following resolution was adopted:

"The League of Women Voters of Jefferson Parish supports the general recommendations of the Charter Commission providing for separation of legislative and administrative branches, centralization of functions and strong finance and personnel management provisions with specific endorsement of the council manager plan."

Immediately, members of the local affairs committee revisited the editors, explaining the League's position. By the time of the election two of the three daily newspapers in New Orleans had endorsed the parish manager form and the third had announced that it was neutral with regard to the two proposed new forms, but firmly opposed the present wasteful police jury system.

Both of the proposed forms had the advantages of separation of legislative and executive functions, clearly fixed responsibility, centralization of management and business-like methods. They differed only in the methods. They differed only in the method of choosing the chief executive.

There was much speculation as to which form, if any, the various political factions in Jefferson Parish would support. It was generally believed that the incumbent officials, including the Sheriff, who by now had survived a petition for recall signed by approximately 14,000 voters as well as an almost daily bombardment by the press concerning gambling in Jefferson Parish, would work hard to preserve the police jury system. However, in a surprise move the Parish Democratic Organization, headed by Sheriff Coci, and the Democrats of Jefferson, headed by Representative Beeson, endorsed the parish manager form. The Jefferson Democratic Assn., the faction which had captured a majority of council seats in 1956 under the commission council, but had never taken office, endorsed the parish president form.

As election time drew near the League made plans to disseminate as widely as possible information concerning the advantages of council manager government for Jefferson Parish. Workers were recruited for house-to-house distribution of handbills. A workers' rally the Saturday before election-day launched the door-bell ringing campaign. The workers were to ring the door-bell and put into the hands of the occupant three pieces of literature (one a mimeographed handbill promoting council-manager, Plan No. 1 on the ballot, the other a printed summary of the two proposed charters prepared by the Charter Commission itself and the third a sample ballot marked in favor of Plan No. 1. They also carried "Can You Vote" cards to give to persons who were not registered.

At the same time booths were set up in major shopping centers throughout the parish. "I Don't Vote; I Just Squawk" posters were used. The booths distributed the above materials, plus complete charters for those who were interested, as well as many suitable national and state League publications.



A sound truck circulated throughout the Parish urging voters to vote council manager, Plan No. 1. The League members riding the sound truck distributed balloons on which the words VOTE COUNCIL MANAGER were printed.

Meanwhile the League continued to release news about the proposed charters. During the last two weeks, there were almost daily statements by the League in the local press.

Toward the end of the campaign Jules Mollere, who had been elected councilman-at-large under the commission council government in 1956, introduced a new objection to the parish manager form of government on a debatable constitutional question as to whether or not the Louisiana Constitution prevents the hiring of a non-resident manager. On election day, after engaging in their regular voters service activities, members of the League gathered at the Clerk of Court's office and at the League office to receive election returns. The vote was close. Parish manager 13,949 - parish president 17,337 - police jury 2,408. And so Jefferson Parish moved one step nearer the change to a new form of government and became the only parish in the State of Louisiana to have a home rule type charter (other than city - parish governments).

Election of officers was held under the new Charter. The Mollere - JDA forces were soundly defeated and an overwhelming victory accorded to a slate of candidates which received the endorsement of Sheriff Ceci and most of the incumbent elected officials.

GOOD GOVERNMENT  
IS AS EASY AS ABC  
GIVE JEFFERSON A NEW CHARTER  
VOTE COUNCIL MANAGER  
PLAN 1 ON NOV. 5

A

Administration in the hands of a trained administrator

Authority and responsibility clearly fixed

American tradition of separation of policy making from  
administrative functions

B

Brake on spending and general budgeting

Business type management of government

Buck-passing a thing of the past

Biggest growing form of government in the country

C

Concentration on efficiency in government

Consolidation of purchasing and Cutting of Costs

Coordinating activities of all departments

Counteracts corrupt politics and ends spoils system

Civil Service

(Published by the League of Women Voters of Jefferson Parish)



# SUMMARY OF TWO PLANS OF GOVERNMENT

*Proposed by the  
Jefferson Parish  
Charter Commission*

This summary was prepared by the Jefferson Parish Charter Commission. The Commission was appointed by authority of Article 14, Sec. 3(c) of the Constitution. Extra information may be obtained by calling VE. 1-1001.

"The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and alter their constitutions of government."

George Washington



## SUMMARY OF TWO PLANS OF GOVERNMENT

### PROPOSED BY THE JEFFERSON PARISH

#### CHARTER COMMISSION

#### PREPARED BY THE CHARTER COMMISSION

The Jefferson Parish Charter Commission submitted two alternate plans of government to the voters of the parish. Both provide for the election of a seven-man Council to serve as the governing body of the parish government. One plan provides that the Parish Council will appoint a qualified Manager to serve as the executive head of the parish government. The Manager would be responsible to the Council for carrying out its policies. He could be fired for cause by the Council.

The second plan provides for the election of a President to serve as the executive head of the parish government for a four-year term. He must depend on the Council to appropriate money for parish programs. Both plans clearly separate legislative and executive functions of government, a principle fundamental in our democratic form of government.

The proposed plans of government are clearly responsible to the people through their elected representatives. The seven-man Council is elected in the following manner: one from each District, one from combined Districts 1 and 2, one from combined Districts 3 and 4, and one from the parish at large. The Districts are made up by including present wards 1, 2, and 3 in District 1; 4, 5, 6, and 11 in District 2; 7 and 9 in District 3; and 8 and 10 in District 4.

Each voter in the parish, therefore, will vote for three members of the Council - one from his own district, one from the combined districts on his side of the river, and one from the parish at large.

It is the basic intent and purpose of the Charter to provide home rule for Jefferson Parish. Under such a system of government it will be possible for the people of the parish to handle their own governmental affairs without having to seek special acts of the State Legislature on purely local matters.

One of the important features of the Charter is the centralization of governmental functions under the Council and the Manager (or President). All departments, agencies, offices, and special districts in the Parish are brought under the jurisdiction of the Council and the Manager (or President) with the exception of the School Board and the offices of Sheriff, Clerk of the District Court, and Tax Assessor, which were

specifically excluded by the terms of the constitutional amendment providing for the new plans of government. The centralization and coordination of some 30-odd special districts in the parish will be accomplished by making the Parish Council the governing body of each district and assigning the administrative affairs of these districts to the Manager (or President.)

Under the articles having to do with the executive branch of government, provision is made for the appointment of a qualified Parish Manager or for the election of a Parish President by the voters of the parish. The Parish Manager (or Parish President) is given the power to appoint or remove the administrative officers and employees of the parish responsible to him in accordance with the civil service provisions in the Charter.

The Charter provides for departments of finance, personnel, planning, and law, and provides that any other departments as may become necessary will be established by ordinance of the Council after consultation with the Parish Manager (or Parish President). Thus, it will be possible to establish departments of public works, public utilities, public safety, etc.

In order to maintain the morale of the present employees of the parish and the various districts and to insure an orderly transition from the present form of government to the new, a provision is included in this section that employees who have worked for the parish one year prior to the effective date of the Charter may continue in their positions without being required to take the competitive examinations, but in all other respects these employees will be subject to the merit system provisions of the Charter.

The article on administrative organization also includes a General Advisory Board and such other advisory boards as the Council may consider necessary. The General Advisory Board is to be made up of representatives of each ward as in existence at the present time.

The Board will meet periodically with the Manager (or President) to discuss problems and needs of the individual wards.

In addition to the subjects summarized above, the Charter includes restrictions on any elected officer being appointed to any paid parish administrative office or position during the period beginning with the date of his election and ending not less than one year after the expiration of his term. No parish official or employee shall vote upon or otherwise participate in any financial transaction of the parish if he has any financial interest in such transaction.



IN RETROSPECT  
(A YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENT)

by Mrs. Gus Bahn

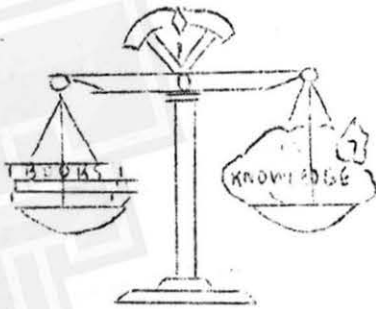
Ladies, as your President, my job has been to preside at our meetings, - to bring order and keep the peace - and I attempt here to summarize the annual



reports in such a way that you will have a composite picture of a multitude of tasks, big and little, and of unimaginable variety - some jobs which just "got done" without apparent direction. Reading the reports of the 1957-1958 Directors, a perusal of the year's newspapers, of our meeting minutes and our bulletin, testifies to the fact that this year has brought us nearer our goal of an informed and active citizenry. An ear to the reverberations about us throughout our community adds to our pride - although we modestly admit we are eager to do a better job and enthusiastic about things still to be accomplished.



Mrs. Albert Wolf, 1st Vice-President, is our Program Chairman. She has worked out discussion outlines with resource committees, held monthly briefing meetings, and (after a long struggle to get everyone together) had every unit well represented at a leaders' workshop. This year's study includes five meetings on national agenda (two on trade-aid, one on foreign relations, one on water, one on individual liberties), three on state agenda (education, home rule, property tax), two on local agenda (Charter), and one on orientation and legislation.



Our 2nd Vice President, Mrs. S. G. Davis, who has been busy on the state board (writing that wonderful pamphlet on education - "School Daze"), has worked long and hard on Local Affairs. She heads the Standing School Committee and is ever ready to take action on our Continuing Responsibilities.



Our Secretary, Mrs. Milton Roberts, not only faithfully transcribed the minutes of the Board and General Meetings; she has filed, typed, and "manned" the office. Her committee of helpers - we couldn't do without.

Our Treasurer, Mrs. Richard Ordway, reports that although we started the year with a balance of \$631.53 and ended with a balance of \$578.29, we have put \$1000.00 into the Voters Registration Project. The Charter campaign was also a big item for our budget. Next year we have increased our pledge for State - National Services from \$400 to \$500.

Mrs. Elton Mackie, Corresponding Secretary, has written literally hundreds of notes. Every contributor received an individual "thank you" in her own gracious style.

Mrs. Wm. Haspel, Jr., took charge of our work on the Charter - need we say more? Able assistance was had from many leaguers - including Mrs. Rumold and Mrs. Murison, who also decorated our first office, so kindly donated by Mr. Gracionette. The move to our present headquarters (when the office space had to give way to progress) is one of our great strides. Our eternal gratitude to Mr. Cullen Schouest. It is a pleasure to work in the comfort and convenience of 340 Brooklyn Avenue - and the good news is that we are still expanding!



Mrs. Gordie Stelly replaced Mrs. Lillian Kemp as Community Expansion chairman. Gretna and Seventh Ward units were reorganized in the fall, and an evening unit on the West Bank is now in the formative stage.



Mrs. Shirley Usinger, Unit Organization Chairman, who took over for Mrs. F. Armand Wicks, reports seven active Units in Jefferson, with an average monthly attendance of eight. New report forms for organization and discussion have been worked out and will greatly increase report between the Board and the individual member.

Everyone is familiar with the Bulletin. Our Editor, Mrs. John C. Wagner - for two dozen editions and volumes of mimeographing (with the able assistance of her husband). Mrs. John Godchaux has mailed the bulletin with the help of the addressograph at St. Martins Church. This is quite a task!

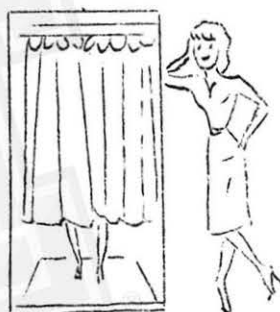


Mrs. Joseph Schenthal, Membership Chairman, reports a fairly constant membership with a slight increase in number this year. She arranged a membership coffee at the home of Mrs. Joseph Roth, and plans many orientation meetings for new groups. Total membership 197.

Mrs. Henry K. Threefoot continued the duties of Publications Chairman after Mrs. M. F. Jackson resigned. She has put bulletin board displays in all the units and reorganized the material in the office - where everything is marked and available (please use the money box!)



The Public Relations Committee, headed by Mrs. Isadore Yager, has had wonderful cooperation from all the publicity sources in the area. The League has had articles in the social section, as well as the news, to spark our projects. The Speakers Bureau under the supervision of Mrs. Nancy van Duyvendijk cooperated with many civic groups, Men's Clubs and PTA. Radio - TV - directed by Mrs. Charles Colbert scheduled a highly successful candidates' meeting on Channel 8, moderated by Mr. Bill Monroe, and spotted numerous registration and vote announcements. A program is in the making for educational TV, highlighting various aspects of our parish. Mrs. Tom Collins has been busily cutting and arranging press releases for our scrap-book.

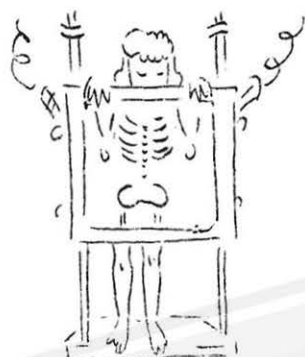


Voters Service, under the auspices of Mrs. W. R. Phillips, has worked tirelessly during four elections - poll checking, information booths - with model voting machines - and checking the results when machines were opened. A registration campaign was held in the Spring, and the new Jefferson Voters Registration of the League of Women Voters, directed by Mrs. Leo Haspel and Mrs. Richard McCarthy, will soon have a complete up-to-date file of every registered voter in the parish!



There was no lack of interest in the School Item on the State Agenda, according to the Chairman Mrs. Louis Bedell... The unit meetings on structure of the school system and duties of elected and appointed officials indicated a definite interest in further workshops.

Home Rule was discussed in the units, reports Mrs. Robert O'Connor, State Affairs Chairman. The membership favored support of a Home Rule Bill in the Legislature.



Mrs. Clifton McClellan held a General Meeting on the film "Dollars at Work in the Middle East." Mrs. Louis Hopkins continued the work on National Continuing Responsibilities with emphasis on those dealing with Foreign Policy. In March we participated in the call to action by sending the Trade-Aid pamphlet to our National and State Representatives, local officials, and seventy civic groups urging them to express opinion on the extension of the Trade Agreements Act. We recently joined the Foreign Policy Association of New Orleans to participate in a community discussion program of Foreign Policy. The resource committee on Loyalty-Security led the discussions on the Government Commission report. Agreement reached was essentially the same as the National position.





Mrs. Leo Haspel, Chairman of the Water Item on the program presented this complex subject to the membership with great dexterity. Emphasis for our area was pollution and we cooperated with New Orleans to study the subject.



The Finance drive was a huge success. Co-Chairman, Mrs. Haspel and Mrs. McCarthy report 139 contributions totalling 2360.97 and varying from \$2.00 to \$300. A committee of six made follow-up calls for a total of 27 hours, and the file is now in perfect order.



Last, but not least, Mrs. McCarthy, past-prexy and ex-officio member of our Board, has been right-hand-woman to all that goes on in League Affairs. She has been called upon to pinch-hit and advise on many occasions, office supervisor, chief worrier (when the President had other things to do), meeting attender, follow-up-er, and telephone committee of one. Too busy? Not for her.

A word in parting. The proposed program - on all levels - couldn't be more stimulating? The outlook for action, more challenging? The roll of democracy, more appealing? What the League needs is more eager beavers (like yourself) let's go!

## LOCAL TAX STUDY

### Introduction

How much do you know about the way money is being raised in your community? At home you would never dream of planning to buy this, that and the other thing without first knowing how you were going to get the money. Yet all too often we are apt to push for improvements in our community services without first evaluating the financial resources for the support of such project, and the tax picture.

The way in which the money is raised is no less important than the amount. Do taxes fall fairly on all members of the community? Is the administration efficient or haphazard? Is there waste through use of outworn or careless methods? Is there poor overall management of local finances? Can these things be improved?

Here is a splendid project for a local League: a study of the community's financing. For it is something that directly affects every member of the community, and is a field in which periodic re-evaluation is extremely important.

The property tax is the main source of funds for a local community, and whether or not it is the best possible tax, it is at present the most practicable one and will continue to be important. Therefore this project will be largely devoted to a study of this tax and the way it is administered. If a less ambitious project is desired than the one covered by this outline, Parts III and IV of this outline may be used separately, thus limiting the study to one of the property tax and its administration.

You will want to talk with local officials who play a part in financial affairs, especially the assessors. You may want to write to the Municipal Finance Officers' Association in Chicago for material on what other cities are doing. Summaries of tax systems for all states are to be found in Tax Foundation, Tax System. Many states put out their own summaries. Illinois, for example, has an A.B.C. of the Illinois Tax System that is very good. Financial Reports of state and local officials are also usually available. For comparative statistics the Department of Commerce, Financial Statistics of State and Local Governments are useful. For general discussion of the property tax see any text on public finance, especially H. M. Groves, Financing Government, new edition, 1946.

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### I. Local Government Income and Expenditures

#### A. Jurisdiction

1. Under how many taxing bodies do you live, and what are they?  
(Do not overlook fees, licenses, water rates, etc.)
2. What taxing body are you examining for this study? City?  
County? Village?

#### B. Expenditures

1. What was the total amount of expenditure by your local government during the past year?
2. What amount was spent for (a) education (b) welfare (c) health (d) fire protection (e) police (f) garbage and collection (g) water (h) libraries (i) street paving (j) other public works activities (k) overhead administration (l) other.

#### C. Revenue

1. What was the total amount of revenue during the same period?
2. How much and what proportion came from: (a) property taxes (b) grants-in-aid from the state government (c) grants-in-aid from the federal government (d) state-collected locally-shared taxes (e) miscellaneous revenues such as license fees, public service charges, etc. (f) special assessments (g) loans (h) other.

#### D. Relation to Community

1. What did local government cost per capita? or per family?
2. What proportion of the community total income goes to pay for local government?
3. How does this compare with some other communities of the same size?

### II. Finance Administration

#### A. Personnel

1. What officials administer fiscal affairs in your community and your county? Budget officer? assessor? treasurer or tax collector? auditor or comptroller? others? List.

2. Are they elected or appointed? Full time or part time? What are they paid? What are their functions? Are the present incumbents qualified for their work?
3. How many employees? Full time or part time?

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1. Administration. (a) Who is primarily responsible for preparing the budget? (b) Is it a top executive or a clerk who will not be responsible for carrying out the budget? (c) After the budget is adopted, what official is responsible for putting it into effect (d) Is the budget published? (e) Is it published early enough to give the citizens opportunity to study it? (f) Is it in an understandable form?
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4. Review. (a) Are there provisions for appeal to a local board of review? to a state board? (b) Whom does this benefit? (c) Does it add to efficiency or hamper it? (d) Does it make it harder to fix responsibility?

C. Accounting and Reporting

1. Does the accounting system appear to give accurately and clearly the kind of fiscal information needed by the citizens to understand their government?
2. What provisions are there for auditing the accounts of your local government? Is there a yearly independent audit?
3. Are the financial affairs of your community reported clearly and simply so that the public can understand them?

III. Nature of General Property Tax

- A. How many units of government depend on the property in your community as a source of revenue: the state? the county? city or village? township? school district?



B. Does the tax apply to all property, including real estate, tangible personal property, intangibles? Are there different rates on different kinds of property? What are they?

C. Restrictions on Property Taxation

1. Tax exempt property. (a) What is the total amount of property exempt from taxation in your community? (b) What are the justifications for these exemptions and by whom were they granted? (c) What has been the trend of tax exemptions in your community in the past ten years? (d) Is there a good reason for these exemptions? (e) Are there homestead exemptions in your community? If so, what is the amount of property exempt? From what taxes is it exempt? Has this been an effective means of bringing tax relief to the small home owner and of solving the tax problems in your community?
2. Tax limits. (a) Are there tax limits in your community? If so, what are the limits and by whom are they imposed? (b) Do they create difficult administrative problems in your community because of overlapping governmental authorities levying a general property tax? (c) Have they proved to be an effective means of promoting economical administration and bringing relief to the property taxpayer? Do they really limit?

IV. Administration of General Property Tax

A. Legal Provisions for Assessment.

B. Unit of Assessment

1. Is assessment of property in your community done on a county-wide basis or is it done separately by each community in the county?
2. Does the state or county government supervise the assessment of property in any way?
3. Which unit of government is responsible for assessment of public utility and railroad properties?

C. Methods of Assessment

1. What are the methods used in assessing property in your community? Does the assessor talk to the owner? Does he examine the property in detail? Does he find out about recent improvements? Does he use sales records? Does he use tax maps? What are the criteria that he uses?

2. How often is property assessed?
3. What is the ratio of the assessed value of real estate to the market value? How does this compare with other communities?
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#### D. Review of Assessments

1. What recourse has the property owner if he objects to the assessed value?
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1. Collection Procedure. (a) How many tax bills are rendered each year on property within your community? city? school district? special assessment? (b) When are tax bills due - on the same date or different dates? How often? (c) Are tax bills mailed so property owners have a reminder? (d) What is the annual cost of collecting taxes in your community? What does it cost to collect \$1.00 of taxes? What is the cost per capita? (e) Is there provision for installment payment of taxes?
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- (c) Are the penalties realistic? Do they encourage the taxpayer to be prompt and to make up part delinquencies rather than discourage him from doing so? (d) Do the tax collecting officials make a regular and conscientious effort to enforce the penalties? (e) How much tax delinquency is there in your community? (f) What has been the trend in the past ten years?

## V. Debt Policy

- A. What is the total amount of your bonded debt? What is the annual amount of interest? What proportion is this of total expenditures? For what purposes was the debt incurred?
- B. Is there a regular, systematic plan for retiring debt annually? For adding to the sinking fund for the retirement of debt? Are there any bonds outstanding that will not be retired in twenty years? If so, what proportion?
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## VI. Evaluation

### A. Local Tax Legislation

- 1. Are the present provisions for exemptions and limitations reasonable? Should they be changed?
- 2. Could the present provisions for the administrative machinery be improved?

### B. Administration of Property Tax

- 1. How effective are the present methods of assessment and collection? What alternative methods would be possible?

2. Is there any overlapping that might be avoided?
3. Could the personnel be improved?

C. Burden of Property Tax

1. Is it excessive? Unequal?
2. Are the tax limits helpful or do they interfere?
3. Are exemptions reasonable?
4. Could there be better assessment?

D. Fiscal Program of the Community

1. Could the tax policy of the different units of government be better coordinated? How?
2. Are all of the fiscal activities in proper sequence: assessing, budget making, setting tax rates, budget adoption, tax collection, making expenditures, etc?
3. Do you think the community should increase or decrease its taxes? Which ones? Its expenditures? Which ones?
4. Is there administrative waste? What is the nature of it? Is it a serious problem?
5. Is there adequate planning? Where could there be improvement?

E. Recommendations

The national office at 726 Jackson Place, would appreciate receiving your comments on this material. In the first place, did you use it? If not, why not? If so, how and with what success? Did you feel that this material could be made more useful? Any specific suggestions for revision or for supplementary material on this subject? Do let us hear from you.



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- 2. Could the present provisions for the administrative machinery be improved?

### B. Administration of Property Tax

- 1. How effective are the present methods of assessment and collection? What alternative methods would be possible?



2. Is there any overlapping that might be avoided?
3. Could the personnel be improved?

C. Burden of Property Tax

1. Is it excessive? Unequal?
2. Are the tax limits helpful or do they interfere?
3. Are exemptions reasonable?
4. Could there be better assessment?

D. Fiscal Program of the Community

1. Could the tax policy of the different units of government be better coordinated? How?
2. Are all of the fiscal activities in proper sequence: assessing, budget making, setting tax rates, budget adoption, tax collection, making expenditures, etc?
3. Do you think the community should increase or decrease its taxes? Which ones? Its expenditures? Which ones?
4. Is there administrative waste? What is the nature of it? Is it a serious problem?
5. Is there adequate planning? Where could there be improvement?

E. Recommendations

The national office at 726 Jackson Place, would appreciate receiving your comments on this material. In the first place, did you use it? If not, why not? If so, how and with what success? Did you feel that this material could be made more useful? Any specific suggestions for revision or for supplementary material on this subject? Do let us hear from you.