

APR 20 1970

April 17, 1970

Mrs. G. Donald Larson, President
League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

Dear Mrs. Larson:

When you receive the list of consultant assignments, you will note that the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls has not been assigned a specific consultant for 1970-71.

It is the consideration of the Organization Committee that due to the excellence of the Wichita Falls League, it is unnecessary for you to have formal board training this year. As an alternative, perhaps later in the year you would rather request the services of a state board member in a particular area of League activity.

However, if it is the judgment of your board that you do want board training, please let me know and I will assign a consultant.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Albert Barstis
Organization Vice President

cc: State Office

LOCAL POLICY SHEET

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls, Texas
Adopted by the Board of Directors January 15, 1975

I. NONPARTISANSHIP

The League of Women Voters shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate. (Bylaws, Article II, Section 2.

The League urges its members to work as individuals in the party of their choice.

The League is nonpartisan on parties and candidates but may be partisan on issues which have been studied by the League members.

When agreement among the members has been reached, the League takes a position on the issues which it has chosen for study. The League believes that the position it has reached is in the public interest. The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest in line with its positions on the issues.

It is the duty of the Board to see to it that the League is in fact nonpartisan.

In order to insure its nonpartisan method of operation and in order that the public may be convinced that the League's nonpartisanship is bonafide, the President, who is the spokesman for the League, does not engage in any partisan political activity during her term of League leadership.

- A. The president must resign from the Board before announcing her candidacy for an elective public office in time for the Board first to make public announcement of her resignation.
- B. The president may not publicly promote a candidate, whether or not the candidate wears the label of a political party, or work publicly in any organization supporting candidates.
- C. The president may belong to a political party but may not hold office in a political organization.

Members are urged to take active part in politics, to work for the candidates of their choice, etc. There is, however, one restriction:

A member works strictly as an individual and may not speak in the name of the League.

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Members are encouraged to attend any and all administrative meetings of county, city, school and college where they may ask questions and participate as private citizens. Members attending as League observers, however, are there as reporters only. They will confine themselves to taking notes during the course of the meeting.

The president shall at all times speak for the League unless she or the Board specifically designates another for a particular time and purpose.

The president, or someone designated by her or the Board, shall examine every press and radio release and every speech to be made in the name of the League to make sure that the careless use of a word or phrase does not impair the League's nonpartisanship standing.

II. DUES

Dues may be prorated at the discretion of the Board.

III. ROSTER

Membership lists are not made public. The roster of the League is for the use and convenience of the members in carrying out League work. Its use by other organizations or groups must have Board approval.

IV. BOARD PLANNING

The Board is responsible for planning a calendar of all League activities to overlap the next League year by at least two months.

V. BOARD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POLICY SHEET

The Board will review this Policy Sheet annually and may alter, eliminate or retain any or all parts of it. When it is approved, a copy of the Policy Sheet will be sent to every member.

VI. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall review the provisions of this policy sheet with each prospective member of the Board, so that she may know exactly what obligations she assumes when she becomes a member of the League Board.

APR 1973

LOCAL POLICY SHEET

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls, Texas
Adopted by the Board of Directors March 8, 1973

I. NONPARTISANSHIP (For details, see Local League Handbook)

The League of Women Voters shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate. (Bylaws, Article II, Section 2)

The League urges its members, except those who are serving as League leaders, to work as individuals in the party of their choice.

The League is nonpartisan on parties and candidates but may be partisan on issues which have been studied by the League members.

When agreement among the members has been reached, the League takes a position on the issues which it has chosen for study. The League believes that the position it has reached is in the public interest. The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest in line with its positions on the issues.

It is the duty of the Board to see to it that the League is in fact nonpartisan.

A. Board Members

In order to insure this nonpartisan method of operation and in order that the public may be convinced that the League's nonpartisanship is bonafide, the members of the League Board (and in some instances other League leaders as decided by the Board) do not engage in any partisan political activity during their term of League leadership.

1. A Board member must resign from the Board before announcing her candidacy for an elective public office in time for the Board first to make public announcement of her resignation.
2. A Board member must resign from the Board if any member of her immediate family becomes a candidate for public office.
3. The resignations required under (1) and (2) above shall extend until such time as the Board shall decide.
4. A Board member may not publicly promote a candidate, whether or not the candidate wears the label of a political party, or work publicly in any organization supporting candidates.
5. A Board member may belong to a political party but may not hold office in a political organization.

6. Board members may participate in precinct conventions and may serve as delegates to county conventions. Board members should be careful to identify themselves as individuals, however, unless they intend to limit themselves to specific League-authorized activity.
7. A Board member should guard what she says lest her remarks be interpreted in such a way as to reflect on the nonpartisanship status of the League.
8. Before a Board member accepts appointment to any non-League governmental committee, commission or board she must have the approval of the Board.

B. Members Not On The Board

1. All non-Board members are urged to take active part in politics, to work for the candidates of their choice, etc. There is, however, one restriction:
a.) A member works strictly as an individual and may not speak in the name of the League.
2. Members are encouraged to attend any and all administrative meetings of county, city, school and college where they may ask questions and participate as private citizens. Members attending as official League observers, however, are there as reporters only. They will confine themselves to taking notes during the course of the meeting.
3. The president shall at all times speak for the League unless she or the Board specifically designates another for a particular time and purpose.
4. The president, or someone designated by her or the Board, shall examine every press and radio release and every speech to be made in the name of the League to make sure that the careless use of a word or phrase does not impair the League's non-partisanship standing.

C. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall review the provisions of this nonpartisanship policy sheet with each prospective member of the Board, so that she may know exactly what obligations of nonpartisanship she assumes when she becomes a member of the League Board.

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PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 1973-74

- I. Environmental Quality: Evaluation of measures to achieve and maintain a physical environment beneficial to life.

Outlook for work:

1. Active participation and/or support of local clubs, organizations or programs providing for encouraging local legislation and enforcement preventing the misuse of air and water resources.
2. Individual and group effort aimed at the safe and effective sorting, collecting and disposing of solid wastes.
3. Vocal and literary bombardment of the local citizenry on the importance of action, both group and individual, in respect to the restoration and protection of our environment.

- II. Continued Study and Evaluation of Wichita Falls Schools

Outlook for work:

1. Consensus and action based on but not limited to the School Survey.
2. Further study related to education in Wichita Falls.

- III. Continued Study and Evaluation of Health Care available in Wichita Falls and Wichita County.

Outlook for work:

1. Look at availability of hospitals and doctors.
2. Public Health Services.
3. New medical concepts and practices.

- IV. Mental Health and Mental Retardation: Support and further evaluation of local mental health-mental retardation programs.

Outlook for work:

1. Support of consensus positions.
2. Further evaluation of programs as they progress.

- V. Voting Procedures and Voting Machines: Support and Further evaluation of voting procedures and voting machines in Wichita County.

Outlook for work:

1. Support of consensus positions.
2. Further evaluation of voting procedures and voting machines.
3. Develop more interest in training of election workers.

(More)

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Explanation of choice by Board of Directors:

- I. No consensus on this vital subject has been reached by the Wichita Falls League. We plan to give it top priority in the next fiscal year.
- II. Consensus is planned on the subject of fees by the end of April, 1973. There are many other areas to be studied.
- III. No comprehensive study was done on this subject last year. A survey will be done and consensus proposed for Late fall.. 1973.
- IV. We need to retain this item in order to take action. Updating will be necessary.
- V. We have studied and reached consensus on local voting procedures and voting machines. We need to keep this item in order to take action. We must persist in our efforts to improve voting procedures in Wichita County and re-examine voting machines in the near future. We must also work on the training of election workers.

NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS.

There were no new items suggested to the board this last year.

In as much as our bylaws require that proposed programs items must be submitted two months prior to the Annual Meeting, it will be necessary to use the emergency method of adopting any new program item in the next fiscal year (see bylaws, Art IX, Sec. 2 e) 1 & 2.)

Program is one of two very important aspects of League, the other being Voter Service. Last year was almost completely devoted to Voter Service. Let's make this a Program year.

Development of program requires devoted chairmen. If you want a good local program, be willing to help.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WICHITA FALLS
Consensus on State Item -- Election Laws
Units: Sept. 26 and 27, 1972

NOV 6 1972

- I. Electoral researchers have developed standards to evaluate an ideal election administration. Check (with comment if you wish) those measures listed below which your League accepts. Add any other criteria that you consider important.

Clearly stated (AND ENFORCED) election laws and procedures that uniformly and regularly produce honest and accurate results -- agreed with addition safeguards against fraudulent practices -- agreed

protection of secrecy of ballot -- agreed

Convenience to the voters -- agreed

Impartiality of treatment for all voters -- agreed

reasonable costs for conducting elections -- agreed

- A. Do you think Texas election laws meet your standards closely, fairly closely, or poorly? Why?

Both units agreed that the laws seem adequate except for lack of enforcement and for the fragmentation of authority and responsibility for enforcement.

- B. Would recodification or revision help the election laws meet your standards?

Both units agreed that both courses probably would help to some extent, although no one was really dissatisfied with the present Election Code. (N.B.: The Code has not been widely read here, but at least two members who have read it have found it clear and readable except for some archaic usages.)

- C. Do you think the method of conducting elections in Texas meets your standards closely, fairly closely, or poorly? Why?

Both units felt the conduct of elections in Texas meets any reasonable standards very poorly. Both agreed that lack of training of election workers is a primary cause of Election Code violations in Wichita County, and the evening unit also felt that lack of specific responsibility for enforcing the Code also contributes.

- II. If changes are needed to improve the conduct of elections in Texas, what specific changes would you suggest? In view of the standards you chose above, consider these questions.

- A. Should there be one state officer responsible for all phases of the election process within the state? Why or why not?

Both units failed to come to any real consensus on this question, with the evening unit opposing view that the Secretary of State and Attorney General should handle election responsibilities rather than another bureaucracy being established; and the morning unit feeling lukewarm about a state official, but quite strongly about a local authority.

- B. Should there be a central county election officer? Why or why not?

The morning unit felt quite strongly that there should be one person on the county level in charge of registration, voter education, election worker supervision and training, etc. The evening unit was split again, with a general feeling that one person should be ultimately responsible,

but uncertainty about another bureaucrat.

- II. C. If so, should the jurisdiction of a central election officer be extended to all elections in the county?

The morning unit agreed that this would be most desirable, if it is possible. This group also felt that other governmental agencies within the county should help meet the expenses caused by a central officer and his staff. If nothing else, the morning unit felt that a central election officer could maintain a list of qualified and available election workers which could be consulted by other governmental bodies. The evening unit, while stressing its concern with the fragmentation of responsibility which now obtains, felt other governmental agencies would have to have some degree of control as long as they continue to finance their own elections.

- D. Why should appoint election officials? How and by whom should they be trained?

Both units were satisfied with the present method of appointing election officials. The evening group felt that training should be conducted by the County Judge, with the cooperation and coordination of other governmental agencies' election officers. The morning group felt that more training should be required, possibly to be conducted by the central county election officer. This group felt that judges, at least, should be "certified" after completing training or passing an examination covering their duties. The morning unit also felt that volunteer workers should be used whenever possible, but that other workers should be paid at least the minimum wage.

- III. The League of Women Voters seeks to secure maximum participation by the citizen in the exercise of his franchise to vote, while providing adequate safeguards against fraud. Several barriers to voting have been identified in past studies: residence requirements, absentee voting restrictions, and voter inconvenience, (e.g., hours the polls are open).

- A. Are there changes in the Texas election laws which you think should be made in the following areas:

Residence requirements -- present 30-day requirement satisfactory
Absentee voting -- both units split on notarization, with some feeling in the morning group that one or more witnesses might be sufficient; a note from the doctor was considered unnecessary by all participants; the evening unit felt the county clerk should make better provision for the last-day rush.

Voter inconvenience -- 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours considered satisfactory by both groups, but evening unit thought the hours should be uniform throughout the state; The morning unit would like to see uniformity of location as well, since many voters are confused by having to vote in four or five different places in as many elections.

Others -- The morning unit felt quite strongly that the wording on ALL questions, Constitutional amendments, etc., should be clear and concise and that double negatives should be completely eliminated. The evening unit suggested that the size of precincts using paper ballots should be reduced and enforced. The minimum of 50 was considered all right, but continuous counting in huge paper precincts is sure to militate against accuracy and voter convenience.

- B. What safeguards should be provided or retained to ensure elections free of fraud, specifically in regard to

- III. B. supervision -- Both units agreed that this is a MUST, with the morning group adding that it would come under the central officer
- Reporting procedures -- The evening unit felt that any failures here could be solved by enforcement of the Election Code and consolidation of responsibility for the various aspects of reporting returns. The morning group felt that, while no malice has been detected in returns here, inaccuracy must be combatted and suggested that better workers be recruited and trained to conduct and count elections.
- Absentee ballots -- Notarization of absentee ballots was seen by some participants at both units to be a necessary safeguard.
- Provisions for appeal -- The evening unit liked the idea of a free recount in case of an election which resulted in less-than-1-per-cent-of-the-total-vote difference; while there was a determined minority opposition to the "free" recount in the morning group, some members of this group also felt that all elections that close should receive special scrutiny and/or a recount as a matter of course, since 1 per cent was felt to be well within the margin for error of a paper ballot precinct. The evening group felt that responsibility for seeking and financing a recount should not necessarily be left entirely to the losing candidate, and the morning unit agreed that there should be some recourse whereby citizens can appeal an election, particularly when the Election Code has been violated.
- Should the "conviction of felony" be cause of disenfranchisement? The evening group felt quite strongly that once the sentence has been served or probation period completed, voting rights should be automatically restored. (Because of time limitations and a difference in consensus forms, this was not brought up at the morning meeting.)
- IV. Recognizing that nominations through party primaries are an integral part of the electoral process, how do you think primaries in Texas should be conducted?
- A. Do you prefer a dual or a unitary (consolidated) primary system? Sentiment at both units was nearly unanimous in favor of a unitary primary, especially if it is to be financed by the state. The evening unit strongly favored a blanket primary system which would reflect more independent voting habits. The morning group was sharply split on the open-or-closed primary issue, with both sides completely intransigent.
- B. How should primaries be financed? Both units agreed that the state should finance at least the basics of a primary election, with a general feeling that the county (for a blanket primary) or the parties providing for luxuries and mismanagement. The evening unit suggested that, since \$1 per vote has been quoted as a reasonable price in gauging elections, the state might provide that amount.

ADDENDA FROM THE EVENING UNIT

Feel training of workers -- especially judges -- should be required on a regular basis; training consisting of a five-minute "we-all-know-what we're-doing" speech is worthless; maybe County Judge could conduct training for workers of both parties, with consultation and cooperation of county parties and/or city, school board, etc., officials; all election workers for all elections within the county should have uniform and coordinated training.

The signed stub seems a necessary protection against fraud, although it requires a lot of reassurance and explanation to new voters. It was generally conceded that stub cans are protected in Wichita County.

Would appreciate less partisan grounds for challenge of an election. An election judge might be fined for not allowing a qualified voter to vote, but that doesn't do the voter or his candidate much good after the fact. Similar dissatisfaction with other, similar provisions. The mandamus was not seen as too effective when the LWV of Wichita Falls is trying to get voting booths for an election. Either we would have to wait too late in order to prove that the county had no intention of providing voting booths or we would have to go into court as much as a year before the election.

Surely registration requirements can be tightened up now to reflect permanent registration????

We like all sorts of specifics in the Election Code, feeling that this lends to uniformity and adds to your argument when you are trying to convince election officials to provide such luxuries as voting booths. We wouldn't object, however, to such specifics being segregated from the basic election law. It also was felt that a central responsibility for elections all across the state would help in uniformity of enforcement, so a state elections officer might make the specifics unnecessary.

ADDENDA FROM THE MORNING UNIT

Accuracy of election returns is seen as a major problem here, but the solution seems to lie in greater use of volunteer workers, minimum wage for other workers and GOOD training for all. Not too sure about requiring formal certification of all precinct judges, but could require written examination of judges unable to attend training.

The signed stub is all right with this group.

Would like regular, automatic recount of close (within 1 per cent of the total vote?) elections because of accuracy problems with paper ballots, through financing would be a major problem. Some sentiment toward smaller precincts. Minority opinion against a "free" recount was expressed by the wife of a candidate who lost in the May primary -- she felt that the losing candidate certainly should be willing to back up his suspicions. Feel citizens should have some recourse for contest of election on grounds other than those specified by the Election Code; i.e., when Young County stopped counting at midnight for the May primary, then came back at 2 p.m. the next day and reported results which dramatically changed the outcome of the election.

Favor tighter registration requirements.

Favor geographically compact precincts with polls as convenient as possible to all in precinct and with uniformity of polling places for all elections.

Great and strident demand for clear and concise wording on ALL questions and Constitutional amendments which wind up on the ballot. Voter education becomes impossible with questions like those on the primary ballots.

Eight members participated in the evening unit's discussion Sept. 26, 1972, with Mrs. Raymond Sims as discussion leader and Mrs. Brian Trainor as recorder. Eight members also participated in the morning group's discussion Sept. 27, 1972, with two members attending both meetings. Two guests also attended the morning meeting. Mrs. Sims was discussion leader again, with Mrs. Larry Lambert as discussion leader. Total paid membership of the Wichita Falls League of Women Voters at this time was .

MAY 16 1972

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Consensus on Election Procedures & Voting Machines
(As of February 1971)

1. Provisions for privacy in voting, as specified by the Texas Election Code, are not being met. The small three-sided partitions available at some precincts for one election, were felt to be helpful, but regular provision of privacy is still felt to be a major concern. Leaguers considered themselves unqualified to judge Wichita County compliance with other sections of the Election Code, such as the size of precincts and number of election workers.
2. While Wichita County does meet Election Code requirements for the training of election workers, it was felt that some improvements--such as updating and simplifying election laws, mandatory attendance at training sessions and on-the-job training of workers by precinct judges--could be made.
3. The Wichita Falls League should support measures taken on the local level to promote clear understanding of election issues, such as minimum standards for ballot type size, clear and comprehensive wording on local propositions and continued use of positive marking.
4. Though a small minority favored support of voting machines, most members felt machines are not necessary at this time, particularly if privacy in voting can be guaranteed without machines. It was felt the Wichita Falls League should keep voting machines under consideration, despite some questions concerning honest conduct of elections and the possibility that machines might reduce the number of voters participating in elections.
5. Opposition to electronic vote-counting machines was reiterated.

(Local Program)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Consensus on Mental Health & Mental Retardation
(As printed in the April 1970 Voter)

1. The Wichita Falls League of Women Voters supports the concept of comprehensive community centers for mental health and mental retardation providing at least the five basic services: in-patient care, out-patient care, consultation and education, partial hospitalization and 24-hour emergency care.

2. The Wichita Falls League of Women Voters supports the establishment in Wichita Falls of such a comprehensive community mental health and mental retardation center, which would provide locally planned and coordinated services.

The fundamental purpose of a community program is to make best possible use of existing facilities by coordination, by expansion, and by avoiding duplication. Whenever and wherever needed services do not exist, the program should initiate such services either directly, or through an existing agency.

Some specific areas which need attention are: a more comprehensive spectrum of services for the retarded and their families (additional classes for educable and trainable retarded, child-care, residences, recreation programs, etc.); treatment for emotionally disturbed children and adults; classes for emotionally disturbed children.

3. The Wichita Falls League of Women Voters considers financing of a comprehensive community mental health and mental retardation center an appropriate use of tax monies, and supports adequate funding of the program beginning as planned with federal, state and local funds, and becoming in time a locally supported effort.

Since we favor a tax-supported coordinated community program, we urge that a flexible program be developed to reach all citizens. Toward this end, consideration should be given to small neighborhood centers for initial patient contacts, and follow-up care. We support graduated fee schedules which would help pay for the program, but which would not create a hardship for those served. We would like to see dissemination of information about available services throughout the community.

Recognizing the state hospital as a large tax-supported facility already existing in the community, we urge as much cooperation and coordination as possible, in terms of programs, staff and facilities.

(Local Program)

Wichita Falls Times, Wichita Falls, Texas
March 17, 1971 Wednesday Evening

MAR 24 1971

FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

School Board President Appraises Past Year

By MARTHA B. STEIMEL
Women's News Staff

A personalized appraisal of the "year since the boiling point of the patrons of the school system" was given for the League of Women Voters at its annual meeting luncheon Tuesday. Dr. Joe Steed, president of the Wichita Falls School Board, was the speaker.

He peeped into the future a bit also as he told of teacher evaluation and his own hope that the "lights will be burning in the new vocational training center all night long" for adults as well as students to learn job skills.

Mrs. Barney Glickman was elected president of the League during the morning business meeting. The LWV decided also to continue its local school survey, its study of environmental quality, its support and further evaluation of local mental health-mental retardation programs and its support of improved voting procedures in Wichita County.

Other new officers to serve for two years with Mrs. Glickman are Mrs. Arthur McAdams Jr., first vice president; Mrs. Raymond Sims, secretary and Mmes. Ray Farabee, John Bovey and H. P. Hodge Jr., directors.

Mrs. G. Donald Larson, retiring president, will fill the unexpired year of a two year term as second vice president and Mrs. Brian Trainor will serve as director for a similar unexpired term.

Mmes. Kenneth Hendrickson, Gerald Fox and David Allred will be the 1972 nominating committee.

Seniors To Be Tested

Dr. Steed said all high school seniors this year will be given a test to determine not what they know but what teachers failed to teach them ... and to find out where the failure occurred. The test is scheduled during May.

He discussed teacher evaluation briefly. In Wichita Falls, teachers are on probation for three years and are evaluated by their supervisors and principals. Even in the best school systems, he said, 25 per cent of the teachers are not top quality or do not perform well.

Dr. Steed touched on performance contracting in which guaranteed minimum progress in a given subject is contracted for through a specialized firm — and if that progress does not occur, payment is not made.

He looked back on his year as president of the school board, a tumultuous year when as he said, there was often "fussing about things on the periphery." Dr. Steed said his goal was to get the educational system performing well. "One of my hopes was that we could get things running smoothly ... I think there's

more understanding. We're carrying on the business of education in as business like a manner as possible ... We have to attend to \$14 million and that's a lot of money."

Budget And Integration

He discussed the budget (most of it goes for salaries) and integration. Eleven per cent of the 17,600 students in this city are black, five per cent are of Latin-American extraction, he pointed out as he discussed the integration of the schools.

"The emphasis is not on differences but what we have in common. I feel in my bones

we are moving in the right direction ... There is less absenteeism among blacks than at any time since records have been kept — for about 25 years.

"The odds are you didn't even know your child had a black teacher until you went to school and visited."

He termed curriculum "the meat of what the school system is about." Continual innovations and measurement of their success through pilot classrooms, for example, were mentioned.

Dr. Steed said he and other school board members were

available — "Our telephones aren't unlisted" — and pointed out that the agenda at board meetings was instituted to keep things moving.

"I'd rather we were able to sit around a table and just talk but it is a public meeting," he said. He pointed out that the school board operates under regulations from the Texas Education Agency.

More Special Classes

Although there are now 24 special classes for physically

surplus of teachers resulted in 276 applications for the 46 vacancies in this system this year.

Vocational and adult education classes were described briefly as well. Questioned about the dress code and the difficulty of enforcing it, he pointed out that the haircut code's change reflected the change in the attitude of the public.

Mrs. Wayne Somerville, a past president of the League and Mrs. Rena Jameson, a

member received

AUG 30 1971

SUNDAY
MORNING
August 22, 1971

Wichita Falls Times
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

City Manager To Be Speaker For League

Local environmental issues will be discussed for the League of Women Voters Tuesday at 10 a.m.

City Manager Gerald Fox will be the speaker in the city council chambers, Memorial Auditorium. His talk on environmental issues will dovetail with the League's current study of environmental quality.

All interested women are invited to the meeting. Mrs. H. P. Hodge Jr., 4507 Nassau, may be contacted by women who are interested in League membership. September is the LWV membership month.



AUG 30 1971

Wichita Falls Times
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

FRIDAY
EVENING
April 30, 1971

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Local, National LWV Consolidate Position On Pollution, Enforcement

Last winter the Wichita Falls League of Women Voters discussed air pollution as part of its environmental study item. Local air pollutants and laws designed to control pollution were among the topics examined by the group. Mrs. Barney Glickman, president, has recently announced that a national League position has been adopted.

Action on air pollution was taken by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting at national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The clean air position includes:

Federal standard setting with state and local governments having the right to set more stringent standards.

Enforcement at the local and state levels with the federal government having ultimate enforcement authority in cases where responsibility is not carried out by other levels of government.

Business assuming the cost

of pollution control with citizens as consumers and taxpayers accepting some pass on of costs.

Participation of the public in all phases of decision-making on air pollution control.

The new, far-reaching statement outlining a concerted effort for attaining clean air is a "logical companion to the clean water campaign the League has been waging since 1960," according to the LWV President Mrs. Bruce B. Benson.

Mrs. Benson said, "League members across the country clearly agree that the principal government tool to reduce air pollution is setting standards to regulate emissions from both mobile and stationary sources as well as to delineate levels of pollution permitted in the surrounding air — and then forcing polluters (be they industries, governments, or individuals) to comply with those standards."

The League position is based on the premise no one level of government can bear full responsibility for cleaning the air. Mrs. Benson said, "Leagues agree that standard-setting should be primarily a federal responsibility, with lower levels of government having the right to set more stringent standards."

Enforcement, they said, must be a shared responsibility: state and local governments should enforce controls and regulations in their jurisdictions, but the federal government must have the power to step in and should do so if officials of lower government levels fail strictly to enforce laws, timetables, and regulations."

"Members noted that everyone pays, and pays dearly, for damages inflicted by pollution."

Goals of the League position include:

Reducing vehicular pollution through emission inspections

and controls, changes in engine design, fuel composition and the development of alternate transportation systems.

Reducing air pollution from stationary sources through emission monitoring requiring controls, full disclosure of pollution data and stronger penalties for violators.

More citizen representatives on regulatory bodies and easier public access to the courts.

Russell Trian, chairman, President's Council on Environmental Quality, made the following comment on the League's position: "I am delighted that the League of Women Voters will now be able to take an active role in combatting air pollution. The League is doing a tremendous job in the fight against water pollution, and its influence has been felt throughout the country. I look forward to working with the League in national efforts to improve our air quality."

AUG 30 1971

Wichita Falls Times THURSDAY
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS EVENING JULY 22, 1971 Page 11B



RELAXING — League of Women Voters made sure everyone wore a name tag at a covered dish supper Tuesday. Left to right are Eric Hanssen, husband of a LWV member; Mrs. Arthur McAdams

Jr., vice president; Mrs. H. P. Hodge Jr., membership chairman and State Rep. Charles Finnell of Holliday. He receives a tag from Mrs. Hodge.

League Forgets About Serious Work

Once a year the League of Women Voters forget about all the serious work they do and plan a just-for-fun evening.

Guests are their husbands and various city, county and state officials who have helped the League members in studies of government functions and community needs.

Tuesday night the League had a covered dish supper

at the Ray Farabee home, 1512 Buchanan. Mrs. Skip Truly and Mrs. Arthur McAdams Jr. assisted Mrs. Farabee with the arrangements.

The salads, casseroles and other foods were served buffet style from the dining table. The 50 attending ate at small tables on the porch.

Informality was the keynote of the evening, reflected in the colorful dress as well as

the lack of any program at all. Mrs. Truly wore a white peasant blouse with a skirt made of tiers of ruffles in various shades of blue print cotton. Mrs. McAdams was in a lilac checked gingham skirt with a solid lilac blouse.

Mrs. Dave Allred wore a black pantsuit. Mrs. Farabee's light crepe pantsuit was in a black, white and orange print worn with orange beads.

Ice cream, fresh fruit and drinks were provided by the League.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WICHITA FALLS
Revised Consensus on Election Procedures & Voting Machines
as of February 1971

JUL 8 1971

Some 20-25 members participated in revision and updating of the local consensus on voting procedures and voting machines at the February 1971 unit meetings. Mrs. C. Donald Larson was committee resource person for both units.

Primary changes from the October 1968 consensus were in voting machines and emphasis on privacy in voting. Members felt quite strongly that provisions protecting the secrecy of the ballot were thoroughly inadequate at all polling places in Wichita Falls. The previous support position on "punch-card" type voting machines was softened considerably.

The revised consensus:

I. Provisions for privacy in voting, as specified by the Texas Election Code, are not being met. The small three-sided partitions available at some precincts for one election, were felt to be helpful, but regular provision of privacy is still felt to be a major concern. Leaguers considered themselves unqualified to judge Wichita County compliance with other sections of the Election Code, such as the size of precincts and number of election workers.

II. While Wichita County does meet Election Code requirements for the training of election workers, it was felt that some improvements -- such as updating and simplifying election laws, mandatory attendance at training sessions and on-the-job training of workers by precinct judges -- could be made.

III. The Wichita Falls League should support measures taken on the local level to promote clear understanding of election issues, such as minimum standards for ballot type size, clear and comprehensive wording on local propositions and continued use of positive marking.

IV. Though a small minority favored support of voting machines, most members felt machines are not necessary at this time, particularly if privacy in voting can be guaranteed without machines. It was felt the Wichita Falls League should keep voting machines under consideration, despite some questions concerning honest conduct of elections and the possibility that machines might reduce the number of voters participating in elections.

V. Opposition to electronic vote-counting machines was reiterated.

Mrs. Raymond Sims, chairman
Voting Procedures and Voting Machines



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

JUL 8 1971

22 June 1971
[REDACTED]

Texas League of Women Voters

Please send Local Consensus forms. I have never seen one and as you will note from our minutes we have a new consensus on Voting Machines and Voter Registration.

Barney Glickman (Mrs.)
president

JUL 8 1971

7-6-71

*Received your letter. Thanks. Enclosed
are three copies of our local consensus
on Voting Machines & Voting procedures.
Barbara.*

JAN 30 1970

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Barney Glickman

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Glickman:

In answer to your letter of January 16 asking which of the 8 suggested local program items you listed might be studied under the national item Development of Human Resources, I would advise as follows:

- No. 2 -- Welfare of County Food Distribution Program
- No. 4 -- City and County Health Facilities
- No. 7 -- Youth Recreational Facilities (limited to those available for the underprivileged)

The other items

- No. 1 -- School Transportation and City Transportation
- No. 3 -- Libraries - City and School
- No. 5 -- School System
- No. 6 -- School Curriculum
- No. 8 -- Juvenile Treatment

would best be handled as local program items.

Actually I believe it would be better to adopt whichever study you decide upon as a local program item because as such it will get more attention from the membership and the board. Secondly, as a local program item, the scope can be broader than just limited to the phases that touch disadvantaged persons. Thirdly, when consensus is reached, the local board has more control of what action is taken, than if it is studied as part of a national item.

I hope this is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Edward C. Fritz

cc: Martin, Wackerbarth, SO