1956

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

fifth biennial convention

plaza hotel

march 27-29, 1956

san antonio, texas

FIFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Plaza Hotel - San Antonio, Texas
March 27-28-29, 1956

CONVENTION AGENDA

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 27

9:00 a.m. - Registration: Lobby of Plaza Hotel
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - (optional) Walking Tour of Historic Places
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Brunch (honoring Local League Presidents) - Ballroom

All Business Sessions in Roof Garden and Parlors A, C, D, E, F.
Local League Exhibits on Mezzanine.

Opening Business Meeting

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Roof Garden

Presiding, Mrs. L. K. Richards

Call to Order
Welcome from the San Antonio League. . . . . Mrs. Gerald Ashford, President
Welcome from the Mayor of San Antonio. . . . . Mr. J. Edwin Kuykendall

Organization of the Convention
- Appointment of Parliamentarian
- Adoption of Convention Agenda
- Adoption of Convention Rules (See insert sheet)
- Appointment of Election and Credentials Committees and Tellers

Roll Call of Local Leagues

Report of the President and
Introduction of State Directors. . . . . Mrs. L. K. Richards
Report of the Secretary . . . . . Mrs. Irving M. Pettis
Report of the Treasurer . . . . . Mrs. Charles E. Jones
Report of the Nominating Committee . . . . . Mrs. O. R. Stillinger

Proposed By-Laws Changes . . . . . Mrs. Irving M. Pettis
Proposed Platform Revision . . . . . Miss Louise Loomis
Proposed Program . . . . . Miss Louise Loomis
- Proposed Current Agenda . . . . . Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith
  Mrs. E. A. Rendall
- Proposed Platform . . . . . Mrs. E. A. Rendall
- Not Recommended Items . . . . . Mrs. William B. Ruggles
- Suggested Changes from the Floor

Coffee Recess - 2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Proposed Budget . . . . . Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel
Roll Call of Pledges
New Business

Continued Inside Back Cover

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

FIFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

MARCH 27-29, 1956

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League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1954-56

		Portfolio
President	Mrs. L. K. Richards [redacted]	
1st Vice President	Mrs. H. P. Nichols [redacted]	PUBLIC RELATIONS
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Frank B. Nussbaum [redacted]	STATE ORGANIZATION CHM.
Secretary	Mrs. Irving M. Pettis [redacted]	BY-LAWS CHM.
Treasurer	Mrs. C. E. Jones [redacted]	

DIRECTORS

Mrs. A. M. Allegret [redacted]	PUBLICATIONS
Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel [redacted]	NAT'L CONT. RESPON.
Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes [redacted]	NATIONAL ITEM II
Mrs. Oscar J. Koepke [redacted]	NATIONAL ITEM I
Mrs. George Lemon [redacted]	ORGANIZATION - CENTRAL TEXAS
Miss Louise Loomis [redacted]	VOTERS SERVICE VOTER EDITOR

State Officers and Directors (cont'd)

505 Mrs. E. A. Rendall [redacted] pd — ELECTION LAWS
STATE PLATFORM ITEMS

533 Mrs. William B. Ruggles [redacted] — LEGISLATIVE

528 Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith [redacted] pd — KNOW YOUR STATE

537 Mrs. Jack Story [redacted] pd — FINANCE

525 Mrs. Howard E. Tewell [redacted] pd — ORGANIZATION -
SOUTH TEXAS

537 Mrs. H. R. Yeary [redacted] — UNITS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mrs. O. R. Stillinger
[redacted]

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL LEAGUES

ABILENE	Mrs. James F. Conlan
AMARILLO	Mrs. E. E. Davis
AUSTIN	Mrs. William H. Shutts
BAYTOWN	Mrs. B. F. Booth
BEAUMONT	Mrs. H. H. Dimerling
BROWNSVILLE	Mrs. Bailey Kenley
CORPUS CHRISTI	Mrs. Joe A. McInnis
CORSICANA	Mrs. E. D. Criddle, Jr.
DALLAS	Mrs. Colin J. Macdonald
DICKINSON	Mrs. Richard Dunlop
EDINBURG	Mrs. Wayne McCluskey
FORT WORTH	Mrs. D. C. Davis (Temp. Chm.)
FREEPORT	Mrs. A. A. Miller
GALVESTON	Mrs. George C. Boller
HARLINGEN	Mrs. J. M. Evans
HOUSTON	Mrs. Malcolm F. Sher
KINGSVILLE	Mrs. Stewart Cooper
LAKE JACKSON	Mrs. Harry E. Graham
LA MARQUE	Mrs. S. W. Henslee
LAREDO	Mrs. Ed Mann
LONGVIEW	Mrs. McCready S. Young
LUBBOCK	Mrs. Nay Hale
MIDLAND	Mrs. Felix Welmaker
NEDERLAND	Mrs. C. A. Murray
ODESSA	Mrs. Leon Batchelor

Presidents of Local Leagues (cont'd)

PAMPA	Mrs. Jess Clay
PASADENA	Mrs. Haydon Sypert
PORT ARTHUR	Mrs. O. W. Collins
SAN ANGELO	Mrs. Scott Martin
SAN ANTONIO	Mrs. Gerald Ashford
TEXAS CITY	Mrs. J. W. Kongable
TYLER	Mrs. J. R. Montgomery
WACO	Mrs. Maurice Brown
WICHITA FALLS	Mrs. Wayne Somerville

[redacted]

PRESIDENTS OF PROVISIONAL LEAGUES

ARLINGTON	Mrs. W. T. Bailey
VICTORIA	Mrs. Manley Williams

[redacted]

PRESIDENTS OF CAMPUS LEAGUES

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIV.	Miss Mary Rejebian
TEXAS STATE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN	Miss Sue Ashford
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS	Miss Nancy Rodman

[redacted]

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

March 6, 1956

TO: Local League Presidents and Convention Delegates

FROM: State Convention Chairman

We promised you more information on the State Convention, and this is what might be called a play-by-play description of what the delegates will see---and take part in!

Registration starts on Tuesday morning at 9. For those of you who arrive in San Antonio early, our hostess League has arranged a downtown walking tour of historic places in the Alamo City, beginning at 9:30.

It's really important that you arrive at the Plaza Hotel before 10:30, to give you time to get into your room and register for the Convention in the Lobby. Then, up a short flight of stairs to the Mezzanine, where you greet old friends and introduce yourself to new ones, and walk with them into the Ballroom, where brunch (a good, big one) will be served at 11 o'clock. A special table will be set up for local League presidents, so you can get acquainted and begin to share your common joys and sorrows.

At 12 noon everyone goes up to the Roof Garden, where all work sessions will be held, for the opening of Convention. One of the most interesting sessions for new delegates, this period until 2:30, "sets the stage" for the next two days, with the introduction of all business and the message from our State President. After a short Coffee Recess we will get down to the business of discussion of our State Budget, and making our pledges for State and National services. Then will come the presentation of Amarillo's proposal for a policy ruling, and any other new business to come before the Convention.

Then we come to YOUR SESSION---two Little Meetings, where we divide into small groups for discussion of Finance and Membership---which are almost universal problems needing your ideas.

From 5 to 5:45 you are free to meet informally with other delegates for good League talk.....or to rest before the long evening session.

At 5:45 we will meet at the Hotel Boat Dock for a real boat trip---down the San Antonio River (or is it up) in small boats to a Mexican restaurant for dinner. Good time to invite old or new friends to accompany you...remembering that some delegates have never been to a State Convention before.

And after this pleasant interlude, we return to the Roof Garden of the Plaza Hotel for a real work session on State Program: a speech by John Bebout of New York City, the Assistant Director of the National Municipal League, and the accepted authority in the United States on the subject of constitutional revision. The details of how we might proceed, and when and where, are things we may discuss frankly with Mr. Bebout, who has intimate knowledge of what other states are doing, have done, and hope to do---and HOW they are going about revising their constitutions. This is the session to which we may want to invite interested outsiders---those citizens from our home towns who will be helpful in the years ahead, and who will benefit as much as we from this session.

An old League custom at Convention is to meet with delegates from other Leagues at mealtime.....and breakfast "with the League" is a fine way to begin the day.

At 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning we begin a full day of discussion, in big and little meetings, on proposed State Program, by-laws changes, policy changes .....and the two smartest Leagues---membership-wise---will be awarded their orchids.

Of particular interest to every delegate, we think, will be the Wednesday session at which we are promised the inside secret on how to be popular..... with our members and with our communities. This is the local Current Agenda session where there'll be lots of opportunities for discussion, so bring along your League's problems---and get the answers from other Leaguers who've already solved them.

The polls will be open all day on Wednesday, for that important election of new officers and directors for the coming two years.

Between 5 and 7 PM (the exact time not yet fixed), you'll have another "interesting extra." Mrs. Elizabeth Halsey, former National Board member, who has just returned from a Carrie Chapman Catt Fund-financed trip through the Far East, will speak on her interesting experiences in adapting the League's ideal of citizen participation to new cultures and peoples. She will return to this country about the middle of March from Pakistan, just in time to bring her fresh and exciting impressions to us in Texas.....which will be the start of a nation-wide speaking tour for her.

At 7 on Wednesday evening will begin the big dinner meeting of the Convention, at which we will hear our National Board member, Mrs. Orville Foreman, of Jacksonville, Illinois. A sparkling personality and delightful sense of humor ensure that Mrs. Foreman will be an entertaining speaker. Mrs. Foreman has as her portfolio on the National Board, Item II, "Development of understanding of the relationship between individual liberty and the public interest." She serves also as a director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund and her expenses to San Antonio are being paid by CCCMF. We are in luck, for she will bring us information upon the progress of that item in the past two years and an analysis of its projection if it is adopted, as proposed, by the Convention in Chicago.

Thursday morning's session begins at 9 and will last until all business has been completed---not later than 12 noon. At this session Mrs. Foreman will discuss with us the proposed National Program. Convention business to be completed includes final discussion and adoption of the budget, by-laws revisions, State Program, and other business, as well as announcement of election returns.....the final decisions on subjects discussed during the previous day and a half.

You'll be home in time to prepare dinner for your starving family on Thursday.....full of the information and the inspiration you need to help the League carry out its vital purpose in 1956-57.

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES

Admission
Admission to the Convention floor shall be limited to those displaying badges.

No one shall be admitted to the Convention hall during reports or speeches from the platform.

Debate
When addressing the chair to gain the floor a member shall first state clearly her name and the name of her League.

Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker, unless the time is extended by a two-thirds vote. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity. Only delegates have the privilege of the floor.

Motions
All motions shall be presented in writing, signed by the mover. After motions have been presented, they shall be sent at once to the Secretary on the platform.

Consideration of Not Recommended Items
All not recommended items shall be presented for consideration on the first day of Convention. The item presented must be in the exact wording submitted to the state Board before the November 27 deadline. A person moving consideration of a not recommended item may make a brief statement, to be limited to five minutes, in explanation of her reason for asking for consideration.

If a not recommended item is voted consideration by the Convention, the official negative shall be presented by a member of the Board of Directors immediately following the proponent.

Announcements
All oral announcements shall be made by the Secretary at the close of the morning and of the afternoon sessions. There shall be no platform announcements except those that relate directly to the Convention program or to the welfare of delegates

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

TREASURER'S REPORT TO CONVENTION
MARCH 1956

EXPENDITURES

	Budget 1955-1956		To Date	
General Administration				
Board of Directors	$ 2,150.00		$ 1,908.55	
Committee Meetings	400.00		321.11	
Legislative Costs	150.00		183.86	
Operating Costs	2,440.00		1,752.27	
Salaries, Soc.Sec., etc.	4,450.00		3,324.72	
Fees	25.00		25.00	
Public Relations	100.00		62.96	
Council or Convention	-		529.12	
		$ 9,715.00		$ 8,107.59
Capital Expenditures				
New Equipment		50.00		9.10
Publications				
National: Cost	2,750.00		1,873.94	
Less Sales	2,750.00		1,702.81	
		- 0 -		171.13
State Bulletin		1,300.00		857.01
Field Service				
Travel: Board $1,600.00	1,600.00		1,189.38	
Conferences	350.00		50.76	
Organization Materials	50.00		27.79	
		2,000.00		1,267.93
National Services		7,000.00		7,000.00
Miscellaneous		- 0 -		- 0 -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$20,065.00		$17,412.76

INCOME

Local and Provisional League Support		$20,050.00		$19,025.00
State Members-at-Large		15.00		5.00
Publications				
State: Sales	1,000.00		2,515.00	
Less Cost	1,000.00		2,183.43	
		- 0 -		331.57
Council or Convention Fees		- 0 -		3.05
Other Sources		- 0 -	Reserve Memorial Fund	50.00
TOTAL INCOME		$20,065.00		$19,414.62

10 339 dues

10 632

4.795 m cont.

4.523

31.662 - h m cont.

29.249 n m c

6.887 - all other receipts.

4.578

53.683 Total income

48.983

Ex

27 942 - local rents

22 113 -

18.335 D + N balances

18.925

46.227 ex pences.

41.038 ex

Bal 53 19 333 ex Rand.

53 23 508

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT OF LOCAL LEAGUE PLEDGES
MARCH 1956

	Pledge	Paid
Abilene	$ 200.00	$ 150.00
Amarillo	500.00	500.00
Arlington *	25.00	25.00
Austin	1,150.00	1,150.00
Baytown	125.00	125.00
Beaumont	600.00	600.00
Brownsville	600.00	600.00
Corpus Christi	1,300.00	1,300.00
Corsicana	150.00	150.00
Dallas	3,000.00	3,000.00
Dickinson	225.00	225.00
Edinburg	500.00	500.00
Fort Worth	400.00	200.00
Freeport	200.00	200.00
Galveston	900.00	900.00
Harlingen	400.00	400.00
Houston	1,650.00	1,650.00
Kingsville	150.00	150.00
Lake Jackson	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
La Marque	175.00	175.00
Longview	300.00	300.00
Laredo	400.00	400.00
Lubbock	600.00	600.00
Midland	1,400.00	700.00
Nederland	50.00	50.00
Odessa	600.00	600.00
Pampa	350.00	350.00
Pasadena	150.00	150.00
Port Arthur	150.00	150.00
San Angelo	150.00	150.00
San Antonio	1,500.00	1,500.00
Texas City	300.00	225.00
Tyler	550.00	550.00
Victoria *	25.00	25.00
Waco	725.00	725.00
Wichita Falls	450.00	450.00

Estimated pledges	$20,050.00
Amount paid	19,025.00
Amount outstanding	$ 1,025.00

* Provisional Leagues

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT TO STATE CONVENTION
by
STATE TREASURER

MARCH 1956

Balance April 1, 1955	$ 715.15
Surplus " "	1,849.27
	$ 2,564.42

From Surplus Account:

$1,200.00 for 10,000 T.C.R. on hand
500.00 advance for Austin office

$1,700.00

Income April 1-March 19, 1956	$19,414.62
Expenses " " "	17,412.76
Surplus March 19, 1956	$ 2,001.86
	864.42
Bank Balance March 19, 1956	$ 2,866.28

1566.60
299.68

Anticipated Expenses:

Convention Speaker (travelling)	$ 250.00
Board Expense at Convention	850.00
Move State Office	100.00
Outstanding Bills	100.00
Audit	25.00
Salaries	241.60
	$ 1,566.60

1849.68
50
1799.68

Reserve 1,000.00
1500.00

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

Mrs Cale

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President:	Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith, Austin
First Vice President:	Mrs. E. A. Rendall, Brownsville
Second Vice President:	Mrs. George Lemon, Lubbock
Secretary:	Mrs. Irving M. Pettis, Waco
Treasurer:	
Directors:	Mrs. Hill Baggett, Lubbock Mrs. George C. Boller, Galveston Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel, Dallas Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes, Houston Mrs. William B. Ruggles, Dallas Mrs. H. R. Yeary, Laredo

Nominating Committee Chairman: Mrs. Wayne Somerville, Wichita Falls

MRS. HORTON WAYNE SMITH, Austin: has served on the state Board since 1951. She has been state Public Relations Chairman, editor of the Voter, Resource Chairman on Family Courts and Jury Service, and for the past year and a half as chairman of Know Your State. She was author and editor of Texas Constitutional Review. Mrs. Smith has been a League member since 1947 and served as president of the Austin League.

MRS. E. A. RENDALL: Mrs. Rendall has been a member of the state Board since 1952. She has served as chairman of Voters Service and for the past two years as Election Laws Chairman. Mrs. Rendall joined the Brownsville League when it was organized in 1950 and served as its president for four years.

MRS. GEORGE LEMON: Mrs. Lemon has served on the state Board since 1953, first as Secretary, then as Unit Chairman, and is now serving as Organization Chairman of North-Central Texas. Mrs. Lemon was the first president of the Lubbock League, serving in that capacity until 1953.

MRS. IRVING PETTIS: Mrs. Pettis was one of a small group of eight women who sought to establish a League in Waco in 1947. She has furnished leadership to that League from the beginning and served as president from 1951 to 1955.

MRS. HILL BAGGETT: Mrs. Baggett has been active in the Lubbock League since its organization and served as president from 1953 to 1955.

MRS. GEORGE C. BOLLER: Mrs. Boller is a comparative newcomer to Texas, but identified herself with the LWV when she first arrived in Galveston. She served as president of the Galveston League from 1954 to 1956.

MRS. LEWIS M. DANIEL: Mrs. Daniel has been a member of the Dallas Board for four years and has served as a member of the state Board since January, 1955. She served as state Budget Chairman in 1955-56 and also again this year. Her present portfolio is National Continuing Responsibilities Chairman.

MRS. EUGENE H. HUGHES: Mrs. Hughes is now serving on the state Board as chairman of National Item II. She came to that Board following her completion of her term as president of the Houston League in 1955.

MRS. WILLIAM B. RUGGLES: Mrs. Ruggles has had a long period of service for the League of Women Voters. She has served twice as president of the Dallas League. She has seen previous service on the state Board on which she is now serving as Legislative Chairman.

MRS. H. R. YEARY: Mrs. Yeary has been active in the Laredo League since its organization in 1951. She came to the state Board in June of 1955 after having served as president of the Laredo League. Her present portfolio is Unit Chairman.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are ten nominees listed above, instead of eleven. The original nominee for Treasurer was forced to withdraw her name, under doctor's orders, after the Nominating Committee had proposed the slate to the membership. It was too late, in accordance with our By-laws, to make a substitution on the slate. The Nominating Committee has, however, secured another nominee who is willing to serve and will place her name in nomination from the floor. In accordance with policy in Texas, the nominee for president and for treasurer live in the same city.

Nominating Committee Members:

Mrs. O. R. Stillinger, Chairman
Mrs. Richard Dunlop
Mrs. Fred McCabe
Mrs. L. M. McMath
Miss Louise Loomis
Mrs. Jack Story

- Peterman
- Smith
- Bagsell

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas

January 19, 1956

PROPOSED BUDGET
FOR PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1956, TO APRIL 1, 1957

EXPENDITURES

General Administration			
Board of Directors		$ 3,100.00	
State Committees		400.00	
Legislative Costs		400.00	
Operating Costs		2,500.00	
Salaries and Social Security, etc.			
No. of Executive 1 No. of Clerical 1/4		4,500.00	
Fees		25.00	
Public Relations		200.00	
*Council or Convention: Cost $1,200.00			
Less Receipts 1,200.00	Net	- 0 -	$ 11,125.00
Capital Expenditures			
New Equipment			100.00
Publications			
*National: Cost $3,155.00			
Less Sales 3,000.00	Net	155.00	
*State: Cost $3,500.00			
Less Sales 3,500.00	Net	- 0 -	
State Bulletin		1,500.00	1,655.00
Field Service			
Travel: Board $1,300.00		1,300.00	
Conference Expenses		400.00	
Organization Materials		30.00	1,730.00
National Services			7,350.00
Miscellaneous			- 0 -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			$ 21,960.00

INCOME

Local and Provisional League Support			$ 21,960.00
State Members-at-Large			
Publications			
*National: Sales $3,000.00			
Less Cost 3,155.00	Net	- 0 -	
*State: Sales $3,500.00			
Less Cost 3,500.00	Net	- 0 -	
*Council or Convention Fees $1,200.00			
Less Cost 1,200.00	Net		
Other Sources			
TOTAL INCOME			$ 21,960.00

*In-and-out items: Net figures appear on expenditure side only when operation shows a loss. If a profit is made, net figures appear on income side of budget only.

EXPLANATION OF ITEMS IN STATE LEAGUE BUDGET FORM

Board of Directors: Under this item should be included all expenses (transportation, hotel, etc.) incurred for Board meetings; expenses incurred by the state League delegates attending state or national conventions; cost of extra secretarial services for Board members or fees, etc., incurred by officers or Board members attending meetings as League representatives.

Committee Meetings: Expenses (telephone, travel, hotel, etc.) incurred by members of the nominating, budget or other committees established for special purposes such as platform revision.

Legislative Costs: Cost of attending hearings--membership in joint legislative councils, etc. (does not include cost of publications).

Operating Costs: Covers rent, if there is an office (including heat and light), insurance (fire, liability), maintenance and repair of equipment, supplies (not including cost of supplies for publications) telephone and telegraph, postage (not including bulletin postage) and bank charges.

Salaries: Includes Social Security, unemployment disability compensation for either executive or clerical employees, or both.

Fees: Under this could come costs of audit, bonding treasurer, incorporation or other legal fees, etc.

Public Relations: Costs of speakers bureau, press, radio, film, clipping services, photographs, etc.

Council or Convention: An in-and-out item. If costs are more than are recovered, there will appear a net figure on the expenditure side. If fees are greater than costs, the net figure appears on the income side only.

Capital Expenditures: For purchase of new equipment. It may represent an amount set aside toward the purchase of new equipment in a later year. It would then appear: New Equipment Accrued.

Publications: Another in-and-out item. If a profit is realized on publications, the net figure will appear on the income side only. Under national publications will come the cost of national publications ordered for use of state Board members, and for re-sale to local Leagues. State publications includes the cost of all material printed or mimeographed by the state League including legislative newsletters, etc.

Field Service: Travel: Costs of transportation, hotel, meals, etc., incurred by Board members or staff or both when establishing or visiting provisional or local Leagues.

Conference Expenses: All costs not recovered in regional or central conferences other than at council or convention.

Organization Materials: Tools or materials given free in connection with either of the above activities.

National Services: Annual state pledge to the League of Women Voters of the U. S.

Miscellaneous: Covers any item not listed above. Should be kept to a minimum so that budget breakdown gives true picture of expenses.

Local League Support: Annual provisional and local League pledges for state-national support. It may include anticipated revenue from new Leagues.

State Member-at-Large: Many states charge $5 dues for which the member-at-large receives THE NATIONAL VOTER, national publications service and state publications service.

National Publications: Income from re-sale to local or provisional Leagues or from sale direct to public.

State Publications: See above.

Council or Convention Fees: See explanation of item on expenditure side.

Other Sources: Income from investments, grants, gifts, drawn from reserve, etc.

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

Proposed Budget 1956-1957
January 19, 1956

FACTS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL BUDGET ITEMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - $3,100.00

This amount includes $2,300.00 for board meeting expenses, $200.00 for President's expenses, and $600.00 for delegates' expenses. In setting the figure for board meeting expenses, the Budget Committee tried to conform to the recommendation of the local Leagues that the figure be as realistic as possible. There will be four meetings of the State Board during the year. The local Leagues agree that there should be a geographical distribution of State Board members. With distances as great as they are in Texas, this necessitates the expenditure of the figure shown. The amount of $200.00 for President's expenses is to take care of expenses incurred by the President for League work, such as attendance at conferences which are of value to the League, and occasional visits to local Leagues. The $600.00 for delegates' expenses covers the sending of three delegates to Chicago next April to the National Convention.

STATE COMMITTEES - $400.00

This figure will cover state committee conferences, Budget Committee meetings, as well as meetings of committees established for special purposes. The expenses incurred by members of these committees should be borne by the League.

LEGISLATIVE COSTS - $400.00

This item will cover the costs of promoting our Legislative program in Austin. It will include any expenses incurred by State Board members who make trips to the capitol to appear before legislative committees or to meet with state officials. It also covers the expenses of the Capitol Committee, which should be minimal. The allotment in the budget for this item is based on a two-year period: $400.00 for 1956-57, and an equal amount (to be voted on at 1957 Presidents' Council) for 1957-58. This will give continuity to our legislative work and promote more sustained interest during the whole of the two-year period.

OPERATING COSTS - $2,500.00

Three of the items included under this heading will be fixed expenditures: Insurance (Fire and Theft), Telephone, and Rent. Repairs to equipment, postage, supplies and mimeographing are also included in this item.

SALARIES AND SOCIAL SECURITY - $4,500.00

This figure would include the salary of one executive secretary and extra clerical help (1/4 time).

FEES - $25.00

This amount represents the fee for our audit - a fixed figure.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - $200.00

Nothing is more important to the success of the League than good public relations. This item covers such expenses as costs of speakers' bureau, press, radio, films, and the courtesy distribution of state materials to other organizations. The strength and growth of the League are reflected in the Public Relations we make.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES - $100.00

The moving of the office in April will entail the purchase of some new capital equipment. The sum of $100.00 was deemed a minimum for this purpose.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS - $3,155.00

This is an in-and-out item. In Texas the state office pays National for national publications ordered by local Leagues and then collects from local Leagues. Our figure here shows a loss of $155.00, which represents the cost of the Special Subscription Service ordered from National for use of State Board members.

STATE PUBLICATIONS - $3,500.00

Another in-and-out item. The amount allotted to this item and that alloted to the previous one are indicative of the growing strength of the Texas Leagues.

STATE BULLETIN - $1,500.00

Many of the local Leagues in their "little meetings" stressed the importance of the bulletin in keeping the Leagues throughout Texas in close contact with each other and with the State League. The above figure was considered a minimum for the publishing of six bulletins a year.

FIELD SERVICE - $1,730.00

Almost all of the "little meetings" stressed the importance of this item. There is a widespread desire throughout the state for more and expanded Field Service. The Budget Committee felt that $1,300.00 should be allotted to travel; $400.00 to conference expenses; $30.00 to organization materials.

NATIONAL SERVICES - $7,350.00

This amount represents an increase of 5% over our pledge of last year. The Budget Committee feels that the Leagues throughout Texas have grown enough stronger in the past year to warrant this increase. THE NATIONAL VOTER, which goes to every member, is paid for out of this sum.

State Budget Committee: Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel, Chairman
Mrs. Jack Story, State Finance Chairman
Mrs. C. E. Jones, State Treasurer
Mrs. E. J. Wentworth, San Antonio
Mrs. Maurice Neale, Corsicana

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

LOCAL LEAGUE SUPPORT FOR STATE AND NATIONAL SERVICES

MARCH 1956

	1955-56 Pledge	1956-57 Pledge
Abilene	$ 200.00	
Amarillo	500.00	
Arlington *	25.00	
Austin	1,150.00	
Baytown	125.00	
Beaumont	600.00	
Brownsville	600.00	
Corpus Christi	1,300.00	
Corsicana	150.00	
Dallas	3,000.00	
Dickinson	225.00	
Edinburg	500.00	
Fort Worth	400.00	
Freeport	200.00	
Galveston	900.00	
Harlingen	400.00	
Houston	1,650.00	
Kingsville	150.00	
Lake Jackson	$ 100.00	
La Marque	175.00	
Longview	300.00	
Laredo	400.00	
Lubbock	600.00	
Midland	1,400.00	
Nederland	50.00	
Odessa	600.00	
Pampa	350.00	
Pasadena	150.00	
Port Arthur	150.00	
San Angelo	150.00	
San Antonio	1,500.00	
Texas City	300.00	
Tyler	550.00	
Waco	725.00	
Victoria *	25.00	
Wichita Falls	450.00	

* Provisional Leagues

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

Report by the State By-Laws Committee
State Board Meeting
October, 1955

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS FOR ACTION AT THE CONVENTION IN 1956

1. To substitute the following revision of Article X for the existing Article X.

Article X
Program

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the Program.

Section 2. Program. The Program consists of the state governmental measures and policies on which the League of Women Voters of Texas may take action. The Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities as hereinafter defined constitute the Program.

Section 3. Current Agenda. Current Agenda shall be limited to such current state governmental issues as the Convention shall choose for concerted action.

a) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations which have been sent in by the local Leagues four months prior to the Convention and shall formulate a proposed Current Agenda. Such proposed Current Agenda shall be submitted by the Board to the local League boards at least two months prior to the Convention.

b) Recommendations for changes submitted in writing by local League boards and received by the Board of Directors at least three weeks before the opening of the Convention shall be considered by the Board prior to the Convention at which time the Board may modify the proposed Current Agenda.

c) Changes made under "b" may not be voted on by the Convention on the same day on which they are proposed.

d) A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed Current Agenda as presented to the Convention by the Board of Directors.

e) Further changes in the proposed Current Agenda submitted for consideration to but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be made by the Convention, provided that: (1) the Convention shall order consideration by a two-thirds vote; (2) the vote on the proposed change shall not be taken on the same day as the order for consideration; and (3) the Convention adopts the change by a two-thirds vote.

Section 4. Continuing Responsibilities. Continuing Responsibilities shall be those positions on state governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Texas has given sustained attention, and on which it may continue to act, as determined by the State Convention.

a) The Continuing Responsibilities may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any State Convention provided notice of the proposed changes shall have been sent by the Board of Directors to the local and provisional League Boards two months prior to the Convention.

b) The Convention may act upon any change proposed by a local board if such change has been sent to the Board of Directors four months prior to the Convention but has not been recommended by the said Board, provided that: (1) the Convention shall order consideration by a two-thirds vote; (2) the vote on the proposed change shall not be taken at the same session as the order for consideration; and (3) the Convention shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

c) Every six years the Board shall review the Continuing Responsibilities and submit to the local and provisional Leagues its recommendations for keeping the Continuing Responsibilities current, using the regular procedure for amendment outlined in (a) and (b) of this section.

Section 5. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of Texas only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

Section 6. Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

This revision is proposed by the Board of Directors.

It is recommended by the Board in order to bring the By-laws into conformity with those changes made in the National By-laws at the 1954 National Convention.

2. To substitute the following revision of Article XII for the existing Article XII.

Article XII
National Convention and Council

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Texas under the provision of the by-laws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. National Council. The Board of Directors shall elect two delegates to the meeting of the Council of the League of Women Voters of the United States at its meeting immediately preceding such Council Meeting.

Recommended by the Board of Directors.

The recommended wording is simpler and makes it possible to send a delegate other than the president should she be unable to attend these meetings.

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

BY-LAWS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

ARTICLE X
Program

Sec. 1. The Platform. The Platform shall represent positions taken by the League of Women Voters of Texas as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention.
(a) The Platform may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any Convention, provided notice of the proposed changes shall have been sent by the Board of Directors to local League presidents two months prior to the Convention.
(b) The Convention may act upon any change proposed by a local League board if such change has been sent to the Board of Directors four months prior to the Convention and has not been recommended by said Board provided that: (1) the Convention shall order consideration by a two-thirds vote; (2) the vote on the proposed change shall not be taken on the same day as the order for consideration and (3) the Convention shall adopt the change by a two-thirds vote.

Sec. 2. Current Agenda. Current Agenda shall be limited to such current state governmental issues as the Convention shall choose for concerted action.
(a) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations which have been sent in by the local Leagues four months prior to the Convention and shall formulate a proposed Current Agenda. Such proposed Current Agenda shall be submitted by the Board to the local League boards at least two months prior to the Convention.
(b) Recommendations for changes submitted in writing by local League boards and received by the Board of Directors at least three weeks before the opening of the Convention shall be considered by the Board prior to the Convention at which time the Board may modify the proposed Current Agenda.
(c) Changes made under "b" may not be voted on by the Convention on the same day on which they are proposed.
(d) A two thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed Current Agenda as presented to the Convention by the Board of Directors.
(e) Further changes in the proposed Current Agenda submitted for consideration to but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be made by the Convention, provided that: (1) The Convention shall order consideration by a two thirds vote; (2) the vote on the proposed change shall not be taken on the same day as the order for consideration; and (3) the Convention shall adopt the change by a two thirds vote.

Sec. 3. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of Texas only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4. Local League Action. Local Leagues may take action on state governmental matters only when authorized by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

ARTICLE XII
National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors shall elect three delegates, one of whom shall be the state President, to the Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States at the last regular meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the National office.

Sec. 2. National Council. The Board of Directors shall elect two delegates, one of whom shall be the State President, to the meeting of the Council of the League of Women Voters of the United States at its meeting immediately preceding such Council Meeting.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

REPORT
of
COMMITTEE FOR STATE PLATFORM REVISION

A. Reason for Committee on Platform Revision:

At our State Convention at Galveston in 1954, our State President appointed a committee for State Platform Revision. This action was taken in accord with State Board recommendations, adopted by the Convention. Recommendations are to be presented to the 1955 Presidents' Council, and final action to be taken at the 1956 Convention.

The following committee was appointed:

Mrs. Clayton Scott, San Antonio
Mrs. W. D. Fagan, Abilene
Mrs. G. O. Walker, Lubbock
Mrs. Colin Macdonald, Dallas

B. Procedure of this Committee:

This committee agreed with the National recommendations that, if State Leagues have Platforms, these Platforms shall consist of:

1. Platform Principles (see National Voter; May 15, 1954)
2. Continuing Responsibilities (on state level).

We also agreed to the definition of Continuing Responsibilities as contained in the National By-Laws adopted by the National Convention in April, 1954: "Continuing Responsibilities are positions on those issues to which the League has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act."

C. Recommended Changes in the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Texas:

The Committee recommends that such changes be made in Article X of our State By-Laws as are necessary to conform with provisions of Article XIII in our current National By-Laws using such provisions as are applicable to the State level.

We further recommend that a section be added to Article X to provide that before every third convention of the State League after 1956 the Board shall review the Platform and submit its recommendations to the local Leagues, using the regular procedure for amendment.

D. Further Recommendations:

1. That the Board consider plans for keeping a Program Record of the Texas League into which such items as are deleted from the present Platform could be put now, and into which items would go as the Platform is revised. The National League has a note on this to the effect that The Program Record will not constitute the authority for the adoption of Current Agenda.

2. That the Board shall consider that the State League keep a permanent record of its Program action; all items should be carefully dated. This record would be invaluable for future Platform revision suggestions.

E. Examination of the State Platform as it Appeared in the Texas Voter, April 1954:

This Committee examined, in addition to the State Platform, the Current Agendas of the Texas League from 1944-1954 with the thought that these agendas would provide a basis for judging whether a Platform item had been given (1) sustained attention and (2) whether the League could continue to act on it. (This is the spot where a record of Program Action would have been so helpful

and is why the Committee makes the above recommendations in number 2 under D. The Committee had no such records and could find none in the files. We did talk to people who had been active in the League for the past ten years, and their recollections of what had been done on Platform items were most valuable.)

The Platform of the League of Women Voters of Texas has seven items, and, as they are listed below, the recommendations of this Committee for their retention or deletion are:

I. Support of Measures to Permit Consolidation of Governmental Units for Improved Health Services.

This item appeared on the Current Agenda for 1950-52. It did not get beyond the study stage, no position was arrived at, and it has not been given sustained attention by the local Leagues. The Committee recommends deletion.

II. Equal Status of Women.

The Committee recommends that the word "Legal" be substituted for the word "Equal" to clarify the meaning. The present wording also suggests that the League supports Equal Rights for women, and this is contrary to our National position.

Authorization for our recent work on Jury Service for Women came from this item. Further legislation in the field of Jury Service may be necessary. The Committee recommends retention.

III. Family Courts.

The Committee recommends that this item be reworded - for clarification - to read: "Laws to facilitate the establishment of Family Relations Courts in Texas."

This item appeared on the Current Agenda for 1947 and 1948. It was placed on the Platform in 1950. A State Memo was published in 1952 and reprinted in 1954 (title: "A Better Court for Children"). The committee feels that sustained attention has been given this item, that future developments may require action, and that there is membership agreement on the League's position of support. The committee recommends that it be retained.

IV. Efficiency in State Administration.

The committee could not find what this item was intended to apply to - no sustained attention to this area has been given in the past ten years. The committee recommends deletion.

V. Constitutional Legislative Redistricting.

This item appeared on the Current Agendas for 1946 and 1947, reading: "Endorsement of Proposed Constitutional Amendment for Redistricting." This amendment passed. The objective was reached and the committee recommends that it be deleted.

VI. Adequate Support of Education.

In 1946 and 1947 an item appeared on those agendas which read: "Endorsement of Proposed Texas Constitutional Amendment for College Building Funds." This amendment was defeated. Excepting for the above item, no further mention is made of work in the educational field between 1944-54. The committee recommends that it be deleted.

VII. Adequate Care of Dependent Children and Mothers.

No Current Agenda from 1944-54 has contained an item dealing with this matter. No sustained attention has been given to it, and the committee recommends that it be deleted.

F. Final Form of Platform as Recommended by this Committee:

The Platform shall consist of:

1. Platform Principles -
2. Continuing Responsibilities
   a. Legal Status of Women
   b. Laws to Facilitate the Establishment of Family Relations Courts in Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Clayton S. Scott, Chairman
(March 3, 1955)

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM

1956-1958

"The League of Women Voters of Texas is a non-partisan organization which promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. To carry out this purpose, the League studies and takes action on selected state governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It works through a Voters Service program to help the individual citizen to be politically effective."

CURRENT AGENDA

I. The League of Women Voters of Texas will work for revision of the Constitution. To do this it will:

   A. Build public opinion for revision.
   B. Support measures calling for research in state government, and recommend the formation of a Constitutional Commission for this purpose.
   C. Study specific areas of state government so that the League may be able to recommend or support needed constitutional reforms.

II. The League of Women Voters of Texas will support legislation for the improvement of election laws in the field of voting procedures, giving emphasis to study and action on the poll tax.

PLATFORM (CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES)

I. Legal Status of Women

II. Laws to Facilitate the Establishment of Family Courts

III. Improvement of Election Laws

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

2509 Washington Avenue Waco, Texas

STATE PROGRAM

1954-1956

(As adopted by the state Convention at Galveston, Texas, March 30-April 1, '54)

D.16

"The League of Women Voters of Texas is a non-partisan organization which promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. To carry out this purpose, the League studies and takes action on selected state governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It works through a Voters Service program to help the individual citizen to be politically effective."

CURRENT AGENDA

I. Support of legislation for improvement of Election Laws in the field of voting procedures.

II. Use of the Know Your State Survey as a basis for State Constitutional Revision.

PLATFORM

I. Support of measures to permit consolidation of governmental units for improved health services.

II. Equal Status of Women

III. Family Courts

IV. Efficiency in State Administration

V. Constitutional Legislative Redistricting

VI. Adequate Support of Education

VII. Adequate Care of Dependant Children and Mothers

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

EXPLANATION
AND
OUTLOOK FOR WORK

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM FOR 1956-57

CURRENT AGENDA

I. The League of Women Voters of Texas will work for revision of the Texas Constitution. To do this it will:

A. Build public opinion for revision.
B. Support measures calling for research in state government, and recommend the formation of a Constitutional Commission for this purpose.
C. Study specific areas of state government so that the League may be able to recommend or support needed constitutional reforms.

The recommended wording of this proposed item reflects two considerations:

first, of course, it expresses the wishes of the majority of the local Leagues, as shown by their proposals for State Current Agenda;

second, it is worded in broad terms to allow the League to pursue its long range campaign, but, at the same time, to allow us to take advantage of legislative or other proposals which would further our aim of constitutional revision, especially in the field of research.

Though lengthy, the item is designed to provide a realistic work load for members, since it is a statement of principles for which the League will work, and can be tailored to the specific wishes of the membership. Because the subject of constitutional revision is just now being officially launched in the state, we must proceed cautiously at this point, and at the same time prepare ourselves to give leadership in specific areas of constitutional reform.

The explanations of what is meant by the wording of this item and what it may mean in terms of work load to the Leagues have been explained rather fully in the first proposal sent you, and again in the VOTER.

We hope you will have ideas---and/or questions---concerning the suggestions for the publication of small, popular pamphlets to be issued from time to time.

The value of such little pamphlets would depend on whether or not we were ready to "re-think" our distribution of publications. For this would NOT be Voters Service distribution --- it would be an additional job for local Leagues and would require advance planning to take full advantage of this Program material. One alternative might be to prepare this material for speakers, for radio or television presentation, etc.

Item I-C, beginning "Study specific areas...", does, perhaps, need more explanation than has been made, because we will expect to arrive at a decision as to where to begin this study at Convention. Two articles of the Constitution were suggested by two Leagues in their Program recommendations: State-Local Relations and The Judiciary Department. Since last November more interest has grown throughout the state in the role of the Executive and State Administration. We will have

to decide what one subject in the Constitution warrants the first study-leading-to-opinions by the membership.

Plans of the State Program Committee, in presenting this portion of the item, were to prepare study material on the first subject selected, and to have this material ready for League use by the time of Presidents' Council in 1957. The year 1956 would be spent in preparation, by a state committee, of a questionnaire, with the assistance of professionals in the field of governmental research. Such a questionnaire--brief and designed to point up flaws and weaknesses in our Constitution--would then be completed by local Leagues in time to get a member-consensus before the State Convention in 1958. Thus, step by step, one study at a time, we could arrive at constitutional principles which we would support in a revision effort. Now...where do we begin?

(?)

II. The League of Women Voters of Texas will support legislation for the improvement of election laws in the field of voting procedures, giving emphasis to study and action on the poll tax.

Under the item, "Support of legislation for improvement of Election Laws in the field of voting procedures," the first state legislative program in several years was undertaken by the League. Based on the points of agreement reached at the 1954 Convention, training sessions were held at area conferences in the fall. At "The League in a Legislative Year" meetings, new League tools were presented and demonstrated: the LOBBY BY LETTER kits, READY REPLIES, and LEGISLATIVE AIMS. Here, for the first time in Texas League history, plans for a full scale, grass roots legislative campaign were laid. Under League sponsorship a lengthy and very comprehensive election law bill was introduced.

If ever failure could be termed success, we can claim a victory, for the failure of the League-sponsored bill left the way clear for future attemps at election law reform. Had it passed, crippled and weakened and distorted by amendments, future work would have been doubled, - perhaps tripled. As it now stands, with our position established, our training and experience fresh in our minds, and our tools still modern and sharp, we are prepared to attack the same issues as before. Having learned the dangers that beset all-out reform, we may decide to introduce or sponsor one or more "single-shot" election law bills in 1957.

Almost a side issue was our excursion into the realm of the Texas poll tax since work in this field had not been contemplated until mandate was issued by the delegates at the 1954 Convention. However, interest was immediately aroused among the members, the contributors, the press. Having examined the present poll tax regulations, many now desire to study modification of the current system as well as substitution of an alternate method for qualifying citizens to vote.

Although modification has not been seriously contemplated in the past, abolition of the poll tax has been proposed again and again - in the U. S. Congress and in the Texas Legislature. From congressmen and legislators we have promises that the battle will be renewed.

With feelings so high and prejudices so strong, the League may hesitate to take position and action, but consideration and wide distribution of the pamphlet already prepared and the two still to be written will enable League members and voters in general to decide more intelligently on the issue sure to be presented in the not too distant future. Should the League be emboldened to take position and action on such a typical and perfect League item, an exhilarating, though perhaps prolonged, campaign would lie ahead.

PLATFORM (CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES)

I. Legal Status of Women

"Equal Status of Women" has been on the League's Current Agenda and Platform for many, many years. Just when it began is beyond the memory or before the time of most of the present members, but we feel sure that the credit for removing many of the discriminations against Texas women belongs in part to the League. The work in recent years to obtain Jury Service for Women is a fresh and happy memory.

With full political rights for Texas women thus assured, the most glaring discriminations still to be removed are the civil disabilities of married women. While a single woman in Texas has exactly the same privileges as a man, a married woman is handicapped in disposing of her separate property in independently filing a court case involving her interest in community property, in starting a business of her own, in obtaining support for her minor children without the necessity of filing suit for divorce - to name just a few. To do any of these things, the Texas wife must obtain the husband's signature to the necessary legal instruments. In her talk to our State Convention in 1950, Judge Sarah T. Hughes said, "Texas must be full of very happily married women, or something would have been done about this long ago."

Unsuccessful attempts to "do something" have been made from time to time. As a result, perhaps, more and more people are beginning to realize that the limitations still resting on the Texas married woman are contrary to the developments of law in this field, that they are inconsistent with the economic necessities of modern living, and that they result in many instances of hardship and injustice.

In recognition of this trend, the Texas Legislative Council has been instructed to study the Constitution and state laws relating to the legal status of women and to report their findings and recommendations to the next Legislature. Hope for success lies in the prestige of these recommendations backed by the concerted legislative action of the League and other organizations.

Appreciation of the value of the League is evidenced by the fact that the Texas Legislative Council is supplying us with progress reports and that League representatives have been invited to attend a meeting the first week in April to discuss with them the problem and possible courses of action.

II. Laws to Facilitate the Establishment of Family Courts

League attention was given this item long before many of the present members joined the League, - even before many of the newer local Leagues were organized. So a brief review is indicated.

The item appeared on the Current Agenda in 1947 - for study, and "A Family Court System For Texas" was the consensus reached by the members. The item was placed on the Current Agenda again in 1948 - for action. A Citizens Committee was formed and a bill was prepared and passed in 1949 making Juvenile Courts mandatory in every Texas county with the regular district and county judges sitting on the bench.

The item was placed on the Platform in 1950. The State Memo, "A Better Court for Children," was published in 1952 and revised and reprinted in 1954.

Although a step in the right direction, the establishment of Juvenile Courts does not fulfill the League's aim. Several counties, notably Potter County, have secured family courts by special acts of the Legislature, but each differs from the others. The League's ultimate goal is a system of family courts instituted by one act with uniform and proper standards and procedures for all such courts.

Preliminary to the actual work of preparing and passing such a bill was that undertaken by the Texas Legislative Council of studying all the laws relating to delinquent and dependent children, juvenile officers, detention homes, juvenile courts, juvenile boards, and domestic relations courts. Complete codification of these laws prepared by the Council was incorporated in a bill introduced in the last Legislature. Failure of passage was more a matter of neglect and delay - and "expense of printing" - than of strong opposition. With League backing - and pushing, there is every reason to expect passage of the codification bill in 1957, - thus paving the way for direct progress to the League's ultimate goal.

Sustained League attention has been given this item. Membership agreement on the League's position of support has been reached. Future developments will certainly require League action if we are to have a Family Court System for Texas.

III. Improvement of Election Laws

The passage of the "Secret Ballot Bill" was the high light of work on Election Law Reform which has occupied the attention of the League for a long period of time.

Qualified success marked the passage of the bill revising the Election Code since many of the provisions retained or introduced were adverse to the League position.

The League has given sustained study and attention to the entire Election Code and future developments may require action. Since current League work is concerned with voting procedures only, the more general item should be placed on the Platform.

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

January 3, 1956

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES

Twenty-seven Leagues sent in recommendations from membership and/or local boards.

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Of the twenty-seven Leagues, 20 recommended an item dealing with state constitutional revision, with 2 others showing continued interest.

Five Leagues recommended retention of the item as it now reads: Abilene, Corpus Christi, Harlingen, Texas City and Waco.

Amarillo -- A detailed study of state-local relations as provided by the TC with emphasis on
1. Overlapping functions of city and county governments.
2. Economic aspects relating to such overlapping.

Austin -- Support of measures leading to the revision of the Texas State Constitution.

Brownsville -- Stimulation of public interest in state constitutional revision.

Baytown -- Continue KYS study until a plan of action for Constitutional Revision is effected.

Corsicana -- For continuation of TCR study, as a basis for Constitutional Revision, if such should seem necessary.

Dallas -- Obtain legislation establishing a commission to 1) study the present Constitution, and, then 2) recommend constitutional changes to the Legislature.

Dallas -- Work toward obtaining annual sessions of the Legislature.

Edinburg -- Work toward revision of the Texas Constitution.

Freeport -- It is also our local opinion that it will be several more years before Texas Constitutional Revision will become an active item but that continued study is in order. (I cannot decide whether or not this is an actual recommendation.)

Galveston -- Continuation of Know Your State looking towards Constitutional Revision.

Lake Jackson -- Continued Constitutional Review as a basis for State Constitutional Revision.

Laredo -- Texas Constitutional Revision.

Longview -- Support of constitutional revision of the state constitution, article by article.

Lubbock -- Continue with KYS item with a view to action on Constitutional Revision and a complete study of Methods of Revision.

Midland -- Would have recommended retention of constitutional review on the agenda if it had not been felt that we will be just as effective with this item being moved to the platform.

San Antonio -- A campaign of public education on State Constitution directed toward forming a Citizens Committee for Constitutional Revision.

Tyler -- Support of the formation of a Constitutional Commission for the revision of the Texas Constitution.

Wichita Falls -- Continue working for revision of the Texas Constitution.

Reasons include: It would be a "shame" to stop work on the item until we see it through. Since so much time has been spent on KYS study, it should not be dropped until some action or recommendations for future action is adopted. Introduction of a new item would weaken chances for constitutional revision. "...to abandon our TCR item at present would be unthinkable." We have now only just reached the part where we can work for revision. Leagues recommending formation of commissions feel that the broad scope of the present item should be narrowed to a specific.

Leagues foresee that convention will need to work out future course, that we must gain public support, that we should formulate our stand on principles not specifics so far as revision itself is concerned. Help of other organizations will be necessary.

ELECTION LAWS

General

Two Leagues, Abilene and Fort Worth, recommended the item as it now reads. Fort Worth reasoned that legislative work including the poll tax and preferential primaries could be undertaken. Abilene said that they would like to be in a position to initiate legislative interest rather than see this item as a State Platform item.

Poll Tax

Five Leagues want an item dealing with the poll tax.

Austin -- Support of legislation for the improvement of Election Laws in the field of voting procedures, giving emphasis to study and action on the poll tax.
Brownsville -- Comparison of the poll tax with other methods of voter registration to determine League consensus.
Houston -- Study of systems of registration with a view to recommending that the most suitable one be used in Texas so that the Poll Tax will no longer be required as a prerequisite for voting.
Tyler -- Support of measures to abolish the poll tax a requisite for voting.
Corpus Christi -- The Poll Tax

Reasons given include: Our objective has not been reached.
The time has come for the League to be fully informed on the poll tax and ready to act if agreement is reached. LWV and public will do well with enlightenment.
Emphasis should be on the poll tax as a requisite for voting and on other methods of registration.

Preferential Primary

Two Leagues, other than Fort Worth (mentioned above), request emphasis on this.

La Marque -- Quotes Item I as it now reads, then adds--(1) Presidential Preferential Primary.
Tyler -- Study of the Presidential Preferential Primary in order to support or oppose legislation concerning it.

Dickinson mentions Item I under additional comments, but it is not clear why they do.

Amarillo mentions it as a non-recommended item, as presented by the membership.

CONSERVATION

Nine Leagues sent in suggested items; one individual; a minority report of two board members from one League.

Dickinson -- Conservation and development of natural resources with particular emphasis on water.
Edinburg -- A study of the conservation of the soil, mineral and water resources of Texas, from the standpoint of the public interest and welfare; and the development of an effective program that will expedite these ends.
Fort Worth -- Study of measures to conserve the water resources in Texas.
Galveston and Waco -- Study of water conservation--A study of the governmental policies for the conservation of water resources, including the coordination of local and state agencies, as a basis for legislative action.)
Houston -- The study of the conservation and development of our water and soil resources with a view to recommending appropriate action.
Lake Jackson -- A study of conservation with special emphasis on water.
La Marque -- Conservation of state natural resources.
Wichita Falls -- Working toward state legislative action for flood control and water conservation.
Individual from Harlingen -- Conservation of our natural resources with emphasis on preservation, distribution and control of our water resources.
Two board members (given in official report) -- Water conservation item.

Reasons given include: Concern for water supply over the state makes consideration of conservation imperative.
Conservation is a real problem; we could work with other groups on this item.
Conservation is the vital problem facing Texas today.
Fort Worth foresees the following emphasis:
Study of: a) Means of providing adequate and dependable supplies of water in an era of rapid expansion. This could include study of the relation of water supplies to continued economic development, both industrial and agricultural, and to increasing use of water by population. b) Development of hydro-electric power. c) Provision for control of flood waters. d) Problems of soil erosion. e) Relationship of various governmental (National, State and local) functions having to do with water conservation.

In each League, the recommendation was made by the membership or both the membership and the board.

MENTAL HEALTH OR STATE HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Nine Leagues, three boards, an individual and one unit sent in an item relating to the state hospital system, or on mental health problems.

Corsicana (board), Edinburg, Longview and Texas City -- Appraisal of the Texas State Hospital System, with emphasis on mental hospitals.
Dallas -- Appraisal of Texas State Hospital System, with emphasis on mental hospitals, and support of measures upon which a League consensus is reached.

Dickinson -- Encourage legislation that will provide adequate care and rehabilitation for the mentally ill with particular emphasis on early diagnosis and treatment.
Freeport -- Analysis of our state hospital system with emphasis on mental hospitals.
Lake Jackson -- Examination of the Custodial Care and Rehabilitation of Mental Patients in Texas.
La Marque -- Detection, Care and Treatment of the Mentally Ill.
Midland -- Examination of the care and rehabilitation of the mentally ill in Texas.
Nederland -- Study material for mental illness and present facilities for care. (Board)
San Antonio -- Study of the mental health problem in Texas leading to support of measures toward its solution.
Individual from Beaumont -- A Study of Mental Health in Texas, with emphasis on hospital facilities.
Unit from Galveston -- Study of mental health problems.

Reasons include: This is an urgent problem of great interest. Not enough is being done. The hospital system is badly in need of reform and reorganization. The need is vital; time is expedient. This would be a good item for a community education job which might develop into action. We would study and work with other organizations.

Dallas foresees this item as one which does not give authority to initiate legislation, but rather one that authorizes, upon obtaining League consensus, support of legislation initiated by others.

Dickinson foresees emphasis on need for additional trained psychiatric personnel to facilitate rehabilitation.

MISCELLANEOUS

Baytown -- Study the educational needs in Texas.
Emphasis foreseen on financial needs and teacher recruitment and also academic freedom problem.

Houston -- Study of the legal status of women in Texas with a view to changing existing laws so that women may have equal legal rights to dispose of and acquire property.

Lubbock, Dallas, San Antonio, Galveston, Dickinson, and others mention non-recommended items. Rather confusing, but were no doubt put in to show minority opinions and to show the range of interests. These non-recommended items are on file, but are not included in this digest.

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT OF STATE FINANCE CHAIRMAN

The following four pages in the kit record the progress of the Texas Leagues in the field of Finance. These figures show a healthy growth in League understanding of this important facet of our League work. You will notice that in 1954-55, 27 Leagues conducted Finance drives, and in 1955-56, 32 Leagues had formally scheduled fund drives. In 1954-55, 14 Leagues went over the top in their drives, and in 1955-56, 21 Leagues achieved this enviable record.

The Finance chairman of the state Board has made fourteen trips to local Leagues this year to help with finance plans. She has worked with all Leagues by correspondence and wishes to take this opportunity to express her appreciation for the cooperation she has received. This Finance history is made possible by the letters and reports that you have sent me.

The member who goes out on a Finance drive does an important Public Relations job for the League of Women Voters. She is truly "taking the League to the Community." The reports that have come to me indicate that she is not only doing it, and doing it well, but she is finding it a stimulating and rewarding experience. I want to say again, "Thank You all." You Finance chairmen have made my job a pleasant and rewarding one and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you.

Mrs. Jack Story

State Finance Chairman

FINANCE HISTORY

OF

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

RECOGNITION AND MEMBERSHIP

	Year Recog. by National	Members 1954	Members 1956*		Year Recog. by National	Members 1954	Members 1956*
ABILENE	1953	71	44	LAKE JACKSON	1954	45	42
AMARILLO	1951	102	84	LA MARQUE	1941	33	57
ARLINGTON			18	LAREDO	1952	153	107
AUSTIN	1920	207	189	LONGVIEW	1954	99	81
BAYTOWN		45	36	LUBBOCK	1952	107	74
BEAUMONT	1947	95	61	MIDLAND	1941	144	115
BROWNSVILLE	1949	66	53	NEDERLAND		50	37
CORPUS CHRISTI	1945	202	171	ODESSA	1952	60	38
CORSICANA	1952	81	49	PAMPA	1952	119	74
DALLAS	1938	581	533	PASADENA	1953	34	47
DICKINSON	1949	54	49	PORT ARTHUR	1942	35	37
EDINBURG	1949	67	61	SAN ANGELO	1953	50	46
FORT WORTH	1941	231	102	SAN ANTONIO	1940	327	275
FREEPORT	1953	54	49	TEXAS CITY	1943	43	36
GALVESTON	1920	209	225	TYLER	1951	102	74
HARLINGEN	1952	102	89	VICTORIA			62
HOUSTON	1920	251	280	WACO	1949	108	117
KINGSVILLE	1953	101	49	WICHITA FALLS	1950	97	100

* Membership as of January 1, 1956 (including associate members)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUES IN TEXAS, 1953-1954

NEDERLAND BAYTOWN LAKE JACKSON

PROVISIONAL LEAGUES IN TEXAS, 1954-1955

VICTORIA

PROVISIONAL LEAGUES IN TEXAS, 1955-1956

ARLINGTON VICTORIA

CAMPUS LEAGUES IN TEXAS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TEXAS
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, DALLAS, TEXAS
TEXAS STATE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, DENTON, TEXAS

(Subject to additions and corrections)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

PLEDGES

	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
ABILENE	$	$	$ 150	$ 150	$ 200	$ 200
AMARILLO	200	200	350	400	700	500
ARLINGTON						25*
AUSTIN	1250	1225	1200	1250	1150	1150
BAYTOWN			25*	100	100	125
BEAUMONT	600	600	500	600	650	600
BROWNSVILLE	200	250	500	500	550	600
CORPUS CHRISTI	1200	1200	1000	1100	1200	1300
CORSICANA		25*	100	250	150	150
DALLAS	2700	3000	3200	3300	2700	3000
DICKINSON	125	150	175	200	200	225
EDINBURG	350	400	450	450	450	500
FORT WORTH	900	500	1550	1000	750	400
FREEPORT			25*	125	175	200
GALVESTON	500	650	750	850	900	900
HARLINGEN		25*	150	300	350	400
HOUSTON	2500	2750	2000	2250	1500	1650
KINGSVILLE		25*	25	75	100	150
LAKE JACKSON			25*	125	60	100
LA MARQUE	125	150	150	175	175	175
LAREDO		25*	150	300	300	400
LONGVIEW			25*	100	250	300
LUBBOCK		25*	350	400	700	600
MIDLAND	650	800	1200	1250	1300	1400
NEDERLAND					25*	50
ODESSA		25*	200	600	600	600
PAMPA		25*	250	350	350	350
PASADENA			25*	100	100	150
PORT ARTHUR	200	300	325	325	125	150
SAN ANGELO			25*	250	150	150
SAN ANTONIO	750	1000	1200	1300	1500	1500
TEXAS CITY	175	250	275	300	250	300
TYLER	25*	200	400	450	500	550
VICTORIA						25*
WACO	300	400	600	650	700	725
WICHITA FALLS	100	100	200	350	450	450

* Provisional Leagues

(Subject to additions and corrections)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

TEXAS STATE BUDGETS

1950-51	$13,725.00
1951-52	14,868.00
1952-53	20,015.00
1953-54	23,240.00
1954-55	23,275.00
1955-56	20,065.00
1956-57	

SERVICES TO NATIONAL

1950-51	$ 3,000.00
1951-52	4,000.00
1952-53	5,000.00
1953-54	6,000.00
1954-55	6,350.00
1955-56	7,000.00
1956-57	

ORGANIZED STATES PLEDGES TO NATIONAL BUDGET: 1955-56

Total- $158,435.00

TEXAS LEAGUES	1954 -	39	1955 -	36
TEXAS LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP	"	4,480	"	3,564
NATIONAL LEAGUES	1954 -	959	1955	1,000
NATIONAL LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP	"	125,964	"	127,000

STATES PLEDGES TO NATIONAL BUDGET: TEXAS RANKS 10TH PLACE, 1954
" " 6TH " , 1955

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: " " 6TH " , 1954
" " 6TH " , 1955

NUMBER TEXAS LEAGUES CONDUCTING FINANCE DRIVES: 1954-55 - 27; 1955-56 - 32
" " " OVER BUDGETED GOAL: " - 14; " - 21
" " " UNDER " " : " - 13; " - 6
" " " NOT REPORTING : " - 9; " - 3
" " " NO DRIVE : ; " - 4
" " " DRIVES IN PROGRESS: ; " - 2

(Drives in progress hope to exceed goal)

1950-1956 (MARCH 1)

Compiled and submitted by:

Mrs. Jack Story
State Finance Chairman

(Subject to additions and corrections.)

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

ORGANIZATION REPORT

Numerically, there has not been much expansion in the number of Leagues in Texas since the Council last year. The efforts of the three Organization chairmen, assisted by the off-Board personnel and other state Board members, have been directed toward the tightening up of our organization. It is our feeling that we are now operating on a sound basis. Assistance has been given to the local Leagues in finance, organization methods, board training, and in the solving of local problems. Finance campaigns have been in the most part successful through the cooperation of our Finance chairman, and most Leagues have contributed in the program making process. It is our feeling that at this time the majority of the Texas Leagues are in a healthy condition.

During the past year two provisional Leagues have achieved full standing, one League has been recommended by the state Board to the national Board for full standing, and a new group has been recommended for provisional status. Two Leagues that were on temporary reorganization status are now able to carry the full League program and work load.

South Texas

Mrs. Howard Tewell of Edinburg is chairman of this area. The Leagues included are Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Edinburg, Harlingen, Kingsville, Laredo, San Antonio and Victoria.

Mrs. Tewell has made seven official visits to Leagues in this area on request. She and Mrs. Oscar Koepke visited Victoria and made the preliminary survey which must be made by state Board members in all towns before a group is given permission to organize as a League. Mrs. Koepke has made five other trips to Victoria and Mrs. William Gill of Corpus Christi, member of the Organization committee, has made nine trips to Victoria to attend board meetings. Mrs. Frank Nussbaum, state Organization chairman, visited Victoria once during the process of organization. Victoria has now been recommended to the national League for full recognition. Two Leagues in this area have been visited by four state Board members and three have been visited by three state Board members. Three Leagues have exceeded their goals in their finance drives.

Mrs. Rendall and Mrs. Tewell conducted the budget meeting in Harlingen in December. Eighteen women from Harlingen, Brownsville and Edinburg were in attendance.

West, Northwest and Central Texas

Mrs. George Lemon of Lubbock is chairman of this area. The Leagues are Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Arlington, Corsicana, Dallas, Fort Worth, Longview, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Pampa, San Angelo, Tyler, Waco and Wichita Falls. In addition, there are the three college Leagues at Texas University, Southern Methodist University and Texas State College for Women.

The three college Leagues held a most successful and inspiring Winter Conference in Denton in February. Mrs. Lemon attended.

Arlington, our newest League in Texas, was recognized as a provisional League when the state Board met in October. They have eighteen members and are stressing membership as a job for the coming year. Mrs. William Ruggles of Dallas is the official organizer of this League and will continue to meet with them once a month at board meetings until they achieve full standing. In January this group did a wonderful job of collecting poll taxes.

Because of the distances involved in this area, a large committee is necessary to assist the chairman of Organization. Mrs. H. P. Nichols of Tyler, Mrs. Irving Pettis of Waco, Mrs. William Ruggles of Dallas, Mrs. H. W. Smith of Austin, and Mrs. Sidney Cockrell, formerly of Dallas but now of San Antonio, have been faithful workers in the past year.

In addition, many other state Board people have made numerous field visits at the request of the Leagues for special jobs. Mrs. Story, state Finance chairman, has gone to many of the Leagues and given them a realistic program helping them to set up their finance campaigns. This is a two-fold help to the state organization in that the Board visitor has been of help to the League and in turn has secured various techniques which would help the visitor with her work. Such visits make for a closer understanding of the common purpose of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

In this area, as in the other two, the local Leagues are being encouraged to perfect their organization pattern, using the methods set forth in the Local League Handbook, plus the experience and guidance of the Texas Board, plus the limitless ingenuity of the local boards.

It is the feeling of this committee that the sixteen Leagues in the upper part of Texas are as a whole doing a good League job. It has been a good year.

Gulf Coast

Mrs. Frank B. Nussbaum of Galveston, Organization chairman, has under her supervision the Leagues of Baytown, Beaumont, Dickinson, Freeport, Galveston, Houston, Lake Jackson, La Marque, Nederland, Pasadena, Port Arthur and Texas City.

During the past year Baytown and Nederland have achieved full recognition. Many of the Leagues that have been having difficulties have been assisted to solve their local problems.

Assistance to the Leagues has consisted of board training where necessary and other visits to advise and counsel on finance and other problems. Mrs. Murphree of Dickinson and Mrs. Ivers of Beaumont have been off-Board members assisting with these Leagues. Mrs. Ruggles, Mrs. Allegret, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Richards have visited Leagues in this area.

Two little budget meetings were held in this area, one conducted by Mrs. Allegret, the other by Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Nussbaum. Good participation was reported from these meetings, and a number of these Leagues exceeded their finance goals. Program making participation has been excellent and the general health of the Leagues is good.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Howard Tewell, South Texas
Mrs. George Lemon, West and North Texas
Mrs. Frank B. Nussbaum, Organization Chairman

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

Report of the State Chairman, Current Agenda Item II -- KNOW YOUR STATE

This Item was born in 1952, when delegates to the State Convention adopted "Completion of the Know Your State Survey as a basis for study of Constitutional Revision." The Survey had been started some years previously, but had been dropped as Current Agenda when it became apparent that it was too big and too difficult a subject for accomplishment with our limited resources. However, when proposals for new State Current Agenda came from the local Leagues in 1952, the majority indicated great interest in subjects requiring revision of the State Constitution. So the Board proposed, and the delegates accepted, the above wording as a means of starting the long campaign for constitutional revision....in a thoroughly League-like way.

By 1954, Survey sections had been completed on the following subjects: Political Parties and Elections, Bill of Rights and Constitutional Issues, The Legislature, History of the Texas Constitution and Means of Constitutional Revision, The Executive, State Administration, and Education, issued to local Leagues in that order. And preliminary research had been completed on the remaining Survey sections, so that it seemed possible to issue them during the following year. Proposals from local Leagues for new State Current Agenda were overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the Item until the Survey was completed, and several Leagues wanted to add an Item authorizing the League to organize a Citizens Committee for a Constitutional Commission. But it was felt that this latter idea was, perhaps, premature, and that Leagues should have an opportunity to complete study of the Survey and call the attention of their communities to what the League was doing, before adding an additional Item requiring legislative work. So the delegates to the 1954 Convention adopted "Use of the Know Your State Survey as a basis for State Constitutional Revision."

Plans for this Item during 1954-56, discussed at Convention and approved by the delegates, called for completion of the study of the Survey by the time of Presidents' Council in 1955, and a proposal for "going to the community" the following year. And with the dedication which we've come to expect from League members -- but which is always so heart-warming to observe -- we have followed this 1954 plan, almost to the letter, and to an eminently successful conclusion.

Sections of the Know Your State Survey issued during 1954-55 included: Taxation and Revenue, The Judiciary, State-Local Relations and Health and Welfare. This completed the Survey, a tremendous job so competently handled by the former KYS Chairman, Mrs. A. B. Wacker.

In September 1955 we issued our every-citizen booklet, TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW, and 10,000 copies were quickly sold, without even "scratching the surface" of the possibilities for distribution. An additional 10,000 copies were ordered and it is hoped we will begin our new League year with re-newed enthusiasm for this most-effective-of-all League activity: carrying out our Purpose through use of our publications.

And the other part of our Phase II -- going to the community -- involved our community Workshops on Texas Constitutional Review. Twenty-seven Leagues presented speakers on the Constitution -- ninety-eight

citizens from outside the League and approximately one hundred thirty-five of those extraordinary citizens who are League members. An untold number of Workshop chairmen, KYS chairmen, Public Relations chairmen, and other members -- never forgetting the local League Presidents -- contributed time and talents in generous measure to make the Workshops a most successful statewide project. Not that any League reported that its Workshop was a total and unqualified realization of its dreams. But the sum of the Workshop results has given us a pretty complete picture of the situation in Texas....now we have indications of how to proceed, where to proceed, and with whom to proceed in interesting Texans in modernizing their Constitution. You in your local Leagues have pointed the way. And perhaps the most important thing you proved is that we are, in truth, a statewide organization -- that we are mature enough to accept responsibility for carrying out the State Program we adopt. Local Leagues may well have a sense of pride in their accomplishment.

Now you have sent in your proposals for continuing this Item -- those proposals that are incorporated in the Proposed Current Agenda Item I, which we will discuss at Convention. You are the ones -- delegates to this State Convention -- who will make the decision for our future course in the campaign to revise the Constitution of Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

THE 1956 LOOK AT LEGISLATION

PAST

After the State Convention in Galveston in 1954, we set about rebuilding our Legislative forces. The League had no "action" item for four years and most local Leagues did not have a Legislative Chairman on their Board. The Legislative Committee decided to follow the successful "Minnesota Plan" for legislative action.

These are some of the steps we followed during the following nine months - first, we urged all local Leagues to elect a Legislative Chairman to their Board. Some efforts were made to have resolutions adopted in the precinct conventions along the lines of our Legislative Aims for improved election laws, but this is a step which takes long and careful planning and many Leagues were not able to accomplish much. Leagues were urged to contact their representatives before they went to Austin in January; also, to set up a card file on each legislator with information helpful in working with them or their supporters at home. LOBBY BY LETTER, a Legislative Newsletter, and a Capitol Committee, to keep us in close touch with the Legislature, were all put to work. At this Convention, these steps should be evaluated and others added.

PRESENT

Now the Local League Legislative Chairman has become an expert at legislation on three levels. During the summer it was agreed that our training and experience were too valuable to let "fade away" and the job of the Legislative Chairman was extended to include advising the local League and their resource chairmen on how to proceed with legislation at any level. This spring, with work on the OTC, the plan will be tried. The Legislative Chairman is talking to her legislator, she knows who will run, who will drop out, who will run for another office. She has a list of other citizens in her community interested in government and ready to help. She is doing a CONTINUOUS legislative job.

FUTURE

At this Convention you will adopt a new Program of work. Only this time, the Leagues and the State Legislative Committee will be ready and waiting to go to work on the necessary legislative steps - if there be such steps on our current agenda or our continuing responsibilities. The choice of the program items will like a "kick-off" and we will be ready to go. This is an exciting year for legislation with added interest, many possibilities in campaign platforms and speeches, and then the work in the 1957 Legislature. It could easily be the most successful year we have ever had for the accomplishment of the League's Legislative Aims !

Mrs. William B. Ruggles
STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

VOTERS SERVICE REPORT
TO THE
STATE CONVENTION
March 27, 1956

Local Leagues in the League of Women Voters of Texas have established an enviable record in their Voters Service work for 1955-1956. The reports of state-wide and local activities given in the following pages indicate that even in an off-election year any League can find many ways to promote citizen interest in problems of government.

At least 30 Leagues followed our Jury Service efforts in 1954 with an active program in 1955 to educate citizens to be better jurors. Presentation of facts about jury service gave local Voters Service committees ample opportunity to use skills and imagination--which they did very effectively.

In our annual state-wide poll tax drive, <u>every</u> League reporting made a real effort to show citizens the importance of becoming qualified voters. Members in 25 Leagues issued poll tax receipts. Four others had permission to act as agents and take applications. Wide use of radio, newspapers and TV - as well as thousands of handbills - supplemented the actual meaning of the poll tax stations.

In spite of these two state-wide jobs, Voters Service did not neglect the local elections last year. Seventeen Leagues issued VOTERS GUIDES--one group prepared <u>four</u>--on local issues or candidates. Thirteen Leagues used another effective means of informing voters: the candidates' rally and/or the public forum. TV candidates' rallies are increasing.

Voters Service faces another extremely active year in 1956. We are already planning the best ways to get an informed vote in the local, state and national elections. And in October we will be discussing the nine proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution in addition to the regular general election.

The non-partisanship of the League must be carefully maintained in this year of political activity. Voters Service has an opportunity to protect and strengthen our non-partisan character by adhering strictly to an objective viewpoint in its plans for 1956.

No doubt the year's end will find us with a truly remarkable record of achievement.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Loomis

1956 POLL TAX DRIVE

LEAGUE	LWV P.T. DEP.	No. Receipts & Exemption Certificates	Remarks from Leagues
Abilene	24	1,000	Poll taxis used.
Amarillo		1,800	Newspaper, radio coverage.
Arlington*		685	
Austin	30	6,485	New record; seven stations.
Baytown			
Beaumont	26	5,879	New record; 15,000 handbills to schools.
Brownsville	28	4,563	Held open house in every precinct; SWAP SHOP on radio.
Corpus Christi	None		No permission from county officials.
Corsicana		450	Used newspaper stories.
Dallas	90	3,393	Had 10 stations; went to 15 meetings.
Dickinson	25	956	Notices in electric bills; worked League City, too.
Edinburg	25	1,823	Set up tent on city square.
Fort Worth		1,753	
Freeport	30	1,684	Cooperated with JayCees at stations; Political Calendar distributed.
Galveston	50	5,000	Eight places.
Harlingen	25	3,360	New record; 1,600 "Don't Miss the Boat" distributed.
Houston	32	15,404	New record; TV panel.
Kingsville			
Lake Jackson	14	1,023	Handbills at grocery stores; newspaper stories.
La Marque	18	572	
Laredo	60**	300 app.	Posters, handbills, newspaper stories. No deputies. 1,000 label ribbons "I Have Mine" and 5,000 "Don't Miss the Boat" distributed.
Longview	42	1,000	Five places.
Lubbock	17	3,758	Poster contest in Jr. H. S.
Midland	100*	3,000	Cooperated with Jaycees to distribute Political Calendar.
Nederland	12	1,725	One place open all month; newspaper stories.
Odessa	25**	12,312	Ten women's groups in contest city-wide.
Pampa	20**	1,500	Front page stories in paper.
Pasadena	25	4,671	600 posters in stores; 4,000 handbills; Boy Scouts helped.
Port Arthur	15	3,700	
San Angelo		2,642	High School class made flyer.
San Antonio	No drive		
Texas City	14	929	
Tyler	25	2,200	Went to all service clubs; 4,000 How to be FTC in '56.
Waco	40	6,109	Do It Yourself flyer; TV spots.
Wichita Falls	28	3,283	30 min. TV program; feature story in paper.
Victoria*			

* Provisional League

** Agents--not authorized to issue receipts. Applications and money are turned in to the Tax Collector who mails receipts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JURY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

School for Jurors - Amarillo, Brownsville, Freeport, Houston, Galveston, Kingsville, Laredo, Lubbock, Waco.

Brownsville called it PREVIEW OF JURY SERVICE;
Lubbock held a KOLLEGE FOR JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE.
Amarillo and Waco report very good attendance--Kingsville and Freeport, too.
Kingsville used jury summons as notices of meeting; mock trial included.

Dramatic (!) Presentation - Abilene (who gave its script to the rest of us), Corpus Christi, Dallas, Edinburg, Harlingen, Longview, Midland, Texas City, Tyler, San Antonio.

Corpus Christi had THE CASE OF POWDER PUFF POLLY--rated a full page in the paper.
Dallas presented THE RELUCTANT JUROR via TV.
Edinburg, Longview and Midland went before other groups--but Tyler went all out and gathered 17 people together 9 times for as many appearances.

Jury Service Material Distributed - Austin, Dallas, Freeport, Galveston, Lake Jackson, Pasadena, San Angelo.

San Angelo printed theirs for distribution at the Oil Show--complete with cover.

Special Meetings -- Dickinson, Lake Jackson, Nederland, Pasadena, Wichita Falls, Victoria (watched selection of jurors).

Speakers Bureaus - Dallas, Houston, Longview, San Antonio, Fort Worth.

LOCAL ELECTION ACTIVITY

Voters Guides -
In newspaper - Dallas, Houston, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Tyler.
Printed by League - Austin (2), Dickinson (2), Galveston, Longview, La Marque, Lake Jackson, Pasadena (4), San Antonio, Texas City, Tyler, Wichita Falls.

Candidates' Rally and/or Forum - Amarillo, Baytown, Beaumont (2), Brownsville (2), Galveston, Harlingen (TV), Houston (2), La Marque, Pasadena (2), San Antonio, Texas City, Tyler, Waco.

Telephone Campaign - Corsicana, Dickinson, Edinburg, Harlingen, Lake Jackson, Victoria.

MISCELLANEOUS

Austin had its new citizens party in June.
Waco and San Angelo demonstrated voting machines.
Brownsville, Dickinson, Galveston and La Marque checked poll lists.
San Antonio had five weeks' course on CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY in cooperation with local university; spoke to 12 organizations on POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY.

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

During the League year 1955-56, your public relations chairman has:

1. Answered requests of local public relations chairmen for help.
2. Sent glossies and newspaper publicity to local Leagues for visiting state Board members.
3. Prepared stories for the wire services on the state convention and the release of TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW.
4. Made a list of newspapers and citizens known to be interested in government in non-League cities so that copies of TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW could be sent to them.
5. Interviewed heads of state organizations, explained League objectives, and presented copies of TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW to them.
6. Prepared a scrapbook of selected clippings sent from local Leagues.
7. Attended meetings of 5 different Leagues.
8. Sent selected clippings to the national office.
9. With your generous help, collected and compiled material on Schools for Jurors and other Jury Service for Women activities for possible use in a story in one of the best known women's magazines. (Comment from national on the material: "superb.")
10. At the request of national, secured a set of Kodachrome slides to picture the work of the Texas League in a film strip to be used "for orientation and recruitment of members and...explaining the League to the community." (Request received February 23 - deadline, March 15. No slides were available so it was necessary to simulate scenes to make them. It was possible to do the job only through the cooperation of a federal district attorney, county judge, district attorney's office, sheriff's department, two Boy Scouts, TV station personnel, a League husband who acted as photographer, and fifteen loyal League members who donated time on Sunday afternoon. The League ox was in the ditch! The willingness of so many people to help speaks volumes for the good public relations enjoyed by the LWV.)

Wouldn't the general use of Kodachrome slides of local League projects help take the League to the community? Properly planned for in advance, they are easily made and furnish a colorful, accurate, and easily stored historical record.

Of the 28 Leagues reporting, four have regular and 16 have occasional radio programs. One League set up a regular program at the request of the radio station. 15 Leagues use television and one has a regular newspaper column. 11 Leagues have used recordings from the national office, for units, general meetings, radio and finance training. Several Leagues have used the film FREEDOM TO LEARN with great success. League speakers are in demand and spread information about the League not only through what they say but also by introducing their audiences to League publications.

Mrs. H. P. Nichols
Public Relations Chairman
[redacted]

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS
April 1, 1955 to February 29, 1956

Local League	No. Members Jan.1, 1956	National Standing Orders (No. Copies) Membership	Leadership	Total National Materials	Texas Poll Tax (No.)	Jury Serv. Materials (No.)	T. C. R. Tool Kits (No.)	Texas Constitutional Review (No. Copies)	Total State Materials
Abilene	44	-	-	$ 22.05	10	2	16	50	$ 16.45
Amarillo	84	18	18	77.45	100	400	6	420	111.44
Austin	189	18	16	80.43	25	-	16	1,000	207.10
Baytown	36	-	12	15.80	-	-	6	96	34.55
Beaumont	61	16	16	42.01	-	-	-	43	13.95
Brownsville	53	12	12	28.50	200	-	-	100	41.20
Corpus Christi	171	-	-	30.80	-	20	-	100	30.85
Corsicana	49	10	-	22.25	10	46	11	175	47.18
Dallas	533	75	20	226.79	485	-	2	471	160.05
Dickinson	49	16	16	18.25	10	50	-	42	13.00
Edinburg	61	-	-	25.92	-	12	-	300	63.60
Fort Worth	102	24	20	33.19	-	20	-	-	2.00
Freeport	49	10	10	34.87	15	-	-	50	14.00
Galveston	225	10	15	36.30	-	300	-	200	70.93
Harlingen	89	10	10	27.65	20	-	-	32	10.00
Houston	280	20	20	123.41	108	-	-	300	82.93
Kingsville	49	10	10	16.80	-	60	10	30	11.75
Lake Jackson	42	-	10	10.50	35	-	12	81	31.25
La Marque	57	-	10	11.79	25	-	-	25	8.75
Laredo	107	15	10	59.49	117	50	-	600	156.86
Longview	81	10	10	44.55	50	16	-	100	31.60
Lubbock	74	10	10	109.71	-	-	4	300	79.41
Midland	115	-	15	24.31	10	66	25	100	27.68
Nederland	37	-	-	13.39	-	-	-	30	18.40
Odessa	38	-	-	18.57	12	-	-	50	15.60
Pampa	74	-	15	27.55	-	-	-	60	15.00
Pasadena	47	12	12	35.64	110	10	6	37	30.25
Port Arthur	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Angelo	46	10	-	12.55	-	5	8	124	45.75
San Antonio	275	30	25	143.03	10	55	25	404	100.77
Texas City	36	-	10	12.37	-	-	-	100	22.67
Tyler	74	-	-	18.65	6	17	-	300	78.45
Waco	117	-	18	43.95	19	-	6	648	150.33
Wichita Falls	100	10	-	35.46	100	100	-	218	70.45
Arlington (Prov.)	18	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	3.00
Victoria (Prov.)	62	12	12	49.25	16	13	6	55	37.71

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT OF STATE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ITEM I: "Support of U. S. trade policies that will help solve national and international economic problems."

In their work on this item, 23 Leagues had Unit study, 25 Leagues presented it in general meetings, 12 Leagues bringing in outstanding speakers to address them or conduct forums. Eighteen Leagues have reported in the past week that they have recently studied or have unit groups planning to study the latest publication on the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

As the Leagues studied the question of Reciprocal Trade, they worked with other groups to inform and interest their communities in the subject.

The information which they had received from their studies prepared League members to respond to Calls for Action when they were received and nearly all Leagues reported that they responded to those requests. In several cases where it did not seem wise to send letters from the League as a whole, individual members wrote to their legislators at the proper time.

Undoubtedly those Leagues who made the Local Trade Surveys received the greatest benefit in their study of this item. Reports showed that surveys were made in 16 Texas communities. There was a great variety in the surveys: some were very thorough, with use of the questionnaire to local business firms, followed by community meetings; others were assembled from the figures in local Chamber of Commerce and Navigation offices. In every case, however, interesting information was received and brought to the local League and the consensus was that those who conducted surveys found them challenging and profitable.

The results of the opinion polls show that Texas is a state where there is a great difference of opinion on the subject of imports and exports, dependent upon the locality and industry involved.

Because of the differences in types of the various surveys and the big difference of opinion, it was impossible to compile any accurate report for the state as a whole.

Many interesting comments were reported and here are just a few of them: "Change must be gradual so that adjustments can be made without hurting the domestic economy." "The problem of doing business with other nations is the same as doing business with customers within our own country. America knows more about this than any other country in the world, but we don't face up to the facts of life in trying to live in a world with all the rest of the nations." "Unemployment resulting from technology, new discoveries and methods used by domestic competition, may cause temporary unemployment, which is unjustly blamed on foreign competition." "Let's take the middle of the road with slight leniency to promote exports by permitting imports." And so they went; some showed broad understanding and others were tinged with local interest.

Mrs. Oscar J. Koepke

State Chairman

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT OF STATE BOARD CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ITEM II

"Development of the relationship between individual liberty and the public interest."

Two years of study and activity in the Freedom Agenda Program are now being completed by the Texas Leagues. The basic material used has been the eleven pamphlets published by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund. Seven of these are subject matter, one a guide for organizing a Freedom Agenda Project, two are discussion guides for leaders, and one is a vest pocket size booklet: "Men Came to America to be Free."

During this period thirty-two of the thirty-six Texas Leagues have had chairmen with this portfolio. Throughout the state, thirteen Leagues have taken their program to their communities in one way or another. These local projects varied greatly and included such activities as public meetings, reviews of the Freedom Agenda pamphlets in local newspapers, radio programs, organization of discussion groups outside the League, one University course, and a TV series. The remaining Leagues have used some or all the pamphlets in their own meetings or units from time to time.

Some of the national organizations that have cooperated with various Leagues in Freedom Agenda projects have been Bar Associations, YMCA, YWCA, Methodist Church Women's Society of Christian Service, Anti-Defamation League, Congregational Christian Church, Unitarian Church, AmVets, National Student Association.

Freedom Agenda headquarters sent out a Special Newsletter in the fall of 1955: "Another Look at FAP." This publication is exceptionally good in explaining the program to members and to the public. Leagues that have not had this material are urged to secure it.

Many newspaper editorials and articles complimentary to this program have appeared in recent months. Some of these have been in such papers as Dayton Daily News, Denver Post, Providence Evening Bulletin, Washington Post, New York Times, Minneapolis Tribune, Danville (Ill.) Commercial News, Milwaukee Journal, Boston Herald, Spartanburg (S. C.) Herald, Christian Science Monitor. Reprints of these newspaper items are available on the Publications Table.

As state chairman of National Item II, it is my opinion that the Freedom Agenda Program has served a very useful purpose in stimulating the communities to learn more about the Constitution and our individual liberties, and based on reports from FAP headquarters, it is evident that Texas Leagues have done a very commendable job in this activity.

Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

League of Women Voters of Texas
Fifth Biennial Convention
March 27-29, 1956

REPORT TO THE STATE CONVENTION FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES

Work in the field of National Continuing Responsibilities by the local Leagues in Texas during the past year was confined largely to two areas: (1) support of the U.N. Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, (2) the tenth anniversary observance of the U.N.

1. Action on N.C.R. #3 - "U.S. support of measures to promote international economic development and technical assistance."

Late in March 1955 local Leagues received a Time for Action from National re the U.N. Expanded Program of Technical Assistance. House action had cut the U.S. contribution to that program for the period January 1, 1955 through June 30, 1955 from $8 million to $4 million. Early in April local Leagues wrote to their senators and representatives urging that the full $8 million requested by the President for this program be restored.

2. Action on N.C.R. #1 - "U.S. support of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including adequate financial contributions, increased use, and improved procedures."

Almost all of the Leagues in Texas took some part in the tenth anniversary observance of the U.N. Action in this area varied greatly throughout the state; included such measures as tree planting ceremonies, flag raising ceremonies, U.N. displays, panels, Distribution of U.N. materials, etc. Most of the local Leagues cooperated with other organizations in their communities to promote a city-wide observance of U.N. Day or Week.

The N.C.R. chairmen in 16 of our local Leagues sent me detailed reports of their activities in this field. Such reports are extremely valuable in getting a state-wide picture of the work of the League.

3. Outlook for work on N.C.R.

The National Board does not anticipate action on any of the N.C.R.'s in the next several months, with the possible exception of N.C.R. #4, "Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations," and #8, "Self-government for the District of Columbia; extension of national suffrage to the citizens of the District."

Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel
State Chairman of
National Continuing Responsibilities

League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNIT MEETINGS IN LOCAL LEAGUES *

	No. of Units	Time of Meeting A.M.	After-noon	Nite	Average Attend. in all	% of Total Members	How Often	Cal-ender	No Plans
Abilene	1	1			15	33-1/3	1 per mo.		X
Amarillo	3	2	1		10	33-1/3	2 per mo.	X	
Austin	6	2		4	48	25	2 per mo.	X	
Baytown									
Beaumont	2	1		1	10	13	2 per mo.	X	
Brownsville	2		1				2 per mo.		X
Corpus Christi									
Corsicana	2	1		1	14	12	2 per mo.		X
Dallas	19	16		3	125	50	2 per mo.	X	
Dickinson	2	1	1		20	25	2 per mo.	X	
Edinburg	2	1	1		19		2 per mo.	X	
Fort Worth									
Freeport	2	1		1	18	33-1/3	2 per mo.	X	
Galveston	4	2		2	28	27	2 per mo.	X	
Harlingen									
Houston	8	5		3	96	20	1 per mo.		X
Kingsville (2 reports sent by different people)	1			1	10	25	every other mo.	X	
Lake Jackson	3	1		2	25	50	2 per mo.	X	
La Marque	1	1			10	16-2/3	1 per mo.	X	
Laredo	1		1		20	25	2 per mo.	X	
Longview	3	1	1	1	20	25	2 per mo.	X	
Lubbock	5	4	1	1	40	50	2 per mo.	X	
Midland	1			1	5	2-1/2	2 per mo.		X
Nederland									
Odessa									
Pampa	1	1			10	14	2 per mo.	X	
Pasadena (no units)					15	35			X
Port Arthur									
San Angelo	2	1		1	16	32	1 per mo.		X
San Antonio									
Texas City	2	1		1	16	40	1 per mo.	X	
Tyler									
Victoria									
Waco									
Wichita Falls	3	2	1		25	25	2 per mo.	X	

* This report made up from information on returned questionnaires.

MRS. H. R. YEARY
DIRECTOR OF UNITS

THE NATIONAL Voter
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U. S.

FEBRUARY 1, 1956

1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works through its Voters Service and its Program to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Voters Service is 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 nonpartisan factual information on candidates and issues; it increases citizen participation in political processes in the interest of responsible and responsive government.

Proposed National Program—1956–1958

Current Agenda

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES: Evaluation of the federal loyalty-security programs, recognizing the need for safeguarding national security and protecting individual liberties.

CONSERVATION: Study of Water Resources.

Continuing Responsibilities

1. U. S. support of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including adequate financial contributions, increased use, and improved procedures.
2. U. S. support of measures designed to keep the peace through the United Nations and regional defense arrangements.
3. U. S. support of measures to promote international economic development and technical assistance.
4. Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the Executive and the Congress over foreign relations.
5. Support of U. S. trade policies that will help solve national and international economic problems.
6. Measures to improve the budgetary procedures of the Congress.
7. Opposition to constitutional limitation on tax rates.
8. Measures to counteract inflation or deflation.
9. Self-government for the District of Columbia; extension of national suffrage to the citizens of the District.

Principles

1. **The principles of representative government and individual liberty established in the Constitution of the United States.**
2. **A system of government which is responsible to the will of the people and which enables the voter to carry out his obligations as a citizen.**
3. **A system of government in which responsibility is clearly fixed.**
4. **A system of government which promotes coordination of the operations of federal, state, and local governments.**
5. **Governmental organization and administration which contribute to economy and efficiency.**
6. **A merit system for the selection, retention, and promotion of government personnel.**
7. **Legal protection of citizens in their right to vote.**
8. **A system of free public education which provides equal opportunity for all.**
9. **Protection of minority groups against discrimination.**
10. **Removal of legal and administrative discriminations against women.**
11. **A system of federal, state, and local taxation which is flexible and equitable.**
12. **Fiscal and monetary policies that promote a stable and expanding economy.**
13. **Responsibility of government to share in the solution of social and economic problems which affect the general welfare.**
14. **Adequate financing of government functions and services.**
15. **Conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest.**
16. **Domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.**
17. **Cooperation with other nations in solving international problems and promoting world peace.**
18. **Development of international organization and international law to achieve permanent means of cooperation.**

The term "Platform" has been omitted to conform to a proposed amendment of the national By-laws.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

IT IS customary to report the number of recommendations regarding Proposed Program that come to the national office before the close of the first program-making period. These are almost the only figures having to do with Program which can be accurate and significant.

By the deadline, the national office received 702 letters containing program recommendations in the first round of program-making. Of these, 622 came from local Boards and 34 from state Boards. The rest came from units and individuals. This represents an all-time high in numbers of letters and the hope is that it reflects an all-time high in member participation.

It is interesting to note that in these letters there were 389 separate recommendations for work in the field of Individual Liberties and 389 for Conservation. It is evident, therefore, that in working out the Proposed Program the national Board has reflected the two fields of greatest League interest as expressed in the letters.

* * *

The third major interest of the Leagues was in international relations. However, the program letters indicated a strong desire to hold the Current Agenda to two items, and this the Board has done.

There was widespread expression of opinion that the League's support of the United Nations and the expansion of world trade should be continued. The Continuing Responsibilities as suggested in the Proposed Program provide authority for continued work on these subjects. Actually, these areas contain the only proposed authority for League legislative action in the near future, as it is suggested that work in the fields of individual liberties and conservation be limited, at least for the first year, to study.

It is anticipated that the League would continue to build public understanding and support of the United Nations, that community needs would be met individually, and that national work would be undertaken as required. It is abundantly evident that the League's great interest in and support of the United Nations would be maintained.

In the fields covered by the Continuing Responsibilities it is hoped that the Convention will specify the areas in which it would expect action if a strong threat to a League position developed or the League could make an unusually effective contribution.

It is now up to the members to examine the Proposed Program and to make their views known to the local Boards. In turn, the Boards should forward to the national office for receipt not later than April 9 any further suggestions, especially those which represent widespread member opinion, regarding the Proposed Program.

In the interests of simplification the national Board will recommend to the Convention a By-law change which would eliminate the word Platform and would establish a Program article incorporating Principles, Current Agenda, and Continuing Responsibilities. More sweeping changes were suggested by some Leagues, but the Board feels that the interdependence of various procedures makes it unwise to propose

(Continued on page 4)

Proposed Current Agenda

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES: Evaluation of the federal loyalty-security programs, recognizing the need for safeguarding national security and protecting individual liberties.

The program recommendations reflected extensive member interest in continuing League work in this field. In response, the Board has designed an item which represents a combination of membership desires: 1) to move on from the Freedom Agenda experience and community participation to membership study and evaluation; 2) to stress the interdependence of national security and individual liberty; 3) to narrow the scope to one important aspect of the broad field of individual liberty; 4) to focus on the current operation of the federal loyalty-security programs; 5) to work toward possible agreement on a League position.

The Board also considered the likelihood that the League could be effective in the loyalty-security area, since it is an important and unresolved problem affecting the lives of a great number of citizens. Also, the concepts involved (such as the security-liberty relationship, or the application of due process to administrative procedures) have possible application in other fields.

How Would the League Proceed?

1st Step—*A Look At the Concepts of National Security and Individual Liberty:* The first step would be to establish a framework in which to consider the area chosen for special focus (i.e., the federal loyalty-security programs). This would include an analysis of the elements of individual liberty and national security, as well as consideration of varying points of view as to their relative importance.

2nd Step—*Review of the Federal Loyalty-Security Programs:* The next step concerns the evolution of the various employee security programs, starting with the Hatch Act under the Roosevelt Administration, continuing through the two Truman loyalty programs, to the Eisenhower loyalty-security programs.

3rd Step—*Comprehensive Examination of Current Programs:* This step would involve an extensive survey of the personnel security programs now in operation, including those connected with government employment, military service, defense contracts, atomic energy, and port security. Consideration would be given to the relationship of the various programs, their administration, their total impact at home and abroad, the procedures used in implementing the programs (e.g., the hearings process for appeal cases, use made of the Attorney General's List, etc.).

4th Step—*Analysis of Points of View and Proposals for Change:* Next would come consideration of the varying reactions to the present program, ranging from "tighten it up," to "no change," to suggested alterations of certain features, to "complete scrapping."

5th Step—*Criteria for Evaluation:* At this point, the proposals for change would be looked at in light of criteria for good administrative principles, applied within the liberty-security framework.

6th Step—*Evaluation and Recommendations:* In this final step, the League might move in the direction of agreement on a position. However, a position on a specific issue would be taken only as an outcome of Council or Convention action, at the end of the first or second year.

CONSERVATION: Study of Water Resources.

The program recommendations indicated wide growth of League interest in the conservation field. They also showed: 1) understanding of the variety of possible approaches; 2) the eventual impact of conservation policies upon the domestic economy and upon world developments; 3) special concern for exhaustible or limited resources; 4) the need for understanding the conflicting interests and philosophies involved in their management; 5) the complex interrelationships of governmental agencies responsible for resolving these conflicts. Many of the letters showed an appreciation of the regional variations within the broad national picture and hinted at the opportunity for new methods of approach.

Why Concentrate on Water?

The national Board believes these varying interests can be profitably combined in this proposed Program item.

Water seems to be the common denominator in the variety of geographical factors to be considered in the natural resource field. It is a limited natural resource which affects every person in the country. This study would cover both water resources themselves and the various government agencies which manage, conserve, and develop them. This presents a good opportunity to look at the interrelationship of federal, state, and local agencies whose responsibilities interlock and sometimes overlap in many areas of government.

The Board believes that to cover this subject will require a full two-year period.

In this broad field there will be more opportunity for accomplishment if the areas to be covered are first defined. It is recognized that an examination of water resources cannot be separated from consideration of soil conservation and forest management. However, it is not the intent to go into an exploration of the use of water for power, navigation, and other sometimes conflicting purposes. Many of these are of great regional importance, but the proposed plan is to assess national water resources and consider their conservation.

As League members look at the problem, they may find that some of the difficulties can be solved at state and local levels of government. While adoption of this national agenda proposal would not authorize action at state and local levels of government, some Leagues may wish to work on these problems by putting them on state and local agendas.

How Would the League Proceed?

The Board suggests that the water study begin with a look at the broad scope of national interest in water conservation. This would serve throughout as a backdrop for exploration of local and regional resources. Next, local Leagues will examine the resources and the government agencies which control and manage them in their own localities.

Early in the examination it will be useful for local Leagues which have common patterns of resource and management to begin to share their findings. The intergovernmental ramifications which may emerge should give Leagues an opportunity to work together and share leadership. At the state League level, this field seems to offer a much more challenging job for the national resource chairman than is often true of the national agenda subjects.

At a still more advanced stage of the study, there are interesting glimpses of regional cooperation, rivers and lakes being no respecters of state or national boundary lines!

(Continued from page 2)

far-reaching By-law changes until a careful study of the whole can be undertaken.

A new committee is being established, the Procedures and Policies Committee, made up of Board and non-Board members, whose responsibility it will be to examine the League's total framework and make recommendations to the Board for subsequent Convention consideration. The Committee will study all proposals submitted to it and will endeavor to help the League make necessary adjustments in its pattern of operation in the interests of responsiveness and responsibility. This Committee will not be in a position to make any recommendations to the Board until after the 1956 Convention.

* * *

The proposed budget appears in this issue of THE NATIONAL VOTER. You will see that every effort has been made to keep expenditures to a minimum while still maintaining the established level of service. Increased costs of operation and essential modest salary increments account largely for the increases in expenditure. It is hoped that we will be able to operate successfully while gradually diminishing the withdrawal from reserves now necessitated by the need to balance the budget.

It is also worth noting that we have never done as well as we should in selling publications. This still remains a field in which increased promotion would yield a good return —not only monetarily but also in terms of League effectiveness. So it is hoped that all Leagues will make a special effort in the coming biennium to sell far more publications than ever before.

The national Board is eager, too, to see substantial increases in state budgets. This is the point at which most effective servicing can be done through expansion of resources. In keeping the national budget down, greater effort should be directed toward assisting the state Boards to fulfill their responsibility.

Keeping Up with the News

The Christian Science Monitor of February 9 is scheduled to carry a full-page article on the League of Women Voters. If you want to read it and the newspaper is not available in your community, ask your local or state League, or write to the newspaper at 1 Norway St., Boston 15, Mass.

PROPOSED BUDGET
1956-1957

EXPENDITURES	Budget 1955-1956		Proposed 1956-1957
General Administration			
Board of Directors	$ 10,900		$ 11,400
Committee Meetings	1,400		1,000
Office Operation	29,220		29,200
Fees (Auditor and Legal)	850		900
Public Relations	1,250		1,100
Affiliations	125		125
*Council or Convention Cost.. $500		$15,000	
—Registration Fees.. 500		15,000	.....
Pre-Council and Convention Costs..	500		200
Salaries	46,467		50,118
	90,712		94,043
Capital Expenditures	1,500		1,600
*Publications (Production and Distribution)			
The National Voter	31,900		26,810
Publications, Publications Service and Special Subscription Service	46,875		45,900
Salaries	53,265		55,254
Total Costs	132,040		127,964
Less Sales	85,500		76,775
	46,540		51,189
Field Service			
Travel and Tools for New Leagues..	13,600		17,000
Salaries	31,897		28,722
	45,497		45,722
TOTAL	$184,249		$192,554
INCOME			
League Support	158,435		.....
New Leagues	150		100
Interest on Auxiliary Income Fund	3,200		3,300
Interest on Reserve Funds	3,000		3,000
*Publications	.....		.....
Reserve Funds	19,464		.....
TOTAL	$184,249		$192,554

* In and out items: Net figure appears only on expenditure side when operation shows a loss. If a profit were made, net figure would appear only on income side of budget.

An ancient Greek philosopher has said: "The secret of happiness is freedom, and the secret of freedom, courage." As we prepare ourselves for the 1956 Convention, we must see beyond the League out into the far reaches of our worth as citizens. This long view will require courage. It is easier to deal quickly with the little things than it is to take a slower, sounder approach to the big things. And freedom is a big thing. The freedom referred to here is not that described by the words individual liberty. It refers rather to that collective freedom of the spirit which conditions a society to be "fit for free men without fear or hatred or inward slavery."

The League of Women Voters is but a small part of a whole but it can have an important influence on the destiny of that whole if it can within itself nurture this kind of freedom born of courage.

It is well to remember that the Convention is the sovereign body of the League of Women Voters. The delegates to that Convention, and only they, hold within their hands the power to give abundantly of a generosity that leaves no room for fear.

Lucy Maxim Lee

THE NATIONAL VOTER

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1026 17th Street, N. W.
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MRS. JOHN G. LEE, *President*
DOROTHY FELKER GIRTON, *Editor*

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PRESS OF JUDD & DETWEILER, INC.

Discussion of Proposed By-Laws Revisions . . . . . Mrs. Irving M. Pettis
Discussion of Proposed Program . . . . . .Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith
Mrs. E. A. Rendall

Other Business

Coffee Recess - 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Little Meetings

3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

State Current Agenda . . . . . Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith
Miss Louise Loomis
State Continuing Responsibilities. . . . . Mrs. E. A. Rendall
Mrs. Harold R. Yeary
Total Work Load . . . . . .Mrs. A. M. Allegret
Mrs. George Lemom
Role of Resource Chairman . . . . . Mrs. Oscar J. Koepke
Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes
Role of Legislative Chairman. . . . . Mrs. William B. Ruggles
Mrs. H. P. Nichols

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Ballroom

Experiences in Adapting the League's Ideal of Citizen Participation to New Cultures and Peoples
Mrs. Elizabeth Halsey, Visitor from Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 28

Dinner Meeting

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Ballroom

Presiding, Mrs. Eugene H. Hughes

Introduction of Mrs. Foreman . . . . . Mrs. L. K. Richards
"Individual Liberties and the Public Interest" . . . .Mrs. Orville N. Foreman

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 29

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Roof Garden

Presiding, Mrs. L. K. Richards

Proposed National Program . . . . . Mrs. Orville N. Foreman

Final Business Session
Final Report from Credentials Committee
Adoption of the Budget . . . . . .Mrs. Lewis M. Daniel
Adoption of the By-Laws. . . . . Mrs. Irving M. Pettis
Adoption of Continuing Responsibilities . . . . . Mrs. E. A. Rendall
Adoption of Current Agenda:. . . . . Mrs. Horton Wayne Smith
Mrs. E. A. Rendall
Report of Election Committee
Other Business
Introduction of New Officers and Directors

Adjournment