

Not yet divided into chapters but uncertain if this
will be necessary. AB

47 -- GOING ON 65 -- THE STORY OF THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS
1903 -----1966

THE EARLY YEARS *

Business, industry, the professions, and just plain people have made 65 the magic age of our generation. This is the story of an organization that was born in Texas in 1903 and which today is a strong healthy adult not the least interested in retirement in two years at age 65. It would be bending the truth to say that the League of Women Voters of Texas was organized in 1903 - for it simply isn't so. The forerunner of the League was organized that year and called itself the Texas Woman's Suffrage Association. From these roots came the League of Women Voters of Texas as we shall later see.

The idea of giving the vote to women was not a novel one in 1903, but the chances for success in achieving the goal were, at the ^{least,} ~~most~~ dim; at the best, a good many years away. The seeds of discontent with a male-dominated electorate had been planted as early as 1872, had been nurtured by such stalwarts of woman suffrage as Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. Their stories are told elsewhere by other authors and in the journals of the day. Our concern is with the Texas story.

The Texas story begins in early 1903 in Houston when Annette Finnigan and her sisters, Elizabeth Finnigan and Katherine Finnigan Anderson, organized a Woman's Suffrage League with Annette as its first president. Carrie Chapman Catt lectured in Houston to a meeting of the group in February of that year and in December a convention of local clubs was called to form a state organization with Annette Finnigan elected the first state president.

In 1904 attempts were made to organize Leagues in San Antonio, Beaumont and Austin, but "women, although interested, were not yet prepared to face the ridicule and contempt with which society was attempting to beat back the latest advance in democracy."

INTRODUCTION

The Finnigan sisters called the second state convention in 1904. The organization prospered for a few years after that but when some of the leaders left the state, continuation of the movement was limited to a society organized with 25 members in Austin in 1908.

Eleanor Breckenridge of San Antonio, and Anna Maxwell Jones, a Texan residing in New York, organized suffrage clubs in San Antonio, Galveston, Waco, Dallas, Tyler, and San Marcos and Miss Finnigan returned to Texas after a few years and revived her club in Houston.

State headquarters for suffrage work were opened in Houston in 1914 and clubs increased from eight to twenty-one. Pearl Penfield was field secretary and was to a great degree responsible for organizing the state work.

Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham was elected president of the Texas Woman Suffrage Association at the state convention that met in Galveston in April, 1915, and served as president until the organization disbanded. The president and the new Board worked vigorously.

Throughout the United States at this period there was an upswing in woman suffrage sentiment and activity. Texas' share in the movement in 1914 was a 400% increase in the number of local organizations and the visits of several national leaders.

In 1916 the well remembered state convention was held in Dallas. Judge Ocie Speer of Fort Worth here pledged his support to women. The delegates instructed the executive committee to ask for suffrage planks in the state and national Democratic platforms. The name was changed from the "Woman Suffrage Association" to the "Equal Suffrage Association", and the senatorial district plan of organization was adopted.

At the National Democratic Convention in St. Louis in 1916 a sufficient number of women from Texas were present to form a half block of the "golden lane" through which delegates passed to reach the convention hall. The convention included the suffrage plank in the party platform, but the Texas women exhibited black crepe bands - for their

governor, James E. Ferguson, who had served on the platform and resolutions committee, had made a speech against the suffrage plank.

When the legislature convened in January, 1917, the legislative committee of the Equal Suffrage Association had already shaped its plan of attack and it was on hand to begin its work. Various bills were introduced by the friends of the suffrage movement, but these could not be ~~XXXX~~ carried through.

The woman suffrage movement was colored by the entrance of the United States into World War I, for the women were interested in war measures as well as in suffrage, and they took measures to help solve the food conservation problems and other questions of vital importance during the crisis.

But the women of Texas wished to speed up as much as possible action in Congress on suffrage, and to do this they decided to start a real fight to win the support of congressmen. The session of Congress in 1917 was ^{well} studied by the suffragists and the state organization sent letters from headquarters to leading suffragists in the large cities to keep them well informed on congressional proceedings.

Texas women started the year 1918 with their efforts bent toward the primary suffrage bill which they had seen defeated in the regular session of the 35th Legislature. Many organizations were lined up to help make the movement successful; the Mothers' Congress, State Federation of Labor, State Federation of Women's Clubs, Texas Press Women, State Farmers' Congress, Texas Graduate Nurses' Association, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Texas Equal Suffrage Association, which at that time numbered more than twenty thousand members,

Representative Charles B. Metcalfe, to whom many women attribute the success of the suffrage movement in Texas, introduced the bill of 1918 which was to give women the right to vote in all primary elections and nomination conventions. This bill passed both houses and was signed by Governor Hobby (who had been very slow in giving the women help) on

on March 26, 1918, in the presence of Rep. Metcalfe, Captain Sackett, and members of the legislative committee, Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, Mrs. Dave Doom, Mrs. Elizabeth Speer and Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum.

The suffrage leaders sponsored a citizenship school to instruct the new voters how to register and vote, and 360,000 women were estimated to have registered in the fifteen days allotted to registration. In Amarillo and Palestine more women registered than the number of men who had paid poll taxes.

Before the registration period was over, information came to the women that individuals opposing suffrage were making an effort to prevent the women from voting in the primary election. Injunctions from various district courts had ordered election judges not to furnish ^{tickets} ~~XXXXXX~~ to the women ~~XXXX~~ nor receive their ballots. It took only a short time, however, for the suffrage organization to have legal matters well in hand.

Primary suffrage, politically, was not the same as equal suffrage, and before long the women, aided by friends in the legislature, began to move toward securing the right to vote in general elections also. Many constitutional amendments were proposed during the regular session of the 36th Legislature. Four were finally passed on to the people - one of them for Women Suffrage.

The women launched their active campaign for carrying the suffrage amendment to the state ^{constitution} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ on February 12, in an Austin hotel. A complete campaign ^{covering} ~~XXXXXX~~ the activities of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association was outlined for the three months until the election. The women seemed to be sure of victory. They organized their campaign along the senatorial district plan, and the members were so well organized that they were to know, down to within a city block, who would vote favorably for suffrage.

This way of securing the right to vote in the general election failed but there was still the Federal Constitution which might be amended. The congressional chairmen of the suffrage association had begun early

in 1918 a campaign to make certain the positive pledge of favorable congressmen toward a Federal amendment. Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon Potter was sent to Washington to line up Texas' 18 representatives and two senators. Women over the United States were disappointed when they learned that their efforts had been defeated - they had counted too much on the favorable action of President Wilson. They soon began, however, to push their cause for suffrage. At last their efforts were rewarded and a federal amendment was offered to the states for ratification. Texas had the honor of being the first Southern state and the ninth state of the Union to ratify the Susan B. Anthony amendment.

This story of the battle for suffrage for women has been told in rather full detail to set the stage for what was to follow. Had the Equal Suffrage Association gone out of business completely when the Susan B. Anthony amendment was ratified in August 1919 and the right to vote granted to women, there would be no need for retelling the story here. This was not to be the end, however. It was truly a beginning.

THE YEARS BETWEEN --- 1919-1939

THE FIRST ~~XXXX~~ YEARS ~~OF~~ OF THE TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS -- 1919--23.**

In October 1919, at San Antonio, the Texas Equal Suffrage Association resolved itself into the Texas League of Women Voters. The immediate program of the new organization was to impress upon the new voters the importance of paying their poll taxes so they could vote in the 1920 elections. After this first step was accomplished, the need for education in citizenship was apparent. A "Get Out The VOTE" campaign was launched; schools of citizenship were conducted over the state; and a monthly paper, the "NEW CITIZEN", under the editorship of Mrs. John C. Granbery of Georgetown, was established. Later a "VOTER'S CALENDAR", edited by Miss Mary Jagoe of Denton, became an annual event. Still later a booklet, "KNOW YOUR COUNTY", was compiled and printed. This was sold not only to thousands of voters, but to high schools, which used it as a reference in civics classes.

In addition to a program of education for new voters, the League undertook a broad legislative program which included a bill to establish a minimum wage for working women; securing an appropriation to match Federal funds for Maternity-Infancy care; to reorganize the educational system of the states with special emphasis on the county unit system of school administration; and to authorize an unpaid Board of Education to replace the political Board of three elective officials. Though the reorganization of the Prison System of Texas became the joint project of all women's organizations under the guidance of a Joint Legislative Committee, the actual work of launching the educational program, which resulted in the present State Prison Board, was inaugurated by the League at its convention in Fort Worth in 1921. For eighteen months beginning in August prior to the Fort Worth convention, the League of Women Voters financed the activities of its Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor, including a monthly honorarium to the chairman, as well as printed literature and travel expenses. In the spring of 1923 the Texas Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor was set up with the League chairman, Mrs. Elizabeth Speer, as executive secretary.

Thus, with a balanced program of education of citizens in government and party machinery ~~and~~ and of legislation to improve social conditions, the Texas League of Women Voters set its course for the years ahead.

THE TEXAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS from 1923 to 1939 ***

The transformation of the Equal Suffrage Association into the Texas League of Women Voters was not accomplished automatically and into the capable hands of Mrs. Helen B. Moore of Texas City, fell a large share of ~~the~~ ^{the} work of organizing the new League. This involved/raising of a budget sufficiently great to put the League on a firm financial foundation and the setting in motion of machinery to start the program of education of the new voters, to which the leagues all over the country were committed.

Fortunately, Mrs. Moore had always had a large number of friends in

the state and because of their personal interest in her, their response was generous. Although the great dramatic appeal of the fight for suffrage itself was ^{no} longer there to give an incentive, Mrs. Moore was able to begin a constructive piece of work that still endures. When she resigned after eighteen months of hard work that included traveling over the state in the interests of the League, Dr. Alice Merchant of El Paso, who had been first vice-president, was able to build on the foundation already established.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, state wide publicity, directed by Mrs. Jane McCallum ^{of Austin,} was begun and the newspapers of Texas contributed space to the educational program of the League.

Miss Mary Jagoe of Denton, succeeded Dr. Merchant as president of the Texas League. She presided over the state convention held in Galveston in October 1927. During these years the League was continuing its practice of concentrating efforts on getting out the vote, encouraging the payment of poll taxes, and conducting one-day citizenship schools, all these being the means by which the education of the voter was emphasized. It also took an active part in a legislative program in the state and national legislatures.

A "Joint Legislative Council" was formed by the heads of six women's state organizations. It was financed by the member groups and kept in close touch with the Texas Legislature by a member residing in Austin. Women all over the country were learning to know their representatives in Congress as well as the state legislatures, and the idea of "Write your senator or congressman" to ask for support of measures that had been studied in the local leagues was taking hold. Measures in support of maternal and child hygiene were of special interest to the Texas League of Women Voters and they followed the course of bills in this field with interest and concern.

Three important guests were present at the 1927 convention of the Texas League. They were Governor Dan Moody; Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Roscoe

Anderson, regional director of the League. The speech of Governor Moody on "Our Business in Texas" and Miss Sherwin's and Mrs. Anderson's talk on "The Record of Seven Years", were highlights of the convention.

Mrs. D. W. Kempner of Galveston, was the next president of the Texas League. She, too, was an organized^{ly} of ability and during her regime, the National League sent an executive secretary to Texas who assisted in strengthening the ties between the local leagues and the state group. At various times there have been local leagues in San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and Galveston, as well as a college league at Rice Institute. The state board also had representatives from Denton, Waco, and other Texas cities, even when there were no active leagues in the home towns of these members. Thus, a geographical distribution of representation ~~xxxx~~ was achieved at most times and many of the leagues which became inactive were gradually re-established.

As in most organizations, the question of finance has been an important one. At times the League sponsored its bulletin by the sale of advertisements, each local league taking the responsibility in turn for securing an advertisement every month. Friends whose interest had been aroused by the program of the League made generous gifts from time to time and always the women who served the League as officers or committee chairman gave liberally of their time and money to support the work of the League.

Mrs. Harris Masterson of Houston, after being finance chairman, was elected to succeed Mrs. Kempner as president of the Texas League. She gave great impetus to the support which the League was able to contribute to the other women's organizations working in the interests of better international relations. Her efforts for peace are so well known in the state that her value to all women's organizations in this field is fully recognized.

The efforts to have the Texas Legislature ratify the Child Labor

Amendment to the Constitution were doomed to defeat, but a good deal of valuable experience was gained in the hard work. Several trips to Austin were made by members in order to appear at legislative hearings and a great deal of information was prepared for use by the League and other women's organizations interested in the problem of child labor in Texas. Jury service for women also occupied the attention and perennial interest of the League but success in this endeavor was still at least 30 years away at the time of Mrs. Masterson's service to the Texas League of Women Voters.

In 1933 Mrs. Ella Sealy Newell returned to Texas to make her home and was elected president of the Texas League. She had been living in Connecticut for a number of years and had devoted a great deal of time and effort as Finance Chairman of the Connecticut League, so she welcomed the opportunity to continue League work in her native state. She was in office for three and a half years and during her regime great strides were made in the educational program of the state league. The National League had by this time developed a technique of program building which included submission to its general membership at a biennial convention of items for study and support. This proved to be highly successful in presenting channels for legislative endeavor that were in accord with the practice of democracy.

The campaign for "Better Personnel in Government Service" was undertaken by leagues all over the United States during this period. A contest for a campaign slogan produced the following: "Find the man of this for the job, not the job for the man", and effective use/was made in nationwide publicity. Following a custom of long standing the league sent representatives to the national convention of both major political parties and was successful in having a plank in the party platforms committing both the Democratic and Republican parties to the support of trained personnel chosen on a merit basis.

The Texas League of Women Voters took an active part in the Reciprocal

Trade Agreements discussions from the beginning, giving close study as joint program projects of both the Department of Government and Foreign Policy and the Department of Government and Economic Welfare. The League felt that this was an important improvement in international relations and of especial interest to Texas because of the increase of foreign trade that resulted after the agreements were in force.

The League gathered knowledge from experience. It learned not only that the American people needed to be made acquainted with political affairs but how to deal with them effectively.

Miss A. Louise Dietrich of El Paso, was elected president of the Texas League in 1938. For the first time the League had a president whose yearly travel schedule provided for her traveling all ~~XXXXX~~ over the state, so that in addition to having an ~~XXXXXX~~ executive who understood organization from a professional point of view, the local leagues had the advantage of frequent visits from the state president. She helped with ~~the~~ counsel at board meetings and kept in close touch with all program chairmen by correspondence in the intervals between visits. The machinery of organization was strengthened by her leadership and the fact that she had known and been a member of the Texas League since its beginning added greatly to her value as president.

From 1937 to 1939 changes began to appear in the program adopted by the state League at the annual state conventions. The number of items chosen was smaller as the realization that small membership in so large a state made necessary a careful evaluation of the items on which the interests of those members could be focussed to avoid as far as possible a scattering of effort. For years the Texas League had been concerned with a desire to see the local, state and federal welfare services more closely integrated and worked for this by supporting legislation that would bring it about. Members expressed satisfaction then when the State Department of Public Welfare was authorized in the late thirties. Then in the fall of 1939 the new department was set up and the programs for child welfare, aid to the dependent blind, and old

age assistance were brought under this one state department. Since some of the funds for these ^{were} services ~~xxxx~~from Federal sources, a merit system came into practice and a long desired aim of the Texas League was realized. There was still no civil service law in Texas but the League could hope that it might not be long in coming.

THE WAR YEARS AND THE FIFTIES --- 1939 - 1959 ****

The gathering war clouds on the horizons of Europe by late 1939 were beginning to make their shadows apparent in the League of Women Voters. Reflected primarily in the programs that were adopted by the National League, there nevertheless was emerging indication that war in Europe might well make a difference in the work of the League in Texas.

State Convention delegates in March 1940 adopted a program of work that included support of measures to promote the use of voting machines in the state and an adequate appropriation for the public welfare department. In the area for new study were a civil service law for Texas, government financing and collective bargaining. Convention action was not necessary for the League to continue its work in support of such Federal measures as were selected by the national League. These latter included support for "measures which prove necessary to secure federal aid for education in ~~war~~ emergency areas."

By the time the United States entered the war in late 1941, League members throughout the country were turning their attention to the such national issues as taxation and defense; Inter-American cooperation; living costs and defense; school facilities and housing in defense areas; and relief, civil liberties and collective bargaining in relation to defense. At the same time, Texas League members retained their support for administrative organization of the state government to promote efficiency, responsibility and economy; a merit system; and increased attendance in public schools. They were still studying how government in the state could be financed; collective bargaining; ~~and~~ education,

and undertook a new study of the abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting. Later chapters of this book will show that this latter issue was to ~~occupy~~^{occupy} the attention of the Texas League for many years and was to be solved in a totally unexpected manner some 25 years later.

League interest in election procedures continued unabated. A state board meeting in January 1941 set the stage for one of the most exciting campaigns the Texas League was to undertake. Investigation had revealed that voting machines for the state would represent an expensive undertaking so the board went on record as recommending that a secret ballot be substituted for the voting machines. Thus was the first step taken in a campaign that would be at least eight years old before victory could be proclaimed.

Writing to local League presidents following the state convention of 1941, Mrs. Claude R. Hill of Austin, the state president, suggested ways to do the best job of getting every voter to know "What Every Voter Should Know about Foreign Policy" and to aid in the understanding of the Battle of Production. Later that same summer Mrs. Hill found occasion to reflect the concern of the national League that Congress had "reverted to nature and slipped back into the patronage puddle" by voting against the merit system versus the patronage system. As a footnote to the history ~~begin~~^{being} made by the League in 1941, Mrs. Hill further reported that her congressman, Rep. Lyndon Johnson, did not return to Washington in time to vote but she had written to him expressing her appreciation for his fine past record on the merit system, and urging him to undertake efforts that would lead to repeal of the patronage system.

Toward the end of that year, League members were establishing information booths in public places to sell quizzes on defense and to stimulate the ~~state~~^{sale} of Defense Bonds and Savings Stamps. And so the Texas League moved into the war years.

A bulletin from the Dallas League for June, 1942, asked the questions, "Why should we live ^{to} internationally at the present time? Why is it important in war time? Why will it be imperative for post-war peace?" And it, along with the eight other Leagues in the state, through study groups and ^{by} taking campaigns, played a part in furthering the efforts toward postwar cooperation while the war went on into ¹⁹⁴³ ~~1943~~ and then 1944 and 1945. Those years in the League in Texas were busy ones for the members and the state board for along with the campaign concerned with foreign ^{policy} ~~policy~~ and securing the peace, the Texas League was also working to secure information that would lead to a general revision of Texas election laws. Adopted again at the 1943 state convention as a two-year study, the campaign for a secret ballot continued.

Mrs. D. Bailey Calvin of LaMarque, and later Galveston, served two terms as state president (1942-~~43~~ and 1943-44) during those years when the League was on a different basis due to wartime regulations and restrictions. Despite the outside pressures, and under the guidance of the national League, interviews were conducted throughout the state in an attempt to encourage "good men" to do their duty on the home front in order to assure that the quality of officeholders would remain high.

The annual conventions of 1943 and 1944 drew a fair representation of the eight local Leagues despite travel limitations and the 1944 convention added impetus to and pledged to ^{carry} ~~carry~~ on in earnest the campaign for a secret ballot. Electing Mrs. E. R. Brownscombe of Dallas as president, the delegates vowed to continue their efforts and outlined a legislative program that ^{was} ~~was~~ to be exciting, educational, historic, some times hysterical, and in the end, utterly frustrating. The legislative committee attended sessions, spoke to senators and representatives, wrote letters, made reports, talked to organizations and individuals, walked the halls of the Capitol, and lost another round when the Legislature failed to pass the secret ballot bill.

During the spring of 1945, Mrs. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Brownscombe was forced to resign to await the impending arrival of a son and Mrs. G. H. Gill of LaMarque who had served as first vice-president filled the vacancy and was then elected to a full term as president at the annual convention in June. An example of the outside events that determined the actions of the League during these years is to be found in a letter to ^{the} a local League announcing a regional meeting and expressing the hopeful wish that someone would have tires so that a group might be able to make the trip ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to the meeting!

Exciting events were taking shape on the national scene and the League divided its efforts between the secret ballot and the movements that were to lead to the founding of the United Nations. The Dallas League president, Mrs. Martin A. Row, was one of those who watched the signing of the UN charter, signalling the hopes for peace at the conclusion of four frightful years and providing a measure of satisfaction to League members for their part in the public education program that preceded the signing.

more to come later.....

Footnotes:

- *from History of the Texas LWV - 1903-1940, compiled by Mrs. D. R. Bowles, Austin; Mrs. Jessie D. Ames, Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. Charles Taft, Jr., Galveston. THE EARLY YEARS by Mrs. Bowles.
- ** THE FIRST YEARS OF THE TEXAS LEAGUE by Mrs. Jessie D. Ames.
- *** THE TEXAS LAW LWV from 1923 to 1939 by Mrs. Charles Taft, Jr.
- **** THE WAR YEARS AND THE FIFTIES from papers of the period.

Final section will be ¹⁹²³
 "The Second Forty Years" - 1959 to present -

Historical Files

Minutes, state Bd mtg. Jan, 1961,
p. 4. "Mrs. Macdonald asked
what Mrs. Ruggles (Dallas)
should do with some boxes
of historical files on Texas
SWO she has stored in her
home. She will be asked to
ship them to SO. [Note: Mrs.
Boley was president then &
state office was in Galveston].

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OCT +206763331055
OCT +210440000000
OCT +202622077174
OCT +203400000000
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BCD 13,4F9.

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In Scrapbooks on top of piano:

1939-40 State League

directors & 1940 Conv.

program - gray sheet

Lone Star Voter State Bulletin

3/40

Pictures of various state Bd
people that would help in
identifying old pictures at state
office in Houston

1940-41 Program of work

Lone Star Voter Summer 1940 Vol 1
no 1

Lone Star Voter Fall 1940 Vol 1
no 2

Lone Star Voter winter 1941 Vol 1
no 3

Seemed to have Bd mtgs
for 1 day every 2 mos. in 1940-41

San Antonio LWD organized 1940

Midland LWD organized late 1940
to very early 1941

La Marque LWD organized early 1941

Port Arthur organized 1941

1941 State Conv. in San Antonio

3/21 + 22, 1941

Lone Star Voter, spring 1941 Vol 1
no. 4

U of Texas Campus League organized early 1941

1942 state Conv. at Salveston

Lone Star Voter Spring 1942
Vol III, No 3

Lone Star Voter Fall 1942
Vol IV No 1

Lone Star Voter Spring 1943
Vol IV No. 2

Local Presidents Council
in Dallas 4/6 + 7/1943. "A
closed work session for
presidents of all local Texas
Leagues".

Xerox these
for D. Brown
I send my
reminiscences
in Nov. 1966

8/75
scrapbooks
now in
outside in
door out bedroom

Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE
1 1/2c Paid
Permit No. 41
Beaumont, Texas

LEGISLATIVE GROUNDWORK (cont'd)

enthusiastic Austin League members, they will do the honors for your visit. **Let them know as far in advance as possible** the date of your visit, so they can arrange for sitters, transportation and so forth. The Capitol Committee is also following the bills as they are introduced in the Legislature and each member of the committee is charged with knowing a member of the House or Senate Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Privileges. The Chairman of the House Committee is Mr. Pearce Johnson, from Austin, and in the Senate, Mr. Jarrard Secrest, from Temple.

ELECTION LAWS. League action in the field of election laws as outlined in our Legislative Aims has not yet crystallized. At this time there are several bills being written which largely incorporate the areas we would like to see covered and the Legislative Committee is waiting to have a copy of these bills to determine if the League can give our support to them. Once this decision has been made, Mrs. Richards will immediately notify all local Leagues and we will be ready to go into action full steam ahead. The Legislative Chairmen in the local Leagues, along with the Public Relations Chairmen, are still set to go and once we settle on the bill, or bills, the League can get behind them and convince not only the Legislature but our communities that we do mean to **improve election laws!**

JURY SERVICE legislation proposed in the House of Representatives includes H. B. 78 adding three more groups of citizens to those already exempt: Pregnant women, mothers with the care of children under 6, and nurses. Your state Legislative Committee will keep you informed on the progress of this legislation.

Mrs. William D. Ruggles
State Legislative Chairman

Help Needed In Preparing History of LWV In Texas

How can you guess a woman's age? By her memories, of course. The League of Women Voters of Texas can look back on a life of notable accomplishment. She was a precocious child, who, from her first birthday, began to have a notable effect on her environment. Pride and an excusable vanity provide reason enough for the publication of her memoirs. She is, however, mature enough to realize that the past belongs to the future, and that a responsibility, once undertaken, becomes a continuing responsibility.

We need a history of the LWV of Texas. We need an answer to the question: What has the League accomplished? We need the answer for our own morale. Many League members are so busy doing, that they don't realize what they have done. We need the answer in order to recognize our continuing responsibilities. We can do that better if we know not only what stands we have taken, but why we took them. It is wasteful of the time and energy of League members to go on working for an item if the principle of government underlying the item is being upheld in another way. It is irresponsible, however, to fail to uphold a principle for which we have worked just because it is disguised in new subject matter.

Non-League members sometimes know more than the members about the answer to: What has the League accomplished? We need the answer for public relations, nevertheless. We need to be able to say what the League has done to further the **purpose** of the League. We need to be able to say, "Don't despair of government by the people. A group of amateurs, giving only bits of spare time to the projects, was able to accomplish all of these things!"

But what are "all of the things"? Sorry: We don't know! Beginning

TEXAS AND WORLD TRADE

Local trade surveys are being carried out or planned in **more than half** of the local Leagues in Texas. **Midland's** report has been received by the state Chairman. **The Galveston County Council**, made up of the four Leagues there, accepted this project as a joint undertaking.

League members who have served as interviewers report a very satisfying experience: they had another opportunity not only to promote better understanding of the impact of foreign trade in the community but also to demonstrate the LWV methods of gathering facts and reporting opinions fairly and objectively.

Your state Chairman will prepare a summary of the Texas viewpoint on the importance of foreign trade in the state when the local Leagues complete the surveys. If your League has not begun this activity, why not start now? You and your fellow citizens will be better informed and therefore more concerned about world trade when the facts are known.

Mrs. Oscar Koepke
State Resource Chairman
National Item I

now, however we are going to find out and record the history of the LWV of Texas. It is easier said than done. It may take a long while. The League has been careless of souvenirs. The League's attic is located all over Texas. Your help is needed. If you are an "old" member, will you help by looking in your part of the League attic for records of the LWV of Texas? If you are an archivist, professional or budding, will you volunteer to help sort and file?

Please send all communications concerning the history to Mrs. William D. Ruggles, League Historian, 3701 Stratford Avenue, Dallas, Texas. (Article adapted from the **BULLETIN** of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, September, 1953.)



President
Mrs. L. K. Richards
Editor
Louise Loomis
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THE TEXAS VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

VOLUME 6

FEBRUARY, 1955

NUMBER 4

LEGISLATIVE GROUNDWORK

Since the Area Conference in November, the Legislative Committee has been laying the ground work for our legislative program during this session of the Legislature. Letters were sent to each Senator and Representative with a copy of our **State Program** and our **Legislative Aims**, telling them that we were looking forward to working with them, that their names would be Added to our mailing list and they would receive any pertinent publications. From these letters we have had many replies indicating their interest in the work of the League.

THE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER will go out to the local League from time to time in order to keep the Leagues immediately informed on any bills in the Legislature in which the League might be interested. The League has subscribed to a legislative

BULLETIN

The League will support **H. B. 392** introduced on February 8 by Representative **B. H. Dewey, Jr., of Bryan**. The bill provides for a number of procedural changes in the Texas Election Code.

Provisions for changes in absentee voting, a requirement that all persons over 60 years of age shall secure annual exemption certificates, and the reduction in the number of campaign expense statements to be filed by candidates, are included.

news service from Austin and daily receives a bulletin of all bills introduced and copies of the bills on Election Laws, Jury Service for Women and Domestic Relations Courts. So we are in an excellent position to move quickly where a League position is indicated.

LOBBY BY LETTER is now, as they say in the book business, "in its second printing." The Leagues seem to have found it a very useful tool in promoting an interest in legislation and it is our hope that many of the local League members will want a copy of their own as the session gets further under way and the action down in the Capitol really exciting.

THE CAPITOL COMMITTEE in Austin is in full swing and ready to wel-

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETS IN AUSTIN, MARCH 29-30

"Within the Law", a Texas melodrama picturing legal election law abuses, will highlight the 1955 Presidents' Council in Austin, March 29-30.

Presidents of Texas Leagues, delegates and observers will have their first opportunity to invite their state legislators to a dinner and program with **no speakers!**

PROGRAM PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL March 29-30, 1955

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

9:30 a. m. Registration
11:00 a. m. Buffet Luncheon
12:00 noon FIRST COUNCIL SESSION
Welcome-Austin president of LWV
State president's message—Mrs. L. K. Richards
Reports—State Committees, National and State Board Members.
Budget Presentation and Discussion.
Pledges from Local Leagues
3:15 p. m. "Constitutional Review"—a demonstration public meeting on revising state constitutions
4:45 p. m. Discussion of state program
New Business
7:30 p. m. SECOND COUNCIL SESSION
Dinner for your legislators
"Within the Law" a Melodrama, featuring Shady Characters and Legal Abuses of our Election Laws.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

9:30 a. m. THIRD COUNCIL SESSION
Lively Issue in Texas—the latest scoops from the Capitol
10:00 a. m. Visit to the Capitol
12:00 noon Buffet Luncheon
Special tables for informal discussion on Legislation, Membership, Units and Finance
League presidents will lunch together
1:45 p. m. FOURTH COUNCIL SESSION
Adoption of budget
Question Box—Answers
Report and Questions on KYS
Model meeting
State Program Recommendations from Local Leagues
Committee Reports
4:00 p. m. Adjourn

come any League caravans which may wish to visit the Capitol while the Legislature is in session. The Chairman of the Committee is Mrs. Millard Rudd, 3416 Foothills Terrace, Austin, Texas, and together with fifteen other
(Cont'd on page 4)

Professional actors will present the one-act play, complete with plot, humour and songs, according to Mrs. Fred McCabe, Council program chairman. Mrs. F. R. Hodge, Austin is co-chairman in charge of arrangements.

"Although this will be good entertainment, you can be sure it will also be good League lobbying for improved election laws," said Mrs. L. K. Richards, state president. "We are merely sugar-coating our facts with a little fun."

Constitutional Review—a demonstration public meeting—is on the agenda for the first session, opening at noon March 29. Registration and a buffet luncheon will precede the call to order.

"Assessment of the state program and direction from the local Leagues to the state board" are the main objects of Council, according to Mrs. Richards. Council is held every two years between state convention years. Leagues may request additional services or suggest a course for development of the agenda items. In addition, the state budget for 1955-56 will be adopted.

The latest developments on current state legislation—straight from the Capitol—will be furnished delegates before they go to the Hill for a first-hand view on March 30. News reporters will, as usual, term this visit as "the petticoat brigade with flower-bedecked hats," even if we omit both flowers and petticoats!

State board members will welcome informal opportunities to meet with delegates, and will divide up at lunch tables designated for discussion of special topics.

Read the tentative agenda—wrestle with your budget—and come to council.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
FEBRUARY, 1955

Dear League Member:

We are approaching the end of our League year. The Presidents' Council in Austin, March 29-30, officially closes one and at the same time opens the next.

Those of you who are familiar with your By-Laws know that the Council is an official body of the League made up of the presidents of the local League and one delegate from each League, and the state Board of Directors. It meets in the years between Conventions and considers the program, methods of work and adopts a budget for the ensuing year. It does not make any program changes; the program (Current Agenda) is adopted only at Conventions and is in operation for two years. The Council "is authorized to make such modifications in program as shall be necessary to meet altered conditions, provided that notice of proposed modifications of program shall have been sent to the presidents of local Leagues at least two months in advance of the meeting of the Council." There have been no proposed modifications this year, so the main business of the Council will be to review our progress and recommend the method of work for the next year.

The Texas Council, however, does more than that. It furnishes inspiration and enthusiasm for the work we do because it brings us together to share our experiences and our hopes.

The official voting body is not large, two delegates from each League, but two years ago the state board adopted a policy of permitting as many observers as wished to attend. I think that most of those who attended the 1953 Council felt that it was very successful and wished to continue the plan.

We are therefore urging you to attend if possible. The program planned for this year, as you can see from the schedule elsewhere in this issue of THE VOTER, will be unusually interesting and stimulating. A large number of Leaguers in attendance at Austin will give the program additional meaning. In our state, with Leagues separated by miles and miles and miles, it is important for as many of us as possible to come together once a year and discuss our progress and plans. Sincerely,

Eleanor R. Richards

PROPOSED BUDGET 1955 - 1956				
EXPENDITURES				
General Administration				
Board of Directors			\$ 2,550.00	
Committee Meetings			500.00	
Legislative Costs			550.00	
Operating Costs			2,440.00	
Salaries, Social Security, etc.				
No. of Executive 1, No. of Clerical 1/4		4,450.00		
Public Relations		215.00		
Fees		25.00		
*Council or Convention: Cost	\$750.00			
Less Receipts	750.00	Net	-0-	\$10,730.00
Capital Expenditures				
New Equipment				100.00
Publications				
*National: Cost	\$2,750.00	Net	-0-	
Less Sales	2,750.00			
*State: Cost	\$1,000.00			
Less Sales	1,000.00	Net	-0-	
State Bulletin		1,500.00		1,500.00
Field Service				
Travel: Board \$1,100.00 Staff	\$1500.00	2,600.00		
Conference Expense	350.00	350.00		
Organization Materials	50.00	50.00		3 000.00
National Services				
Miscellaneous				7,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				
INCOME				
Local and Provisional League Support				
State Members-at-Large				
Publications				
*National: Sales	\$2,750.00			
Less Cost	2,750.00	Net	-0-	
*State: Sales	1,000.00			
Less Cost	1,000.00	Net	-0-	
*Council or Convention Fees	\$750.00			
Less Cost	750.00	Net	-0-	
Other Sources				
TOTAL INCOME				
*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.				

Representing You...

Mrs. Oscar Koepke, state Chairman of National Item I, and Mrs. Fred McCabe, state Chairman of National Item II, at the Regional Conferences on the Freedom Agenda Program and National Items to be held in Tulsa, February 28 - March 1. Mrs. L. M. Daniel is the alternate.

Mrs. L. K. Richards, president, and Mrs. E. A. Rendall, state Election Laws

chairman, at National Presidents' Council in April in Washington, D. C. Mrs. H. P. Nichols is the alternate.

WE REGRET

that Temple and Eagle Pass have disbanded.

REGISTRATION

Poll tax payments in Texas.

BUDGET:
1955 MODEL

The proposed budget of the League of Women Voters of Texas for 1955-56 appears in a new form or arrangement. The budget committee felt that in the interests of clarity the state budget should follow the new form recommended by National. In addition, the new form gives a better description of what monies are actually spent for the various services performed for you by the state League.

Several of the items in our past budgets have been combined into one classification in the proposed form. The most important of these changes are:

Board of Directors includes the Board Meeting Expenses, President's Expense, and Delegates' Expense.

Legislative Costs combine the former State Current Agenda and State Platform Item. This item covers the cost of promoting our legislative program in Austin.

Operating Costs group Rent, Insurance, Supplies, Mimeographing, Telephone and Postage. Of course, breakdown on individual items is available from the state Treasurer.

Committee Meetings is a new item which includes the expense of the state Budget Committee, Nominating Committee and Platform Revision Committee, plus any other special committee established for such activities as Area Conferences.

Field Service, formerly Organization, includes a new item: Staff. A possibility exists that Texas will participate in a plan proposed by National called "Shared Employment of Traveling Staff". The proposal is this: Neighboring states will arrange to have a trained National field worker for a certain period, her salary and traveling expenses to be paid for by the state. The salary for two months would be approximately \$750 and the traveling expense the same. Such a worker would work closely with the state Organization Committee and the state board, but would be able to give much more time in promoting the organization of a new League or working out problems of an old one. The amount suggested here is \$600 greater than that budgeted for Organization travel in 1954-55.

The budget committee believes that this proposed budget for 1955-56 reflects the strength and health of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Mrs. L. M. Daniel
State Budget Chairman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

League members coming to Austin to Presidents' Council, either as delegates or observers, as well as members who will become local directors in April, may find the following list of present state board members and their portfolios helpful. At Council the state board members will be delighted to talk League with anyone. And at any time your letters are welcomed and given careful consideration.

President	Mrs. L. K. Richards, 2509 Washington Avenue, Waco
First V-P	Mrs. H. P. Nichols, 1303 Mockingbird Lane, Tyler
Second V-P	Mrs. Frank Nussbaum, 4715 Woodrow, Galveston
Secretary	Mrs. W. D. Fagan, 3541 Edgewood, Abilene
Treasurer	Mrs. C. E. Jones, 3028 Concord Avenue, Waco
Public Relations	Mrs. Nichols
Organization	Mrs. Nussbaum, State Chairman
	Mrs. George Stevens, 5904 El Campo, Fort Worth
	Mrs. Howard Tewell, Box 146, Edinburg
Election Laws	Mrs. E. A. Rendall, 849 E. Elizabeth, Brownsville
Know Your State	Mrs. Horton W. Smith, Box 63, Rt. 7, Austin
Voters Service	
Editor, THE TEXAS VOTER	Miss Louise Loomis, 2255 Primrose, Beaumont
National Item I	Mrs. Oscar Koepke, 205 Chandler Lane, Corpus Christi
National Item II	Mrs. Fred McCabe, 3504 Southwestern Blvd. Dallas
National Continuing Responsibilities	Mrs. L. M. Daniel, 2710 Farmer's Lane Dallas
Finance	Mrs. Jack Story, 1683 Speedway, Wichita Falls
Legislative	Mrs. William D. Ruggles, 3701 Stratford, Dallas
State Platform Items	
Publications	Mrs. A. M. Allegret, 5308 Pine Forrest Road, Houston
Unit Organization	Mrs. George Lemon, 2709 20th Street, Lubbock
By-Laws Chairman	Mrs. Fagan

INTRODUCING—

Mrs. L. M. (Hannah) Daniel, Dallas, is now a member of the state board. Mrs. Daniel has been a LWV member since 1935 when she joined the Minneapolis group. In 1945 she moved her membership to Shaker Heights, Ohio, and was the local League president there at the time she moved to Texas in 1950. Dallas put her to work soon after her arrival. Her jobs there have included those of second vice-president and finance chairman. She has served as state Budget Chairman and now assumes the portfolio of National Continuing Responsibilities.

Jury Service
Clear Across Texas

League members have:

Served on at least two grand juries.
Been foremen of juries in both State and Federal district courts.
Signed up en masse (will, practically) in Corpus Christi for service on city corporation court and justices of the peace courts.
Served in a sort of cities on dozens of cases.
In one case at Odessa, furnished five of the six jurors.
Accepted their new responsibilities readily.

Let's Look Back
Before We Go On

We're half way through our third year on the Know Your State Survey, which seems a good time to stop for a moment and take a good look at where we are—and how we got here.

Better than re-telling the story here, we think is to refer you to former issues of the TEXAS VOTER, beginning with the August 1953 article titled "Recap: State Program 1952-54"; the February 1954 "Explanation of Proposed State Program for 1955-56"; the April 1954 story "Outlook for Work—State Program '54-56"; and the questions posed in the last issue, December 1954.

If these articles could be discussed in Unit meetings, it would be fine Program orientation for new and old members.

Exciting plans have been made for Presidents' Council to present a real HOW-TO-DO on the next steps in KYS. We hope many of you will come to Council as observers, so you'll be better prepared to take part in KYS activities next year.

Mrs. Horton W. Smith
State KYS Chairman

FINANCE NOTES

Twenty-three local Leagues reported 2062 contributors in 1954-55. This includes 1876 non-members.

Is This A Limited Offer?

Each community is handled so that franchises will not overlap. The franchises in a city or community are allocated on a first come, first served basis...so act now...complete and mail the form below immediately and you will receive more detailed information. By sending this form to us at once you may be providing yourself with the key to the doorway of a higher standard of living!

Mail the form immediately...no postage necessary...use the postage free envelope enclosed. You will be notified as to the time and place for your local interview.

Sincerely yours,

B. K. Howard
B. K. Howard
Personnel Director

P. S. If conditions make it impossible for you to consider this opportunity to earn additional important money, your recommendation will be welcomed. If the person so recommended by you completely qualifies, you will be handsomely rewarded. B. K. H.

To: Mr. B. K. Howard, Personnel Director
Field Enterprises, Inc.
Educational Division
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir:

Without any obligation, whatsoever, on my part - either actual or implied - please send complete information regarding your employment opportunity.

Last Name	Initial	First Name	Mr. - Mrs. - Miss
Address			
Town		State	Phone Number

RECOMMENDATION

Last Name	Initial	First Name	Mr. - Mrs. - Miss
Address			
Town		State	Phone Number

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM IN THE POSTAGE-FREE ENVELOPE ATTACHED!

Back in 1944 the part ^{state} League
office which was transferred from
president to president consisted of
typewriter, files, corporate seal + gavel.

February 7, 1956

For the Historical Record of
The League of Women Voters of Texas

DO YOU KNOW:

Between now and the State Convention, a real, concentrated effort will be made to add to our Historical Record. These forms are being sent to Local Presidents, State Board members, and to many other over the state whose names appear in our files. A word to you about "The Files" - they consist largely of letters without date, headed "Dear Mary" and closing "With love - in haste - Susie." This makes it a little difficult on the Year 1956, even though we do feel that the League has changed very little, and there is still much love, and the usual haste.

Now you can help us out in two ways. One by appointing in your local League a member who might be interested in gathering this information. She may already be at work getting these facts for your League, as many of you are now doing a historical record. What we want her to do is to pass on to us the name and address of anyone in the League, or in her community, who might have any part of this information. Then we will send them a form, and hope. Second, if you cannot find someone to take over this temporary job, will you send us any names you might know, or be able to locate - even if you have to advertise -

"LOST - LWV Presidents and State Board Members. Finder return to the Historical Committee!"

This might lead us to attics where rest priceless League files. For instance, El Paso had a flourishing League with a beautiful printed brochure in the Year 1926 !

On the back of these forms we hope to find local color stories, description of the many State League offices, names of speakers at State Conventions, anything which might make the Historical Record more complete and more interesting. We promise to send you a FREE COPY.

Mrs. William B. Ruggles, Historical Committee
League of Women Voters of Texas
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

Mrs. William B. Ruggles
League of Women Voters
2509 Washington Avenue
Waco, Texas

DO YOU KNOW:

	President	Board	Convention	State Program	Legislation	Local Leagues
1919						
1920						
1921						
1922						
1923						
1924						
1925						
1926						
1927						

DO YOU KNOW :

For the Historical Record of
The League of Women Voters of Texas

1928	President	Board	Convention	State Program	Legislation	Local Leagues
1929						
1930						
1931						
1932						
1933						
1934						
1935						
1936						
1937						

DO YOU KNOW:

For the Historical Record of
The League of Women Voters of Texas

1938	President	Board	Convention	State Program	Legislation	Local Leagues
1939						
1940						
1941						
1942						
1943						
1944						
1945						
1946						

27B
September 22, 1966

To: Martin CC to Casperson, Pollard, Joor
From: Brownscombe
Re: Exploration re history of LWV of Texas

Great news! In talking to Dorothy Brown I was overjoyed to find that she has been working this summer on Texas LWV history and she has a first chapter written! She read me the first of the chapter, which takes us back to 1903 to the beginning of the beginnings of the League in Texas, and I'm enthusiastic. She is putting in the history the information she often felt the need of when she was president, and she will use "human interest" items and other information which will enliven as well as enlighten. The history would be divided into the four periods of: "1919 to 1939"; "The War Years"; "The Fifties"; and "The Second 40 Years."

Dorothy expects to send to me (to the Continental Hotel in Houston) considerably more about her plans for the history (including, I think, her completed first chapter) to be available during Board meeting.