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Sallie Scheer

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North Health Systems Agency

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Robert E. Lee High School

Attn: Learning Resources  
Center #BK4-4284  
Eastfield College

Mrs. Martin, Librarian  
Allen Academy

Librarian  
Sterling High School

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Lee College Library

Pan American University

Library  
A & M Consol. High School

Reference Librarian  
Sterling Municipal Library

Univ. of Houston-Victoria  
Campus Library-Ser Dept.

Orange Public Library

Pearland City Library

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Texas AFL-CIO

Amarillo College #61841  
Attn: Ronald M. Jorve/LRC

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Library

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Lee College Library  
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Pearland City Library  
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and many others, including  
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League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund



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an annual subscription service offering at least 30 concise publications on timely topics such as energy, initiative and referendum, public school finance, housing, elections, solid waste, environmental quality, etc.

where

does the League obtain this information?

All material is written by members and staff of the League of Women Voters of Texas or the League of Women Voters of the United States after extensive research using all sources on a specific topic. Each publication is attractively and professionally printed for readability and understanding.

when

does the subscription begin and how often is the material sent?

subscriptions run from June through May, with quarterly mailings beginning in mid-June.

how

much does it cost and how does one subscribe?

\$15 per year, plus tax, including complimentary copies of the Texas VOTER, quarterly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Texas. Subscribe by completing the attached order form and returning it to us by May 1, 1980.

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does the League obtain this information?

through extensive researching and interviewing of the best sources of knowledge on that specific topic. All material is professionally printed and researched and written by members and staff of the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the United States

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Yes, I'm interested but would like to see a copy of one of the League's publications before subscribing. Please send me one publication on the following subject: (circle one): Energy Water International Relations Urban Crisis Land Use Justice System Government Housing Welfare

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 Tom Green County Library  
 Waco-McLennan County Library  
 Lanier High School Social Studies Dept.  
 Sherman Public Library  
 and many others, including industry  
 and individuals

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 Austin, Texas 78701

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund



# PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

# wants you to know...



March 28, 1980

Mailing list for  
PSS flyer

Most Libraries

Some ISD areas

State Universities  
(Handbook Gov. in Tx)

Public Senior Colleges + Universities





**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**



Navarro College

Schreiner College

Vernon Regional Junior College

North Harris County College

South Plains College

Weatherford College

Odessa College

Southwest Texas Junior College

Western Texas College

Panola Junior College

Southwest Texas Junior College  
Out-Reach Center

Wharton County Junior College

Paris Junior College

Southwestern Christian College

Killeen ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Ranger Junior College

Tarrant County Junior College  
District

Harlandale ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Temple Junior College

Edgewood ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Richland College  
Dallas County Junior College  
District

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San Antonio ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

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Attn: District Librarian

San Antonio College

Texas State Technical Institute

Northside ISD  
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San Jacinto College

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Brazosport ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Ector County ISD  
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Houston ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Brownsville ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

El Paso ISD  
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Pasadena ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Plano ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Ysleta ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Spring ISD  
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Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD  
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Clear Creek ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Spring Branch ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Dallas ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Aldine ISD  
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Marshall ISD  
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Alief ISD  
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Irving ISD  
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North Forest ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

South Park ISD  
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Mesquite ISD  
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Galena Park ISD  
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Richardson ISD  
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Goose Creek ISD  
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Waco ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Ector Co.  
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San Angelo ISD  
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Johnson Sr. High School  
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Conroe ISD  
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Austin High School  
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Corpus Christi ISD  
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Wichita Falls ISD  
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Tyler ISD  
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McCallum Sr. High School  
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Round Rock ISD  
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Arlington ISD  
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Reagan Sr. High School  
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West Lake High School  
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Birdville ISD  
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Del Valle High School  
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News & Globe-Times  
Attn: Research Department

Fort Worth ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Travis Sr. High School  
Attn: Librarian

American-Statesman  
Attn: Research Department

Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD  
Attn: District Librarian

Crockett Sr. High School  
Attn: Librarian

Beaumont Enterprise-Journal  
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Corpus Christi Caller-Times  
Attn: Research Department



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Mailing list

for 1979

PSS flyer

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Amarillo College

Cooke County College

Houston Community College  
System

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Del Mar College

Howard College at Big Spring

Austin Community College  
Systems

David Castles  
Kilgore College

Bee County College

Eastfield College  
Dallas County Junior College  
District

Jacksonville, College

Blinn College

El Centro College  
Dallas County Junior College  
District

Laredo Junior College

Brazosport College

El Paso Community College

Lee College

Central Texas College

Frank Phillips College

Lon Morris College

Cisco Junior College

Galveston College

McLennan Community College

Clarendon College

Grayson County College

Midland College

College of the Mainland

Henderson County Junior  
College

Mountain View College  
Dallas County Junior College  
District

Concordia Lutheran College

Hill Junior College

Southwestern University

Texas Southern University

University of Texas at  
Arlington

Stephen F. Austin State Univ.

Texas Tech University

University of Texas at Austin

Sul Ross State University

Texas Wesleyan College

University of Texas at Dallas

Tarleton State College

Texas Woman's University

The University of Texas at  
El Paso

Texas A&I University

Trinity University  
715 Stadium Drive

The University of Texas of  
the Permian Basin

Texas A&I University at  
Corpus Christi

University of Dallas

The University of Texas at  
San Antonio

Texas A & M University

University of Houston

Wayland Baptist College

Texas Christian University

University of Houston at  
Clear Lake City

West Texas State University

Texas Eastern University

University of Houston,  
Victoria Center

Wiley College

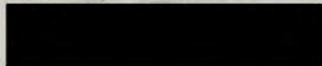
Texas Lutheran College

The University of St. Thomas

Alvin Junior College



Abilene Christian University



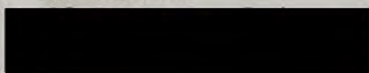
Houston Baptist University



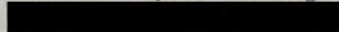
Northwood Institute



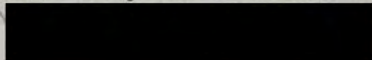
Abilene Christian University  
at Dallas



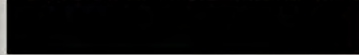
Howard Payne College



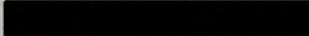
X Our Lady of the Lake College



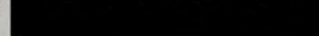
Angelo State University



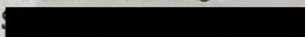
Huston-Tillotson College



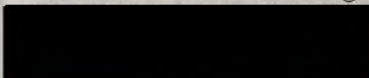
X Pan American University



Austin College



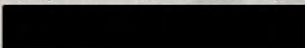
Incarnate Word College



Paul Quinn College



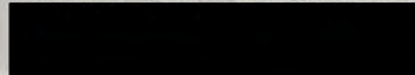
Baylor University



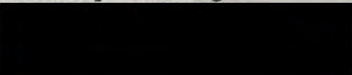
The Juarez-Lincoln Center



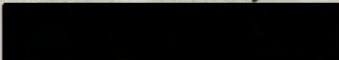
X Prairie View A&M University



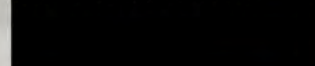
Bishop College



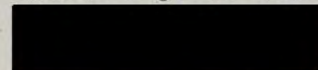
Lamar University



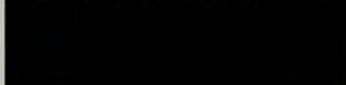
Rice University



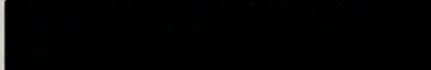
Dallas Baptist College



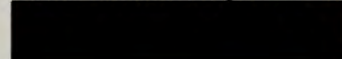
Lubbock Christian College



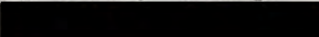
St. Edward's University



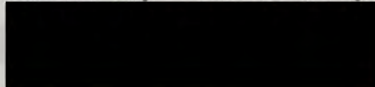
East Texas Baptist College



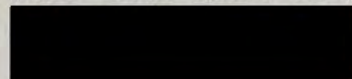
Mc Murrey College



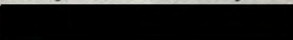
Sain Mary's University



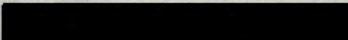
X East Texas State University



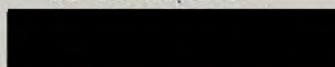
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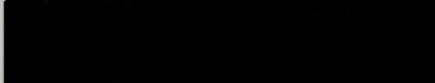
X Sam Houston State University



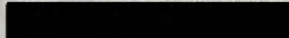
East Texas State University  
at Texarkana



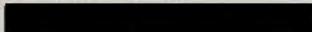
Midwestern University



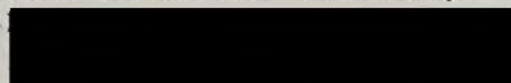
Southern Methodist University



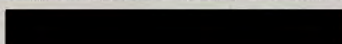
Hardin-Simmons University



X North Texas State University



X Southwest Texas State Univ.



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This 'Ole House  
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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Richardson City Hall  
[REDACTED]

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Audubon Soc.  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Dede Armentrout  
Audubon Society  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Joe Moore  
[REDACTED]

Adlene Harrison, EPA  
1st International Bldg.  
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X Greg Gosset, Sierra Club  
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Environmental Action League  
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Dr. Bernard Weinstein  
[REDACTED]

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Patsy Swank, KERA-TV  
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Dr. John Howell  
The Energy Institute  
[REDACTED]

Howard Saxion  
[REDACTED]

John Wier, Sierra Club  
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Bayou Preservation Assoc.  
[REDACTED]

M. Land, ENANCT  
[REDACTED]

Margeret Shelton, President  
Ft. Worth Audubon Soc.  
[REDACTED]

Citizens' Environmental  
Coalition  
[REDACTED]

N. Fritz, Texas Comm. on  
Nat. Resources  
[REDACTED]

Pete & Elizabeth Gunter  
[REDACTED]

X George Smith, Sierra Club  
[REDACTED]

John Baker, Sierra Club  
[REDACTED]



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Houston Urban Bunch

John Galley  
Nature Conservancy

Dr. Clark Hubbs  
Zoology Dept.

Doris King  
National Health Federation

Westfall Branch  
SA Public Library

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Mrs. A. V. Emmott  
Tex. Conservation Council

San Antonio Public Library  
Business & Science Dept.

Mike Thomasson, Audubon Soc.

Texas Conservation Council

Emily Peterson  
Texas A&I University Sta. 1

Richard Shannon

Armand Bayou Nature Center

X Henry Berryhill, Sierra Club

F.W. Faxon Company, Inc.

Houston Audubon Society  
Houston Audubon House

X Merlin Rekward, Sierra Club

Nat'l Field Research Ctr., Inc

Am.Soc. of Landscape  
Architects

Anna L. Drayer, Envir. Study  
State Bar of Texas

Joseph Guinn, President  
Trans-Pecos Audubon Soc.

Houston Chapter, AIA  
Suite 404

X Ruth Ellinger, AFL/CIO

Dr. David Marrack

X Stuart Henry, Sierra Club  
#407 Austin Savings Bldg.

X Roger Novak, Sierra Club

Dick Tims  
Texas Environmental Coalition

®

Dallas Morning News  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

San Antonio Light  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Dallas Times Herald  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Victoria Advocate  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

El Paso Times  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Wichita Falls Times-Record News  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Waco Tribune-Herald  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Galveston News  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Sally Scheer  
[REDACTED]

Houston Chronicle  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

Port Arthur News  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]

San Antonio Express & News  
Attn: Research Department  
[REDACTED]





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Bryan High School  
[REDACTED]

✓  
Librarian  
Consolidated High School  
[REDACTED]

Victoria Public Library  
c/o Reference Librarian  
[REDACTED]

University Libraries #7778-447-S0  
Our Lady of the Lake College  
Attn. Ms. Betty Pierson  
[REDACTED]

Rep. Arnold Gonzales  
[REDACTED]

Moody College Library  
[REDACTED]

The Honorable Gerald Hill  
House of Representatives  
[REDACTED]

Mr. Ernest Crain  
San Antonio College  
[REDACTED]

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Richardson Public Library  
[REDACTED]

Amarillo Public Library  
[REDACTED]

William Earl Maxwell  
1 [REDACTED]  
S [REDACTED]

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*1978 P S S*  
*subscriber*



Midwestern Univ. Library 1502 ✓  
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Wichita Falls, Texas 76308 ✓

Eunice E. Gilchrist  
[REDACTED]

Pasadena Public Library  
1201 Minerva  
Pasadena, Texas 77506

El Paso Community College  
LRC, Bldg. 4570, Rm. 704  
Attn. Humphreys #10329  
6601 Dyer Street  
El Paso, Texas 79904

Waco-McLennan County Library  
1717 Austin Avenue  
Waco, Texas 76701

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Mesquite, Texas 75149

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1300 San Pedro Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas 78284

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Mesquite, Texas 75150 ✓

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Texas City, Texas 77590 ✓

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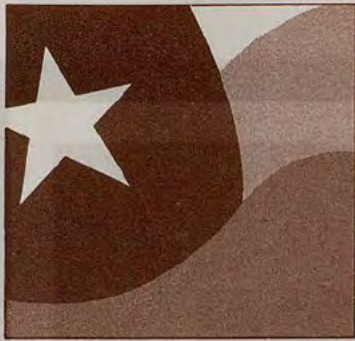
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# MEMORANDUM

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS

1212 Guadalupe, No. 109 • Austin, Texas 78701 • Tel 512/472-1100

March 27, 1980

TO: Our valued subscribers

FROM: League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund  
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The Subscription Service mailing which you just received (or will receive in the next few days) is the final issue for this subscription year.

We do want you to continue to subscribe and receive publications that we hope are of interest and value to you.

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- \* Used as required course material by colleges and universities.
- \* Approximately 40-50 publications to be mailed each year. Contents will vary according to timeliness of material and release of new publications.
- \* \$15 annual subscription, including complimentary copies of the Texas VOTER, quarterly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Texas. Subscriptions begin January, 1977, with quarterly mailings.

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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT COURT  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

CHAMBERS OF  
JUDGE CLARENCE A. GUITTARD

August 1, 1968

Mrs. Laurence Perrine  
President  
League of Women Voters of Dallas  
2616 Royal Place, Dallas, Texas

Dear Catherine:

In response to your letter of July 27, I have reviewed the "Guide for Jurors" published by the League of Women Voters, and offer the following suggestions:

(1) In the paragraph headed "How are Jurors Selected in District and County Courts?" the statement is made, "about 150 names are drawn at a time." It is our practice to draw a great many more names than 150. It would be more appropriate to say "names are drawn as needed."

(2) Under the heading "What happens if your name is drawn?" the "Sheriff" is given as the officer who sends the notice. Although this is true in many counties, the notices in Dallas County are sent out by the bailiff of the Central Jury Room. I suggest instead, "You are notified of the time" etc.

(3) In the same paragraph it is indicated that a juror's name be drawn "for a District or County Court" and that the notice will state which court. However, in the larger counties of the state, jurors serve on a central jury panel which serves both the District and County Courts. They are notified to appear in the Central Jury Room and are not directed to report to any particular court.

(4) Several references are made to a "Special Venire." Because of a change in the law, special venires are no longer used in the larger counties, although conceivably a District Judge would have power to call one.

®



✓  
(5) In the paragraph concerning excuses and postponements, it is stated, "The judge has the discretion to excuse any person or group of persons for reasons of hardship." I know of no occasion where judges have excused jurors by groups. Moreover, the judges prefer not to publicize the possibility of excuses for hardship. Most hardship cases are handled by postponement. Instead of the first two sentences of this paragraph, I suggest the following: "Business reasons are not grounds for excuse from jury service. The judge has discretion to postpone your service if you have business problems or need to be out of town."

✓  
(6) In the same paragraph the "district clerk" is designated as the person to whom communications should be made about jury service. In Dallas County the proper person would be the bailiff of the Central Jury Room.

✓  
(7) In the paragraph headed "Are jurors paid?" \$4.00 is given as the per diem allowed. This amount varies somewhat from county to county. The current figure in Dallas County is \$5.00. Also, it is suggested that reference to a special venire in this paragraph be deleted.

I am not in position to comment on the information concerning juries in the Federal courts. I suggest that you contact Judge Sarah T. Hughes to verify the accuracy of that information.

Concerning the use of the pamphlet, it is my thought that it may be feasible to send it out with the jury summons, provided no substantial additional burden is required of the staff in the Central Jury Room. The information concerning eligibility, exemptions and excuses are contained in the form of notice now in use. Most of the other information is given either orally by the judge in charge of the Central Jury Panel or by a somewhat more elaborate pamphlet which is supplied by the State Bar and



is distributed to the jurors when they appear on Monday mornings.

Cordially yours,

Clarence A. Guittard

CAG/jm





July 27, 1968

Judge Clarence Guittard  
Dallas County Courthouse  
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Clarence,

Judge Peurifoy has told me that you have one or two improvements to suggest for the enclosed "Guide for Jurors." Since the state League Education Fund will soon be reprinting this pamphlet, I would like very much to have these suggestions, and your views as to whether and how the pamphlet could be useful in Dallas County.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurence Perrine  
President  
7616 Royal Place, Dallas 75230  
EM 8-7889

*in duff of Counsel Jury room*  
Judge Zimmerman now ~~for~~

" *Blindship - Presiding Judge*

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# League of Women Voters of Texas

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MRS. T. A. POLLARD, HOUSTON

1416 Royal Oaks Drive  
Waco, Texas 76710  
July 10, 1968

Dear Local League President:

Thank you so much for your response to our request for orders for additional copies of "A GUIDE FOR JURORS". A second printing of 100,000 copies is assured by those orders and work on it will begin shortly.

Shipment from Waco should begin after September 1.  
You may continue to place orders as the need arises.

Sincerely yours,

*Maurice H. Brown*

Mrs. Maurice H. Brown  
Chairman





# League of Women Voters of Texas

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1416 Royal Oaks Drive  
Waco, Texas 76710  
June 21, 1968

Mrs. Laurence Perrine  
7616 Royal Place  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Catherine:

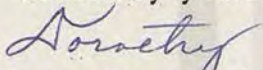
The Education Fund will be able to make "A Guide for Jurors" available without cost to the individual counties as soon as we secure funds for additional printings. Hopefully, we can proceed without much delay.

The Trustees decided at the June 14 meeting to prepare the Guide for distribution on a yearly basis and future availability will depend on future Boards. There are at least two reasons for this decision: 1) the storage problems that would be created for you and us; and 2) the possibility that the paper might yellow during long storage. In the present "spare bedroom operation" status of the Fund, we cannot possibly stockpile future supplies but it would seem that when we are able to have office space, we can certainly make satisfactory arrangements for supplying statewide needs.

We are preparing a prospectus to be used in seeking contributions for this project and would appreciate a bit of help. Will you ask one (or all) of your District or County judges for an endorsement of the Guide for inclusion in the prospectus? We are making this request of about 10 local Leagues in order to show prospective donors that the Guide is going to be used as we say it is --- and that it has official sanction for use around the state.

I'll hope to hear from you very soon.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Maurice H. Brown

cc: LWV of Texas  
Fritz  
Brownscombe



June 8, 1968

Judge Paul G. Peurifoy  
Dallas County Courthouse  
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Judge Peurifoy:

Enclosed is a copy of A Guide for Jurors, published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund.

In several Texas counties, a similar pamphlet has been provided by local Leagues of Women Voters to county officials for mailing with each summons to jury duty, and has been found useful by both officials and jurors. The League Education Fund hopes to be able to make these pamphlets available for use in additional Texas counties.

If Dallas County Leagues can obtain a sufficient supply of the pamphlets, would you wish to mail one, along with the summons, to each person called to jury duty? I understand that some 43,000 per year would be needed for this purpose.

At the present time, we have on hand approximately 2,000 pamphlets. Would you like to use these for mailing as long as they last, or place them in the Central Jury Room?

We would like very much to have your views on the potential usefulness of this pamphlet.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurence Perrine, President  
League of Women Voters of Dallas

bcc - LWV of Irving  
LWV of Richardson  
Garland Provisional LWV  
Mrs. E. A. Pillsbury, Dallas Voters Service Chmn. ✓



# League of Women Voters of Texas

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DR. EUGENE HUGHES, HOUSTON  
MRS. T. A. POLLARD, HOUSTON

1416 Royal Oaks Drive  
Waco, Texas 76710  
June 3, 1968

Dear Local League President:

Would it be possible for you to indicate how many copies of "A GUIDE FOR JURORS" your League will be able to use, if we can arrange for additional printings? The EDUCATION FUND Board of Trustees needs this information for its June 14 meeting.

Please let us know no later than June 12, even if your reply is that you are not interested in more copies for distribution. The Guide will continue to be available at no cost if we go ahead with a second printing.

Sincerely yours,

*Dorothy Brown*

Mrs. Maurice H. Brown





AD-2557  
9  
League of Women Voters of Texas EDUCATION FUND  
1416 Royal Oaks Drive ---- Waco, Texas 76710

April, 1968

TO: Presidents of Local Leagues  
FROM: EDUCATION FUND Trustees

Fifty thousand copies of "A GUIDE FOR JURORS" will be ready for shipment shortly. Each local League, except those in our five largest cities, will receive 1,000 copies for local distribution. There will be no charge for the GUIDE or for postage. Leagues in Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio will receive 2,500 copies from this first printing. Where there is more than one League in a county, we suggest the pooling of your copies and distribution in the name of all Leagues in that county.

A second (or any additional) printing will depend upon our ability to raise the necessary money. If you know of a prospective contributor, we would very much appreciate hearing from you. Details of how these prospects can be contacted will then be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of the local League and the EDUCATION FUND. Such contributions are, of course, tax-deductible. Additional printings will cost about \$300 per 50,000.

In order that we may show prospective contributors the potential market for additional copies of the GUIDE, we have attached an Order Form to this memo. Will you indicate how many copies you will need to provide adequate coverage in your county? This useful public service will certainly provide benefits in future finance efforts in your community. The back page of the GUIDE contains only the name of the publisher (the TEF) and will provide ample space for you to apply the name of your local League and the local address where more copies may be obtained, if and when they become available. It will also provide space for us to list the name of the donor on future printings!

45,000  
ordered  
June 12.



# A GUIDE FOR JURORS



## D RESPONSIBILITY

from time to time as directed by the district court, the clerk or district judge publicly draws from the "master" jury wheel the names of as many persons as may be required for jury service. These names are then placed in the "qualified" jury wheel and drawn as they are needed for grand and petit jury panels.

### What happens if your name is drawn?

If your name is drawn for a District or County Court, the sheriff sends you notification of the time and the court by mail.

If your name is drawn in a Federal Court from the "master" jury wheel, the clerk or jury commission mails you a "Juror Qualification Form" accompanied by instructions to fill out and return the form to the clerk or jury commission by mail within ten days. If your name is drawn from the "qualified" jury wheel, you are notified either by personal service or by certified or registered mail of the court in which you must appear and the time for the appearance.

When the prospective jurors assemble, the roll is called, the requests to be excused are heard, and then the judge rules on the requests. Those not excused are allotted to as many groups as there are cases that need jury panels.

From the jury panel, of maybe 50 persons, the 12 (or 6) jurors for each case are chosen.

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1. Members in active service in the armed forces of the U.S.
2. Members of fire or police departments.
3. Public officers in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of government.

District and County Courts:

1. All persons over 65.
2. Ministers of the gospel actively engaged in the discharge of their duties.
3. Practicing physicians, dentists, veterinarians, chiropractors, optometrists, attorneys and spouses of attorneys.
4. Railroad station agents, conductors, engineers, and firemen when engaged in the discharge of their positions.
5. All members of the "Militia" of the State National Guard during periods of time when they are actually on active duty.
6. Active members of fire departments (in cities having 1,000 or more inhabitants).
7. All females who have legal custody of a child or children under the age of 16 years.



8. Registered, practical, and vocational nurses actively engaged in the practice of their profession.
9. Practitioners and nurses who treat the sick by prayer or spiritual means according to the tenets of any well-established denomination and readers whose duty it is to conduct the regular religious services of such denomination.
10. Licensed morticians actively engaged in practice.
11. Registered pharmacists actively engaged in practice.
12. Agents actively engaged in forestry protection work while employed by the State Department of Forestry.
13. The spouse of any person who is summoned to serve on the same jury panel.
14. All school teachers in public, parochial, and private schools except during vacations and other periods of time when they are not actually teaching.

### **For what reasons may the judge excuse or postpone your jury duty?**

The judge has discretion to excuse any person or groups of persons for reasons of hardship.

If you are leaving town, your jury duty can be postponed.

If called for the petit jury, call the district clerk.

If called for grand jury, call the district judge.

If you are sick —

Obtain a doctor's affidavit to prove you cannot serve and mail this to the district clerk for the petit jury or to the district judge for the grand jury.

### **How is the District Court grand jury selected?**

The judge appoints a grand jury commission of not less than three nor more than five persons.

This commission selects names of 20 responsible, community-minded citizens. This group of 20 becomes the grand jury panel.

For the jury, the first twelve persons who qualify make up the grand jury. The judge then appoints the foreman.

The grand jury serves during the term of the court. There are generally four grand juries each year.

The grand jury usually meets at least once a week. Nine jurors constitute a quorum. The foreman may excuse a member from attending a meeting.

### **Are jurors paid?**

District and county petit jurors are paid \$4 per day to serve on a jury; grand jurors may be paid up to \$10 per day. If the petit jury is summoned by special venire, persons on the special venire jury panel receive \$2 a day, and the final 12 jurors selected receive \$4 a day. Lodging and meals are provided when necessary.

All federal jurors are paid \$20.00 a day, plus travel expense of \$.10 per mile both ways (plus the amount, if any, expended for tolls), and an additional \$16.00 a day if the juror remains overnight.

### **What may happen if a juror is late?**

The judge may hold him in "contempt of court," and he may be fined or given a jail sentence.

# **A GUIDE FOR JURORS**

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TEXAS**  
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TO THE EDUCATION FUND



APRIL, 1968



# JURY SERVICE - A CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

## How many kinds of juries are there?

There are two types of juries: one investigates charges to discover whether a charge really exists; the other tries actual charges.

1. The GRAND JURY investigates criminal charges, hears sworn testimony, and decides whether to dismiss the charge ("no-bill") or indict for court action ("true-bill" or "indictment").  
In District (state) grand juries TWELVE persons form the jury.  
In Federal grand juries not less than SIXTEEN nor more than TWENTY-THREE persons form the jury.
2. The PETIT JURY tries the actual charges in criminal cases and determines the facts in dispute in civil cases. It is the third part of the Court: the judge, the lawyers, and the jury. The jury decides questions of fact; the judge decides questions of law and makes the ruling in the case.  
In County Courts SIX persons make up the petit jury. In District and Federal Courts TWELVE persons make up the petit jury.

## What different kinds of courts use jury trials?

1. State District and County Courts.  
County Courts-at-law.  
A County Court which serves as Probate Court.
2. Federal Courts.
3. In addition, the various Justice of the Peace, Juvenile, and Corporation courts may occasionally have jury trials.

## Who is eligible for jury duty?

1. In District and County Courts: Any citizen of the State and County who is (1) at least 21 years old, (2) qualified to vote, (3) a freeholder in the State or a householder in the County (or the wife of a householder in the County), (4) of sound mind and good moral character, and (5) able to read and write.  
No person may qualify as a juror, however, if he (1) has served as a juror in the District Court for six days during the preceding six months or in the County Court for six days during the preceding three months, (2) has been convicted of a felony, or (3) is under indictment for a felony. Furthermore, the following persons will be disqualified to serve as jurors in any particular case: (1) any witness in the case, (2) any person directly or indirectly interested in the case, (3) any person related by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree to either of the parties to the suit, (4) any biased person, or (5) any person who has sat as a petit juror in a prior trial of the same case, or a trial involving the

same questions of fact.

2. In Federal Courts: Any citizen of the United States who (1) is at least 21 years old, (2) has resided for a period of one year within the judicial district, (3) is able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language, (4) is both mentally and physically able to render efficient jury service, and (5) has not been convicted of, and does not have any charge pending against him for the commission of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

Any person summoned for jury service in a Federal Court may be excused by the judge upon a showing of undue hardship or extreme inconvenience. For example, in some Federal Districts individuals may be excused at their request if the distance to the courthouse, either in miles or in travel time, is "excessive" according to standards previously established by the Federal Court. Likewise, within a two-year period no person will be required by the Federal Courts to (1) attend court for more than thirty days for prospective service as a petit juror (except when the service is necessary to complete service in a particular case), or (2) serve on more than one grand jury, or (3) serve as both a grand and petit juror.

A person summoned for jury service may also be excluded by the Federal judge when the individual (1) will not be able to render an impartial decision, or (2) is otherwise unqualified for jury service.

## How are jurors selected in District and County Courts?

Source: Voter's Registration and Property Tax Lists.

A list of qualified jurors is prepared by the tax assessor, the district clerk, the county clerk, and the sheriff in August each year. Each name is put on a card, and the cards put in a metal container known as the jury wheel. This wheel is locked with two keys (one is kept by the district clerk and one by the sheriff). The wheel is turned to mix the cards, then in the presence of the sheriff and the district clerk about 150 names are drawn at a time. In cities and counties relatively small in population, slightly different selection methods may be employed.

## How are jurors selected in the Federal Court?

Each Federal District Court in the United States has its own written plan for the random selection of grand and petit juries. These plans provide for the selection of jurors from a fair cross section of the community — no person may be excluded from service because of his race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. Under these plans, the names of prospective jurors are selected at random either from the voter registration lists or from the lists of actual voters in the Federal Judicial District. These names are then placed in a "master" jury wheel and,

from time to time as directed by the district court, the clerk or district judge publicly draws from the "master" jury wheel the names of as many persons as may be required for jury service. These names are then placed in the "qualified" jury wheel and drawn as they are needed for grand and petit jury panels.

## What happens if your name is drawn?

If your name is drawn for a District or County Court, the sheriff sends you notification of the time and the court by mail.

If your name is drawn in a Federal Court from the "master" jury wheel, the clerk or jury commission mails you a "Juror Qualification Form" accompanied by instructions to fill out and return the form to the clerk or jury commission by mail within ten days. If your name is drawn from the "qualified" jury wheel, you are notified either by personal service or by certified or registered mail of the court in which you must appear and the time for the appearance.

When the prospective jurors assemble, the roll is called, the requests to be excused are heard, and then the judge rules on the requests. Those not excused are allotted to as many groups as there are cases that need jury panels. From the jury panel, of maybe 50 persons, the 12 (or 6) jurors for each case are chosen.

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challenges are used up, the jurors who have been called but not excused are sworn to try the case upon the merits.

Lawyers are within their rights in asking questions to test a juror's state of mind, and a challenge must not be taken as a reflection on the juror's integrity or intelligence. It simply means that, in the particular case, you have been excused. **What everyone wants, and is entitled to, is a jury of 12 disinterested persons who will try the case on the law as stated by the judge and on the evidence admitted at the trial.**

**Oath of a Jury in Civil Case** — Each Juror is required to take a solemn oath (or to affirm) that he will "well and truly try the matters in issue and a true verdict render according to the evidence and the law." When you take this oath you become a judge of all questions of fact, and are in duty bound to act fairly and impartially. You are no longer free to act upon your feelings and emotions, but are bound to use your reason and judgment.

**Reading Pleadings** — The first step in the trial of a civil case is the reading of the pleadings by the lawyers. The plaintiff's attorney reads the petition and the defendant's attorney reads the answer. Jurors should listen attentively to this reading as in this way a clear insight can be gained as to

the controversy between the parties and the issues which will be submitted to the jury later for its determination.

**Witnesses and Evidence**—Anything which tends to prove or disprove a claim about the facts is called **evidence**. It may be something in writing, or it may be an article such as a gun, a photo, or some other object, in which case it is called an **exhibit**. Evidence may also be the statement of a person, in which case it is also called **testimony**. If a witness is absent, his testimony may have been taken before trial and reduced to writing. Such testimony is taken under oath and both sides have been given a chance to be present. Such written testimony is called a **deposition**. It may be that a witness has already testified in court under oath and his testimony taken down in shorthand and then put into typewriting. Such testimony is called a **transcript**.

Matters offered to be proved but not admitted by the court are not evidence. Testimony received but subsequently stricken from the record, is not evidence. Statements made by attorneys as to what they expect to prove or what they claim they have proved are not evidence. Information on the case, the litigants, the attorneys or the witnesses, gained from sources other than the evidence



presented in court is not evidence and must not be considered.

Sometimes remarks reflecting favorably or unfavorably upon the case or upon someone connected with it, are made in the hearing of jurors. Such statements, made by persons who are out of court, not subject to the test of cross-examination, and when not under oath are not evidence. You do not know the interest, motive, bias, or source of such information and the remark may have been made in the hope that a juror would overhear it and be influenced by it. These remarks must be disregarded.

**Examination of Witnesses** — Unless his case can be proved by writings, the plaintiff will call witnesses to testify. The witnesses are sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If the lawyer has called his client or some disinterested person, the person called is "his witness," but if he has called the opposite party, the person called is referred to as an **adverse witness**. A lawyer who has called his own witness proceeds with his **direct examination**. In so doing, the lawyer asks questions to bring out the facts he wishes to show. In any important matter, he is not allowed to "lead" the witness by asking questions in such form as to suggest the answer. The question asked must appear to have some bearing

the case — usually 12. Names are drawn from the jurymen present until the jury box is filled. Those called are required to answer truthfully all questions asked of them touching their qualifications to act as a juror in the case. After a short statement telling what the case is about and the parties who are involved, the lawyers or the judge will question the jurors to see if they are qualified to act as fair and impartial jurors. Any one who is related to any of the parties, or who has unfinished business with one of the lawyers, or who knows so much about the case that he already has an opinion, will be **challenged for cause** and excused. In addition, each side has a right to excuse a certain number of jurors without giving any reason. These are called **peremptory challenges**. The lawyer may suspect that a prospective juror has had some experience, such as a similar lawsuit, or has some race or class prejudice, or has some social or business connection with one party, or that there is some other reason which, although not a legal ground of challenge for cause may yet be good reason for excusing the juror. The lawyer or judge may ask you questions about your personal life and beliefs. You should answer these questions fairly, and if there is any reason why you feel that you should not serve as a juror, you should make it known. When all the





## CIVIL JURY CASES EXPLAINED

**The Parties and Pleadings** — A person starting a lawsuit is known as the **plaintiff**. A person against whom suit is brought is called a **defendant**. Suit is commenced by service of a **citation**. The plaintiff's claim and demand is stated in a **petition**. The defendant's answer is called an **answer**. If the defendant claims from the plaintiff, such claim is called a **counterclaim**. If a counterclaim is made, the plaintiff's answer is called a **reply**. These papers, as well as others, are called the **pleadings**. They have been exchanged between the parties sometime before the trial commences. If a party has more than one claim against the other, each claim may be stated as a cause of action.

**Selection of Jury** — A group of citizens qualified to serve as jurors has been summoned. The entire group is called the jury **panel**. The first step in a trial is to select from this panel the number required to try

on the case, and the witnesses shown to know what he is talking about. If these and other rules are not followed, the other lawyer may properly **object** and if for any reason the judge thinks the question improper, he rules that the **objection is sustained**, which means that the question can not be answered. If the question is proper, the **objection is overruled**, and the answer is given.

**Cross-examination** — When the direct examination is finished, the lawyer on the other side may cross-examine, which means that he may ask questions. Since the witness is not "his witness," the cross-examining lawyer may ask "leading questions." When cross-examination is finished, the first lawyer may ask questions on **redirect examination** to clear up points developed on cross-examination. To keep out improper matter, witnesses are allowed only to answer the questions asked. This is necessary to confine the trial to proper issues and inquiries. Both sides may ask questions and find out all he knows that is proper. If the witness makes a statement which is not an answer to a question, the court may order it stricken, and in that event you must disregard it entirely.

**Hearing and Seeing Witness** — Each juror should pay close attention to the witness



who is testifying. If you cannot hear plainly, do not hesitate to interrupt and let the judge know that you cannot hear.

**Resting the Case** — When the plaintiff has put in all his evidence, he indicates that he is through by announcing to the judge that he "rests." When the defendant is through, he makes a similar announcement.

**Defense and Rebuttal** — The defendant calls his witnesses and offers his evidence after the plaintiff rests. Then the plaintiff may offer evidence in **rebuttal**.

**Motions-Directed Verdict** -- When an attorney requests a court to take action, it is usually done by making a **motion**. For example, he may make a **motion to strike out** certain evidence because it was not properly received. If the judge orders evidence stricken, the jury should disregard the stricken evidence.

At the close of the plaintiff's case, or at the end of all evidence, one or both sides may ask the court for a **directed verdict**. If the undisputed facts show that either one of the parties is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law, the judge **directs the verdict**, because there are no controlling issues of fact in the case about which there is a dispute. In such a case there is nothing for the jury to decide, and the judge alone is responsible, and the jury must do as the judge directs. Often the

availability enables the court to proceed, and frequently actually concludes and terminates litigation. While you may, on occasion, be caused to wait, your presence makes possible the operation of many important phases of cases and trial work. Your absence or unavailability would often stop proceedings.

Your service to your state and community is as important and genuine whether you serve as a juror on the case or a juror on the general panel. They serve too who only sit and wait.



greater importance than a hurried and careless one.

During the course of most lawsuits, legal matters arise which the court must pass upon. Your interest is essentially in the facts of the case, but the law of the case is of equal importance. Be patient and allow time for the same careful consideration of the law as you expect to give to the facts.

Often a hearing out of the presence of the jury is conducted to simplify issues, reduce their number, stipulate on fact matters which if opened up, will lead interminably to additional witnesses and new areas of inquiry. Adjustment of disputed points is often effected, thereby reducing the time of the trial. In sharp contests, the mind of man can not prophesy the course the trial may take. When crucial points arise in the trial, they must then be correctly decided or clog the court at some future time with a retrial.

Frequently the way to save time is to take time.

You serve as a juror by constituting a member of the panel, though you do not actually serve as juror for a case. Until a necessary minimum number for a panel is reached, a case may not commence. In fact all of your service may consist in maintaining the necessary minimum available men. Your presence is very valuable. Your

judge refuses to grant a motion. That does not mean that the judge thinks the other side is entitled to a verdict. It only means that the jury must perform its function to decide the disputed fact issues.

**Court's Charge** — Toward the close of the case, the judge will give you some written instructions, or some special issues for you to answer. You should listen to these instructions very carefully and follow them strictly.

**Arguments** — After all the evidence has been presented, each lawyer is entitled to make an **argument** to the jury. The arguments may be of much or no help, but you should listen to them carefully, for they may aid you in analyzing a multitude of facts and problems. While argument is not evidence, the argument may be most helpful in applying reason to the evidence.

**Further Instructions** — If, in considering the case in your jury room, there is disagreement as to the meaning of what the judge instructed you, the jury may ask for further instructions. Such a request should be made in writing and handed to the bailiff who has you in charge, who will give it to the judge.

If the jury disagrees as to what a particular witness said on some matter and you wish to have part of the record read back to you, make a written request of the judge that this



be done, and you should state the name of the witness and the point you wish covered.

Since instructions can be given and testimony repeated only when the parties are present, and they have to be called back, do not make such requests unless absolutely necessary.

**In General**—A courtroom trial is a serious and important matter and it is conducted in accord with rules that enable the parties to receive a correct hearing. Trials often present tense and dramatic situations that transcend the most imaginative fiction; but the purpose of the trial should always be to discover the truth and administer justice. This central thought should not become lost in a contest of learning, skill, or tact. One who expects the courtroom to conform to the typical movie, television, or stage scene, will for the most part find disappointment. Their object, it must be remembered, is entertainment. The object of a Texas court trial is Justice.

**a government of law and not a government of men.** To tamper with this idea imperils constitutional liberty under the law. The destruction of that idea has been the path up which despots have climbed to power.

Judges have access to the law and know what laws apply to the situation involved in the lawsuit. He will announce the pertinent law, and jurors, by their oath, must base their verdicts on the judge's instructions rather than their own ideas of what the law is, or ought to be.

The rulings of the judge involve questions of law — not of fact — and must neither be questioned by the jury as to their correctness nor made the basis of inferences for or against either side.

The whole purpose of laws and rules is to establish a standard of rights and duties, applicable to all persons similarly situated; to avoid or reduce uncertainty; to produce similar results in similar cases; and to keep ours a government of free people under constitutional law.

### **DELAYS DURING TRIAL**

Your time will be conserved, yet at the same time the court must not sacrifice important considerations of justice for the sake of speed. A careful and correct trial is of



## UPHOLDING THE LAWS



The judge and the juror take an oath which requires them to accept and apply the law. Our government is one of law rather than one of men. Judges get the law by which they decide legal questions arising in a lawsuit from three sources: federal and state constitutions; federal and state statutes; and previous judicial decisions and legal writings. These are the sources of public standards of the rights, duties and relations of men and government. If judges and juries were not bound by these statements of the law — if, in each lawsuit, the judge or the juror could set up his private notions as a basis for deciding the case, many great dangers would arise. Equal justice would be defeated. Uncontrollable uncertainty and confusion would reign in the affairs of people.

Because cases must be tried and determined on established and recognized public standards of right and wrong, we call ours

## CONDUCT OF JURORS



The trial may last several days, during which time you are an officer of the court. As an officer of the court there are some rules of conduct which will help you to avoid things that are wrong, and also innocent things that may appear to be wrong.

**Hold Yourself Aloof from all persons (except other jurors) in any way connected with the trial of the case.** That means that you should not mingle with nor talk to the lawyers, witnesses, parties, nor the judge, even though the discussion is wholly unrelated to the trial. Your communications with the court should be with the knowledge of all attorneys for all parties and in open court. All persons will understand and respect your aloofness, and you should equally understand and respect theirs.

**Do not discuss the case nor permit others to mention it to you or in your presence during the trial.** If anyone should insist upon talking about the case, explain to him that



you are serving as a juror and must not listen; and if he insists, then report the matter to the judge immediately.

**Do not commence your deliberations until you have heard all the evidence from both sides, the argument of the lawyers, and the court's charge.** You should not mention the case except in the jury room when all other jurors are present.

**Do not become a private investigator.** Persons most interested in presenting the whole truth and bringing to light all relevant material, and competent evidence, will bring their evidence before you to weigh and consider. Our American trials are in open courts and not in secret. Should you be in possession of facts or should you come into possession of facts relating to the facts of the case, then you should make that known so you may become a witness rather than a juror, and submit yourself to examination and cross-examination. Your duty is to consider the evidence presented to you in open court.

**Be attentive to the evidence as it is presented.** If you are to be of aid to the other jurors in settling the fact questions, it will be necessary that you listen carefully to all of the evidence.

**Do not guess at the judge's opinion of the facts.** He is the judge of the law and you

Your name was drawn in this manner. It may again be drawn or it may never again be drawn.

## **EXCUSE FROM JURY SERVICE**

Almost invariably inconvenience comes from jury service. You may be required to be away from your business and even lose money. Actually, however, your business has slight real value, if the law which protects it is rendered ineffective and the inconvenience is hardly equal to that of those who left homes, business, family, and country — not once but many times — to fight for, gain, or preserve that privilege to serve on a jury. One of the responsibilities of citizenship is to take one's turn on a jury to see that justice is done. You owe much to your government which grants us liberty, freedom, and justice under the law.

Emergency or hardship is a different matter, however. If you face such extreme circumstances in your business or personal affairs that your mind can not freely reflect and meditate upon the important issues to be tried, you should call this to the attention of the judge. Courts try to be reasonable. The judge will consider your situation, and he may determine that your service should be deferred.



composing it are known as Jury Commissioners. The Commission selects..... Grand Jurors from which 12 men are drawn to serve on the Grand Jury. Under statutory instructions from the judge, they have regularly selected your name as one who is neither exempt nor legally disqualified in any way from serving.

**(In counties operating under a jury wheel)**

During August of each year, the Tax Assessor, the District Clerk, the County Clerk and the Sheriff meet at the courthouse of this county and from the official tax lists prepare a list of all qualified jurors in the county. Each prospective juror's name is written on a card of uniform size and placed in a metal container, known as the **jury wheel** that is erected so that it will freely revolve on its axle. The wheel is locked with two separate locks, the key to one lock being kept by the District Clerk and the other key being kept by the Sheriff. As jurors are needed, the wheel is revolved to mix the names, and they are drawn for the preparation of jury lists. The Sheriff or one of his deputies, the Clerk or one of his deputies, and the Judge must each be present when the wheel is unlocked and opened and when the names are drawn.

are the judge of the facts. He can not invade your province, nor should you expect him to; and you can not invade his province. If there is a dispute about the facts, only you can decide them, but he will submit to you only those issues on which a dispute in the evidence exists. If the judge has an opinion about the facts and it is one which you should know, he will give you appropriate instructions; otherwise he will observe the rule which prohibits him from commenting on the facts. Rulings on the admissibility of evidence are not a reflection of his ideas or opinions except as to their legal admissibility.

**Do not guess or speculate about facts not in evidence.** The evidence presented in the courtroom is that which is proper, and you should not take into consideration any surmise or fact not presented. If you assume a fact which has not been presented, you may do a great injustice. Your task is to pass upon the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses presented and heard in open court.

**You should not mention or discuss your own personal experiences, or any knowledge that you may have of similar transactions.** If you should disclose such information to others serving on a jury, the court would have to grant a new trial.



**Neither accept any favors from nor bestow any favors upon any person** interested in the trial. However innocent the conduct may be, it will raise doubts in otherwise undoubting minds, and may even be subject to more serious insinuations and charges.

**When in doubt ask the judge.** If you are in doubt about your rights or duties as a juror, you should not ask anyone but the judge for information.

duty destroys in practice those things for which we have fought and waged total wars. Let us protect in the courtroom what we have won on the battleground.

"Jury service is one of the highest duties of citizenship, for by it the citizen participates in the administration of justice between man and man, and between government and the individual.

"The juror's duties are defined by laws which are the product of some centuries of experience, an experience which has taught us that they are essential to the impartial administration of justice by jury trial. Unless the juror scrupulously observes them he is himself a law-breaker. By his neglect he may in some instance subject himself to severe penalties. In all he will fail in his duty as a citizen and inflict injury on his fellow men because through his failure law and justice fail in the appointed task."

Harlan F. Stone, Late Chief Justice  
United States Supreme Court.

### **HOW YOU WERE CHOSEN AS A JUROR** **(In counties not operating with jury wheel)**

The District Judge appoints from three to five citizens selected from different sections of the county. These citizens draw jurors for the next term of the court. They are known as the Jury Commission and the men



composing it are known as Jury Commissioners. The Commission selects..... Grand Jurors from which 12 men are drawn to serve on the Grand Jury. Under statutory instructions from the judge, they have regularly selected your name as one who is neither exempt nor legally disqualified in any way from serving.

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**Do not guess or speculate about facts not in evidence.** The evidence presented in the courtroom is that which is proper, and you should not take into consideration any surmise or fact not presented. If you assume a fact which has not been presented, you may do a great injustice. Your task is to pass upon the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses presented and heard in open court.

**You should not mention or discuss your own personal experiences, or any knowledge that you may have of similar transactions.** If you should disclose such information to others serving on a jury, the court would have to grant a new trial.



### American Constitutional Liberty

Liberty under the law is guaranteed to us by the sixth and seventh amendments to the United States Constitution which provide for juries in civil and criminal cases.

### Texas Declaration of Independence

At the town of Washington on the Brazos, on March 2, 1836, the delegates of the people of Texas published the "Unanimous Declaration of Independence," because of many acts of oppression, and stated: "It has failed and refused to secure on a firm basis the right of trial by jury; that palladium of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen."

### Texas Constitutional Liberty

Section 15 of the Texas Constitution provides: "The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate."

### Importance of Jury Service

Service on a jury is more important to the spirit of American and Texas freedom, liberty, independence, and justice than the victorious wars waged to gain the right to serve. Rights are easily lost but are regained at great cost. Jury service is a high calling of good citizenship, and its practice makes a reality of liberty under the law, individual justice under the law, and the preservation of freedom under the law. Neglect of this

## CONDUCT IN THE JURY ROOM



**Foreman** — Unless the judge has appointed one, your first duty upon retiring at the close of the case is to select your **Foreman**. The foreman acts as chairman. It is his duty to see that discussion is carried on in a sensible and orderly fashion, to see that the issues submitted for your decision are fully and fairly discussed, and that every juror has a chance to say what he thinks upon every question. Where ballots should be taken, he will see that it is done. He will sign any written verdict that is required, and any written request made of the judge. In selecting your foreman, it is well to select someone of experience and general knowledge, if possible, for a good foreman keeps the discussion in due bounds, much time is saved and better results secured.

**Secrecy** — Discussion in the jury room should never be so loud that it can be heard outside. Until a verdict is announced, no outsider should know what goes on in the jury room.



**Exhibits** — If any papers or other things marked as "exhibits" are used in your deliberations, care should be taken not to change them in any way. No marking should be put on them.

**The Issues** — In answering the questions or issues submitted to you, answer them upon the facts presented without regard to who you think will win or lose. Your duty is to answer the questions as you find the facts from the evidence, and the court will render the proper judgment based on your findings.

**Your Verdict** — Your verdict will show how reasonable, fair, just and sensible the jury has been. Verdicts indicate to other people who have disputes in the future, whether they can wisely and safely submit their disputes to a jury or whether it is better to suffer wrongs and injustice in silence. Your findings on a disputed fact question are usually final and are seldom set aside, so in all verdicts be careful and be just.

**Avoid a hasty judgment** — The people and attorneys involved in a lawsuit have spent much time preparing for trial. Each of them will bring in evidence and argument relating to the facts and circumstances about which their controversy arose. Judges and jurors must be patient and careful not to form conclusions until they have heard all

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## Magna Carta

June 15, 1215, was the date tyrannical King John was compelled to restore the rights of man under law by subordinating his executive powers to the written law. The Magna Carta, which he signed, has long stood as an ideal toward which free peoples have struggled and has served as a bulwark against royal and executive encroachment. It foreshadowed the right to trial by jury as we know it and provided that no freeman should be detained or punished 'unless by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.'

## American Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress issued its Declaration of Independence severing the political relations between the colonies and Great Britain, and among the grievances cited was the one "For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury."



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Historical . . . . .	1
How You Were Chosen . . . . .	3
Jury Excuses . . . . .	5
Upholding The Laws . . . . .	6
Delays During Trial . . . . .	7
Civil Cases Explained . . . . .	10
Conduct of Jurors During Trial . . . . .	19
Conduct in Jury Room . . . . .	23
Criminal Cases Explained . . . . .	25

the evidence, have listened to the arguments analyzing that evidence, and have received the instructions of the court on the law.

## CRIMINAL CASES EXPLAINED

**In General** — Criminal and civil cases are tried under much the same rules and in much the same manner.

**The Charge** — The charge or complaint is made in writing. If made by a grand jury, it is called an **indictment**. If more than one offense is charged, they may be combined but they are separately stated and each charge is called a **count**. For instance, an indictment may charge that the defendant (count 1) robbed the complainant, and (count 2) that he assaulted and beat the complainant.

**The Plea** — Some time before the case is called, usually, the defendant is arraigned. That is, he is brought before the judge and the charge is read to him. For each offense he is asked "How do you **plead**?" and he pleads "guilty" or "not guilty."

**The Parties** — The person charged is the **defendant**. The person who made the original complaint to the authorities — usually the victim — is called the **complainant**, **complaining witness**, or the **prosecuting witness**. The state is the prosecutor, and all



crimes are prosecuted in the name of the state, for when a crime is committed, it is the laws of the state that are broken and the offense is against the people of the state. The lawyer who represents the state is called the **district attorney** or the **county attorney**.

### CONCLUSION

The importance of your position as a juror in a free society can not be overstated. It might be that others could serve as well as you and with less loss and trouble, but you have been regularly drawn according to the law. People might be suspicious about a substitute who might have to be especially selected if you are excused. We hope that you can and will serve. We think you will find the service interesting. We believe and expect that you will do your full duty as a citizen and juror.

It is hoped that as you surrender your office as a juror and return to the affairs from which you were called, that you will do so with the conviction that you have discharged a serious responsibility in a conscientious manner — that you have dealt out even-handed justice without fear or favor according to the evidence and the law.

# The Right of TRIAL BY JURY Shall Remain Inviolatē



**A Handbook for Jurors**  
*prepared by*  
**STATE BAR OF TEXAS**  
Colorado at 15th  
AUSTIN 1, TEXAS





## BENEFITS OF JURY SERVICE

**Y**OU have been selected according to law to act as an officer of this court by serving as a juror. This booklet is to aid you in understanding and performing this important duty.

You are urged to read it with great care.

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

If you perform your duties as juror conscientiously, you will derive lasting benefits from your service.

You will have observed and learned more about the judicial branch of your government.

You will have played an important part in seeing that justice was done.

You may have had an opportunity to play a leading role in a real life drama.

You will have strengthened the faith of all people in our form of government by exemplifying the reality of liberty under the law.



This booklet was prepared through the joint efforts of the judges of Texas and The American Citizenship Committee and is distributed by the Committee on Public Relations.

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Box 2186, Capitol Station  
AUSTIN 11, TEXAS



*The Right of*  
**TRIAL  
BY JURY**

*Shall Remain  
Inviolable*



**A HANDBOOK FOR JURORS**



## ADDITIONAL JURY SERVICE INFORMATION

Keep for reference

Note: This information is supplementary to that contained in the special jury service edition of The Dallas Voter (June, 1955). Reprints of this number are being supplied for members who have lost their copies, for new members, and for anyone else who wants one. The price is five cents.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** One of the provisions of the Magna Carta, which the rebellious English Barons forced King John to sign in 1215, stated that no freeman should be detained or punished unless "by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." In 1776, among the grievances cited against England in our Declaration of Independence was this one: "For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury." Several states of the original thirteen called for a positive assurance of the right of trial by jury when the Constitution was offered for ratification. Their demand led to the adoption of Articles VI and VII of the Bill of Rights, providing for juries in civil and criminal cases. Section 15, of the Texas Constitution, states, "The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate."

In November, 1954, a state constitutional amendment was adopted requiring women to serve on juries. The Texas League of Women Voters, along with the Business and Professional Women's Clubs and others, had long worked for such an amendment. Prior to 1955, women did not serve on Federal juries in Texas because qualifications for Federal jurors follow those of the states in which the various Federal courts are located.

**GRAND AND PETIT JURIES:** A grand jury is a jury of inquiry whose duty it is to receive complaints and accusations in criminal cases, hear the evidence, and find bills of indictment, called True Bills, in cases where they are satisfied a trial should be held. A petit, or trial jury, is a body of laymen, selected by fair and impartial means, to find the truth in questions of fact arising in both civil and criminal cases. Under Texas law, grand juries are selected from lists prepared by a jury commission appointed by a criminal district court judge. Poll tax payment is a prerequisite for GRAND jury service, but not for service on a petit jury. In Dallas and other counties which have cities of over 20,000 population names of prospective petit jurors are drawn from a jury wheel, i.e., a large revolving drum in which are placed uniform cards with names and addresses taken from the county tax rolls. To be eligible for petit jury duty a person must be over 21, a citizen of the county, Texas, and the U.S., have a regular place of abode, be able to read and write English (although judges are empowered to make certain exceptions to this rule), and must be of sound mind and good moral character. He must not have served on a jury for the preceding six months in the district court or during the preceding three months in the county court, and must not be under conviction or indictment for a felony. (A felony is an offense punishable by confinement in the penitentiary or by death.)



Petit jurors who qualify are usually required to report every day for a week. The pay is \$5.00 per day.

Some of those eligible for excuse are doctors, lawyers, ministers, school teachers, druggists, embalmers, nurses, railroad engineers, firemen and station agents, and those having the care of children under 16. Postponements or excuses may be obtained in case of personal illness or important business, or illness in the family.

NON-JURY CASES: Notice we speak of the right of trial by jury. Juries are not requested by the litigants in many cases, especially civil cases. Also, where there are matters of law only involved, as in injunction proceedings, no jury is needed. Courts of appeal (higher courts) do not use juries. Prior to 1931, any person charged with a felony in Texas was tried by a jury regardless of whether he pleaded guilty or not. Since that time, anyone charged with a felony less than a capital offense may waive a jury trial and plead guilty.

PARTIES AND PLEADINGS IN CIVIL CASES: A person starting a lawsuit is the plaintiff. A person against whom suit is brought is the defendant. Suit is commenced by service of a citation. The plaintiff's claim and demand is stated in a petition. Defendant's answer is called an answer. If the defendant claims from the plaintiff, this is a counterclaim. Plaintiff's answer to a counterclaim is a reply. These papers, as well as others, constitute the pleadings and have been exchanged between the parties sometime before the trial begins but are read at the commencement of the trial.

CHALLENGES: A prospective juror who is related to any of the parties, or who has unfinished business with a lawyer in the case, or who knows so much about the case that he already has an opinion is challenged for cause and excused from service on that case. In addition, each side may excuse a certain number of jurors without giving reasons--these are peremptory challenges.

CRIMINAL CASES: The charge, or complaint, if made by a grand jury is an indictment. If more than one offense is charged, each charge is called a count. For instance, an indictment may charge that the defendant (count 1) robbed the complainant, i.e. the victim, and (count 2) that he assaulted and beat the complainant. In criminal cases, the state is the prosecutor since the laws of the state have been broken. The lawyer representing the state is the district, or county attorney.

WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE: Anything which tends to prove or disprove a claim about the facts is called evidence. It may be something in writing, or an article, such as a gun, or photo. These are exhibits. Evidence may be the statement of a person, in which case it is called testimony. Such testimony from an absent witness which has been taken under oath before the trial and reduced to writing is known as a deposition. Matters offered to be proved but not admitted by the judge are not evidence; neither is testimony received but afterward stricken from the record. Statements made by attorneys as to what they expect to prove, or what they claim they have proved, are not evidence. A stipulation is an agreement by the lawyers in the case as to certain disputed facts or issues, which then need not be proved.



In questioning a witness, a lawyer is not supposed to "lead" the witness by asking questions in such a form as to suggest the answer; also, the questions must appear to have some bearing on the case, and the witness shown to know what he is talking about (be competent). If these and other rules are apparently not being followed, the opposing lawyer may object and if the judge thinks the question improper, he sustains the objection. Lawyers may enter exceptions to the rulings of the judge for the purpose of the trial record. At some time during the proceedings, one of the attorneys may ask the judge for a directed verdict. If the judge decides that one of the parties is entitled to the verdict as a matter of law, he directs the jury to find for that party. In such cases, the jury must do as the judge directs and he alone is responsible.

-----

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a grand jury? A petit jury? How are petit juries selected in Dallas for State courts?
2. In a jury trial, what is the function of the judge? The jury?
3. What conduct should jurors observe during the course of a trial? Is it unreasonable not to be allowed to discuss personal experiences, or similar trials or transactions?
4. In Texas a life sentence may be served in 15 years or less, counting time off for good behavior and other reasons, and a five-year sentence may be served in 18 months. This information is not included in instructions given to jury panels. In your opinion, should jurors possess this information before sitting on a criminal case? If your answer is "yes", do you think the information should be given by the judge instructing the jury pool in the central jury room, or by public education, or by other means?
5. Judge Curtis Bok once wrote, "The judge's bench and the jury box are manned by average people, and the law is stabilized at the level of their average standards." Do you agree with this statement?
6. Judge Jerome Frank, of the New York Court of Appeals, feels that the jury system is the weakest link in our judicial system. Do you think it needs strengthening? If so, can you suggest possible ways for improving the functioning of the jury system?
7. Define these terms: felony, evidence, deposition, stipulation, plaintiff, defendant.



AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A JUROR FOR A PARTICULAR CASE and have been sworn in, you become an officer of the court; the function of the jury is equally as important as the function of the trial judge and the lawyers. His Honor is the judge of the law and the jury is the judge of the facts of the case. You must listen very carefully and keep an open mind until the end of the trial. It is your duty to reach a verdict entirely on the basis of the evidence introduced at the trial. You must not try to get any other information concerning the case, or to inspect the place where the accident happened or the crime was committed unless the entire jury is conducted to the place for that purpose under the direction of the court.



You must hold yourself aloof during the progress of a trial from all persons except other jurors in anyway connected with the case. You must not discuss the case, nor allow anyone to mention it in your presence, (not even another juror), until after the jury retires to deliberate. If the



trial is such as to attract public notice in the newspapers, on the radio, or on TV, you must not read newspaper accounts or listen to radio or TV broadcasts concerning the case. If anyone attempts to discuss the case on trial with you, the incident must be reported to the court privately.

AFTER THE JURY BEGINS DELIBERATIONS, you must not mention or discuss your own personal experiences or knowledge you may have of similar transactions. You must not discuss any other trial, or the decision that has been rendered by a court, jury, or board in the same case or in any other case you may know of. In the trial of a damage suit you must not express any opinion or theory that one of the parties is, or is not, protected by insurance, or that a party will, or will not, have to pay a part of the money recovered by him as attorney's fees, or refer to the financial condition of the parties. Unless the court has admitted evidence of these matters and submitted a question about them, they have nothing to do with the case and must not be considered for any purpose.



"Jury service is one of the highest duties of citizenship, for by it the citizen participates in the administration of justice between man and man, and between government and the individual. The jurymen's duties are defined by laws which are the products of some centuries of experience, an experience which has taught us that they are essential to the impartial administration of justice by jury trial.".....Harlan F. Stone, Late Chief Justice, United States Supreme Court.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

\*Handbook of Instructions for Jurors, approved by District and Appellate Judges' Association of Texas.

\*The Right of Trial by Jury Shall Remain Inviolable, a handbook for jurors prepared by the State Bar of Texas.

Jury Service, a manual for the juror, District of Columbia Branch, American Bar Association.

(\*Available in the Central Jury Room for reading by jury panels.)

#### THE JUROR'S CREED

I am a juror, a seeker after truth....I must listen carefully and with concentration to all the evidence....I must heed and follow the instructions of the Court....I must respectfully and attentively follow the arguments of the lawyers, dispassionately seeking to find and follow the silver threads of truth through their conflicting assertions....I must lay aside all bias and prejudice....I must be led by my intelligence and not by my emotions....I must respect the opinions of my fellow jurors, as they must respect mine, and in a spirit of tolerance and understanding must endeavor to bring the deliberations of the whole jury to agreement upon a verdict--but....I must never assent to a verdict which violates the instructions of the court or which finds as a fact that which, under the evidence and in my conscience, I believe to be untrue.

.....Judge John H. Flanigan, Missouri.



## LEAGUE VISITOR....

Mrs. Tor Hylbom, Past Pres. of the Colorado LWV who was appointed in 1954 to represent the League on the U.S. National Commission for Unesco, will be one of the faculty for the Institute of International Relations of the American Friends Service Committee.

Her topic: "Full and Free Discussion of Alternatives".

Time: Tuesday, June 14, 10 A.M.

Place: Northway Christian Church  
8400 Airline Rd.

## LEAGUE REMINDER....

Dues, please.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS  
3215 Knox St. Dallas, Texas

To Let the People Know...  
To Make the People Care...  
To Help the People Act...

## LEAGUE HONOREE....

Mrs. John M. Hanna, longtime League member and supporter, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humanities on June 4, at Lindenwood College, Lindenwood, Mo.

The Dallas League rejoices in this recognition of one of its most beloved members.

## LEAGUE BUSINESS....

The League office will be staffed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays through June, July, and August.

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.  
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THE  
DALLAS

*Voter*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

3215 Knox St., Dallas, Tex.

Telephone

LO-2292

Mrs. Colin J. Macdonald, Pres.

Mrs. Robert E. Winn, Editor.

JUNE, 1955

YOU, THE JUROR

(Special jury service edition of the VOTER. Keep for reference.)

A few League members have already had the interesting experience of serving on juries. THE DALLAS VOTER editor has served as a petit juror, and our National Board member, Mrs. J.D. Perryman, is now on the grand jury.

When and if you receive a jury summons it will come on a postal card and a bailiff's phone number will be on the card. Call this number to ask for any further information you need in regard to answering the summons.



When you report to the Central Jury Room, you will be instructed on your duties, and in each case the jury receives special instructions from the judge. There are, however, some highly important general rules of conduct for jurors which will be helpful to know in advance since violation of these rules may mean that your verdict will have to be set aside. Mistrials cause great loss of time in already overworked courts, inconvenience and hardship on the part of the litigants, and added expense for the taxpayers. Here, then, are some things to remember.

A trial jury, usually 12 people, is selected from the larger group of prospective jurors known as the jury panel. Names are drawn from the jury-men until the jury box is filled. Questions are then asked either by the judge or by the lawyers. You must answer these questions frankly and accurately. Their object is to determine whether any prospective juror is disqualified for that particular case or should be excused. No person who is excused should feel that this is a reflection on his integrity or intelligence



If any juror starts to violate any of the instructions, or mentions or refers to any matter outside the evidence in the trial, it is the duty of each of the other jurors to stop him immediately and call attention to the instructions. If the offender persists after being cautioned by fellow jurors, then the matter must be reported to the judge at once.

If the jury needs further instructions from the judge, or wishes to have part of the testimony read back to them, a written request stating specifically the information needed is given to the officer in charge, who will give it to the judge.

You must listen carefully to the views of the other members of the jury and consider them with an open mind. Your final vote should represent your own opinion, which, of course, may have been changed as a result of the discussion with fellow jurors from that first held. There should, however, be no trading among jurors; that is, one or more agreeing to answer certain questions one way if others will agree to answer other questions another way.

AFTER THE JURY HAS BEEN DISMISSED, you are at liberty to discuss the case or not as you see fit. Reporters, lawyers, litigants, or friends may inquire as to the jury's deliberations. You may respond or refuse. Not talking may save you considerable annoyance from disappointed litigants. Unless ordered to do so by a court, you are under no obligation whatsoever to make disclosures. A grand juror, of course, swears never to disclose the proceedings of a grand jury except under court order.



If it happens that you spend your time on the general jury panel without being selected as a juror for a particular case, remember that they also serve who only sit and wait. At times jurors are required to remain on hand because a trial may be completed and a new case started before the close of the day. Your presence helps maintain the necessary minimum number of available prospective jurors without which a trial may not commence.



CRIMINAL & CIVIL CASES: In a felony criminal case the law requires that the jurors be kept together in charge of an officer until a verdict is received and/or the jury discharged. In a civil case the court has the right to do the same thing, but usually prefers to allow the jury to separate at noon and in the evenings.

In a criminal case, after the evidence has been concluded, the judge submits to the jury in writing the law applicable to the facts which the jury may find from the evidence. The jury decides the facts from the evidence and applies the law as it is given to them by the judge.

Most civil cases are submitted to the jury on "special issues", that is, specific questions about the facts in the case. The jury answers these from the evidence.

-----

We hope you can and will serve if you receive a jury summons, BUT, under Texas law, a woman may claim exemption from jury service if (a) she has legal custody of a child under 16, (b) she is a nurse, (c) her husband has been called to serve on the same jury, or, (d) either she or her husband is a practicing attorney.

-----

May we suggest that you drop in on a trial or two at the courthouse when you are downtown? You are free to enter and leave a courtroom during the progress of a case provided you do so quietly. In this way you may become somewhat accustomed to courtroom atmosphere and get an idea of general procedure. You might want to note some of the legal phrases most frequently used and look them up in the dictionary, or ask some lawyer friend to explain them.

And remember, your KNOW YOUR STATE SURVEY summary on THE JUDICIARY contains much valuable information about Texas courts.

-----

®



Jan 28/55

Dear Belth,

I am enclosing a copy of a bill providing exemptions for jury service.

This bill was introduced into the last session of the Texas legislature but never voted on. It had the general approval of groups working for a constitutional amendment to permit women to serve on juries. It will be introduced again at this session by Rep. Horae Houston and Senator Shireman.

I hope that you will be able to acquaint members of the local league with the bill's provisions and that we may count on



Your support to see that it  
is passed in Austin.

Our bill's provisions are  
more comprehensive than  
those of another exemption  
bill recently introduced by  
Rep. Dewitt Hale of Corpus Christi.  
For example, Rep. Hale's bill  
would exempt

"mothers of children of pre-school age"  
rather than, as ours does

"persons having the care of  
children under the age of 16 years"

Sincerely

Lois Perryman

(Mrs J.D. Perryman)  
(ERIC)

P.S. Have sent copies of the  
bill to Miss Williams in her  
capacity as representative of the DKG on the TSC



H.B. No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL  
To be entitled

AN ACT amending Article 2135 of the Revised Civil Statutes as amended by the Acts of 1927, 40th Legislature, page 88, Chapter 63, and as amended by the Acts of 1931, 42nd Legislature, page 375, Chapter 221 and as amended by the Acts of 1933, 43rd Legislature, First Called Session, page 291, Chapter 106, and as amended by Acts of 1953, 53rd Legislature, page 781, Chapter 310, by adding three new subdivisions to provide for exemptions for nurses, persons having care of children under sixteen years of age, and persons physically incapacitated; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section I. That Article 2135 of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended by the Acts of 1927, 40th Legislature, Page 88, Chapter 63, and as amended by the Acts of 1931, 42nd Legislature, Page 375, Chapter 221, and as amended by the Acts of 1933, 43rd Legislature, First Called Session, page 291, Chapter 106, and as amended by Acts of 1953, 53rd Legislature, page 781, Chapter 310, be amended by adding three new subdivisions thereto as follows:

- "11. Nurses in the active discharge of their profession.
12. Persons having the care of children under the age of sixteen (16) years.
13. Persons physically incapacitated."

Section II. The fact that there is insufficient provision in the statutes for the exemption of persons from jury service, and the further fact that such is desirable, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each House be and the same is hereby suspended, and that this Act shall take effect from and after the day of its passage, and it is so enacted.



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AN ACT amending Article 2135 of the Revised Civil Statutes as amended by the Acts of 1927, 40th Legislature, page 88, Chapter 63, and as amended by the Acts of 1931, 42nd Legislature, page 375, Chapter 221 and as amended by the Acts of 1933, 43rd Legislature, First Called Session, page 291, Chapter 106, and as amended by Acts of 1953, 53rd Legislature, page 781, Chapter 310, by adding three new subdivisions to provide for exemptions for nurses, persons having care of children under sixteen years of age, and persons physically incapacitated; and declaring an emergency.

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The Reluctant Juror

VIDEO

CU of jury duty summons card  
being held in hand.

Slide: (superimposed) "The  
Reluctant Juror"

Dissolve slide.

Hold cu of summons card.

Pull back slowly to reveal  
woman holding card.

mcu of FLORENCE

Follow FLORENCE into set.  
Shoot over her shoulder for  
CLERK'S first oath.

AUDIO

ANN: In the public interest...  
"The Reluctant Juror."

NARR: That's the way it looks.  
It's just a 2-penny postcard  
from the office of C. A. Maxwell,  
Bailiff, Central Jury Room, Dallas,  
Texas. A summons to petit jury  
duty in Dallas County.

And this is the reluctant juror,  
Mrs. Florence Cooper. She received  
this card, calling her for jury  
duty. As a matter of fact her hands  
still had soapy dishwater on them  
when she pulled it from her mailbox  
one morning. She was truly reluctant.

FLORENCE: I've been listening to  
men tell me about jury  
duty for years. They always  
complained; they were annoyed.  
I'm afraid some of that rubbed off  
on me. Why should I serve on a  
jury. Someone else can do it.

NARR: But now let's show you how  
Florence changed her mind.  
She had her eyes opened.

FID: (starts walking away from  
camera into set where she  
will sit with other jurors)

NARR: This is the Central Jury  
Room. There's the clerk  
who will administer the oath to  
the jurors. There's the judge in  
charge of the jury. And at one  
side are the jurors who have been  
summoned. Now, although on any  
Monday morning in the Central Jury  
Room you can find upwards of 200  
Dallas County citizens gathered,

(MORE)



VIDEO

Medium shot of clerk

Pan from CLERK to JUDGE, and to each juror. Return to JUDGE at end of Narrator's speech.

cu of JUDGE

AUDIO

our dramatization uses only a fraction of that number. But, what is said to them, and what they say is quite representative of a jury impanelling session, so let's concentrate on the judge and on them.

CLERK: You and each of you do solemnly swear you will true answers make to all questions propounded to you by the Court or under the direction of the Court concerning or touching upon your qualifications as jurors so help you God.

ALL: I do.

NARR: The clerk has now sworn each juror present. In a moment the Judge will speak to the jurors. The purpose of the talk is to present a brief history and explanation on the nature of jury duty. It is at this point that Florence Cooper's mind begins to change, and she begins to learn.

JUDGE: Why are you here? Obviously you received a summons card in the mail and you answered the summons. Technically speaking, had you avoided this summons you would have faced a fine. However, in view of what I want to tell you, let's not think of jury duty on that basis. You know, we in Texas are so accustomed to trying cases with a jury that we don't realize that many countries in the world do not have trial by jury. None of the Asiatic countries, and few of the countries in South America and Europe have trial by jury. The reason you're sitting here now can actually be traced back to the Magna Carta. Trial by jury was one of the rights contained in the Magna Carta. Although the kings of England failed to keep the promise made in this document, it was a start for humanity. Did you know that one



## VIDEO

Pan slowly to faces of jurors

cu of JUDGE

Pull back slowly to shoot past jurors' faces to long shot of JUDGE

## AUDIO

basic reason for the colonists coming to America in the 17th century was to establish a fair means of justice? But unfortunately the power of the kings followed them here. You'll find, as you know, in the Declaration of Independence that absence of trial by jury was one of the major grievances the Revolutionary patriots had with Great Britain. This carried over after the war into the time of the Constitutional Convention. When it came time to ratify the Constitution, many states called for a positive assurance of trial by jury. And so, out of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which we know as the Bill of Rights, Articles 6 and 7 guarantee trial by jury in criminal and civil cases. This refers to Federal courts only. On a state level, the Texas Constitution in Article One guarantees trial by jury in the State courts.

Now, how do you become eligible to serve on a jury. First, you must be a United States citizen. You must be a resident of the County of Dallas. You must be a householder in Dallas County. This means that you must merely have some regular place of abode—even a single room—but some place you call home. You must be able to read and write the English language. You must be of sound mind and good moral character. On the other hand, you are ineligible if you have been convicted of a felony. If you are under indictment for a felony, you are also not eligible. If you've served as much as 6 days on a jury in the preceding 6 months, you are not now eligible for jury duty.

Now the legislature has also said that certain people can be excused from jury duty. If you are over 65 years of age. If you are a doctor, lawyer, minister, druggist, embalmer or a nurse you may be excused. If you work for a railroad as engineer,



VIDEO

Hold long shot of central jury room, including jurors and judge.

cu of JUDGE

Side shot of JUDGE and JUROR.  
(Hold same shot for each JUROR coming before JUDGE)

AUDIO

conductor, fireman or station agent you can be excused. If you have the care of young children under 16, you are also eligible for excuse.

Aside from fixed reasons for excuse from jury duty, district judges may excuse or postpone service. If you are sick now or have illness in your family. If important business requires your attention, you may ask to be excused.

I will now take the excuses and postponements.

FIRST: Your honor, I'm a brick contractor and I've just had some very special materials come in and I've got to get a job started.

JUDGE: Well, I can postpone your duty. How about one month from today?

FIRST: That would be fine. (Sits down again.)

JUDGE: All right, come back in one month then.

SECOND: (walks to JUDGE) Judge, I have to make a trip out of town for my company, and I'd appreciate being excused.

JUDGE: How many times does this make that you've asked to be postponed or excused?

SECOND: Well, I guess this is the third time.

JUDGE: I'm afraid I'll have to refresh your memory. This is the 5th time you've asked for an excuse. You know, I'm going to have to ask you to serve this time.

SECOND: But this upsets my schedule.





VIDEO

cu of FLORENCE: hold

Cut to JUDGE

AUDIO

JUDGE: You've upset our schedule five times. Now I'm going to ask you to wait with the other jurors until you're assigned to a jury.

SECOND: (sits down with FIRST)

THIRD: (goes to JUDGE) Your Honor, I am a minister. I'm not asking to be excused, just postponed.

JUDGE: You know you can be excused automatically.

THIRD: I know, but if you'd just postpone my service a week, I'd be glad to make arrangements and serve at that time.

JUDGE: I thank you very much. Report next Monday morning. Just come down. You won't get another card.

THIRD: (sits down)

FOURTH: (goes to JUDGE) Your Honor, I have two children, both under 5, and I would appreciate being excused.

JUDGE: Yes, as I said, the law provides that you do not have to serve. You're excused.

FOURTH: Thank you. (sits down)

NARR: Well, the time is nearing and FLORENCE is having a hard time making up her mind. She was reluctant about jury duty from the beginning. She remembers what some of her friends have said: that business about courtroom testimony being unfit for women to hear. And that women are too emotional to serve on juries. And, oh yes, someone said that mothers would have to neglect their children to serve on juries.

FLO: Well, really!

JUDGE: I beg your pardon.





VIDEO

Cut to cu of FLORENCE

Pull back for Mcu of JUDGE  
and FLORENCE

mcu of CLERK

cut to SECOND juror

cut to JUDGE

cut to JUDGE and FLORENCE

AUDIO

FIO: Oh, I'm sorry, Your Honor.  
(walks to JUDGE and stands  
at JUDGE's right in front of desk)  
But, I was just thinking of some  
things I've heard people say about  
jury duty.

JUDGE: Good things or bad?

FIO: Oh, most of them were bad.  
Just plain ridiculous as a  
matter of fact. But, Your Honor,  
may I ask a few questions?

JUDGE: I think we have time.

FIO: Well, I know that women are  
fairly new to juries in Texas.  
But, just how did my name come up  
at all for jury duty?

JUDGE: I'll let the Clerk here  
answer that.

CLERK: Your name was taken from  
what we call the "jury wheel."  
This is merely a large revolving  
drum into which we put uniform cards  
with the names and addresses of  
everyone appearing on the County  
tax rolls. Your name--and the name  
of each person here--was picked at  
random from that drum of cards.

SECOND: Well, Judge, I understand  
that if you don't pay your  
poll tax you won't be called for jury  
duty.

JUDGE: I'm happy that this point came  
up. Your poll tax has nothing  
to do with it. If you're on the regular  
tax rolls at the County Courthouse,  
you will probably be called some day  
for jury duty.

FIO: What about the matter of pay?  
Do jurors get paid?

JUDGE: Yes, they do. The rate in  
Texas is \$5 per day.



VIDEO

cu to FOURTH juror

mcu of JUDGE and FLO

AUDIO

FOURTH: You mean the juror gets paid for jury duty?

JUDGE: Absolutely, yes.

FOURTH: Well, in that case, I can manage to leave my children part of the time with their grandmothers and hire a baby-sitter the rest of the time.

JUDGE: \$5 a day will take care of it for you?

FOURTH: Yes, Your Honor, so please put me back on the list. I'm staying, and I hope I get picked for a jury right away!

JUDGE: Would the Clerk take care of that, please.

Well, Mrs. Cooper, any more questions?

FLO: No, Your Honor. But I would like to make one point very clear. It came to me this very morning right here in the Central Jury Room.

(turns to camera) I was picked for jury duty. I was reluctant to serve. At first I wanted desperately to get out of it. But I've heard the judge tell me and the other jurors some fascinating history of "trial by jury." I thought about what idle people had told me. But one thing came very clear to me. I thought about myself as if I were right now sitting on a jury. I thought about the responsibility of the case being tried. And I thought about the persons involved in the trial. I thought...I could be one of those two parties. And if I were on trial I would want to know that the jury was made up of responsible jurors who knew why they were there--that it was a duty to be there--and that they held the fate of their fellow citizens in their hands. It



VIDEO

cut to JUDGE

move in for cu at end

fade to dark

Slide: "The Reluctant Juror"

Slide: "The League of Women  
Voters of Dallas"

AUDIO

works two ways. So, I'll gladly  
serve on jury duty.

JUDGE: Trial by jury stands between  
the people and possible  
dictatorship. The first thing that  
Hitler did was to interfere with  
justice. Countries that fall under  
Communist domination immediately put  
the judges under the power of the  
Central Government. Any person that  
has power wants additional power.  
So it might be with judges if we did  
not try our cases with juries. To  
preserve the very principles of  
democracy, we must have trial by  
jury. And so, I urge all of you to  
consider carefully the matter of  
serving on a jury.

ANN: This has been "The Reluctant  
Juror"—a public service of  
the League of Women Voters of Dallas.  
Special material for this program  
was gathered through the helpful  
assistance of Judge Sarah T. Hughes,  
of the 14th District Court, Dallas, Texas.



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

3215 Knox Street  
DALLAS 5, TEXAS

OF DALLAS



Telephone  
LO-2292

September 13, 1955

Mr. Bruno Duhr  
1731 S. Marsalis  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Duhr:

Thank you again for your skilful co-operation in the presentation of "The Reluctant Juror." Placing your time, energy, and dramatic ability at our disposal in this program of juror education was indeed a civic-minded and gracious act on your part.

The members of the League wish you every success in your theatrical work and look forward to seeing you in some of your future roles.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Colin J. Macdonald  
President

Sent also to the following:

William Moore, 3228 Sumter;

~~Jim Gage, 3207 Raleigh, Apt. C~~

Byron Tubbs, Rt. 3, Box 841A;

James Gore, 3207 Raleigh, Apt. C

Mrs. Marjorie MacAdams, 9746 Hathaway

Myron Ball, 3911 Gaspar

Irwin Goldman, 9950 Chireno





September 13, 1955

To Station KRLD-TV:

We wish to thank you for putting our program, "The Reluctant Juror", on the air. Placing the facilities of KRLD-TV at the service of the League was a generous and public-spirited act and an immense help in our project of juror education.

We are very much indebted to the Staff for their unfailing skill, thoughtful co-operation, and their many courtesies. They made the experience a pleasure for everyone who took part.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Colin J. Macdonald  
President





JURY DUTY

*US File copy*  
*Speech written for*  
*use of Speakers' Bureau*

The right of trial by jury, which we take for granted, can be traced back to the Magna Carta, the great charter which the rebellious English barons forced tyrannical King John to sign in 1215. Under the terms of Magna Carta, the kings of England were required to subordinate their executive powers to the written law. One provision stated that no freeman should be detained or punished unless "by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." Although the kings of England repeatedly failed to keep the promises made in the great charter, it was a start for humanity. In 1776, among the grievances cited against England in our Declaration of Independence was this one: "For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury." Therefore, when it came time to ratify our present United States Constitution, many states called for a positive assurance of the right of trial by jury. And so, out of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which we know as the Bill of Rights, Articles 6 and 7 guarantee this right.

On a state level, the Texas Constitution provides: "The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate. In November, 1954, a State constitutional amendment was adopted requiring women to serve on juries in Texas. Heretofore, they have not served on Federal juries in Texas either, since qualifications for Federal jurors follow those of the states in which the various Federal courts are located.

We know, of course, that there are two types of juries, grand juries and petit juries. A grand jury, either Federal or State, is a jury of inquiry whose duty it is to receive complaints and accusations in criminal cases, hear the evidence, and find bills of indictment,



called "True Bills", in cases where they are satisfied a trial should be held. A petit, or trial jury, is a body of laymen, selected by fair and impartial means, to find the truth in questions of fact arising in both civil and criminal cases.

When and if you receive a summons for jury duty it is most likely to be for petit jury duty in a state court. Perhaps in August you saw a picture in the paper of the District Clerk, the County Clerk, and the Sheriff filling the jury wheel. This is merely a large revolving drum in which are placed uniform cards with the names and addresses of everyone appearing on the County tax rolls. As jurors are needed, the wheel is revolved to mix the names and they are drawn at random for the preparation of jury lists. The Sheriff, or one of his deputies, the District Clerk, or one of his deputies, and a judge must each be present when the wheel is unlocked and opened and when the names are drawn. Remember that non-payment of your poll tax will not prevent your name from being placed in the jury wheel. If you are on the regular tax rolls at the County Courthouse, you will probably be called some day. In counties where there are no cities of 20,000<sup>or more</sup>/population, the selection of names for petit jury lists is made by Jury Commissioners appointed by a District Judge. In all counties, grand juries are selected from lists prepared by a Jury Commission appointed by a Criminal District Court Judge.

Your summons to petit jury service in Dallas County will arrive on a postal card, and the phone number of the central jury room Bailiff will also be on that card. You may call that number to ask for any further information you need. When you report to the Central Jury Room on the morning indicated, you will find perhaps 200 other prospective jurors there. There will be a district judge



in charge of the jury panel. He will give general instructions and take excuses and postponements. A clerk will administer an oath which binds all members of the panel to make true answers to all questions touching upon their qualifications as jurors.

What are those general qualifications? You must be 21, a U.S. citizen, a resident of the County of Dallas, and a householder within the county--that is, you must have a regular place of abode. You must be able to read and write the English language, although judges are empowered to make certain exceptions to this. You must be of sound mind and good moral character. You are ineligible if you have served on a jury within the past 6 months, or have been convicted of a felony, or if you are under indictment for a felony. (A felony is an offense punishable by confinement in the penitentiary or by death).

Now, who are eligible to be excused? Doctors, lawyers, ministers, druggists, embalmers, railroad workers, firemen, people over 60, newspaper publishers, civil officers of the state and U.S., school teachers, ferrymen and millers, and members of the State Militia and National Guard. Under a law enacted by the last legislature, <sup>signed by Shivers in May, '55</sup> a woman may be excused if she has custody of a child under 16, if she is a nurse, if her husband has been called to serve on the same jury, or if either she or her husband is a practicing attorney. Aside from these fixed reasons for excuse, district judges may, at their discretion, excuse or postpone service. If you are sick, have illness in your family, or urgent business requires your attention, you may ask for an excuse or postponement. Jury duty necessarily entails some inconvenience, but courts usually try to see that it does not work an undue hardship. . . . And oh, yes, the pay is \$5 a day. And you will probably have to report every morning for a week.



Trial juries for the various cases to be heard will be selected from the panel in the Central Jury Room. In county courts, juries have six members, in district courts, twelve. Names are drawn until the jury box is filled. After a short statement telling what the case is about and the parties who are involved, the lawyers or the judge will question the jurors to see if they are qualified to act as fair and impartial jurors for that particular case. No person who is excused should feel that this is a reflection on his or her intelligence or integrity.

After you have been selected as a juror for a particular case, and have been sworn in, you become an officer of the court for the duration of that trial. The function of the jury is equally as important as the function of the trial judge and the lawyers. His Honor is the judge of the law, and the jury is the SOLE judge of the facts of the case, including the credibility of witnesses. (Women should have a natural talent for this.) There are certain rules of conduct which it is highly important that jurors observe during a trial, since violation <sup>of these rules</sup> may mean that their verdict will have to be set aside. New trials mean great loss of time in already overworked courts, inconvenience and hardship for the parties involved, and--need I add--more expense for the taxpayers.

First of all, it is your duty to reach a verdict entirely on the basis of the evidence introduced at the trial. Listen with careful attention to all the evidence presented, but keep an open mind until the end of the trial. You must not try to get any other information concerning the case, or to inspect the place where the



accident happened, or the crime was committed, unless the court orders the entire jury to be taken to that spot. Don't be a private investigator.

Also, you must hold yourself aloof during the progress of a trial from everyone except other jurors in any way connected with the trial. Most people will understand and respect this aloofness. Do not permit any person--and this includes members of your own family and other jurors--to mention the trial in your presence until the evidence is in, the attorneys have made their arguments, the court has instructed the jury, and it has retired to begin deliberations. Do not read newspaper accounts nor listen to TV or radio accounts of the case until the jury has been dismissed. If, prior to this time, anyone insists on attempting to discuss the case with you, the incident must be reported to the court.

When the case has been submitted to the jury and they retire to begin deliberations, their first act will be to select a foreman, who acts as chairman to see that the issues submitted for your decision are fully and fairly discussed. He will also supervise the taking of ballots and sign any written verdict or any request made of the judge. Listen carefully to the views of the other members of the jury during these deliberations. Your final vote should represent your own opinion, which, of course, may have changed as a result of the discussion with fellow jurors from that first held. You must not, however, "trade," that is, agree to answer certain questions one way if others will agree to answer other questions another way. And it is very important NOT to mention or discuss your own personal experiences or any knowledge you may have of similar trials or transactions. Remember, this case is to be decided entirely on the basis of the evidence presented in court, and what happened to Aunt Minnie is not part of the evidence. In damage suits, do not discuss possible insurance or attorneys fees involved unless the Court (meaning the trial judge) has admitted evidence regarding them.



## Jury Duty

If a juror starts to violate any of the instructions, or refers to any matter outside the evidence admitted in the courtroom, it is the duty of each of the other jurors to stop him immediately, and if he persists in this misconduct the matter must be reported to the judge at once.

If the jury needs further instructions from the judge, or wishes to have part of the testimony read back to them, a written request stating specifically the information needed is given to the officer in charge, who will give it to the judge.

Now, let us assume that the verdict has been returned and the jury dismissed. From now on, you are at liberty to discuss the case or not, as you see fit. Occasionally a jury makes a mutual agreement not to discuss the case in order to save themselves from annoyance or harassment by disappointed litigants, reporters, etc. Unless ordered to do so by a court, you are under no obligation whatsoever to make disclosures concerning what took place in the jury room. A grand juror, of course, swears never to disclose the proceedings of a grand jury except under court order.

Civil and criminal cases are tried under much the same rules, but we might mention here these points of difference: in a felony criminal case the law requires that the jurors be kept together in charge of an officer until a verdict is received and/or the jury discharged. (A jury which simply cannot reach a verdict after lengthy deliberation is "hung" and the judge dismisses it). In most civil cases the jury is allowed to separate at noon and in the evenings. Naturally, the Texas legislature has made provisions for separate quarters for men and women where juries are kept overnight.



Most civil cases are submitted to the jury on special issues, that is, specific questions about the facts in the case which the jury answers question by question from the evidence. In a criminal case, after the evidence has been concluded, the judge gives to the jury in writing the law applicable to the facts which the jury may find from the evidence. The jury determines the facts from the evidence and applies the law as it is given to them by the judge.

To summarize, an excellent description of the attitude of the responsible, intelligent juror is found in the "Juror's Creed," /  
by Judge Jno. H. Flanigan, Missouri  
and I quote:

"I am a juror, a seeker after truth. I must listen carefully and with concentration to all the evidence. I must heed and follow the instructions of the Court. I must respectfully and attentively follow the arguments of the lawyers, dispassionately seeking to find and follow the silver threads of truth through their conflicting assertions. I must lay aside all bias and prejudice. I must be led by my intelligence and not by my emotions. I must respect the opinions of my fellow jurors, as they must respect mine, and in a spirit of tolerance and understanding must endeavor to bring the deliberations of the whole jury to agreement upon a verdict--but-- I must never assent to a verdict which violates the instructions of the Court, or which finds as a fact that which, under the evidence and in my conscience, I believe to be untrue."



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(for background, addition to speech, answering questions, etc.)

Much of the foregoing information, including the "Juror's Creed" is contained in the special jury service edition of THE DALLAS VOTER, the LWV's own bulletin. Reprints of the jury service edition are obtainable at the League office 3215 Knox, Tel. LO-2292, for 5¢ per copy or \$1 for 25 copies.

Notice we speak of the right of trial by jury. Juries are not requested by the litigants in many cases, especially civil cases. Also, where there are only matters of law involved, as in injunction proceedings, no jury is needed. Courts of appeal (higher courts) do not use juries. Prior to 1931 any person charged with a felony in Texas was tried by a jury regardless of whether he pleaded guilty or not. Since that time, anyone charged with a felony less than a capital offense may waive a jury trial and plead guilty.

**Parties and Pleadings in Civil Cases:** A person starting a lawsuit is the plaintiff. A person against whom suit is brought is the defendant. Suit is commenced by service of a citation. The plaintiff's claim and demand is stated in a petition. Defendant's answer is called an answer. If the defendant claims from the plaintiff, this is a counterclaim. Plaintiff's answer to a counterclaim is a reply. These papers, as well as others, constitute the pleadings and have been exchanged between the parties sometime before the trial begins but are read at the commencement of the trial.

**Challenges:** A prospective juror who is related to any of the parties, or who has unfinished business with a lawyer in the case, or who knows so much about the case that he already has an opinion is challenged for cause and excused from service on that case. In addition, each side may excuse a certain number of jurors without giving reasons--these are peremptory challenges.

**Criminal Cases:** The charge ~~and~~ or complaint, if made by a grand jury, is an indictment. If more than one offense is charged, each charge is called a count. For instance, an indictment may charge that the defendant (count 1) robbed the complainant, i.e. the victim, and (count 2) that he assaulted and beat the complainant. In criminal cases the state is the prosecutor since the laws of the state have been broken. The lawyer representing the state is the district or county attorney.

**Witnesses and evidence:** Anything which tends to prove or disprove a claim about the facts is called evidence. It may be something in writing, or an article such as a gun or photo. These are exhibits. Evidence may be the statement of a person, in which case it is called testimony. Such testimony from an absent witness which has been taken under oath before the trial and reduced to writing is known as a deposition. Matters offered to be proved but not admitted by the court are not evidence; neither is testimony received but afterward stricken from the record. Statements made by attorneys as to what they expect to prove, or what they claim they have proved, are not evidence.

In questioning a witness, a lawyer is not supposed to "lead" the witness by asking questions in such a form as to suggest the answer;



also, the questions must appear to have some bearing on the case, and the witness shown to know what he is talking about. If these and other rules are apparently not being followed the opposing lawyer may object, and if the judge thinks the question improper he may sustain the objection. If he considers the question proper, he overrules the objection. Lawyers may enter exceptions to the rulings of the judge for the purpose of the trial record, (in case of appeal to a higher court.)

At some time during the proceedings, one of the attorneys may ask the judge for a directed verdict. If the judge decides that one of the parties is entitled to the verdict as a matter of law, he directs the jury to find for that party. In such cases the jury must do as the judge directs and he alone is responsible.



## JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN

The Texas Citizens Committee on Jury Service for Women met Saturday, August 28th, at the Adolphus Hotel to plan concerted action on this item over the State. Mrs. Keller and myself attended this meeting as representatives from the League.

The general opinion was to hire a Public Relations firm in order to more effectively co-ordinate efforts throughout the State, and a motion was made and carried to that effect. A committee was appointed to judge bids from the various firms and make up the contract. Mrs. Keller is a member of the committee.

Mrs. Richards, State President, had been in Dallas that morning to confer with Miss. McCutcheon, Chairman of the Texas Citizens Committee. The Leagues' publications were highly praised, and the hope was expressed that the various Leagues would order as many as possible for distribution. (50,000 have been printed -- 1¢ each)

## Family Courts

Mrs. Coltharpe, Chairman, held a meeting Monday night, August 30th, with six members of her committee. Mrs. Goar and I were there to present the background on this item.

Material was passed around to the various members, and plans were made for a trip through the Juvenile Home.

*Beth McDonald*



Nov. 22, 1954

From: Keller

To: McDonald

Report on LWV Activity- Jury Service for Women- Dallas County

90 Posters for store windows distributed by unit groups.  
1500 Tex, Cit, Com. pamphlets " " by League members.  
7000 LWV pamphlets bought and distributed by unit groups  
and individuals.

1400 LWV pamphlets arranged to be bought and distributed by other women's organizations.

\*\*\*\*\*

The League's Speakers' Bureau scheduled 16 talks on Jury Service between Aug. 11 and Nov. 2, contacting through the talks about 1800 people. Fifteen pictures, editorials and stories mentioning the League's part in the Jury Service campaign were run in local newspapers. Many other stories about Jury Service appeared in the papers undoubtedly due to the efforts of the League's public relations officers. The League's PR Chairman was asked to do the public relations for the Tex. Cit. Com. and did a splendid job. One radio interview was held in which all the amendments, including Jury Service, were mentioned.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Tex. Cit. Com., of which the League was a member, and which was chairmanned locally by a League member, distributed 20,000 of its own pamphlets in Dallas County and had three radio and three TV programs on time given by the stations or by other women's organizations, mostly BandPW Clubs. In addition, the PR firm employed by the Committee scheduled both a radio and a TV panel show, in which a League member participated, and also had paid radio spots and newspaper advertisements preceding the election.

\*\*\*\*\*

The vote on Jury Service for Women was around 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to one in Dallas County, as contrasted to 56% in 1949. The State-wide vote was 302,850 to 224,730.

This writes a successful finish to the League's campaign for Jury Service, in which hard work on the part of all League member and excellent cooperation with the other organizations involved played so outstanding a part.

Passage of exemption legislation is a task to which the League and the other women's organizations are committed and which will surely be accomplished as successfully as the referendum.

®



- 2 -

N.B.

I. Question raised in Board meeting as to number of league pamphlets ~~that~~ league members could distribute.

The original low estimate was revised upward after considerable discussion. The final figures, see p. 1, show that an effective distribution of a large number of pamphlets was made by the league to individuals + to outside organizations.

II. Board discussion as to whether League contributors would be willing to accept partisan literature such as the Army Service pamphlet <sup>for their employees.</sup> The Board's decision was against sending it to the contributors for distribution to their employees. It

(over)



is interesting to note that  
Chance Vought published  
15,000 copies of the Tex. Cit. Gu.,  
pamphlet at its own expense,  
for distribution to its employees.

ER Keller



League of Women Voters of Dallas County

JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN

Included under the Platform Item Status of Women, jury service for women has been a goal of the League of Women Voters of Texas and repeatedly reaffirmed by League conventions since 1936. On November 2, a proposed constitutional amendment will provide the opportunity to realize this goal.

Jury service for women has been introduced in every legislature in Texas since 1935 and has passed one House in general sessions. In 1949, it was submitted to the people and was defeated by a vote of 158, 121 to 131, 341.

The proposed amendment is of the compulsory type. However, the 22 exemptions that now apply to men would also apply to women, and, if the amendment passes, a bill will be introduced in the 1955 legislature providing further exemptions, for example for "persons having the custody of children under 16 years of age."

The LWV of Texas has joined the American Association of University Women, Texas Division, the Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs and the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers in forming the Texas Citizen's Committee on Jury Service for Women to coordinate action throughout the State. The League's contribution in this effort has been publication of a kit for community action and a pamphlet, and the individual actions of League members, like yourself, in working cooperatively for passage of the amendment.



League  
Jury Service 2.

9/3/54

League of Women Voters of Dallas County

JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN

OUTLINE

1. History of jury service for women in the United States
2. Need for qualified jurors
3. Jury service as a civic responsibility
4. Difference between compulsory and optional jury service
5. Eligibility for jury service by State
6. Jury service for women in Texas

Present status - qualifications, exemptions  
and selection

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Plan for community action to secure passage  
of the amendment

\* \*. \* \* \* \*

QUESTIONS

1. Do you favor women serving on juries?
2. Do you favor compulsory or optional jury service legislation?
3. Should women be granted the same exemptions that apply to men or should they be given additional exemptions?
4. If you had to submit a feature story on jury service to a newspaper editor, what idea would you choose to write it around?

