

JUN 14 1982

CONVENTION82

This is going on DPM

Houston, Texas, May 15 - 19

SUMMARY: CONVENTION '82

The balloons really did go up, at Convention '82--and not just at the ERA rally in City Hall Square. Delegates said, over and over, "The sky's the limit. The League has a great future, and members are willing to pay for it and work for it."

That message came through in decisions about program, membership, budget and Per Member Payment level:

- Delegates voted for the bylaw change permitting recruitment of members at every level of the League and also for the full-blown membership campaign outlined in pre-convention materials.
- Delegates enthusiastically approved the national program as proposed--and more. They added a national security study and a concurrence on the constitutional right to privacy in reproductive matters (see PROGRAM, page 4).
- The proposed PMP of \$12 for both years of the biennium was adopted.
- The adopted budget included reallocated funding to staff up for the national security study and to handle the mechanics of concurrence. It also included funding for a Long-Range Planning Committee and for starting to build a computer capability.
- And to top it all off, the delegates elected officers and directors, headed by new president Dorothy S. Ridings (see full slate, plus announced appointees on page 7).

The business of the plenary sessions would have provided excitement enough all by itself, but here was more--much more. More in the plenary sessions and more in the workshops and training sessions and caucuses and special events.

Added highlights from the plenary sessions

- Kathryn Whitmire, League member and mayor of Houston, welcomed the delegates--a special king of "first."
- Ellen Goodman, nationally syndicated columnist, weighing results in the struggle for women's rights, ruefully concluded that in most matters women have moved from myth to myth--from Supermom to Superwoman and have achieved successes by adapting into a world of male values, and by taking on equal responsibilities without equal rights. But she marked out one area as a major exception: "Women are no longer bamboozled by the notion that military policy is for men only." Praising the League for adopting its new study, she said, "We need you to demystify the Pentagon. We need facts and figures from people like you whom we trust. You are now on the cutting edge." Finally, she quoted Carrie Chapman Catt: "The women in this room can do this thing."

- Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, charmed delegates with his ready wit and got down to substance with a plea for a specific form of budgetary relief--closing tax loopholes of every kind, from non-payment to underpayment and special treatment that add up to an estimated loss of more than \$300 billion a year in federal tax revenues and rising.
- Joseph Rauh, long-time D.C. resident and long-time leader in the fight for civil rights, put the case for ratification of the D.C. full voting rights amendment squarely as he saw it: "It's a civil rights issue, and you (the League) are the only ones who can do it."
- Percy Maxim Lee and Juliet Blanchard, the two persons most instrumental in giving the LWVEF its start, were presented with recognition plaques, as part of the LWVEF's 25th anniversary celebration. These pioneers got cheers from the delegates in their brief remarks, with their young ideas and forward vision. Martha T. Mills, who has served on the League's national staff for 30 years, the last 12 as the LWVEF's director, was similarly honored.
- Winners of the membership contest, whose representatives came to the podium to share their best tips, were escorted to the platform by a mariachi band, along with winners of the contest for the most imaginative ways of conducting local program-making activities.
- Addresses by Ruth Hinerfeld, outgoing president, and by Dorothy S. Ridings, incoming president, between them framed the social changes that present the League with simultaneous problems and opportunities, affirmed the vibrancy of the organization and the tested strength of its multi-issue, multi-level structure. Some Ridings targets for the next biennium:
 - Reverse the membership trend line
 - Increasingly diversify the financial base
 - Heighten awareness of the League via the media
- Harriet Hentges sketched the working relationship between board and staff, and the efforts of staff to help League members shape their League to be effective in the eighties.

Then there were the special events.

- At noon on Tuesday, in front of nearby City Hall, delegates rallied once again for ERA. They paid honor to the five past LWVUS-ERA chairs and got a lift from Elizabeth (Liz) Carpenter, honorary co-chair of ERAmerica, who sent forth the call, in her one-of-a-kind voice and style, to keep the faith and to keep up the pressure. Sending out the same message was Helen Milliken, co-chair of ERAmerica. At the close, delegates sent 2,000 balloons into the air, signs of hope, signs of a campaign still going full steam ahead in key unratified states.

- The traditional president's reception took on a special character at this convention. It was, in fact, the LWVEF chair's reception, held in the gallery exhibiting a photo retrospective of the LWVEF's 25 years. Standing also in the receiving line were other LWVEF trustees and honorees Lee, Blanchard and Mills.
- Another member of the Lee family, Percy Lee Langstaff, Connecticut LWV president, was a star of the Tuesday night rodeo, as winner of the cow chip chunking contest. This event turned out to have at least as much audience appeal as such conventional events as roping and bulldogging.
- On Monday night, the League extended its meeting room into the living rooms of TV viewer participants. Through a grant from Warner-Amex, owners of QUBE, an interactive cable TV system, the LWVEF presented a 90-minute program on "The Politics of Debate." Three components were interwoven:
 - a discussion between Patrick Caddell, 1980 Carter campaign pollster, and Richard B. Wirthlin, 1980 Reagan Campaign pollster, moderated by Jack W. Germond, nationally syndicated political columnist and author:
 - comments on the underlying political judgments that govern participation in presidential debates, from Representative and 1980 Candidate John Anderson, and former President Gerald Ford:
 - instant reactions from QUBE subscribers in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio, to questions about the impact and importance of debates.

Moderator Germond's bottom line: Voters find debates a blessing, but not an unmixed blessing.

Some public TV stations in other cities aired the program from a satellite pick-up others will be broadcasting it in the coming weeks.

The League convention got attention from the print media as well as from TV. Ellen Goodman, who came to talk and stayed to listen, wrote a column on us that is enclosed in this report. We'll give you some highlights in the next available mailing, once our clipping service catches up with them. From what we see via our informal "clipping service," coverage was great.

And around the edges...

As at every convention, the smaller scheduled sessions--training sessions and workshops--and the delegate-organized caucuses had every bit as much appeal and impact as the plenary sessions. In them, delegates could share special interests and expertise, pick up new information, and lobby at all hours for their League goals. Delegates adjusted with good humor to the abridgements in the training sessions made necessary when they agreed that they needed another hour or so late Tuesday afternoon for general business.

Many delegates took advantage of the tours--most of them program related--arranged by the host League for those who arrived early or stayed late. Add to that brew the non-stop talking and meeting and exchanging of notes and finding of old friends at breakfast, lunch and dinner, in the registration line and on the buses to and from planes. Veteran convention-goers will recognize the mix as before--the spices without which a League convention would not be the unforgettable experience that it is.

STUDY AND ACTION: NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 1982-84

The convention body adopted the national program as proposed, with a number of additions. Three tended to restore 1980-82 wordings:

- The phrase "Citizen Rights" was restored as a priority listing under the Government heading.
- The program category "Social Policy" was revised to read "Human Resources and Social Policy."
- The "Position in Brief" under this category was modified so that the second sentence reads, "Promote the fiscal well-being of cities, the quality of urban life, and sound transportation systems."

Two other changes added not-recommended items to the program agenda:

- Delegates voted for a study of "national security policies and their impact on our domestic programs and our relationships with other nations." As part of the adopting motion, the following scope was proposed: "Define the nature of national security and its relationship to military spending. Assess the impact of U.S. military spending on the nation's economy and our ability to meet social and environmental needs. Determine the effects of U.S. military policy on our relationship with other countries."
- Also carried was a motion "that local Leagues be asked to concur with the following statement which reflects the conclusions of the 1982 LWV of New Jersey and the 1972 LWV of Massachusetts consensus positions concerning public policy on reproductive matters: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices."

That bare-bones summary of final program action scarcely conveys the spirited debate not only on these adopted program matters, but also on several others. Among them: the issue of whether to restore a health care study to the program and a move to alter the wording of the proposed program to encompass not just negotiations to reduce the risk of war, but also "disarmament, arms control and a bilaterally verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons." Neither proposal won convention approval.

This convention body set a League record for the number of votes-by-ballot--11 in all--and program voting used a good share of that total. In no case, however, did a counted program vote turn out to be a cliff-hanger; all outcomes, whether pro or con, were by decided margins.

Convention attention to program covers more territory than debate and voting on proposed program and not-recommended items. The program picture is filled in from several pallettes. First, of course, is the projection made by the board at the time it proposes the program and in the highlights presented by the program-making chair. In those highlights, Marilyn Reeves took note of the so-far-successful but not-yet-completed action push on voting rights, clean air and clean water, underscored the continuing commitment to the D.C. amendment and pledged pressure on ERA right up to the June 30th deadline, and continued attention to ERA issues after that date.

Delegates convey their League's hopes and expectations about program, too, in the way they shape their motion, in the arguments they use at the PRO and CON mikes, and in their "direction to the board"--their advice and recommendations toward the end of the convention.

Finally, delegates take action as a convention body. At Convention '82, they authorized these actions:

- Commend the President for his decision to speak before the UN Special Session on Disarmament and to enter into negotiations at an early date with the Soviet Union; tell him of the League's newly adopted study on national security.
- Send a telegram of support to the ERA fasters in Illinois.
- Urge Congress to act immediately to control the sources and amounts of acid rain. (Each delegate was also encouraged to contact her/his Member of Congress in support of specific acid rain bills.)
- Communicate to the appropriate federal officials and/or MCs at the appropriate time that the League strongly opposes the change of policy for wholesale disposal and sale of federal lands, on the grounds that the lands are held in trust for all citizens and that such a policy change must therefore require maximum public participation and review in the decision-making process.
- Urge the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to adopt environmental threshold-carrying capacity standards, in order to protect and preserve the Lake Tahoe basin.
- Commend and thank Robert Stafford and Representative Henry Waxman for their effective support for a strong Clean Air Act and urge their continued leadership on acid rain legislation.
- Urge members of the Senate to give strong support to S1992, the Voting Rights Act extension, as reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, with no weakening amendments.

--Urge Governor Richard Riley of South Carolina to use the power of his office and personal persuasion to break the blockade of ERA ratification, using the same skills as he exhibited in the national movement toward careful management of nuclear waste.

--Urge Governors James B. Hunt of North Carolina, George Nigh of Oklahoma, James Thompson of Illinois and Robert Graham of Florida to use their influence to ratify ERA in their states before June 30, 1982.

BYLAWS--AND MEMBERSHIP

As Joan Rich, Bylaws Committee Chair, put it, "Who ever said bylaws couldn't be exciting?" The big news is that delegates agreed to the board's proposal to amend Article III, Section 2 so that every level of the League can be a recruiting and entry point for bringing full-fledged members into the League--that is, people who are at once local, state and national members.

The debate was brisk, the vote decisive. So also with the related budget question: Did delegates want to "buy" that part of the budget that withdrew \$50,000 from the operating fund for a membership campaign with two main components:

--A \$25,000 package of materials and services to local Leagues, that equips each of them to conduct a high-quality, intensive campaign from September 11 to October 9, 1982. The theme: ACTION PACKED POLITICS. The materials: recruiting flyers, radio spots, posters, how-to handbooks, plus saturation field service.

--A \$25,000 test of direct-mail recruitment of members. It will cover two years and will be based, like the direct-mail fundraising program, on the principle of recycling income while a body of renewing members is being built up. Members recruited in this manner will be reported to state Leagues, for their further reporting to appropriate local Leagues. These members can then participate in League activities to the extent they choose, just as locally recruited members do.

Other bylaw changes--none so substantive as this--will be reflected in a new edition of the bylaws to be published late this summer. A significant effort to impose sanctions, by reducing or withdrawing the convention voting power of Leagues that have not met PMP obligations, ultimately failed to pass.

LEAGUE FINANCE

Delegates voted for the PMP schedule as proposed: \$12 for both years of the biennium. In contrast to some convention years, proposals for lesser amounts were few and debate was brief. By the time they came to the decision point on PMP, delegates had already committed themselves to everything the \$12 was meant to support, and more besides.

As for the budget, delegates were dealing with a budget somewhat modified from the one that was mailed to Leagues in Workbook 2 in April. The PMP income figure

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was fine-tuned to reflect not just January 1 membership totals, but also the exact impact of household and life memberships.

--The LWVUS dividend and interest projection was increased, as was the projected LWVEF income from national fundraising.

--These changes plus some other minor adjustments enabled the board to provide \$30,000 for a Long-Range Planning Committee (see page 9 for more) and some consulting services for its first-year efforts, as well as \$17,000 for increasing the computer capabilities of the national office.

A second round of budget adjustments was triggered by the need to come up with staffing for a full-scale national security study (\$22,300) and to handle the concurrence process (\$2,700). When the board and budget committee recommended relinquishing the monies allotted for computer capability, in order to balance the budget, delegates vetoed the idea. Their message was strong: "We want the national office to push forward in this direction, for the sake of the entire League. Look elsewhere for the necessary dollars." In the end, fundraising was increased and some printing in Legislative Action marginally reduced, to balance the budget.

Leagues will receive the budget as adopted (strictly speaking, delegates adopt the LWVUS budget and approve the LWVEF budget, which must be adopted by the LWVEF trustees), as soon as these assorted changes can be incorporated and a clean copy produced.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE LWVUS

The following slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected by voice vote, there being no nominations from the floor

President:	Dorothy S. Ridings	Louisville, Kentucky
First Vice President:	Nancy M. Neuman	Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
Second Vice President:	Merilyn B. Reeves	Laurel, Maryland
Secretary-Treasurer	Julia T. Richie	Plainfield, New Jersey
	Julia A. Holmes	Pittsford, New York
	Roberta Jaffe	Gary, Indiana
	Pat Jensen	Iowa City, Iowa
	Janet Otwell	Evanston, Illinois
	Joan Rich	Atascadero, California
	Virginia A. Schwartz	Birmingham, Michigan
	Pat Shutt	Kaneohe, Hawaii
	Joy E. Sovde	Columbia, South Carolina

After the election, Dorothy Ridings introduced three appointed members, subject to approval by the new board:

Dorothy K. Powers	Princeton, New Jersey
Ruth S. Robbins	Sarasota, Florida
Florence R. Rubin	Newton Centre, Massachusetts

The 1982-84 Nominating Committee also was elected on a voice vote:

Chair:	Hester McNulty	Boulder, Colorado
	Ann Curry	Atlanta, Georgia
	Geneva Maiden	Chesterland, Ohio
	Marianne Pollak	Stamford, Connecticut

CONVENTION STATISTICS

The 35th national convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States met in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas, May 15-19, 1982. Delegates came from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Official attendance of voting delegates peaked on Wednesday, at 1,279. The top daily figure for each category was: 1,111 delegates from 857 local Leagues; 133 delegates from 50 state Leagues; 22 delegates from inter-League organizations (ILOs); 14 members of the national board; 1 observer from a provisional League. In addition, top figures for other categories of attendees were: 107 visitors, 41 special guests and 34 members of the national staff. An unusually large number of past national board members were among the special guests, though at least one came as a local League delegate.

In all, 234 volunteers from Texas Leagues helped run the convention, with two coming from 500 miles away—and a few out-of-state volunteers also shared the work. All in all, total participation, including rotating visitors and media, ranged around 1,700.

The National VOTER, which will go into the mail July 8th, will be a convention issue, reporting to all members what went on at convention, what was decided, and what new board chairs are projecting in their areas of responsibility.

Sooner than that, presidents and DPM subscribers will receive a Post Board Summary of the June 6-9 board meeting, at which the decisions of the convention will be reviewed and next steps mapped out.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Delegates accepted the proposal presented to them in Workbook 3, for a Long Range Planning Committee of the kind described below and supported by a \$30,000 budget for 1982-83. Since only delegates have seen the report, it is now reproduced in full for presidents and DPM subscribers. Note the invitation to send in nominees for committee members by July 1, 1982.

A preliminary Long Range Planning Committee consisting of national board and staff has met several times since September 1981. Their work is an outgrowth of a strategic planning session conducted by a consultant during the June 1981 national board meeting.

The committee's charge from the national board was to design a planning process that would involve all levels of the League working together to define where we want our organization to be in future years and how we get there from where we are today. In the course of its deliberations this committee discussed many of the critical problems and challenges the League faces, as well as the organizational strengths and weaknesses we bring to the resolution of the key issues that will shape our future direction.

Furthermore, committee members recognized that some state Leagues such as Minnesota had made progress through long range planning. In addition, at its April meeting the committee gave thoughtful consideration to the outside study approach suggested by the LWV of Florida.

The national board has adopted the Long Range Planning Committee's proposal for a method of developing a comprehensive, integrated long range plan to strengthen the League at all levels. This plan, developed and refined in close consultation with League leaders and members, will be based upon information and ideas about many aspects of the League. Examples include: the structure of the organization and its relationship to our programs and services; the allocation of the financial resources of the entire League (local, state, national); a broad range of membership growth needs -- recruitment, retention, training, leadership development; our internal and external communication mechanisms.

The committee unanimously decided on the importance of restructuring and budgeting for a clearly defined planning process that would result in the formation of a long-range plan for the organization. Specific recommendations are as follows:

1. Restructure the Long Range Planning Committee so that it will include six local and state leaders and two members of the national board.
2. Schedule four meetings of the 1982-84 Long Range Planning Committee between Convention '82 and Council '83. Make the first one a three-day retreat to define the critical issues, and the procedures for collecting and analyzing information from League leaders and members.
3. Use existing staff to provide support for the work of the committee; use a

consultant to help the committee organize its tasks and perhaps to collect sensitive information from League leaders and members.

4. Present a draft plan to the '83 council. That gives us all a year in which to review and refine a plan, based on council advice and further consultation with Leagues.
5. Bring a final version of the plan, plus recommendations for any structural or budgetary changes that might be required for its implementation, to the convention in 1984.
6. Include in the plan the machinery for evaluating the planning process and implementation of the plan.

As the process unfolds the committee is expected to have ongoing communication with state and local Leagues so that together we can indeed strengthen the League as a whole to meet the challenges of the 1980s.

State and local League leaders who are interested in serving or recommending someone to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee are invited to submit names and resumes to the national office c/o Management and Training Services Department by June 1, 1982. This deadline was extended by wish of the convention to July 1, 1982.

CONVENTION SPEECHES

The following speeches delivered at Convention '82 are available. Single copies are free. Please order by publication number; to the attention of Publication Sales Department.

President's Address

by Ruth J. Hinerfeld (pub. #685)

Remarks by the Honorable Robert Dole

Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
(pub. #686)

Address: D.C. Voting Rights Now!

by Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. (pub. #689)

Executive Director's Address

by Harriet Hentges (pub. #691)

Women's Rights and the Peace Vote

by Ellen Goodman (pub. #697)

Newly Elected President's Address

by Dorothy S. Ridings (pub. #698)

LWV-Texas
April 1982
LL Pres. Mailing (1); DPM
I. H.
Convention - National

TO: LL Presidents; DPM

FROM: LWV-Houston

Local League presidents -- please be sure the volunteers from your League who will be working at national convention are aware that the training session is at the Hyatt Regency on May 14 & 15. Parking is on your own.

EVENTS AVAILABLE FOR CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS:

Tour #2 - Refinery Tour, Saturday, May 15, 8:15 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

Tour the Shell Oil Refinery and Chemical Complex with Houston's Natural Resource Committee members and Shell personnel.

\$12.00 - Lunch included.

Rodeo - Special League Event. Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 P.M.

Texas barbecue and professional rodeo arranged especially for LWV convention. Lots of food, all the beer or soda one can drink, country music, and special events involving individual Leaguers!

\$28.00 covers everything!

Buses leave the Hyatt on the Dallas St. side. Tickets may be picked up at the Tours Table, Hyatt.

Make check payable to: LWV Convention Tours

#2 - \$12.00
Rodeo - \$28.00

Mail to: LWV-Houston
1947 West Gray
Houston, TX 77019

SEE YOU THERE!

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF FLORIDA

Ruth Ann Bramson, President



March 31, 1982

APR 8 1982

Dear Fellow League Leader:

I am alarmed. Perhaps you are too.

- If membership continues to decline at the present rate in ten years we will have one-half the members we have today. This is at a time of great organizational growth for others.
- Members are no longer willing to be married to the League spending their time mixing flour and water to make paste. Yet, our internal processes and community action style are built on that expectation.
- When was the last time you saw the League mentioned in Time, The Wall Street Journal or the evening news as a force in this country? Are we taken as seriously as we think we are?
- Income from the PMP, publication sales and grants has seriously declined yet the national leadership goes on to recommend a blue-sky budget for 1982-83 by proposing an increase in the PMP from members. This comes at a time when more money needs to stay at home to meet new federalism demands.

Neither hand wringing, hope nor hunches will get us on course. Hard examination of our problems with the help of outside experts is imperative. The enclosed pamphlet outlines a plan for action.

Please join with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Ann Bramson".

Ruth Ann Bramson
President

LWV-Texas
April 21, 1982
STATE BOARD MAILING

TO: State Board
FROM: Diana Clark
RE: This and that

FLASH.....Texas Monthly has given us \$10,000 in T money to put on the governor's debate. Check not in hand, but promise is.....

The attached letter and proposal is from the LWV-Florida. It was sent to every local League in the country. In addition, Ruth Ann Bramson telephoned me for my reaction, but she phoned before I got the material. In any case, she would very much like Texas' support. They are going to propose this under an amendment to the budget. They are open to suggestions for changes or refinement in the proposal. Please study the materials and let me or Lois or Nancy P. know your feelings by May 10th.

Please also be thinking of how you want to structure the June board meeting. Sometime during convention week, the VP's and I will be making up the agenda. We are going to Camp Allen near Navasota again. Also, we have space for one off-board person at that meeting (we pay for 20 as a minimum). Please let Lois know your suggestions by May 10th at the very latest. Let me or your VP know about agenda items by that date also.

Please also be thinking about nominees for the next state board, and communicate with Betty Anderson or other committee members Rowena Rogers, Lucy Polter, or Lavora or Georgia (board representatives) before June 10. DO NOT HESITATE to talk about yourself for any position. Do consider that I am not available for another term, but I am recommending all of you.....

TO: LL Presidents, 2nd copy to treasurer;
DPM;

FROM: Jeanette Vanderwater, LWV-T Treas.

LWV-Texas
December 1981
LL Pres. Mailing (2); DPM;
I. E. 3.
Budget/Treasurer - Local

RE: SALES TAX

There seems to be some confusion about state sales tax. I will try to clarify the situation. Leagues are exempt from PAYING sales tax on items purchased by the League FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S OWN USE. This applies to publications, office supplies, paper, etc. Publications purchased for League use include: anything sent to every member as part of the dues; leadership and reference materials for individual board members to do their job. The League must provide an exemption certificate (sent to LL presidents in late summer) for each supplier. Don't bother with a certificate for publications bought from the state League.

If items are purchased by the League to be sold to individual members or the public (for personal use), the League MUST charge sales tax. This includes publications sent to members as a subscription service not part of the dues. Two Leagues have their own sales tax reporting mechanism and remit the tax directly to the State Comptroller's office. All other Leagues MUST send tax collected to the state League office (using gold forms provided by LWV-T) and I will remit the tax to the Comptroller's office. For items purchased from the state League office, the invoice will probably not include sales tax if it appears the items are for League use. If the items are for individual use (either League members or the public), please say so and we will include the sales tax on the invoice. If the items are to be resold, YOU MUST COLLECT THE TAX and remit it.

Some educational and religious organizations may hold a sales event once a year and not be required to collect the sales tax. This "one time only" exemption does not apply to such civic organizations as the League. You must collect sales tax at your holiday function if items are sold.

BUDGET

If your board has not already appointed a budget committee, remind your president to do so, and soon. Most Leagues will be dealing with next year's budget immediately after the holidays.

#

LET'S GIVE OURSELVES A HAND...

- Any group would be proud to claim the quality of our membership and record.
- Other organizations regularly want to tap into our network of local Leagues.
- The quality of life in local communities is enhanced by the presence of a productive local League.
- And, the fellowship of like-minded individuals is a reward of membership.



HOLD ON A MINUTE, AREN'T YOU OVERLOOKING SOME PROBLEMS...

- Is there something the matter with me as a leader or are the demands built into our processes unreasonable?
- Are we satisfied with filling token roles in the public arena instead of acting like movers and shakers? Is this why the national media don't give us the recognition we think our leadership on issues, such as voting rights, deserves?
- How can the local level be strong when such a large portion of our dues is sent upward? Will national's repeated direct mail solicitations cut into donations members usually make to the local level?
- If some of these problems were solved, would we halt the decline in membership?

OKAY, SO PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO GIVE OURSELVES ANOTHER KIND OF HAND...

Local, state and national leaders have been grappling with these threats and opportunities. Experienced in studying other agencies, we cannot translate these skills to ourselves because we are enmeshed in our own system and because our data base includes only some of the "whats" and none of the "whys". It is for this very reason that vigorous organizations, professions and businesses turn periodically to outside experts for a HELPING HAND. The inherent flaws in self-study probably explain why the present national board will not be able to fulfill the commitment made to the 1980 convention to bring back in 1982 a "total by-laws revision package" addressing funding, program adoption and membership and avoiding "piecemeal provisions that might prove counterproductive."



AT THE CONVENTION IN HOUSTON DELEGATES REPRESENTING FLORIDA WILL PROPOSE A STUDY OF LEAGUE EFFECTIVENESS BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS.

"Oh, no," you say, "not another study to wind up on a shelf. The times require action." Florida agrees. We have no more time for trial-and-error or piecemeal solutions. Members must have comprehensive, clearly defined options for choice. Only research, contracted out, will give us this in time. THIS KIND OF STUDY IS ACTION IN THE BEST SENSE.

HOW WILL THE STUDY BE FINANCED?

The answer will come from several interlocking decisions delegates to convention will make. What PMP are delegates willing to shoulder? What priorities do they want expenditures to reflect? What experiments and expenditures can be postponed until the study is completed?

It is not Florida's purpose through the proposal to further strap the local level. We believe the study can be funded without doing that.

The only way to assure that the study is not derailed before benefits are derived is to commit adequate funds for the entire project at the outset, even though the study will span more than one budget year. We are told that a total allocation of \$100,000 is sufficient to attract bids from topnotch firms.

WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO?

- Cosponsor the study proposal, even if you will not be at convention.
- Return the enclosed postal at once.
- Be alert to and oppose piecemeal solutions at convention.
- Attend the caucus on the proposal at convention. Members of the Florida delegation will be available then and at other times to answer your questions fully.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA

1517 E. Fowler Ave. Suite E-F
Tampa, FL 33612

APR 8 1982

Florida says

LET'S
GIVE
OURSELVES
A HAND

and strengthen
League through
an efficient,
non-divisive,
comprehensive
and contemporary
approach to our
unsolved problems

		KEY SUCCESS ELEMENTS	HOW THEY WILL BE ENSURED?	WHAT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH?
2/3 Funds	PHASE 1	<p>Steering committee which is:</p> <p>small</p> <p>independent</p> <p>effective</p> <p>coordinated with LWVUS ongoing planning</p> <p>Investigation by consultants under committee direction</p> <p>Decision point by LWV leaders</p>	<p>Have LWVUS Board appoint 7 members from individual applicants to include 1 LWVUS Board member, 2 state League representatives and 4 local League representatives, who together are broadly representative of geography and League size.</p> <p>Have LWVUS transfer authority to committee to: devise own procedures; fill committee vacancies; select chair; select project director and define that person's duties/authority/budget; hire consultant(s); explore any area or level.</p> <p>Rely on short-term management consultation to: train committee to design Request For Proposals (RFP) from consultants; select best firm; work well together and with consultants; involve membership.</p> <p>Report regularly to LWVUS Board, getting input back.</p> <p>Direct consultant to reach all League levels plus key outside leaders and to treat no area of League as sacrosanct. Require that pivotal questions be asked: what is our primary organizational unit and is this where our resources are directed? how do the real movers and shakers see us? do our resource allocations accurately reflect our priorities? if change is needed, what is the full range of alternatives open to us?</p> <p>Narrow the range of options, using Council 1983.</p>	<p>Committee weighted to grassroots with LWVUS liaison. Attraction of topnotch members. Economy of operation. Communication ease.</p> <p>Assurance of an independent study, free of bias.</p> <p>Preparation of committee to handle a new task quickly and professionally. Selection of best consultant with national stature.</p> <p>Use of LWVUS experience, expertise while maintaining committee's independence. Stimulus to LWVUS to make improvements along the way that do not require member policy action.</p> <p>Development of wide range of options and strategies that might be used to strengthen League.</p> <p>Identification of those missions/strategies the membership might seriously consider.</p>
	PHASE 2	<p>Putting a group of specific options in action forms</p> <p>Decision point by membership</p>	<p>Contract with consultant (same or new) for intensive exploration of certain options likely to be feasible and successful.</p> <p>Affirm League missions and the means to carry them out.</p>	<p>Development of decision packages in forms appropriate for convention action.</p> <p>Action on specific bylaw, budget or program proposals by 1984 convention.</p>
1/3 Funds	PHASE 3	<p>Retraining of members, leaders, staff, and even the public</p> <p>Implementation monitoring</p>	<p>Setting aside at outset about 1/3 of funding for implementation so that experts, LWVUS or consultant, can provide the skills and tools needed for reforms members have selected.</p> <p>Development of means to measure if League is "getting it all together".</p>	<p>Rapid and successful implementation of members' convention decisions.</p> <p>Fine tuning of remedies.</p>

JUN 14 1982

Pub. No. 698

NEW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By

Dorothy S. Ridings

I thought long and hard about this speech. I reviewed past speeches of some of the 10 women who have been president of the League of Women Voters in the past 62 years, and in the process, I read many eloquent words, many stirring challenges, many thoughtful insights about our world and our governance.

But those words posed a particular problem for me. As many of you know, I have been a writer by profession all my life, so I felt a special challenge: what to say? Even more, how to say it?

After some months of pondering, I returned to what I had wanted to do in the first place -- speak from the heart, to our own very special League family which has honored me so much today by electing me your president.

Much of our time these past five days has been devoted to dealing with our problems, many of them our internal problems. We're worried about membership, we're worried about money, we're worried about the future supply of volunteer leadership.

We have justification to be worried. But just for a while, let's forget our problems and celebrate both our present and our potential. I want to celebrate our unique organizational structure, our high public visibility and our very real political strength. As creative leaders, we can use these impressive strengths to address our major problem areas of membership and money -- and we've already begun to do that at this convention.

When I began serving on your national board in 1976, I had no real understanding of the incredible strength of this organization, a strength that is absolutely rooted in that organizational structure. We are uniquely structured, with the considerable autonomy of local Leagues that have such strength of their own yet that derive even greater strength by being banded together into state Leagues, inter-League organizations and the national League.

We speak with one, strong voice. The 1,245 local Leagues are the bedrock -- and yes, I'll use that word grassroots -- of the total organization. But without priority-setting and strategizing that is coordinated through state Leagues, ILOs and the national League, we could be simply 1,245 splinter groups sending diverse, and perhaps conflicting, messages. "Networking" is not a new phrase for us.

But at times it seems that we don't bask in the glory of that great connection and in how it is perceived by others. Let me give you a good example of that perception.

On the opening day of this convention, you heard Ruth Hinerfeld mention a recent article in US News and World Report headlined "Lean Times for Citizen Lobbies." The article profiled what it called "three do-good groups with muscle," one of them being the LWVUS.

Let me give you some background about that article. US News profiled the League, talked to our leaders, and gathered some opinions from others about our activities. Then the magazine asked our help in locating a similar organization that could offer additional illustrations from the vantage point of a grassroots organization. We tried to help -- but there simply wasn't one.

This bears out the perception of the League in Washington as the only true grassroots, multi-issue organization in this entire country -- a national network with progressive positions on issues that makes us unique in the true sense of that often-misused word.

And it is the knowledge of that structure, the knowledge that Leagues can be mobilized throughout this country, that is the basis for our visibility and clout. That same magazine article concluded that while it's a "far cry from the glory days of the 1970s," the League is riding the crest of a new wave with what it identified as our "tools that have served impressively in the past: grassroots backing nationwide, efficient information networks and zealous commitment to the cause."

That's not just US News talking. Public opinion polls tell us that Americans who are sampled, when asked which public interest groups they would choose to belong to, consistently name the League over all others.

For example, a 1980 Roper poll showed that when given a choice of six well-known national public interest groups, respondents ranked the League at the top of those they have heard about and read about.

Also in that poll, respondents considered us the most effective organization in giving the average citizen a voice in the nation, and perhaps most significantly today, we're the organization ranked highest as the one they would most be apt to join or contribute to.

So we have the name recognition any politician would envy. We have a network that others with causes to promote clamor to tie into. We are constantly courted as members of every coalition imaginable. We're seen as an effective outlet for citizen action and as an attractive choice for membership and contributions. Why, then, do we also have this past decade of declining membership?

We can debate the reasons why the vibrant patient is nevertheless ill, and our membership and long-range planning committees have this as a major task. But this convention has taken three particular actions that begin immediate treatment: adoption of a new membership bylaw, authorization for a real selling job of the League through a nationwide membership campaign, and adoption of two of the liveliest program issues in my memory.

First, about that membership by-law. While the Roper poll identified a high percentage of people who said they would be "interested in joining," we all know that it's much easier to say that than it is to join. For the League, that has had special meaning -- because in too many cases, it has been downright hard to join us. The by-law does nothing more than permit all levels of League to participate in recruitment. In my six years on the national board, board members have always been committed to strengthening our grassroots, our local Leagues, and this new by-law does not indicate any wavering from that strong commitment. To the contrary, it indicates an even firmer commitment to the survival of the local Leagues -- which means the survival of the entire organization.

You addressed the membership dilemma in a second way by authorizing the aggressive nationwide membership campaign designed to reach potential members in ways that are not revolutionary, but that are new for the League. The theme of action-packed politics conveys a very strong message -- that the first action to take is to join the League of Women Voters -- today!

In the bluntest of terms, it is a survival issue. The ancillary benefit is the added clout we know we get through the louder voice of increased membership. And let us not forget the benefits to the new member: their alliance with an organization that they trust to provide reasoned and effective responses to society's needs.

I say "alliance" deliberately. Part of our new message to new members must be that participatory democracy through the League need not be an all-consuming vocation in itself. For many of us who are League leaders, it may seem that it is: in the profile of convention delegates, about half said you spend the equivalent of half-time or full-time employment on volunteer League work.

But the volunteer world is different for most. Read the June issue of Working Women Magazine, in which the League is featured in this context. Most of our members are women living new female lifestyles, and we simply have to do better, be more creative, in adapting to today's most likely membership prospects -- the women living those lifestyles. Economic forces and new career goals have led a large percentage of us who are women back into the workforce, if we ever leave it at all. Even among the League's leadership that constitutes this convention, 40 percent of you are employed outside the home -- the same exact percentage, by the way, that is employed among our total membership.

A number of you have been tackling this set of conditions with great success, through lunchtime units, evening couples groups, meetings, at worksite locations, job-chunking, the use of members whose jobs give them special expertise as resource providers -- and many other ways. But we have turned away many of these people because they would not or could not give their lives to the League. There are many who would join us because they believe in what we do, want the information we provide, applaud the League's courage and tenacity, want to support us with their numbers and their dues. But we've been slow to welcome them, or even accept them, as supportive members.

The point has been made that members who rarely participate in League studies or other activities dilute our claim to solid, well-informed answers to governmental questions. I contend that we have a great many members already who might be called supportive, who aren't always there when the gavel falls at a League meeting. Look honestly at your own local membership rolls and see if that's not true.

Certainly many of those supportive members on our rolls now have been active in the past and both want and need the resources we provide, the association with the League, the continuing opportunity to participate at whatever level possible. We can build on that corps of supportive members we already have. We can do a better job of inaugurating a supportive newcomer to the League, -- to how we do our business, without turning it into a lengthy initiation. I am simply convinced that there are great numbers of such people who would like to be counted among us under those groundrules -- and what's more, we can be egotistical enough to say that they need us. We surely need them.

Moreover, I worry about the future of the volunteer movement if it becomes a movement only of those who have the volunteer time commitments often demanded by the League. I can speak from personal experience, since a great many people assumed that when I returned to full-time employment several years ago, I would "of course" no longer be so active in the voluntary sector. What a sad assumption! The full-time volunteer is a treasure, but one that's increasingly a too-scarce resource on which to base our future.

The third way in which you have spoken to the membership question during this convention is through our program adoption. Many of you have long contended that new program attracts new members; you've certainly got your chance to prove it. Our national security study and reproductive rights concurrence are hot issues, and if we can attract new members -- and keep them beyond the study phase -- there will be a lot of converts to the argument that new issues build membership.

And as a multi-issue organization, we need the diversity of views that can come from new members who may join because of one particular agenda but then stay to add their views on other issues. Only if we can keep them, can we maintain the claim that this country still needs a multi-issue organization alongside all the single-issue groups that have proliferated.

Our program adoption also gives us new opportunities, in addition to their effect on membership. We have the opportunity to remove blind stridency from the issue of reproductive rights. To those of you who have expressed to me your sincere concern over this item on the League agenda, I urge you to continue to trust in the League and its deliberate reason.

And we have the opportunity to be a voice of reason and trust in the debate over the national security of this nation. Our role in this issue, as well as our unwavering commitment to preserve and continue the impressive gains in voting rights, environmental protection and meeting human needs, will serve the nation well.

We will, of course, continue to be heavily challenged on those issues in which gains have been made. The mood of the country is different to some degree than it was a year ago, when Ruth Hinerfeld told the League's National Council that literally all of our principal action commitments were straining against the headwinds of political sentiment. One year later, we can see that political sentiment has in some measure begun to shift back toward the positions we have steadfastly adhered to, although on some issues you have to be quite observant to see that movement yet.

The battles are far from won, and not all of them ever will be. But our successes in the past year, as pointed out in the action report of your convention materials, have been notable -- and we have been credited by the press and other observers as a major catalyst in those victories. That also has been gratifying, and again I direct you to your convention materials and the briefing on media attention accorded the League in the last year.

But the battle will still be tough. The economic condition of the country, in particular, continues to chill the social and environmental climate. As the editor of a business publication, I encounter this every day. Many of you have encountered it even more personally: League families are not immune to layoffs and business failures.

But that makes the voice of the League of Women Voters even more crucial to the promise of America. These are particularly dangerous times for human needs, and the times are too troubled not to have the benefit of the League's continued prodding, and even the initiation of action.

Acknowledging that the pendulum of political sentiment has swung back in our direction to some degree, it still won't be easy or comfortable for us. It probably never will be. I particularly love the illustration I read in a New York State League board report last year, as one board member started her message to local League leaders this way:

"In ancient Italy, there lived a group called the Thurians who had a unique method of lobbying. Anyone who wanted to pass a law or abolish an old one could present his case with a rope around his neck. If his listeners were still unconvinced at the completion of his presentation, they could hang him on the spot. Fortunately," the memo continued, "our state legislature is not composed of Thurians. If it were, I would not be here to write this memo and you would not be here to read it."

Let me conclude this family message by sharing with you some of my thoughts during the months since I became your nominee for president.

I have some special feelings for what I would like to see this organization accomplish in the next two years, and it's only fair that I share some of that with you now -- while I still have your good will! I'm not unmindful of the honeymoon period accorded any newly-elected leader.

First and foremost is a reverse in direction of that dismaying line graph showing our membership totals. The campaign that was kicked off at this convention and the new recruitment by-law give us a good shot at doing that. And I repeat my strong desire to see us become more receptive to members we will accept on their terms of time and energy commitment, and not on our terms as we have often dictated them in the past.

Second is an increasingly diverse financial base for the League, a direction also already begun through such things as direct mail solicitation, a promising planned giving program and stepped-up finance training for state and local Leagues. This has been done, by the directive of previous conventions, to relieve the PMP burden. But I ~~must~~ add -- and I will state that I felt this way as a local League president and still believe it today -- that we will make a great mistake if we ever abandon a foundation of financial support based on an every-member contribution of some sort. Money is control, and our basis of strength that resides in the local Leagues will be eroded if our national level were ever to approach complete financial support from non-member sources.

Third is heightened awareness by the rest of the world of what we do and say. We have made tremendous strides in our visibility during the past two years, but again, we can do better. While it breaks my heart as a life-long writer to admit it, public visibility is tremendously dependent these days on electronic media. We are at the fledgling stage of increased use of radio, and television in all its forms, on a nationwide level, and we are drawing on the skills and knowledge of the local and state Leagues that have been working with the electronic media.

But I don't subscribe to the popular notion that print is out, that audio-visual is the only place it's at. My hunches in this regard are borne out by none other than the electronic whiz-kid himself, Boone Arledge of ABC, who is sometimes called the P.T. Barnum of television. He was asked by the Washington Journalism Review if the written word is doomed by electronic media. He said he thinks "it'll be just the opposite ... Once you open people's eyes to what's going on in the world, you open a thirst that leads to more reading ... It's going to be a long, long time before we have anything that approximates the permanency or depth of a good newspaper or magazine."

And, I would add, it'll be a long, long time before we have anything that approximates the permanency or depth of a good League publication.

So I think we're on the right track in our membership approach, our money management and our visibility. My goals are to continue the thrusts we have begun in these areas, and try some new ones. Public recognition of our clout is amazingly high, and we're right on target with our programmatic content. Our staff, while reduced in numbers, remains of the outstanding caliber we've come to expect in our staff; when they grumble at those of us who set policy, it's because they love this organization as we do, and know it has the potential to be even so much better.

There are steps I have begun, anticipating that nomination was probably tantamount to election (and as an aside, one delegate told me on the elevator that there weren't all that many people ready to leap up when other nominations were called for). With that anticipation, I have been working with returning board members and staff to restructure how the board does its work. You'll hear much more about this in later communications, but I want to sketch it out for you now, before I introduce the others you have elected.

The board will be organized into four committees, with one specifically charged with the major responsibility for our membership campaign and other organizational matters; one to deal with all aspects of finance; one to manage all citizen education or programmatic content as we have known it; and one to direct our action activities.

There will be sub-specialties within each committee, but my hope is that this will move us out of what at times have been confining -- and sometimes turf-building -- portfolios, particularly in the programmatic area.

Having briefly said that, now let me introduce the members of your 1982-84 national board. Please hold your applause and your special indications of state pride until all have been introduced.

Nancy Neuman of Pennsylvania, as first vice president, will chair the membership committee, our prime internal focus for the biennium.

Merilyn Reeves of Maryland, as second vice president, will have the major responsibilities for natural resources concerns within the citizen education program committee. She also will serve as state and local grants chair.

Julia Richie of New Jersey, as secretary/treasurer, will have a major responsibility on the finance committee to follow the spending patterns of the League, and keep us on track.

Julia Holmes of New York, who's also claimed by Indiana, will serve as the action chair.

Bobbi Jaffe of Indiana will have the major responsibilities for social policy concerns within the citizen education program committee.

Pat Jensen of Iowa, who's also claimed by Virginia, will serve on the action committee as communications chair.

Jan Otwell of Illinois will serve on the action committee as litigation chair.

Joan Rich of California will serve on the membership committee with major responsibility for field service activities, and also will be international relations chair in the citizen education program committee.

Ginny Schwartz of Michigan will serve on the citizen education program committee with major responsibilities in the government and voter service area.

Pat Shutt of Hawaii will serve on the citizen education program committee with natural resources responsibilities.

Joy Sovde of South Carolina will serve on the citizen education program committee with social policy responsibilities.

I also will ask the new board as their first action to ratify three appointments to the board. Ruth Robbins of Florida will serve as finance chair. Florence Rubin of Massachusetts will serve as chair of the citizen education program committee and Dorothy Powers of New Jersey will chair our national security study.

Among our primary duties at our first board meeting in early June will be establishing the process to manage the other special tasks that have been assigned by this convention.

Let me also bring to the podium the elected members of the new nominating committee, Tess McNulty of Colorado as chair, and Ann Curry of Georgia, Geneva Maiden of Ohio and Marianne Pollak of Connecticut.

I will have a few other words to say after the new board and nominating committee leave the podium, but now you may applaud.

Now we have at least one piece of unfinished business that I know of, and I asked several of you privately to hold off with that until now, because I wanted to get my words in first. I have so many of you to give thanks to, for starting me on the League path that brought me to the presidency, starting with the Louisville and the Kentucky Leagues. Also, two of my mentors, both former national board members, Joanne Hayes who was here earlier this week but had to return to her employment yesterday, and Nan Waterman who trained me in the ways of the national board when she was HR coordinator and I was appointed to the board with HR responsibilities. It delights me no end that Nan is at this convention as a local League delegate! I just hope she never has occasion to regret what she started in 1976.

Perhaps most of all now I have to thank the person who turned the national first vice presidency into a training course. When Ruth Hinerfeld became your president four years ago, I already knew of her awesome intellect, her love for this organization, her openness to ideas and suggestions -- even some strange ones -- from her board members.

What I didn't really know then was the warmth and sensitivity of this person who is Ruth Hinerfeld. I have come to love her as I never would have guessed possible, and I want her to come back up here and accept just a small part of what is her due.



Volunteer Now!
for L.W.V. - U.S. 61st
National Convention

May 15-19, 1982

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Houston, Texas



A National Convention requires over 350 volunteers. Everyone is eligible and needed. Because we have far fewer volunteers to draw from than past national conventions, a greater commitment is necessary. Additionally, it's an exciting place to be! We encourage you to sign up today for one of the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ★ Floor Page | ★ Bookstall | ★ Delegates' Typing Service |
| ★ Usher | ★ Doorkeeper | ★ Information Desk |
| ★ Registration Desk | ★ Election Official | ★ Personnel Committee |
| ★ Credentials Committee | ★ Hospitality Committee | |



Mandatory Training Session Friday, May 14 for all workers.

Non-floor committee volunteers will have passes to the Convention floor equaling the number of hours worked.

BED AND BREAKFAST will be provided by the Houston League for out-of town volunteers *for \$15/night*

Contact: Mary Ellen Whitworth, 1408 Michigan, Houston, Texas 77006 - Phone: Home (713) 523-8035 Work 792-4580

Please return this form (see reverse side) by February 15 ★

Volunteer Application - Convention '82

Return by February 15, to: Jo Williams, 5503 Pine Arbor Drive, Houston, Texas 77066
Phone (713) 440 - 9358

Please Print:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ League _____

_____ Zip _____

Indicate when you will agree to work	Friday May 14	Saturday May 15	Sunday May 16	Monday May 17	Tuesday May 18	Wednesday May 19
All Day						
Morning						
Afternoon						
Evening						

★ We will do our best to honor Job Preference(s).

★ JOB PREFERENCE(S) _____

Are you available for additional emergency help? _____

* All day means morning and afternoon. We need you for as many days as you can spare.

☆ Your Record ☆

I volunteered to work on _____
Day(s)

at _____
Time(s)

In March you will be notified of your assignment and asked to confirm it.

Thank You for Volunteering

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Please return this form (see reverse side) by February 15 [★]

CONVENTION82

Houston, Texas, May 15 - 19

February 26, 1982

THIS IS GOING ON DPM.

TO: Presidents, Local and State Leagues and ILO's

MAR 3 - 1982

FROM: Ruth Hinerfeld, President

Dotty Powers, Chair, Convention Planning Committee

The clock is ticking and we're sure May 15th, the first day of the League's 35th national convention in Houston, seems to be fast approaching to you as well as to us. We at the national office are in the midst of analyzing the hundreds of League recommendations, received by the February 16th deadline, for the 1982-84 national program and for amendments to the bylaws. We're also planning many exciting convention events. Our host Leagues in Texas are planning a Texas-style welcome and are diligently lining up Texas League volunteers to service the convention proceedings.

Over the next few weeks, the ball will shift back into your court as you receive from us:

- the national board's proposed 1982-83 national budgets
- the proposed 1982-84 national program
- the first convention workbook
- hotel and convention registration forms and credential cards.

Soon, presidents will receive a memo describing procedures to follow if your League wants to exhibit its products at the convention Bookstall and Wares Market and if you have an audio-visual production you'd like to have shown to other League leaders.

We hope that you will schedule time at an upcoming Spring board meeting to discuss the major items to be dealt with by the convention in its plenary sessions--the proposed national program and the rationale for its content, the financing of the program and other components of the League's national operation and bylaws amendments. We hope you will also talk about what your League's delegate(s) can learn by participating in a variety of convention training courses and workshops--improved techniques for citizen education, fund-raising, membership recruitment, coalition building, lobbying, etc.

By helping your delegate(s) to prepare for the convention experience, your League can influence the direction the League will go nationally. At the same time, your League's effectiveness within your own community can be directly benefitted by what your delegation has learned from other Leaguers.

What will happen and when

Friday, May 14th. For delegates whose travel schedules bring them to Houston on Friday--the Bookstall and Wares Market will be open for browsing and, after five, Houston League members will greet them in a Hospitality Room at the Hyatt Regency. In the evening, the Houston League is offering a bus trip along Buffalo Bayou, ending with dinner at a waterside restaurant.

Saturday, May 15th. Morning: The pace picks up as delegates arrive before the 1 o'clock opening time. Early arrivals may take one of the Houston League-arranged tours described in Workbook I, or attend a parliamentary briefing to brush up on correct procedures for achieving convention goals. Afternoon: The convention

officially opens. Greetings by dignitaries, including the newly-elected young woman mayor Kathy Whitmire; organizing business of convention; program presentation and votes for consideration of not-recommended items. (NOTE: In contrast to national conventions in recent years, the "notices of intent" procedure will not be used at this convention.) President's address. Evening: Program workshops and consultations with individual board and staff members. Caucuses called by delegates.

Sunday, May 16th. Morning: Development report; report of the Executive Director; budget presentation; program discussion. Noon: State Presidents' lunch. Afternoon: program discussion; D.C. Voting Rights Amendment "special"; membership contest awards and discussion of new approaches to membership recruitment. Evening: Reception to observe 25th anniversary of LWV Education Fund; "super supper"; informal budget session; informal bylaws session; caucuses.

Monday, May 17th. Morning: Program discussion and vote; budget discussion; ERA "special." Afternoon: Journalist Ellen Goodman speaks; budget discussion; bylaws discussion. Evening: QUBE TV discussion on political communication; caucuses.

Tuesday, May 18th. Morning: Budget discussion; PMP vote; bylaws discussion and vote. Noon: ERA rally at City Hall. Afternoon: Variety of training courses. Evening: Houston invites the League to a rodeo.

Wednesday, May 19th. Budget adoption; report on future convention sites; directions to the board; new business; election of officers, directors and nominating committee; remarks by the new president. Adjournment by 12 noon.

Who goes to convention? Official League attendance is limited to:

--delegates - at least one per local League, more for Leagues with 150 members or more as reported to the national office by January 15, 1982. (See Article IX, Sec. 2 of LWVUS bylaws); three delegates from each state League; one delegate from each ILO; members of the national board

--observers - one from each provisional League

--visitors - one per League; additional visitors if space permits. All delegates, observers and visitors pay the \$65 convention registration fee. Credentials are transferable.

Others who may attend convention include League members and staff servicing the convention and a limited number of special guests, such as former members of the national board and representatives of national organizations with whom we work on issues of mutual concern.

Delegates will stay in the Hyatt Regency and the Sheraton Houston Hotels. Housing reservation forms will be mailed with the first convention workbook in mid-March. Travel arrangements may be made through DOVETAIL, a travel coordinating service. Services provided and forms to use to make travel reservations were included in a December 18th mailing to League presidents. See additional memo in this mailing.

DOVETAIL

MAR 3 - 1982

February 25, 1982

THIS IS GOING ON DPM

CONVENTION TRAVEL BULLETIN

The airfare war heated up this month. Excellent fares to the convention now exist for most major cities, but their restrictions state they MUST BE TICKETED BY MARCH 14th. Send your applications as soon as possible. Increases are now being rumored.

Nearly all delegates already ticketed by DOVETAIL have been reticketed at these new low 60-day advance purchase fares. For example, two weeks ago Indianapolis was \$232, now \$196; LaGuardia then \$258, now \$224 (LaGuardia only not Newark).

Some advertised air fares only sound good. For example, Chicago delegates may travel for \$140 by changing planes in Charlotte, N.C. and staying in Houston an extra day with its attendant hotel and meal costs. We are considering the whole cost to the delegate or League in our choices.

We are using direct, non-stop service where it exists, or the most direct and convenient service where it doesn't. Where there is a dramatic saving and you have indicated your willingness to change planes en route for economy, we will book you on connecting flights. However, for a saving of less than \$20, we hesitate to do this because: a. two flights on Saturday morning will double your chance of arriving late at the convention and your bag's chance of arriving in Mexico City; and b. changing planes at most major airports is a real chore for even the most sturdy.

We're delighted with the thoroughness with which delegates are completing their travel applications. The more you tell us, the better we'll be able to meet your wishes.

Please be sure to retain the pink copy of your travel application and the accompanying instructions for your own reference.

Sentty and Barbara

Laura Keever, Chair, LWV-US Convention '82
Local Arrangements Committee

LWV-Texas
September 1981
State Board Report
I. H. 1.
Convention, National

Lynne Johnson, Co-Chair, Same

1982 LWV-US CONVENTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS

May 15-19, 1982

Convention is "a ways off" we know, and detailed information is scarce just now, but we do know that large numbers of convention workers will be needed come May -- so think about helping us find willing workers. If you already know of some of your local League's members who are interested, send names and dates available (2-3 days preferred) to our Personnel Committee Chair:

Jo Williams
5503 Pine Arbor Drive
Houston, Texas 77066

More information as it becomes available. . .

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NOV 23 1981

CONVENTION82

Houston, Texas, May 15 - 19

16 November 1981

TO: State and Local League and ILO Presidents
FROM: Dotty Powers, Chair
Convention '82 Planning Committee
RE: Advance Information re Travel Arrangements and Hotel
Rates for Convention '82

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

We told you in PROSPECTUS #3, sent to you in October, that we will not be operating a Travel Equalization Plan for Convention '82. We suggested that Leagues take advantage of the services of DOVETAIL, a travel coordinating service run by two League members who have had experience in setting up arrangements for convention travel for several state Leagues. We know that some of you are starting to investigate group travel and other cost-saving fares for Convention '82 and you may be anxious to discuss things with DOVETAIL at this stage. Before the first of the year, more detailed information and a travel reservation form will be sent to all Leagues to be filled out by convention participants who wish to use DOVETAIL's services. But meanwhile here is a message from DOVETAIL:

"With the interstate cooperation of League members, it will be possible to keep convention travel expenses to a minimum. Deregulation offers even more advantages than in the past to large organizations, like ours, that can coordinate bookings. Now, large blocks of seats on the most appropriate flights can be held in reserve for delegates and, at the same time, we can be sure you will travel at the lowest fare available. Seats have been reserved from 38 major airports and, as flight schedules shift between now and May, we will be changing to keep the best flight times open for you.

Delegates who wish to stop along the way or who need to arrive early in Houston may submit individual requests. They will share the minimum fares where they are using the major convention air carriers. Beyond that, we will provide the same personal service we give all our clients.

Sometimes we suddenly learn that fares will increase the next day. If we have your authorization to charge your ticket to a credit card, we may be able to ticket you immediately and protect you from that fare increase. Since we must pay the airlines within a week for all tickets issued, time would not allow us to warn you of the increase and then wait for a check to arrive in the mail. For this reason, we will be asking you to arrange to pay for your ticket by credit card. If fares drop again after you have been ticketed, the higher fare tickets will be refunded to your credit card account and the new, lower fare charged to it at the same time. Although credit cards are preferable for all of the above reasons, of course checks may be used if absolutely necessary.

More detailed information and a form to be returned to DOVETAIL will be enclosed with the next convention mailing. If it is necessary to contact us before then, we may be reached at (213) 378-6391." --- Barbara Gleghorn and Scotty Wuerker, DOVETAIL

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS AND COSTS

All hotel room reservations will be made through the Houston Convention Housing Bureau. Delegates will be staying at the Hyatt Regency, where plenary sessions will be held, and at the Sheraton Houston across the street. Workshops, caucuses, and social events will be held in both hotels. If you are familiar with these hotels, you may have a preference. The Hyatt is very modern in style-- built around a 30-story atrium; the Sheraton is in the tradition of old style elegance. Room reservation forms will be enclosed in a convention-related mailing to all Presidents in February. All reservations for the League's Convention must be made on these official room reservation forms, in order to get our Special Convention rates. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. If your preference is no longer available at the time your reservation form is received by the Housing Bureau, the next closest accommodation will be assigned to you. No reservations can be made by telephone at our convention rates. It is to your advantage to use the Convention '82 Housing forms.

LWV Convention rates will be as follows:

Hyatt Regency

Single: \$65-70-75

Double: \$80-85-90

Parlor +1: \$150-200-250

Parlor +2: \$225-275-325

Rollaway: \$15

Sheraton Houston

Single: \$55-59-65

Double: \$65-69-75

Parlor +1: \$120

Parlor +2: \$120

Rollaway: \$8

Room charges at both hotels are subject to 10% tax. The Sheraton has a barrier-free environment and 20 guest rooms equipped for the handicapped. Parlors at the Sheraton include a sofa bed which can be used for sleeping. After confirmation of your reservation has been received, questions regarding special suite arrangements may go directly to the hotel.

We want to stress to you that the room rates also cover the cost of all the space used by the League for convention purposes - the plenary sessions, workshops and caucuses, convention offices, etc. If we did not stay in the convention hotels, we would have to rent this space separately, and would have to pay for it through the registration fee.

Laura Keever, Chair, LWV-US Convention '82
Local Arrangements Committee

LWV-Texas
September 1981
State Board Report
I. H. 1.
Convention, National

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More information as it becomes available. . .

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CONVENTION82

SEP 18 1981

Houston, Texas, May 15 - 19

THIS IS GOING ON DPM

September 10, 1981

TO: Local and State League and ILO Presidents

FROM: Ruth J. Hinerfeld, President

C A L L

To the 35th national convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States in the Hyatt Regency Houston Hotel, Houston, Texas, Saturday to Wednesday, May 15-19, 1982.

The business of the convention is outlined in the national bylaws--Article IX, Section 5:

"consider and authorize for action a program...
elect officers and directors...
adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and
transact such other business as may be properly presented."

Procedures for adoption of national program are outlined in Article XIII, for nominations and elections, in Article XI; and for amending the LWVUS bylaws, in Article XVI.

To assist you in planning for your League's full participation in the business of convention, the following information is offered:

Program-Making Procedures for 1982-84

The national program-making process begins well before convention. The Fall '81 VOTER includes several features related to program making: an article, "Anticipating the Future, Program Planning, 1982-84"; a box outlining the evolution of current program; and a column by National Program-Making Committee Chair Marilyn Reeves.

PROSPECTUS #3, which will be sent to you in October, will contain leadership guidance to help you stimulate member involvement in your League's decisions on national program. Whatever decision-making method you use, the optimum time to schedule member participation is in November, December, January or early February so that you can submit your League's program recommendations to the national office no later than the February 16, 1982 deadline. (Copies of the official report form will be sent to Leagues following the board's September 22-24, 1981 meetings.)

These program recommendations from Leagues across the country will serve as the basis for the proposed program, to be formulated by the national board at its late-March 1982 meetings. The proposed program will be sent to Leagues by April 2, 1982, six weeks before the mid-May convention. Final program adoption will, of course, take place at convention.

Election of Officers and Directors

The Nominating Committee has been working diligently to prepare a slate of officers and directors and members of the 1982-84 Nominating Committee. The committee's report will be sent to Leagues by March 15, 1982.

Adoption of the 1982-83 National Budget

The Budget Committee will be meeting at the national office on November 9-11, 1981. The committee's report will be made to the national board at its January 13-15, 1982 meeting. The board's proposed LWVUS/LWVEF budgets will be sent to Leagues by March 15, 1982.

Consideration of Amendments to the Bylaws

Official forms to be used by Leagues in making proposals for changes in the bylaws will be sent to Leagues in October. Deadline for receipt of bylaws proposals in national office is February 16, 1982, the same day as for program recommendations.

The bylaws provide for a delegate body of three members of each state board; delegates from each local League, the number depending on its membership count on January 1, 1982 (see article IX, sec. 24); one delegate from each ILO; and the members of the national board.

The national convention planning committee, chaired by Dotty Powers, is working to plan an eventful convention, the first in the Lone Star State! The members of the Houston League and other Texas Leaguers are already gearing up to have the welcome mat out! Over the next several months you will be receiving many convention-related communications, so start now to "think convention" and plan for your League's full participation in this milestone that will set the League's course for 1982-84.

Laura Keever, Chair, LWV-US Convention '82
Local Arrangements Committee

LWV-Texas
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More information as it becomes available. . .

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One copy of this form must be received by the LWVUS, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036 no later than February 16, 1982.

LWV of _____
(Name) (State) (Date)

Signed: _____
(Name) (Portfolio)

Number of members in your League _____ Number participating in program recommendation process _____

What methods did you use to elicit member views (e.g., unit or general meetings, bulletin tearoff, questionnaire, etc.)? _____

Use this space to give details of your strategy for involving members in the program-recommendation process, if you wish to enter the contest. Enclose samples of bulletins and other relevant materials. State briefly your League's evaluation of the worth of this effort in building satisfaction.

DEC 12 1981

CONVENTION82

Houston, Texas, May 15 - 19

TO: LOCAL AND STATE LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

FROM: THE NATIONAL BOARD

RE: YOUR LEAGUE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1982-84 NATIONAL PROGRAM

The process of adopting national program has begun. This is your League's ballot. It provides an opportunity for members of your League to participate in selecting issues of national importance, issues deserving of attention from all League members. The national board urges that local and state League leaders help members understand the importance of program making. Just as we tell voters that their vote makes a difference, members need to be reminded that their participation in program making is a vital part of the League's democratic process. Recommendations of your League are important and will be carefully considered, tabulated and balanced against those of other Leagues.

This form has been developed to yield thoughtful responses. To assist the tabulation process, which will be more difficult than with a simple checkoff, we urge that you carefully follow instructions.

About Section I

■ An aggressive LEGISLATIVE ACTION effort may be the "kind of activity" you recommend for a high level of attention. In the national office, that means allocating money for continuous staff assignments to do lobbying, in-depth coverage in Report from the Hill, briefings for and continuous servicing of the Lobbying Corps. It means preparing and mailing all-League Action Alerts--often more than one, usually quite detailed. It means briefings for and lobbying by national board and by convention or council delegates. It means preparation and delivery of testimony--often more than once. It means coverage in every VOTER. IT ALSO MEANS a high level of effort on your part--you, the local and state League boards and you as League members. Without this, the "1730 M Street" effort is hollow. So when you put an issue into the high-level category, we assume that your League stands ready to respond to Action Alerts with member letters, with board letters, calls, telegrams, visits to home offices, with participation in whatever other strategies develop--public hearings, petitions, marches, mass meetings, letters to the editor, pressure on the White House.....

■ If you want an issue to get OTHER KINDS OF HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION, tell us specifically what you want the national League to do and what you are willing to do. Action in the form of massive community education--via TV? publications? conference? town meetings? In the form of extensive monitoring of regulatory efforts or other implementation? Through landmark litigation?

■ For STUDY, a high level of attention implies that your League will appoint (or share) a resource chair and committee, allocate one or two meetings a year to the subject (unit and/or general), cover the subject in your bulletin, give it regular attention at board meetings, and be inventive about involving the community in the study and about using the study as a way to interest both present members and potential new members. For the national League, it means budgeting enough money, to prepare and publish substantive and leadership materials, to give technical assistance to individual Leagues, usually to run a training conference.

About Section II Lower levels of attention imply smaller allocations of money for both staff and activities in the national budget and fewer and less ambitious calls on League boards' and League members' attention and effort as well. For study, it might mean stretching the study process over three years instead of arriving at a position on the fast track. For legislative action, lesser, little or no monitoring of bills on the Hill would go on; the Lobbying Corps would less often--perhaps never--work on the issue. Report from the Hill and VOTER coverage would range from less to none; testimony would seldom if ever be presented. And you--the local or state League and your members--would less often, perhaps never, be called upon to respond to an Action Alert.

About Section III If, in Section III, you indicate that you want reevaluation of a position, name the position and specify your reasons. Is the position or a portion of the position no longer backed by member under-

standing and agreement in your League? Is there application of the position that your League believes to be inappropriate?

About Section IV If, in Section IV, you identify issue(s) you want to drop, it is very helpful to the tabulation process if you cite your reasons. "Too burdensome for League leaders" is quite different from "Time has passed this one by and members aren't interested," and that's different still from "Our members don't support the positions."

About Section V This section is meant to evoke your best thoughts about fresh ways of structuring program--either the program as it now is or old plus new. (See the Fall 1981 VOTER for historical information.) Should we return to

a format of Current Agenda and Continuing Responsibilities? Should program be realigned to match the recent national committee and program staff realignments? (See Prospectus #2, pp. 9 and 15.)

About Section VI You will note that in Section VI you are asked to suggest wording if you recommend any new issue(s). Don't get hung up. It's not a requirement, but it does help you and us to be clear about the intent and scope of your proposal.

P.S. There is space on the back page to tell us about how you got members involved in and excited about sharing an agenda for change--for the national League and for the nation. Check Prospectus #3 for details about the contest for best entries.

National Program 1980-82

Government

DC Self-Government and
Full Voting Representation

Apportionment
Campaign Financing
Citizen Rights
Congress
Presidency

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive to all citizens and that protects individual liberties established under the Constitution.

Health Care

Evaluate the health care system in the United States, with emphasis on the private and public sector roles in the delivery of services.

Human Resources ERA

Equal Access to:
Education
Employment
Housing
Income Assistance

Promote social justice by securing equal rights for all and combating discrimination and poverty.

International Relations

Development
Trade
United Nations

Promote peace in an interdependent world, through cooperation with other nations and the strengthening of international organizations.

Natural Resources Energy

Environmental Quality:
Air
Solid Waste
Water
Land

Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life.

Transportation

Promote energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems that enhance the well-being of cities and afford better access to housing and jobs.

Urban Policy

Promote the fiscal well-being of cities and the quality of urban life.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- ☐ competent personnel with clear responsibilities,
- ☐ coordination among agencies and levels of government,
- ☐ adequate financing,
- ☐ effective enforcement, and
- ☐ well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

In parts I-V of the form that follows, be sure to give us your League's recommendations on specific program positions and/or the study item (Health Care). Note that Government, Human Resources, International Relations and Natural Resources are simply categorical headings and not positions.

Name of League _____

Do you have recommendations about regrouping or realigning existing national program? If so, describe.

ABOUT OTHER ISSUES

VI. Are there issues that your League wants to adopt for new study and consensus? If so, be specific about the focus, rationale and wording.

Name of League _____

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16, 1982

YOUR LEAGUE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1982-84 NATIONAL PROGRAM

ABOUT CURRENT NATIONAL PROGRAM

I. Which of the issues now on national program does your League want to retain for 1982-84 and given a high level of attention? Please name each under "Issue(s)" below and indicate the kind(s) of activity you recommend for each. Check page 1 of this form and the materials on program making in Prospectus #3 before you make your choices.

Issue(s)

Kinds of activities recommended

II. Which of the issues now on national program does your League want to retain for 1982-84 and given a lower level of attention? Please name each under "Issue(s)" below and indicate the kind(s) of activity you recommend for each. Check page 1 of this form and the materials on program making in Prospectus #3 before you make your choices.

Issue(s)

Kinds of activities recommended

Name of League

ABOUT CURRENT NATIONAL PROGRAM (continued)

III. State here any issue(s) on current national program that your League wants to reevaluate, with the opportunity for new consensus. Here is the place to identify your League's uneasiness or dissatisfaction with some part(s) of a position.

Issue(s)

Aspect(s) of the position your League believes to be out of date or on which you believe there is no longer member agreement. Be very specific.

IV. Which issue(s) now on national program does your League want to drop? Indicate why.

Issue(s)

Reason(s) for dropping