

CONSENSUS REPORTS

Our League has reached consensus on three subjects within the last two months. The consensus reports, as approved by the board, are presented here.

Library

Following four unit meetings on "Operation and Needs of the Decatur Public Library," the LWV reached consensus on the need for constructive promotion and planning for a new main library building. It was agreed that the 62 year old building contains less than half the floor space needed for a library now serving a population area of 90,000 and has many additional inadequacies.

Regarding services provided by the library, it was agreed that in spite of existing adverse conditions (structural deficiencies of the physical plant, lack of space, shortage of personnel, and particularly trained personnel) the library staff is doing a heroic job.

It was agreed that there is a need for additional trained staff. The League recommends filling the present vacancy for assistant librarian (personnel director). This would give the chief librarian more time for administrative duties.

The League feels that there is a need for more public awareness of the library's services and of its needs. Mutual understanding should be developed between the City Council and the Library Board.

Urban Renewal

After consideration of facts presented by the Urban Renewal resource committee at the March 9, 1965 all-member meeting, the League reached the following conclusions:

1. All phases of the Greenwood Urban Renewal Project have been successful. The objectives and expectations of urban renewal have been met. When the area is rebuilt, it should be a definite asset to all Decatur.

2. The League feels the most desirable way of preventing blight in the future is through the enforcement of the Municipal Minimum Housing Code. The League, therefore, approves of the city's two new code enforcement projects--"The Neighborhood Rehabilitation through Code Enforcement Program" in the Mueller Park area and "The Spot Clearance Project."

Foreign Economic Policy (Consensus summary)

The general feeling was that U.S. policies with the Soviet Bloc countries should remain flexible with a tendency to be less restrictive. The group felt that there were far more advantages to increasing trade with the eastern European countries than with the U.S.S.R. The political advantages of trade with these countries was stressed. A small minority, however, questioned whether any trade was politically advantageous with the Communist countries. There was general agreement that countries could be treated individually.

As for common allied policies and practices, our group favored continued efforts in this direction, although recognizing the difficulties. It was felt that long-term credit should not be extended, with five years considered the longest we should commit ourselves.

The most favored nation policy should also be on an individual basis. Flexibility seemed to be the keynote of our consensus.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Of Decatur, Illinois

Volume 19, No.8

April, 1965

HUMAN RESOURCES TO BE TOPIC
FOR APRIL AND MAY UNITS

- Tues., Apr. 20 First Methodist Church
9:15 a.m. (Nursery for children)
- 7:30 p.m. Home of Mrs. George Armstrong
1838 W. Riverview
- Weds. April 21 Home of Mrs. C. E. Barnes
9:15 a.m. 345 Maryland Heights Rd.
(Rt. 51, north of Mound School)
- Thurs., Apr. 22 Home of Mrs. M. B. Janes
7:30 p.m. 415 Hackberry (Bay Shore)

The first presentation and discussion on the new national study item, "Development of Human Resources" will take place at the April unit meetings. May unit meetings have also been set up and assigned to this resource committee.

The group will survey the extent and causes of poverty, the existing situations in education and employment, with consideration of the problems caused by automation and the special problems of minority groups. Programs and policies designed to meet these problems will also be outlined.

Members of the committee include: Jane Dilley, chairman, Myra Becker, Marilyn Calhoun, Mary Dorner, Elaine Frost, Sara Kessler, Jo Lessells, Viola Reeder, Barbara Redford, Nancy Shober, and Barbara Tilley.

Please note the following changes: The April units are scheduled for the third week instead of the fourth and the South Shores unit will meet Thursday, April 22, instead of Wednesday night.

LOCAL PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS
TO BE DISCUSSED
AT ALL-MEMBER MEETING APRIL 14

Three items are on the agenda for the all-member meeting set for 9:15 a.m., Wednesday, April 14. Local program suggestions, national continuing responsibilities, and the operation of the Decatur League will be up for discussion.

The meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. Harold Hamilton, 4 Millikin Place. Baby-sitting service will be provided for 50¢ per mother in the home of Marilyn Calhoun, upstairs at the Art Center, just south of Hamiltons.

Items which may come up for discussion as local program possibilities include continuations of our studies of urban renewal, schools, and library; a utility tax study; a review of governmental bodies in Macon County in preparation for revision of our Macon County book; parks and recreation in Decatur. The list of possibilities is endless. Final decision on local program will be made at the May 12 meeting. But this is your opportunity to let your opinion be heard before the board makes its recommendations. This discussion is always lively.

The national C.R.'s, with emphasis on the League's stand regarding the Liberty Amendment, will be covered by Frances Doubleday.

Members will also be given the opportunity to express what they like or don't like about League, make any suggestions, or ask any questions about how League is run.

ACTION ON COUNCIL-MANAGER RETENTION

Action in support of council-manager government is well underway. The League's pass-out leaflet is at the printers. Shirley Fuller is coordinating distribution and all League members will be expected to cover the area near their homes. (Good way to use up children's excess energy). Some leaflets will also be distributed in industries, banks and organizations. Printing will be finished April 10, so we will have 10 days. Call Shirley, 422-0778, to let her know what areas you will cover and what organizations you can help with.

The Committee for Retention of Council-Manager will make a concerted telephone effort on Sunday, April 18. Volunteers will work with headphones from a downtown location. If you, your husband, or a friend would like to donate an hour or two of time, please call Marilyn Kessinger, 423-1307.

Special Board Meeting
April 14, 1965

This meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Harold Hamilton following the all member meeting.

Present: Mesdames Harold Tenney, Morton Becker, Frank Dilley Clifford Smith, Thomas Hurst, L.B. Ritter, David Mann, Eugene Blanchard, George Limerick, Clarence Crow, Glenn Fuller, and Paul Turner. Mrs. Hurst presided.

School Bond Referendum: Myra Becker moved that \$350.00 be allocated for school bond action. The motion was seconded and carried.

Council-Manager Advertisement: It was decided that due to all the advertising in the newspaper which frequently mentions the LWV's backing that it would not be necessary to run ad showing the League's support for council-manager retention.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Turner, Secretary.

LWV of Decatur Board Meeting (joint meeting of "old" and "new" board), Wednesday, April 20, 12:45 p.m., 1421 W. Riverview (Barbara Tilley's).

(April and May are transition months in League when we gradually shift responsibility. Board members who will not be serving on the board next year will be expected to carry on with their portfolio responsibilities until someone has been appointed to assume that position. In some instances even though an assignment for next year has been made the 1965-66 portfolio holder will carry on through May because of the nature of the job. In most instances the "old" and "new" will work together. Old members going off board please get your materials in order to turn over to your successors - and by "in order" it is not meant to throw things out which would be of help to the new person to know what took place in the past. Also, please make a list of the various things expected of the person holding the position you've had, some tips on the best ways to do these, etc.)

AGENDA

Action on minutes of last meeting mailed with agenda - Langenberg
Treasurer's Report - Mann
Consensus on Revenue - Verbanac
Local Program Recommendations from Board - Redford
April 27 meeting - Limerick or Kessler
May 11 meeting - (Second half Annual Meeting and Convention Report) - Ritter
"This is Macon County" revision progress report - Redford
Regional (Spring) Lincoln, Wednesday, May 18, on Equal Housing Opportunities, Finance,
Local Agenda, Membership, Treasurers, Voters Service and Welfare, 9:30 - 3:00
Board Training by state board member - when?
Instructions as to information to Lola Smith, delegate to Nat'l Conv. on Program, Purpose,
By-law changes (see National Board Report and last National Voter) - Smith
Membership - Fuller
Units - Ritter
Public Relations - Tenney
Publications - Ruedi
Voters Service -
Finance Drive -
District of Columbia Home Rule emphasis March 29 - what happened? Kessinger or Kessler
Apportionment
Foreign Policy - Smith (Sister City officials dinner May 6)
(Visit to city and our luncheon, state dept. officials March 31)
Decatur Town(ship) Annual Meeting - April 5 - Kessler, Smith, Hurst
Appointments for next year discussion - Smith, Tenney, Redford, Hurst
Suggestions for next year
Decatur Voter - Dorner
Other business