

25th

A N N I V E R S A R Y C E L E B R A T I O N

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS

invites you to meet

with

* MRS. ROBERT S. IHRIG

President of the League of Woman Voters of Illinois

on Wednesday evening, September 8, 1971

at 7:30

at

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

250 West Decatur Street

Decatur, Illinois

- * Mrs. Ihrig is a member of the Citizens Task Force
on implementation of the Illinois Constitution
President of the Suburban Library System
President of the Illinois Library Trustee Association
President, Board of Directors, Oak Lawn Public Library
Past President of the American Library Trustee Association
Member of the Council of the American Library Association
Board member of the Southwest YMCA
Chairman, Oaklawn Planning and Development Commission

Wednesday, September 8, 1971, 7:30 pm, 1st Lutheran Church

25 th Anniversary Celebration

Good evening ; I am Barbara Ohlsen, President of the Decatur League of Women Voters. We welcome to our 25th Anniversary Celebration members, former members, guests and especially Mrs. Robert Ihrig, our State President. I want to honor ~~seven~~^{six} members of the Decatur League who joined in 1946, our charter year. They are Mrs. James Leigh, Mrs. J. D. Mac Kechnie, Mrs. R.C. McMillen, Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. Elbert Smith, and Mrs. I.A. Wallins, who just passed away this summer. Will these ladies please stand?

We have a bulletin board with announcements which I call to your attention. Please check it for dates of coming meetings, especially those which need reservations. On Monday, Decatur League sent a telegram to Mr. Michal Bakalis, Superintendent of Public Instruction, urging him to help get the school board and teachers together in negotiations. I urge each of you to wire him.

The League of Women Voters of Macon County was organized in April of 1946. There had been a Macon County League started in December 1923, and we have a few clippings of that group dating up to 1931, when it apparently disbanded. Therefore, we date ourselves from ~~1946~~ 1946. The group changed its name to the League of Women Voters of Decatur in Sept. 1952, in order to be part of the lowest political sub-division in which it wished to work.

In looking back over local activities for the past 25 years, I found that many interests remain the same, while some issues have been resolved. For example, ~~in~~ in 1947, local studies included bringing school bond issues up for a vote, the possibility of organizing a citizen's committee to select school board candidates, the desirability of making city and township boundaries identical, and work towards calling an Illinois Constitutional Convention. We are nothing if not consistent.

In 1948, the League joined the Association of Commerce in planning a citizens committee for consideration of community affairs. Certainly fine recognition of so young a group. In 1949, the local project was a study of how taxes are collected and how tax money is used. ~~1949~~

As the membership grew, various local issues were added ~~to~~ to the continuing studies of schools and government. In 1952, we were concerned about city financing and also sewer bond issues. 1954 brought an attempt to have a city manager, and there were six city elections and referendums that year, with the League doing voter service work for five of them.

In 1962 we took our famous, misunderstood stand against the school building proposal referendum. Our support for a new library building started in 1965. In 1967, the League helped organize the first fourteen-hour community "hot line" radio marathon with station WDW. In 1969, we supported the Board of Education's commitment to the philosophy of racial and socio-economic integration in the public schools.

Of course you remember 1970 as the year of the big drive to adopt the new Illinois Constitution, besides local interests in our schools, housing, and water systems. I'm sure I've left out many favorite issues some of our members here ~~studied~~ studied or worked for. Those I mentioned were only a few of the Decatur League's activities over 25 years. Every year much money, time and effort goes to voter service, including many, many candidate meetings.

Our real emphasis tonight however, is on the League work ahead for the next 25 years. Taking one year at a time, we have set up displays around the room of items we will be studying or supporting in 1971-72. Karla Weinman, our Vice-president for program and action has prepared an entertaining program to show you the year ahead.

Don't Duck the Issue

HAT PARADE

Our special guest and speaker is Mrs. Robert Ihrig, President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Alice was elected 1st April after serving six years on the state board. Prior to that, she had been president of the Oak Lawn League.

While on the State Board, her areas of work were judicial reform, election laws, and constitutional revision. Since she so successfully got the 1970 Constitution adopted, she has worked on the Governor's Task Force on Implementation of the new Constitution.

Besides these important League duties, Alice is serving as president of the Suburban Library System, president of the Illinois Library Trustee Association, President of the board of directors of the Oak Lawn Public Library, past president of the American Library Trustee Association, member of the Council of the American Library Association, Board member of the Southwest YMCA, and chairman of the Oaklawn Planning and Development Commission.

Aren't we lucky to drag her away from all these duties to help us celebrate past achievements and look ahead to years of growth and action? Welcome, Mrs. Ihrig.

ALICE IHRIG

Thankyou. I'm sure we each feel inspired to be more responsible, more informed, more active.

An important part of our first fall meeting every year is to introduce and explain League to prospective members. Laura Verbanac, 3rd Vice-president, ~~will~~ will now say a few words about the Decatur League.

LAURA - membership

Next meeting.

Oct 6 7:00 Library - Torrence Park - panel - membership
Fried Spannaus, Frank Ben
Don Davis
Day Care committee meeting
Tues 9:30 Maggie Lauterjung's
Schl committee
Tues Sept 14 9:15 Sue Marshall's
Mrs Ihrig on WDS hot line tomorrow 9:00 am
~~visit tables of displays of league interest this year~~

To Kay Geiger
Herald and Review

The League of Women Voters of Decatur will celebrate twenty-five years of service in Decatur at an Anniversary Tea on September 8, 1971.

All current League members, former members and particularly women interested in learning more about League activities are invited to attend the tea. It will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Lutheran Church, 250 W. Decatur St.

The feature of the evening will be a parade of hats, designed and ^{modeled} worn by members. Each hat will depict one of the areas of study ~~or action which the Decatur League will focus on~~ during 1971-72. Such items as Day Care, U.S. Congress, Election Laws and Public Schools are part of the large program ~~to be~~ of study ^{to be undertaken} ~~undertaken this year~~. Mrs. John Weinman, Program and Action ^{that league} Vice-President, will narrate. ^{focus on}

To help celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Mrs. Robert S. Ihrig of Oaklawn, President of the League will Women Voters of Illinois, will speak on the current role of the League statewide and nationally.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
67 East Madison Street
Chicago Illinois 60603
312-236-0315



August 29, 1971

Mrs. Robert Ohlsen
League of Women Voters of Decatur
111 S. Westdale
Decatur, Illinois 62522

Dear Barbara:

I see no reason why I can't drive from LaSalle to Decatur in time to have dinner at 5:30 p.m. Why don't I just plan to call you when I arrive at the Ambassador Motor Inn.?

I will try to follow your outline for my remarks- adding any current events.

See you September 8!

Cordially,

Mrs. Robert S. Thrig
President

August 23, 1971
111 S. Westdale
Decatur, Illinois

Mrs. Robert Ihrig, President
League of Women Voters of Illinois
9322 S. 53rd Ave.
Oak Lawn, Illinois

Dear Alice,

We are delighted to hear that your schedule permits you to be with us September 8th. The meeting has been set for 7:30 pm at the First Lutheran Church, 250 W. Decatur St.

Your motel reservation is at the Ambassador Motor Inn, 141 S. Main, phone 217-428-8611. It is a single room, which they will hold until 6:00 pm. It is located in town on Route 51 going South. The church is about four blocks south and west of the motel.

Since our meeting and anniversary celebration are both to inspire old members and recruit new members, we think your topic might be League's image, or how the outside looks at us. This might include a little history on how we got this way, our peculiar methods of study and consensus, current areas of action, how we differ from other groups with similar goals, League's contributions which we might all take for granted now, and how all this looks to the rest of the world. We felt your many contacts with other groups would make you aware of our image. If this is too nebulous or not of interest to you, please feel free to cover any topic of your choice.

The board members and their husbands would like to meet you over dinner before the evening meeting. Do you think you might get to town by 5:30 and be free for dinner? I hope so.

Looking forward to your visit.

Cordially,

Mrs. Robert W. Ohlsen

League of Women Voters of Illinois
67 East Madison Street
Chicago Illinois 60603
312-236-0315



July 27, 1971

Mrs. Robert W. Ohlsen
President
League of Women Voters of Decatur
111 South Westdale
Decatur, Illinois 62522

Dear Barbara:

I have delayed answering your invitation for September 8 in order to clear the decks - that date was a State Board meeting until we recently moved it to September 1.

However, I can now accept the opportunity to be with you on September 8 - and either afternoon or evening will be O.K. If you decide on the outlines of what you would like to have me cover - fine. Otherwise, we'll see what is current at the time.

I will be needing a motel reservation. Would you make one for me? I have an invitation to visit libraries in the Rolling Prairies System and will take the next day to do so, since I have to be in Springfield by the evening of the ninth. The jigsaw fits!

Cordially,

Mrs. Robert S. Ihrig
President

June 10, 1971
111 S. Westdale
Decatur, Illinois
62522

Mrs. Robert S. Ihrig
9322 S. 53rd Ave.
Oak Lawn, Illinois

312-424-3479

Dear Mrs. Ihrig,

The Decatur League has reached its twenty-fifth year of study and action. We are planning to hold a big celebration in September. It will be a combination kick-off for the new League year ahead, orientation of prospective members and a short look back for former members.

We would be honored if you could participate in this anniversary party. Your role might be to discuss state program and action or any other aspect of League you'd like to point out.

Our very tentative plans are for the early afternoon of September 8. We are open to suggestion for a better time or date to meet your convenience if you care to participate. It will be our only meeting for the membership in September.

All of us here are looking forward to a great League year under your leadership. Hoping to hear that your schedule will allow time for you to visit Decatur.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Robert W. Ohlsen, President

*and letter to League office July 8
acceptance July 27*

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