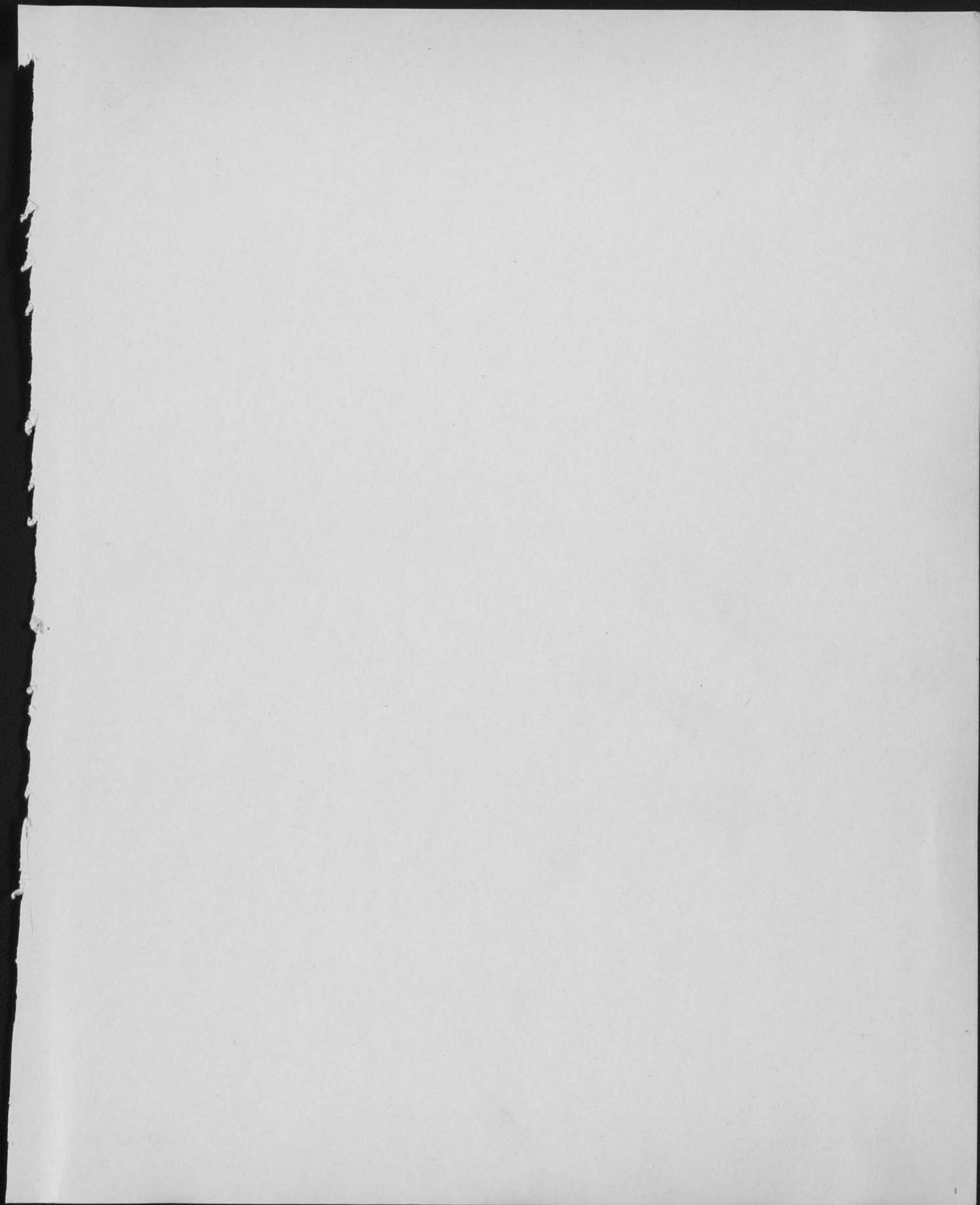




## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. P. M. Glasoe, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District  
Miss Mary Warren, Tenth District

## OFFICERS

President  
Miss Marguerite M. Wells  
First Vice-President  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich  
Second Vice-President  
Mrs. A. J. McGuire  
Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight  
Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby  
Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant  
Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, Child Welfare  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, Living Costs  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

August 3rd,  
1926

Dear Sir: -

Following our usual practice at election time, we are sending you a questionnaire by which we hope to collect and make available to voters accurate information concerning candidates for public office to be voted upon in November. A large number of voters have come to look to us for this service, knowing that the League is an educational and not a partisan agency and has no purpose other than stimulating intelligent discussion of real issues. For this reason we use only those facts which are matters of official record or of the candidate's own statement.

In sending out the enclosed questionnaire, the League has no desire that any candidate should commit himself for or against any measure on which he is not willing at this time to express an opinion, but it offers an opportunity to state the views on which he rests his candidacy with respect to various public questions, particularly those in which women are most concerned.

We hope you will fill out and return the questionnaire promptly as a matter of opportunity for yourself and of service to the voters, who - as we have found from past experience - are eager to consult the information thus made available.

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M Wells,  
President

MMW ckc  
encl.

Sent to 23 candidates 8/2/26

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis  
August 1926

QUESTIONNAIRE

(For the Office of Representative in United States Congress)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Running on \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Notes \_\_\_\_\_

1. CHILD LABOR: If the proposed Child Labor Amendment should be ratified by the states, will you support federal legislation setting minimum standards for the protection of children in industry? \_\_\_\_\_
2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Do you favor the present proposal for creating a federal Department of Education, with its secretary a member of the President's Cabinet, to consolidate activities now scattered in various departments? \_\_\_\_\_  
(The present proposal does not provide for federal aid to the states as a previous bill did.)
3. APPROPRIATIONS: (a) Do you favor adequate appropriation for the work of the Federal Children's Bureau in the Department of Labor? \_\_\_\_\_; (b) for the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor? \_\_\_\_\_
4. MATERNITY AND INFANCY: Do you favor extension of the federal appropriation for granting aid to the states under the Maternity and Infancy (Sheppard-Towner) Act? \_\_\_\_\_
5. MUSCLE SHOALS: Do you favor the development of Muscle Shoals through a non-political governmental corporation rather than leasing it to private companies? \_\_\_\_\_
6. PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT: Do you favor the merit system, applied through Civil Service regulations, as the basis of appointment for officers in the Prohibition Unit? \_\_\_\_\_
7. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION: Are you opposed to proposals to make it more difficult to amend the Federal Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you favor participation by the United States in international conferences for the reduction of armaments? \_\_\_\_\_



M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
July 9, 1926

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at Detroit, Minnesota, on Friday, July 9, 1926. Owing to a heavy rainfall, the roads to Mrs. Weeks' summer home were impassable and Mrs. L. J. Norby kindly offered her home for the board meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m., Miss Wells presiding.

Members of the State Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. Colby. Miss Child and Miss Beggin were also present. Members of the Detroit Board present at the morning session were Mrs. L. J. Norby, Mrs. H. D. Shove, Mrs. R. J. Lindberg, Mrs. H. Langslet, Mrs. F. W. Laing, Mrs. Paul Paulson, Mrs. E. A. Rosenquist, Mrs. A. T. Anderson and Mrs. A. C. Quigley. Other members of the Detroit League attended the meeting after luncheon, and Mrs. Ritteman, Mrs. Bue and Mrs. Bergheim of Hawley also attended the afternoon session. There were twenty-nine persons present for the afternoon.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mrs. Cant, Mrs. McKnight read the treasurer's report. The balance June 1st was \$664.24. Receipts during the month totalled \$922.80, of which \$423.38 was in quotas received from local Leagues. Expenditures totalled \$1009.93, leaving a balance of \$577.11 July 1. Bills payable July 1 were reported as amounting to \$470.43, of which \$347.50 was in salaries.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Weeks, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Miss Wells spoke of the different services rendered local Leagues by headquarters (form letters, literature, etc.) in order that a close contact may be maintained between the state and local organizations, all of which make for expenditure of state funds; for which funds the state is, in turn, dependent upon local Leagues. The result is that an incoming check, particularly a quota check from a local League, is a matter of celebration at headquarters. Mrs. Weeks, speaking for the Detroit Board, promised that Detroit would set a good example to other Leagues and endeavor to pay its quota in monthly installments.

At the request of Mrs. Laing, treasurer of the Detroit League, Miss Child explained special items in the Treasurer's Report, particularly "office maintenance".

Woman Voter Report

Miss Child summed up the experiment of having the Woman Voter printed on its advertising as a dubious success. She again urged individuals to solicit advertisements and particularly hoped that other local Leagues would undertake to be responsible for the advertising in certain issues of the magazine featuring their local organization, as did Duluth.

The plan of having some Board member act as general chairman of advertising, to cooperate with the printer to the extent of securing other Board members to do intensive work on each issue's advertising was suggested by Miss Child.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Colby, that Mrs. McGuire be asked to serve as such a chairman.

Report of Field Secretary

Miss Beggin reported no field trips since the last meeting. She gave a very interesting summary, however, of the work of the last two years, during which time the whole state has been covered, with the result that there are today fifty functioning local Leagues in Minnesota. Almost as often as the League has sought out the town, the town has sought the League, she said, citing Atwater as a noteworthy example of a League beginning on its own initiative.

In response to Miss Wells' question as to what first interests women in the League, Miss Beggin answered unqualifiedly "National measures". It was the consensus of opinion of those present that interest in national problems inspired by current reading (and greatly stimulated during the last few months by study of the Current Questions in Government series) did generally form women's early interest in the League. Miss Wells remarked that since National issues rarely involve a

personal issue, they undoubtedly serve as the best beginning League training, holding state and local problems for a day when the power to be unprejudiced has been developed.

#### Reports of District Chairmen

In the Fourth District Mrs. Colby reported for Miss Lusk that the Ramsey County League will follow the plan of the National organization in assigning to each of its new vice-presidents one of the five main departments of League work. International Cooperation to Prevent War, Efficiency in Government and Public Welfare in Government will be headed by Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Colby and Mrs. White respectively. The Departments of Finance and Organization will be headed by Mrs. Noyes and Mrs. Smith. Miss Lusk's report of appointments for the various chairmen and vice-chairmen under the department heads was read. The pre-Primary work in Ramsey County consisted of one large meeting, where the nine candidates for Congress spoke, and a systematic telephoning to get out the vote.

Mrs. McKnight reported for the Minneapolis League that they have broadcasted a gubernatorial pre-Primary program over the radio, they used get-out-the-vote "trailers" in the motion picture theatres, and that young voters had worked in the precincts in the get out the vote campaign.

She then told of the hard work in the lost campaign for a City Manager charter in Minneapolis, involving a house-to-house canvass in many wards. Miss Wells spoke of this campaign for the charter as being a brilliant example of the way the League works, entailing as it did years of careful study on an issue, then an organized attempt at realizing it.

In the Ninth District, Mrs. Weeks reported that their get out the vote work in Detroit had resulted in the largest vote ever polled. She told graphically of the great extent of territory her one district covered. Apropos of Mrs. McKnight's story of the City Manager Charter campaign, Mrs. Weeks told of her interesting meeting with Mrs. Landis, Mayor of Seattle, who favored a City Manager form of government despite its meaning her own loss of office.

At the request of Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Norby gave an amusing account of the first candidates' meeting in Detroit, over which she presided.

For the part of the Ninth District around Hawley, Mrs. Ritteman reported considerable interest in the primaries and an awakened interest in politics generally since the League organized in Hawley.

Miss Wells spoke, stressing the fact that in League work, program alone is not enough; it is essential that organization balance with program.

#### Department and Committee Reports

In the absence of Mrs. Hargreaves, Mrs. Weeks read her report for the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, giving the most recent developments in international affairs. Mrs. Hargreaves mentioned particularly Prof. Quigley's trip, with forty other professors of international relations, as guests of the Carnegie Endowment Fund, visiting Paris, the Hague and Geneva. Prof. Quigley has agreed to give a course of four lectures on his return, and the Minneapolis and Ramsey County Leagues will cooperate with the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association in giving this course.

In the absence of Mrs. Wittich, Miss Wells reported on the "big work" of the Department of Efficiency in Government, the influence it brought to bear in securing state reorganization in Minnesota. She credited Mrs. Maroley and Mrs. Wittich as being largely responsible for the League's success in this endeavor.

No report was given for the Department of Public Welfare in Government, but the resignations of Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, as Living Costs chairman, and Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, as Child Welfare chairman, were reported by Miss Child with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that they be accepted by the State Board.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Weeks, that the recommendation of the Executive Committee to accept the resignations of Mrs. Laws and Mrs. Dieudonne be ratified.

Several names were suggested as possibilities for successors, including Mrs. Donald Carman of Park Rapids, who was suggested by Miss Beggin for Living Costs chairman. Mrs. W. L. Taylor, Jr., was suggested by Mrs. Rosenquist, and Mrs. J. M. Bishop of Thief River Falls by a Detroit member as possibilities for Child Welfare chairman.



#### Sheppard-Towner Act

Miss Wells spoke of the recent failure of Congress to re-appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of the Infancy and Maternity Act. Although the House took favorable action, the Senate failed to act. It will, however, remain on the Senate Calendar and if early action can be secured in the next session, state legislatures may still be assured of federal aid in this worthy work. She urged League members to write their senators during the summer, expressing their approval of the measure and their reasons for desiring its continuation.

#### Legislative Council Work

For the benefit of the members of the Detroit Board, Miss Child told of the organization of the Legislative Council. Membership upon the Council is by representatives officially appointed by state-wide organizations of women and a few outstanding city organizations concerned with legislation and not by individuals selected by the League of Women Voters. It is expected that these representatives will suggest for consideration by the Council such measures as are of particular interest to the organization they represent and that they will report back to their respective organizations matters of interest to them that may be discussed in the Council, as well as the final legislative program recommended for support in the legislature. There is, however, no commitment on the part of member organizations to any legislative measures discussed or recommended by the Council except upon official action by that organization in connection with its own legislative program. Since no other organization than the League has ever accepted all its recommendations, it can really be said to be the official body which formulates the legislative program for the League of Women Voters.

#### Questionnaires to Candidates

The questionnaire prepared for the candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and State Legislature was read by the secretary.

#### League Exhibits at State and County Fairs

Mrs. Colby, chairman of the State Fair Exhibit Committee, reported that a meeting was held July 6 at her home. Sub-chairmen were appointed to provide daily attendants at the booth, to provide transportation for the properties of the booth, and to execute the plan of depicting some national legislative measure supported by the League, preferably the Child Labor Amendment.

Miss Child reported regarding the tentative plan for the county fair exhibits, which will feature the get-out-the-vote campaign.

#### State Convention

Miss Wells reported for Mrs. Wittich, general convention chairman, that the program committee is doing its best to secure good speakers on the subjects that it is necessary to take up at this convention.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Weeks, that the convention be held in Duluth the 7th, 8th and 9th of October.

The Program Committee's tentative plans were reported by Miss Child as including a reception for delegates at the home of some Duluth member; a meeting addressed by the three candidates for governor; an automobile ride in and around Duluth, the annual President's Address; a speech by Prof. Gaus of the University of Minnesota, a breakfast for young voters, and the annual gala-finance luncheon.

Miss Wells stressed the subject of attendance, and asked that every one present at the meeting attend herself and urge others to attend. Miss Child asked whether reports read by delegates might stimulate a more personal interest in the Conventions, and it was the consensus of opinion that the absence of long and tiresome reports was one of the distinguishing things about the League convention programs, and to change it would mean a decrease rather than an increase of delegates, save for those who had to go to present their reports.

#### Other Business

Actual business of the meeting was finished at 3:45 when Miss Wells turned the meeting over to Mrs. Weeks, in order that she and the other board members from Minneapolis might catch the four o'clock train. The Child Labor Amendment dialogue was read by four members of the Detroit Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary

Minnesota League of Women Voters,  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis  
August 1926

#### PLANS FOR EXHIBITS AT COUNTY FAIRS

The exhibit furnished by state headquarters this year is to feature "GET OUT THE VOTE" for the November election.

##### To be furnished by State headquarters

One poster, 22½ by 60 inches, done on yellow oil cloth, representing a sample ballot. This is hand-decorated and illustrated to represent various measures to be voted on during the coming session of the legislature.

One poster, 18 by 30 inches, also illustrated, bearing the slogan "Vote", to be used in the background of the booth.

Two bands, to be put around two ballot boxes, bearing the slogan "What you put in, you get out".

##### To be furnished by local League

Two ballot boxes, which can be secured from the local election board. If these are not available, ordinary wooden or cardboard boxes of the same dimensions can be used.

Cardboard signs, representing ballots, labelled "Indifference", "Ignorance", and "Intelligence", "Interest", to show at the top of the ballot boxes.

Two cardboard signs, labelled "Bad Government" and "Good Government" to be placed at the bottom of the ballot boxes, corresponding to the ballots at the top.

(If it is not convenient to use two ballot boxes, one can be used with the ballots and the corresponding signs showing at opposite sides.)

A League of Women Voters sign to be placed across the top of the exhibit. (This is not absolutely necessary as the large poster bears the name of the Minnesota League of Women Voters.)

Any bunting, flags or other decorations for the booth.

##### Fliers

A flier, to be distributed free from the booth, will be furnished by state headquarters at a price of 35 cents per hundred.

##### Booth Attendants

A great deal of the success of an exhibit depends upon having someone in attendance most of the time, to answer questions on the League of Women Voters and distribute literature and fliers. It is an excellent opportunity to secure new members and Woman Voter subscriptions.



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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

August 4th,  
1926

My dear Board Member: -

The regular monthly meeting of the State Board will be held on Friday, August 13th, at the home of Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Calhoun Boulevard and Richfield Road, Minneapolis

The meeting is called for 10:30 a.m.; and will be an all-day meeting. Will you please let us know as soon as possible whether or not you will be able to attend, so that we can let Mrs. Ueland know how many to plan on for luncheon.

Out of town board members who will be at the office at 10:00 o'clock will be taken to Mrs. Ueland's home.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M Wells,  
President

ckc

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
August 13, 1926

Minutes

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report

Woman Voter Advertising

ORGANIZATION

Reports of District Chairmen

STATE AND COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITS

County Fair Exhibits - Mrs. C E Shafer, chairman

State Fair Exhibit - Mrs. Woodward Colby, chairman

GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN

Suggestions to local Leagues

American Legion Campaign

Schools for Voters

STATE CONVENTION

Program

Attendance

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Efficiency in Government

International Cooperation to Prevent War

Public Welfare in Government - Legislative Council

NEW BUSINESS

Replies to Questionnaires to Candidates

New National League printed material

Plans for September Board Meeting



178 copies

ROUND ROBIN

No. 20

Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters Aug. 21, 1926

IOWA

The all day midsummer board meeting at Mrs. Knutson's home in Clear Lake, July 23rd, was well attended. From Des Moines, from Mason City and from Iowa City came members and guests. The regional director and regional secretary were also there.

The Board appointed a temporary council for consideration of legislative measures before they are recommended to the Board. Chairmen of the state departments and committees are members of this committee, and Dr. Mae Habenicht, chairman of the social hygiene committee, was chosen chairman of the council.

For luncheon the board was entertained by the Clear Lake League Board. Every department and committee chairmanship of that League has been filled and at the luncheon the local chairman and the state chairman of each committee and department were seated side by side.

On July 24th, the Mason City League had a breakfast for Miss Wells and Mrs. Parkes, after which League ideals and methods were informally discussed for the best part of an afternoon.

Mrs. S H Fritz is the new president of the Estherville League.

NORTH DAKOTA

The Call for the Third Annual Convention of the North Dakota League of Women Voters, to be held at Grand Forks, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 28th and 29th, has been cut for at least two weeks. It is beautifully printed and the features of the convention meet the eye at a glance. "Reservations for rooms may be made to Miss Margaret Van Dusen, 515 N 4th St., Grand Forks" reads the concluding paragraph.

Miss Helen Davies, Grand Forks, member of the State Board, was recently a welcome caller upon the regional director.

Mrs. Parkes was in Grand Forks for the State Board meeting August 10th.

MONTANA

Mrs. Parkes is in Montana. She met with members of the Board in Helena on August 12th, and attended a regular meeting of the Board at Great Falls August 18th.

MINNESOTA

The Eighth Annual Convention will be held at Duluth, October 7, 8, and 9, at the Hotel Duluth. Mrs. C S Roulo is president of the hostess League. The program is still a secret, but in confidence to Round Robin readers - it will be a good one! Nothing could add so much to the success of the occasion as the attendance from the Fifth Region of officers and members of the League of Women Voters. Let the regional director know if you hope to attend.

Mrs. C W Short, of Kalispell, Montana, was a visitor at the state board meeting at Mrs. Ueland's house August 13th.

---

This will be the last vacation number of the Round Robin. Before the next issue Leagues everywhere will be going full steam on.

In every state the two major undertakings will be work to increase the number of voters at the fall election and preparation of a legislative program. The latter will consist of three stages: (1) Preparation of the program to be recommended to League conventions or boards in the fall; (2) Education of membership and the general public upon that program; and (3) Support of these measures in the next winter's session of the legislature. It is to be hoped that every reader of the Round Robin is making up her mind to take part in some or all of these activities.

In most Leagues one summer stunt remains to be accomplished - porch parties for the presentation of a child labor amendment skit - "The Family Takes Notice". The skit is now in print and may be ordered from the National headquarters. It should be ordered in sets of four so that each reader or performer may own a copy.

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Marguerite M Wells, Regional Director

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Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby  
Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

August 26th,  
1926

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
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Efficiency in Government

## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

My dear Local League Chairman: -

The Executive Committee has asked me to remind you that when your League comes to life next month ready for the year's work, there are two subjects on which it will need to make plans at once:

- (1) Attendance at the State Convention October 7 - 9, and
- (2) Work to Get-Out-the-Vote in the November 2nd election.

Before discussing these two important subjects with you, may I call your attention to the enclosed skit dealing with the Child Labor Amendment, entitled "The Family Takes Notice."

"THE FAMILY TAKES NOTICE" was prepared for use in summer porch party groups but has been delayed in the printing. We hope that you may still arrange for reading the skit together in informal groups before the summer is over. Whatever the legislative fate of the amendment may be in the country, we are anxious to have every Minnesota League member know the facts presented in this skit. It takes just thirty minutes to read it through, and you will probably never find a more painless, not to say entertaining way to promote education upon this subject of vital importance. The price of the pamphlet is 7 cents per copy or 25 cents for four copies, which you will need if the four parts are assigned to different readers.

THE STATE CONVENTION IN DULUTH You shall have another letter before long, all about the Convention. Just now I want to invite your consideration of one aspect of the Convention - attendance from your League. Delegate credentials will be sent you to be issued to as many of your officers and members as can go to Duluth. To assure the attendance of at least one official representative, can you not make a plan at a meeting early in September for paying part, say half, the expenses of a delegate to be appointed by the board or elected by the League membership. The enthusiasm and effectiveness of your League work for the entire year



will be enhanced by the attendance of at least one good active League officer or member. We have, by the way, the promise of an unusually low special rate for the round trip between the Twin Cities and Duluth.

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE Much of the work for the coming year will be initiated at the Convention. One job cannot and need not wait discussion there - namely, Get-Out-the-Vote. This is an activity to which the League has been committed in its program of work since 1923. You may have heard that the American Legion has announced that it will engage in the same effort this year. If the local Legion Post should be planning definite Get-Out-the-Vote activities in your community, it would be well to make sure by conference that there is no duplication in plans. It may be possible to arrange for some one meeting in cooperation with the Legion. We hope that you will keep in mind, however, that the League has a responsibility that cannot be discharged except by its own membership, carrying out the policy of wholly unpartisan activity in this work that has been so carefully built up by the League of Women Voters.

Within a week or two I shall write you again to suggest definite Get-Out-the-Vote plans and to send you samples of posters and fliers available at state League headquarters.

After these vacation weeks we are wondering just what are the fall plans of your League. The state board holds its next meeting on September 10th. I should very much like to have a message from every local League president (or secretary, if you are not free to write) that I may report at that time. Our interest in every message that comes from a local League officer is much greater than you can imagine.

Cordially yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M Wells,  
President

MMW ckc

What is the date of your next League meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you call a meeting of your League board very soon to read together "The Family Takes Notice" and to plan for a series of porch parties at which it may be read? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you planned to have a League exhibit at your county fair? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you wish to reserve the loan exhibit we have for the use of local Leagues? \_\_\_\_\_ For what dates? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to have our field secretary (Miss Beggin) pay your League a visit if possible in the next few months? \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ League of Women Voters

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Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Third Vice-President  
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Secretary  
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Treasurer  
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Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 1st,  
1926

Dear Board Member:

The Faribault League has invited the state board to hold its September meeting in Faribault. The date is Friday, September 10. The meeting will open at 11:00 A.M. instead of at 10:30 and will last until 4:20 P.M.

This is the last state board meeting before the October convention and final plans for the convention will be under discussion. It will be the third and last state board meeting held outside the Twin Cities this year. Board members who have voted for the plan of holding meetings in various parts of the state are urged to support it by their attendance.

We shall appreciate hearing from you early in order that we may notify Mrs. William Pearce, chairman of the Faribault League, how many to plan upon for luncheon. We shall also appreciate receiving word from those who can plan to drive to Faribault and take others with them.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

Enc.

Bus and Train Schedule between Minneapolis and Faribault

For the Information of State Board Members

---

TO FARIBAULT

BY BUS	(One Way Fare \$1.85)	Leave Mpls	7:30 A.M.	Ar Faribault	10:10 A.M.
BY TRAIN	(One Way Fare \$2.28)	" "	8:30 A.M.	" "	11:00 A.M.

*Milwaukee*

RETURN TRIP

BY BUS		Leave Faribault	3:29 P.M.	Ar Mpls	6:05 P. M.
		" "	5:19 P.M.	" "	7:59 P. M.
BY TRAIN		" "	4:40 P.M.	" "	7:25 P. M.

Note: The trains to Faribault are local trains without a diner.

Bus and Train Schedule between Minneapolis and Faribault

For the Information of State Board Members

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Note: The trains to Faribault are local trains without a diner.



15 Mrs. Gelly  
Bryant

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOOTH ATTENDANTS  
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
STATE FAIR EXHIBIT - September, 1926

HOURS FOR BOOTH ATTENDANTS:

9:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M.

1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.

RULES FOR CARE OF BOOTH:

Never leave the booth unattended.

Turn out all lights before leaving booth at night.

Make a record of money received for report to the state office at the end of each day.

PRINTED MATERIAL FOR SALE OR FREE DISTRIBUTION:

Free

Rainbow Vote Fliers - Give one to everyone passing the booth.

Small leaflets on the League of Women Voters - Give to interested women.

Sample copies of the Minnesota Woman Voter - Use to secure subscriptions paid at the booth.

For Sale

Why Renew the Sheppard-Towner Act	Price 3¢
The Family Takes Notice (Recommended for groups and club meetings as the easiest way to gain an understanding of the issues involved in the Child Labor Amendment	" 7¢
Current Questions in Government (No. 2 - States' Rights - is recommended to supplement reading on the Child Labor Amendment	" 5¢ per pamphlet
The Child Labor Amendment by Judge Waite	" 10¢
The Children's Amendment (white pamphlet)	" 10¢
" " " (yellow pamphlet)	" 1¢
List of National League Publications	" 5¢
Digest of Minnesota Election Laws	" 10¢

MEMBERSHIPS:

Membership blanks for the state and Twin City Leagues are provided.  
Membership at large in the state League (where there is no local League) is \$1.00 and includes a year's subscription to the Woman Voter.

WOMAN VOTER SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The subscription price is 25¢ a year. Make a special effort to get a subscription from everyone who visits the booth.

RECORD TO BE KEPT BY BOOTH ATTENDANTS:

Keep a record of names and addresses of visitors to the booth who express an interest in the work of the League of Women Voters. These names will be of great value in our plans for enlisting volunteers in the Get-Out-The-Vote campaign this fall.

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, August 27, 1926

2:30 P. M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Miss Chase, Miss Colcord, Judge Hall, Mrs. Caswell, Mrs. Spafford, Miss Fish, and Miss Child.

Proposed Changes in the Marriage Law

Judge Hall reviewed the events leading up to the submission of a proposed marriage bill, upon the recommendation of the Council, in the last session of the legislature. He said that among the chief recommendations of the Minnesota Children's Code Commission that completed its work in 1917 were proposed amendments to the marriage law to correct defects that are nevertheless still outstanding. The prevention of youthful marriages and hasty marriages were two changes covered in the recommendations. The proposal for a ten-day waiting period in the granting of a marriage license aroused much public opposition then but in 1925, when the proposed bill was under discussion in the legislature, there seemed to be no particular objection to the five-day waiting period provided for in that bill.

Nothing was done between 1917 and 1923 to carry forward the proposed legislative changes. In 1923 a bill was introduced in the House by Mr. McKnight but failed of passage. In 1925 a new bill providing for a complete revision of the marriage law, prepared by members of the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation, was introduced into the legislature and supported by the League of Women Voters.

The greatest point of attack upon the 1925 law was the provision for abolishing common law marriage by requiring a marriage celebration. It is evident, said Judge Hall, that the public in Minnesota still considers this a debatable question. He cited his own observation as indicating that there is no such thing as a real common law marriage; that it is merely a makeshift drifted into by people without plan or foresight.

The clerks of court charged with the duty of issuing marriage licenses fought the 1923 bill as interfering with their profit from fees. In the 1925 legislature however they gave the proposed bill their active support.

Judge Hall outlined the following provisions as being those that he considered of greatest importance in future efforts to improve the marriage laws of Minnesota:

A waiting period of five or ten days before the issuance of the license.

The appearance of both applicants and perhaps the requirement of witnesses to vouch for the reliability of the applicants. (This is a requirement in application for citizenship.)

The establishment of a penalty for disregarding the law in the issuance of marriage licenses. The provision in the present law is wholly inadequate to meet this need.

A provision that the license clerk shall take judicial notice as to whether a person is feeble-minded, epileptic or insane and for a penalty for the non-observance of this provision. In the past a census of all feeble-minded persons in the state taken by the Children's Bureau and reported to clerks of court was wholly disregarded when marriage licenses were issued.

The criticism of the 1925 law met with in its discussion by the Senate committee was that it in effect repealed all existing statutes and thus resulted in confusion. Judge Hall commented that perhaps we should proceed conservatively on this account and make the desired changes by a series of amendments instead of by a complete marriage code.

In reply to Miss Wells' question in regard to publicity for the application for a marriage license, Judge Hall said that it is customary to post such information in the Court House. Miss Colcord remarked that in every community this information is covered by newspaper reporters.

Discussion of Problems Connected with Regulation of Marriage

Miss Joanna Colcord, director of the Minneapolis Family Welfare Association, discussed the general aspects of legislation in this field. She said that for the last five years legislation affecting marriage has been negligible. The only good law passed during this time (in Nebraska) was later repealed owing to an organized



campaign by jewelers in the state. The opposition to the passage of good marriage laws is of three types:

- 1) The ultra-conservative element who feel that slowing up the process may result in more illegitimate children in the community.
- 2) The ultra-liberal group who object on the ground of unwarrantable interference with personal liberty.
- 3) The opposition that proceeds from frankly commercial reasons such as that of license clerks.

The first two groups proceed in their thinking from the mistaken premise that marriage is not a social concern. As a matter of fact marriage customs for as long back as we know anything about them, have always recognized the concern of the state or the tribal group in the marriage relation.

#### Common Law Marriage

There are only five states that have laws definitely sanctioning common law marriage. In 26 states, however, common law marriages are recognized by court decisions. A federal decision as early as 1877 established the legal precedent for Minnesota. The case involved a Minnesota man who had signed a marriage contract with a Missouri woman. Upon the man's death in a railroad accident, the woman inherited his money although the two had never seen each other.

The general misapprehension that the recognition of common law marriage is a protection to women and children is not borne out by actual cases. What becomes of the wife and children of a regularly celebrated marriage when an earlier common law wife establishes the validity of her claim? As a matter of fact women and children are often the helpless victims in the common law relationship since court procedure is necessary to establish the validity of the marriage.

Miss Colcord commented that in her experience the common law relation never starts as a bona-fide marriage but is often based upon anti-social and illegal relationships that are later seized upon to serve some selfish purpose. The recognition of common law marriage tends to lower the status of the marriage relation in any community just as the existence of two kinds of coinage results in the baser coinage dragging the other to its own level. The decision often depends on whether the couple have been recognized as man and wife by the public or, in other words, whether there has been a successful duping of the public by them.

Common law marriage is not an old institution in this country and it had been abolished in England in 1753, long before the American Colonial Period. It is a weakness of our pioneer conditions when the whole fabric of living was shaken and we have not yet gotten rid of it.

#### General Comments

Thirty states have a higher age limit in their marriage laws than Minnesota. In twenty-five states children are allowed to marry before the law allows them to go to work.

The fee system for license clerks stands as an almost impenetrable obstacle against cooperation within the state in the interest of better marriage legislation. The establishment of a salary basis for clerks of court by state law is desirable.

Miss Colcord suggested also the desirability of cooperation between states, similar to that in force in commercial fields, by which each state provides that anyone from a different state applying for a marriage license should present a license from his own state as a requirement to the granting of a license in the new state. This would do away with the possibility of a state with poor regulation of marriage drawing applicants from states with good marriage laws. Fourteen states already have provisions in their laws governing applicants for a marriage license leaving or coming to the state.

Miss Colcord commented upon the venereal disease provision in the bill submitted at the last legislature, as being useless without some requirement for physical examination. The Wisconsin law is reported as working well in respect to this provision. The Russell Sage Foundation has published a pamphlet report of an inquiry among physicians of the state on this provision in the law.

There followed general discussion as to the best way to present legislative changes in the marriage law. Mrs. Wittich suggested that instead of a code in which all the changes are combined in one bill, thus uniting the opposition to every section of the bill, that several separate bills be prepared. Judge Hall suggested that three bills covering respectively the problems of licensing, establishing an age limit and providing for a celebration of marriage to abolish common law marriage, could be drawn.

Proposed Amendment to Mothers' Pension Law

Mrs. Ueland reported the suggestion of Mrs. F. L. Adair that an amendment be proposed to the Mothers' Pension Law to provide for the payment of a pension to the wife of a man committed to the state institution for the feeble-minded.

The present law provides for the payment of a county allowance to mothers where the husband "is an inmate of a penal institution under a sentence which will not terminate within three months after the date of such finding; or in an inmate of a state insane asylum or hospital; or of a state hospital for inebriates; or is unable to labor for the support of his family by reason of physical disabilities; or is and for one year has been under indictment for the crime of abandoning such child."

There was general discussion as to whether any provision of the above-quoted section of the law might be construed to cover the case cited by Mrs. Adair. Judge Hall was asked to make inquiry and report at the next meeting as to the desirability of such an amendment to supplement the present law.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary



M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
August 13, 1926

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Calhoun Boulevard and Richfield Road, Mpls.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 A.M., Miss Wells presiding. Members of the State Board present, were: Miss Wells, Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Glasoc, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Spear, Miss Kercher, Miss Monahan and Mrs. Colby. There were also present Miss Child, Mrs. Collins and the following Minneapolis members: Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Bessessen, Mrs. Chalmers, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Lonegren, Mrs. Bryan, Miss Merrill, Miss Jeffrey. Mrs. Charles Short was a visitor from Montana. Miss Marguerite Owen of the National League staff and Mrs. A. F. Mellon, chairman of the Columbia Heights League, were also present.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Wittich read the treasurer's report, showing a balance June 1 of \$577.13. Receipts during the month amounted to \$497.17, making a total of \$1,074.30. Disbursements amounted to \$766.50, leaving a balance of \$307.80 July 1. Bills payable were reported as amounting to \$389.50. Mrs. Wittich then reported having just received \$100.00 from the Minneapolis League which effected a balance on hand of \$407.80, covering all bills.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Spear, second of Mrs. Ueland, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Miss Wells spoke of the \$162.00 monthly quota to the National as having been forwarded in June and July. Henceforth, she said, Minnesota will be among the few record states making regular quota payments each month.

There followed an interesting report by Mrs. Wittich of the number of local Leagues, by districts, having made full quota payments to the state.

Woman Voter Report

Mrs. Colby reported on her experience in securing advertising for the August number. She asked other members to attempt it for future issues and particularly urged that the Board patronize the advertisers. Several board members promised to deal with certain firms in the near future. Mrs. Bryan said she would willingly secure "ads" for the September number in Minneapolis and Mrs. Colby said she would try again in St. Paul.

Reports of District Chairmen

Miss Lusk reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT that intensive organization work is being carried on in St. Paul by Miss Jennings who called on leading ward women every afternoon during July with much success and will continue her organization work thru August and possibly September. Miss Lusk further reported the scheduling of candidates' meetings for each ward with one large downtown meeting planned for the candidates for governor.

"Our most important problem is money raising in every ward", she said. "There must be many more two dollar League memberships secured and one hundred percent subscription to the Woman Voter."

Mrs. Bryan reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that she had been calling the entire membership on the telephone this summer. The results have been most satisfactory. Members have expressed their preferences among the activities suggested to them. Several new study groups will be added to the growing list. Many have expressed a desire to attend convention and other such activities.

She also reported on renewed efforts in ward organization with an attempt to divide the wards into districts, each with a representative on a ward executive committee.

Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT that Mrs. Roulo of Duluth has completed her appointments of committee heads. The department heads have practically completed their respective outlines for the year's work, she added. The Department of Efficiency in Government will hold a weekly course of lectures on "Taxation" in November and a series of lectures on City Government including the City Manager Plan in February; while the Department on International Cooperation to Prevent War has weekly lectures scheduled for January. The immediate work at hand in the district, is to get in better touch with the range women, by means of personal visits which are being planned for September. She concluded with the plan of her district to pay the state regularly each month. "If not the full quota, at least a definite amount at a definite time", she said.

Mrs. Glasoe reported for the THIRD DISTRICT the plan to use the dialogue on the Child Labor Amendment at small gatherings, saying these groups were the potential study groups of the coming year.

Miss Wells reported for Rochester in the FIRST DISTRICT that the Mayo Clinic study group met with her at luncheon, where she promised them a study outline for this fall and winter.

Miss Child read a letter from Monticello which reported an interesting meeting where Miss Lawrence spoke on the Federal Education Bill.

#### State and County Fair Exhibits

Mrs. Collins reported for Mrs. C. E. Shafer, county fair exhibit chairman, on the number of fairs where the League would be represented. She displayed the original posters designed by Miss Olive Boe, the National League posters and the fliers to be used at all fairs.

Miss Lusk said she would arrange to have a League exhibit at the Ramsey County Fair, August 26-29.

Mrs. Colby submitted tentative plans for the State Fair exhibit; in which exhibit it was decided to feature only such legislative needs as could be "supported" by printed League material - (to be available at the booth). Two such types, namely Child Labor, and Maternity and Infancy legislation, were approved for portrayal, as a way to stimulate interest in voting, "keeping the importance of the vote the motif of the exhibit, of course", she said.

#### Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign

The need of an immediate letter to local Leagues suggesting Get-Out-The-Vote activities for the next two months was mentioned by Miss Wells. She reported a recent communication from Miss Sherwin mentioning the plan of the American Legion to carry on Get-Out-The-Vote work through their local units this fall and suggesting that it will be necessary to instruct local Leagues in regard to cooperation with Legion posts.

The use of the National League vote posters on bulletin boards and in shop windows was suggested. Mrs. Ueland urged the house-to-house canvass as the most important means of getting out the vote. Candidates' meetings were discussed and it was agreed that classes for voters, even more elemental than the One Day Schools for Voters held two years ago, would be valuable in local communities and in city wards.

Mrs. Spear expressed the opinion that the questionnaires stimulated candidates to take stock of themselves more conscientiously than they otherwise might and asked if their answers would be made available to everyone interested. Miss Child said that some of the replies may be printed in the Voter and that any of them may be seen at headquarters at any time.

The suggestion that there be a get-out-the-vote chairman was made and IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ramsey, second of Mrs. Glasoe, that such a chairman be appointed. In the absence of suggestions of suitable persons for the chairmanship, IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ueland, second of Miss Lusk, that the Executive Committee make the appointment.

#### Reports of Department Chairmen

Mrs. Wittich reported for the EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT department emphasizing the importance of being informed about the Direct Primary now under heavy fire on account of the exposures of great sums of money spent during the recent Pennsylvania and Illinois primaries. She prefaced her account of these scandals by saying, "We are not blind to the faults of the present primary system of nomination but we are aware that the machinery of the old convention system could be manipulated with less money and publicity". She also said that party politicians inside the machine are fighting the primary harder than any other group of people.

She reviewed the situations in Pennsylvania and Illinois saying that, in the case of the former, state prohibition was emphasized as the issue and, in the latter, the World Court. Both of these issues were used as smoke screens for the real ones. In Illinois, where some half a million was expended for the two senatorial candi-



dates, more than two-thirds of the amount spent for the successful candidate, Smith, was contributed by three people representing the public utilities. Smith is president or chairman of the public utilities commission in Illinois.

In the discussion that followed two of the defects in the present primary system in Minnesota were reviewed: the system of filing, where almost anyone who is a citizen and has the small fee necessary to place his name on the ballot can do so; and the fact that many candidates are nominated by a plurality rather than a majority vote, because the candidate getting the highest number of votes is nominated. The former defect might be remedied by petition filing; the latter by requiring a definite percentage vote of all the votes cast, before nomination could be declared.

Mrs. Wittich urged everyone to interview prominent people on this question which is receiving so much unfavorable publicity now, in an effort to have the primary better understood.

Mrs. Ueland reported for the department of PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT that the Legislative Council has now appointed three sub-committees which are working upon groups of measures preparatory to action upon the final legislative program to be recommended by the Council. There is one more meeting covering Child Welfare measures before the Committee on Final Program is appointed by the Council to complete the work.

The chair asked what action should be taken to fill the chairmanships of the committees on Child Welfare and Living Costs that are now vacant. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Mrs. Spear, that the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint chairmen to these committees in the Department of Public Welfare in Government.

In the absence of Mrs. Hargreaves there was no report from the department of INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR.

#### State Convention

Mrs. Wittich reported upon tentative plans for the convention program. There was general discussion of ways of stimulating attendance at the convention from the state at large.

#### Other Business

The possibility of holding the next state board meeting in Faribault was mentioned and Mrs. Glasoe expressed a wish to have local League chairmen of the Third District invited to attend if this plan proves possible. Miss Child was asked to communicate with the Faribault League and make the necessary plans.

Miss Wells called the attention of board members to the new National League vest-pocket edition of the Constitution, a most useful and convenient form for reference.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary

*Sent to 38 with pamphlet*

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

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Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
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Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, Child Welfare  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Bertha Dahl Laws, Living Costs  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 8th,  
1926

My dear

Through the courtesy of Mr. Henry W. Farnam of New Haven, we have been able to obtain a small supply of his very interesting article in the Yale Review for April. I am sending a copy of the reprint to you as one of those who may appreciate seeing it.

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

EC ms  
Enc.

*Sent to 33 names supplied by Miss Child & Mrs. Englund*

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September 11th,  
1926

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Office Secretary  
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Dear

We are to have the pleasure of a two-day visit with Miss Elizabeth Hauser, chairman of the Department of Efficiency in Government of the National League, in Minneapolis, Monday and Tuesday, September 20 and 21. The Minneapolis League will have a public luncheon at which she will be the speaker on Monday, September 20, at 12:30 in the Gold Room of the Hotel Radisson. We hope you will plan to attend this luncheon and if you do, please telephone your reservation to the Minneapolis League, Atlantic 4268.

On Tuesday, September 21, Mrs. McKnight is entertaining at luncheon at her home in Ferndale for Miss Hauser at which time there will be an informal conference for local Efficiency in Government chairmen and a few others particularly interested in the work of this department. We very much hope that you will plan to attend this luncheon because those of us who know Miss Hauser realize what a rare privilege this opportunity is, to discuss with her the outstanding problems and items on this division of the League's program, such as the Direct Primary.

Please notify League headquarters, Atlantic 1171, if you plan to attend this conference, not later than Saturday morning, September 18. We shall be glad to furnish transportation from the office to Ferndale if you will be here at 12:15 Tuesday.

Hoping to have an early and enthusiastic acceptance, I am

Cordially yours,

Mrs. F. W. Wittich, Chairman  
Department of Efficiency in Govt.

JWW ms



A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
September 10, 1926

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Report on Woman Voter Advertising

Report on Cooperation with the Woman Citizen

ORGANIZATION

Reports by District Chairmen

Communications from local Leagues

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

International Cooperation to Prevent War

Efficiency in Government

Public Welfare in Government

STATE CONVENTION

Program

Attendance

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGN

OTHER BUSINESS



*Sent to 434- Candidates for State Legis. - Judges, Governor, Lieut Gov. & State  
Offices*

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Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 16th,  
1926

My dear Candidate: -

The League of Women Voters is an unpartisan organization whose purpose is the political education of women and the support of legislative measures which it believes will contribute to the general welfare and to the efficient administration of agencies of government.

At the beginning of this year, the Minnesota League enlarged its monthly publication, "The Woman Voter", to include some advertising material and by action of its executive board, this policy has now been extended to political advertising under the conditions and prices outlined below.

In any issue of "The Woman Voter" containing the political advertising of candidates, the League will publish a list of all the candidates running for whatever offices have been solicited regardless of which candidates avail themselves of the opportunity of buying space for advertising.

To no candidate will more than one-quarter of a page of space be sold, and candidates desiring to have their pictures used must furnish their own cuts.

The price for one-fourth of a page of advertising space is \$15.75; for one-eighth, \$9.00, and for one-sixteenth, \$4.75.

The paid circulation of "The Woman Voter" is 2400. In Minneapolis there are 800 subscribers, in St. Paul 500 and in other parts of the state 1100.

We shall be pleased to carry an advertisement of your candidacy to office in the October 15th or election issue of "The Woman Voter", provided the accompanying order sheet together with copy material and check are received at this office not later than the 8th of October.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M Wells,  
President

JWW ckc

*9-20-26- Sent to 21 County Offices - (Henn. Co.)*

ORDER BLANK

POLITICAL ADVERTISING IN THE OCTOBER ELECTION ISSUE

THE MINNESOTA WOMAN VOTER  
1639 Hennepin Avenue,  
Minneapolis

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Space Desired \_\_\_\_\_

Size of full page of advertising - 8 x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches

Price of space:

One-fourth page \$15.75

One-eighth page 9.00

One-sixteenth page 4.75

Copy for Advertisement

Make checks payable to the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

Copies of the Woman Voter may be secured at the rate of:

Single copies 5 cents

In lots of 100 or more 3 cents

If you wish to order in quantity, please place your order by October 8.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
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Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
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1926

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## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

My dear Local League Chairman: -

In my last letter I promised to send you suggestions for conducting a Get-Out-the-Vote campaign through your local League. I hope that you have been conferring with your officers and board in the meantime and that you will find these suggestions helpful in supplementing plans already underway.

Candidates Meetings: Such meetings are a characteristic League contribution to arousing interest at election time, not only in candidates but in issues. Always be sure that every candidate running for the same office has an equal opportunity to be heard.

Candidates Questionnaires: The State League has sent questionnaires on subjects of special interest to the League of Women Voters, to candidates for the legislature and for state offices. We are now sending each local League copies of replies received from legislative candidates in the district in which the League is situated. We hope that you will wish to get in touch with those who have not replied, to make them see the value of supplying the information asked for in the questionnaire. Please let us hear from you if you are able to secure additional replies.

House to House Canvass: You are already familiar with the advantages of this way of reaching all voters in your community. It always proves effective.

## Publicity in Preparation for Get-Out-the-Vote Drive

- (1) Have a member of your board call upon your newspaper editor to see if he will help stimulate interest in voting by write-ups over a period of days or weeks before the election on November 2nd. The League may be able to assist by supplying vote slogans or other material (Send for our Get Out the Vote Campaign text-book - price 15 cents - for suggestions of jingles and slogans).
- (2) Arrange for trailers in the movie houses with a reminder of the duties of voting, to be run during the week before election. This should not be at League expense.



- (3) Place posters in the library, in the post office and in shop windows before the election. A sample of the attractive Vote poster published by the National League is being mailed to you under separate cover. Additional copies can be had at ten cents each or three for 25 cents. It may add interest to have some original Vote posters prepared by high school children, and display the best of them.
- (4) Plan for the distribution of fliers either in a house to house canvass or in group meetings near the time of election. A sample of a flier is enclosed which we can supply at cost (35 cents per hundred).

Cooperation: I mentioned this subject in my former letter. I will just add that the executive committee recommends the plan of a cooperative Get-Out-the-Vote luncheon that proved very successful in Minneapolis two years ago. Officers of the various organizations were invited to sit at the speakers' table, the Dean of the Graduate School at the University was asked to preside, and a short program of talks was provided followed by a roll-call of the organizations represented, at which each pledged itself to Get Out the Vote within its own membership. Excellent publicity was given the event by the newspapers.

Classes for Voters: The State League is not attempting to conduct One Day Schools for Voters throughout the state this year as it did in 1924, though it will be glad to give advice and help in the way of suggested programs to any local League that may wish to arrange such a school with local speakers. The executive committee urges, however, that you make some plan for providing instruction in the technique of voting through "Voter Classes" where women may become familiar with election regulations as to marking ballots, etc., to make them less timid about going to the polls. We realize more and more that unfamiliarity with the whole process keeps many women at home on election day who would be conscientious voters.

I shall appreciate so much your letting me know which of these suggestions your League will carry out.

We shall be ready to send you within a few days credentials for your delegates to the state convention (in Duluth October 7th to 9th). I hope you are planning to attend yourself and get others to attend from your League.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M Wells,  
President

EC ckc  
Encs.

*Sent to about 35*

Mr. H. M. Wheelock, Fergus Falls,  
First Vice-chairman

Mr. R. D. Underwood, Lake City,  
Second Vice-chairman

Mrs. E. G. Quamme, St. Paul,  
Chairman

Miss Emily Child, Secretary  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Executive Committee  
Mrs. E. G. Quamme  
Mrs. Josephine Sizer  
Mrs. David F. Simpson

## MINNESOTA JOINT RATIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

### General Committee Members

Mrs. Virginia Blythe	Miss Alice Kercher
Mrs. W. F. Decker	Mrs. B. N. Kager
Father W. P. Driscoll	Mrs. H. D. Kilgore
Mrs. John Elliott	Mrs. Lyndon King
Mr. J. C. Garrison	Miss Florence Kimball
Mrs. Robbins Gilman	Mr. Edward Nelson
Miss Hilda M. Gippe	Mrs. W. J. O'Toole
Mr. John N. Greer	Miss Ruth Rosholt
Mrs. H. C. Hanson	Mrs. David F. Simpson
Prof. Willis M. West	

September 17, 1926

My dear Committee Member:

### State Organizations Represented

American Association of University Women  
Mrs. James S. King  
Mrs. A. E. Bryngelson

Congress of Parents and Teachers  
Mrs. E. G. Quamme, president  
Mrs. G. H. Trafton, chairman  
Department Public Welfare  
Mrs. M. S. Hirschfeld  
Legislative Chairman

Council of Churches  
Mr. B. B. Blyth, Minneapolis  
Mr. A. Z. Mann, St. Paul

Council of Jewish Women  
Mrs. Arthur Brin  
Mrs. Israel Kreiner

Federation of Business and  
Professional Women's Clubs  
Mrs. Dema R. Harvey, president  
Miss Nellie Jones,  
Legislative chairman

Federation of Labor  
Mr. E. G. Hall, president

Federation of Women's Clubs  
Mrs. J. E. Rounds, president  
Mrs. Willard Bayliss, chairman  
Department Public Welfare  
Miss Esther Sprague, chairman  
Department Child Welfare

League of Women Voters  
Miss Marguerite M. Wells, president  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, chairman  
Legislative Council  
Mrs. Eugene Dieudonne, chairman  
Child Welfare Committee.

Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation  
Mr. F. J. Bruno, chairman

Minnesota Education Association  
Mr. C. G. Schulz

Minnesota State Registered Nurses' Association  
Mrs. Frederick Hein, legislative chairman

Women's Christian Temperance Union  
Mrs. Josephine Sizer, president  
Mrs. Myra Griswold, legislative chairman

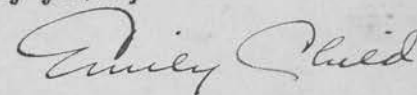
Young Women's Christian Association  
Mrs. A. E. Zonne, Minneapolis  
Mrs. John R. Brown, St. Paul

Miss Marguerite Owen, secretary of the group  
of national Organizations Associated for Ratification of  
the Children's Amendment in Washington, D. C., is to be  
in Minneapolis this week.

A conference of the Minnesota Joint Ratifica-  
tion Committee with Miss Owen is arranged for Tuesday  
morning, September 21, at ten o'clock. It will be held  
at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters,  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.

We hope that nothing will interfere with  
your being present on Tuesday morning to hear what Miss  
Owen can tell us and to contribute to the discussion.

Sincerely yours,



Emily Child,  
Secretary

EC ms

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Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 20th,  
1926

Dear Legislative Council Member:

A meeting of the Legislative Council is called for Wednesday,  
September 22, at 2:30 P.M. at League headquarters.

This is the fourth and last in the series of meetings for  
general discussion of measures before final action on the legis-  
lative program to be recommended for support in the 1927 session  
of the legislature.

Measures in the field of CHILD WELFARE will be under discussion.  
We are particularly fortunate in being able to have for this  
meeting Miss Marguerite Owen, who is in close touch with the  
Women's Joint Congressional Committee in Washington, comprising  
the national organizations whose state branches are represented  
in the Legislative Council.

The Committee on Final Program will be named at this meeting and  
reports will be called for from certain of the sub-committees  
that have been at work on groups of measures referred from the  
Council for special committee consideration.

We hope you will surely plan to attend the meeting on Wednesday.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Secretary

EC ms



*Sent to MB with Credential & Legh. Voter*

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Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September  
1926

Dear Friend:

I am writing you as one of the women in the state who may be interested in attending the state Convention of the League of Women Voters in Duluth, October 7-9. I enclose a copy of the Woman Voter carrying a preliminary program and extend to you a special invitation to attend some or all of the sessions, described there.

A delegate's credential entitling you to participation in the convention sessions is enclosed for your use. We are issuing a limited number of credentials to a selected list of women whom we would like to have meet with us from towns in the state where there is no local League.

You will feel, I am sure, that the subjects and speeches are well worth making an effort to hear. Legislative measures of interest to women recommended for support by the League in the coming session of the legislature will be discussed in the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions by the ablest speakers on these subjects in the state. Outstanding features of the whole program, you will note, are - the mass meeting Thursday evening at which candidates for governor in the three political parties will speak, an evening on the Direct Primary Friday, and the Convention Luncheon at the Duluth Hotel on Saturday with Mrs. James W. Morrisson as speaker, a woman of the greatest charm and ability, an inspiration to hear.

Will you please let us know whether you can attend the Convention? We shall wish to see that you meet other delegates present and have an altogether pleasant and worthwhile time.

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MB ms  
Enc.

1881

1881



Sent to 76

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Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 21st,  
1926

Dear Woman Citizen Subscriber:

Almost a year has gone by since you subscribed to the Woman Citizen in connection with a subscription drive under our auspices. We hope you have enjoyed the magazine as much as we expected you to and that you wish to renew your subscription for another year.

The Woman Citizen is making a particularly generous offer just now to allow us one dollar for every renewal as well as for every new subscription received within the next thirty days. We shall appreciate so much your sending in your renewal through us, thus entitling us to a bonus of one dollar for your subscription. Or send in your renewal direct, merely writing our name across your renewal blank. Your renewal will then be credited as part of our drive.

We hope that you may wish to contribute in this way to the work of the League.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

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Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 22nd,  
1926

My dear Local League Chairman:

The state convention is to be held in Duluth, as you know, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday - October 7, 8, and 9. I am sending you with this letter credential blanks for delegates you are empowered to appoint for the convention.

YOUR DELEGATES: In a previous letter I suggested that your League consider the possibility of paying half the expenses of a delegate to represent your League officially in this convention at which our legislative program, for support in the coming session of the legislature, is to be adopted. I wish that every local League president and as many additional officers and members of local Leagues as can, might attend. May we rely on you to see that your League is adequately represented at the Convention sessions? It is only by meeting together in this way that we can gain the information and inspiration that we need to carry out our work in the state.

There is no part of the Convention that you can afford to miss but I wish to call your attention particularly to the Friday morning session on Organization and Get-Out-The-Vote at which we shall have a dramatic representation of "The Right Kind" and "The Wrong Kind" of a League meeting, followed by discussion. We hope that every local League delegate present will take the opportunity to question and discuss the League policies emphasized in the two "skits". Nothing could be more valuable than free and frank discussion of the concrete questions that we shall introduce to you in this way.

We shall have on Friday afternoon a presentation of a Get-Out-The-Vote playlet, written by Mrs. A. J. McGuire of St. Paul, for the use of the local League groups in connection with the campaign to Get-Out-The-Vote in the November 2 election. It is an entertaining as well as an effective argument directed to women voters. Come and see it as a preparation for offering it in your own community.

The discussion of legislative issues, before the final vote on the legislative program on Saturday morning, is an important part of the program and will give you an excellent background for League work during the coming year. The issue of the Woman Voter that has just been mailed to you gives further details about the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND RAILROAD RATES: Please let us know if we can help to arrange for moderate priced accommodations in Duluth for your delegates who may not have friends or relatives there with whom they wish to stay. Convention headquarters are in the Duluth Hotel, but we shall be glad to appeal to the local Hospitality Committee for special arrangements for those that may not wish to pay hotel rates.

A special railroad rate of \$6.00 for the round-trip between the Twin Cities and Duluth is offered for parties of twenty or more. Do not fail to let us know of delegates who will be passing through the Twin Cities so that we may arrange to secure this rate for them as one of a group.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS: Miss Cornelia Lusk of St. Paul is chairman of the Nominating Committee this year. Please communicate to her any suggestions you have of possible candidates for vacant offices. The terms of the first vice-president, secretary and treasurer expire this year. District chairmen in the First, Third, Fifth, Seventh and Ninth Congressional Districts are to be elected. We also have vacancies in the Sixth and Tenth Districts.

HONOR ROLL FOR REPORT TO CONVENTION: We shall announce the names on the Honor-Roll of Leagues with quotas paid for the current year. We shall want to include all Leagues that plan to make complete quota payments before November 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. Will you therefore let us know whether you have definite plans for paying your quota - in case you have not already done so - that will entitle your League to a place on the Honor-Roll.

May I urgently request that you call together immediately as many of your officers and members as possible to confer as to the appointment of delegates, and to decide how to make sure of their attendance. I know that only in this way can you impress upon your delegates the importance of their presence in Duluth. And I shall hope very much that you yourself will find it possible to come and take part in the Convention.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

Quota \_\_\_\_\_

Payments to date \_\_\_\_\_



Sent to Local Chairmen 9/29/26  
 " " League members 9/28/26  
 " " Board members 9/27/26  
 STATE CONVENTION - MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 Duluth - October 7-9, 1926

# RAILROAD RATES AND TRAIN SCHEDULES TO DULUTH

Special rate for party of 20 or more . . . . \$6.00 round trip (within 3-day period)  
 " " " " " 12 to 20 . . . . . 8.12 " " ( " 5-day " )

Note: These rates are effective only from Minneapolis and St. Paul to Duluth. Delegates and Convention visitors from the state at large, who pass through the Twin Cities, will be included with a party, if they will send word to this office in advance.

The NORTHERN PACIFIC and the SOO LINE have combined in their service to Duluth. Trains operating under the joint service, which we recommend to Convention delegates and visitors are as follows:

Wednesday Lv.Mpls. 5:10 P.M. Lv.St. Paul 5:40 P.M. Ar.Duluth 9:40 P.M.  
 October 7 11:50 P.M. 12:30 (midnight) (Thurs) 6:30 A.M.

We suggest the afternoon train to Duluth as first choice since the expense is approximately the same for a berth on the Pullman or a room at the hotel. The Pullman rates are - Upper Berth, \$2.40; Lower Berth, \$3.00.

Those travelling under the \$6.00 rate must return to the Twin Cities on a Soo Line or Northern Pacific train on Saturday; the \$8.12 rate entitles you to remain over the week-end. The following return train is suggested:

Saturday Lv.Duluth 5:00 P.M. Ar.St. Paul 8:55 P.M. Ar.Mpls. 9:30 P.M.  
 October 9

## RATES AT THE DULUTH HOTEL ( CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS )

Room, without bath, for one	\$2.00 and up
Room, with bath, for one	3.00 " "
Room, without bath, for two	3.50 " "
Room, with double bed and bath, for two	5.00 " "
Room, with twin beds and bath, for two	6.50 " "

Note: Please let us know if you wish a reservation at the hotel.

## Duluth League Hospitality

The Duluth League has appointed Mrs. E. J. Kenny, 2815 East First Street, Duluth, as Hospitality Chairman for the Convention and offers to arrange for rooms in private homes for those in attendance at the Convention who prefer not to stay at the hotel.

## PLEASE WRITE US YOUR PLANS

Emily Child, Executive Secretary  
 Minnesota League of Women Voters  
 1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

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Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

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Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District

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Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 27th,  
1926

My dear Board Member:

The pre-convention board meeting will be held in Duluth, at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, October 7, in Parlor A at the Duluth Hotel.

Miss Wells wishes you to know that there are several extremely important questions to decide at this time in connection with the submission of the legislative program to the Convention. She is therefore anxious to have a full attendance of board members at the meeting.

We are anxious to hear from you whether you are planning to go to Duluth, by what route, and at what time you expect to arrive. Rates and train schedules are shown on the attached sheet. Hotel rates are also listed. I shall be glad to make hotel reservations for you if you will write me immediately.

Miss Wells feels particularly dependent upon the board this year for aid in securing attendance at the convention. Will you try to interest as many women as you can in going to Duluth and plan to take at least one friend with you? Miss Wells feels that it is only with support of this kind from the board that the Convention can be the success it should be. The Convention program is as excellent as it has been in the past when our only regret has been that more women were not in attendance.

May we count on you for the days of the Convention in Duluth?

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC me  
Enc.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

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Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 28th,  
1926

My dear Legislative Council Member:

The final meeting of the Legislative Council to take action upon the measures that will be reported by the Committee on Final Program for inclusion in the legislative program is called for FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, at 2:30 P. M. at League Headquarters.

The Committee on Final Program consists of Mrs. John M. Guise of St. Paul, chairman, Mrs. Louis Michaud of St. Paul, Mrs. C. M. Denny, Mrs. J. M. Gaus and Mrs. Israel Kreiner of Minneapolis. The Committee will make its report and we hope for a full attendance of Council members to make the very important decision as to the final content of the program to be recommended for support by member organizations in the coming session of the legislature.

Sincerely yours,

EC ms

Emily Child, Secretary  
Legislative Council



1200 copies for Duluth League  
multi-graphed give letter service \$4.50

# THE DULUTH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. HENRY S. MACGREGOR, General Chairman of Convention  
2720 East Seventh Street Hemlock 1248

MRS. CHARLES S. ROULO, President  
MRS. WILLIAM A. PITTENGER, First Vice President  
MRS. J. O. PARY, Second Vice President  
MRS. EDWIN R. FITCH, Corresponding Secretary  
MRS. EDWARD H. HATCH, Recording Secretary  
MRS. CHARLES W. WILLIAMS, Treasurer

MRS. JOHN STONE PARDEE, International  
Co-operation to Prevent War  
MRS. C. C. COLTON, Efficiency in Government  
MRS. JAMES MILLS, Public Welfare  
MRS. JAMES STARKWEATHER, Americanization  
MRS. A. T. BANNING, JR., Legislative Council  
MRS. GEORGE H. SPEAR, Eighth District Chairman

September 27th,  
1926

The State Convention of the League of Women Voters is to meet in Duluth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 7th to 9th. We wish to extend to you a special invitation to attend some or all of the Convention sessions.

The aim of the League is to create an interested, informed body of voters and the program of the Convention is planned with this purpose in mind. Current legislative issues will be explained by interesting and authoritative speakers in the daytime sessions. The evening meetings will be of particular interest to men as well as to women. There will be a CANDIDATES' MEETING on Thursday evening at which candidates for governor will speak. The Friday evening meeting will feature THE DIRECT PRIMARY. These and all other Convention sessions are open to the public.

Another outstanding feature of the program is the CONVENTION LUNCHEON in the Hotel Duluth Ballroom on Saturday, with Mrs. James W. Morrisson of Chicago as speaker. Mrs. Morrisson is vice-president of the National League of Women Voters, and president of The Illinois League, a woman of the greatest charm and ability, whom it will be an inspiration to hear.

Please let us know whether you will attend the Convention in order that we may do whatever is possible to make your attendance pleasant and worth while.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. CHARLES S. ROULO

President

200 copies for Mrs. Spear

## THE DULUTH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. CHARLES S. ROULO, President  
MRS. WILLIAM A. PITTINGER, First Vice President  
MRS. J. O. PARY, Second Vice President  
MRS. EDWIN R. FITCH, Corresponding Secretary  
MRS. EDWARD H. HATCH, Recording Secretary  
MRS. CHARLES W. WILLIAMS, Treasurer

September 27th  
1926

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Co-operation to Prevent War  
MRS. C. C. COLTON, Efficiency in Government  
MRS. JAMES MILLS, Public Welfare  
MRS. JAMES STARKWEATHER, Americanization  
MRS. A. T. BANNING, JR., Legislative Council  
MRS. GEORGE H. SPEAR, Eighth District Chairman

The Minnesota League of Women Voters will hold its Annual State Convention in Duluth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 7 - 9. As chairman of the Eighth District, I wish to extend to you a special invitation to attend some or all of the Convention sessions.

The aim of the League is to create an interested, informed body of voters and the program of the Convention is planned with this purpose in mind. Current legislative issues will be explained by interesting and authoritative speakers in the daytime sessions. The evening meetings will be of particular interest to men as well as to women. There will be a CANDIDATES' MEETING on Thursday evening at which candidates for governor will speak. The Friday evening meeting will feature the DIRECT PRIMARY. These and all other Convention sessions are open to the public.

Another outstanding feature of the program is the CONVENTION LUNCHEON in the Hotel Duluth Ballroom on Saturday, with Mrs. James W. Morrisson of Chicago as speaker. She is a woman of the greatest charm and ability, whom it will be an inspiration to hear. (Luncheon tickets \$1.00)

Convention headquarters will be in the Hotel Duluth. Duluth women have offered to open their homes to those who do not care to stay at a hotel. Mrs. E. J. Kenny, 2815 East First Street, Duluth, is the Hospitality Committee chairman and will see that you are given a room if you will write her.

I am particularly anxious that a large group of women from the Eighth District may attend the Convention and help make it a success. We will do whatever is possible to make your attendance pleasant and worthwhile. Please let me know if you expect to attend and whether you would like a reservation for the Saturday luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

Eighth District Chairman

Mrs. George H. Spear  
2315 East Fourth Street  
Duluth, Minnesota



MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, September 22, 1926  
2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Miss Wells, Miss Vance, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Denny, Mrs. Caswell, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Wittich, Miss Kercher, and Miss Child. There were also present Miss Nellie Merrill of Minneapolis and Miss Marguerite Owen, secretary of Legislation and Law Enforcement in the staff of the National League of Women Voters.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Miss Child read a communication from Judge Hall reporting upon his inquiry into the question of the need of an amendment to the Mothers' Pension Law to include among those eligible to receive county allowances, wives of men committed to the Institution for the Feeble-minded in Faribault. Judge Hall stated that the records of the state Children's Bureau show only three cases over a period of two years past that would come under such a provision of the law and in only one of the three instances were the home conditions such as to justify the maintenance of the children in the home.

Report of the Sub-Committee on Educational Measures

Miss Lawrence reported that her committee met with a representative of the state department of education in July and agreed to recommend to the Council the following measures for inclusion in the legislative program:

Appointment of the County Superintendent of Schools by a County Board of Education  
Revision of the Teachers' Retirement Fund law in accordance with the proposals submitted at the last legislature

Teachers' Tenure - as a measure to insure stability in the teaching force for the benefit of the children in the public schools

Provision for an eight months' school term instead of seven

Amendments to the Supplemental Aid Bill changing the districts eligible to receive aid from those with a twenty mill to those with a fifteen mill tax levy for schools; and increasing the amount of aid paid from forty dollars to fifty dollars per pupil

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Lawrence, that the above measures be referred to the Committee on Final Program. It was agreed that Mrs. Wittich should confer with Miss Lawrence in regard to the changes in the Supplemental Aid Bill and should be prepared to comment upon the expenditures involved when the educational measures are again under discussion in connection with the report of the Committee on Final Program.

The chairman introduced Miss Owen to report upon the latest developments in connection with the federal appropriation under the Sheppard-Towner Act and support by national organizations of ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.

on the question of the amendment  
Miss Owen said that no federal measure has ever had the support of so many of the organizations represented in the Women's Joint Congressional Committee in Washington. The special sub-committee formed under the title "Organizations Associated for Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment" has also in its membership organizations not included in the Joint Committee. Since the campaign for ratification two years ago, all the large national organizations originally supporting the amendment have reaffirmed their support with the exception of the American Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs which has referred the question to its local groups for study. The effort in all the organizations is to continue the education of the membership so that the facts will be known to individual members as they were not two years ago.

State legislation affecting child labor since June 1924 was reviewed by Miss Owen who called attention to the fact that legislative improvement such as there has been was obtained against the opposition of the same forces that fought the Child Labor Amendment. At the same time bad legislation introduced in such states as Massachusetts has had to be fought by friends of the amendment. Very little real progress in standards of state child labor legislation has come in spite of the pressure resulting from the campaign for ratification. If all fear of such an amendment is removed, it seems certain that no further improvement can be looked for in the future, and even that we may lose the gains already made.

In reply to a question as to the effect upon enforcement of state child labor laws of the opposition campaign to the amendment, Miss Owen said that it is difficult to



check on this but that we have the fact that state enforcement officials have federal legislation as a stimulus to observance of state laws. It seems to be true that state enforcement improved during the operation of the two former federal laws regulating child labor. In fact state action in this field of legislation was helped rather than hindered by the federal laws.

Miss Owen then discussed the fate of the appropriation bill for infancy and maternity work under the Sheppard-Towner Act in the United States Senate. She stated that the only roll-call taken was on the question of discussing the measure and that the two Minnesota senators voted affirmatively at that time. Opponents of the provision for a two-year extension of the appropriation talked the measure to death. It retains its place on the calendar, however, and will come up early in the session starting December 6. It is to be hoped that it will receive favorable action at that time and not be postponed until later in the session when it would be necessary to include it in the deficiency appropriation bill, thus delaying federal action until after many of the state legislatures have met.

#### Report of the Committee on Protective Legislation for Women in Industry

Miss Kercher reported the following recommendations:

That an amendment be introduced to the Minimum Wage Law defining minor as a person under 21 years of age, providing that the attorney-general advises that such an amendment would be constitutional.

IT WAS VOTED that this amendment be referred to the Committee on Final Program with the reservation as to action suggested by Miss Kercher.

That the fifty-four Hour Law as passed by the 1923 legislature be proposed for re-enactment.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Caswell, that this proposal be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

That a bill for One Day Rest in Seven for both men and women be supported by the Council.

A motion was made by Miss Lawrence, seconded by Miss Vance, to refer this measure to the Committee on Final Program. After discussion in which it was recognized that it is imperative to shorten instead of lengthen the legislative program for recommendation this year, the motion was put by the chairman and failed to carry.

That no bill be introduced providing for the appointment of a woman on the Industrial Commission but that the state Convention of the League of Women Voters be asked to appoint a committee to call upon the governor and urge the appointment of a woman to the first vacancy occurring.

#### Report of Committee on Amendment Proposed to Strengthen Carnival Law

Miss Kercher reported the recommendation of the committee that the Council refer to the Committee on Final Program an amendment to the law providing for the state grant of money to local fair associations, providing that failure to comply with the Itinerant Carnival Law should render the local group ineligible to receive state money. The committee recommended that "the officers of such associations be required to incorporate in their reports to the public examiner a sworn statement that the conditions in the law have been met; and that a forfeiture clause be added affecting those whose sworn statements have been found untrue". Miss Kercher explained that this amendment would have no effect upon associations observing the Carnival Law.

Mrs. Caswell reported having talked with a state officer of the American Legion and with a member of the law faculty at the University, both of whom thought well of such an amendment. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Denny, that it be referred to the Committee on Final Program.

Miss Wells reported a letter from Miss Chase of the Women's Cooperative Alliance proposing action by the Council upon an amendment to the Sodomy Law to extend the definition of the types of cases covered. It was agreed, after discussion, that such a change in the law could be handled best by enforcement officials and agencies in close touch with the facts. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Caswell, second of Miss Vance that the secretary write Miss Chase to this effect.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Miss Lawrence, that the Committee on Final Program be named by the chair, to start work immediately. The Committee was named as follows: Mrs. J M Guise, Mrs. Israel Kreiner, Mrs. Louis Michaud, Mrs. C M Denny, Mrs J M Gaus.

The sub-committee on Child Welfare measures was also named by the chair to consist of Miss Vance, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Denny.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary

Sent to 229 (2) members of local leagues in state outside  
of Twin Cities (with schedule & rates)

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Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 28th,  
1926

Dear League Member:

By this time you are making plans to attend the Convention of the League of Women Voters in Duluth, October 7 to 9, are you not? I do hope so. Your chairman has, no doubt, told you of the program and you have read it in the recent issue of the Woman Voter.

You will recall that there are sessions of unusual interest: the evening meeting on Thursday, at which the candidates for governor will speak, the Friday evening meeting on the Direct Primary, and the Saturday noon luncheon with Mrs. James W. Morrisson of Chicago, a woman of great charm and ability, as speaker. Then, there are playlets: "The Family Takes Notice", "The Right and Wrong Kind of League Meeting" and "Getting-Out-The-Vote". And a very important part of the business is the discussion by able speakers of legislative measures in the program recommended for Convention action.

Convention headquarters will be in the Hotel Duluth. Duluth women have offered to open their homes to those who do not care to stay at an hotel. Mrs. E. J. Kenny, 2815 East First Street, Duluth, is the Hospitality Committee chairman and will see that you are given a room if you will write her.

I am especially anxious to see you in Duluth. I can only suggest the Convention program in a letter. I know that only by attending can you appreciate it and realize what an impetus it will give to local League work in your community. Apply to your League chairman for a credential, which she is ready to give you, and write us so that we may do everything possible to make your attendance worthwhile. And, as an afterthought, do bring other women with you.

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MB ms



Sent to list of <sup>1929</sup> in mpls. <sup>names supplied by</sup>  
— in state <sup>Miss Merrill</sup>

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Efficiency in Government

## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 29th,  
1926

The League of Women Voters has many subjects of interest to offer to Minnesota women at the coming State Convention on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 7, 8 and 9 at the new Hotel Duluth in Duluth.

Many friends of the League, whether members or not, are still unacquainted with its comprehensive program of work. Because we want you to become more fully aware of the value of the League as a laboratory for the study of political questions and as a real force for good government, we earnestly hope you will attend this convention.

Two sessions of unusual interest are the evening meeting on Thursday, October 7, at which the candidates for Governor - Theodore Christianson, Republican; Alfred Jacques, Democrat; and Magnus Johnson, Farmer-Labor - will speak, and the luncheon Saturday noon, October 9, with Mrs. James W. Morrisson of Chicago, president of the Illinois League and vice-president of the National League of Women Voters, as speaker.

To lighten the serious business of adopting the bills to be backed at the next legislative session, three playlets will be given: "The Family Takes Notice", "The Right and Wrong Kind of League Meeting" and "The Voter's Dream".

Each year the League attracts an increasing number of women equipped for study and for service in its various departments and we hope to widen this circle greatly this year.

May we look for you in Duluth?

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*  
Marguerite M. Wells,  
President



*not new Board members*

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## Office Secretary

Mrs. Barry N. Collins

September 29th,  
1926

My dear Local League Chairman:

October 7 is only a little better than a week off, and I know you hope, as I do, that delegates from your League are arranging to be in Duluth at that time. Aren't you planning to be there yourself? Nothing would please me more than to see you there and have your help in making our Convention a real success. We need you especially for the Friday morning session on Organization and Get-Out-The-Vote which will be an experience meeting for local Leagues. But we hope to have you for all three worthwhile days of Convention.

The advisory Legislative Council of the League has been at work upon the legislative program that it will recommend for adoption at the Convention. Final action upon it will be taken on Friday of this week. I will then send you immediately the proposed program in order that you may call a conference of your board or members on Tuesday, October 5, to discuss it together for the benefit of your delegates who will vote upon it in the Convention.

By this time, perhaps, you have put before your League membership the question of Convention attendance, and perhaps have arranged to pay part of the expenses of a delegate. To assist you in interesting women in the Convention, I have written a letter to certain women in your community who, we hoped, might plan to go. I am enclosing the names of the women to whom it was sent. I do not feel the letter to be complete, however, unless you see these women personally. May I request that you do this and write me your success? And tell me of other women who might attend so I may write them, if you feel that to be helpful.

I am looking forward to a splendid Convention, with your League represented.

Sincerely yours,

MMW ms  
Encs.

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

Send Local League chairman

10/2/26

#### PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

For Action at the Annual State Convention  
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
October 7-9, 1926

#### EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

Appointment of the County Superintendent of Schools by a County Board of Education to be elected by district school officers

Revision of the Teachers' Retirement Fund Law to place it on a sound financial basis

Increase of the legal school term from seven to eight months

Changes to improve the Supplemental Aid Law

Provision for Teachers' Tenure

#### CHILD WELFARE MEASURES

Reaffirming support of the Child Labor Amendment

Support of an appropriation to assure the continuance of maternity and infancy work

Support of an appropriation to provide for a refund to counties of one-third of the amount expended under the Mothers' Pension Law, for allowances to mothers in the last biennium (July 1, 1925 to June 30, 1927)

#### MARRIAGE LEGISLATION

Changes to improve the Marriage Law

#### LOCAL LEAGUES:

BE SURE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO DULUTH TO VOTE UPON THIS PROGRAM

200 copies

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Proposed Budget for year November 1926 to November 1927

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

Convention Expenses		\$200.00
Extension of Organization in State		
Salary of Organizer	\$1 800.00	
Travelling expenses of organizer	800.00	
Travelling expenses of district chairmen	400.00	
	<u>3 000.00</u>	3 000.00
Educational Material		500.00
Woman Voter		600.00
Office Expenses		
Office Maintenance (Rent, telephone, telegraph, etc.)	\$800.00	
Office Supplies (Stationery, stamps, etc.)	600.00	
General Expense (Clipping service, subscriptions, etc.)	150.00	
	<u>1550.00</u>	1 550.00
Office Salaries		4 500.00
Quota to National League of Women Voters		<u>1 944.00</u>
		\$12 294.00

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

Quotas from Local Leagues	7 000.00
Woman Voter subscriptions	850.00
Sale of Printed Material	200.00
Quota to National League of Women Voters	1 944.00
One half of Joint Finance Memberships secured in Minneapolis	600.00
Woman Citizen Drive	100.00
To be raised by Finance Committee	<u>1 600.00</u>
	\$12 294.00



200 copies

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Eleven Months' Period - November 1, 1925 - September 30, 1926

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>
Balance November 1, 1925	\$478.52	
Quotas from Local Leagues	5 300.53	
Miscellaneous	20.92	
Donations	114.80	
One half of Joint Finance Memberships from Minneapolis	937.50	
National Quota	1 966.00	\$1 966.00
Woman Citizen	70.70	
Woman Voter	742.20	491.67
Educational Material	239.07	418.54
Convention and Institute	51.71	
"The Last Word"	196.85	
Extension of Organization in State		
Salary of Organizer		1 275.00
Travelling expenses		369.83
Office Salaries		3 844.23
Office Expense		1 164.75
General Expense		89.96
	10 118.80	9 619.98
Balance September 30, 1926		498.82
	\$10 118.80	\$10 118.80

100

# WHAT EVERY LEAGUE SHOULD KNOW

## AN ORGANIZATION PLAY

Time: 1926

Place: A Meeting of a Local League in Minnesota

Dramatis Personae: The Delegates

### SCENARIO

Attached is a sample agenda sent by state headquarters to local Leagues. A regular monthly local League meeting is in session. The attached agenda is followed. Under its various items arise those problems of procedure and policy that, during seven years of League history, have been found to be common to all Leagues, large and small. The solutions suggested here are those that experience has developed. There are thirty-three dramatis personae. Discussion is also desired from those present to whom no parts have been assigned in advance.

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Minnesota League of Women Voters,  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1926

SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR LOCAL LEAGUE MEETINGS

Minutes of previous meeting

Report of the treasurer

Report on new members and Woman Voter subscriptions

Reading of communications from State League headquarters

Action taken if called for in letter

Items of local business

Further business

(This is to give an opportunity for bringing up  
business "from the floor")

PROGRAM OF THE DAY



200 - copies original form - 15 to Duluth - 5 in office  
100 - Copies with changes in text - also changed extra 50 - 30 to St. Paul  
About 120 copies changed in heading. - Sent to Local Leagues 11-9-1926  
50 - December  
100 - Jan. 12-1927 - 75 to Mpls.  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

adopted by ~~the~~

~~LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF~~ THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

for recommendation to the  
EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Duluth, October 7-9, 1926

Public Welfare in Government  
EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

County Board of Education

A bill providing for the appointment of the county superintendent of schools by county boards of education was introduced into the last session of the legislature but failed to pass. The proposal is that there shall be a county board of education of five members in each county elected by the district school officers assembled in annual convention. It is proposed that this board shall take over all educational matters now handled by the board of county commissioners and in addition shall appoint the superintendent.

The advantages to be looked for under this plan are that the county superintendent would be relieved of the necessity of conducting a campaign for election every two years. This results in his having to divert time and attention from school affairs and in his becoming politically involved in ways that handicap him in the performance of his official duties. The proposed plan assures the county superintendent the advice and help of a board devoted to the educational interests of the county. It makes possible the choice of able, professional educators irrespective of their residence in the county. It means little or no extra cost to the tax payer.

Teachers' Retirement Fund

The present law governing payment of pensions to teachers was enacted in 1915. It was prepared in response to a demand for some form of pension plan for teachers throughout the state. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth had already established systems applying to their own teachers. The theory of a teachers' insurance and retirement fund supported jointly by payments from teachers and from the state, is based upon the value to the state of attracting able individuals to its teaching positions and of holding them in the profession as one offering an assured future.

In Minnesota the pensions of five hundred dollars a year provided for by the 1915 law have never been paid in full. The fund is insolvent owing to inadequate provisions in the law to supply the necessary income. It has been possible to pay only 40% of the amounts due to retired teachers. To remedy this situation, a bill was introduced in the 1923 legislature and again in the 1925 legislature providing for certain changes in the law and for an increase in the tax levy to secure the necessary funds. The bill failed of passage and will probably be re-introduced in substantially the same form in the coming session of the legislature.

Changes in State Aid to Increase School Term to Eight Months

A bill to increase the legal term in the public schools of the state from six to seven months was introduced into the 1923 legislature, with the support of the League of Women Voters, and became a law. The good results of this increase in the school term have been marked. Only 3.6 per cent of pupils in the public schools of the state are in schools maintained for seven months only; 76 per cent have a nine months' or more school term and the remainder have an eight months' term. Some twenty thousand children in the state are represented in the 3.6 per cent of pupils in schools with a seven months' term. It is this group that will be benefited by the proposed change in aid that will tend to lengthen the school year by increasing aid to eight months' schools and withholding certain aid from seven months' schools.

with a longer term

shorter term

#### Changes to Improve the Supplemental Aid Law

The present law provides, by an amendment passed in 1923, for payment of supplemental aid in any school district in which a tax levy of 20 mills does not yield the equivalent of \$40 for each pupil who has attended the public school of the district at least forty days during the school year. This amendment marked an epoch in Minnesota school aid distribution. Before this, state aid had persistently flowed to the richer parts of the state.

To improve further the administration of state aid in the interest of equalizing the educational opportunity for children in the poorer school districts, certain amendments are proposed for support in the coming legislature. Their adoption will constitute recognition of the responsibility of the state to provide equal educational opportunities for its children.

#### Provision for Teachers' Tenure

The proposal for a Teachers' Tenure bill is made to assure stability in the teaching force for the benefit of children in the public schools of the state. It is proposed that the bill shall apply to the three first-class cities and shall include a provision for a ~~three-year~~ probationary period during which teachers may be dismissed without reference to the standards set by the bill. It would require that, at the end of the ~~three-year~~ period, teachers are still subject to dismissal but only for cause and in accordance with a special procedure including a hearing by the board of education and representation by legal counsel. It is thought that such a measure would raise the morale of the teaching group by giving permanence and stability to their situation.

### CHILD WELFARE MEASURES

#### Support of the Child Labor Amendment

Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment in the last session of the legislature was defeated with only two votes to spare in both the House and the Senate. It is felt that further progress in state Child Labor legislation as well as adequate enforcement of existing state Child Labor Laws will be handicapped if support of the federal amendment as proposed by Congress in June 1924, should be abandoned. Minnesota, as a state with good Child Labor Laws, is one of those that should support the amendment to empower Congress to set minimum standards below which no state may fall.

#### Support of an Appropriation for Maternity and Infancy Work

The federal Sheppard-Towner Act passed by Congress in November 1921, provided for federal aid to states, apportioned on the basis of population, to match appropriations made by states for infancy and maternity work. In addition it provided for an outright gift of \$5000 to states supporting the provisions of the act. Funds were provided by Congress for aid to states over a five-year period from June 30, 1922 to June 30, 1927.

A bill to extend the federal appropriation for an additional two years' period passed the House April 5, 1926, but was not voted upon in the Senate. The bill retains its place on the Senate calendar for the re-convened session of Congress on December 6, and it is hoped that favorable action will then be taken.

Minnesota was one of the first states to accept the offer of federal aid. The state program of work under the act dates from July 1, 1922, federal funds having become available in March of the same year. The legislature of 1923 appropriated \$15,000 a year for 1923-1924, an amount insufficient to secure the maximum federal aid available to Minnesota. The 1925 legislature raised the appropriation to \$21,000 a year, thus securing the maximum federal allotment. Minnesota has also had the federal gift of \$5000 each year provided to states accepting the act.



It is important to note that the fund for Sheppard-Towner work is the smallest item in the total budget of more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars received by Minnesota in federal aid during the year 1925. The federal aid for infancy and maternity work amounted to .6% of the total federal aid in comparison with 67.5% received for highways; 22% for national guard; 9.2% for education; and .7% for forests and fire prevention.

An appropriation to assure the continuance of the excellent work administered by the Department of Child Hygiene of the Minnesota State Board of Health will be asked from the 1927 legislature.

#### Appropriation for Refund under Mothers' Pension Law

The law providing that the state shall refund to counties one-third of the expenditures for county allowances to mothers under the so-called Mothers' Pension Law was enacted in the legislature of 1917. Succeeding legislatures have failed to provide the necessary appropriations to permit the refund to counties according to law.

The purpose of the refund provision is to make it possible for the state to recommend standards to be observed by all counties in the state operating under the law, to assure the best use of local and state funds made available for this purpose and to equalize the opportunity of children throughout the state. The intent of the law in this respect is seriously hampered by failure of legislatures meeting since 1917 to provide the necessary appropriations to permit the refund to counties according to law.

A request will be presented to the next legislature for an appropriation to cover only a refund to counties of one-third of the amount expended during the past biennium (1925-26).

#### Changes to Improve the Marriage Law

A proposed marriage code containing important changes from the existing Marriage Law was introduced into the 1925 legislature but failed of passage. A bill or bills to bring the Minnesota Marriage Law up to date and make it conform to progressive standards for this type of legislation will be introduced again into the 1927 legislature.

Changes incorporated in the bill as presented in the last legislature, some or all of which will be presented to the 1927 legislature, are:

- 1) the abolition for the future of common law marriages by requiring a licensing and celebration for all valid marriages.
- 2) provision for raising the age at which women shall be capable of contracting marriage, with or without consent of parents, from 15 to 16 years.
- 3) requirement that both parties to the license must appear before the license officer at some time before the license is issued.
- 4) provision for a five-day waiting period between the application for and the issuance of the license.
- 5) provision that among those ineligible to contract legal marriage shall be included habitual drunkards, persons afflicted with venereal disease, and persons using narcotic drugs. The suggestion has been made that in addition it is desirable to require license clerks to "take judicial notice" of information submitted to them on epileptic, feeble-minded and insane persons who are not permitted to marry under the existing law; and providing for a penalty for non-observance of such a regulation.



## OTHER MEASURES

### Amendment to Minimum Wage Law

The Minimum Wage Law was enacted by the legislature of 1913. Its operation was held up until March 1918 by a restraining order obtained by the Minnesota Employers' Association on the ground that the law was unconstitutional. At that time the Supreme Court of Minnesota decided in favor of the constitutionality of the law and it became operative.

In March 1921 the duties of the Minimum Wage Commission in administering the law were taken over by the newly created Minnesota State Industrial Commission. Great progress was made in the years from 1918 to 1925 in education directed to an understanding of the law by employers and by the general public.

The law as it applies to adult women ceased to be enforced by the State Industrial Commission after June 1925, following certain decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court and of the Minnesota Supreme Court which are reviewed in an article on "The Minimum Wage Situation in Minnesota" published in the Minnesota Woman Voter for March 1926.

An amendment to the Minimum Wage Law is recommended to provide that the word "minor" in the law shall be defined to be a person under 21 years of age. Such an amendment would give women workers protection for three additional years and would serve to remove one of the legal discriminations against women which still remain on the statutes. It would make the age of majority for women under this law the same as for men.

*200 copies  
G. A. Smith*

100  
Corrected  
60 - Jan. 12 - 1927 -  
Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis  
October, 1926

## EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

### I

Reaffirming its belief in the simplification of state administrative departments, the Department of Efficiency in Government recommends the support of further legislation to strengthen the existing law within the standards adopted by the Minnesota League of Women Voters' Convention in 1924.

1. Legislation that will effect further consolidation of state departments in order to eliminate waste and duplication and to make clearer the responsibility of the governor for departments over which he has appointive power.
2. Legislation that will strengthen the executive budget procedure now in operation.
3. Legislation that will make possible improved personnel administration so that:
  - a. There will be standardized titles based upon the actual duties of the various positions in the public service;
  - b. There will be equal pay for equal work;
  - c. There will be a guarantee of recruitment and promotion through merit in line with the best personnel standards of public and private employment.

### II

Believing that the Direct Primary is the most representative method of nominating candidates to office yet devised, the Efficiency in Government Department recommends that the convention vote to:

1. Oppose any legislation that would abolish the Direct Primary;
2. Favor legislation providing for improvement of the existing primary law.
3. Oppose any legislation that would reestablish the former convention system of nominating candidates to office.

Report of the  
Minnesota League of Women Voters  
to the Minnesota State Board of Education  
October 1926

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis  
October, 1926

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200- original



*Sent to 28 booth workers*

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
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First Vice-President  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich  
Second Vice-President  
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Mrs. Harold G. Cant  
Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

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Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Mrs. Barry N. Collins

October 7th,  
1926

My dear

I want to express to you the appreciation of the state board of the League for your generous service in attendance at our State Fair Exhibit this year.

You may be interested to know that approximately 500 pieces of material were sold during the week of the Fair and more than 5000 fliers distributed. A list of 146 interested visitors was secured and will prove of great value in connection with our work in the state.

We feel that our exhibit this year lived up to the precedent set by the exhibits for the two preceding years which brought us so many compliments. We realize, however, that the exhibit has little value without the personal work of the women in attendance at the booth, such as you gave.

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

EC ms

M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
September 9, 1926

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Elwood Stevenson in Faribault, on Friday, September 9.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M., Miss Wells presiding. Members of the State Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Glasoe, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Ueland, Miss Lawrence, and Mrs. Colby. Miss Child and the following members of the Faribault League were present: Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Steinmetz, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Bachelder, Mrs. Kester, Mrs. Loyhed, Mrs. Hedrick, Mrs. Theopold, Mrs. Sime, Mrs. Klemmer, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. O'Neale. Mrs. Ringstad, Mrs. Herr and Mrs. Fairbanks of Northfield were also present after luncheon.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported a balance of \$307.80 August 1, and receipts during the month amounting to \$746.73 of which \$458.53 was in district quotas. Disbursements totalled \$585.56, of which \$275.00 was for salaries and \$192.50 for national quota, leaving from the total of \$1054.53 a balance of \$468.97 September 1. Bills payable were reported amounting to \$437.91.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Glasoe, second of Mrs. Spear, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Woman Voter Report

Mrs. Colby gave a brief account of her further experience in getting advertising for the September issue of the Voter, again urging the cooperation of Board members.

Miss Child announced a way out in the plan for using political advertising which Mrs. Wittich then proposed in some detail, citing the dangers and means of controlling such advertising. "A quarter page 'ad' would be set as a space limit", she said, "and a complete list of candidates for office would be published beside the paid advertising of candidates who subscribe to the plan."

Candidates approached would include those for Congress, state offices and the state legislature, whose advertising would be solicited by a form letter from the state office and not personally, she stated. After favorable discussion, IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Colby, that the League solicit political advertisements for publication in the October Voter, subject to the regulations outlined.

Woman Citizen Report

Miss Child read a letter from Miss Chamberlain, circulation manager of the Woman Citizen, offering the state League one dollar on each of 100 new subscriptions and renewals of old subscriptions, or on any number over 100. Miss Wells said that a Woman Citizen Drive is one of the best ways for the League to raise money.

Miss Child called attention to the Citizen's request for pictures of historical events in which women played the leading roles, which would be suitable for cover pictures.

State Fair Exhibit Report

Mrs. Colby reported that much interest was aroused by the exhibit at the Fair. Photographs of the booth were taken, one copy of which will be sent to the Citizen and one, at Miss Wells' suggestion, to Senator Sheppard to show him how attention was called to Sheppard-Towner work in the exhibit.

Miss Wells asked for personal League "histories" out of which grew an interesting disclosure that all but two League members present had come to the League out of suffrage. There followed an even more interesting series of personal opinions called forth by Miss Wells' question: "What stands in the way of member-getting for the League?" Some of the obstacles presented were: Two few leaders and a "need of genuine neighborhood leadership as a key to growth and strength". (Mrs. Ueland) "Failure to comprehend the quiet two-sided study of the League by the partisan-minded woman." (Mrs. Colby) "Unpopularity of the 'subjective organization'. It is the concrete piece of work such as sewing on aprons that



interests many women." (Mrs. Thorp) "The immensity of the League's program certainly offers enough work for everyone, but undoubtedly frightens many. It must be systematized into jobs that individuals comprehend." (Miss Wells) "Too much domesticity necessary in these servantless days with 'bridge' easier relaxation than the League job." (Mrs. Kester) "A failure on the part of local Leagues to select and train promising women for definite departmental work." (Mrs. Spear) "Lack of any background in childhood which would lead to interest in government. The need of vital civic training in early years." (Miss Lawrence)

#### Reports of District Chairmen

Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT that Duluth is still the one League but that Carlton has an active study group. Plans for the Convention are well underway, she said. She told of the comprehensive program of lectures in each department to be printed and distributed to members at an annual Membership Tea, in the fall. For the Get-Out-The-Vote campaign, she said, the organization chairman in Duluth has hopes of organizing down to blocks and of keeping it strictly a League job.

She reported three County Fair Exhibits in St. Louis County: Proctor, Two Harbors and Barnum, all of which had not only good publicity but interest and approval from the most important local groups.

Mrs. Colby reported for the SEVENTH DISTRICT on information from Mrs. Gage, local League chairman at Olivia, that the dialogue on the Child Labor Amendment had been read before the League and two other clubs in town; that it is to be read this month in every town in Renville County to a group of representative women and also in the townships to groups of rural women, with the hope of materially changing the attitude of that section toward the Children's Amendment. An exhibit was arranged at the Renville County Fair.

Miss Child read a letter from Mrs. Stai, chairman of the St. Cloud League, in the SIXTH DISTRICT reporting the League Exhibit at their County Fair a success.

Mrs. Wittich reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that Mrs. Bryan continues her calling of the Minneapolis membership, finding out as she proceeds the "special job for the special woman". She told of Professor Quigley's plan for a series of lectures on returning from Geneva. She also told of the special conference to be held with Miss Hauser, national Efficiency in Government chairman, on September 21, following which forty women have promised their homes for Study Groups on the Primary, besides planning forty follow-up meetings to compare experiences.

Mrs. Glasoe reported for the THIRD DISTRICT ten functioning local Leagues, four of which have paid-up quotas. She said that the lack of reports from her local chairmen slowed up her work badly. Miss Child said for all district chairmen that a program of personal contact with local chairmen would better accomplish the necessary cooperation than dependence on written reports, which are always difficult to get.

Mrs. Wittich reported the feature of her department's program to be the Direct Primary, but pointed out the necessity of keeping it related properly to other things, such as the short ballot and executive type of budget. It is not only true that we need a better system of nomination and election but a simpler administration through city, county, state and federal government, making our duties as voting citizens clearer and easier, she said.

Another interesting round of opinions was quoted in answer to Miss Wells' question: "What do you hear against the Direct Primary?" Among them were: 1) not as high type of candidate as under the convention; 2) expense of two elections beyond a poor man; 3) anybody with ten dollars can file; 4) only rich men can run; 5) too many candidates resulting in nominations by minority of voters; 6) primaries controlled by bosses; 7) the public not as qualified as an experienced political boss to nominate the practical official for a certain office; 8) breaks down party responsibility.

There is only one alternative for the primary ever suggested by its enemies, Mrs. Wittich said; that is, the return to some kind of delegate Convention. The pre-primary type of Convention has already been tried and found wanting. She then cited examples of abuses and unrepresentative procedure under the Convention system



which makes us feel that we should not relinquish the Primary for the Convention but should carry on under the League's slogan: "The Direct Primary is not perfect, but let's use it and improve it."

The two possible methods for improving the Primary that other states are trying were mentioned by Mrs. Wittich:

1. Filing limited by requiring petition signed by a given number of qualified voters.
2. Nomination by plurality precluded by requiring a definite percentage of all votes cast to constitute a nomination.

#### State Convention

Mrs. Wittich reviewed the program for the Convention. Miss Wells urged official delegates from local Leagues with expenses paid in part by the League.

#### Other Business

Miss Wells spoke of the exceedingly excellent article by Mr. H. W. Farnam reprinted from the April number of the Yale Review and available for distribution. She further called attention to the vest pocket edition of the Constitution published by the National League.

Miss Wells thanked the Faribault Board and Mrs. Stevenson for the pleasurable and profitable day.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary

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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WOMAN VOTER HAS EXPIRED!

If you wish to continue to receive -

News in brief of national and state political  
questions

News of local Leagues and the National League  
of Women Voters

Announcements of new material

Give your renewal to your local League membership chair-  
man, or

SEND A QUARTER TO  
The Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

10-12-26  
50 copies  
110-26-26  
100 copies

# THE VOTER'S DREAM

A One-Act Play in Three Scenes by Mrs. A. J. McGuire

written for

The Minnesota League of Women Voters  
October, 1926

Place: The scenes are laid in any rather large American city - one with the aldermanic form of city government.

Characters: Scene I

Mrs. Robinson, club woman  
Mrs. Bates, a neighbor  
Marianne, daughter about ten years old  
Nora, the maid

Scene II

Mrs. Robinson  
Her Vote  
Dr. Grant  
Miss Hollis, a teacher  
Factory superintendent  
Office Secretary, League of Women Voters headquarters

In addition, four or five persons are needed for three scenes to be given in pantomime

Scene III

Mrs. Robinson  
Marianne

Note: The time required to present the play is from half to three-quarters of an hour. There are 9 speaking parts with additional parts making a total of 15 or 16 persons. The same persons may play more than one part so that, by doubling, the play may be produced by 6 or 7 persons.

The costume for the "Vote" is made with approximately four yards of white muslin and a square of compo board or very heavy cardboard. Cut a hole in the compo board so that it will fit over the crown of the head and be kept from falling off. Then fit muslin over it so that it will cover the figure like a square white box. Be careful to have the square of compo board large enough so that the material draped over it will stand away from the body. Put the material on so that there is an opening along one side which may be pinned together when it is on. Mark the front side with a face and with the words "Official Ballot".



SCENE I

Living room in the home of Mrs. Robinson  
Time about 1:00 P.M.

Mrs. Robinson is shown seated at a desk writing. Marianne enters dressed for school, carrying book.

Marianne: (to her mother) Goodbye, mother I have to go now, But I wish I could go and vote with you this afternoon, instead of going to school. I think it would be lots more interesting to cast my ballot.

Mrs. R: (looks up amused) Listen to the child. What do you mean dear by voting and casting your ballot?

Marianne: (surprised) Why mother, don't you know what day this is?

Mrs. R: (glancing at calendar on desk) Why, certainly, this is Tuesday, November 2. What about it?

Marianne: Why, but mother, it's voting day. It's 'lection day. And Miss Hollis says this is the day when every good citizen goes to vote. She says it's our duty and our plivilege. Like, like going to church or brushing our teeth, or..... or -

Mrs. R: Wait a moment darling; aren't you getting your duties and your privileges a bit mixed? Come here and tell me what else you've learned about voting. What else did Miss Hollis tell you?

Marianne: Well, I haven't got time now, mother, but I'll 'splain it all to you after school. But she said we were to ask our mothers all about voting so that we'd know how when we grew up. And mother I'd feel dreadfully mortified if you didn't vote 'cause I said my mother knew all about politics 'n everything, and all the other children's mothers is going to vote.

Mrs. R: Are going to vote you mean dear. Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I don't really think it's so important. You know just one little vote doesn't matter so much, and besides I hate to tell you dear, but there is a great deal of dishonesty in voting and politics sometimes, and anyway, you know mother is so busy with club work and committee reports. Don't you think that's more important than going out to vote for somebody or something I don't know anything about? You see I really haven't time.

Marianne: (interrupting) Oh, but mother, it doesn't take long to vote, and you could vote honest, anyway, couldn't you? And then if all the good people voted honest, why then it would help to make good laws, wouldn't it? I just wish I could vote once.

Mrs. R: Why, Marianne dear, you seem to be very much in earnest about this, and it pleases me to see that you can stand up for your ideas so well. But now tell me, what would you vote for, if you could just vote once?

Marianne: (as if thinking) Well, of course there's lots of things I want and maybe I couldn't get them by voting, but anyway, I betcha I'd vote so that there wouldn't be any more wars, cause in war, all the nice boys go way and get killed, and their mothers cry. 'N besides war makes history, and I don't want to study history cause it's all about battles and bringing up the rear flank and things like that.

Mrs. R: (sighs and seems to reflect) I'm afraid that's partly true Marianne, but we must hope and believe that war will be done away with some day, and then you will like to study history because it will tell of the wonderful inventions and progress made by men and women. You will like to learn of the heroes of peace, like Pasteur and Madame Curie, and all the great men and women who gave their lives and fortunes to make the lives of other people safe and happy.

Marianne: Oh yes, mother, I do love to read about them, but when will they vote to do away with war? I wish they would hurry cause I'll soon be in the sixth grade. But you can vote today, mother, don't you see?

Mrs. R: Oh, my dear, you don't understand. My poor little vote wouldn't go far towards ending war.

Marianne: Well, Mary Davis' mother is going to vote for Mr. Reed for something because he helped her father when he wanted to sell some stuff to pave the streets with. Mary said her father told her mother to be sure and vote, and to get as many other women as she could to vote for Mr. Reed. He must be an awful nice man.

Mrs. R: (aside) Oh, that dreadful paving scandal again. Dear, dear, I suppose that man will be elected. I should think something could be done.  
(turns to Marianne and says) Well, run along dear. Mother has to finish her committee report of the Children's Home.

(Marianne starts to leave the room but turns and says to her mother)

Marianne: O, I almost forgot. Miss Hollis told us to find out how iron was discovered, but I think I know, they smelt it, didn't they mother?

Mrs. R: (laughing) No, dear, you're mistaken. Better look it up under o-r-e in the encyclopedia.

Marianne: All right. (goes to mother and speaks earnestly) But mother, promise me you will vote. Just think if all the people didn't vote, we might have an old king over here, and not be free and independent citizens any more like George Washington and the Pilgrim Fathers.

Mrs. R: (smiling) Well. We'll talk it over tonight. Goodbye.

(After Marianne departs, Mrs. R. sits quiet as if reflecting, then speaks as if thinking aloud, slowly.)

And a little child shall lead them. . . I wonder if I AM neglecting a duty and an opportunity. Seems to me I remember reading that General O'Ryan says "The American people can put an end to war in this generation, if they will only get on the job." I wish I knew how, but somehow I can't see what individual votes have to do with it. Well, I must finish this. (Writes rapidly. Reads report.)

"The Committee strongly recommends the employment of another full-time nurse at the Children's Home. The budget shows sufficient funds in the hands of the county commissioners for that purpose." (Lays down paper, looks up) Well, I'm sure that's reasonable. The taxpayers have a right to say that some of the county funds shall be used in this way. And they certainly need more trained help out there. Poor Miss Regan looked tired to death the other day.

(After a few moments, Nora the maid, enters the room. Mrs. R. turns and sees her.) Well, Nora come in, what is it?

Nora: Well, ma'am, if you please, I thought I'd just step out now and vote before the place gets crowded. So I thought I'd let you know the way you wouldn't be lookin' for me.

Mrs. R: There it goes again, voting, voting. Marianne has just been lecturing me about voting.

Nora: O, indeed, she's the greatest little politician in town. She had all the kids in the block the other day playing election, but it ended in a grand row, because herself and Mary Davis both wanted to be the lady mayor, and the Murphy byes said they'd never vote for a woman for mayor, and Marianne said they had to or go home so home they went. So the election ran true to form. (Both laugh)

Mrs. R: Well, but my word, Nora, I didn't know you were interested in politics.

Nora: What, me an Irishman, and not be interested in politics? O, yes, indeed mum, I voted in Tipperary long before ever I kem to this country.

Mrs. R: Why, I didn't know that women had the vote in Ireland, Nora?

Nora: O, indeed they have mum, but only to a partial degree you might say. They can vote for school boards, county and town councils and the like of that but af coors not for members of Parliament or the higher ups. But isn't it a grand country we have here entirely where even women and dagoes can vote for everyone from Justice of the Peace to the president of the whole United States. And one man's vote is as good as another and sometimes better. That's true equality for you.



Mrs. R: (laughing) Well I must confess I haven't thought much about voting or whom to vote for. It all seems so useless somehow.

Nora: Useless is it? Why mam if you and I don't vote and all the other people who have the right, who will do the governing and isn't everything settled by politics - your schools for instance - your parks and playgrounds? Sure, if you didn't elect the right men to look after them you mightn be gettin the worth of your tax money at all, at all.

(At this point Mrs. Bates enters. Mrs. Robinson greets her and then says to her)

Mrs. R: Nora is just giving me a little lesson in politics.

Mrs. B: (laughing) O, I see; maybe you need it.

Mrs. R: (to Nora) Well, but Nora, how do you know you're voting for the right man?

Nora: How do I is it and me with two brothers on the police force and me own cousin a depity in the City Hall. (Then she brings forth a marked ballot.) Sure the boys had me registered as soon as I moved into the ward and I've got me ticket all marked. Here's two men we all want to get in. There's one alderman very friendly to the police force, you know; and the other wan has something to do with public works and me other cousin, Denny Hennessy, is in the contractin business, you know; so you see he knows who'll give him a few good contracts if he can deliver the votes. I'm on my way now to meet Anna Casey and the O'Brien girls and some more girls in this precinct and we're going to try to help elect those two anyway.

Mrs. R: Nora do you think many women will vote today? Do they usually?

Nora: Well, no ma'am, I'm afraid not and that's what surprises me, that more of the educated women do not vote. Why dear sakes alive, don't they know they could get almost anything they want if they'd ony study the game of politics a little and put the fear of God in the hearts of some of the candidates, but af coors there's so many of em busy with the school work and club work and uplift work that I suppose they think they haven't time t vote, but as for me I haven't the time nor the talent for that; so (virtuously) I can ony do me best by voting. Besides us poor working girls have to look after ourselves. And we want the men in that will make good laws for us. I suppose you'll be going out yourself to vote soon mam.

Mrs. R: Well, I think that's fine Nora, but I don't know I really haven't gotten interested and haven't made any study of the issues or the men who are running for office; so I don't believe I'll vote this time. I'll let you save the country. I guess it's true all right about the Irish liking politics.

Nora: O, yes, mam if I do say it, the Irish are very public-spirited Americans. (continues) An' Mrs. Robinson, if you don't mind, I think I'll stop in and see my uncle's wife. You know she do be awful sick.

Mrs. R: O, I'm sorry to hear that. Is she dangerous?

Nora: O, no, uncle says she's too weak to be dangerous any more. (Nora starts to leave.)

Mrs. Bates: Just a minute Nora. I'd like to know what you think of the Child Labor Amendment. You've heard of it, I suppose.

Nora: Yes, I've heard tell of it all right, but I'm afraid be the time it's passed all the children will be grown up; so it's no use to pass it.

(Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Robinson laugh as Nora departs.)

Mrs. R: (smiling, turns to Mrs. Bates) Poor Nora, isn't she killing? But she certainly knows a lot about politics. She talks about wards and precincts and candidates like a veteran and so naive about her reasons for voting for certain men. And yet I imagine she's perfectly honest in her viewpoint.

Mrs. B: O, surely. To her and to many others, politics is just a sort of game, a friendly give and take. Favors granted for votes rendered, you know. That class of voters takes an interest in politics for what they personally can get out of it, and as you say, it seems perfectly legitimate to them because it's such a well-established custom, but did you ever stop to think that if numbers of those people vote from self-interest, where do the rest of us come in? That is, where do we come in if we don't vote, too?



Mrs. R: I know it and I believe Nora was partly right when she said so much depended upon it, but it seems so cut and dried, though. Everything is managed in some hokus pokus sort of way and I feel so futile just casting one little ballot without knowing anything about the men. Why you know the list of names they hand you, it's as long as the moral law and how do I know whether to vote for Bill Jones or Hank Green for Constable at Large or dog catcher or something. And, anyway, I loathe that cunning political way always looking for the hidden motive. Sometimes I feel as though I ought to be doing something about it. But all I ever did was to register. What do you do about it, Mary, do you vote?

Mrs. B: Well, I'll tell you what I'm going to do about it? Yes I voted. But hereafter I hope to vote more intelligently. You know there have been a few things happened which opened my eyes. Did I ever tell you about the time I was chairman of a committee of women to plant trees in all the school yards? That was when I lived in Browntown.

Mrs. R: No, you didn't.

Mrs. B: Well, that was good. A bunch of us conceived the bright idea that we'd be doing something noble if we planted a tree or trees, I forget which now, in every schoolyard. So we raised the money and got the trees and then a committee of us waited upon the gentleman who presided over the destinies of schoolyards. He was most suave but quite firm and told us that laudable as our ambition was it was quite impossible for the simple and concrete reason that the schoolyards were all paved, and he didn't think it would be advisable to dig up the paving to plant a tree.

Mrs. R: Why, my dear, how awful! Paved schoolyards for children. You mean to say there was no grass or trees. Well but who had the authority to do it. How dared he, why did he do it?

Mrs. B: He had the authority all right and he dared to do it because we, the voters, were not paying any attention to what he did. As to why he did it, maybe he thought it looked better that way but my private guess is that he received a little of the contract price for paving those yards. Didn't you just hear Nora telling about her cousin in the contracting business? Well, that's the way it works. Well, anyway, he was an elected official but half of us had not voted and the other half, I suppose, had not bothered to look up his record and there you are. I don't suppose we would have ever known he existed if we hadn't been brought face to face with his handiwork. Then I began to ask myself if it wasn't better to look into the stable occasionally before the horse was stolen. That is to go to the candidates before election and find out whither they were drifting as regards certain issues.

Mrs. R: Well I should say.

Mrs. B: Well, but wait. I have, in the words of the Prisoner's Song, another sad story to tell you. In fact, that's why I came over to see you. It's about our committee for securing an extra nurse at the Children's Home. My dear, no use asking for it.

Mrs. R: But why not, I should like to know. I've got the report all ready; the county commissioners have the money and we have a strong enough organization back of us I guess to demand it.

Mrs. B: Yes, the county commissioners had the money all right, but they have just let the contract for a new home for the superintendent, and voila, there go your funds.

Mrs. R: Are you sure of that? Why, I never heard of such a thing in my life. They've got a good house already there. More brick and stones. And what the poor kids need is nursing care. (indignantly) Why, the county commissioners knew we were working for this.

Mrs. B: Yes, I suppose that's why they hurried through this new building. But we are partly to blame you know.

Mrs. R: Well, but I don't see how. I've certainly worked and gotten influence to bear on this.

Mrs. B: Yes, you may have worked, but did you get your vote to working? Instead of getting influence we could have gotten action by finding out what sort of men were running and going to see them before election.

- Mrs. R: Oh, I don't think that would have done any good. It was just as I was saying, it's all managed. You have no real say. I'm more disgusted than ever. You said a few moments ago, Mary, that you were going to do something about voting intelligently; what did you mean?
- Mrs. B: Well, I meant that after I'd had a few shocks like this about the nurse and the schoolyard I began to wonder if it wasn't possible to find out something about practical politics. Mind, I don't mean to say either that all officials are to blame. There are any number of fine, honest men who want to do the right thing. Take, for instance, the manager of our parks. Everybody knows what a fine record he has made and how he has kept within the budget. Or the man at the head of the police department; he certainly is trying to enforce the law, but for that very reason there will be many who will want to defeat him. That is why we should go and vote and support good officials when they are in, give them courage. But even they, I think, need a woman's viewpoint occasionally when it comes to public welfare in government. And now that we can help them we ought to do it. In fact, I think I would use the quaint Victorian expression, that it's our duty.
- Mrs. R: Here, here! That's some speech, Mary. May I ask where you have garnered all the political wisdom?
- Mrs. R: (promptly) League of Women Voters, mostly.
- Mrs. B: (vaguely) Oh, League of Women Voters. Yes, I have heard of them, or it. Don't know much about it, though. Always had an idea it would tend towards a women's bloc or party. Aren't they influenced by one or the other of the big parties? I'm afraid of propaganda!
- Mrs. B: Indeed not, to both your questions. I really can't tell you a lot about it yet, but I do like the way they go at things. Absolutely impartial and no party bias, you know. Just studying trying to find the facts. And the beauty of it is that if you are a member you actually get reliable information. You know they have offices and secretaries and a national headquarters at Washington, with chairmen who are perfect whiz bangs, delving into public questions all the time. And you get the benefit of this research work.
- Mrs. R: It would be a relief to know that you had reliable information in these days, when you read both sides until you don't know where you're at. And some of us surely need it. A woman was asked the other day who was leading the vice crusade, and she replied loftily, "Why, the Vice-President, of course." But to come down to brass tacks, how does the League help one in local elections? You don't mean to say they would tell me whom to vote for?
- Mrs. B: Well, no, not exactly. The League does not endorse candidates. But they keep records of the men in office, you know, find out how they voted on different questions, and then what I like about it, they send questionnaires to the men running for office so that you get an idea of the candidate's trend of thought before it is too late. The League always urges women to study parties, and their policies, and join the party of their choice and try to make the knowledge they've gained useful to the party.
- Mrs. R: Tell on. You interest me strangely. What else does this wonderful League do?
- Mrs. B: Well, one thing you'd like: they're working for a shorter ballot. They believe that there need not be so many elected officials.
- Mrs. R: Hurray, I'm for them on that score.
- Mrs. B: And what's more, they have helped to accomplish it in some states. Then, too, you know, they are constantly working to get better laws for women and children, better educational advantages. Why, in one of the states - Minnesota, I think it was - they got through a bill providing that country children should have a seven months' school term instead of six, and giving aid to country schools. I read somewhere that in the five years of its existence, the League had supported about 465 bills, most of them concerned with the welfare of women and children. Bills that have become laws, I mean, in the different states.



- Mrs. R: Well, that's encouraging, isn't it? I didn't know women were really making any serious dent in American public life. I was reading Lady Astor's speech the other night and I noted that she said since women had had the vote in England, more good legislation had been enacted concerning women and children than in the two preceding generations. But somehow, I didn't realize they were doing so much here.
- Mrs. B: Well, wake up, my dear, and learn that the League has a Legislative Council working with lawyers, economists, and social workers as advisers, working on legislative programs. That's where you ought to be - you who are so much interested in child welfare. O, I tell you, Mary in these days of channel swimming and votes for wimming, woman's weakness is gradually losing its strength.
- Mrs. R: Oh, dear Mary, sometimes I feel a sentimental yearning for the good little woman who stays home and minds her house. You know in these modern days, they say, "what is so rare as a bride with a broom?"
- Mrs. B: All bosh, Helen, and you know it. No self-respecting bride uses a broom nowadays. They all have vacuum cleaners. The men, bless them, have given us hours of leisure, with the labor-saving inventions, and to fill these leisure hours they have given us a new power, - the vote, and they expect us to use it. That's the least we can do I think. As for the sweet little home woman, well, you know politics has walked right into her front yard and they affect her every day - in the cost of living, in the education of her children - the health of her family, even the cleanliness of her own street - and in a hundred other ways.
- Mrs. R: Well, YOU certainly are growing up fast in politics. But we were talking about the League of Women Voters. I can see how it would be very helpful in a local way, but what about the big national issues: The Child Labor Law, and international peace?
- Mrs. B: Oh, my dear, had you forgotten the World Court petitions?
- Mrs. R: (laughing) Indeed, I have not. I well remember how you toiled to get signatures, but I didn't realize that was League work.
- Mrs. B: (sighing) Toiled is right. But, anyway, the Senate passed it, although I must admit it was in rather reserved way. And there are a lot of people to this day who don't know just what the World Court is. Two men were overheard discussing it not long ago, and one said he thought the World Court was where the International Tennis games were to be played, and the other said no, he was pretty sure that it was the court where the Scopes evolution trial was held. But the League has done just as thorough an educational job on other great national questions. Don't you remember the debate in the legislature on Child Labor last winter? That was arranged by the League. Besides that, they bring speakers of national and international renown on all live subjects. Talk about education, you surely get it in the League program. And they always hear both sides before endorsing a measure.
- Mrs. R: Well, Mary, you have really made me feel that there is still hope for my lost vote. Some time I'm going to look into the workings of this mighty League and if it's all you say it is I'm gonna join for life and good behavior. But I feel too discouraged over this Children's Home affair to do anything about it today. Somehow, eloquent as you are, I can't feel that votes, just individual votes, have ever done much good, and after all, sometimes I think a good dictator would be better than all this voting by the hoi polloi - ignorant votes I mean. Now what do you think of that proposition?
- Mrs. B: Shades of Patrick Henry! You're hopeless. But you know you don't mean it. Are you speaking as one of the intelligensia? If so, and you really are one, you know there's an answer. I can't remember it precisely, but it's to the effect that the law of averages still holds good and that in the main mass intelligence makes fewer mistakes than the one man ruler. And anyway, I suppose a democracy has a right to make mistakes if it wants to and profits by them. But I simply must go. Helen, I should think you'd be afraid your wasted votes would haunt you. (Rises.)



Mrs. R: Not me. I'm going to have a good nap and then finish reading "The Mauve Decade".

Mrs. B: I'll give you a good book to read. It's called "Uncle Sam Needs a Wife" and it goes over these very points we've been talking about, showing how woman's viewpoint and experience are needed in public life as well as in private. We can't trust Uncle Sam to attend to everything for us. Man-like, he is thinking of the cattle, agriculture, the boll weevil, and the seals in Alaskan waters. It is distinctly our job to think of the child, the school, the home and the stabilization of family life. And the government will act on these things only when you and I, just average every-day American voters, get busy on the subject. Think it over!

(Both laugh and say goodbye.)

Mrs. R: Oh, dear, I certainly have been nagged all this day about voting. I feel the need of a little rest. (Lies on the couch.)

## SCENE II

### The Dream

A figure dressed as a ballot steals into the room. (Costume to be two rectangles of white muslin to cover the entire figure, with slits for nose, eyes, and mouth; eyebrows and expression lines to be added; back of the costume will have the word "ballot" in large letters and will contain names and crosses as a regular vote would.) Vote touches Mrs. R. She sits up, rubs her eyes, stares at Vote and says in a stammering voice:

Mrs. R: Mercy, what is it? Who, who or what are you, please?

Vote: I am your vote, but you do not know me, for you have never used me, and yet I have the greatest power in the world when I am used. I was given to you by no effort of your own but by the hard, devoted labor of brilliant women who for years have worked that all women might have this great power. The right to vote, to help to shape the laws under which they and their children must live.

Mrs. R: I am very sorry that I have been too busy to make your acquaintance, but you see everything in politics seems too hard to understand, and anyway, political questions do not concern me much. I'm just interested in my home and family - oh well, of course, the schools and child welfare too, but I really do hard work along those lines and I don't see how I could do any more effective work by voting.

Vote: Come, you and I shall take a little trip through the city and you shall see whether a mother in her own home can safely guard that home by her own efforts.

## Part I

### A Home

Poor but neat Italian home. Child ill in bed. Mother weeping. Doctor enters, goes to child, feels pulse, etc. Motions to mother. Mother brings him plate of fruit and glass of water. He looks at food, shakes his head, leaves medicine. Prepares to depart. All this time, Mrs. R. has been standing at one side with the Vote behind her. The Vote is supposed to be invisible to all but Mrs. R. Mrs. R. steps toward the doctor, recognizes him, and says:

Mrs. R: Oh, how do you do, Dr. Grant? I was walking by and I heard the sound of sweeping and stepped in to see if I could be of any assistance. I feel so sorry for this poor woman. Is her child very ill? What is wrong? Can I do anything? She seems so alone and so helpless.

Doctor: (looks toward the bed) Yes, the poor bambino is mighty sick. I don't know yet just what's wrong. It may be due to the bad plumbing in this neighborhood. We're having a number of cases of typhoid, or it may be the meat and fruit. You know we do not have regular inspection of meat in this city and every once in a while some diseased animals are sold, especially in the poorer districts.

Mrs. R: This is awful. I seem to remember how some talk about getting a law through the legislature for inspection of meat in the cities. But who's to blame for the poor plumbing? I thought we had inspectors in the Sanitation Department.

Dr: Oh, yes, we're supposed to have. But you can see how it goes sometimes. I tell you, Mrs. Robinson, you and I and the so-called educated class have got to make ourselves heard in this matter of city government, for our own protection, as well as for the protection of families like these. We must see to it that good men are put up for office and then turn out and vote for them.

Vote: You see, all the mother love in the world and care in the home cannot save this child if the conditions in the city are not right.

Mrs. R: (starts to look at the child, screams and says) Good heavens, it's my own child, it's Marian.

Vote: (restrains her) No, Mrs. Robinson, it is not your child, but it might have been. Come. (They leave.)

(Note: Screens may be used when stage is set for each scene.)

## Part II

### A School

Six or seven pupils seated. Some of them in seats that are too high, their small legs hanging down, children stooped over. Pantomime of teacher inspecting throats. Have two or three vacant seats. Mrs. R. and the Vote as before stand to one side. Mrs. R. approaches teacher and says:

Mrs. R: How do you do, Miss Hollis. Something prompted me to drop in and visit a moment. How is everything going? You know as I stand here looking at those children's feet hanging down, it seems to me that some of those desks are too high, aren't they?

Miss H: Oh, yes, indeed they are. We teachers know it, but we can't seem to make the schoolboard pay much attention. I'm awfully worried today. One or two of the children seem ill. Sort of headachy, sore throats, you know, and I have heard there were some cases of scarlet fever in the Blaine school.

Mrs. R: Heavens, scarlet fever! I'm going to keep Marian right at home!

Miss H: And so I have been trying to examine the children, but of course, I haven't much time and no nursing training.

Mrs. R: But where are the school nurses? Surely --

Miss H: Oh, didn't you know, the Board decided to dispense with them. Had no money they said, but, Mrs. Robinson, if people knew the good those nurses did, they'd never let them go. Why, I know they've saved lives many times, by recognizing illness at the very start. And did you hear that we may lose our kindergartens if the bond issue doesn't pass?

Mrs. R: (Nods) Yes - but it will surely pass.

Miss H: I tell you the mothers and fathers should watch and see that capable men and women are put on school boards, and now that women have the vote they can demand it.

Vote: You see, if you are really interested in the schools you will use your vote.

Mrs. R: (to Miss H.) But why are so many children absent? I see some vacant seats.

Miss H: Oh, this is the busy time in the factories, you know, and many boys and girls get exemptions from school to go to work. It breaks my heart to see some of my brightest pupils have to stop school. And you know, after they once stop and lose their grades, they rarely come back.

Mrs. R: But, my dear Miss Hollis, the children in this grade are too young to go to work. What about our State Child Labor laws?



Vote: Yes, what about them indeed? Did you ever vote to express your opinion on Child Labor?

Miss H: Well, I'm sorry to say that in this state the Child Labor laws are not very helpful, or very well enforced. There are so many exceptions and loop holes that many children of 11 and 12 do work for long hours. And, of course when they are working, they can't be in school.

Mrs. R: (looks around alarmed) But where is Marian? She is not in her seat.

Vote: (to Mrs. R) Come, we shall see.

### Part III

#### A Factory

Pantomime with children working, picking cotton. Standing with overseer keeping them strictly at work. (Work might be peeling vegetables or fruit, or something that can be arranged easily.)

(Mrs. R. and Vote enter. Watch the scene for a while. Finally Mrs. R. steps up to the overseer and says:)

Mrs. R: Why do you employ little children to work in this factory? I think it is a crime.

Overseer: (Suavely) 'Crime' that's rather a strong word, isn't it? We're breaking no law of this state. The children are poor and need the money, and besides, this is a very fine factory, sanitary, well lighted, and -

Mrs. R: (interrupting) That's not the point. I wouldn't care if it was a palace. It's wrong for little children to have to stand here monotonously and work all day as grown people do.

Overseer: (haughtily) Well, madam, I'm not interested in your opinion.

Vote: (to Mrs. R.) No, but he might be in your vote.

(Mrs. R. looks sorrowfully toward children, starts to rush forward, again exclaiming:)

Mrs. R: Why, there's my own child! Marian, Marian, what are you doing here?

Vote: No, Mrs. Robinson, it is not your own Marian, but perhaps you will think of her the next time the subject of Child Labor laws comes up, and you will make it your business to know how the men you vote for think about this whole shameful business of wearing out young lives in hard labor.

(Screen is placed.)

(Mrs. R. turns toward the Vote.)

Mrs. R: Oh, my heart is heavy. You have shown me how I have shirked my duty. I have neglected my wonderful opportunities. What am I going to do about it? I am so uninformed as to how to go about it to make my vote effective.

Vote: Well, there's just one more place that we shall visit and perhaps you can be helped there.

### Part IV

#### League of Women Voters Headquarters

Busy office scene, with two girls at work. Typewriter clicking, telephone ringing, etc. Vote posters on wall and samples of literature scattered about. Mrs. R. and Vote enter and stand at one side as before. Telephone rings, and the secretary of League steps and answers.

Secy: (taking down receiver) League of Women Voters. Yes - what is your address, please? Oh, yes, you are in the 8th ward. You wish to know who is running for the State Legislature in your district? Just a minute, please. (consults files) You're in the 41st district and your representative is George Brown. He is being opposed by Mr. Williams. (laughs) Sorry, I can't do that. The League does not endorse candidates, but I'll tell you you'll have an opportunity to hear both of these men. The League is arranging a candidates' meeting out in your ward October 24. Yes.



Are you a member of the League? O, a new member. Well, you'll get a copy of the questionnaire we sent him, with his answers. Oh, yes, we always do. Yes, that's it - how he stands on the Infancy and Maternity act and the bill to abolish common law marriage. And if you care to step into the office, we can tell you how Mr. Brown voted on those measures in the last session. Yes, do. You're very welcome. Goodbye.

(During this speech a woman enters and she and the office assistant go through pantomime of looking at records, sample ballots, etc.)

(Secretary starts to take her seat, but phone rings again.)

Secy: Hello. O, yes - the bond issue? Well, we have arranged a meeting for next Wednesday where both sides will be discussed. Yes, one man from the Bureau of Municipal Research, and the other a member of the Council. Yes. Yes, do come. Goodbye.

(Same action. Phone rings again.)

Secy: Hello. Yes, League of Women Voters. About the primary. Yes, the League has taken a stand in favor of the primary. Did you read the article in the August Voter? O, don't you? Well, you really should, keeps you in close touch with everything you need to know about Minnesota politics. Yes, indeed. Only twenty-five cents a year. Be glad to. What's the name, please? All right, you'll get the Voter from now on. Yes, some fine articles on Child Labor laws, framing the Constitution, and so on. I'll give you some back copies. Thank you so much. Goodbye.

(During this scene, man enters office and goes through same pantomime of asking for ballot, etc. Can be made humorous, man using vehement gestures, smiting his fist, pointing to names on ballot, shrugging shoulders, raising finger in conversation with office assistant.)

(As man leaves office, Mrs. R. steps forward impulsively and addresses secretary)

Mrs. R: O, you seem to be able to help every one in their voting problems. Won't you please help me?

Secy: Certainly. (stares curiously at figure of vote.) Please come in. Excuse me, is this a friend of yours?

Mrs. R: (hanging on to the Vote) Yes, indeed, but I am just beginning to realize how good a friend, and I shall certainly never neglect him again.  
(Vote capers joyfully.)

(Mrs. R. and Secretary enter office and go through same pantomime. As they stand with backs to audience, the screen is placed for the last scene.)

### SCENE III

#### The Awakening

Back to first scene in the living room of Mrs. R. Marianne has returned from school and is tickling her mother, who is asleep on the couch. Mrs. R. arises, rubs her eyes, stares at Marianne, puts her arms about her, says in a voice full of emotion.

Mrs. R: My darling, how did you get away from that dreadful factory?

Marianne: (laughing) Why, mother, how funny you talk. I've just got home from school.

Mrs. R: (sighing with relief) Oh, thank God, it is all a dream. But such a vivid one. Marianne dear, get our hats quickly. Hurry!

Marianne: But where are we going mother dear?

Mrs. R: (grasping the hand of the child and hurrying out of the door)

My dear, pay strict attention: We're going to VOTE!

Three state Conventions in one month is the record in the Fifth Region. In: -

NORTH DAKOTA

The Convention was held September 28 and 29 at Grand Forks.

Miss Helen Davies was elected president and the state League is to be congratulated. It is to be congratulated also upon the fact that Dr. Peake, former president, consents to remain upon the board to give to the League the benefit of her experience and judgment. Mrs. J. A. Poppler retains her position as vice-president in charge of organization, including finance and Young Voters.

Guests of the Convention as speakers were Miss Marguerite Owen, secretary of the National Department of Legislation, Mrs. J. R. Parkes, regional secretary, and the regional director.

An outstanding feature of the Convention was a 7:00 A.M. breakfast attended by over twenty-five University girls, members and friends of the University of North Dakota League of Women Voters.

MINNESOTA

The Eighth Annual Convention was held in Duluth, October 7, 8 and 9.

Much of the time of the Convention was taken in presentation by able authorities of a carefully prepared legislative program.

Features of the Convention this year were several more or less serious dramatizations of subjects that had previously been treated more prosaically. An original monologue, "Dont's for League Boards", by Mrs. Edwin White was exceedingly funny. Under the title "What Every League Should Know" was held a mock meeting of a local League in which many knotty questions of League policy and procedure were unravelled. A playlet called "The Voter's Dream" presented by a St. Paul cast of Young Voters found much favor with the audience and is in great request by local Leagues already.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Convention is still ahead. It is to be held in Huron, October 26 and 27. Like the Minnesota Convention it is to present for its most important event a meeting at which all the candidates for governor of the state will be heard.

Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin, chairman of the national Committee on Living Costs, is to be a guest of the South Dakota Convention and is to visit the St. Paul and Minneapolis Leagues in Minnesota.

MONTANA

A new and enthusiastic League has been organized in Lewistown with Miss Julia Van Edistine as president.

Questionnaires to candidates for the legislature asked them to state their views on jury service for women, the proposed Child Labor Amendment, and an appropriation to match the federal appropriation for state work in maternity and infancy.

IOWA

A new bulletin has made its appearance in the region. Iowa's "League of Women Voters", a quarterly bulletin, appeared September 9. This number brings the Iowa League of Women Voters up to date and is a good preparation for following up with future League activities and program.

Marshalltown held a "vacation" meeting - lawn social - at the home of Mrs. Martha Greene at Edgewater at which the president Mrs. H. C. Stowell spoke.



73 letters - Fesler reprint - 2  
Amendment ballot - posted  
State ballot

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, Honorary President

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

October 20th,  
1926

Dear Local League Chairman:

"The Voter's Dream" - The short play entitled "The Voter's Dream" presented with such success at the League Convention in Duluth, has been mimeographed and will be sent to you upon request.

Presentation of the play by local League members (or by high school students under League auspices) is an effective way of bringing home to women their responsibility as voters. The time required is from half to three-quarters of an hour. The play is well adapted not only for use as part of your Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign, but also to interest new members in the League of Women Voters.

"The Family Takes Notice" - May I remind you again of our hope that you will plan to have "The Family Takes Notice" read in various groups in your community during the coming weeks? Miss Wells' August letter recommended this.

Proposed Amendments to the State Constitution - I enclose two copies of the reprint of Judge Fesler's talk at the Duluth Convention on the proposed constitutional amendments. We can send you without charge enough to supply your League members if you will let me know immediately how many you need.

The state League has taken no action for or against the amendments proposed. We are sending out information on the amendments as an aid to voters, with the reminder that failure to vote on each amendment is a vote against it. Can you interest your local newspaper in giving publicity to the facts on the amendment as presented by Judge Fesler?

Legislative Program of the State League - The legislative program adopted at the Convention will be published in the October issue of the Voter now being printed. Immediately after election we will send you material on the legislative measures for use in your League meetings before the opening of the legislature in January.

The Woman Voter - The October issue is a General Election Number. Would you like some extra copies to be used by your membership chairman in securing new local League members or Voter subscribers?

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child  
Executive Secretary

EC ms  
Encs. 4



Please fill in the number of copies desired on the blank lines below.

"The Voter's Dream" (1 copy without charge, additional copies 10¢ each) \_\_\_\_\_

"The Family Takes Notice" (4 copies for 25¢) \_\_\_\_\_

Reprint on Constitutional Amendments (free) \_\_\_\_\_

The Minnesota Woman Voter for October (free) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

93 copies -

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

October *(week of 11th)*  
1926

Dear Woman Citizen Subscriber:

Over a year has gone by since you subscribed to the Woman Citizen in connection with a subscription drive under our auspices. We hope you have enjoyed the magazine as much as we expected you to.

The Woman Citizen is making a particularly generous offer just now to allow us one dollar for every renewal as well as for every new subscription received within the next thirty days. If you have not already renewed your subscription direct, we shall appreciate so much your sending it in through us, thus entitling us to a bonus of one dollar for your subscription. Or send in your renewal direct, merely writing our name across your renewal blank. Your renewal will then be credited as part of our drive.

We hope that you may wish to contribute in this way to the work of the League.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

60 copies - Sub 38

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, October 1, 1926 - 2:30 P.M.

Present: Mrs. Ueland, presiding, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Denny, Miss Fish, Mrs. Litzenberg (legislative chairman for the Woman's Club), Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Zack (representing the Council of Jewish Women), Miss Lawrence, Judge Hall, and Miss Child.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Mrs. Gaus, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting in view of Miss Child's suggestion that action taken at that time to refer measures to the Committee on Final Program might prove confusing to the members in listening to the report of this committee covering the same measures.

Mrs. John Guise, chairman of the Committee on Final Program, presented the report of the committee and action was taken upon measures recommended for inclusion in the legislative program to be recommended by the Council to member organizations, as follows:

1) Appointment of County Superintendent of Schools by a County Board of Education

Miss Lawrence suggested that the wording for this measure might be "to continue support of the County Board of Education Bill". Miss Wells called attention to the fact that it has been the policy in the past to affirm support of a principle to be embodied in legislation rather than to name specific bills. Miss Lawrence then suggested that the proposal for this measure will probably include a provision for the election of the County Board of Education by district school officers.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Miss Fish, that this measure be included in the legislative program.

2) Revision of the Teachers' Retirement Fund Law

Mrs. Wittich suggested that the qualifying phrase "to place it on a sound financial basis" might be added.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

3) Increase in the School Term

Miss Fish suggested that it might be well to include "legal" as a qualifying word with "school term". The increase in the length of the school term would be governed by a change in the provision for granting state aid to schools.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Gaus, to include this measure in the legislative program.

4) Supplemental Aid to Schools

Miss Child reported a telephone message from Mr. Schulz of the Minnesota Education Association explaining his inability to attend the meeting and suggesting that when action is taken upon this measure, the Council bear in mind the fact that it is desirable not to name definite increases in the amount of aid per pupil or in the change in the millage tax for schools in districts to be affected by the amendment since even the State Department of Education does not know now just what figures it would like to see included in a proposed amendment.

Mrs. Wittich reported a conversation she had with members of the State Department of Education to the effect that it would be desirable to discontinue special aid to graded and high schools for agricultural, home economics courses and other special work and to use the money thus freed to increase the amount of supplemental aid paid since more pupils would benefit by this change in expenditure. It was suggested that the only place where this aid amounts to much is in cities, as the informal work carried on in rural schools, is not of great value and is very difficult to identify and classify. However, it is recognized that there might be considerable opposition to such discontinuance of special aid and that an increase in supplemental aid will probably mean, Mrs. Wittich said, an outright increase in the budget for state educational expenditures.



Miss Lawrence reported that Mr. Phillips, director of rural education, thought that a careful check on the requirements as to number of pupils attending school for a certain period, as required in the present law governing state aid, might result in a better apportionment of the aid paid from state funds.

There was considerable discussion as to the wording to be used to describe the amendment to the Supplemental Aid Law. Mr. Schulz suggested in his telephone conversation the use of the phrase "to liberalize the provisions of the law". Miss Wells suggested as an alternate phrase "to equalize the educational opportunities of public school children". It was finally decided to leave the decision as to the exact wording to be decided after the meeting by Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Wittich and Miss Child acting as a committee.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Fish, to include amendment of the Supplemental Aid Law in the legislative program.

#### 5) Teachers' Tenure

Mrs. Guise stated in introducing this measure that its purpose would be to stabilize the teaching profession for the good of the schools. Miss Lawrence said that it is a fact that teachers are changing three times as fast as business workers and that this is detrimental to the schools. She said that states that have good educational legislation have a tenure law. Attention was called to the fact that the proposal for Teachers' Tenure is for a bill to apply only to cities of the first class but that it is hoped that this may be an entering wedge for a law applying in the state as a whole. Miss Fish commented that school administrators now favor such a law in Minnesota and that it is therefore a particularly good time to introduce it.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

#### 6) Amendment to the Minimum Wage Law

The amendment to define minor as a person under 21 years of age was recommended with the reservation suggested by the sub-committee that inclusion of this measure in the legislative program be contingent upon the advice of the attorney-general that it would be constitutional. The effect of the amendment would be to bring women under the protection of the law for three additional years and make the age of majority for women in the law correspond to that for men.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Wittich, to include this measure in the legislative program with the reservation named above.

#### 7) Child Labor Amendment

Following discussion in which Judge Hall called attention to the fact that it might be wise to await state action in the improvement of Child Labor Laws and in which it was pointed out that the improvement that could be expected following the active campaign in opposition to the amendment, has not come through state action, IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Wells, second of Miss Lawrence, to include this measure in the legislative program.

#### 8) Appropriation for Maternity and Infancy Work

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Denny, to include this measure in the legislative program, the amount of the appropriation needed in the state to be learned from the state Department of Health after the action of the federal Congress in the coming short session is known.

#### 9) Refund for Expenditures by Counties under the Mothers' Pension Law

Judge Hall explained that without such a refund, the state has no leverage to promote uniformity of standards in the best use of money expended under the law. He mentioned the fact that one county, for instance, was found to have spent something over three thousand dollars in payments for children over 16 years of age between 1917 and 1924. The difficulty in using this argument to legislators is the antagonism aroused at the suggestion of interference with local administration. There was some discussion as to the advisability of letting the question of the

refund rest in this legislature since there is little hope of getting it and there is always the danger of forcing a repeal of the law by supporting the refund. Judge Hall said, however, that to offset this danger there is the danger that bad local administration of funds under the law will prejudice legislators against it and lead in this way to its repeal.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Mrs. Wittich, to include this measure in the legislative program.

10) Changes to Improve the Marriage Law

Mrs. Gaus, chairman of the sub-committee on this measure, suggested that action be taken in very general terms with the understanding that all of the changes incorporated in the law proposed in the last legislature might be included in a bill or several bills to be proposed to the 1927 legislature if groups concerned in the drafting of the bill should consider this desirable. In addition the Committee recommended favorable consideration of Judge Hall's suggestion that license clerks be required to "take judicial notice" of information submitted to them on the ineligibility of certain individuals to receive a marriage license under the law.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Guise, second of Miss Wells, to include changes in the Marriage Law in the legislative program.

Mrs. Guise called attention to the fact that the Committee on Final Program had been unable to agree upon the omission of any of the measures referred to it from the Council with the exception of the amendment directed to strengthen the Carnival Law. The committee did not include this measure in its recommendations since an active educational campaign would be necessary both to secure support for such an amendment and to assure its enforcement if adopted, such a campaign being impossible with the long legislative program that appeared unavoidable.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary



29  
25 board members

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

November 2nd,  
1926

Dear Board Member:

The November meeting of the state board will be held on Friday, November 12, at state League headquarters, 1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.

The meeting is called for 10:30 A.M. and will be an all-day meeting. It has been suggested it would be pleasant to lunch together at the University Club, since it is so conveniently near the office. It will be necessary to make reservations for luncheon in advance and we shall appreciate knowing whether we shall make a reservation for you.

Plans for work in support of the legislative program adopted by the state Convention will be made at the coming meeting of the board. We hope that nothing will prevent your attendance.

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW/ms



Sta. Not sent to Board but sent to H. H.

4 Mpls.	1 St. Cloud
4 St. Paul	1 Lawrence
2 Duluth	1 Carlton
2 Winona	

an experiment. Most railroad companies and very many of the great industrial and financial corporations of the country provide for the retirement of their employes on a life annuity, after long and faithful service. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that such a policy is supported by sound economic, as well as humanitarian, principles.

A good many arguments are advanced in support of the policy. Any argument in favor of retirement allowances for teachers, to which the public is asked to contribute, must be based on better teaching service. Unless a teachers' retirement fund results in better teachers and therefore better schools, it would be difficult to support it as a public enterprise.

1. The teaching profession attracts more and abler persons.
2. Teachers who desire to make teaching a profession seek employment in states and cities where favorable retirement provisions exist.
3. Persons of ability tend to remain in the teaching profession who otherwise would change to some occupation offering better assurance for old age.

THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND  
J M McConnell  
State Commissioner of Education

In what I am to say regarding the Teachers' Retirement Fund I am speaking as a member of the Board of Trustees. That Board consists of five members - three, ex-officio, the Attorney General, the State Auditor and the State Commissioner of Education - and two members elected by the Fund Association. It is my purpose as clearly and briefly as possible to present the facts relating to this subject in Minnesota.

The policy of old age retirement has been widely adopted in both public and private occupations and can hardly, therefore, be said to be, at this time, an experiment. Most railroad companies and very many of the great industrial and financial corporations of the country provide for the retirement of their employes on a life annuity, after long and faithful service. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that such a policy is supported by sound economic, as well as humanitarian, principles.

Andrew Carnegie, whose acumen would hardly be questioned, endowed a fund to pension college and university professors. Three-fourths of the states and many cities have laws providing for the retirement of public school teachers on some plan of pension, after various periods of service.

A good many arguments are advanced in support of the policy. Any argument in favor of retirement allowances for teachers, to which the public is asked to contribute, must be based on better teaching service. Unless a teachers' retirement fund results in better teachers and therefore better schools, it would be difficult to support it as a public enterprise.

The better arguments for it, based on this principle, as I have found them, are about as follows. As the result of a sound teachers' retirement plan:

1. The teaching profession attracts more and abler persons.
2. Teachers who desire to make teaching a profession seek employment in states and cities where favorable retirement provisions exist.
3. Persons of ability tend to remain in the teaching profession who otherwise would change to some occupation offering better assurance for old age.
4. Since the work of teaching does not lend itself well to business enterprise, better school work will result when the inevitable period of declining years is provided for.
5. A basis is furnished on which teachers whose usefulness has passed because of age or decrepitude may be retired.
6. Finally, and from a somewhat different angle, while teachers are not the only group of deserving public servants, they are a very important group, one on which the public welfare is dependent. It would appear to be good public policy, therefore, that such service as is rendered through a life time of teaching should be rewarded by some protection against want in the teacher's declining years.

The plans of retirement adopted in different states and cities vary much in detail, but in general their support is provided by contributions both from the teacher and the state or city. By no means all of the plans adopted in the earlier years of the movement are on a sound financial basis or give much real assurance to those teachers who have depended on them. More experience, better business judgment and less sentiment have resulted more recently in sound laws in many states and cities.

The Minnesota law passed in 1915 is one of the earlier laws which has proved inadequate in its provisions for support, and is rapidly becoming worthless to those who count on it for support. The very serious problem which



confronts the Board of Trustees and the teachers who are concerned is that of securing an amendment to the law, so as to put the fund on a sound financial basis. Obviously, it is bad policy for the state, as well as for the unfortunate teachers, that the present unsound condition should be allowed to continue.

The present law exempts the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth from its terms, and each of these has what we have reason to believe is a sound system of its own.

The law, as it now stands, provides for contributions from the teachers and from the state. Both are wholly inadequate. The law contemplates a retirement annuity of \$500.00, for which, actuaries inform us, more than \$7,000.00 would have to be accumulated. The amount paid in by the teachers is less than \$500.00, during the accumulative period and that contributed by the state, by means of the one-twentieth of a mill which the law provides, not far from \$200.00. It is clear that on this basis the anticipated annuity cannot be paid.

From the beginning, the Board of Trustees adopted the opinion that the sums paid by teachers should be kept intact as a capital investment, the interest and the state's contributions being used for the payment of annuities. This policy, intended to protect the teachers from possible loss of their trust funds, has resulted in a capital fund of approximately a million dollars, all invested in high quality bonds, generally those of school districts.

The amount of the annuity which the Board has been able to pay has gradually declined until for the last year and this, only forty per cent is being paid. That is, teachers whose expected annuity would be \$500.00 are receiving \$200.00, and this amount must decrease as the number of annuitants increases.

The Board of Trustees, acting on the suggestion and using an appropriation of the 1921 Legislature, employed actuarial assistance and made a study of the fund. To the 1923 Legislature, they recommended an amendment to the law which they were advised would make the fund sound. The bill failed to pass. Having made minor changes in the measure, as proposed in 1923, the Board feels compelled to offer it again to the next Legislature in the hope that the present unfortunate situation may be corrected.

The main features of the measure as drawn may be briefly summarized. The three large cities are still exempt, but provision is made for them to come under the law, should they at any time desire to do so.

All other public school teachers, teachers in state institutions and public librarians are included. Teachers under twenty-five years of age may be exempt on their request from participation in the fund.

Beneficiaries to receive the full \$500.00 annuity on which the law is based must have rendered thirty years of service and must be at least fifty years of age.

The annuity is created by equal contributions from the teacher and the state, the teacher's share being \$65.00 per year during the accumulative period. The state's share is to be raised by a one-half mill tax. Should the teacher leave the field before the annuity has been fully earned, she may withdraw her own money with interest. Should she have taught more than ten years, she will be entitled annually to a pro rata part of the annuity to which she might ultimately have been entitled.

Liberal provision is made for the transfer of teachers from the present depleted fund to the new. Especially liberal terms are made for those who have been long in service and for present annuitants.

The Board believes that the plan is fair, both to the teachers and to the state, and that it will be generally approved whenever it is well understood.

The Board has had opportunity to examine the plans of other states and cities, and is unanimous in its approval of the plan offered. That the present unfortunate situation ought to be relieved in some manner there can be no doubt.



30 copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
November 12, 1926

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Sheppard-Towner Act

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Conference on Cause and Cure of War in Washington, D. C.

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Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

November 9th,  
1926

Dear Local League Chairman:

Election is now over and our League work for the two months before the opening of the legislature in January will be to make sure that state legislators from every district where there is a local League, know what measures the League of Women Voters has included in its legislative program and why it has chosen them for support. Mrs. Maud Wood Park, you know, estimates that 90 per cent of the influence that can be brought to bear by voters in favor of state and national legislative issues must be in work in local districts before the legislature opens.

The first step in preparation for interviews with your legislators is to make sure that there is some member - or members - in your League thoroughly informed on the facts bearing upon each measure. Have you chairmen of the three departments of League work - Public Welfare in Government, Efficiency in Government, and International Cooperation to Prevent War? If not, this might be a good time to appoint the first two chairmen and ask them to be responsible for becoming informed on the measures in the program.

✓ I enclose the legislative program as adopted at the state Convention in October, with explanatory paragraphs to serve as a brief explanation of each measure. More detailed statements on each measure will be sent in the near future. Following the assignment of the measures to individuals for immediate study, you may wish to plan for general meetings of your League at which the measures may be discussed. May I suggest the following order for consideration of the various legislative subjects:

November - Educational Measures  
December - Child Welfare and Other Measures  
January - Efficiency in Government Measures

I hope you will keep in mind in whatever plans you make that it is of chief importance that there shall be women in your League qualified to talk with your legislators on the measures in the program. Further word will be sent you when it is time to plan such interviews.



Study Groups: The more detailed material which will be forwarded to you later will be suitable for the use of small study groups if these can be formed as they were last spring for the study of "Current Questions in Government". No better preparation can be made for understanding support of the League program in the legislature.

Members and Voter Subscribers: This is the time of year to try for new members and subscribers to the Woman Voter. With the 1927 session of the legislature only two months away, we hope that all your members will wish to read the Voter themselves and to see that other women have it as a source of information on legislative issues. We need your help in seeing that old subscriptions are renewed as well as new ones secured.

Please let us know the names of your department chairmen, if appointments are made, and send us any news you can of your League plans and activities. We are always eager to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms

Sent to 45 Senators  
69 Reps. +

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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November 10th,  
1926

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

My dear Member of the Legislature:

You will remember that although ratification of the Child Labor Amendment was rejected by the 1925 Minnesota legislature, it was with only two votes to spare in each house. While it was a great disappointment to us that Minnesota was one of the states rejecting the amendment, it is encouraging to know that that action is not final and that Minnesota will have an opportunity to ratify in the future, since all generally accepted constitutional authorities agree that rejection of a proposed amendment by any legislature is no hindrance to reconsideration there. Ratification, however, is final; therefore, in only four states is the Child Labor Amendment a closed issue: Arkansas, Arizona, California, and Wisconsin. Those states have ratified. In every other state the amendment is pending.

Since the amendment is still before the country and still an issue in this state, you may be interested in receiving more material on the facts of child labor and the form of the amendment. Our state office would be very glad to keep you in touch with all that is being done to protect working children if you will let us know your desires.

One question you will wish to raise at once is whether any progress has been made throughout the country in raising state standards during the past two years. Some progress has been made. Nevertheless, it is still true that no state which had a lower standard than the former federal laws has brought its own laws up to those moderate standards since the two federal laws have been declared unconstitutional. Where progress has been made there is scarcely a doubt that the possibility of ratification of the Child Labor Amendment stimulated the states to raise their own standards. It is to be feared that if the threat of federal action were removed forever, the little progress recently made will cease.

Georgia has made substantial improvement in its law but today children in Georgia may still work as many hours as adults -



sixty hours a week for work in cotton and woolen mills, with overtime allowed under certain conditions. In non-factory work there is still no restriction on daily or weekly hours. A compulsory school attendance bill which would have assisted greatly in raising standards failed to pass the Georgia legislature.

Louisiana and North Carolina have improved their laws too, although in North Carolina working children may still be employed for eleven hours a day and sixty hours a week in factories, and in work outside of factories there is no limitation. There is still no educational requirement for employment certificates in these states. Side by side with this record of some slight advance in child labor standards in certain states stands another record - one of much needed reforms introduced and rejected by the same legislatures. A pamphlet giving these facts in detail is available at League headquarters.

One of the strongest arguments for federal action to prevent the exploitation of children in industry is the history of the first and second federal laws. When they were in effect there was a marked improvement in both state legislation and state enforcement. With the minimum standards of the first act removed and the door to federal action forever closed, it is to be feared that efforts to lower these newly raised standards might be successful.

Sincere foes of the child labor evil can place hope only in ratification. It is our hope that Minnesota may be one of the first states to add its name to the four that have ratified. Your continued interest will be much appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms

100 copies - Nov 17, 1926

100 copies - Jan 8, 1927

Not sent to Board but sent to H. A.  
See Teachers Retirement

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
November, 1926

#### COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The proposal for a county board of education is not new. A commission on education appointed as far back as the legislature of 1913 made recommendations for desirable legislation including a provision for a county board of education. Bills calling for the appointment (instead of election) of the county superintendent of schools were drafted during the 1923 session of the legislature but did not get a hearing.

A bill providing for a county board of education of five members, to take over educational matters at present handled by the board of county commissioners and with power to appoint the county superintendent of schools was introduced in the 1925 legislature but failed to reach a vote. It was prepared by the association of county superintendents in the state and was supported by the Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota League of Women Voters. A similar measure will be introduced into the 1927 legislature with the same groups supporting it.

Statement by Miss Isabel Lawrence, Chairman  
Committee on Education, Minnesota League of Women Voters

The proposal of a county board of education must be approved by everybody who wishes country children to have opportunities more nearly equal with those of city children. One of the most important requisites for getting all these children cared for well, is a county superintendent who will work efficiently all the time to ensure good teachers and good schools everywhere in the county. A county superintendent chosen by a county board is far more likely to be the right kind of worker than one elected at the polls. The elected official must deal too much with politics and spend too much time in getting elected. A county superintendent, too, needs the advice and help of a county board in doing things worthwhile in the schools.

Progressive states, over thirty of them, have adopted the plan of a county board of education which appoints the county superintendent of schools. Election to that office by popular vote is a relic of the past. No other school officer in the United States is so elected. The question has been asked what sort of president we would secure for the state University, or what kinds of heads of our normal schools, if we required those officers to seek election.

The election of the county superintendent of schools is undesirable on many counts:

1. It is difficult for the voters to examine the qualifications or the records of those who run for the office.
2. Able professional educators will not subject themselves to a long expensive campaign to get themselves elected or re-elected. This results in sometimes restricting the choice of the voters to two equally unfit candidates. (Many of our best Minnesota county superintendents are constantly resigning to accept more dignified and stable positions. Men and women whose experience is invaluable to the state and county would stay if they had the opportunity to do distinguished work, without the necessity of political entanglements.)
3. The best plans for bettering schools take some years to show results. No efficient county superintendent likes to find himself out of office before his plans mature. Neither does he relish taking time that belongs to the children to do political canvassing.



Points in favor of the proposed measure:

1. The position of county superintendent of schools will be raised professionally to the level of the city superintendent's office and permanency in office secured.
2. The loss of time, money and dignity incident to a campaign for election or re-election is eliminated.
3. The restriction of residence in the county will be removed. (The state has lost the services of some of its most valuable county superintendents because, by our present law, if not elected in their own county, they cannot give any other county the benefit of their expert services.)
4. The county board of education through experience will become wise in understanding of the school needs of the county and its advice will assist every district in solving local problems.
5. The county board will entail little expense and can contribute to elimination of waste in the conduct of the schools.

Statement by W.H. Detamore, County Superintendent of Schools, Blue Earth County  
Legislative Chairman, Minnesota Education Association  
(Published in the Minnesota Education Association Journal for October 1926)

The call for legislation providing for a county board of education is based upon the belief that rural education is the most basic factor in our agricultural problem and that there is urgent need for trained leadership in rural life. It is felt that such a measure would strike at the very root of the issue by placing the office of county superintendent of schools on a professional basis analogous to that of city superintendents rather than upon the political basis as at present.

The bill introduced in the last legislature provided for a board of five members. The chief function of this board would be the appointment of a county superintendent of schools who would act as the executive secretary of the board. It provided for the very obviously needed requirement of educational qualifications for the office of county superintendent of schools. Such a requirement is impossible under the present system and the selection of a suitable person for the work is left entirely to the hazards of election with no restrictions whatever.

It is further urged that the work of rural supervision is a peculiar field of education requiring special training, and that, with the uncertainty of the elective system and the present restriction of candidates to residents of the county in which the service is to be rendered, there is no incentive to train for this work. The proposed bill removes the restriction to the county and permits of the selection of a well-trained person from any source just as city superintendents are now chosen.

It is likely that the bill presented at the last legislature or one similar in principle will be urged at the coming session of the legislature. Never before have county superintendents been more nearly united upon the issue. Leaders in other branches of education are also taking a decided stand for this basic change in rural education. Other organizations, interested in equal educational opportunity as opposed to a double standard, are accepting this change as fundamental.

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Note: Two different methods have been proposed for electing the members of the county board of education: 1) by district school officers assembled in annual convention; 2) by voters at the general election. ~~It is not yet known which method will be included in the bill to be introduced into the 1926 legislature.~~

The method of election of the County Board of Education provided in the bill proposed to the 1925 legislature (which will be re-submitted in the 1927 legislature) is as follows:

The board shall consist of five members elected by the voters of each commissioner district at the time of the general election in November.

Each member of the board shall be a resident of the commissioner district from which elected.

At the first election after the passage of the bill, two members shall be elected for two years, two for four years and one for six years. Thereafter the election shall be for six years as the terms expire.

The board would have the powers and duties now assigned to and performed by the board of county commissioners and in addition would be empowered to appoint the county superintendent of schools.

Members of the board would serve without pay, a per diem of \$5.00 and mileage for necessary travel being allowed, the per diem being limited to \$30 annually for each member.

This method of election is desirable because:

It is democratic. Every voter can have a voice in the selection of the county board member in his commissioner district.

It takes nothing away from the powers of the local school board.

It provides for a group that, through an experience of six years of work together, will become wise in the understanding of school needs of the county.

It entails little expense.



50 Copies, Nov 18, 1926  
(old stencil)

## Federal Standards of Child Labor Legislation

by

Miss Isabel Lawrence, St. Cloud, Minn.  
Chairman Committee on Education  
Minnesota League of Women Voters

The two federal child labor laws of 1916 and 1919 worked out an experiment of the utmost value to the people of the United States. These laws did not specifically prohibit or regulate the employment of children. The 1916 law (in operation for nine months) prohibited the shipment of products of child labor in interstate or foreign commerce. The 1919 law (in operation for ~~two~~ <sup>three</sup> years) taxed child-employing industries.

The standards set up in these two laws were the same and indicate what we may expect in the way of federal legislation under the amendment if it is passed. They were:

1. No children under 14 years to be employed in mills, canneries, workshops, factories or manufacturing establishments.
2. No children under 16 years to be employed in mines and quarries.
3. Children between 14 and 16 years to work not more than 8 hours a day and six days a week; no night work (after 7:00 P.M. or before 6:00 A.M.) for children of these ages.

It will be seen that these are in truth minimum standards that have the support of enlightened public opinion thruout the whole country. It is a matter of vital concern to the general welfare of our country that these standards be established for the United States as a whole.

As to the fear that states' rights will be invaded - when shall we wake up to the changes going on in these United States? Voters are changing residence from one state to another so often that a million were disfranchised at the last election. Economic issues are compelled to ignore state lines. A single manufacturing corporation has twenty branches in as many states.

A load of children crosses the state line in father's second hand Ford, to go to work in industrialized labor under a foreman, their age and physical condition subject to no state laws. They grow up to swell the three million native Americans who can neither read nor write, in spite of the fact that "nearly every state has compulsory education laws." Must New Jersey care for the education of Pennsylvania children who stream over her borders to work? Must the same state educate children transported there by New York City's manufacturers? Crowds of these children are furnishing cheap labor in branch plants in New Jersey, out of the reach of New York's superior child labor laws.

The migratory game birds are protected by the federal law. Shall we not consider the children of the country as equally worthy of protection?

75 Nov 18, 1926.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
November, 1926

THE NEW BILL FOR A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
By Cornelia S. Adair,  
Chairman, Committee on Education, National League of Women Voters

A survey conducted at the time the United States entered the World War showed that the educational activities of the government were carried on in more than thirty departments, boards, commissions and bureaus. Large funds were involved in these undertakings, yet there was no relation between the several agencies.

As early as 1862 there was agitation for a Federal Department of Education. It existed for one brief year (1867), but was speedily reduced to the rank of a bureau. After that there were periodic attempts by Senator Owen to secure the re-establishment of the department.

In 1918 Senator Hoke Smith introduced a bill calling for a Department of Education with a representative in the President's Cabinet and providing for Federal aid to the states for certain outstanding educational needs.

For six years opposition to the bill centered against the further extension of federal aid to the states, while sentiment in favor of a Department of Education grew. Many who opposed the extension of federal aid, desire for education the benefits which the Department of Agriculture - and other departments - have secured for their constituents.

For this reason the friends of the measure decided to eliminate the entire question of federal aid and concentrate on the establishment of a Department of Education.

The present Education Bill - known also as the CURTIS-REED EDUCATION BILL - calls for the creation of a Department of Education with a minister in the President's cabinet. It provides that this department shall conduct and disseminate educational research and make fact-finding investigations to aid the states in maintaining efficient school systems. Educational progress is, at present, seriously handicapped by the need of just such services as are given the people of the country by the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, etc. A discovery in the field of agriculture is disseminated immediately but educational information is not so readily available. The Bureau of Education as only one part of the Department of the Interior does not possess the facilities for gathering or dispersing educational information with any degree of rapidity.

The bill also provides for the transfer to the Department of Education of the Bureau of Education, the work of the Federal Board for Vocational Education and such other educational functions of the government as may be advantageously transferred.

Since it is obviously right that certain educational undertakings - for example West Point and the Naval Academy - remain in their respective departments the bill provides for an interdepartment council, consisting of one representative and one alternate appointed by the head of each department. This council will meet at certain regular intervals to coordinate the educational activities carried on by the several executive departments, and to devise ways and means of improving the work of the federal government.

The bill further provides that the sum of \$1,500,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, shall be appropriated annually for the purpose of paying salaries, for conducting studies and investigations, and for such other purposes as may be necessary to enable the Department of Education to carry out the provisions of the act.

When we stop to think, it seems hardly possible that the United States is, today, the only great nation in the world without an officer in the government devoting his entire time to education. With the vast inequalities between the abilities of the states to support education, it seems imperative that there be some means of collecting and disseminating information that will tend to reduce these differences.

If a parent owes to his child a healthful body, clean morals and high ideals then the state and nation owe to that child the best possible opportunities for obtaining an education. To deny him this opportunity is to fail in one of the higher duties of citizenship.



*100 copies Nov. 19-1926*

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
November, 1926

#### TEACHER TENURE

Efforts to secure teacher tenure legislation have been made in several past legislative sessions by groups of teachers in the larger cities. In the 1925 legislature a teacher tenure bill limited to the three first-class cities of the state was introduced. It passed the house after a stormy session, by a vote of 83 to 32, but failed of passage in the Senate. A similar bill will be introduced in the coming session of the legislature.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters has, for the first time, included a teacher tenure measure in its legislative program for 1927, basing its action upon the conviction that a teacher tenure law will result in "essential protection, not for teachers only, but for the schools and the school children".

"The movement for teacher tenure legislation in the United States has grown, in some measure, out of a number of flagrant cases of political dismissal which have attained wide notoriety", such as those occurring in Denver (1915), Portland (1913), San Diego (1918), Oklahoma (1922). "In many of these cases gross injustice was done to individual teachers, principals, or superintendents. In almost all of them severe injury has been inflicted upon the schools immediately concerned; and in all of them the hazards of the teaching profession have been emphasized, the work of the teacher discounted, and fine, high-minded youth discouraged from entering it."

State teacher tenure laws have now been enacted in California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Montana, New York, New Jersey, Oregon and Wisconsin. Six of these laws are state-wide in application; five of them are so framed as to be applicable only to one or more of the larger cities of the state.

The National Education Association in 1923 appointed a Committee of One Hundred to study the problem of teacher tenure. The committee states that teacher turnover in the public schools of the several states is excessively large. Thousands of teachers leave the profession each year. Additional thousands change from one position to another annually. The average tenure in the public schools of the United States is four years, while the average tenure in rural schools is but two years. The tenure of school superintendents in the United States is but three years, and the Bureau of Education states that of 510 superintendents reporting in a survey made in 1922, 263 were elected annually.

This large teacher turnover is one of the weakest spots in our educational system. "The manufacturer is able to estimate the financial loss to his business due to labor turnover because his output is a tangible product. The school's product is changes in the lives of boys and girls - a more intangible product which it is difficult to measure. There is no question, however, but that there is an inestimable loss in school efficiency each year due to teacher turnover. The first requisite in teaching is that the teachers shall really know the pupil. He cannot do this and change schools every year or two. In rapid teacher turnover it is the child who suffers. When teaching is a procession rather than a profession, the developing ideas, ideals, and attitudes of children are trampled underfoot." A transient teacher contributes less to a community than one who remains and enters into the life of the community.

Teachers in the educational systems of the European countries, where a high degree of school development has taken place, are much more completely protected by tenure than are the teachers in the United States. No such policy as the "hire-and-fire" practice, common in our states, exists. Neither is there such a thing as a "yearly contract" plan of election for teachers.

Ellwood P. Cubberley in the publication entitled Public School Administration says: "Compared with employees in other lines of work, the school teacher, under the annual-election plan, is not accorded the tenure of position given to street or steam railway employees, general business employees, policemen, firemen, or government clerks. None of these have to apply over and over for positions which they have been filling acceptably, nor run the chance of annual election with its attendant accidents and surprises. So long as these persons render efficient service they retain their places, and when they cease to do so they are first

*Not sent to board but  
sent to H.  
See Teachers  
Retirement*

warned, and then perhaps transferred to a less important position, and finally dropped."

"No valid argument has yet been proposed for the system of annual election of teachers. Far from serving as a stimulus for efficiency and improvement, it must and does inevitably mean anxiety for the teacher who stands for reappointment. It must act as a drain on the nervous energy of the teachers and is economically wasteful. The practice of annual elections militates against the promotion of sound professional standards, and with the reservations in their minds that an incompetent teacher can always be removed after a year's trial, there is not the same pressure on selecting committees to exercise the greatest care in making appointments." (I. L. Kandell in the Teachers' College Record for October 1924)

J. W. Crabtree, the secretary of the National Education Association, says in the Foreward to the special bulletin issued by the association on the problem of teacher tenure: "Injury is inflicted on both pupils and teachers when the latter are regarded as hirelings with no guarantee of remaining in office over a year and with the uncertainties of an annual election constantly facing them. Because this condition means a loss to the children, to the nation, as well as to the teaching body, the National Education Association has long stood for the principle of teacher tenure."

Educators are convinced that state-wide tenure legislation would do much in all the states to stabilize the teaching profession and make it effective. Where tenure is in force, teacher turnover due to political dismissals is reduced.

Dean M. E. Haggerty of the College of Education, University of Minnesota has said: "Continuous service for capable, trained and experienced teachers is fundamental to the well-being of American education at every level."

The standards for teacher tenure legislation that are agreed upon as a means of solving the tenure problem are:

1. Minimum training for entrance to the teaching profession, four years of high school and at least two years of professional training.
2. A probation period of two or three years.

This makes tenure a reward for faithful and efficient service, rather than a guaranteed legislative right for all. During the probationary period unsuccessful and incompetent teachers may be "weeded out".

3. Causes for dismissal clearly stated in writing.

The efficient teacher must be protected and the inefficient teacher eliminated.

4. The right of dismissal in the hands of the appointing power.
5. Due notice given the teacher in case of dismissal.
6. Teachers granted right of hearing, counsel, and appeal.
7. In the case of permanent tenure, a system devised to insure improvement of the teaching staff.

This means that following the probationary period each teacher's services should be re-valuated every 5 or 6 years. Teacher tenure should insure protection to both the teacher and the community. The community has a right to be protected against teachers who do not keep themselves intellectually alive and who do not carry on the duties of their office with an ever-increasing efficiency.

Note: The Research Bulletin of the National Education Association, November 1924 and the report of the Committee of One Hundred of the N. E. A. on Teacher Tenure in the United States, published in July 1926, are the chief sources for the foregoing statement. Quotation marks are used, without specific references, to identify extracts from these reports.



6 copies - Nov. 22, 1926

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
November, 1926

QUESTIONNAIRE  
on  
Nominating Public Officials

1. Are the following officials nominated by conventions or the direct primary in your state?
  - (a) Senators and representatives in Congress \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) State officials \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) County officials \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) City officials \_\_\_\_\_
2. What state and county officials are elective in your state?
3. If the direct primary is in use for nominating candidates -
  - (a) How long has it been operating? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Is it an open or closed primary? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Are candidates nominated by plurality vote? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If the convention system is used for nominating candidates to office -
  - (a) How are the delegates to conventions selected?
  - (b) Is more than one convention held to do the nominating?
    1. If so, describe system of conventions.
5. How are members of party committees selected in your state?

40 copies -

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. Harold G. Cant

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Miss Emily Child

December 1st,  
1926

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
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Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

My dear Board Member:

Mrs. Walter Thorp has invited the state board to meet at her home, 4428 Fremont Avenue South, Minneapolis, for the next regular meeting on Friday, December 10. The meeting will be, as usual, an all-day meeting, opening at 10:30 A.M.

This is the last meeting of the board before the opening of the legislature early in January and it is therefore particularly important that all members of the board be present to agree upon final plans for the support of our measures in the legislature.

Please let us know whether you will attend in order that we may let Mrs. Thorp know how many to expect for luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

12-1-26  
75 Senate  
175 House

1927 SENATE

COMMITTEES:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Facts: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONNAIRE REPLY

POLL

Re-organization \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Primary \_\_\_\_\_

Child Labor Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's' Pension Refund \_\_\_\_\_

Maternity and Infancy Appropriation \_\_\_\_\_

State Aid to Schools \_\_\_\_\_

County Board of Education \_\_\_\_\_



Protective Legislation (Women in Industry)

Amendment to Minimum Wage Law

Hour Law

Marriage Bill

Supplementary Information:

Interviews or letters:

Name

Address

Biographical Facts:

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Supplementary Information:

Interviews or letters:

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March 1924

Report on Child Labor in Beet Fields  
in relation to child labor and  
school attendance laws

by

Alice Kercher

Chairman, Committee on Law Enforcement  
Minnesota League of Women Voters

With the establishment of the beet industry in Minnesota has come another problem in child labor and school attendance. That the condition is serious is evidenced by the fact that attention has been directed to the condition in the Annual Report of the Industrial Commission.

The Child Labor and School Attendance laws of Minnesota provide, briefly, as follows:

Employment of children under 14 is prohibited in certain specific occupations, but not including agriculture, and employment of children under 14 in any business whatever is prohibited during the time in which the public schools are in session in the district of the child's residence. Children between the ages of 14 and 16 who have completed the eighth grade may be granted employment certificates upon complying with certain specific requirements.

The law also prohibits the employment of children under sixteen more than 48 hours a week or 8 hours in any day, or before 7 o'clock in the morning or after 7 in the evening.

Every child between 8 and 16 is required to attend school during the full time the public schools of his district are in session, which must be 7 months in each year, provided that he shall not be required to attend school more than 10 months in any one year; provided, further, that attendance may be excused upon a satisfactory showing that (a) the child is mentally and physically unfit to attend; (b) that he has completed the eighth grade studies; (c) that there is no public school within a reasonable distance from his residence or conditions of weather or travel make it impossible for him to attend, and (d) that he is absent for religious instruction.

Provision is made for a school census to be taken between July 1 and October 1. The clerk of the school board is charged with the duty of making this census. Failure to take such a school census is grounds for withholding special state aid until such census is taken.

It is made the duty of teachers and principals of rural or semi-graded schools to report to the county superintendent and of graded and high schools to the city superintendent, children who are unexcused. The superintendents are required to notify parents to send children to school and upon failure or neglect to do so to notify the county attorney. Upon request of the county attorney, teachers or school officers reporting unexcused absences are required to file criminal complaints. Failure to send child to school is punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$50 or 30 days in jail; failure of teachers and school officers to perform any duty required in connection with securing attendance of children is made a misdemeanor and punishable by fine or jail sentence.

The Industrial Commission is given concurrent power with school officials to enforce the provisions of the attendance law and is charged with the enforcement of the child labor law.

The beet growing season in Minnesota is from May to late November. Families leave the cities as early as April and do not return until late November. During this time the children are out of school. The districts to which the children go do not assume the responsibility of the education and welfare of these children and the district from which they come is not concerned.

The experience of other states who have this problem confronting them in a larger measure than our own may be valuable.

Colorado It is estimated that between 6000 and 7000 children are employed in the beet fields, many of them children of migratory families. The school attendance laws and child labor laws of Colorado do not vary greatly from our own, except that the duty of enforcing attendance is charged to the local



school board, through a local attendance officer, in each school district. This small unit of administration has caused trouble. Often members of the board and attendance officers themselves are beet growers and personally interested in the employment of children.

An attempt to cope with the problem has been made in two counties where "beet vacations" have been arranged in the spring and fall and a summer session held. These schools have been in existence too short a time to prove their value, according to a report of the U S Children's Bureau (Bulletin 115 U S Department of Labor) This report also showed a high degree of retardation among the beet children and that a considerable percentage of them have acquired orthopedic defects.

California The hours during which children may be employed and requirements in relation to school attendance are much like our own, except that the California law specifically requires that when a child is removed from one part of the state to another he shall immediately be enrolled in the schools of the place to which he has removed.

The enforcement machinery is more adequate than our own. The law provides for the registration of all children between the ages of 3 and 18 during the first week in October and provides a penalty for parents failing to register their children. Under the haphazard system of our own state, a migrant child would have a very good chance of not being counted at all, or being counted several times, while under the California law all must be counted once.

The law also provides for the appointment of an attendance officer in each county. However, many counties have disregarded this provision of the law and on that account many counties make no systematic effort to secure enforcement of attendance laws. The Labor Department is charged with the employment laws, but inadequate appropriations for the employment of inspectors helps to nullify this feature of the law.

Provision was made by the 1921 Legislature for schools for migratory children, but these have, I am told, for the most part been discontinued as unsuccessful.

Nebraska Nebraska has included employment in beet fields under the maximum hour provision of its child labor law.

Ohio In this state the employment of children under 16 is prohibited during school hours and under 14 outside school hours except in irregular service which is defined as (a) service which does not involve confinement, (b) does not involve continuous strain, (c) is interrupted with rest and recreational periods and does not require more than four hours work in any one day or 24 hours per week.

Suggestions for consideration:

1. A change in our law substituting for our school census the California registration system.
2. A change in our law providing for the appointment of a state and county attendance officers.
3. A change in our law making the position of county superintendent appointive, instead of elective.
4. The establishment of vacation schools in the beet growing districts during the summer months.
5. Urging the Industrial Commission to appoint additional inspectors for duty in the beet growing areas during the time when school is in session.
6. The amendment of the child labor law so that it will be impossible for children under sixteen to be employed eight hours per day at any time and children under 14 that long during vacation time.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

December 2nd,  
1926

My dear Local League Chairman:

The state legislature will convene January 4. Will you therefore plan to have representatives of your local League see the senators and representatives in your district some time before they leave for St. Paul in order to enlist their support, if possible, for the measures in our legislative program.

I hope that at least members of your board will meet before Christmas to go over together the legislative program forwarded in my letter of November 9. Each board member will then, I hope, plan to form a study group early in January to study all the various measures of our program. Mimeographed material on the Educational Measures is being sent now under separate cover. A little later you will receive similar material on the other Public Welfare measures in the program and the Woman Voter for December 15 will contain an article on Efficiency in Government measures.

Some of our Leagues are planning an open meeting in December or early in January, at which a legislator will speak on the way the state legislature is organized and its procedure in handling bills. A brief review of the measures in our program might be presented at such a meeting by someone sufficiently familiar with them to do this easily. In any event I hope members of your board will soon become informed on the legislative program and that you will plan to have them see your representatives to the legislature in the next few weeks. And please let us have a report of the interviews.

The December issue of the Woman Voter is to be a LEGISLATIVE NUMBER. Can you not delegate to some member of your board responsibility for making a special effort to secure renewals and subscriptions? It is important to the state organization and to your local League as well that your community be well represented in our subscription list for the Woman Voter.

We have for free distribution a recent pamphlet containing a list of the PUBLICATIONS of the National League of Women Voters classified by subjects. We shall be glad to send you copies of this pamphlet for the use of your department or committee chairmen, if you will let us know that you wish them.

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President



100 copies Dec. 4-1926

100 copies Jan 8, 1927

Not sent to board but  
sent to D. H.  
See Teachers Retirement

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
December, 1926

#### STATE AID TO SCHOOLS

The beginning of our present system of state aid to public schools in Minnesota occurred in 1881 when an appropriation of 20 thousand dollars was made by the legislature under a law enacted in 1878 providing for a grant of \$400 to any school district maintaining an acceptable high school. The state share in public school support has increased steadily since then with the purpose of providing, as equitably as may be, the same educational opportunity for all the state's children.

State aid to public schools is justified upon the assumption that "public education is of such vital concern to the state as a whole that it is just to place a uniform tax upon all the wealth of the state for its support."

#### Supplemental Aid

In the list of more than twenty-five different forms of state aid for specific purposes to schools in this state, supplemental aid is recognized as the form of aid that now reaches the school districts most in need of it. "It is without question the most fair and equitable form of state aid" because it embodies the principle on which state support of education is based - "from every district according to its ability and to every district according to its needs".

The principle of giving assistance to districts whose tax levies indicate a heavy burden of school maintenance was first embodied in our laws in 1915. The supplemental aid law has been amended a number of times, each change representing improvement in the method of distribution of this aid. The amendment adopted by the 1923 legislature marked an epoch in school aid distribution. Before this, state aid had persistently flowed to the richer parts of the state. That amendment provided that when a local tax rate of 20 mills does not produce an income of \$40 per pupil, then the state will make up the difference, basing its grant of supplemental aid upon the number of pupils in attendance at least 40 days during the school year.

A provision included at the eleventh hour in the appropriation bill of the 1923 legislature seriously handicapped the original purpose of this amendment. It provided that if funds appropriated for educational purposes should be insufficient to pay all claims, then all fixed aids should be paid in full first and supplemental aid should be prorated from the remainder of the funds available. This resulted in cutting down the supplemental aid to 59 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents on the dollar and caused great hardship to poorer school districts where, relying upon the aid promised, definite improvements had been put into operation.

The legislature of 1925 provided by appropriation for funds to pay supplemental aid not only for the 1925-27 biennium but also made a deficiency appropriation covering the shortage in supplemental aid for 1923-25 resulting from the action of the 1923 legislature. This latter appropriation, however, was vetoed by the governor.

#### Proposed Amendment to Supplemental Aid Law

Great progress has been made in the development of rural school standards through the system of supplemental aid. Further amendment to increase the equitable operation of the supplemental aid law is desirable. An amendment increasing the amount of aid per pupil from \$40 to \$45 will be proposed to the 1927 legislature. At the same time an effort will be made, in the administration of the law, to scrutinize more carefully than ever before facts establishing the eligibility of school districts to receive supplemental aid as provided under this law.

Emphasis must be placed upon the necessity of guarding against a deficiency in the appropriation for supplemental aid in future since the resulting hardship and embarrassment to school districts that have complied with the letter and spirit of the law in meeting higher standards in their schools than could be provided for from local funds, is particularly acute in this form of aid.

### Lengthening the School Term

"One of the outstanding inequalities between the rural and urban school is the length of the school term." The standard school term in city schools is nine months. In certain country schools it falls much below this standard. The rural child with a school open only 140 days, instead of the 180 or 190 days for city schools, must attend school ten years to finish eight school grades.

An interesting example of the use of state aid to stimulate local communities to provide better school opportunities for their children lies in the semi-annual payment, from the state endowment or apportionment fund, to schools meeting a certain requirement as to the length of the school term.

Previous to 1923, six months was the term prescribed to entitle school districts to receive the benefits of this fund. The term was increased to seven months by the 1923 legislature through adoption of an amendment proposed with the support of the League of Women Voters. At present 76 per cent of the school children of the state are in schools with a nine months' term, 20.3 per cent have an eight months' term and 3.6 per cent have a seven months' term. This latter group includes some 20,000 children.

To encourage the extension of the term in all schools to eight months, the following amendment will be proposed to the 1927 legislature.

"That for each ungraded elementary school with a school year of at least eight months, the state shall pay a school district \$150 for each first grade teacher employed, provided that the total of such aid for an ungraded elementary school shall in no case exceed three hundred dollars."

Statements made by county superintendents of schools in favor of lengthening the school term are represented by the following quotations.

"If communities could appreciate the desirability of lengthening the term and giving the children the opportunity to attend, they would not be 16 to 17 years old before they completed the 8th grade, or become discouraged and leave school at 16, having finished only the 5th or 6th grade."

"I am very much in favor of a bill raising the minimum school term to eight months. There is no reason why one-fourth of a child's time should be taken from him and he be compelled to go to school from one to three years longer in order to cover the same ground as his more fortunate brother in districts having longer terms."

"If it is the business of the state to insist on the adequate preparation of its future voters for an intelligent discharge of their duties as citizens, then surely the state should see that none of these growing voters are sadly handicapped in their preparation because, through no fault of their own, they live in a district that supports a six or seven months' school. Do you know any reason why a child living in the country should not have the same educational advantages as one living in town?"

Note: Statements or articles valuable as reference material are contained in the Journals of the National Education Association (Nov. 1923 and Feb. 1925) and of the Minnesota Education Association (May and October 1926). A brief article by Mrs. F. W. Wittich on Financing Education in Minnesota occurs in the Minnesota Woman Voter for May 1926. Other sources used in the preparation of this statement are a reprint of the address by E. M. Phillips of the State Department of Education on State Support of Public Schools in Minnesota (February 1925); Report of the State Board of Education on Revision of State Aid (1920) and the Report of the Interim Committee on Education (appointed by the 1921 legislature).



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No. 22

ROUND ROBIN

Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters

Dec. 8, 1926

MONTANA

The annual state convention is to be held in Helena in January. It is a Montana League custom to hold its convention at the capitol at the time of the legislative session.

IOWA

Congratulations to the Iowa women in general and the League of Women Voters in particular upon the success of the November referendum in which women won the right, previously denied them, of being elected to the legislature. The League did a valiant piece of work in making this referendum a success.

Mrs. Parkes, regional secretary, attended the state board meeting in Des Moines November 5.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The annual state convention was held at Huron, October 26 & 27. Mrs. John L. Pyle, who has been president since the beginning retired at this time and was made honorary president as a tribute to her long service as president of the League and previously as president of the suffrage organization.

Guests at the Convention were Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin, chairman of the National League Living Costs Committee, Miss Wells, regional director, and Mrs. Parkes, regional secretary.

Delightful features of the convention were two luncheons featuring Young Voters. At the first luncheon a cast from the Huron College League presented "The Family Takes Notice", with excellent effect. The second luncheon was a birthday party to young women who had come of age during the year.

November 18 & 19 a meeting of the South Dakota League Council was held at which Mrs. E. W. Feige of Huron was elected chairman. Other officers elected were vice-chairman, Mrs. P. H. Kelley of Mitchell; secretary, Mrs. G. B. Tuttle of Mitchell; treasurer, Mrs. Fred Hoffman of Sioux Falls.

NORTH DAKOTA

The Grand Forks Herald, October 31, carried an appreciative editorial on the work of the North Dakota League in getting out the Vote at the November elections. Says the Herald:

"Numerous organizations have devoted themselves to the task of impressing on American citizens the responsibility which rests on them in the possession of the ballot and in developing a conception of the duty which is incumbent on each individual to use the ballot, and to use it thoughtfully and conscientiously. The League of Women Voters has performed splendid service in this direction, and its educational work has been of the highest value."

Another piece of get-out-the-vote work was accomplished by the North Dakota University League of Women Voters at the campus elections. Believing in women in public office, the University League insisted upon women candidates for campus office and for the first time in history eight women were elected.

The North Dakota University League is exclusive! - but it remains democratic. Candidates for membership are obliged to prove a real and intelligent interest in the purposes and program of the League. Twenty-one such candidates were initiated at the supper meeting of the League December 1 at the home of Mrs. J. A. Poppler, Grand Forks.

The Minot League has already held two meetings this year and made plans for a monthly meeting with a series of distinguished speakers on subjects related to the North Dakota League program of work.

Miss Gertrude Skinner, Grand Forks, has been appointed chairman of the state Child Welfare Committee.

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Marguerite M. Wells, Regional Director

Dec 10-11 35

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
December 10, 1926

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Sent to Board

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
November 12, 1926

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the headquarters of the state League, 1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, on Friday, November 12, 1926.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M., Miss Wells presiding. Members of the Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Ringstad, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Dietrichson, Miss Lawrence, Miss Monahan, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Cant and Mrs. Colby. Others present were Mrs. James Paige, Miss Beggin, Miss Child, Miss Hampe, and Mrs. Rowley of Brainerd.

The minutes of the last meeting at Faribault and of the post-convention meeting of the Executive Board at Duluth were read by the secretary and approved. The secretary was authorized to make the minutes of the pre-convention board meeting a permanent record for the files, the reading being dispensed with by consent.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported a balance of \$498. . . October 1. Amounts received in quotas totalled \$1108.17. Other receipts amounted to \$ 317.44 The total disbursements during the month were \$956.75, leaving a balance on hand November 1 of \$979.68. Bills payable amounting to \$858.68 were reported. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. McGuire, that the bills be allowed.

Mrs. Cant also reported total receipts and disbursements for the year ending October 30. Expenditures totalled \$11,543, the estimated budget for the year being \$12,294. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McGuire, second of Mrs. Dowling, to accept the treasurer's report for October and for the past fiscal year.

The League's books, Mrs. Cant reported, were audited as usual on November 11 by Mr. Jones, through his generosity in giving his holiday to the work. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Spear, that a letter of thanks be sent Mr. Jones.

Finance

Miss Child reported on the follow-up by letter of Woman Citizen subscribers secured during drives in the fall of 1925. Thirty-five renewals resulted.

Mrs. Wittich reported favorably for the plan of political advertising, as tried out in the October number of the Voter.

Organization

Miss Beggin reported upon field trips since September as follows:

- 9th District - Moorhead, Lake Park, Frazee, Hawley
- 8th District - Virginia, Hibbing, Coleraine, Grand Rapids and Eveleth
- 6th District - Staples, Wadena, Brainerd, Park Rapids and Bemidji

In Bemidji a group of women asking for League organization were (pending Board action) tentatively offered affiliation with the state League as a study League, since the group was not representative of the whole community. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Mrs. Wittich, that the Board accept Miss Beggin's recommendation and approve the study League in Bemidji.

The question of the desirability of allowing Moorhead to continue as a study League was raised. Miss Beggin recommended that no action to urge organization as a League be taken until the year is up in March, 1927. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Weeks, second of Miss Lawrence, to take no action to urge League organization upon Moorhead for the present.

Reports of District Chairmen

Third District - A series of meetings have been planned by the Northfield League on county problems; one addressed by the chairman of the Taxpayers' Union, and two others by local lawyers. Excellent Get-Out-The-Vote work was carried on before the election.

Fourth District - Miss Lusk reported that candidates' meetings were conducted in every ward in St. Paul. Voting information booths were conducted two weeks preceding election, to register voters and teach the mechanics of voting. The play, "The Voter's Dream" was given at seven ward teas. A luncheon was held for Mrs. Baldwin, National Living Costs Chairman.

Fifth District - Mrs. Bryan reported on work to get-out-the-vote. Thirty neighborhood meetings were arranged, with an average attendance of 10 women. A leader was present at each meeting to stimulate interest in volunteering for house-to-house canvassing. Report blanks were issued to be filled in by canvassers.

Seventh District - Mrs. Dowling reported on the get-out-the-vote campaign directed by the Olivia League in the whole community. "block chairmen" were provided in the towns and township chairmen in the country, who called all late voters by telephone and sent cars to take them to the polls! The vote of Renville County was raised 20%.

Eighth District - Mrs. Spear reported on the aftermath of the state convention. She said it stirred Duluth but missed many outside towns on account of the M.E.A. sectional meeting in Virginia. In the get-out-the-vote campaign the League cooperated with the Duluth Kiwanis Club. At one meeting for candidates, 300 attended. She outlined the proposed program for the coming months - two talks on Taxation, a "Public Welfare in Government" tea at which the Child Labor Amendment dialogue will be read, and the Rowell luncheon, scheduled for November 22.

Ninth District - Mrs. Weeks reported that the Detroit Lakes League is meeting regularly every other week, using "Current Questions in Government" as a part of each program. A get-out-the-vote campaign of systematic telephoning was used in several towns of the Ninth District and proved very successful.

A letter was read from Mrs. G. W. Friedrich of St. Cloud submitting her resignation as chairman in the Sixth District. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McGuire, second of Miss Monahan, that the resignation of Mrs. Friedrich be accepted with regret.

#### Action on Committee Vacancies

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Colby, second of Mrs. Dowling, that the chair appoint a committee to make suggestions as to chairmen for the committees on Child Welfare and Living Costs. Miss Lusk, Mrs. Cant and Mrs. Ringstad were named by the chair.

#### Young Voters and College Leagues

Miss Child reviewed the history of the college Leagues in Minnesota, of which there are four (St. Cloud, Moorhead, Winona, Hamline). Macalester has a committee on organization named last spring but the coming of a new Dean of Women to the college has since then held up the plan. A new college League at the University of Minnesota was reported as having been organized by a group of law and political science students. In classes on Modern Social Reform in the Sociology Department of the University, the League has been assigned as a topic for study by the class.

Mrs. Spear asked about dues for college Leagues. Miss Child reported that there is no specific National League recommendation on this subject. It is recommended that individual memberships or a group affiliation fee be paid to the state League. Subscription to the Woman Voter for each member is the only request made so far of our Minnesota college Leagues. Miss Wells suggested a flat quota of five dollars, more or less depending upon the size of the group, to be paid to the state League. Mrs. Spear thought the minimum payment from a college League to the state ought to cover the cost of sending a subscription to the Voter to each member.

Mrs. Wittich reported the House Party given recently by Mrs. McKnight, at her Criss Cross Cabin, to the members of the League group at the University. The work of the League was discussed by state officers and committee chairmen.

#### Distribution of "The Voter's Dream"

Mrs. McGuire's play dramatizing the plea to vote is being distributed in mimeographed form. The National League has a supply of copies and requests for it have been received here from various states including New York.



### Department Reports

Mrs. McGuire reported for the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War by giving the present status of the World Court. Mrs. Wittich's report for the Department of Efficiency in Government was a resume of the League's part in the last election. There followed general discussion of the League's policy of sending questionnaires to candidates and of whether more detailed information might be furnished the public by the League, on points not covered in the questionnaire.

### State Legislative Plans

The letter on the Child Labor Amendment recently sent over Miss Wells' signature to legislators was read by the secretary. The suggestion was made that One-Day Schools on the legislative measures might be recommended to local Leagues and planned in connection with organization work where no local League exists. There was discussion as to whether local speakers could be secured, qualified to discuss the legislative measures, and attention was called to the danger that local speakers might represent a personal prejudice in speaking rather than presenting the subject from an adequate background of information. Miss Monahan was asked to report on the travelling forum arranged by the Illinois League of Women Voters under the auspices of the joint legislative committee of Illinois with speakers on each subject in the legislative program. Miss Monahan, who was one of the speakers, said that one-day schools lasting from 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. were held in the leading town of five different districts in the state. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McGuire, second of Mrs. Dowling, that the chair name a member of the board to investigate the possibilities of such a plan in Minnesota. Mrs. McGuire was appointed to follow up this suggestion.

The desirability of having study groups on the legislative program in each local League was suggested in the discussion. Mrs. Wittich thought that the plan might be recommended to local Leagues of asking state legislators to speak before the League on legislative procedure at an open meeting.

Mrs. McKnight reported having interviewed Mr. Bellows of the W.C.C.O. radio station and secured his approval of weekly talks under League auspices during the winter months. The period allowed is half an hour and the board was agreed that 4:00 P.M. Tuesday was preferable to the 2:00 P.M. hour that we have had in the past. Mrs. McKnight said that the Executive Committee recommended dialogues instead of the usual talks as a method of presenting the information. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Spear, that a committee of six be appointed by the chair to pool ideas on dialogues and to be responsible for their preparation.

### Federal Legislation

Mrs. J. M. Gaus reported that, following a request from Miss Sherwin that the state League plan to have U. S. senators and representatives informed of the maternity and infancy work in the state before their return to Washington, the Executive Committee delegated to her responsibility for the immediate work necessary to reach the senators. Mrs. Gaus stated that it had been impossible to reach Senator Schall, because of illness, but that written material will be sent him at his request. An interview was arranged for Senator Shipstead with Dr. Boynton, in her office, to enable him to see how the work is administered there. The interview proved, in Mrs. Gaus' opinion, most worthwhile. Mrs. Gaus recommended that further effort be made to arrange for an interview with each congressman by a member of the League and a local physician in close touch with the work in the state, in order to enlist their active interest in talking with members of the Senate who will vote upon the measure in December. At the request of the chair, Miss Child read the names of representatives from each congressional district and agreement was reached as to a representative of the League in each district, to be responsible for carrying out the plan suggested. Mrs. Colby agreed to assist by writing, or asking Dr. Colby to write, to physicians known to be favorable to the work in certain of the districts.

### Other Business

A letter from Miss Sherwin was read by the secretary asking that delegates be appointed to represent the state League at the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War in Washington, December 5-10. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dietrichson, second of Miss Lusk, that Mrs. Paige be named as a delegate. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McGuire, second of Mrs. Spear, that Mrs. McKnight be named as a second delegate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary

35  
Sund St Board

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
December 10, 1926

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Thorp, 4428 Fremont Avenue South, Minneapolis, on December 10.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 A.M., Miss Wells presiding. Members of the State Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. McAnight, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Ueland, Miss Lusk, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Botsford, Mrs. Ringstad, Mrs. Ramsey, and Mrs. Cant. There were also present Miss Merrill, Miss Beggin, Mrs. John R. Parkes, Mrs. Griswold and Miss Child.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Miss Child in the absence of Mrs. Colby and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported a balance of \$979.68, November 1, and receipts during the month amounting to \$1002.22, of which \$668.08 was in quota receipts. Disbursements amounted to \$1231.00 of which \$458.05 was in salaries and \$162.00 for the national quota, leaving a balance December 1 of \$750.90. Bills payable were reported amounting to \$323.01. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ueland, second of Mrs. McAnight, that the report be accepted and the bills allowed.

The Woman Voter

Miss Child reported Mr. Keller's decision that he cannot continue to publish the Woman Voter under the present arrangement since the advertising does not reimburse him for the cost of publication. Mrs. Wittich suggested that it might be well for the League to attempt to finance the Voter by securing political advertising before each election. The soliciting of advertising from candidates by those qualified to tell them about the work of the League is worthwhile to bring the League to their attention. Mrs. Wittich suggested an arrangement with the Minneapolis League by which the local League would receive the commission on ads they might secure from candidates before the primary election next spring, thus affording a source of income for both the city and the state League. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Miss Lusk, that the plan suggested by Mrs. Wittich be approved and followed up in the future, and that, while waiting for a written communication from Mr. Keller, tentative inquiries be made as to the possibilities of printing the Voter in Minneapolis. It was suggested that our first approach should be to Mr. Kranhold since he had proved so satisfactory in the past.

Report of Field Secretary

Miss Beggin reported field trips during the period since the last board meeting as follows:

- 2nd District - Janesville, Mankato
- 3rd District - West St. Paul, Chaska, Young America, Farmington, Shakopee, and Norwood
- 10th District - Columbia Heights

Young America, in the Third District, has lost the teachers who were the active members of the League and who have removed to Norwood. She therefore recommended that Young America be dropped from our list of local Leagues. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Dowling, that Miss Beggin's recommendation be approved by the board. A new League in Norwood will replace Young America in the roll of Third District Leagues.

Reports by District Chairmen

First District - Mrs. Botsford reported that the Winona League had Mrs. Wittich as speaker at its meeting on December 13. The study groups that were formed last spring will resume work after the holidays using the program of League legislative measures.

Third District - Mrs. Ringstad reported the election of a new chairman of the local League in Northfield to take the place she has been holding until a chairman could



be secured. Plans have been made for Northfield to join with the Faribault League in interviewing state legislators before their departure for St. Paul.

Fourth District - Miss Lusk reported that the Ramsey County League has been holding a series of legislative luncheons for committee and board members, with an attendance of about 30 at each luncheon, the object being to review measures in the legislative program. Miss Lusk reported a very successful luncheon meeting late in November in cooperation with the Association of Commerce with Chester H. Rowell as speaker. She estimated that 150 out of 229 attending were not League members.

Fifth District - Mrs. McKnight reported that study groups on the legislative program have been forming rapidly in many wards of the city as the result of Mrs. Bryan's efforts. A speakers' file is being organized with the names of those who become equipped to speak on individual measures. The Minneapolis League luncheon for Mrs. Landes, mayor of Seattle, was reported as exceedingly stimulating in its emphasis upon the importance of city government. Mrs. McKnight reported plans for entertaining members of the Hennepin County delegation in the coming legislature at luncheon, with speakers to explain the measures in the League legislative program. The series of five lectures on the international situation by Professor Quigley of the University resulted in a net income to the League of approximately \$200. The plan in the Minneapolis League of arranging for all-day board meetings three times a year in which the work of each of the three departments of work is featured in the afternoon session, was mentioned as a successful plan.

Seventh District - Mrs. Dowling reported that the Olivia League in Renville County has communicated by letter with each representative and senator in the U. S. Congress in regard to renewal of the Sheppard-Towner appropriation and also with the members of the state legislature in regard to measures in the state League program. She read a letter from the chairman of the Atwater League reporting upon local League activities.

#### Federal Legislation

In the absence of Mrs. Gaus, Miss Child reported upon further work in behalf of the renewal of the federal maternity and infancy appropriation. A letter was sent each congressman over Miss Wells' signature together with a statement on the work in Minnesota prepared by Dr. Ruth Boynton and, in certain instances, interviews were arranged with physicians in touch with the work.

At the request of the chair, a communication was read from Miss Morgan of the National League to her department chairmen asking that resolutions urging the president to continue negotiations in behalf of the World Court be sent to National League headquarters. The chair reported word from Miss Harrison of the National League, in answer to a message asking what form action for the court now should take, in which the action of the National League Executive Committee in addressing an official communication to the president was reported, together with the committee's recommendation that letters of this type be sent also by state and local Leagues. It was agreed that the state board should address a similar communication to the president and that a committee of two appointed by the chair should be asked to prepare the wording of the letter. Mrs. Ueland and Miss Lusk were named by the chair and reported the following recommendations: "that the secretary be authorized to write to the president of the United States reaffirming our support of the entry of the United States into the World Court and respectfully urging that he continue negotiations for the purpose of making adjustments that will permit American adherence to the Permanent Court of International Justice". IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Ringstad, to authorize the letter as recommended.

There was further discussion whether other letters should go from Minnesota and IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ueland, second of Mrs. McKnight, that the Leagues in the larger cities (the Twin Cities, Duluth and Minnola) be asked to send a communication from their boards to the president.

#### State Legislation

Miss Child reported discussion in the Executive Committee in regard to responsibility for legislative work, resulting in the recommendation that Mrs. C. E. Shafer

of Minneapolis be named to assist Mrs. Ueland in clearing information from the legislature to state headquarters. Tentative assignment of responsibility for the various measures was reported with the state League chairmen for each subject in general charge, under Mrs. Ueland, of legislative work. Chairmen of similar committees in local Leagues will be asked to assist. Mrs. Wittich commented that the most important work for measures in her department would consist in educational work throughout the state rather than in direct lobbying at the state capitol.

Miss Lusk reported for the committee consisting of herself and Mrs. McGuire, asked by the Executive Committee to interview the governor on the appointment of a woman to the Industrial Commission. The interview was obtained a few days ago. The term of office of Mr. Williams, at present acting as chairman of the commission, expires in July 1927. The requirements for his successor, are that the appointment be made from Minneapolis and that it shall be someone acceptable to labor, which is the group Mr. Williams has represented on the commission.

#### Opinions on the success of Woman Suffrage

The chair reported a communication from the National League asking for the cooperation of the state League in securing for the use of Mrs. Catt, in the campaign for woman suffrage in Japan, opinions from leading public officials, judges and educators, on the success of woman suffrage in this country. No publicity is to be given this undertaking until the mass of opinion is assembled in Washington. It was agreed that Minnesota should supply at least 200 opinions, that they should be secured by personal interview rather than by letter, and that only those that were easy to secure should be attempted. It was agreed that Minneapolis and St. Paul might be asked to supply 50 opinions each, Duluth 25, and each local League, 2 each. In addition it was agreed that each board member should try to obtain five opinions by individual effort.

#### Committee Vacancies

Miss Lusk, chairman of the committee named to suggest possible chairmen for the committee vacancies, reported the recommendation of Mrs. Myra Griswold of Minneapolis for the committee on Child Welfare. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Cant, that Mrs. Griswold be named Child Welfare committee chairman.

Mrs. Wittich reported having, at the suggestion of the Executive Committee, talked with Miss Martha Botsford while in Winona recently, in regard to the chairmanship of the Living Costs Committee. Miss Botsford has an excellent background for the work of this committee through the work she did at Smith College previous to her graduation last June. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Ramsey, to ask Miss Botsford to accept appointment to this committee.

A letter from Miss Josephine Benz submitting her resignation as Young Voter chairman was read, the reason for her resignation being her approaching marriage. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ramsey, second of Mrs. Ueland, to accept the resignation.

#### Vacancy in Sixth District Chairmanship

The chair reported that Miss Ruth Mitchell will remain in St. Cloud during the coming year. It was agreed that Miss Telle should write her to learn whether she will consider accepting appointment as chairman of the Sixth District.

#### Young Voters

Miss Beggin reported the organization of a League of Women Voters at the Mankato State Teachers College, as the result of a general talk at the assembly hour in November and a follow-up visit in December. She had the active cooperation of Mrs. Fraser, dean of women. The question was asked by Mrs. Bryan whether the quota of the University League should be paid to the state or to the Minneapolis League. This aroused again the question of quota payments by college Leagues, no definite ruling having been made by the board on the subject. Miss Child asked whether local League chairmen letters should be sent to college Leagues as has been done.

Mrs. Ramsey asked about the plans for a special Young Voters issue of the Woman Voter. Mrs. Wittich suggested that we might be able to arrange for a conference in January of delegates from college Leagues, to consider together the question of college League quotas, the Young Voters issue of the Voter and to plan for a visit to the legislature.

Mrs. Wittich reported the results of a questionnaire sent to secretaries of state to secure information on Direct Primary laws. Miss Lawrence discussed problems connected with educational measures in the legislative program.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary Pro Tem



300 pgs

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. Edward Ringstad, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
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Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

January 4th,  
1927

My dear Board Member:

The board of the Ramsey County League has invited the state board to hold its next regular meeting on Friday, January 14, in St. Paul, at the home of Mrs. John M. Guise. The meeting is called at 10:30 A.M. and will be an all-day meeting.

Mrs. Guise's home is at 2214 Goodrich Avenue, two blocks from the end of the Groveland Park carline. This carline can be reached by transferring at Grand Avenue from the crosstown carline on Snelling. We shall be glad to try to arrange for transportation from this office for out of town members who let us know that they will plan to be here at ten o'clock Friday morning.

Your attention is called to the minutes of the last two board meetings which are enclosed.

The board of the Ramsey County League will entertain the state board at luncheon on the day of the meeting. Please let us know as early as possible whether we may count on your attendance.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms  
Encs.

1-4-27 100 copies. Sent with note. See later page 1-25-27  
1-26-27-75 copies

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1927

#### STATE REFUND FOR COUNTY ALLOWANCES TO MOTHERS

Note: A leaflet ("The County Allowance") published by the Minnesota League of Women Voters in 1921, contains supplementary information on the state law governing the payment of allowances to mothers. It is recommended for the use of study groups and may be ordered at 5¢ a copy or 10 copies for 25¢.

The law providing for the payment of county allowances to mothers, often referred to as "The Mothers' Pension Law", was adopted in the Minnesota Legislature of 1913. Minnesota was one of the first states to adopt such a law although Alaska, Hawaii and 42 states in the United States now have a similar law.

A provision added to the law in 1917, has been inoperative since its passage. It requires that the state refund to counties one-third of all expenditures for allowances granted under the law. The League of Women Voters has supported, in each session of the legislature beginning with 1921, a request for an appropriation to finance the refund. The Appropriations Committees of the two houses have in each legislature, failed to incorporate the refund in the final appropriation bill.

The Children's Bureau of the State Board of Control is the agent of the state in all activities having to do with dependent children. It is the Children's Bureau, therefore, that will present the request to the 1927 legislature for an appropriation to provide the necessary money for the refund. The amount asked of the 1925 legislature, covering one-third for county expenditures for the previous biennium (1923-1924), amounted to \$575,000. The request to be submitted to the 1927 legislature will cover one-third of county expenditures for 1925 and 1926 which, it is estimated, will be approximately \$625,000.

#### The County Allowance Law

The law resulted from the recognition that the state has an obligation to destitute mothers with small children who must have assistance from some source if the children are to be properly reared. The future citizens of a state are among its most valuable assets and social and economic interest as well as humanitarian impulses prompted the adoption of this law by the states. Legislators realized that the greatest spur to county action lay in the provision for the one-third refund from the state treasury. They realized too that such expenditure is justified by the state's concern in the welfare of its future citizens.

The purpose of the law has sometimes been misunderstood as being to provide for a payment to widowed mothers whatever her other resources might be. It is not contemplated by the law that allowances shall be granted except in instances where the mother's ability to keep her children together in the home and to discharge her duty to them is dependent upon outside aid. Under such circumstances the payment of an allowance from a fund in which the county is expected to contribute two-thirds and the state one-third assures to the mother the financial assistance which she must have while her children are small, without the stigma of "charity".

An important amendment to the law was adopted by the 1925 legislature to assist a mother in keeping her children in school up to the age of 16. Under the original law the allowance was paid only for children under 16 "not lawfully entitled to apply for and receive an employment certificate". Since children over 14 who have completed the grades are lawfully entitled to an employment certificate, a bright child who might profit by remaining in school until 16 was the one for whom no allowance was paid, while those unsuccessful in school were maintained there up to the age of 16. The amendment provided that the allowance may be paid for a child under 16 "who is regularly attending school or who through physical or mental disability is unable to be employed".

The law is administered by the Juvenile Court judge in counties of over 33,000 population and by the probate judge in other counties. An exceedingly important development in the administration of the law in the larger counties is the service established for the assistance of the mother in meeting the problems, financial and other, resulting from her lack of a helpmate. The allowances paid



are not only minimum; they are inadequate. This means that the most skillful budgeting of income is important and that some supplementary earning on the mother's part is necessary. It is therefore most important that she have advice and assistance in planning her expenditures and in selecting foods that will nourish her family properly at minimum cost, as well as to help her earn additional income in some way that will not deprive the children of her care and supervision. This service is given by a paid staff of social workers attached to the Juvenile Court in the large counties and may be given by the volunteer members of the County Child Welfare Board in other counties.

The average monthly allowance per child has increased in amount from \$7.70 in 1922 to \$8.10 in 1925. Aid was given in 1925 to 3,029 mothers in the state for 9,465 children under 16 years.

#### Why The Refund?

The reason for including the refund provision in the original law was to enable the state to cooperate with the individual counties electing to make expenditures under the law, so that each county might have the advantage of the experience accumulated in this state and other states as to ways of safeguarding such payments to make them most helpful and effective.

Inquiry that has been made into the administration of the law in various counties shows that, while in general it is well administered, there are instances of flagrant mal-administration as well as of poor administration. In some counties, in place of a thorough investigation, the judge has relied upon the opinions of neighbors, public officials and people prominent in the community as a guide in granting the allowances. Routine grants of small sums have been made to every applicant, so that money has been paid to those not properly entitled to receive aid, while mothers in real need have suffered because of the inadequacy of the allowance.

If the supervision of the Board of Control, through its Children's Bureau, were made possible through a refund to counties maintaining certain standards in the payment of allowances to mothers, it would surely tend to bring about a thorough investigation of the applicants for aid and a better system of supervision in the expenditure of the money. The Children's Bureau maintains field agents for the purpose of assisting local counties and conferring with county Child Welfare Boards in problems affecting dependent, delinquent or defective children. It is obvious, however, that in many instances county officials may overlook or fail to avail themselves of this assistance unless it is to their interest to do so, as would be the case under payment of the refund.

Opposition in the legislature to the refund has been partly due to the misunderstanding that reimbursement by the state to counties will be of greater benefit to taxpayers in the large cities than to those in rural communities. A careful statistical analysis of the figures shows, however, that expenditures in the counties in which the three first-class cities are located compared with expenditures in all other counties differs by such a small fraction as to be negligible. Opposition is also based on the recognition that the millage tax necessary to provide for the refund would in certain counties draw from the county more money than it would receive back by the refund. A computation made on the basis of figures for 1923 and 1924 shows that in a group of 82 of the then 86 counties of the state, there were 40 that would gain by the refund and 42 that would lose by it.

It is a very short-sighted policy, however, that looks to an immediate financial advantage to justify all legislative action. In this as in simpler expenditures it is easy to be "a penny wise, a pound foolish". To the taxpayer, it makes very little difference whether expenditures are made through state or county treasuries. The taxpayer only wants assurance that expenditures from either source are made under supervision that will eliminate waste and insure adequate return. In 1925 all but three counties in the state paid county allowances to mothers amounting to a total of \$920,128.20. The taxpayer is concerned that expenditures of such size shall be properly safeguarded. This can only be assured by providing, through the refund, for the authorized service of the Children's Bureau to every county in the state.

100 copies  
10-26-24  
15 copies  
1-26-27

Sent with covering note. See later page 1-25-27

#### MARRIAGE LEGISLATION

Abstract of an Address by Miss Joanna Colcord,  
General Secretary, Minneapolis Family Welfare Association  
At the Minnesota League of Women Voters Convention, Oct. 1926

Opposition to the attempt to bring about more careful and socially desirable marriage through law results from the mistaken premise that marriage is not a social concern. As a matter of fact marriage customs for as long back as we know anything about them, have always recognized the concern of the state, or the tribal group, in the marriage relation. It is also due to a lack of first hand knowledge of the burden to society and of the human tragedies involved in hasty marriage, the marriage of the immature, or of the socially unfit.

Changes in the marriage laws of various states have been opposed on the one hand by conservatives who felt that the state's interest was a blow at parental or religious control of the mating of the young, or who feared that delays in permission to marry might result in an increase of illegitimate births. On the other hand they have been opposed by liberals on the score that marriage was a private affair, and that to attempt to control it was unwarrantable interference with the liberty of the individual. Lawyers have opposed them because they threatened changes in inheritance laws; tradesmen and others who had a vested interest in the business side of marrying have opposed them out of pocket-fear. It is no wonder that little remedial legislation has successfully passed our legislatures.

Common Law People in general believe, I think, that there is some new encroachment Marriage in legislative control of marriage. But it is not so. Consider, for instance, common law marriage. This is a legal tradition inherited with the English common law but abolished in England by legislative enactment in 1753, long before the American colonial period. It had been illegal in the other countries of Europe for three hundred years before that time. Most of the New England states and Virginia - our earliest communities - have never recognized it. It has disappeared from the face of the earth except in a number of American states, mostly those in the south and middle west, Minnesota being one. As a matter of fact there are only five states that have laws sanctioning common law marriage. In 26 states, however, common law marriages are recognized by court decision.

Why was the common law marriage, abolished in the mother country before the United States was born, revived in the latest settled of our states? Partly, perhaps, because the mobility and unsettled character of pioneer life disturbed the earlier standards. But Otto Koegel, a lawyer who has been a deep student of this subject, lays the blame squarely at the doors of the legal profession. He says, "The doctrine of the common law marriage has no place in American law. The doctrine developed gradually in this country, after it had been thrown overboard everywhere else, by reason of poorly considered decisions blindly following precedents which themselves bear no evidence of any consideration at all. It could have and should have been rejected as many other principles of English law were rejected as inapplicable to our institutions and government."

Common law marriage depends upon the proof of a private agreement, and upon a successful duping of the public, for its claim to being a marriage at all. For the curious fact is that unless the partners in a common law marriage "hold themselves out" to be ceremonially married, and are so esteemed to be by their neighbors, the marriage will not stand the test of law. Such arrangements are nowhere recorded, of course, and the private agreements are not usually made in writing, so that they are exceedingly difficult to establish in court. Until a common law marriage has been passed upon by the court, its validity must remain a matter of doubt. Persons who know of the existence of legal barriers to their ceremonial marriage will often not hesitate to enter into these freer relations, since the risk of conviction for bigamy when one of the marriages was uncereimonial and unrecorded is small. A common law wife often has to base her claim to wifehood and to the legitimacy of her children upon such imponderables as whether the husband really meant in his own heart to regard the arrangement as a marriage or whether she was accepted unquestioningly by the neighbors as his wife.

It is not too much to say that states in which common law marriage is recognized have abrogated their right and their duty to oversee and record all marriages which are to be regarded as legal. They sanction, in effect, two kinds of marriages, one of unquestionable, the other of doubtful validity. According to Gresham's law, if two systems of currency of different basic value circulate in the same community at the same time, the baser of the two tends to drag the finer down to its own level.



Mr. Koegel, in his exhaustive study of common law relationships says, "During the World War there was within the organization of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance the largest court of domestic relations in the world. The enlisted men in the military and naval service were compelled to support their families while in service unless granted exemption for good cause shown. I am in a position to say that most of these alleged marriages are but meretricious relationships, for the convenience of the parties alone, and in a large percentage of the cases the reason no formal celebration of the marriage was had is because one or the other, and in many cases both, of the parties were already married but not divorced from a former spouse. There is nearly always a ghost in the closet. Moreover, very few, if any, of these persons really believe they are married. If we adopt as a sine qua non to the validity of these marriages the belief of the parties that a divorce is necessary to dissolve the relationship (and it is necessary) then there are no common law marriages. We have already seen, however, that they need not believe themselves married 'in the eyes of the law'. \* \* \*

"The usual argument advanced in favor of these unions is that they render the children legitimate. But the fact is overlooked that a great number of these unions are not and were not intended to be permanent. The parties just 'quit' as they call it, and then go through a marriage ceremony with someone else. If the first union is held a marriage in order to legitimize the children, the children of the subsequent formal union must be bastardized."

Age of Common law marriage is usually entered into not by the immature, but by Consent the experienced and adult, who may be presumed to stand in less need of protection than children. But in twenty of our states, including Minnesota, girls may legally marry at fifteen or younger. In most of these states, a child is permitted by law to become one of the heads of a family before she is permitted by the same state's laws to work. But to painfully lax laws on this point, is often added painfully lax enforcement in the states that have stricter laws. It is a mistake to suppose, as many do, that the sole cause of these precipitate early marriages is the pregnancy of the girl. Many other causes enter into the eagerness or the willingness of some parents to transfer their daughter to other hands. And it is also a mistake to suppose that most of these marriages are among the foreign-born. Miss Richmond (in her book, Child Marriages) shows that nearly as large a proportion of native girls of native parentage marry in their teens as do foreign-born of foreign parents, while the American-born of foreign parents marry later than either. She estimates well over half a million people in this country today who were parties to a marriage in which one of them was under fifteen.

Waiting The perils of child marriage are, however, enormously increased in states Period like Minnesota, which have no period of delay between the application for and the granting of a marriage license. Child marriage and hasty marriage make a dangerous and too common combination. Conscientious parents - and the majority of parents are conscientious - might feel some safeguard for their own children even when the marriageable age was low, if some days intervened to allow the young people time for sober second thought. But as it is, there is ground for great anxiety on the part of all parents, however careful, who have attractive and headstrong children growing up.

Conclusion To sum up - there are three important changes, as well as some minor ones I have not time to discuss, which should be made in Minnesota's marriage laws. The blot of common law marriage should be erased from our scutcheon; children should not be allowed to marry at least until they are old enough to go to work, and all candidates for marriage should have to take at least five days to think their decision over before a license should issue.

30 copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
January 14, 1927

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

ORGANIZATION

Field Report

Reports by District Chairmen

Young Voters

Board Vacancies

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATION

Federal - Miss Owen

State - Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Guise,  
Mrs. McGuire *child before marriage laws*

*General Reg.*

Radio Program

CONFERENCE ON CAUSE AND CURE OF WAR

Report by Mrs. James Paige

OTHER BUSINESS



105 copies.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
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Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District

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Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

January 15th,  
1927

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Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Dear Local League Chairman:

The first paragraph of this letter is sent you instead of a telegram in the hope that you will receive it almost as promptly on Monday. Here it is.

**RADIO DIALOGUES:** On Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. the Child Labor Amendment dialogue "The Family Takes Notice" is to be broadcasted from WCCO. The parts of mother and daughter are to be taken by League members, the father and son parts are to be taken by League husbands! You ought to arrange tea parties to listen to this program. It is pretty late notice but is there not some League member with a radio who can even now invite in a few neighbors or friends who would enjoy the dialogue and profit by it? These dialogues on subjects of League legislation are being presented over WCCO every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. A league member who attended a party for the last one - on the Primary - declared she never before understood the Primary. The dialogue way of presentation is effective.

**GOOD NEWS:** Yesterday afternoon while the state board was shaking its head mournfully over the delay in the United States Senate in passing the Sheppard-Towner renewal act, news was on the way to us that it had passed! Now with confidence we can ask our legislature for a state appropriation to entitle us to receive the federal appropriation.

**A SMALL SHARE IN A BIG UNDERTAKING:** Mrs. Catt who, having led American women on to enfranchisement is helping women all over the world to win the suffrage, has one of her big ideas. She wants to send to the women of a certain country which for the present shall be anonymous, a great mass of opinions from public officials favorable to women as voters. Minnesota has undertaken to contribute 200 such opinions and your League is asked to secure two of these. Will you consult other League officers or members, decide upon two or more men whom you know to be favorable, choose the right women to approach each one and ask him to write and sign an opinion favorable to woman suffrage. He may say that women have done well as voters or that they are more conscientious than men or help win good legislation or anything else that he wishes. He may be an elected or appointed official - a county commissioner, a mayor, a city clerk, a legislator, a judge, a member of the school board - it makes little difference. Two things are important - no publicity and promptness. Can you do this work by February 1? Get two opinions at least - get more if convenient.

With my wishes for a happy and successful year of League work, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms

126 copies - Jan 15, 1927

sent with note. See later page

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1630 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1927

#### APPROPRIATION FOR MATERNITY AND INFANCY WORK IN MINNESOTA

Note: It is recommended that study groups plan supplementary reading on the subject of federal aid. Material may be ordered from League headquarters as follows: "Federal Aid" in the Current Questions in Government Series (5 cents); "Federal Aid to the States" by Dorothy Kirchwey Brown (20 cents).

The passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act by Congress in November 1921 provided for federal aid to the states for maternal and infant hygiene and authorized an appropriation for the five-year period ending June 30, 1927. A two-year renewal of the appropriation is now assured by Congressional action through passage of the bill in the House last April and in the Senate on January 13.

The republic will thus continue to share with the state the responsibility for improving the situation in this country under which the United States ranks eighth among civilized nations in the rate of infant mortality and seventeenth in maternal mortality. Forty-three states and Hawaii are now carrying on work under the Sheppard-Towner Act.

Minnesota had no organized child hygiene work before the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act and was one of the first states to accept the Act. The state program of work dates from July 1, 1922. The Minnesota legislature of 1923 appropriated \$15,000 a year for the biennium period between legislatures. This was not sufficient to match the maximum federal aid available to Minnesota. The 1925 legislature, however, raised the appropriation to \$21,000 a year, thus securing the maximum federal allotment. Minnesota has also had the federal gift of \$5000 each year provided to states accepting the act.

An appropriation request will be submitted from the State Board of Health to the 1927 legislature to provide for financing the state work for the next biennium - June 30, 1927 to June 30, 1929. The League of Women Voters will support, as it has done in previous sessions, the request that is submitted.

Maternal as well as infant hygiene work becomes increasingly important since it is now recognized that a very considerable portion of all deaths of infants under one year of age occur, during the first month of life, from causes that have their origin in the care and condition of mothers during pregnancy and confinement. The mortality among infants of mothers who died either immediately following childbirth or within one year has been found to be between four and five times, and that from causes peculiar to early infancy over seven times the corresponding rates among other babies. It is also recognized that the deaths of mothers from causes connected with childbirth are now largely preventable. The needless waste of life among mothers and babies due to ignorance and isolation may therefore be prevented by such work as that for which we seek a renewed appropriation from our 1927 Minnesota legislature.

In reply to the objections recently heard to the use of federal aid to stimulate state activities in the interest of the general welfare, facts may be cited to show that the expenditure for maternity and infancy work is the least item in both the federal and state budgets of federal aid. We second the statement of the New York League of Women Voters, "All we can say is that if, as some of our officials tell us, 'it's time to call a halt' on all such beneficent government activities, begin with something big. Don't start to reform with the neediest group and the smallest expenditure!"

The figures for Minnesota showing the amounts received by this state from the federal government during 1925 are as follows:

Highways	\$3,115,480	67.5%
National Guard	1,000,000	22.0
Education	422,720	9.2
Forests and Fire Prevention	33,740	.7
Maternity and Infancy	30,049	.6



In Minnesota in 1925

3,226 babies died under one year of age  
279 mothers died from causes related to childbirth

The work carried on in Minnesota has been under the direction of the Division of Child Hygiene of the State Board of Health. The staff of the division consists of the director, Dr. Ruth E. Boynton, and a superintendent of public health nursing, five field nurses, an educational agent, and the necessary clerical and stenographic help. The activities are limited, as is the intent of the law, to those of an educational nature, endeavoring to decrease the maternal and infant death rates and improve the health of mothers and babies. Activities representative of the scope and type of work, as reported for 1925, are given here.

Demonstrations of the preparations necessary for home confinement and in the care and feeding of the baby given by the field nurses 202 demonstrations in 50 counties

Clinics by specialists and the director assisted by the nurses 918 expectant mothers visited by the nurses

a. Prenatal clinics - at which expectant mothers are examined and taught the importance of going to their physicians for regular care 130 expectant mothers examined at clinics

b. Infant clinics - at which babies are examined, the mothers informed of any defects found and the general care of the baby discussed with the mother 234 white children examined  
179 Indian children examined

Lectures on various aspects of the care of the young child given by the director and field nurses 46 lectures in 31 counties

Correspondence Course in the Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy - a course of fifteen lessons sent out through the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota 1,508 women registered

Prenatal letters, a series of nine monthly letters sent on request to expectant mothers 1,819 new names referred

Distribution of other literature on prenatal, infant and child care 157,565 pieces distributed

Child Hygiene lectures in the Public Health Nursing Course of the University and in the State Teachers Colleges by the nurses 81 lectures

What Mothers Say

Hundreds of letters are received by Dr. Boynton from mothers indicating their need of such help as provided in the courses outlined above. The following extracts are typical:

"I would like to know if you can help me out. I expect a baby in January and we live in the woods so I couldn't go to no hospital. I wish you would please send me information about everything. If you cannot do this would you please tell me of someone that would."

I have been receiving your letters and have received much good from them. I would like to have your booklet on Care of the Baby. I have three other children but still have many things to learn. Thanking you for past favors."

"I am writing to tell you that the course is absolutely wonderful - one cannot read a lesson without getting a vast amount of good from it. I wish every mother could read the lessons and get the knowledge and benefit that is contained in them."

Jan 22  
150 copies  
New stencil cut Apr. 1930 - 100 run

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
Department of Efficiency in Government

January 1927

### HOW MINNESOTA REORGANIZED HER STATE ADMINISTRATION

Note: This article by Mrs. F. W. Wittich, originally prepared at the request of the California Tax Digest and published in its January 1926 issue, furnishes a background for an understanding of the plan of government now operating in Minnesota under the law passed in 1925. The article "Our Big Business" by Mrs. Wittich in the December issue of the Minnesota Woman Voter supplements the facts in this article and should be read in connection with it.

#### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

"Governments in every civilized country are now moving toward the ideal of an expert administration controlled by an alert and intelligent public opinion." - G. Lowes Dickinson.

Public opinion must become alert, if government is to have expert administration; and it must have expert administration, if it is to meet the demands made upon it by the public at the cost the public is willing to pay in taxation. During the past century, phenomenal growth has taken place in this country: the frontiers have vanished; population has increased enormously and has shifted from agrarian to urban; industry has developed to vast proportions; science has advanced; and the new field of preventive medicine has come into existence.

Public opinion may be slow to crystallize into anything definite, but every so often it demands certain government regulation and control in these various new fields. What it demands through the ballot it ultimately gets; and, every time it gets something additional, there is so much additional cost for it to pay. It is growing and its "growing pains" are taxation. Growth is natural; without it we stagnate or die. Therefore, we must find a way of growing so normally and healthily and at such a reasonable price as we can afford to pay. And such a price for most of our state governments involves a complete reorganization of administrative departments.

First Attempts at Reorganization: In 1911, Governor Eberhart submitted a plan of coordination, simplification and centralization of administrative departments when he suggested a four-department division for Minnesota, which the legislature defeated. Two years later, he appointed an efficiency and economy commission, with some of the state's ablest men as members, who prepared an exhaustive governmental survey, with a plan for a complete reorganization on a functional basis, involving the cabinet plan with six departments. This plan was also defeated, but it furnished valuable material upon which reorganization plans have been accomplished in other states. Certain piecemeal legislation did, however, grow out of that work in the form of a budget bill that was not operable, a school code for public education that is proving effective, and legislative changes affecting the board of control and the railroad and warehouse commission.

The 1923 legislature appointed a committee on state reorganization. This committee did some work and held some meetings, but, of course, in the stress of other legislature pressure, was unable to make a survey or offer a plan to that legislature. At this time, citizen interest, which had never entirely failed this movement, made itself felt again, with the new stimulus of the active interest of women, which resulted in the passage of a House resolution bringing into existence an Interim Committee of five members, to investigate all administrative departments of state government and make a report to the next legislature. A similar resolution for the Senate failed of introduction so that hopes for a joint committee were lost.

The Interim Committee's Plan of Work: The members of this committee were Speaker W. I. Nolan, chairman, now Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota; Theodore Christianson, for several sessions chairman of the appropriations committee of the House, now Governor of Minnesota; W. I. Norton, J. B. Gislason, and Henry J. Spindler.

On account of the very limited amount of money at its disposal, about \$8,000, the Committee decided to do most of its own work. Its first procedure was to ask every department to furnish a report in the form of answers to questions as to its history, organization, number and recruitment of employes, finances, purchasing methods, and comments upon the possible advantages of reorganization changes.

Following the receipt of this information, the committee conducted a series of public hearings, where representatives from the state departments appeared to discuss their work, after which the Committee began to assemble its material preparatory to



making a report and recommending a plan. This was interjected by a short trip East by two members of the committee to visit several states that had effected reorganization changes, notably Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Two reports were submitted to the legislature, a minority report presented by Mr. Spindler, and a majority report signed by the other members of the committee. These reports were followed by bills of administrative codes. We shall confine ourselves to a discussion of the bill that grew out of the majority report which finally passed the 1925 legislature with various amendments.

The Public Hearings: Sitting in at the series of public hearings conducted by the Interim Committee developed from a duty to a privilege in the opportunity to acquire first-hand knowledge of Minnesota's government functions from its administrators.

It was a disappointment to find out how few of our department heads were interested in reorganization of government. As these men came before the Committee to review their work, the observer was many times reminded of the fable of the three stone crushers with their widely divergent answers to the same question, "What are you doing?" To which the first one answered, "I'm cracking stone." And the second one replied, "I'm earning a living." And the third one, "I'm helping to build a temple."

The department heads who dissembled about giving the information required by the Committee concerning their work certainly had no more vision for real service than the man who was just cracking stone. The ones who knew nothing about how affairs similar to theirs were being administered in other states were doing no more than earning their livings, perhaps not even that much. But those who came with constructive suggestions, growing out of their experience for improved administration of state departments by reorganization, were actually helping to build the state into a permanent structure.

Minnesota Takes Account of Stock: A series of incongruous facts about Minnesota's administrative system was forcibly illustrated at those hearings.

The number of administrative departments totalled 92.

There was no standardization of agencies as to personnel, duties and powers, or finance. Inspectional services overlapped in a fashion that at times was ridiculous.

There was no central place for the registration records of the examining boards, and some of them even handled their own funds in their own way. Each department had its own system of bookkeeping, recruitment for office and salary scales, so that stenographers in some departments were receiving twice as much salary as those in others, and so on down the list.

Some departments were able to rent commodious quarters down town in which to conduct their affairs, while others were getting along in very cramped quarters. And almost every department acknowledged trying to get as much money from the legislature as it possibly could, and spending all it got, and some of them always demanded deficiency appropriations.

Many incidents arose illustrating carelessness in the use of public funds. One man admitted having taken three men from his department with him to a convention in New York City, where they stayed at a high-priced hotel, extending their time beyond that of the convention, and then enjoying a further jaunt to Washington, presumably on state business. Again, another department head who also happened to be secretary for a citizen society receiving state aid, acknowledged having diverted funds for other purposes than those for which they were appropriated, with the naive explanation, "But we did not need all the money appropriated for that purpose and the law does not mean what it says." The public money was well safeguarded and carefully handled, and no evidences of graft were discovered; but such small carelessnesses as these mean a constant leakage that can and should be stopped.

There had never been much of an attempt to have uniform agencies, so that there were some 16 single-headed departments, 30 boards with members serving part time, 6 with members on full time, 18 ex-officio boards, 4 ex-officio and appointive boards, and 16 societies receiving state aid. There was a tremendous amount of overlapping as to function also, 6 agencies devoting their attention to educational activities, 9 to industry, business and labor, 5 to the militia and navy, 10 to public domain, 23 to public health and welfare, 21 to agriculture, 9 to finances, and 10 others to miscellaneous activities. James Bryce's comment, "The American state is a peculiar organization, unlike anything in modern Europe or the ancient world," was indeed literally applicable to our situation in Minnesota as disclosed at that time.

## II. REORGANIZATION LEGISLATION

The report of the Interim Committee to the 1925 legislature respected certain traditions of the state about some of the departments, so that the plan was not uniform. When new departments were formed it was proposed to place them in charge of a single executive, but when old ones were retained, they were not radically changed. The plan provided for a consolidation of the 92 state agencies into 12 major departments as to functions, for standardization and classification of employment, and for centralized control of finances. It made no recommendations that involved constitutional changes.

The report was followed by a bill in the form of an administrative code introduced into both the House and the Senate. This was referred to their civil administration committees respectively, whose chief concern it became for many weeks. The governor strengthened his position by refusing to make any appointments until its fate was determined.

When it came out for debate, in the Senate first, observers thrilled to the dramatic incidents enacted there. For the controversy over it is conceded as the bitterest fight waged in the Senate within the memory of the oldest veteran of that body; a three-day fight that shook its very foundations; a fight that brought into existence political alignments never thought possible; a fight that broke up friendships of many years standing; a fight out of which the bill of the Interim Committee's preparation came a broken and empty shell.

But there was another chapter. A few days later the House, in spite of some spirited opposition, passed a bill with substantially the same provisions as the one in the Senate had been before it was killed by amendments, by a vote of 110 to 16. This threw back upon the Senate the responsibility for reorganization or no reorganization at all in Minnesota, with the result that after a conference committee of both houses had ironed out some of the difficulties by several amendments, reorganization became a part of our 1925 legislation, and Governor Christianson was faced with the task of putting the measure into effective operation.

To claim that the law which finally passed will give us ideal or perfect administration of government agencies, would be going much too far. It falls short of our hopes for it in many respects. However, we believe it has made possible a long forward stride toward more efficient and economical administration of state departments.

Consolidation of Departments: Almost every department or office scheduled to be abolished or absorbed into others by the original bill proved to have an astonishing number of friends who were willing to appear before the legislative committees to plead for its continuance, so that those parts of the bill aiming toward a reduction in the number of departments drew fierce fire from many enemies, with the result that only about 25 offices and boards or commissions were finally abolished. There are now 15 major departments.

The executive council is a rather ingenious combination of a number of ex-officio boards, formerly of practically the same personnel, but having a variety of powers. Its personnel comprises the governor, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer and secretary of state, all elective officials. It appoints a secretary who serves in the same capacity to the two constitutional boards, the state board of pardons, and the state board of investment.

The names of the other departments indicate the functional basis for their division. There are eight departments in charge of commissions of three members, most of whom are appointed by the governor for overlapping six-year terms, at annual salaries of from \$4,000 to \$4,500. They are the departments of administration and finance, commerce, conservation, labor and industry, rural credit, public institutions, taxation, and the railroad and warehouse commission. This last named is an elective commission; and, curiously enough, during the process of amendment and rewriting of the bill, all mention of this commission was omitted from the final draft that passed. This gave rise to a contention on its part that it did not come under the provisions of the law, but the courts have just rendered decisions that it must conform to the general reorganization bill as to financial provisions and personnel classification and standardization.

Two departments, health and education, remain under the direction of unsalaried boards of nine and five members respectively. Four departments have one commissioner in charge, highways, drainage and waters, dairy and food, and agriculture.



An important piece of legislation passed during the final days of the session may prove of great value toward consolidation adjustment among the departments. This bill authorized the appointment of a person already holding a state office to another state office also, without additional salary. The governor has used this privilege under this law to appoint the commissioner of agriculture as the commissioner of dairy and food, in that way saving a salary and coordinating the activities of two related departments.

In addition to the departments named above, there remain a number of boards such as the livestock sanitary board. And there are special regulations for other governmental agencies that have not been absorbed into these departments such as the agricultural society, other citizen societies receiving state appropriations, and the examining boards. The law is flexible enough to make centralization of the inspection services possible and coordination among employees doing field work, such as fire patrolmen, rangers and game wardens.

Heart of the Reorganization: The commission of administration and finance is the heart of the reorganization plan. It is the warp that holds together the pattern of the plan as a whole and by it the plan will be judged. Through it the governor exercises his control over the fiscal policies and finances of the state. There is a commissioner in charge of each of its three divisions receiving an annual salary of \$5,000, the comptroller, the commissioner of the budget, and the commissioner of purchases.

With but few exceptions, no financial transaction can be culminated by any of the state departments without the approval of one or all of these commissioners. Thru it we have instituted uniform accounting, budget and purchasing procedure that will eliminate waste and extravagance. In it is vested the pre-audit power of review and veto as to the propriety of expenditure in advance of actual expenditure, which should prove an effectual financial brake.

Personnel Administration: To the department just discussed, under the commissioner of budget, is granted the power to standardize employment classes, grades and titles, to fix salary scales, to establish a record of employees and to transfer employees from one department to another. Another very interesting provision and one that we hope will develop adequate civil service practices governing the appointment and promotion of state employees, is the clause that grants the commission the right to require all persons who are desirous of being appointed to office to answer a questionnaire as to age, sex, health, habits, character and other requisites to the performance of the duties of the respective positions.

Reorganization at Work: Whereas six months' time would not have been too long for the commission to have been at work with plans before putting the new law into operation, the appointments were made but a very short time before actual work had to start. The commission, therefore, did not have the necessary time to complete preparations for its own thorough organization, or to make arrangements for complete understandings with the other departments over which it has such large supervisory powers about their relations with each other. And as a result, such things as instituting standardized budget forms, bookkeeping systems, the manner in which they use their pre-audit power, and perhaps most important of all, standardization of employment, will have to be brought about gradually while routine work goes on.

These commissioners occupy a very difficult situation, standing between the public who expect immediate and spectacular reduction in taxes, and the state departments who resent the criticism upon them, resulting every time a financial saving is announced.

Governor Christianson has announced in answer to the questions: "Does the plan work? Does it save money? Will it reduce taxes?" "Unhesitatingly, I answer all these questions in the affirmative."

"Reducing state taxes does not involve any spectacular achievements; it does not make good first page copy. It consists in finding the thousands of small items of extravagance and stopping them. It consists in making every dollar of tax money render one hundred cents of service."

We may comment in conclusion that those of us who have been workers and observers throughout the course of this movement will always watch with interest the practical development of the plan, because much of it is but roughly outlined by the law and a certain flexibility is allowed that will permit the officials in charge of administration to demonstrate their vision for better government, as well as their ability to put it into operation.

1-25-27 80 copies

January 25, 1927

To Local League Chairmen:

The enclosed material supplements that already sent you on the measures in the legislative program.

Please call this material to the attention of your board and League members immediately for use in study groups or in open meetings of your League.

Additional copies may be ordered at a charge based upon the actual cost of this material - 2 cents per sheet.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

Note: Many of the bills of concern to the League have now been introduced into the legislature and referred to committee. A full report of their progress will be published in the next issue of the Voter reaching subscribers on February 15.

*See next sheet for names & material sent.*



Mimeographed Material on Legislative Program

January 25, 1927

To Local League Chairmen

Mrs. Harper of Carlton, Minn.

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Ueland  
McGuire  
Colby  
Cobb  
Ringstad

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235-1-24-27

No. 23

ROUND ROBIN  
Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters

Jan. 24, 1927

Have you read the editorial "WHO CARES?" in the Woman's Home Companion of February?

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council at Mitchell, the local League entertained members of the committee at dinner and the theater following. Mrs. E. W. Feige, chairman of the Council, Mrs. Fred Hoffman, treasurer, and Miss Ruth Keller, Young Voters' adviser, spoke at the dinner. The president of the local League presided.

Under the leadership of Miss Keller, a college League has been organized at Notre Dame Academy. Officers of the new college League are: Miss Mary Julia Hasslinger, president; Miss Mary Claire O'Connell, vice-president; Miss Cecelia Rozum, secretary-treasurer; Miss Irene McCoy, program chairman; Miss Ethel Dowdell, adviser and chairman of the Constitution Committee. A temporary League organization has been effected at Dakota Wesleyan University, with Miss Sophia Miller, temporary chairman.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Miss Josephine Schain, secretary of the national Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, spent a busy twenty-four hours at Grand Forks, January 10 and 11 - a Grand Forks local League dinner at which she spoke the evening of the 10th, breakfast with the State Board on the 11th, and later a visit with members of the North Dakota University League at the North Dakota University.

Minot - Mrs. Parkes visited Minot in January, enroute to Montana. She met with the local board and brings encouraging reports of study and interest.

North Dakota University League - During the holidays, members of the University League, at home for the vacation, interviewed their representatives on the League's legislative program. At the next meeting, a large map of the state was exhibited and each member reported on the interview, by districts. Attendance at the fortnightly meetings is excellent. Each member who cannot be present sends an excuse in writing! Good work!

Grand Forks League - Mrs. Parkes was present at a meeting January 17. Everyone was prepared with pencil and paper and sat "like a school" discussing legislative measures. Democracy at work!

#### MONTANA

On January 12 and 13, Montana held its Sixth and best Annual State Convention at Helena. Mrs. J. E. Patton was re-elected president and the League is to be congratulated.

Present throughout the convention besides the state delegates were Mrs. J. R. Parkes, regional secretary; Miss Josephine Schain, secretary of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, and Mrs. E. J. Mott, member of the National Board and director of the seventh region.

A mass meeting was held in the Capitol House Chamber with a brilliant audience and a brilliant platform. Mrs. J. E. Patton presided, and speakers were Lieutenant-Governor McCormack, Attorney-General Foote, Assistant Attorney-General Choate, Miss Lucy Curran, only woman member of the legislature, Mrs. Mott and Miss Schain.

A spirited money-raising event was the feature of the final luncheon. A program of work for the coming year, a budget and a new constitution were adopted. Board meetings were held before and after the convention. In fact, in procedure and method, as well as in spirit, it was a model convention.

#### IOWA

Mrs. Parkes attended a conference at Clear Lake on December 14 and a board meeting at Mason City, December 16, reporting great progress.

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Marguerite M. Wells, Regional Director



Jan 27  
150 copies

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1927

#### CHANGES IN THE MARRIAGE LAW

Proposals for changes in the Minnesota marriage law, to make it conform to progressive standards for this type of legislation, were first considered in 1917 when the Children's Code Commission included such changes among its recommendations for needed legislation. However, no legislative action resulted.

In 1923, a sub-committee of the Public Welfare Committee of the House requested Mr. William Hodson, director of the state Children's Bureau, to prepare a bill that might be introduced in the succeeding legislature. The resulting marriage code prepared by Mr. Hodson in consultation with various interested groups, particularly the Minnesota Committee on Social Legislation and the Minnesota League of Women Voters, represents the best thought and experience in the field of such legislation.

The bill embodying the proposed code passed the House in 1925 by a vote of 76 to 42, having been amended by striking out the provisions requiring a license and celebration for all valid marriages. The bill was not reported out of committee in the Senate and thus failed to become a law.

The proposed changes have been introduced into the legislature this year in the form of separate amendments to the existing marriage law, to meet the objection that adoption of a code in effect repeals all existing marriage statutes, thus resulting in confusion. The amendments offered cover in general the same changes proposed two years ago, except on one point. The provision in the 1925 code naming persons afflicted with venereal disease among those ineligible to contract marriage (feeble-minded, epileptics and insane in the present law) has been omitted because of the difficulty in providing methods of enforcement. The changes proposed are:

- 1) Change in the minimum marriage age for women from 15 to 16 years.

The present Minnesota law permits a girl of 15 to receive a marriage license. The minimum marriage age for boys would remain 18 years as in the present law. These are the ages already established in the laws of 26 states. Parental consent for the marriage of minors would still be necessary under the Minnesota law - for girls under 18, and boys under 21 years.

- 2) A waiting period of five days between application for and issuance of the marriage license; and requirement that both applicants must appear before the license officer at some time before the license is issued.

The present law requires only one applicant to appear and permits the issuance of the license immediately upon application. A waiting period is now required by the laws of five states. In three more a waiting period is required for non-residents. The purpose of the provision is to guard against ill-advised marriages which frequently end in the divorce court. In Great Britain and in nearly every country on the continent, advance notice of intention to marry is required, the specific period varying from two to three weeks.

- 3) Requirement of a license and solemnization, with return of a written record, for all valid marriages.

The solemnization may be by a civil authority, by religious ceremony, or merely by a verbal agreement in the presence of two competent witnesses.

The significance of this amendment is in its provision for licensing and recording all valid marriages, thus clearing up the uncertainty that must always characterize the so-called common law marriage relationship. Seventeen states have already taken enlightened action in thus defining the conditions of a marriage contract and the American Bar Association, through approval of a uniform marriage law in 1911, has declared for legislation similar to the proposed amendment.

Marriage is defined as "a civil contract not differing from any other contract except that it is not revocable or dissoluble at the will of the parties." An eminent Scotch lawyer has said, "The law makes clear and full provision for contracts affecting the sale of \* \* goods and chattels of every description; and why marriage, the most important of all human contracts, should not be as anxiously defined and provided for, and thus placed beyond the reach of both fraud and doubt, appears to me to be one of the greatest anomalies in the law of the Christian country."

Jan 27, + 70 copies Page 2, sent to Local Leagues with letters, Feb 5, 1927.  
150 copies + 50 copies = 4-2-27- and questionnaires by July Service.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1927

#### PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

The need of protective legislation for women in industry has come with the development of wholesale, machine methods of production in place of the handicrafts formerly carried on by women in the individual home. "No longer", says Mrs. J. Paul Goode, "do we spin and weave, make yeast and butter, cure meat and gather medicinal herbs. Nearly all the processes for which women have been responsible in past ages have gone out of the home."

Women have followed their work out of the home into the factory and there are today more than 8½ million wage-earning women in this country. Recent studies in four cities showed that 38 per cent of the entire female population 14 years of age or over were at work. "Women are not transients in industrial work as was formerly believed but a great number of them are as permanent in industry as are men - some of them never marry, and many of those who do are forced to continue in, or later to return to, industrial jobs to supplement the family income."

(Report of the Director of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Dept. of Labor, 1926)

The particular justification for special legislative protection for working women lies in the fact that women are the mothers actually or potentially of the race. In 1908 the U. S. Supreme Court, in upholding the constitutionality of the Oregon Hour Law for Women said, "As healthy mothers are essential to vigorous offsprings, the physical well-being of woman becomes an object of public interest and care in order to preserve the strength and vigor of the race. \* \* \* The limitations which this statute places upon her contractual powers \* \* are not imposed solely for her benefit but also largely for the benefit of all." In 1915 the U. S. Supreme Court in another decision upheld the constitutionality of the California law fixing an 8-hour day as the maximum for women workers.

Laws to provide for the establishment of minimum wage rates for women and laws to limit the daily and weekly hours of work and to regulate night work, are the most familiar expressions of public concern in the health of working women. It is believed that employers as well as workers profit by such legislation since labor turnover is reduced and production is rendered more efficient when the element of undue fatigue is eliminated - actual increase in output has been shown to result from a shorter working day.

(For the findings of the Illinois Industrial Survey Commission (1918), see "A Physiological Basis for the Shorter Working Day for Women" Bulletin No. 14, February 1921, U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, pp. 12-16.)

#### Amendment to Minnesota Minimum Wage Law

The Minimum Wage Law for women and children in Minnesota was passed in 1913 and was administered first by the Minimum Wage Commission and later by the State Industrial Commission (of three members) which replaced it in 1921. The law and the rulings established under the law were excellently enforced throughout the state, with increasing cooperation from fair-minded employers, until June 1925. A series of court decisions, including a U. S. Supreme Court decision (1923) affecting the District of Columbia, having called in question the constitutionality of such laws, the State Industrial Commission then asked for instructions from the attorney-general and was advised that the Minnesota law was inoperative as it applied to adult women, although still enforceable in its provisions for minors.

(See "Women Workers' Wages" by Josephine Goldmark, The Woman Citizen, Dec. 1925.)

Figures reported by the Division of Women and Children of the Industrial Commission show that wage adjustments under the law secured in the biennium 1923-1925, amounted approximately to \$15,000 and were paid to 1,203 employees in 323 different firms. The figures for the calendar year 1926, since the operation of the law has been restricted to minors, show adjustments amounting to \$4,362.00 secured for 148 male minors and 165 female minors.

The crippling of the law as a result of court decisions was a great disappointment to all who have followed its successful operation in the state. The only legislative adjustment possible under the circumstances is the removal of the inequality existing in the application of the law to minors. According to the definition of minor in the law, boys now come under its protection up to the age of 21 and girls only up to the age of 18. The League of Women Voters has therefore proposed in the present legislature an amendment to make the term "minor" apply to girls as well as to boys under 21 years of age.



### Re-enactment of Hour Law for Women

The League of Women Voters, in cooperation with other groups, has worked consistently for legislation regulating hours of work for women in industry. A bill providing for a 48-hour week for women, introduced in the 1921 legislature, was amended to 56 hours and passed in both houses on the last day of the session. Enemies of the bill, however, prevented repassage of the Senate bill by the House and it thus failed to become a law.

A law providing for a 54-hour week and a 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour day was adopted by the 1923 legislature by a vote of 101-1 in the House and of 49-6 in the Senate. Attempts to weaken the law by amendments exempting women employees in hotels and canneries were successfully opposed by the League in the 1925 legislature.

The law was well administered by the Industrial Commission through its Division of Women and Children, from its enactment in April 1923 until the summer of 1926. In May a prosecution of a Minneapolis employer for violation of the law failed in the Municipal Court when the fact was established that, through a clerical blunder, the act signed by the governor was not identical in form with that passed by the House and Senate. The Industrial Commission then appealed to the attorney-general and was instructed that, due to the technical irregularity in its passage, the act was not a law.

Re-enactment of the 1923 law is now sought in a bill proposed to the legislature by the Industrial Commission and containing certain new provisions agreed upon in conference with representatives of various interested groups. These are:

1. A provision exempting from the operation of the law employees engaged in handling perishable fruit, grains or vegetables;
2. A provision authorizing the Industrial Commission to grant permits for longer hours of work than those prescribed in the law, under rules and regulations that it may adopt and "upon a showing which the Commission determines to be an emergency in the conditions of employment."

It is recognized that the new provisions greatly weaken the law, which did not in its original form represent a high standard for such legislation. It was believed, however, that it was so desirable to re-establish the general provisions of the 1923 law that the concessions demanded by Minnesota employers were agreed to by the disinterested groups supporting hour legislation.

The justification for exempting those handling perishable food stuffs lies in the fact that the shortness of the working period in canneries - often no longer than six weeks - dependence upon unforeseen weather conditions, difficulty in importing short-time workers into rural communities and especially the reliance upon local women who do not work during the remainder of the year, all constitute unique conditions that have resulted in a similar exemption in the laws of 16 states.

The emergency exemption provision in the proposed bill is a more sweeping grant of power to the Commission than that provided in the laws of other progressive states. In California the Commission is empowered to shorten the working day in the more exhausting occupations but may not lengthen it. The North Dakota law specifically defines what may be deemed to be an emergency. The Wisconsin law provides that permits for overtime work shall be limited to 10 hours a day and to 30 days in any calendar year, with extra pay for overtime. The term "emergency" in the Wisconsin law has been interpreted by the Commission (and the interpretation sustained by court decision) as covering conditions that could not be foreseen, such as a breakdown in machinery, and does not apply to times of seasonal pressure occurring periodically. However centering responsibility for emergency permits in the Industrial Commission of Minnesota gives the Commission the opportunity to establish such standards as will best safeguard the public interest, and enables interested groups to know what these standards are.

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia have laws limiting hours of work for women to 9 hours or less a day; and to 54 hours or less a week. Nine states and the District of Columbia have adopted an 8-hour day or a 48-hour week as the legal standard. The Congress of the U. S. has established an 8-hour day for certain groups of workers in government service. In several states bills proposing a 48-hour week are now under discussion. Re-enactment of the moderate law in force in Minnesota for three years is hoped for in the present session of the legislature.

21-17 95 copies run 2-3-27-120 copies to send L. League

2-3-27 Sent to clerks of court in all counties except Ramsey, Henn. & St. Louis.  
(names from 1925 leg. manual)

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

February 1927

JURY SERVICE OF WOMEN IN MINNESOTA

Hennepin County

To the Clerk of Court:

The League of Women Voters supported the passage of the law admitting women to jury service and is now interested in checking up on the results of the law. Your prompt reply to the following questions will be very much appreciated.

1. How many women served on grand juries in your county in 1926? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many women served on petit juries in your county in 1926? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If women did not serve was it because they refused to do so,  
or because the county commissioners did not include the names  
of women among those listed for jury service?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



2-4-27 30 min  
24 sent

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. O. M. Botsford, Winona, First District  
Mrs. Edward Ringstad, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District

## OFFICERS

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Miss Marguerite Wells  
First Vice-President  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich  
Second Vice-President  
Mrs. A. J. McGuire  
Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight

Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby

Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

February 4th,  
1927

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

My dear Board Member:

The board of the Ramsey County League has invited the state board to hold its next regular meeting on Friday, February 11, in St. Paul, at the home of Mrs. Jane Humbird Burr. The meeting is called at 10:30 A.M. and will be an all-day meeting.

Mrs. Burr's home is at 943 Summit Avenue, one block from the Grand Avenue carline (get off at Milton). We shall be glad to try to arrange for transportation from this office for out of town members who let us know that they will plan to be here at 9:45 A.M. on Friday.

This will be a particularly important meeting since it will include discussion of the status of League measures in the legislature and plans for asking special help from our local Leagues in behalf of certain measures, where such help is needed.

The board of the Ramsey County League will entertain the state board at luncheon on the day of the meeting. Please let us know as early as possible whether we may count on your attendance.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

100 copies - Sent Board.  
Jury Service Questionnaire "For your information."  
Page 2 - "Protective Legislation for Women in Industry."

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Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

### DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

February 5th,  
1927

My dear Local League Chairman:

Your help is needed at once in connection with a bill before the legislature.

The bill providing for re-enactment, with certain changes, of the 54 HOUR LAW for women workers (Senate File 181) is now before the Senate for a vote. It is also under consideration by the Committee on Public Welfare in the House as House File 460. I enclose a duplicate copy of a statement you have already received on this measure. It is apparent that there will be vigorous opposition by certain employers to its passage, in spite of the fact that the bill proposed to this legislature affords less protection to women workers than that passed in 1923.

Members of the legislature ought to be assured that public opinion throughout the state demands such a law. Will you therefore ask several people in your community to write to your senators and representatives in favor of the bill? Will you and members of your League also write to them? The vote on the bill will come first in the Senate and letters to senators should therefore be sent without a day's delay.

AMENDMENT TO MINIMUM WAGE LAW PASSES THE HOUSE: The vote on this measure in our program came on February 1. (71-17). We now await favorable action by the Senate. In writing your senator on the hour bill you might include mention of this amendment as one you hope will have his support.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON JURY SERVICE FOR WOMEN: I enclose for your information a questionnaire prepared by Miss Monahan, chairman of the Committee on Legal Status of Women, which explains itself. It shall be glad to have you write me what you can about the service of women on juries in your county.

ONE LAST REQUEST: If you are to be either in St. Paul or Minneapolis during the session of the legislature, let us know so that we may consult together on our bills in the legislature. Nothing helps more than your going to the Capitol and seeing your legislators there during the session.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

MMW ms

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President



2-11-27-40 Copies

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
January 14, 1927

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. John M. Guise, 2214 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul, on Friday, January 14.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35, Miss Wells presiding. Members of the State Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Ringstad, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Botsford and Miss Lawrence. Mrs. James Paige, Mrs. J. A. Quint, Miss Child, Miss Marguerite Owen and the following Ramsey County League board members were also present: Mrs. Herbert, Holman, Hermann, Burr, Day, Elmer, Fredine, Fetter, Kavanaugh, Michaud, Benepe, Meyers, Lott, Keegan and Flynn; Misses Crowley, Troy, Furness, Perry and Jennings.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Wittich read the treasurer's report. The balance on hand December 1 was \$750.90. Receipts during the month totaled \$1,107.84, of which \$660.00 was in local League quotas. Expenditures totaled \$1,049.28, leaving a balance January 1 of \$719.46. Bills payable were read, amounting to \$638.48. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lusk, second of Mrs. Bennett, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed. Miss Wells spoke of the improvement of the local League's quota payments.

Reports by District Chairmen

For the FIRST DISTRICT Mrs. Botsford reported that the annual meeting of the Winona League will be held January 28. Seventy-five members were reported enrolled in study groups, whose programs include study of county organization and city government, and the legislative program. She announced the tentative plan of giving "The Voter's Dream" before the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs. Ringstad reported for the THIRD DISTRICT that the Northfield and Winona Leagues arranged a joint luncheon in Faribault to which state legislators were invited to hear the League legislative program discussed.

For the FOURTH DISTRICT Miss Lusk reported that the Monday legislative luncheons would be continued, with a series of three talks on city charters, under the Efficiency in Government Department. Preceding the luncheons, a course on the foreign policy of the United States has been arranged, under the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War. Mrs. Herbert is chairman of a committee to secure opinions on the success of Woman Suffrage. The organization of radio study groups has begun with a group in St. Anthony Park and an effort is being made to secure an executive committee to act with the chairman in each ward.

Mrs. Quint reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that Mrs. C. B. Winter has been appointed chairman of the Committee on Suffrage Opinions and has 65 names of persons to interview. She reported the luncheon for Kirby Paige, January 20, in which several men's clubs will cooperate.

Miss Lawrence reported upon the St. Cloud League and Mrs. Colby upon the Olivia League, in the absence of chairmen for the SIXTH and SEVENTH Districts.

Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT that Duluth held a meeting for legislators. The Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War has arranged a series of four lectures. Radio groups are being formed to hear state radio programs, and a committee to attend meetings of the City Council and School Board. She spoke of waning interest in Carlton and Grand Rapids. It was agreed, however, that the initiative for any further effort to continue the League in Grand Rapids should come from local women. Miss Lawrence volunteered to write to a friend about the situation. Mrs. Spear reported the organization of a new League in Nashua which promises well.

In the absence of Mrs. Weeks, there was no report from the NINTH DISTRICT.

-2-

### Young Voters

A National League report of college Leagues in all states was read by the secretary Miss Owen then told interesting stories of Young Voter organization in Nevada, North Dakota and other places. A letter from Miss Beggin was read reporting upon a very successful meeting of the Moorhead College League and excellent cooperation from the new dean of women, Miss Lumley.

### State Board Vacancies

The resignation of Mrs. Weeks as ninth district chairman was reported to the board with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the board accept her resignation and ask her to accept appointment as chairman of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ramsey, second of Mrs. Spear, that the board ratify this recommendation.

The chair reported that a final answer has not yet been received from Miss Martha Botsford in regard to her acceptance of the chairmanship of the Living Costs Committee. Miss Ruth Mitchell, will be unable to fill the vacancy in the sixth district chairmanship owing to the fact that she expects to be out of the state much of the time during the coming months. She will, however, be very glad to keep in touch with work through attendance at state board meeting when she is at home.

### Department Reports

Mrs. Wittich reported for the Department of Efficiency in Government that two bills have been introduced in the legislature affecting the direct primary law; one proposes a return to party designation in the election of members of the state legislature; the other proposes a consolidated party ballot in the primary which would substitute an "open primary" for the present "closed primary" in effect in Minnesota. Mrs. Wittich explained that the effect of the latter measure would be definitely to weaken party responsibility and thus justify criticism of the direct primary law which is not justified at present. She therefore thought the proposed bill not a desirable one from the League point of view but advised that there is no occasion for taking immediate action upon it.

Mrs. Wittich reported upon a recent visit in the office of the Department of Administration and Finance and said that no bills affecting state reorganization have so far been introduced into the legislature.

Reports on the present status of League measures in the legislature were made by Mrs. Ueland and Miss Wells.

### Federal Legislation

Miss Owen reported upon the status of federal measures in the National League program. She spoke in detail of the renewal of the appropriation under the Sheppard-Towner Act. Miss Owen also reported the latest facts bearing upon the Child Labor Amendment.

### Conference on Cause and Cure of War

Mrs. James Paige reported upon the recent conference which she attended in Washington, D.C. and which was sponsored by nine leading national organizations of women. She reported many inspiring addresses and several social events that comprised one full week's program. The conference ended with a resolution "to establish peace between the nations by political, economical and diplomatic cooperation" and a recommendation "to study the implication of the Monroe Doctrine and to know the new American neutrality stand."

Miss Child reported upon the radio program of legislative dialogues planned for every Tuesday at 4:30 P.M. Miss Wells urged personal notes to acquaintances in small towns to call attention to the dialogues.

Miss Lusk extended to the state board the invitation of the Ramsey County League to hold the next state board meeting in St. Paul and reported that Mrs. Burr will open her home for the meeting. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ueland, second of Mrs. Wittich, to accept the invitation and to invite the officers and directors of the Ramsey County League to attend the meeting.

Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Guise for her generous hospitality and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary



A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
February 11, 1927

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

The Woman Voter

Return on Woman Citizen circularization

ORGANIZATION

Field Report - Miss Beggin

Reports by District Chairmen

Appointments to vacant chairmanships

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

International Cooperation to Prevent War

Legal Status of Women

Questionnaire on Jury Service for Women

LEGISLATION

Federal - Miss Owen

State - Mrs. Ueland

Letter to local Leagues on Hour bill

NATIONAL LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS

Opinions on Woman Suffrage

Survey of Voting Habits

Communications to state Senators on bills before Congress

Speakers available

OTHER BUSINESS

2-21-27 900  
3-3-27 50

950 for Olivia  
Hayton  
700  
400  
Individual Record Blank

2750 total

League of Women Voters Survey of Voting Habits

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City or Village Olivia, Minnesota

Age: (21-30) \_\_\_\_\_ (31-40) \_\_\_\_\_ (41-55) \_\_\_\_\_ (56- ) \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Native born \_\_\_\_\_ naturalized \_\_\_\_\_

Parentage: native \_\_\_\_\_ foreign \_\_\_\_\_ mixed \_\_\_\_\_

Length of residence in the community \_\_\_\_\_

Family relationship: head of family \_\_\_\_\_ wife \_\_\_\_\_ son \_\_\_\_\_

daughter \_\_\_\_\_ married \_\_\_\_\_ single \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Type of dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership of home \_\_\_\_\_ Other property \_\_\_\_\_

Voting record last election: voted \_\_\_\_\_ did not vote \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for not voting \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:



2-5-27- 50 copies

2-16-27-150 copies

2-18-27 100 "

2-21-27 450 "

3-2-27 100 "

300 Monticello-600

550 Olivia-1100

Voter's Record  
Survey of Voting Habits

Slayton 600

Hinckley 400

Name	City or village	Minnesota		
	Primary	General Election	Primary	Local Election
(2750) total				
1923				
1924				
1925				
1926				

Note: The above information secured from official poll lists.

3-3-27-45

M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
February 11, 1927

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Jane Humbird Burr, 943 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, on Friday, February 11.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 A.M., Miss Wells presiding. Members of the State Board present were Miss Wells, Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Weeks, Miss Botsford, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Spear and Mrs. Colby. Others present were Miss Merrill, Miss Owen and Miss Child. There were two out of town guests: Mrs. Glasoe of Northfield and Mrs. Colton of Duluth. The Ramsey County League was represented by Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Burr, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Gass, Mrs. White, Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Bassindale, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Fredine, Mrs. Michaud, Mrs. Kavanaugh, Miss Troy and Miss Jennings.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported a balance of \$719.46 January 1. Total receipts were \$967.52. Expenditures totalled \$932.31, leaving a balance of \$754.67, February 1. Bills payable amount to \$685.78. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dowling, second of Mrs. Mrs. Spear, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Woman Voter and Woman Citizen

Miss Child reported that publication of the Voter financed by advertising, under an arrangement made a year ago, would cease March 1. The board must now consider plans for the future publication of the Voter.

Miss Child gave a report of the return on the circularization of the Voter subscription list by the Woman Citizen magazine. The sum of \$100 in commissions is now credited to our League.

Organization

Miss Beggin reported visits to Leagues in the Ninth District during January. A conference with Mrs. Stadum of Warren did not indicate a possibility of reviving League organization there. In spite of Mrs. Stadum's great interest in the League, she is not the right leader. In Crookston a group of young women - among them was Miss Hovland, the Judge of Probate Court, and several others in public office - was interested in organizing as a study group. In view of the impossibility of forming a League there at present, Miss Beggin offered them (pending Board action) temporary affiliation with the state League as a League Study Group. Miss Mae Rideout, one of this group, is a splendid possibility for a future League chairman, she said.

Miss Beggin then made two recommendations to the Board as follows: 1) that the board approve the organization of a study group in Crookston; 2) that the board recognize that there is no local League in Warren. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McKnight, second of Mrs. Ramsey, that Crookston be permitted to organize a study group. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. McGuire, second of Mrs. Spear, that the League at Warren be dropped.

Reports of District Chairmen

Miss Lusk reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT the completion of the charter classes and the beginning of a series of tariff classes to be held as Monday noon luncheons, as were the charter meetings. The Young Voters group continues to meet regularly at Mrs. White's home and the tenth ward study group is most successful. The International Relations classes will continue indefinitely as a morning class on Mondays. A rummage sale is being planned for April. And the greatest achievement is a completely outlined quota basis for the wards in order to solve the problem of finance.

Mrs. Gaus reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that the Kirby Page luncheon was attended by 175. The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, a feature being the tariff luncheon to be given by girls of the University League with each one discussing



the tariff on some article of the menu. Ward study groups are flourishing, their procedure being three discussion meetings and one larger meeting at which some League headquarters' speaker addresses the members.

Mrs. Dowling reported among activities in the SEVENTH DISTRICT radio parties for the Tuesday League hour and a Silver Tea, held in Olivia, which amounted to a county meeting in its representative attendance.

Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT a successful membership tea in Duluth. The last League meeting was devoted to charter discussion. And several new radio groups have started to meet each Tuesday for the League program. The Carlton study group continues as a branch of the Duluth League and Barnum and Moose Lake are possibilities for League organization in the spring.

#### Department and Committee Reports

The chair announced the acceptance of appointments to the chairmanships of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War by Mrs. Weeks and to the Committee on Living Costs by Miss Martha Botsford. Both were present and were welcomed by the board.

Mrs. Weeks gave her report as new chairman of the Department of INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR. She spoke of President Coolidge's invitation to the powers to a new conference for naval limitation and his suggestions to the preparatory commission now conferring at Geneva to draw up a naval agreement supplementing the Washington Arms Treaty of 1921, in effect that naval competition among the nations be removed. Also in a message to Congress he announced a program of strict limitation to naval armament in this country pending the outcome of the next International Disarmament Conference. While the House upheld the president, the "big navy" groups in the Senate will force the naval appropriation bill through as originally reported, a sum above the budget approved by the president.

Nicaragua and Mexico put a double responsibility on Secretary of State Kellogg in protecting interests of the United States in both countries. Mexico's new oil and land laws are obviously intended to apply particularly to certain holdings of United States citizens. This is complicated in Mexico's recognition of Sacaeco, the former vice-president of Nicaragua as the real president rather than Diaz to whose presidency the United States gives recognition. In this contest North American interests are difficult to protect, and the presence of 5000 naval men and officers for this purpose is highly displeasing to South America generally.

The World Court has reached a state of anti-climax for us, she said. The Commission on Reservations has turned in an unfavorable decision and Great Britain is among the powers which have sent formal notice to the U. S. State Department of rejection of American adherence with the reservations attached. This brings an end to hopes of adhering to the Court for the present.

Mrs. McGuire reported briefly on the Chinese situation.

Legal Status of Women - In the absence of Miss Monahan, Miss Child reviewed the facts on jury service for women. In 1921 a law was secured which provided for the inclusion of women on panels from which jurors were drawn. The panels are made up by the Board of County Commissioners in the smaller counties. Last fall an inquiry was inaugurated by Miss Monahan which led to the sending out of questionnaires to the counties asking if women were called to serve on the grand jury and the petit jury and if not, the reason why. Miss Child reported replies received from 76 counties showing 22 counties in which no women are listed for jury service.

Mrs. Dowling reported the situation in Renville County where the women are threatened with the loss of their right to serve on juries. She said Mr. Baker, county attorney of Renville County, had advised that the commissioners pass a resolution excluding women from juries. Opposition to the resolution after it was passed by the commissioners gave rise to a mandamus proceedings, which brought the commissioners into court to hear a discussion of the facts. The Court reprimanded Mr. Baker and spoke highly of those women serving as jurors in the present term of Court. The secretary read the county attorney's explanation as printed in The Olivia Times. Miss Child read the resolution of the Commissioners in which the notable reason for the exclusion of women from the jury was to "speed up prosecution" of criminals!

### Federal Legislation

Miss Owen told of the last days preceding the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Re-appropriation Bill, after it had been made the "unfinished business" of the Senate and come up automatically each day at two o'clock. She described the filibuster organized by seven senators, the perils of which the bill survived without even having to accede to the objectionable one year amendment. This she called an outstanding victory against a filibuster in a short session. Although victory was bought at the price of repealing the act in 1929 it was clearly understood that one Congress cannot bind another. She reported the bill granting suffrage to the District of Columbia lost in this session.

She gave the status of the Wadsworth-Garrett Amendment. Senator Garrett wished a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee of the House but that committee will not report it out, she said.

She spoke briefly of the Cramton Bill and the Smoot Bill, both dealing with placing the enforcement of Prohibition under the civil service. She read a telegram requesting that the League support one of these pending bills. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ueland, second of Mrs. McGuire, that the secretary write our Minnesota senators to convey a message from the board in support of the principle of putting prohibition agents and officers under civil service.

### State Legislation

Mrs. Ueland reported the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment by both houses of the Montana legislature, the fifth state to ratify. Later Miss Owen explained the ratification in Montana as a "good job, county by county". Sponsors for the amendment have been secured in both houses of the Minnesota legislature but introduction of a ratification resolution will depend upon the poll. Ratification by one house would indicate to the country a protest against the disbelief in the measure shown two years ago, she said. She reported the bill for Mothers' Pension Refund to counties introduced into both houses.

Reports on the status of League bills in the legislature were given. Mrs. Guise reported on the educational bills, Miss Child on the amendments to the marriage law and Mrs. Dietrichson on the industrial measures.

### National League Communications

#### Suffrage Opinions

In response to a request from the National League for opinions on suffrage from representative men and officials, special chairmen were appointed to carry out the work in St. Paul and Minneapolis and letters requesting two or more opinions were sent out to local Leagues. Twenty opinions have been received from out of town; 12 from St. Paul and 12 from Minneapolis.

#### Voting Habits Study

A communication was reported from the National League outlining a plan for the study of voting habits in different sections of the country in various types of localities, as a preliminary to plans for the next Get-Out-The-Vote campaign. Monticello, LeRoy and Oliver have each been considered as prospective places. Mrs. Wittich's suggestions for supplementing the study by securing data on more than one election will be carried out.

#### Speakers Available

Madame Grinberg, a French lawyer, arrived in this country February 10 and will be available to the League as a speaker. One of her topics is "What French Women Have Done and Are Doing for World Peace". The Duchess of Athol, assistant minister of Education in England, may possibly be available as a speaker in the event of her proposed visit to America.

With an expression of appreciation to Mrs. Burr for her hospitality to the state board and the Ramsey County board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, secretary



#7-Suit Board members

March 1, 1927

Dear Board Member:

The next meeting of the state board will be on Friday, March 11th. The place of the meeting is not yet known but it will probably be in Minneapolis.

A letter with further information will reach you in a few days. In the meantime this will remind you to reserve the day.

Sincerely yours,

23 members

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
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Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District

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Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich  
Second Vice-President  
Mrs. A. J. McGuire  
Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight

Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby  
Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

March 7th,  
1927

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Dear Board Member:

The board meeting on Friday, March 11, of which you have already had a notice by postcard, will be held in Minneapolis at the home of Miss Wells, 325 Groveland Ave.

The meeting will begin at the usual hour, 10:30 A.M., and will be an all-day meeting. Please let us hear as soon as possible whether you will come. Transportation from the office to Miss Wells' home will be provided for out of town members.

Plans are underway for a memorial service for Mrs. Ueland and for a permanent memorial. This will be one of the subjects discussed at the meeting. There will also be several questions connected with our legislative measures. We hope you will make a special effort to attend.

Sincerely yours,

EC ms

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

P.S. Some envelopes addressed to board members got into the mail by mistake last week. One may have reached you; so we wish you to know that there was no enclosure.



A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
March 11, 1927

Resolutions - Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Weeks, Miss Lusk

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Reading of Messages from National League and local Leagues

Recommendations on Appointments

Successors to Mrs. Ueland  
Legislative Council  
Lobby  
Chairman of Finance (also pledges to National Council)

Executive Committee  
International Cooperation to Prevent War  
Public Welfare in Government

Attendance of college League representative at state board meetings

Report on Plans for Memorial Service for Mrs. Ueland - Mrs. McKnight

Official representation from local Leagues

Special Memorial Issue of the Minnesota Woman Voter - Mrs. Thorp

Status of Publication of the Woman Voter

Report on Surveys of Voting Habits

Miss Beggin - Letter from Mrs. Wittich

Report for Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War - Mrs. Weeks

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Letters from Minnesota Senators

Smoot Reorganization Bill - Miss Owen

STATE LEGISLATION

Status of League bills in the legislature

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE, APRIL 26-30

Delegates from Minnesota

Action on Suggested Changes in Program of Work  
Standing committees on Immigration and Prohibition  
(Appoint chairmen to report at next meeting)

OTHER BUSINESS

Follow-up of Jury Service Questionnaire

Reading of communications from National League

Special conference on future legislative plans

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

March 19 27

TYPICAL LETTERS  
from files of

The Minnesota Industrial Commission

(Showing need of state-wide law limiting hours of work for women in industry)

July 19, 1926

Dear Sirs:

As I have heard that you send out inspectors to investigate working hours, wages, etc. I am writing to you.

I have a sister that is working at the \_\_\_\_\_, a restaurant, here in town. The place changed hands about 5 weeks ago and it seems as if these people have no consideration. They are working their girls from 13 to 16 hours a day at the wage of \$5. a week. My sister goes to work in the morning before seven and usually works until 9:30 and 10:00 except on Saturday when she works until 10:30 and 11:00.

Then too at that wage she scrubs the floors and even does mopping in the rooms upstairs. Has a person a right to make a girl work that long at the wage? She is only 16 years of age.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

July 16, 1925

Dear Sirs:

Would you please give some information regarding girls labor in public places and also wages at the \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel. They are working the girls from 12 to 16 hours and only \$5.00 per week. They also only pay \$1.00 per day in the hotels for 8 hour shifts.

Will you please do what you can for we girls that have to work.

Yours truly,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

February 25, 1927

Dear Sirs:

Can you inform me as to hours of working women permitted by Minnesota laws?

The local Bell Exchange is working their operators 12 hours per day and I am strongly of the opinion this is not legal. If it is legal it is certainly not decent, especially on the part of a company paying dividends this company does.

Yours truly,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ M.D.

February 15, 1927

Dear Sirs:

Want to call your attention to investigate at the restaurant of \_\_\_\_\_. I have been in the place working for a while but it is so long hours and little pay and killing people. It was too much for me to work  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hours to 13 hours a day so I left them.

The dining room girls work 10 and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hours and the kitchen help works from 10 to 12 or 13 hours a day, hardly getting time to eat a decent meal a day.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



72 sent

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Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

March 12th,  
1927

Dear Local League Chairman:

The State Board wishes me to send you a special announcement of the memorial services to be held in honor of Mrs. Ueland in the House chamber at the Capitol, Sunday afternoon, March 20, at half past three o'clock.

It is the hope of the board that your League will wish to appoint official delegates who will represent it at the services. It is true that these services are under the auspices not only of the League but of other friends and organizations who wish to do honor to the memory of a great citizen and a beloved friend. The League, however - and the League not only in Mrs. Ueland's own city but throughout the state in whose welfare she always felt so much concern - will especially delight to do honor to its first president and honorary president.

Will you promptly send us the name of your official representatives in order that places may be reserved. Ushers will be furnished with a list of the names of these official League delegates.

The Board yesterday voted to issue a special Memorial Number of the Woman Voter. This will be designed to be of permanent value. Your League will perhaps wish to have extra copies for distribution. Will you let us know in advance how many you wish so that we may be guided in placing our order. The charge will cover merely the cost - about 5¢.

The sorrow all League members share in the loss of our friend and leader has seemed to bring us nearer together and unite us in a common purpose to go on more unwaveringly than ever for the accomplishment of those purposes for which she has so long been our inspiration and help.

Sympathetically and sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms  
Enc.

150 - March 12, 1927

50 to St Paul

100 mailed by Mrs Simpson

March 12, 1927

The Citizens' Committee on Memorial Services for Mrs. Ueland has arranged for services in the House of Representatives at the State Capitol on Sunday, March 20th, at half past three o'clock.

This meeting is open to all who wish to attend. Please make this known to your membership.

Owing to the interest of your organization in the purposes for which Mrs. Ueland worked, it is hoped that you will wish to appoint an official delegation to attend the services.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Jane Humbird Burr  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

(Mrs David F. Simpson)

328 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Telephone - Cedar 3178



130 - March 15, 1927 -

List in File

mailed from office

March 15, 1927

You have seen in the papers that a very small group of Mrs. Ueland's friends are at work on a memorial service to be held in her honor at the Capitol in the House chamber Sunday afternoon, March 20, at half past three o'clock. Although the papers have carried announcements that this meeting is open to all who care to come, we thought possibly it might have escaped your notice and we know you would wish, if possible, to be present.

Will you not make yourself personally responsible for letting Mrs. Ueland's friends know of the time and place of the service and this opportunity to pay her honor?

Sincerely yours,

*Josephine Sarah Simpson*

Mrs. David F. Simpson  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

1639 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Telephone - Atlantic 1171

3-23-27  
40 copies

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
March 11, 1927

The regular meeting of the State Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Miss Wells, 325 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis, on Friday, March 11, 1927. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., Miss Wells presiding.

There were present Miss Wells, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Spear, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Botsford, Miss Martha Botsford, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Griswold, Miss Kercher and Miss Monahan. There were also present Miss Marguerite Owen, Mrs. Carol W. Sherwin of Monticello, Miss Child, Miss Beggin and Miss Hampe.

Miss Wells spoke of the great loss felt by the members of the state board in the death of Mrs. Ueland and asked Mrs. Thorp to report the resolution prepared by a committee of three, Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Weeks and Miss Lusk, for submission to the board. The following resolution was then read by Mrs. Thorp and adopted by the board:

MISS WELLS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Your Committee appointed to give expression to the feeling of this Board in the death of its most honored, most beloved member, Mrs. Ueland, realizes its utter inadequacy. There are no words with which to fittingly voice our grief and our sense of irreparable loss.

It would seem that only in the quiet inner chamber of the heart of each of us can there be the deepest appreciation of her life and work among us. Mrs. Ueland was to us all so supremely a dear friend, a sympathetic counsellor, a wise leader that each member of this Board must personally and continuously mourn her loss.

Since its inception this Board has never faced a crisis in its affairs when we have not looked to her for clarifying judgment and wise decision. We have faced many apparently insuperable difficulties lead by her dauntless courage and splendid faith.

There are many of us to whom she gave the same sympathy and loving counsel in the various crises of our individual lives. We find it difficult indeed, to face our work and our lives without the sense of her abiding friendship.

She needs from us, who knew and loved her, no epitaph and no eulogy. She has achieved for us an assured and unassailable immortality.

Her legacy to us lies in her unfinished tasks, and to the accomplishment of these, her labor of love, we stand committed in so far as we are able and are found worthy. In such a dedication of ourselves we offer her the praise and love we believe she would most desire.

Harriet H. Weeks  
Cornelia Lusk  
Vivian S. Thorp

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mrs. Gaus in the absence of the secretary and approved after correction.

Mrs. Cant reported a balance the 1st of February of \$754.67 and receipts during February of \$1211.73, of which \$818.58 was received in quotas. Disbursements during the month amounted to \$965.49, leaving a bank balance March 1 of \$1000.91. Bills payable amounting to \$616.59 were reported. IT WAS VOTED that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Messages from the National League officers who knew Mrs. Ueland, from the St. Paul Federation of Churches and from the Duluth, Northfield and Redwood Falls Leagues were read by the secretary and it was agreed that Miss Wells should reply in the name of the board. A message was also read from the Duluth League Executive Committee reporting twenty-five dollars subscribed by committee members to the state League in memory of Mrs. Ueland.



The chair called attention to the necessity of appointing Mrs. Ueland to take over the responsibilities she carried in connection with legislative work, as a member of the Executive Committee and as chairman of the Finance Committee. The board approved the suggestion that the Legislative Council be asked to choose one of its members as acting chairman for the remainder of the year. The chair reported a conference of the Twin City women who have been doing active work at the legislature recently, at which Mrs. L. C. Weeks was chosen as acting chairman of legislative work at the Capitol, for the remainder of the session. Mrs. Weeks appealed to the board for volunteers from outside the cities for work. The following volunteered: Mrs. Botsford (will be in the city the last of March); Mrs. Dowling (can come for one day); Mrs. Sherwin.

The responsibility carried by Mrs. Ueland as chairman of the Finance Committee must also be divided among members of the board and the chair called for volunteers for this work. Mrs. Thorp suggested that Mrs. Partridge be asked to follow-up the national memberships secured by Mrs. Ueland and herself. Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Gaus, and Mrs. Thorp volunteered to give time also to the calls necessary to secure renewal of memberships already pledged. In the matter of securing pledges to be reported to the national League in advance of the General Council meeting in April, Mrs. McKnight offered assistance and Mrs. Cant suggested that a letter be sent to those who have heretofore made pledges at the national convention.

The chair reported two vacancies in the Executive Committee and reminded the board that the custom has been to appoint the department chairmen to service upon the committee. The vacancies, therefore, represent the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, formerly held by Mrs. Hargreaves, and the Department of Public Welfare in Government. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Cant, second of Mrs. Botsford, that Mrs. Weeks be appointed to serve upon the Executive Committee. It was agreed that the chair be asked to recommend at the next board meeting someone to fill the other vacancy.

#### Plans for Memorial Service for Mrs. Ueland

Mrs. McKnight reported plans being made by a Citizens' Committee, of which she is chairman, for an inspiring memorial service at the State Capitol on Sunday afternoon, March 20. St. Paul high schools have been asked to send three representatives each and state and city organizations are asked to name official delegates. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Kercher, second of Mrs. Spear, that Miss Wells be authorized to write to local Leagues in the state asking them to name delegates to attend the service.

#### Memorial Issue of the Woman Voter

The chair reported the tentative plan to make the next issue of the Voter a Memorial Number and asked Mrs. Thorp, as the special editor of this number, to report upon plans. Mrs. Thorp suggested the inclusion of an abstract of the addresses made by Miss Wells and Mr. Sageng in the Memorial Service on Sunday, together with special statements on Mrs. Ueland's public work by those who have known it most intimately. She also read clippings from Mrs. Ueland's scrap book that she hopes to use. It was agreed that extra copies of the special number should be ordered and that local Leagues be asked to place advance orders for additional copies of this number.

#### Publication of the Woman Voter

Miss Child reported that the arrangement by which Mr. Keller assumed the cost of publishing the Woman Voter terminated with the last (February) issue and that, pending new plans, the cost of publication must be met from the League treasury.

#### Reports by Department and Committee Chairmen

Mrs. Weeks reported recent developments in the field covered by her department. Mrs. Thorp reported that Mr. Dillon of the Tribune plans to go to Geneva this summer and visit the League of Nations. She asked that a letter of introduction be given him to Dame Rachel Crowley and the chair asked Miss Owen to forward this request to the National League.

Letters from Senators Shipstead and Schall in response to communications from the League in support of federal action to place prohibition enforcement officers under civil service were read by the secretary. Miss Owen reported the passage by Congress of the Smoot Reorganization Bill in which is incorporated the Cramton bill embodying this principle.

### State Legislation

Miss Owen reported that the poll on the Child Labor Amendment in the Senate showed no certain majority in its favor and a similar situation exists in the House. A ratification resolution will therefore not be introduced into this legislature although there is certain work that must be done immediately as well as in the future to hold the friends the amendment now has and to make new ones. She suggested as necessary:

- 1) A letter to members of the legislature shown to be favorable to the amendment by the poll;
- 2) A personal visit to the 9 sponsors secured by Mrs. Ueland in the Senate for a possible ratification bill, to explain to them the decision in regard to its introduction;
- 3) A plan during the coming two years for sending speakers on the amendment to other organizations in places where there is no League of Women Voters;
- 4) Other special educational work.

The fact that there are still several legislators who, though personally won over to the amendment, say they cannot vote for it because of the sentiment in their districts, points to the necessity of educational work in their districts.

Miss Owen also reported upon the status of the 54-Hour Bill in the legislature and there was general discussion of the opposition to it and of the need of such a law. Other bills were reported upon briefly.

### Young Voters

Miss Child suggested the possibility of arranging for attendance of a representative of the various college Leagues at state board meetings, each League being given an opportunity to send a representative to a certain board meeting. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ramsey, second of Mrs. Gaus, that the board approve this plan and that the necessary notification be sent to each college League.

Mrs. Spear reported that a temporary committee on organization has been named at the Duluth State Teachers College and that it is her hope that a college League will be formed there in the near future.

### Survey of Voting Habits

Miss Beggin reported upon the surveys already conducted in Monticello and Olivia and said that it is planned to carry on two additional surveys in Hinckley, in the northern part of the state, and in Slayton, in the southern part of the state, in time to forward the results for report at the General Council meeting of the National League. Miss Child read a letter from Mrs. Wittich who is working upon the data secured in Monticello and who complimented Miss Beggin and the Monticello League upon the excellence of the work. Mrs. Sherwin of the Monticello League and Mrs. Dowling of Olivia contributed to the discussion of the value of the survey.

### General Council Meeting in April

The chair asked the board to take action in the appointment of delegates to attend the meeting of the General Council. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lawrence, second of Mrs. Ramsey, to name Mrs. McKnight to represent the Minnesota League and to authorize the Executive Committee to appoint the second delegate.

Attention was called to changes suggested in the national Program of Work for the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War by Mrs. Weeks. The chair asked that the board name one of its members to prepare a report for the next board meeting on the recommendations submitted by the standing committees of the National League on Immigration and Prohibition enforcement. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dowling, second of Miss Monahan, to ask Mrs. Gaus to make such a report.

### Jury Service Questionnaire

Miss Monahan reported that replies have been received from all but 9 counties in the state to the questionnaire sent out on service of women on juries. She suggested that an effort be made to secure the information for these remaining counties. After discussion, IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Miss Lusk, that an appeal be sent to local Leagues to assist in getting information that cannot be secured in other ways and that a plan be made for securing the assistance of local Leagues in furthering the service of women upon juries.

After the reading of a statement from the National League quoting a passage in a recent study of adult education by the Carnegie Foundation, speaking of the excellence of the League's work and publications in the field of political education, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Child, Secretary Pro Tem



Mailing List 218

ROUND ROBIN

No. 24

Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters

March 24, 1927

IOWA - The annual state Convention was held at Des Moines March 17 and 18 and Mrs. Knutson and the other officers were re-elected.

Among the delegates, representing Davenport, Estherville, Mason City, Des Moines, Clear Lake, Marshalltown, Gilmore City were three members from the Iowa State College League and their adviser, Mrs. Edward Allen.

The event of the Convention was the presence of the national president, Miss Sherwin, who spoke on "An Adventure in Patriotism" to an attentive and representative state audience at a banquet in her honor Thursday evening.

The farewell luncheon was one of the most successful of the Convention occasions and one of its pleasant features was the raising of \$450 towards the 1927-8 budget of \$1325.00.

By referendum November 4, the voters of Iowa confirmed the action of two previous legislatures and removed from Iowa's women the disability to hold public office. The League has seldom done a better job anywhere than this achievement of the Iowa League in winning victory in the referendum.

On the last day of February Mason City held a special election and voted in the city manager plan of government. The local League, after due consideration and discussion with state officers, decided that the plan met the standards for manager plan of government endorsed by the National League and decided to support the measure. It was the only woman's organization to participate actively in the campaign. It held mass meetings with speakers for the plan and also sent its own speakers to ready-made audiences. The Mason City League is to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work.

NORTH DAKOTA - It is reported that already nearly two months before the end of the national fiscal year, North Dakota has completed payment on its national quota.

SOUTH DAKOTA - The Mitchell League has elected new officers; among them the president, Mrs. J. F. McMahon; the 1st vice-president, Miss Dorothy Stebbins; and the 2nd vice-president, Mrs. E. H. Starr.

A group from the Huron League has completed an intensive course of six weeks' study of the Child Labor Amendment. At the end of the course a public luncheon was held, at which ten questions based on child labor legislation were asked and answered.

On October 9 was organized the Arlington League of Women Voters composed entirely of rural women, all of them it is reliably reported under 40 years of age. Needless to say this new Arlington League gives promise of being one of the most enterprising in the region.

MONTANA - The event of the year in the Fifth Region was, of course, ratification of the Child Labor Amendment by the Montana legislature. Members of the legislative committee, led by Mrs. Norman Winestine, did valiant service in so presenting the merits of ratification to the legislators that action was prompt and decisive. The entire region extends congratulations.

MINNESOTA - There are many League members throughout the region who will share in Minnesota's sorrow at the death of their beloved Honorary President, Mrs. Andreas Ueland. Mrs. Ueland was struck and killed by an automobile Tuesday, March 1, as she was about to enter her own doorway on the way home from the Capitol.

Mrs. Ueland, under whose leadership suffrage was won in Minnesota, was not only a very tower of strength in the League of Women Voters as she has been for the last quarter of a century in all the good enterprises of the state, but she was also personally beloved of every League member.

The recent situation in a Minnesota county where officials decided to omit women from the jury panel, resulted in court proceedings to compel the listing of women for jury service as provided by the law secured by the League of Women Voters in 1921. The state League then sent out a questionnaire to the clerk of court in every county to learn how the law is being observed throughout the state. Replies came back promptly and showed that women have been giving jury service in all but 22 of the 87 counties of the state. The League now plans a campaign directed to women in the 22 counties to secure the inclusion of women in all jury lists.

1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

Marguerite M. Wells, Regional Director

24 for State Board  
36 for Imp. Board

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MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, Honorary President

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

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Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight

Secretary  
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Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

March 28th,  
1927

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Dear Board Member:

The next meeting of the State Board will be held on Friday, April 8. Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight has invited the board to meet at her home, 2200 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.

Transportation from the state office to Mrs. McKnight's home will be provided for out-of-town members who send us word that they will arrive in the office by 10:00 o'clock. The meeting will be, as usual, an all-day meeting opening at 10:30 A.M. The chairmen of standing committees will make recommendations to the board for action on proposed changes in the Program of Work of the National League.

Members of the board of the Minneapolis League are invited to attend this meeting. Please let us know as promptly as possible whether we may count on your attendance in order that we may make the necessary reservations for luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms



March 29. 145 copies

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Legislative Bulletin  
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
March 30, 1927

Explanation of Terms

GENERAL ORDERS: List of bills reported favorably from standing committees and awaiting discussion in Committee of the Whole.

CALENDAR: Bills that have been discussed in Committee of the Whole and recommended for passage are placed on the Calendar for the day for final action. The vote on the final passage of a bill is always by roll-call.

SPECIAL ORDERS: A bill may be made a Special Order for a certain day and hour by a 2/3 vote, previous notice of intention having been given.

JOURNAL: A pamphlet record of each day's proceedings of the House and Senate.

Note: Copies of the Journal of the House and Journal of the Senate, of the printed lists of bills on General and Special Orders and of the Calendar may be secured upon request in the office of the secretary of each house.

Status of Certain League Bills

54-Hour Bill for Women (H. F. 460 - S. F. 181)

House - in Public Welfare Committee

Senate - on General Orders as amended in the Public Welfare Committee

Amendment to Minimum Wage Law (S. F. 1044)

Senate - in Public Welfare Committee; later will appear on General Orders

Amendment Raising Minimum Marriage Age (H. F. 560 - S. F. 409)

Passed the Senate and now on General Orders in the House. The Senate bill has been substituted for the House bill. See Senate File number.

Amendment Defining Requirements for Marriage Licenses (H. F. 561 - S. F. 408)

House - on General Orders

Senate - in Public Welfare Committee; may soon appear on General Orders

Amendment Providing for Licensed and Recorded Marriages (H. F. 562 - S. F. 831)

House - on General Orders

Senate - in Public Welfare Committee

Amendment of 1909 and 1913 Hour Laws for Women (H. F. 1044 - S. F. 921)

House - on General Orders

Senate - on the Calendar

This bill exempts cannery workers from the laws that will be in effect if the re-enactment of the 54-Hour Law (1923) fails in this / session.

Teachers' Retirement Fund (H. F. 222 - S. F. 223)

House - reported by the Education Committee and re-referred to the Appropriations Committee

Senate - in Education Committee

*elective to office*  
Women holding elective office in \_\_\_\_\_ County  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Information supplied by \_\_\_\_\_  
County Auditor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1927

April 1927,  
1927

## OMEN VOTERS

epin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

### DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

My dear County Auditor:

A year ago the League of Women Voters gathered information on women holding elective office in Minnesota. The report prepared then and given widespread newspaper publicity aroused a great deal of interest in the state.

We now wish to bring the report up to date and will greatly appreciate your cooperation in giving us information on the following questions:

What women were elected or re-elected to public office in your county at the general election last fall?

What women were elected in local elections in your county this spring (not including members of school boards)?

We wish to report these facts at a meeting in April and shall therefore be grateful for a prompt response from you. I enclose an addressed postal for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Charles E. Shafer, Chairman  
Committee on Women in Public Office

RS ms  
Enc.

90 See last page of other book for first letter sent to auditors.



45-copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
April 8, 1926

Minutes

Reading of letters

Treasurer's Report

Naming of auditor

NATIONAL COUNCIL - April 26-30

Pledges

Second delegate

Action on proposed changes in program of work

Department and standing committee recommendations  
Proposals for new subject-matter

ORGANIZATION

Reports by district chairmen

Appointment to Ninth District Chairmanship

Chairmen of standing committees in local Leagues

National League Organization Bulletin

YOUNG VOTERS

Duluth College League - Mrs. Spear

New Voters News

STATE LEGISLATION

Status of bills - Mrs. Weeks

Decision on further amendment to Hour bill  
Decision on bills repealing legislation supported by the  
League

Gallery watchers at state legislature

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AFTER THE LEGISLATURE

Women in office

G.O.V. - elementary voting classes

SURVEYS AND REPORTS

Surveys on Voting Habits - Miss Beggin, Mrs. Shafer

Women in Elective Office in Minnesota - Mrs. Shafer

Service of women on juries

REPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Ueland Memorial Fund  
Plan for May Board Meeting

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

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Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
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Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

April 28th,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

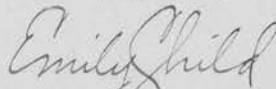
The state board will meet on Friday, May 13. At the invitation of Miss Florence Monahan, the meeting will be held in Shakopee and will convene at the usual time, 10:30 A.M.

A bus leaves Minneapolis and St. Paul for Shakopee at 10:00 A.M., arriving an hour later. The return bus leaves Shakopee at 4:25 P.M. The bus fare is 75¢. Members of the board who expect to drive to Shakopee and who can take others with them are asked to let us know so that we may make the necessary plans. If out of town members will telephone or come to the office between 9:00 and 9:30 A.M., we will be able to let them know whether places in automobiles are available.

Miss Wells and Mrs. Wittich will report on the National League Council meeting and there will be discussion of tentative plans for the state Convention and for activities in the state during the coming months.

Please let us have as early as possible your reply as to whether you will attend so that we may notify Miss Monahan.

Sincerely yours,



Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms



40 Not sent to college Leagues  
Not sent to board.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

April 18th,  
1927

Dear Local League Chairman:

You will learn in the next issue of the Voter about the proposed fund for the establishment of two suitable permanent memorials to Mrs. Ueland - one a tablet in our State Capitol, the other a fellowship open to a woman graduate of the State University. Although the members of your League may all have contributed to the fund individually, it is the opinion of the State Board that the local League may wish to make an official contribution in addition.

If your League wishes to make such a contribution I suggest that you do so through headquarters so that we may have a record. Checks may be made payable to Mrs. A. E. Zonne, or to the state League. The Voter will carry a list of the Leagues making such contributions but not of the amount contributed. The following Leagues have already contributed in advance of the establishment of a fund: ~~St. Paul, Minneapolis~~, Duluth, St. Cloud and Brainerd.

Several Leagues have expressed to the Board and officers of the state League their sympathy in the irreparable loss we have all sustained. You must know that we appreciate your sympathy and that in our turn we sympathize with you in the loss of a leader whose place will never be filled and who has been for so many years not only a leader, but a beloved companion.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms

100  
Local Leagues  
and members  
Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
April 2, 1927

#### LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

The legislature has now been in session almost 70 of the 90 days allotted to the session. It is expected to close about April 21 so that there are less than three crowded weeks in which to dispose of the hundreds of bills still awaiting action. Two sessions a day instead of one, in the Senate, and evening sessions in the House have already been planned as an adjustment to the pressure of unfinished business.

The story of the League's bills in the legislature, started in the February issue of the Minnesota Woman Voter, is continued here to give League members up-to-date information in order that they may, if possible, visit the legislature during these three final weeks and give the representatives of the state League at the Capitol the assurance of their support and assistance in following the discussion on the measures that make up our program.

#### Explanation of Terms

**GENERAL ORDERS:** List of bills reported favorably from standing committees and awaiting discussion in Committee of the Whole.

**CALENDAR:** Bills that have been discussed in Committee of the Whole and recommended for passage are placed on the Calendar of the day, for final action, a roll-call vote being required. By unanimous consent, under suspension of rules, a bill may be placed on the Calendar without following the usual procedure.

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** A bill may be made a Special Order for a certain day and hour by a 2/3 vote, previous notice of intention having been given.

#### Status of League Bills

##### Re-enactment of 54-Hour Law for Employed Women (H. F. 460 - S. F. 181)

This bill is being watched with great concern by League representatives since it is hoped that it may pass the Senate in time for action by the House. Its failure to pass will mean that laws dating from 1909 and 1913, governing hours of work for women, will again become operative. The particular disadvantages of these laws are that they provide different regulations for different groups of women in industry, thus presenting difficult enforcement problems; and that they are not state-wide in their application, thus excluding some of the women who are most in need of protection. (See attached sheet with typical letters.)

The first heated debate in the Senate this session came when the bill was discussed in Committee of the Whole, on February 16, with action to re-refer it to the Public Welfare Committee for consideration of an undesirable amendment to restrict its operation to cities of the first and second class. (See February Voter article.) The committee reported the bill back on March 18, without this amendment but with one changing the exemption for telephone operators. The bill then went on General Orders where it is now awaiting further action. It is expected that further amendments will be proposed when it is again considered in the Senate. Friends of the bill hope that such amendments may not render it wholly valueless and that the amended bill may reach the House in time to be substituted for the House bill (still in committee there) and passed by the House before the end of the session.

##### Amendment to Minimum Wage Law (S. F. 1044)

This is the measure by which it is hoped to provide the same protection for girls as for boys under the provisions of the law applying to "minors", now that the law is no longer operative for adult women. The previous vote on the amendment when it passed the House and failed of passage by two votes in the Senate, is given in the February Voter. On March 22, Senator Sherman Child introduced a new bill to accomplish the same change in the law. The Senate Public Welfare Committee reported the bill on March 30 with a recommendation that it be placed immediately on the Calendar where it is now awaiting a final vote. If passed by the Senate, it must go to the House for re-passage there since action by the House on the original bill does not apply to the bill now on the Senate calendar.



Amendment Raising Minimum Marriage Age to 16 Years (H. F. 560 - S. F. 409)

Passed the Senate on March 9 by a vote of 49-1, Mr. McCubrey voting in the negative. The Senate bill has now been substituted for the House bill on General Orders where it is awaiting action by Committee of the Whole previous to the final vote. An amendment to the bill was attached in the Senate, upon recommendation of the committee, to provide that a license may be granted to a female "of the full age of 15 years" if the application for a license is approved by the juvenile court judge of the county of her residence.

Amendment Defining Requirements for Marriage Licenses (H. F. 561 - S. F. 408)

This bill has been reported favorably by the Public Welfare Committee of the House, Mrs. James Paige chairman, and is on General Orders. It is awaiting discussion in the Public Welfare Committee of the Senate, Mr. Edwin L. MacLean, chairman. Active opposition to the bill comes from the county clerks and the court commissioners in the state, both of which groups have a "pocket interest" in its defeat. The fact that Wisconsin already has the 5-day waiting period in its law has resulted in residents of Wisconsin crossing the line into Minnesota to secure marriage licenses in our state where there is no such check on hasty marriage. This has brought an income from additional fees to marriage license clerks in this state who are loathe to yield the advantage even in the interest of better legislation. This particular situation points to the desirability of having such officers on an adequate salary basis with all fees paid into the public treasury.

Amendment Providing for Licensed and Recorded Marriages (H. F. 562 - S. F. 831)

The situation of this bill, affecting the status of common-law marriages, is identical with that of the preceding bill. The opposition to the bill in the legislature comes chiefly from lawyers who wish to preserve the possibility of defending the rights of the exceptional woman whose case is brought to the attention of an attorney with the possibility of securing court action in her favor. This professional group overlooks the many women whose cases do not come to the attention of an attorney and who are victims of the situation resulting from the recognition of common-law marriages in this state. A statement is attached with data on actual cases that are on record.

Teacher Tenure Bill

This bill passed the House on February 25 by a vote of 90 - 35. It was amended and passed by the Senate on March 9, by a vote of 37 - 11, the House concurring in the Senate amendments on March 10. The bill was signed by the governor on March 14 and thus became a law. A full report of the votes on the bill in the House and Senate and the detail of the amendments attached will be given in the Legislative Supplement to the Woman Voter published early in May.

Amendment to Encourage Longer School Term (H. F. 235 - S. F. 202)

This bill was reported by the House Education Committee on March 17 with a recommendation that the bill be indefinitely postponed. The bill was thus killed in committee in the House and is still in the Senate Education Committee from which it will probably not be reported.

Other League Bills

There has been no change in the situation of other measures upon our program since the report in the February Voter.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

March 1927

# WHY ONLY LICENSED AND RECORDED MARRIAGES SHOULD BE VALID

Note: The following brief summary of actual cases from the files of a Minneapolis social agency indicates the need of the amendment to our Minnesota marriage law proposed in the present legislature. (H. F. 562 - S. F. 831). The cases cited illustrate the uncertainty of the relationship and therefore its lack of protection of the women and children involved, as well as showing the injustice that often results to the legally married wife and to the children of that marriage. See mimeographed statement "Changes in Our Marriage Law", dated January 1927 and available at state League headquarters.

## Typical Cases

(1) A man had lived with a woman of bad repute and established common-law marriage. He later tired of the woman and left her, not considering common-law marriage to such a woman binding. After he had been separated from her for some years he entered into a ceremonial marriage; he had 5 children by this marriage and gathered together quite a comfortable fortune; this wife knew nothing about his common-law wife. The man died and the common-law wife laid claim to the wife's share of his possessions and got it.

(2) A man and woman were married legally and had one child. Husband deserted and wife never bothered to divorce him. Later she became interested in another man and justified herself for living with him by calling him her common-law husband; she had 2 children by him. Of course she was not eligible for any marriage, not having been divorced, but hundreds of ignorant people justify themselves in this way to their neighbors - by claiming common-law marriage.

(3) A man legally married had 2 children. He became interested in a woman in another town and wished to marry her; he tried to get a divorce but failed. He did not want to tell her he was married and could not get a divorce so told her he did not believe in a marriage as binding as a legal marriage and persuaded her to enter into a common-law marriage although he was not eligible to marry under common-law. They had several children. The man died and the wife could inherit nothing as it developed that the man was still married to his first wife and the common-law agreement therefore was not binding.

(4) A man had a wife and child living outside the city. He met a woman in whom he became violently interested. He suggested a common-law marriage; made over his insurance to her, introduced her as his wife. He was killed within a day or so in a street accident. Before his legal wife learned of the accident the common-law wife had collected his insurance.

(5) A couple living together claimed they were married but admitted that this was not so when proof of the marriage was asked. The father was very brutal to the mother and children. She claimed that the man was her common-law husband but he, having tired of the woman, claimed that it was an illicit relationship. It was never possible to prove the exact status of this case and thus to settle whether the children were legitimate or not.

(6) Husband died and wife entered common-law relationship with another man. Child was born and mother insisted no ceremony was necessary because "common law" would "hold". The man died leaving insurance which could not be collected because the child was held to be illegitimate.



30 copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
May 13, 1927

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Advertising in the Woman Voter

ORGANIZATION

Report of Field Secretary

Reports by District Chairmen

Young Voters

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Committee of Nine Report - Mrs. Wittich

Discussion Method - Mrs. Spear

Federal Legislation for state League support  
Sheppard-Towner  
Muscle Shoals

STATE LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Final report on legislature with recommendations - Mrs. Weeks

Voting Surveys

Summer study groups on international affairs  
Speakers available (Professor Outgley, Mrs. Maroley)

Follow-up of Jury Service Questionnaire

STATE CONVENTION

Decision as to dates

Invitation from Minneapolis League

Communications from University

Program

OTHER BUSINESS

Reading of Communications

Radio Program

Invitation of Duluth League for June

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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1000 sheets May - 1927



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500 sheets - may, 1927

about 25 copies

May 25, 1927

The Fifth Region was represented at the National League of Women Voters' General Council Meeting in Washington April 26th to 30th by all five of the state presidents: Mrs. J. E. Patton of Montana; Miss Helen Davies of North Dakota; Miss Marguerite M. Wells of Minnesota; Mrs. E. W. Feige of South Dakota; and Mrs. Clarence Knutson of Iowa. As Miss Wells is also regional director, Mrs. F. W. Wittich of Minnesota acted as her proxy. Both South Dakota and Minnesota had two delegates: Miss Dorothy Rehfeld, state chairman of Legal Status of Women, was the second delegate from South Dakota and Mrs. George H. Spear, member of the board of directors, was the second delegate from Minnesota. Mrs. John R. Parkes, regional secretary, also attended. Present at the regional dinner in addition, were Miss Catherine McReynolds, formerly of Montana, and Miss Gladys Harrison, formerly of Minnesota, both members of the national staff.

MONTANA at the Council, by Mrs. Patton - The pride of the General Council was made manifest on numerous occasions as they called for Montana's story of the ratification. It was a great satisfaction to the state president and to the state League to be represented in the General Council and receive this distinction and honor, Montana being the only state to ratify in 1927.

A novel feature of the Council was the presentation of discussion methods preceded by visits to departments and bureaus of the United States government.

SOUTH DAKOTA at the Council, by Mrs. Feige - The open discussion on birth and growth of new Leagues resulted in the appointment of a committee to outline a method of procedure for state Leagues to follow in organization work which was presented to the Council. The report was enthusiastically received. A copy may be secured at national headquarters. Mrs. Feige of Huron was chairman and Mrs. Caspar Whitney of New York was the other acting member of the committee.

The Council was a great success - personal contact, free discussion, and not least by any means, Washington, our capital city, offers the proper setting and background for renewed consecration to country and stimulated us to greater activities than we have yet undertaken.

NORTH DAKOTA at the Council, by Miss Davies - The luncheon held at the Congressional Country Club, Friday noon, will be of great interest to every League in the Fifth Regional District.

During the lunch hour recent accomplishments of the state branches of the National League of Women Voters were reported by Mrs. Whitney, presiding officer. Miss Marguerite Wells representing Minnesota and Miss Helen Davies, North Dakota, were called to stand because these were two of the very short list of states which had met their full quota to the National League. A conspicuous feature of this luncheon was a little skit which was put on by the entire fifth region, "What Every League Should Know". It is a clever little production representing a small League in session. It was received with great enthusiasm.

MINNESOTA at the Council, by Miss Wells - Minnesota was represented by three members on the important "Committee of Nine": Mrs. Wittich as member of the Council, Miss Gladys Harrison, as member of the national staff, Miss Wells as member of the national board. This committee recommended to the Council a Program of Work "in relation to the political events of 1928" and also presented for the acceptance of the Council a letter which was taken by them to the President of the United States as the last event of the Council at noon April 30, and which assured the President of the League's interest in increasing the responsibility of American women toward government.

One recommendation of the Committee of Nine was "the value of directed experiments in studies of voting habits". Among the few such studies reported to the Council were four made in small towns in Minnesota under the direction of Mrs. Wittich and Miss Margaret Beggin.

IOWA at the Council - Mrs. Knutson has not been heard from but she would want to mention the applause at the Congressional Country Club luncheon when the presiding officer told of what the Iowa League did to win success in the referendum when Iowa women finally gained the right to serve as members of the Legislature.



*24 sent to Mrs. Roubal - another letter sent later - would be held at League Headquarters*

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Mrs. Edward Ringstad, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. J. Pierce Wolfe, Moorhead, Ninth District

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Executive Secretary  
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## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Myra Griswold, Child Welfare  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Miss Martha Botsford, Living Costs

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

June 1st,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

The June meeting of the state board will be held in Duluth, at the invitation of the Duluth League, on the regular day, Friday, June 10. The meeting will open promptly at 10:00 A.M.

Miss Wells hopes that members of the board will make a special effort to attend since it is difficult to make a success of the plan of holding board meetings at various points in the state outside the Twin Cities without support from board members through attendance.

Reports from those who have driven between Duluth and the Twin Cities over the last week-end indicate roads in excellent condition, in spite of the recent rains. Further reports will be obtained by this office before the day of the board meeting and will be available to any member of the board who would like to consider the possibility of making the trip by automobile.

The train journey (fare \$5.40 each way) can be made by an 11:30 P.M. Northern Pacific train Thursday, arriving in Duluth at 7 o'clock Friday morning, and a return train at 5:00 P.M. the same day arriving in St. Paul at 9:00 P.M. and Minneapolis at 9:30 P.M.

The bus trip takes  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours (fare \$8.00 for the round trip). It would be necessary to make the bus trip Thursday and stay overnight in Duluth to be there for the morning session of the board meeting.

Please let us know as soon as possible whether you will go to Duluth in order that we may make the necessary plans.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

*Mimeographed about 2050 - greatest part sent out May 27, 1927.*

MRS. UELAND MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE

MRS. A. E. ZONNE, TREASURER

910 MOUNT CURVE AVENUE - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Dear Friend:

We have thought of you as one of those who would wish to be offered an opportunity to contribute to a fund now being raised for the establishment of two permanent memorials to Mrs. Ueland.

One of the contemplated memorials is a college fellowship in government. The other is a bronze tablet at the State Capitol. Both these memorials fittingly express the honor in which Mrs. Ueland's memory is held by this generation and both would serve to inspire future generations.

It is thought that both forms of memorial may be secured for a sum of \$25,000. For that sum the proposed fellowship may be large enough to permit a young woman, not otherwise financially able, to give a year of study to problems of government and the proposed tablet might be so real a work of art that art lovers would make special visits to the Capitol to see it. A lover of the beautiful herself, and a lover of humanity, Mrs. Ueland would be fittingly honored by such memorials as these.

Please do not expect a personal call but respond by mail if you wish to have a part in these memorials. To secure them there must be a good many gifts of \$100 or more, but we hope there will be many small gifts of five dollars and less so that all those who loved and honored Mrs. Ueland may have their part in a permanent memorial. This letter goes to friends from whom both large and small gifts may be expected. Will you send any contribution you wish to make, to the above address?

Very sincerely yours,

*Louise C. Zonne.*  
Mrs. A. E. Zonne  
Treasurer

PROF. WILLIAM ANDERSON  
MR. W. C. BATDORF  
MR. JAMES F. BELL  
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MRS. CHARLES C. BOVEY  
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MRS. BERTHA DAHL LAWS  
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JUDGE AND MRS. J. F. D. MEIGHEN  
MISS NELLIE MERRILL

MR. AND MRS. LEOPOLD METZGER  
MR. J. E. MEYERS  
RABBI ALBERT G. MINDA  
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MR. AND MRS. THEODORE WOLD  
MR. AND MRS. A. E. ZONNE



# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. G. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud, Sixth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. L. C. Weeks, Detroit, Ninth District

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Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Mrs. Andreas Ueland, Advisory Legislative Council

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Richard T. Hargreaves,  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

June 3rd,  
1927

Dear Local League Chairman:

The Executive Committee has instructed me to write to ask for your active cooperation as well as your advice on the subject of another state Institute of Government and Politics to be put on for League members by the state University. As you perhaps know, the University has held one of these Institutes every other year since enfranchisement. They have been of truly remarkable character and those who have attended them are unanimous in their expression of enthusiastic satisfaction.

We are very much troubled, however, by the fact that so unusual an opportunity is not taken advantage of by a greater number of women. There could be at least twice as many in attendance and perhaps three or four times as many for the same amount of effort. We wish, therefore, to consult you asking, in the first place, whether there are any changes as to treatment or scope or arrangement by which you think a greater number would attend. We wish to ask you in the second place to cooperate with us in finding ways of securing a greater attendance.

I think at once of two things that you might do.

- 1) Bring before every member of your League the facts and dates about the coming Institute. Ask every member to reserve that time on her calendar, planning to make no other appointments and to attend unless something unforeseen happens.
- 2) Make up a small list of women in or near your community who you think would enjoy this Institute and profit by it. Send the list to us so that we may ask the University to write these women direct inviting them to the Institute.

The simple fact is that if such Institutes as these had never been arranged for, we would be inclined to think it an ideal too good to be true. At these Institutes we select some burning political question of the day about which everyone needs a background of understanding. Prominent members of the excellent state University faculty in government and history then proceed to present these subjects from a scholarly and detached point of view. The

entire course is so arranged that in three or four days women may get what, without this arrangement, they might seek in vain throughout a year of extension courses or lectures to find.

The Institute, as you perhaps have already seen, is to be held October 4-8 in Minneapolis.

This is the first and most important item upon which I wish to address you today. The second item, which is also important, is as follows.

MATERIAL FOR SUMMER STUDY GROUPS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: The state board has asked Mrs. Weeks, our chairman of International Cooperation to Prevent War, to prepare a brief summary of the facts on each subject of current interest in this country's foreign policy. We hope that local Leagues may wish to plan for informal porch discussion groups this summer as a pleasant way of becoming informed on the subjects that occupy a chief place in our newspaper publicity today. Material on China, Mexico, Nicaragua and on international disarmament conferences will be mimeographed during June and sent to you. Mrs. Weeks expects to prepare a set of "Ask Me Another" questions to accompany the material, with suggestions for a "spell-down" that has proved vastly entertaining wherever it has been used.

May we hope to receive very soon the list of women who should be written to about the Institute?

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms



25  
Copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
June 10th, 1927

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

The Woman Voter

ORGANIZATION

Report by Miss Beggin

Reports by district chairmen

INSTITUTE AND CONVENTION

Program Committee

Letter to local Leagues

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Sheppard-Towner study plan

International Cooperation study plan

Jury Service questionnaire

Voting Surveys and GOV

Other Business

35 copies

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
May 13th, 1927

The regular meeting of the state board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the State Reformatory for Women in Shakopee at the invitation of Miss Monahan, superintendent, on Friday, May 13, 1927. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M., Mrs. Wittich presiding in the absence of Miss Wells.

The following members of the state board were present: Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Gaus, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Ringstad, Miss Monahan, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Cant, and Mrs. Colby. Miss Child and Miss Beggin were also present. Guests in attendance were Mrs. Gage, chairman of the Olivia League, Mrs. Colton of Duluth, Mrs. Quint of Minneapolis and Mrs. Henry Smith of St. Paul. Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Boppel, Mrs. Duffy and Mrs. Pass of the Shakopee League attended the afternoon session.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported a balance of \$1059.09 April 1. Receipts during the month totaled \$1286.89 of which \$786.58 was in local League quotas. Expenditures totaled \$1043.60, leaving a balance of \$1302.38 May 1.

Mrs. Cant reported the number of local Leagues paying quotas in full. She then read bills payable May 1 amounting to \$635. IT WAS VOTED, on motion of Mrs. Spear, second of Mrs. Dowling, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Woman Voter Advertising

Miss Child reported that the Minneapolis League has agreed to solicit advertising from candidates for city office in the June election, under an agreement for sharing the profits with the state League.

Organization

Miss Beggin reported visits to Elk River, Columbia Heights and Northfield.

Mrs. Ringstad reported for the THIRD DISTRICT a most successful luncheon meeting in Northfield, at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Fairbank. A successful membership drive was also mentioned as evidence of the activity of the Northfield League.

In Miss Lusk's absence Mrs. Colby reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT on the two outstanding events of April and May: the rummage sale in April resulting in a handsome profit, and the Annual Meeting, May 6, at the Minnesota Club.

Mrs. Quint reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that the chairmen of all standing committees had met in two all-day board meetings to give reports and talk policies. She reported two successful lectures on China by Dr. Bryn-Jones and Professor Quigley, and also an interesting round table discussion group following the Foreign Policy Association dinners.

Mrs. Dowling reported for the SEVENTH DISTRICT on the special piece of work done by the Olivia League on the rural voting habits survey.

Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT that the annual meeting in Duluth in April was most successful. She reported the new Nashwauk League as flourishing. The teachers college League has had two recent meetings with state legislation and the Child Labor Amendment as subjects of talks. Mrs. Marble added to the report an interesting description of the annual dinner given for the graduates of the Americanization Schools in which the League participates. Mrs. Colton added a word about the committees to observe city departments in Duluth where delegations under Mrs. Marble make their interest and influence felt by regular visits.

General Council Meeting

Mrs. Wittich reviewed the Committee of Nine Report. The purpose of this committee was to draw up a series of recommendations to be stressed by the League in its activities preceding the 1928 campaign. The recommendations include ballot marking classes, political calendars, candidates' meetings, information booths, participation in primary conventions, campaigns for women on juries and the con-



tinuance of voting surveys.

Mrs. Spear summarized the discussion method as presented to the Council by Harrison Elliott of Columbia University. Practical application was made of his method at the Council by assigning to several groups visits to the different departments of government to supply subject matter for discussion.

Mrs. Wittich said that two impressive facts were apparent at the Council meeting:

I. Growth of the League,

301 of 433 Congressional districts have Leagues  
19 city Leagues of 1000 or more members  
16 city Leagues of 500 or more members  
28 state League headquarters  
46 local League headquarters  
81 college Leagues

II. The careful procedure in taking on new tasks.

Surveys were asked for preceding all proposed new work and in some cases surveys were recommended; among them surveys of Women in Public Office, Women on Juries, Women in the Parties. A committee was appointed to determine whether or not the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act ought to be added to the study program.

Federal Legislation for State Support

Mrs. Wittich reported that the new items of federal legislation recommended for state support were the Sheppard-Towner Act and Muscle Shoals. In the first it is a question of further federal grants for infancy and maternity work or of the whole program being carried by the state. There are therefore two possible ways to proceed: to work for a new federal measure or to work for double the present state appropriation. In the second matter she reminded us that the League's stand is for government operation of Muscle Shoals.

Final Report on State Legislation

Mrs. Weeks spoke of the passage of the Teacher Tenure bill. She read a letter from Mr. George Rief of the M.E.A. commending the League on its work for the Teachers' Retirement Fund Bill.

She recommended that the board send a copy of the current issue of the Voter with the article by Miss Wells on the legislature to each representative and senator in the state. The board by consent approved this recommendation.

In connection with reporting the failure of the 54-Hour Bill she spoke of a two-year survey of women in industry conducted in New York which led to passing a bill for an 8-hour day and a 48-hour week.

Miss Monahan restated at Mrs. Wittich's request, the plan worked out in Illinois where under the auspices of the leading women's organizations, a group of speakers carried a Legislative Forum to the leading centers of population to extend information on legislative measures supported by women's groups.

Voting Surveys

Mrs. Wittich said that certain general conclusions were arrived at as a result of voting surveys reported at the General Council, such as the fallacy of using one election where only 50% of voters are represented as a basis for study, that a presidential election is not as indicative of interest as some others, that a big primary vote occurs in states with a dominant party vote, that there are some serious handicaps put on voters in certain states, such as long residence requirements, poll taxes, lack of uniformity in registration and in requirements for absentee voting.

#### The Minnesota Surveys

Miss Beggin, who made the surveys with the aid of local League women in four Minnesota towns, reported that a period of 2 1/4 years was covered, involving 2 local elections, 2 general elections, and 2 primaries. Generalizations were that men vote more than women; heads of families come first; grown-up sons, second; daughters, third; and mothers, last. 13% of the registered voters voted in all six elections in the period of the survey, and as high as 90% voted in one or more of the six elections. Olivia held the best record.

#### Summer Study Groups

Mrs. Weeks gave a brief summary of the international situation before presenting the plan of summer study groups. Material will be prepared on outstanding subjects in the program of her department for the use of local study groups.

#### State Convention and Institute

Miss Child reported that President Coffman has agreed to University cooperation in an Institute next fall, October 4-8, and has appointed a committee to represent the University. His letter was read by Mrs. Colby.

Mrs. Quint, vice-president of the Minneapolis League, extended to the board the invitation of the city League to hold the meeting in Minneapolis. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dowling, second of Mrs. Marble, to accept the invitation of the Minneapolis League.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary



35 copies

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
June 10, 1927

The regular meeting of the state board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at state headquarters on Friday, June 10, 1927. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m., Miss Wells presiding.

There were present Miss Wells, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Cant, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Kercher, Miss Lusk, Miss Lawrence, Miss Beggin and Miss Child.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Cant reported total receipts for May of \$1951.31 and total expenses of \$888.27, leaving a balance June 1 of \$1063.03 with bills payable amounting to \$619.83. In addition to regular monthly installments of the year's quota from the Leagues in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, a quota payment in full (\$7.00) was received during May from the LeRoy League. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Miss Lusk, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Mrs. Cant read a letter from Miss Ludington expressing her appreciation of the regular monthly installments of the National League quota received from the Minnesota League during the past fiscal year.

The Woman Voter

Miss Child reported that the state League will receive from the Minneapolis League \$93.75 as its share of the proceeds of candidates' ads in the May issue of the Voter. This will cover the major part of the expense of publishing the May number.

Organization

Miss Beggin reported visits to Chaska, Norwood and Faribault in the THIRD DISTRICT, and to Kenyon and Farmington where new chairmen and board members were secured for these Leagues that have been inactive during the past year. Miss Beggin recommended that the board take action to remove Chaska from our mailing list of local Leagues since there is no immediate prospect of reviving organization there. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Bennett, second of Miss Lusk, to approve the recommendation, and remove Chaska from the mailing list.

Mrs. Wittich reported upon her trip to Monticello on June 8, TENTH DISTRICT, where she spoke on the General Council meeting. Miss Beggin reported a visit to Wayzata in the same district.

Miss Lusk reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT that the League in St. Paul is preparing for a campaign for a city manager charter in the fall. It is planned to secure vice-chairmen in all the wards who, with the chairman, will be asked to attend board meetings and thus keep in close touch with the work of the League.

Mrs. McKnight reported for the FIFTH DISTRICT that the Minneapolis League has planned a contest during the summer months with prizes to the wards in which one or more new members are secured in every precinct. She also reported a meeting at her cabin of members of the nine League study groups with 42 women present and a discussion led by Mrs. Wittich on the question, "Does the League Fill a Necessary Place in Our Present Political Life?", the discussion being planned according to the method explained by Harrison Elliott at the National League Council. Mrs. McKnight reported that the share of the Minneapolis League in receipts from the candidates' ads in the May Voter amounted to \$120.25.

Summer Activities

The suggestion of the National League that each state League make a special study of Sheppard-Towner work was reported by Mrs. Wittich who called attention to the

importance of bringing home to women throughout the state in this way the value of the work in each community. She mentioned the fact that a research study of the results of the work under the Sheppard-Towner Act is to be made by the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Foundation. The purpose of the League study will be to mobilize legislative support for state and federal appropriations if these are to be continued. Mrs. Wittich reported a conference already arranged with Dr. Boynton of the Division of Child Hygiene, State Board of Health, and League representatives to plan for the questions that are to be sent out to local Leagues in the near future.

Miss Child reported that the plan for preparation of material on foreign affairs for the use of summer study groups is still incomplete. Mrs. Hargreaves has been asked to prepare certain subjects, supplementing statements that are being prepared by Mrs. Weeks and Mrs. McGuire. No reply has come from Mrs. Hargreaves as yet.

Receipt of a questionnaire on Jury Service from the National League was reported by Miss Child. The Executive Committee discussed the advisability of further work on this question in the state at present and agreed that the presidents of the Leagues in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth be asked to request the chairman of the Committee on Legal Status of Women to pursue the inquiry in her own county and report upon it early in the fall.

#### State Convention

Miss Wells reported the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the following committee represent the League in acting jointly with the committee appointed by the University for the Institute of Government and Politics to be held in conjunction with the state Convention: Miss Lusk, chairman; Mrs. Wittich, Miss Wells, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Gaus, and Mrs. Frank Lynam. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Ramsey, second of Mrs. Cant, to approve the committee as named.

A letter has already gone out to local Leagues informing them of the plan for the Institute, October 4-8 and asking cooperation in securing attendance.

#### Other Business

Miss Wells called the attention of the board to new publications received from the National League during recent months as follows:

Special Legislation for Women in Industry, by J. M. Hicks.	5 cents per copy
Domestic Electric Power Rates - A Questionnaire.	3 cents per copy
The Hazard of the Child	5 cents per copy
Proceedings of the General Council, 1927.	15 cents per copy
Program of Work, Revised 1927	
The League Today, by Miss Sherwin	5 cents per copy

The meeting adjourned on motion at 12:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary



200 Copies, June 23, 1927

Sent to Board + Local League Chairmen  
10 copies to St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth,  
National League; 5 copies to Mrs Weeks.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR USE OF STUDY MATERIAL

Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War  
Minnesota League of Women Voters

June 1927

The attached twenty questions and answers on "Disarmament by International Agreement" were prepared by Mrs. L. C. Weeks, chairman of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, to give briefly and clearly the essential facts about this very important subject of world-wide interest today. They are suggested for the use of informal study or discussion groups this summer.

The questions may be used as a "spell down", with the women present divided into two groups or sides competing for an inexpensive prize. The questions should be read aloud slowly so that the ground they cover is understood. Then the leader may put individual questions to each side in turn, any person on the side being privileged to answer. If one side fails to give the correct answer, the question is passed to the other side. A record of the correct answers made by each side constitutes the point score determining which side wins.

Brief statements in mimeograph form conveying information on the history and present status of international problems in China, Mexico and Nicaragua are in process of preparation by the Minnesota League and will be sent to local League chairmen soon, for use by porch "discussion groups".

"ASK ME ANOTHER" published by the National League (price 10 cents) consists of sets of printed leaflets with questions and answers covering the field of international relations. This material may be ordered from state League headquarters. We suggest its use following the questions on Disarmament and in connection with the mimeographed statements on Mexico, Nicaragua and China to be supplied from state League headquarters.

Afternoon porch parties can be made both entertaining and worthwhile by use of this material. Let your members know that it is available.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
Department of International  
Cooperation to Prevent War

June 1927

Questions and Answers  
on  
DISARMAMENT BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

1. What can you say of the movement for disarmament and the limitation of military establishments during the last 25 years?

Ans. During the last 25 years disarmament has been an important international question. There have been many plans, conventions, and agreements with and without effect.

2. What was the first attempt to reduce the burden of competitive armaments?

Ans. The Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907 were the first attempts at disarmament.

3. What did they accomplish?

Ans. The Hague Peace Conferences established a permanent court of arbitration and formulated certain rules of warfare, but accomplished nothing in disarmament.

4. What treaty effected the disarmament of the Central Powers?

Ans. The Treaty of Versailles at the close of the World War effected the disarmament of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey).

5. What was the first conference to bring about any limitation of armaments?

Ans. The Washington Conference called by President Harding.

6. When was the Washington Conference held?

Ans. The Washington Conference was held from November 1921 to February 1922.

7. What powers were represented?

Ans. Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy and the United States.

8. Why were these nations the ones to be represented?

Ans. They are the five great naval powers.

9. What constructive results were achieved?

Ans. The five great naval powers agreed to stop the construction of capital ships, except to replace old ones up to a specified limit and adopted the following ratio of capital ships: Great Britain 5, United States 5, Japan 3, Italy 1.75, France 1.75.

10. What are some important phases of disarmament with which the Conference did not deal?

Ans. The Conference did not deal with the limitation of auxiliary cruisers, submarines, air nor land forces.

11. What are some of the results of this Conference?

Ans. It has halted the competition of the five nations in building capital ships. This Conference has also shown the value of dealing by friendly conference rather than by secret diplomacy.



12. What provision did the Covenant of the League of Nations make in regard to disarmament?

Ans. Article 8 of the Covenant provides that the Council of the League of Nations shall formulate plans for the reduction of arms to the lowest point consistent with national safety.

13. What steps has the Council taken to carry out this policy?

Ans. The Council created the Preparatory Disarmament Commission.

14. What is this Commission accomplishing?

Ans. The Preparatory Commission is defining terms and gathering information which will afford a ground work for a General Disarmament Conference.

15. What action was recently taken by President Coolidge in regard to limitation of armaments?

Ans. President Coolidge invited the four naval powers which participated with the United States in the Washington Conference to hold another conference to deal with the limitation of auxiliary cruisers as the Washington Conference dealt with capital ships.

16. What was the response of the four nations to this invitation?

France and Italy declined. Japan and Great Britain accepted.

17. Contrast the policy of France and the United States as to the time of disarmament.

Ans. France insists upon a guarantee of security before there is further reduction of armaments. The United States maintains that there should be a direct approach to the limitation of armaments without waiting for measures providing security, believing that security will be promoted through the reduction of armaments.

18. Contrast the policy of France and the United States in regard to procedure in disarmament.

Ans. France's policy is to postpone disarmament until the work of the Preparatory Commission is finished and a General Disarmament Conference of all nations is held where the whole problem of disarmament will be considered, taking into account the land, air and sea forces as well as the geographic, industrial, economic and financial factors involved.

The policy of the United States is to isolate as many concrete problems as possible and to deal with them one at a time in a direct manner, thus aiding the Preparatory Commission in its complicated task.

19. When and where does this Three Power Naval Parley called by President Coolidge meet?

Ans. The parley of Great Britain, Italy and the United States convened at Geneva on June 20.

20. What is the attitude of the Council of the League of Nations towards this proposed conference?

The Council's attitude is entirely sympathetic and it voted to approve the action of the Secretary General in extending the facilities of the League to the three power conference.

Post Card included - 35

\_\_\_\_\_ 1927

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the National League  
"ASK ME ANOTHER" leaflets (price 10 cents).

We also wish additional copies of the Minnesota League  
"DISARMAMENT" questions (free) for use by discussion  
group leaders. We expect to have \_\_\_\_\_ different  
groups.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ League of Women Voters



25 copies

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
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Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Miss Martha Botsford, Living Costs

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

June 30th,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

Mrs. Russell M. Bennett has invited the State Board to hold its July meeting at her home at Northome, Lake Minnetonka (end of the Minnetonka Boulevard). It will be held as usual on the second Friday of the month, July 8, at 10:30 A.M.

Transportation will be arranged for out-of-town members from League headquarters to Mrs. Bennett's home. We shall leave the office promptly at 9:45 A.M. and would like to know how many members of the board will wish to go from here.

Plans for the state Convention will be under discussion. A definite report of the Institute program as planned by the Joint Committee representing the University and the League will be presented by Miss Lusk. Two conferences with the University have been held and an interesting plan is ready for your consideration.

Mrs. Bennett will entertain members of the board at luncheon and we should appreciate having an early answer from you so that we may let her know how many to count upon for luncheon.

Miss Wells sends the message that we feel very fortunate to be able to meet in such a cool and delightful place, in this hot part of the summer, and that she knows you will have a pleasant and comfortable day at Mrs. Bennett's if you can be there.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

*July 8- 25 copies*

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
July 8, 1927

Minutes

Letters from League of Minnesota Municipalities

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report  
Woman Citizen income  
National League quota

ORGANIZATION

Reports by district chairmen  
Appointment to tenth district chairmanship  
News of local Leagues  
Dues and sustaining memberships

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Study material  
Mrs. Maroley's offer

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Voting surveys - future plans

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

Maternity and infancy study  
National League program material

STATE AND COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITS

STATE CONVENTION

Dates  
Program and speakers

GROUP DISCUSSION METHOD

OTHER BUSINESS



M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
July 8, 1927

The regular meeting of the state board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the home of Mrs. Russell M. Bennett, Northome, Lake Minnetonka on Friday, July 8, 1927. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m., Miss Wells presiding.

There were present Miss Wells, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Wittich, Mrs. Dowling, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Ramsey, Miss Lusk, Mrs. Spear, Miss Martha Botsford, Mrs. Ringstad, Mrs. Cant, Miss Monahan, Mrs. Colby, and Miss Child. There were also present as guests Mrs. H. G. Harrison, Mrs. Frank Lynam, Mrs. James Paige and Mrs. Silas Bryan.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mrs. Ramsey and approved.

Miss Wells then spoke of the death of Mrs. Glasoe of Northfield on June 18 and named Miss Lawrence and Mrs. Dowling to prepare a resolution for submission to the board after the noon recess. In the course of the afternoon session Miss Lawrence reported the following resolution and IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Miss Botsford to accept the resolution as written and to send copies to the Northfield League and to Mr. Glasoe.

WHEREAS Mrs. P. M. Glasoe, one of the dearest members of the state board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters has entered the joy of the life beyond,

RESOLVED that we feel the irreparable loss among us of one whose unfaltering loyalty and enthusiasm were ever an inspiration and that, missing the help of her loving thought for others, we shall try to make our future work a tribute to her memory.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Cant reported a balance the 1st of June of \$1034.03 and receipts during June of \$752.56, of which \$357 was received in quotas. Disbursements during June amounted to \$928.08, leaving a bank balance July 1 of \$858.51. Bills payable amount to \$577.01. Mrs. Cant reported that, in addition to the regular monthly installments of the annual quota received from St. Paul, Duluth, and Minneapolis, two local Leagues have paid the quota in full during the past month: Redwood Falls and Stephen. IT WAS VOTED, on motion of Mrs. Spear, second of Mrs. Ringstad, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Organization: Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT that the Duluth League is one of the organizations represented in a Civic Council that concerns itself with municipal government and is now about to start an educational campaign in behalf of a business manager for the city. There followed general discussion of the support a local League can offer such a movement and it was urged by the chair that Mrs. Spear, as League representative upon the Council in Duluth, keep in close touch with Mrs. Roulo as the local Efficiency in Government chairman, and that Mrs. Roulo keep Mrs. Wittich informed of the situation in order to have her advice and help.

Mrs. Dowling reported for the SEVENTH DISTRICT that the Olivia League is planning to have a monthly meeting during the summer and that it is interested in carrying out the study of maternity and infancy work suggested as a summer activity by Mrs. Colby who spoke at the last meeting.

Miss Lawrence reported for the SIXTH DISTRICT that the St. Cloud League is not active at present owing to the absence during the past weeks of Mrs. Stai, chairman.

Mrs. Bryan reported for the Minneapolis League that a pamphlet on the Harrison Elliott discussion method called "Talk It Over" embodying Mrs. Wittich's interpretation of his plan together with a suggestive illustration, is now being printed and can be secured for a nominal charge. She announced that Mrs. Lynam is succeeding Mrs. Denny in the chairmanship of the Department of Public Welfare in Government.

Miss Lusk reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT that the League in St. Paul has now practically completed the organization of an Executive Committee in every ward but one. This has been accomplished through luncheon conferences in the League office with promising women in each ward to talk over League work.

Mrs. Ringstad reported for the THIRD DISTRICT that it is impossible to carry on League activity in Northfield during the summer because so many women leave town. She expects to visit the reorganized League in Kenyon next week at the request of the new chairman.

Miss Child reported, at the request of the chair, the recommendation of the Executive Committee that Mrs. Carrol Sherwin of Monticello be appointed to the vacant chairmanship in the TENTH DISTRICT. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Wittich, second of Mrs. Spear, to ask Mrs. Sherwin to act as tenth district chairman.

Department of Efficiency in Government: Mrs. Wittich reported that she prepared, at the request of the National League a suggested plan of instructions for making surveys of voting habits similar to those made in Minnesota. She recommended the continuance of local surveys in Minnesota and said that she would like to see the Leagues in the three first-class cities conduct studies of certain representative precincts as a way of securing a sample of the city. She offered her help and that of the state League in meeting groups of workers and tabulating and assessing results. Monticello and Olivia were reported as planning to continue the surveys already made when new election facts are available.

Mrs. Wittich mentioned the desirability of central counting of election ballots to avoid error and eliminate costly recounts and said that the Minneapolis League is planning to make a study of this question from facts available for Minneapolis.

Miss Wells reported the decision of the National League to consider state department chairmen in future as members of the same department of the National League, and asked whether the time may now have come, particularly in view of the plan for voting surveys, to try to secure Efficiency in Government chairmen in each local League. Miss Child reported 14 local Leagues as now having such chairmen.

International Cooperation to Prevent War: Attention was called to the National League quiz questions. The twenty questions on Disarmament prepared by Mrs. Weeks were read by Miss Lusk and answered by members of the board. There followed discussion of the present disarmament conference. Mrs. Paige said that the printed report of the Second Conference on the Cause and Cure of War with very valuable material, is now available.

The chair reported the offer of Mrs. W. J. Marcley to conduct study groups under the joint auspices of local A.A.U.W. groups and local Leagues for a fee plus travelling expenses. It was suggested that local Leagues keep her offer in mind in planning future programs.

Public Welfare in Government: Miss Child reported that, at the suggestion of the National League, two conferences have been held on the subject of maternity and infancy work in the state: the first on June 4, at which a plan was made for intensive study of local work by each League; the second, on July 6, being a conference with other organization representatives to decide upon a minimum of work by each group to interest its own membership, in future support of the work.

The study of maternity and infancy work planned by the American Child Health Association was reported. Dr. Crumbine will visit Minnesota during the coming month. Mrs. Colby also reported the decision of the State Medical Association recently made to cooperate with the state Board of Health in making an intensive study of maternal deaths in Minnesota.

County Fair Exhibit: Miss Child reported that Miss Olive Boe who prepared the posters for county fair exhibits last year is at work upon a cardboard model to show the right kind and the wrong kind of woman citizen. Her work will be completed in the next two weeks.

State Convention and Institute: Miss Child reported a conflict of dates between the League and the Federation of Women's Clubs the first week in October. After considering carefully the schedule of other meetings, and consulting with Mr. Price of the University and Mr. Mellony of the Curtis Hotel, IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dowling, second of Miss Lusk, that the Institute and Convention dates be changed to November 1 - 5.

Miss Wells voiced the enjoyment of board members of the delightful day with Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Harrison. The meeting adjourned on motion at 4:00 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary



100 copies

Hawley, Frezee, Wayzata  
Sent to Board and local Leagues except: West St. Paul, Norwood, Stephen, Lake Park,  
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Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

July 18, 1927.

My dear Local League Chairman:

Are you planning to have a League of Women Voters exhibit at your county fair this year? We surely hope so for there is no better opportunity to reach the public and secure new friends and members for the League and its work.

We have a particularly interesting and colorful exhibit for county fairs this year which will be sent you without charge except for the cost of sending and returning it by mail. It is in the form of a cardboard model similar to the World Court model that proved so popular two years ago. This year two separate models will illustrate:

The Right Kind of Woman Voter  
and  
The wrong Kind of Woman Voter.

These models show one woman informing herself at a candidates meeting, voting, and seeing the result in a clean, well-run town; contrasted with another woman amusing herself, failing to vote, and living in a dirty, badly governed town. The contrast is, of course, exaggerated to convey a direct impression but we know that these models cannot fail to attract the attention of visitors to your county fair.

A great deal - perhaps all - of the value of the exhibit depends upon there being some one in attendance to answer questions about the League and to take memberships and Voter subscriptions. We urge you, therefore, to appoint a committee immediately to take personal charge of the exhibit, and to arrange for local newspaper publicity in advance of the fair.

RESERVE SPACE NOW AT YOUR COUNTY FAIR \_\_\_\_\_

Write us immediately to place your order for the exhibit so that we may plan to have enough duplicate models.

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President.

MMW ah

85 Copies

Sent to Board and Public Welfare Chairmen; where chairmen did not exist, sent to League  
See attached notice.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

July 18, 1927.

I am writing you as chairman of the Department of Public Welfare in Government of your local League to ask your help in a piece of work for the State Living Costs Committee, one of the standing Committees grouped in your Department.

The National League has asked us to secure replies to the enclosed "Questionnaire on Domestic Electric Power Rates" from various local communities. We are asked to forward the information as soon as possible. May I have your help?

If you are interested in having the pamphlet reprint of an excellent talk delivered at the 1926 National League Convention on "Electric Power and the Public Welfare" send five cents in stamps to the Minnesota League headquarters and a copy will be sent you.

Please mail the filled-in questionnaire to me at state League headquarters. I will be very appreciative of your assistance and will keep you informed of future messages from the National League on this subject.

Cordially yours,

*Martha Botsford*

Martha Botsford,  
Chairman Living Costs Committee.

MB ah



101A 18 185A

July 18, 1927.

(Attached to letter sent local League Chairmen)

To Local League Chairmen:

The attached letter is being sent direct to the chairman of the Department of Public Welfare in Government in local Leagues in the state. We have no such chairman listed for your League. If you should decide to name someone for this chairmanship, will you let me know so that I may send the questionnaire to her?

The three departments of League work are:

Public Welfare in Government  
Efficiency in Government  
International Cooperation to Prevent War.

It has proved a source of strength in many Leagues to have a chairman for each of these three departments serving upon the executive board.

July 25, 1927.

200 copies

50 Florence Harrison.

50

25 Minneapolis

25 St Paul

Mimeographed by the

Minnesota League of Women Voters

(From the Cleveland Voter - June 1927)

150 copies

100 "

Oct. 2, 1928

July 1929

# MY ESTIMATE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

by

A. R. Hatton

Professor of Political Science,

Western Reserve University

Member, Cleveland City Council

I believe that I know something of the spirit and purposes of the League of Women Voters. It chances, also, that I have had unusual opportunities to observe its activities and estimate its influence. Therefore, I shall set forth some of the fundamental principles and purposes of the League as I understand them and give an estimate of its influence and accomplishments based on my personal observations.

Unless I entirely misunderstand the principles upon which the League of Women Voters is founded, it accepts without reservation the idea of political democracy. It assumes that, in America, we are committed to government of, by and for the people. But, in accepting that principle, the League has kept its touch with the realities of human nature and of politics. \* \*

## Believes in Democracy

Believing in political democracy, the League recognizes in the ballot both the symbol and the indispensable instrument of popular control. It was quick to realize that the right of suffrage alone was not enough. It saw that the ballot could be perverted and its value minimized, or even nullified by complex, confusing and defective electoral devices and practices.

The women of the League therefore turned first and almost instinctively to the improvement of electoral methods. They have put new life into the short ballot movement; they are the most effective opponents of the party column, party circle, ballot with its encouragement of indiscriminating, unintelligent voting; they are the principal force behind the growing demand for permanent registration of voters; and, from coast to coast, they are fighting for honest elections decently conducted.

The League has not confined its activities to these efforts to make the ballot more directly effective. It is the only nation-wide organization with which I am acquainted which recognizes in its program that efficient administration is an essential of democracy. \* \*

But the League of Women Voters has not been content with seeking to improve the forms and processes of government. Among the organizations of national scope it is leading the way in proclaiming the need of political education and in providing the means for its accomplishment.



### Has Courage

Nothing that the League has planned or done testifies so strongly to its courage and its grasp of political realities. Education of any kind is difficult enough as those of us who have tried to carry it on well know.

Most people, while proclaiming the virtues of education, strive desperately against acquiring it except in the hard school of experience. In matters of government and politics the situation is far worse. Few people will even admit that political education is needed, to say nothing of the possibility of carrying it on.

In America the very processes of our politics has tended to flatter the voters into the delusion that the ability to pass with wisdom on political questions is in some manner mysteriously conferred upon them along with the ballot or, like the sense of sight, is a gift of nature.

The League has raised its voice against this fundamentally erroneous attitude. It has taken the first steps in educating the voters to the need of political education. It is proclaiming with all its might, and with an earnestness that is in itself appealing, that popular government is a grave and difficult matter and can be safely conducted only when the voters so realize and are in possession of accurate information regarding the questions upon which they must pass.

### Accomplishments

What has the League accomplished? Well, in the first place, it has worked mightily and effectively for the things already mentioned. In some states and many cities much of this program has already been carried out.

But, above all, the League has already set a standard of intelligent, political action based on investigation and accurate knowledge of facts which is profoundly influencing the course of political thinking and political action throughout the United States.

Everywhere, the League has made careless legislation and inefficient administration at least a little more difficult. Everywhere, I find formerly slipshod politicians wholesomely respectful, though a little resentful, of the demand of the League that their actions be open to investigation and justifiable upon a basis of fact.

Everywhere, I find greater care in both legislation and administration, born, in part at least, of the knowledge that the women of the League are likely to confront public officials at any time with broad and accurate information as to how things should be done.

### Exerts Influence

Upon the political parties the influence of the League has been powerful, though seldom acknowledged by party leaders. Without being anti-party, the League offers a constant challenge to the parties to give an intelligent account of themselves. It is a standing admonition to them that they exist for the government and not the government for the party organizations.

It says to the voters, "Be partisan if you will, but let your partisanship follow knowledge of the facts rather than precede or ignore such knowledge". In this manner the League is performing the enormously valuable function of reminding the parties that they can justify their existence only as instruments of popular government and must not assume that they are substitutes for it.

If one may judge by its attitude and activities, the League of Women Voters recognize the complexity of modern life and the fact of a changed and changing world. It, therefore, insists that the problems and processes of government call for investigation, for thought, for the constant application of intelligence, and can no longer be dealt with by the slap-dash methods which a simpler time made tolerable.

#### Gets Facts

The League does not appear to be terrified by the idea that, with a changing world, the methods and instrumentalities of democracy must also change. At the same time it refuses to jump at conclusions, to change for the sake of change, to proceed without knowledge of the facts involved or to act without due deliberation.

Beyond doubt the League of Women Voters is today the outstanding organization of national scope working for, pleading for, demanding, the application of intelligence as well as conscience to the solution of political problems and the conduct of public affairs. Already its influence has been out of all proportion to its age or its numbers.

No one who wishes well for the future of American democracy can do other than express the hope that the League may hold fast to its present ideals and that as the years pass it may find its numbers increased and its courage undiminished.



August 1, 1927  
200 copies

ROUND ROBIN

No. 27

Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters

August, 1927

NORTH DAKOTA - At the fourth annual Convention held at Minot, July 20-22, one new officer was elected, Miss Mabel Vaaler, secretary. Miss Hazel McCulloch was appointed new chairman of the Department of International Cooperation. Other officers were re-elected and other chairmen re-appointed.

At the opening Convention dinner no fewer than ten speeches were made as well as discussion from the floor and yet the meeting adjourned before ten o'clock though guests lingered longer, loath to leave so nice a party. Congratulations to Minot's Committee on Program!

"I wouldn't drive this car a foot farther in this rain - no, not for the Queen of Sheba" - thus declared a League husband at Devils Lake, but out from this car clambered Mrs. Poppler, Miss Vaaler and Ruth Gaulke, boarded a train and arrived, late, but dressed for the occasion, ready to take part at the opening dinner of the Convention.

In spite of the unnavigable roads - the fourth annual case of bad convention automobile roads - these states were represented at the Convention: Iowa, Minnesota, as well as North Dakota; these towns: Grand Forks, Bottineau, Porters Lake, Bismarck, Garrison, Berg, Towner, as well as Minot.

One of the many heart warming incidents of the Convention was a telegram from Mrs. Feige wishing well the North Dakota League in behalf of the South Dakota League.

SOUTH DAKOTA - Mrs. G. B. Tuttle and Mrs. P. H. Kelley of Mitchell were July callers at national headquarters in Washington.

Bad news from South Dakota is that the governor vetoed the state appropriation for maternity and infancy work. It is to be hoped that this news will turn out not to be final.

IOWA - The midsummer board meeting which has become an anticipated annual event, as a house party at the home of the president at Clear Lake, has been postponed owing to the death of a relative who was visiting Mrs. Knutson at the time of his death.

MINNESOTA - "Talk It Over" is the summer event in Minnesota. Mrs. Wittich came back from the General Council fired with enthusiasm over Mr. Elliott's magic method of drawing from a group everything they knew on a subject, adroitly pooling the information and arriving at a conclusion. A Minneapolis group under her leadership promptly arrived at the conclusion that the League of Women Voters fills a necessary place in our present political life! But when they got through the group knew why. Then the Minneapolis League published a leaflet on the discussion method, called "Talk It Over". Mrs. Wittich wrote the text and Mrs. Bryan of the Minneapolis League illustrated it with a life like sketch of various Leaguers in colloquy - too lifelike. These are going like hot cakes at five cents apiece. With these leaflets in hand, anyone can lead a group on any subject providing she has ever seen it done or has been a good teacher or has a little natural talent in that direction.

MONTANA - Dr. Hazel Dell Bonness, state Child Welfare Chairman, is completing the study of Sheppard-Towner work in the state.

Mrs. Emma Ingalls, four times a member of the state legislature, formerly the state chairman of Efficiency in Government, later treasurer of the Kalispell League, was elected president of the Kalispell League at a recent meeting.

Among the very few state Leagues which pay their national quota by the month are two from the Fifth Region. A third has recently passed a board vote to do so. When it achieves its purpose, its name will appear in the Round Robin. Meanwhile guess!

Readers of the Round Robin are requested to send in their pet "don'ts" and "do's" for League officers. They will be published without signatures in the Round Robin. Here are two: 1. Don't be a non-conductor - let other League officers and members have the benefit of material you receive from headquarters. 2. Don't do it all yourself - you will have enough to do in checking up persons to whom you delegate responsibility! Delegate it all the same or you will never make a leader.

1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

Marguerite M. Wells, Director.

30 copies

Sent to board members.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
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Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

August 4th,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

The Executive Committee decided at its last meeting to recommend the omission of the August board meeting on the second Friday of the month, in view of the absence from home of many of our members during this vacation period. Will you vote upon the question using the enclosed return postcard? The committee also suggested that we secure a referendum vote of board members on two questions that were to come before you at the August meeting.

You will remember that we mentioned the Community Fund Campaign in Minneapolis in fixing the first week of November for the Institute and Convention. No public announcement had then been made but we have now learned that the campaign is to be held in that week, running over into the second week. The state convention of the Minnesota Education Association also occurs in the second week of November. Because of pre-Thanksgiving activities, it seemed to the Executive Committee that the week following Thanksgiving is the best time available for the Convention and Institute. The dates are Tuesday, November 29, through Saturday, December 3.

Will you ratify the Executive Committee's choice of these dates? If so, please act as soon as possible so that we may send a publicity release to the newspapers.

The other question I would like to submit to you concerns the invitation extended to the board by the League in Northfield to hold our September meeting there. Will you be able to attend that meeting if we go to Northfield? I would like to be assured of a majority attendance of board members before making the decision. Northfield is 42 miles from the Twin Cities, two hours by bus. We hope that some of our members will make the trip in their own cars and be able to take others with them.

I hope that many of you are enjoying a vacation but that League work is not at a complete standstill as it certainly is not in this office.

Very sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms



27 copies  
Sent to board members

August \_\_\_\_\_ 1927

Do you approve omitting the August meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you favor accepting the invitation for  
the September meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you approve November 29 - December 3 for  
Convention and Institute dates? \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

105 copies - 69 sent including board members, local Leagues and study groups, but not college Leagues.

## THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

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Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
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### DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

August 13th,  
1927

Dear Local League Chairman:

As many of you have written to say, it has been found that the dates first chosen for our annual convention here in Minneapolis conflicted with the dates already set for the annual state meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs. The state board has therefore voted to change the dates and the University committee has concurred. After incredible efforts to find a time not already preempted by other large organizations, and after still a second choice, final dates have at last been selected:

NOVEMBER 29 to DECEMBER 3

Note these dates well; build your late fall plans about them. You will notice that they come after Thanksgiving and well before the Christmas festivities and the children's vacation from school.

November 29 is Tuesday. The opening session was scheduled on this day to permit you to come to Minneapolis Monday morning and have a day for Christmas shopping before the Convention opens.

Please draw a big red circle about these dates on your calendar. Then talk about them to members of your League and ask them to mark the same dates. Explain to them the pains to which the University and League committees have gone in order to make this biennial Institute of Government exactly what Minnesota women want in order to understand current political questions.

Both the University and League committees are tremendously enthusiastic about the proposed program this year. Don't fail to do your part in enlisting the interest of women all over the state.

Very faithfully yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms



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Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

September 1st,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

The regular September meeting of the board will be held in Northfield at the invitation of the Northfield League, and as authorized by the referendum vote of the board. The day is Friday, September 9, and the opening hour will be 11:00 o'clock instead of 10:30, in order to allow time for the trip from the Twin Cities.

The meeting will be held in rooms in the Congregational Church in Northfield, one block east of the bus line. There is an hourly bus to Northfield which makes the trip in two hours. There is also a Milwaukee train to Northfield at 8:30 A.M., arriving at 10:30. In addition to the buses leaving for the return trip at 3:00 and 5:00 P.M., there is a return train leaving Northfield at 4:20 P.M.

We shall be glad to let you know if you will telephone us at the office, whether there are places available in automobiles. May I remind you of Miss Wells' particular request for a full attendance at this board meeting to which local League chairmen and officers and members of the Northfield board will be invited.

Reservations for luncheon must be made in advance so we shall appreciate early word as to your attendance.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

50 copies

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
Northfield, September 9, 1927

Minutes

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report

Woman Voter Advertising

Request from Renville County

ORGANIZATION

Reports by district chairmen

Reports from local League chairmen

Resignations

STATE AND COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITS

County fairs - Mrs. Bryan

State fair - Mrs. McGuire

STUDY OF MATERNITY AND INFANCY WORK IN MINNESOTA

National League communication

Minnesota plan

Renville County response - Mrs. Gage

CONVENTION AND INSTITUTE

Program

Attendance

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

New publications

Living Costs - questionnaire

OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of representative at Federated Clubs convention

Suggested program for local League meetings



To Board Members: Local League Letter To Regional Presidents.

To Local League Chairmen: Local League Letter, Suggested Program for Local League Meetings  
Appropriation for Maternity and Infancy Work in Minn (page 1) Letters from Minn.

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. and list of women registered for  
Telephone: Atlantic 1171 correspondence course in each county.

## DIRECTORS

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

September 14th,  
1927

My dear Local League Chairman:

Congress convenes the first Monday in December and before your representative leaves for Washington in October or November, there is an important matter for your League to discuss with him.

The maternity and infancy work that is being done in this and other states to save the lives and health of mothers and babies would perhaps never have got underway but for the aid given by the federal government under the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921. That Act comes to an end in June 1929 and a new one must be enacted by the next Congress if we wish to see the present cooperation in this work between the state and the federal government continued.

The state board of the League discussed this question at its recent meeting and decided to urge every local League in the state to appoint representatives to call upon its Congressman very soon - before he leaves home or becomes too busy to make an appointment for a personal interview.

But before you go to him, you should inform yourself as fully as possible about the maternity and infancy work that has been carried on in your own county under the Child Hygiene Division of the State Board of Health. I enclose the names of local women who have received the correspondence course sent out from the Division. Your part is to interview these women or get a written statement from them on the value of the information that has thus reached them. I enclose copies of such letters recently secured by the Olivia League in Renville County.

If you have a county nurse or local school nurses, you should consult them to learn anything they can tell you about the local maternity and infancy work under state auspices. Pre-natal Clinics, Mothers' Classes, Demonstrations of the care of the baby etc. are some of the activities they may know about even if you do not.

When you have become thoroughly acquainted with the results of maternity and infancy work in your own section of the state - and if you feel that it would be a great misfortune to see it crippled or in danger of being discontinued when the present federal Act is at an end - then go to your Congressman, tell him everything that you have learned and see if you can make him feel just as you do about the work. There are several ways you can help him to understand

what this work means to the individual mothers and therefore to the state and nation:

- 1) Get one or more of the mothers that have benefited by the correspondence courses or other educational work of the Division of Child Hygiene to go with you to talk with your Congressman.
- 2) Take to him the letters you may secure from these mothers if they are not able to leave their homes but are eager to testify to the help they have received.
- 3) Arrange a League meeting for discussion of the work and ask your Congressman to attend and to tell you about the action of the last Congress on the renewal of the federal appropriation for the present two-year period.

Whatever you do, start to do immediately or it may be too late. As soon as this letter reaches you, take the following action:

First - Arrange to find out when your representative in Congress expects to leave for Washington and let him know that you plan to see him before his departure.

Second - Call your officers and board members together to plan how to get in touch with the women. <sup>listed.</sup> Decide who shall be responsible for keeping in touch with your Congressman and calling upon him as soon as you have something to report to him on the local work for mothers and babies.

Third - Arrange for an open League meeting to which other groups are invited, for discussion of the whole subject so that as many women as possible may know as much as you do about the situation in Congress and about what the work has meant to the women of your own community. Devote most of your program to what has been accomplished locally.

The September issue of the Woman Voter contains an article on "What Is Being Done in Minnesota for Mothers and Babies" that will give you information you should have. Let us know if you would like extra copies of this issue. I will enclose a mimeographed statement to supplement the article in the Voter.

We are proud that every Minnesota Congressman voted in the last Congress for the renewal of the Sheppard-Towner appropriation but we realize that it is our responsibility to urge them to give their support to a new measure. And it is especially our responsibility to see that each of our Congressmen has first-hand knowledge of the value of the work in his own district. May we depend upon you to do this for your Congressman?

And do not forget that we want to hear from you so that we may let our National League of Women Voters know what support they are getting in Minnesota for this legislative measure which is the immediate concern of women.

Sincerely yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*  
Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms  
Encs.



Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
September 1927

#### SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR LOCAL LEAGUE MEETINGS

Note: The following suggestions are made to local League chairmen as a basis for planning fall meetings before the Annual Convention in Minneapolis the last week in November. We shall then send out the 1928 program of work as adopted by the Convention.

I. Maternity and Infancy Work in the State and County

References: Article in Minnesota Woman Voter - September 1927

Article in Good Housekeeping Magazine - May 1927

(See directions and enclosures in local League chairman letter of September 14).

II. "Ask Me Another" on International Affairs

References: Questions and Answers (8 series - price 10 cents)

"Current Events" in Woman Citizen Magazine

III. The Concern of Women in Muscle Shoals

References: "Electric Power and the Public Welfare" (5 cents)

"Congress and Muscle Shoals" (5 cents)

(The disposal of Muscle Shoals, affecting the development of cheap electric power and its use in labor-saving devices in the home, is an important subject in the National League of Women Voters program. It will be before the coming session of the Congress and League members should be prepared to give support to approved measures).

IV. What About Child Labor?

References: "Recent Child Labor Legislation" (price 5 cents)

"The Hazard of the Child" (price 5 cents)

(The failure of the states to act favorably upon the Child Labor Amendment leaves the question of child labor still before us. Women should know the facts).

(The pamphlets listed with a note of the price are published by the National League of Women Voters and may be ordered from state League headquarters. A full set of the printed material suggested for the above four meetings - not including the magazines mentioned - will be forwarded upon receipt of 25 cents).

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis  
January 1927

#### APPROPRIATION FOR MATERNITY AND INFANCY WORK IN MINNESOTA

Note: It is recommended that study groups plan supplementary reading on the subject of federal aid. Material may be ordered from League headquarters as follows: "Federal Aid" in the Current Questions in Government Series (5 cents); "Federal Aid to the States" by Dorothy Kirchwey Brown (20 cents).

The passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act by Congress in November 1921 provided for federal aid to the states for maternal and infant hygiene and authorized an appropriation for the five-year period ending June 30, 1927. A two-year renewal of the appropriation is now assured by Congressional action through passage of the bill in the House last April and in the Senate on January 13.

The republic will thus continue to share with the state the responsibility for improving the situation in this country under which the United States ranks eighth among civilized nations in the rate of infant mortality and seventeenth in maternal mortality. Forty-three states and Hawaii are now carrying on work under the Sheppard-Towner Act.

Minnesota had no organized child hygiene work before the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act and was one of the first states to accept the Act. The state program of work dates from July 1, 1922. The Minnesota legislature of 1923 appropriated \$15,000 a year for the biennium period between legislatures. This was not sufficient to match the maximum federal aid available to Minnesota. The 1925 legislature, however, raised the appropriation to \$21,000 a year, thus securing the maximum federal allotment. Minnesota has also had the federal gift of \$5000 each year provided to states accepting the act.

An appropriation request will be submitted from the State Board of Health to the 1927 legislature to provide for financing the state work for the next biennium - June 30, 1927 to June 30, 1929. The League of Women Voters will support, as it has done in previous sessions, the request that is submitted.

Maternal as well as infant hygiene work becomes increasingly important since it is now recognized that a very considerable portion of all deaths of infants under one year of age occur, during the first month of life, from causes that have their origin in the care and condition of mothers during pregnancy and confinement. The mortality among infants of mothers who died either immediately following childbirth or within one year has been found to be between four and five times, and that from causes peculiar to early infancy over seven times the corresponding rates among other babies. It is also recognized that the deaths of mothers from causes connected with childbirth are now largely preventable. The needless waste of life among mothers and babies due to ignorance and isolation may therefore be prevented by such work as that for which we seek a renewed appropriation from our 1927 Minnesota legislature.

In reply to the objections recently heard to the use of federal aid to stimulate state activities in the interest of the general welfare, facts may be cited to show that the expenditure for maternity and infancy work is the least item in both the federal and state budgets of federal aid. We second the statement of the New York League of Women Voters, "All we can say is that if, as some of our officials tell us, 'it's time to call a halt' on all such beneficent government activities, begin with something big. Don't start to reform with the neediest group and the smallest expenditure!"

The figures for Minnesota showing the amounts received by this state from the federal government during 1925 are as follows:

Highways	\$2,115,480	67.5%
National Guard	1,000,000	22.0
Education	422,720	9.2
Forests and Fire Prevention	33,740	.7
Maternity and Infancy	20,049	.6



Minnesota League of Women Voters  
Child Welfare Committee

September 1927

LETTERS

Showing Appreciation of Information Made Available  
Under the Maternity and Infancy Act  
In a Minnesota County

July 23, 1927

I wish to state that I took the fifteen lesson course on "Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy" offered by the Child Hygiene Division. I can highly recommend the work offered in these lessons and I hope that Congress will again put into effect the Sheppard-Towner Act.

I started taking these lessons shortly after I was married. I derived much good from them on how to take care of myself and on taking care of a child in infancy. I learned many things from those lessons that I did not know before and probably would not know now if I had not taken these lessons. I have followed instructions given in these lessons and as a result my daughter who will be two years old this fall is a very healthy child.

I hope that this work may be kept up so that many other mothers might be able to take up this wonderful work.

Sincerely yours,

July 28, 1927

The fifteen lessons on "Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy" have indeed been of great help to me. In fact, I think every young mother should receive these booklets. I found a great deal of help in these before the baby came and after it came, I watched very closely his feedings, weight and rest, etc.

We would have healthier babies if mothers had some information on Infancy.

Sincerely yours,

July 23, 1927

Having taken the correspondence course in "Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy", I have found the lessons very instructive and helpful. I only wish I could have taken it years ago while my babies were small as I consider it of much help while raising children and it will be the means of saving the lives of many babies and small children.

Personally, I consider these very valuable lessons.

Respectfully yours,

July 26th, 1927

It will soon be a year since I began receiving the lessons on "Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy", and I wish to express my appreciation of these lessons, and am glad to state that besides studying them through thoroughly as each one came, I find them very valuable as a continual reference help.

Personally I feel it is quite tragic that our present Congress has deemed it necessary or even profitable or practical to repeal the act which in some measure at least was designed to help lift our mothers and babies out of the ignorance and consequent ill health which we must all admit does exist.

Sincerely,

August 29, 1927

I wish to state that I found the free course I took on Hygiene of Maternity and Infancy a great benefit to me both before and after my second child was born. It sure made all the difference in the world between my first and second child. Thanking you, I am

Yours truly,

25 copies - To workers in state fair booth

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Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

September 14th,  
1927

I wish you to know how much we appreciate your giving time to attendance in the League booth at the State Fair. You probably realize, as we do, that the chief value of the exhibit is in having qualified women there ready to talk with those who visit the booth.

I wish it were possible to consult you personally about your experience to learn any suggestions you may have as to ways in which we can make our exhibit better or improve our plan for interesting visitors to the booth in actual membership and work in the League.

The suggestion has already been made that we have a "live exhibit" next year, in place of the doll models we have used the last few years, and that we plan an actual demonstration of some political activity. If you have other suggestions, even about small details, will you be good enough to write or telephone them to us so that we may have them on record for 1928.

Thanking you in behalf of the state League for your help,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms



This will acknowledge our receipt of your subscription to the Minnesota Woman Voter which will start with the issue now being published. Please let us know if for any reason you fail to receive future issues, so that we may trace the difficulty.

If you know of any other women among your friends who would appreciate having the information we supply to women in our monthly publication, send us their names and we shall be glad to mail them a sample Voter and subscription blank.

## ROUND ROBIN

No. 28

Fifth Region, National League of Women Voters

September 1927

To each reader of the Round Robin individually: - Is your state Division of Child Hygiene doing anything in your community to improve the death rate of babies and mothers? Does it reach the women who need it most, those out of reach of city facilities? If so, would that work surely go on even if federal assistance were withdrawn? If not, do you wish the federal Act to be re-enacted? If you don't know about this work personally, will you look it up?

Do you think that your Congressman or U.S. Senator knows as much about this work at first-hand as you do? If he did would he become an enthusiastic supporter in Congress of a measure to continue it?

Do you realize how often women expect their men representatives in the legislature and Congress to give support to measures about which in their ordinary routine of occupation they know absolutely nothing at first-hand? Do you think that is fair? Will you inform yourself about this maternity and infancy work and then if you decide it is important, will you try to see that your Congressional representative knows as much about it as you do? "This means you" as the advertisers say. But the questions are rhetorical and you cannot expect to answer; only to act.

MINNESOTA - Minnesota began its fall activities with a state board meeting at Northfield attended also by three chairmen of third district local Leagues and by members of the Northfield League as guests. There were also guests from Michigan and Connecticut. At the luncheon of about forty, officers and board members were introduced by the president and asked to answer the question, "What Is Your Favorite Talking Point for the League of Women Voters?"

MONTANA - So did Montana begin its year with a state board meeting held at Helena, September 1. Mrs. Winestine, legislative chairman entertained the board at luncheon. At the business meeting following, there was much discussion of how to extend organization. This is always good news.

The Lewistown League has recently elected a new president, Mrs. A. H. Kessler. Meetings are to be held for study - the first one to discuss, "What is the League of Women Voters?"

The Neihart League held a luncheon August 24 which was attended by the president, vice-president and treasurer of the state League, and also by the regional secretary. Seventeen women were present. The Neihart League has been meeting weekly and is notably active and well-informed.

The League of Women Voters maintained a successful booth at the State Fair held in Helena. Mrs. E. G. Clinch of Butte was chairman and with the help of the Helena League made the booth attractive to look at. Reports are that Mrs. Clinch knew just how to attract the interest of fair visitors to the League work.

IOWA - Due to illness of the state president the fall board meeting has been postponed to October 4.

At a recent meeting of the Ottumwa League Mrs. H. C. Kingsbury was elected president and Mrs. A. E. Clark was elected secretary.

It is the plan of the Sioux City League Program Committee to have a luncheon meeting once a month on the third Wednesday beginning in October.

"I want to thank you for the Round Robin you send me each month" - Mrs. McKim of Marshalltown. Thank you for the appreciation.

NORTH DAKOTA - The summer did not completely lull to rest the North Dakota League. We know because we hear of orders they are making for National League publications.

SOUTH DAKOTA - Taken from a letter - "Heard from Arlington this morning - had a fine meeting and program recently - 47 out and have their \$15 to send - hurrah!"

The League is to have a booth at the State Fair beginning September 12. League friends and other callers welcome.

The Executive Committee met in Huron September 14. Mrs. Parkes was present.



# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

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Mrs. O. M. Botsford, Winona, First District  
Mrs. Edward Ringstad, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
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Second Vice-President  
Mrs. A. J. McGuire  
Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight  
Secretary  
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Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant  
Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Myra Griswold, Child Welfare  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Miss Martha Botsford, Living Costs

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MRS. ANDREAS UELAND, *Honorary President.*

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 3718

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Mrs. J. Pierce Wolfe, Moorhead, Ninth District  
Mrs. Carroll W. Sherwin, Monticello, Tenth District

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ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS

Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, November 29 - December 3



Sent, with Electric Power Questionnaire enclosed, to Mayor of all towns and cities over 1500 population, having municipal power plants. (Questionnaire and letter also sent local Leagues, July 1927)

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

September 26th,  
1927

To the Mayor:

The National League of Women Voters has published the enclosed questionnaire on domestic power rates as a means of securing information from local communities upon one of the items in the study program of the Living Costs Committee.

Your city is one that has no League of Women Voters organization and which we are informed has a municipal-owned electric power plant. It has been suggested that the information asked for in the questionnaire would be of particular interest for your city. We are therefore venturing to ask your cooperation in having the questionnaire filled out for us by one of your city officers. We would appreciate very much having the questionnaire returned to us by October 1, if this is possible.

Thanking you for any help you can give us in securing the information we would like to have for your city,  
I am

Respectfully yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3

Mailed to board members

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby  
Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child

October 4th,  
1927

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Myra Griswold, Child Welfare  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
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Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

Dear Board Member:

The October meeting of the state board will be held in the new Minneapolis College Women's Club at 310 Groveland Avenue. This is just a short distance from the state office so that it will be possible to arrange for automobile transportation from the office for members who prefer to meet here at 10:00 A.M.

A seventy-five cent luncheon will be served by the club in the dining-room reserved to our group. The meeting will open promptly at 10:30 A.M. and continue into the afternoon, as usual.

Among the very important items of business for this meeting is the decision as to a proposed Plan of Work for the 1927-28 year, to be sent out to local Leagues in advance of the state convention, preparatory to final action by delegates in the convention. Appointments to convention committee chairmanships must also be made and plans for convention attendance and events discussed in detail.

Since luncheon is served at the club through special arrangements with a cateress, it will be necessary to make our reservations several days in advance. Please let us know as early in the week as you can, whether we may make a reservation for you.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3



Dear Board members:

1927  
October 14

Sent Board members, October 6, 1927

THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

State Board Meeting - (Second Friday of the month)

Friday, October 14, 1927

Emily Child

A G E N D A  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
October 14, 1927

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Decision on fees in Renville County case

Announcement of new National League officers

Organization

Representative at P.T.A. convention

Reports by District Chairmen

Report on college Leagues

Vote surveys in three first-class cities

Division of responsibility for work (state and  
local League)

Report on work in behalf of maternity and infancy act

Institute of Government

Attendance

Finance

Patrons

State Convention

Committee Appointments

Changes in By-Laws

1927-28 Program of Work

Convention sessions and events

Other Business

Plans for next board meeting



26 copies

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International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

October 13th,

1927

Dear Friend:

Your name was reported as one of the women who expressed an interest in the League of Women Voters by registering at our booth at the State Fair this fall.

A very fine program is being planned for women in the state in the Institute of Government to be held in conjunction with our state convention in Minneapolis, November 29 - December 3. We hope you will wish to have information on the program of the Institute and on the work in general of the League of Women Voters.

We publish such information in "The Minnesota Woman Voter", a copy of which is enclosed. The monthly issues bring you in brief readable form news of particular interest to women as citizens, as well as announcements of the very fine study material on current questions in government prepared by the state or National League of Women Voters. These may be ordered from our headquarters in Minneapolis.

In towns where there is no local League, you may become a state member of the Minnesota League of Women Voters. The membership fee (\$1.00) includes one year's subscription to the Woman Voter.

We hope that you will wish to become a state member of the Minnesota League of Women Voters or, if that is not possible, that you will send 25 cents to cover a year's subscription to the Voter, so that you may have the information we supply in this form to women in the state.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3

200 copies, October 14, 1927

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKERS  
in  
League of Women Voters Survey of Voting Habits

A call must be made in every house in your territory.

It is easier to make an entrance if the name of the people living in each house is known.

Tell who you are and why the League of Women Voters is interested in this survey of voting habits - trying to collect actual information on the voting habits of people in order to plan its work intelligently.

Explain that there is nothing personal about the survey and that no lists for solicitation of any sort will ever be made with the names. Names are only taken for purposes of checking. It is the statistics that are valuable for our purposes.

Tell something about other studies that have been made -

Those for the National League in five different states:

Missouri, (a precinct in St. Louis)

Massachusetts, (a precinct in Cambridge)

Illinois, (a precinct in a county seat)

Georgia

Minnesota, three municipalities: Olivia, Monticello, Slayton

If interest is shown, tell something about these Minnesota surveys, such as the fact that, while 75 per cent of the eligible voters in these places voted in the General Election of 1926, 90 per cent of them had voted at one or more of the six elections studied.

(See the July and September issues of the  
Woman Voter for further information.)

Get number of people in house for census sheet.

Fill in each space by a check mark at proper place -

Except Age 21-30 - Write exact age in this space because the voter may have come of age during period covered by the survey.

Occupation - Type of work must be written.

Reason for  
not voting - Write out statement given. Quote exact words if possible.

BE CERTAIN TO GET INDIVIDUAL RECORD FOR EACH VOTER IN EVERY HOUSE



M I N U T E S  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
October 14, 1927

The regular meeting of the state Board of the Minnesota League of Women Voters was held at the Minneapolis College Women's Club, 310 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis, on Friday, October 14, 1927. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., Miss Wells presiding.

Board members present were Miss Wells, Mrs. Weeks, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Ringstad, Mrs. Sherwin, Miss Mahan, Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Dietrichson, Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Spear, Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Colby and Miss Kercher. There were also present Mrs. T. A. Pederson, chairman of Dakota County, Mrs. D. L. Grannis of South St. Paul, and Miss Child.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report - In the absence of Mrs. Cant, Miss Lusk read the treasurer's report. The balance September 1 was \$1,271.28. Receipts during the month totaled \$560.80, of which \$330.75 was received in quotas. Disbursements during September amounted to \$960.66, leaving a balance October 1 of \$871.42. Bills payable were read, amounting to \$427.15. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Spear, second of Mrs. Griswold, that the treasurer's report be accepted and the bills allowed.

Mrs. Dowling reported a recommendation by the Olivia League that the state League do not assume responsibility for the bill of \$67 for fees in the Renville County case. It was therefore agreed to let the matter drop.

Surveys of Voting Habits - At the request of the chair, Miss Child reviewed the suggestion discussed by Mrs. Wittich in past board meetings that representative precincts in the three first-class cities be surveyed before the state convention. The secretary read letters commenting on the excellence of the survey plan, from Professor Holcombe of the Department of Government of Columbia University and Dr. Sheppard of the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government.

The question as to whether the state or local League meet the cost of the printed or mimeographed blanks needed for the survey was discussed. Miss Child reported Mrs. Wittich's recommendation that the state League supply the necessary blanks and take charge of tabulating and analyzing the data obtained. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Spear, second of Miss Lusk, to approve Mrs. Wittich's recommendation.

Work in Support of New Maternity and Infancy Measure - The secretary read a letter from Miss Sherwin urging active work by state Leagues in communicating first-hand information about Sheppard-Towner work in the state to each congressman before his return to Washington. The chair then explained that the questionnaire received last spring from the National League of Women Voters Child Welfare Committee had been filled out by Mrs. D. L. Grannis, in view of Mrs. Griswold's inability to give the necessary time. Mrs. Grannis reported upon the questionnaire and mentioned the appointment of Dr. Hartley as part-time director of the Division of Child Hygiene, following the resignation of Dr. Ruth Boynton.

At the request of the chair, Miss Child reported upon the follow-up in each congressional district of the September letter to local League chairmen, to assure each congressman being interviewed by a League representative in company with a "Sheppard-Towner mother". The date of return to Washington of each congressman was learned by wire last week. In two districts, the seventh and the ninth, the congressmen have already left for Washington. Facts for other districts follow:

- District I - Special follow-up letter to Leagues in Winona and LeRoy
- II - Special follow-up letter to Redwood Falls League
- III - Special follow-up letter to Kenyon League. Mrs. Grannis will see Congressman Andresen in South St. Paul on November 10. Mrs. Ringstad also agreed to see him in company with women from Northfield.
- IV - Miss Lusk agreed to report upon an interview with Congressman Maas of St. Paul arranged by the Ramsey County League Child Welfare chairman.
- V - Mrs. McKnight asked Miss Wells to represent the Minneapolis League in interviewing Congressman Newton.
- VI - Special follow-up letter to Leagues in St. Cloud & Elk River. Miss Lawrence reported that Congressman Knutson is to be invited to attend one of the mothers' classes in St. Cloud.

- VII - The Olivia League communicated with Congressman Kvale and arranged to send him the original letters secured from women in Renville Co.
- VIII- Mrs. Spear reported that the Duluth League has delegated to Mrs. Searls, the new Public Welfare in Government chairman, responsibility for interviewing Congressman Carss.
- IX - Mr. Selvig drove to Washington with his family early in September. Letters from individual women will be sent him.
- X - Mrs. Sherwin reported that she expects to drive to Cambridge with some women from Monticello to interview Congressman Goodwin.

State Convention - Mrs. Weeks reported a tentative outline of the convention program, prepared at the request of the Executive Committee. Two buffet supper meetings in private homes on Tuesday and Friday were suggested to substitute for the reception to delegates and the organization conference held in previous years. Miss Child recommended also a plan for luncheon or late afternoon conferences of local League department chairmen with the state League chairman of the same department.

Recommendations of the Executive Committee on chairmen of convention committees were reported. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dietrichson, second of Miss Lusk, that Mrs. Colby be asked to accept appointment as chairman of the committee on budget. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Miss Lawrence, that Mrs. Roulo of Duluth be asked to accept appointment as chairman of the committee on nominations. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Miss Lawrence, that Mrs. Spear be appointed as chairman of the committee on revision of the Constitution and By-Laws.

The following possible Constitution and By-Law changes were discussed:

Personell of Nominating Committee - to consist of congressional district representatives instead of the chairman of each congressional district.

Membership and Dues - Miss Wells asked the opinion of each member of the board as to the desirability of changing the present provisions that no dues shall be required as a condition of membership. Miss Monahan and Miss Lawrence favored keeping the present provisions while other board members spoke in favor of requiring dues, the amount to be determined by local Leagues.

Size of the State Board - Miss Wells asked the board to discuss the suggestion of increasing the size of the board and reported the following facts for the present board: It allows for 32 different members but actually has, owing to duplication and vacancies, a present membership of 23. The average attendance for the ten meetings since the last convention is 13.2. The attendance of individual members of the board at these 10 meetings was:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9 - Miss Wells  | 5 - Miss Monahan, Mrs. Gaus   |
| 8 - Mrs. Cant, Miss Lusk,<br>Mrs. Colby   | 4 - Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Colby, Mrs.<br>Griswold, Miss Kercher, Miss<br>Botsford and Mrs. Weeks |
| 7 - Mrs. Ringstad, Mrs. Dowling,<br>Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Wittich and<br>Miss Lawrence | 3 - Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Marble,<br>Mrs. Botsford and Mrs. McGuire                            |
| 6 - Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. McKnight  | 2 - Mrs. Cobb and Mrs. Dietrichson  |

The secretary read from the minutes of the National League board, recommending that board membership be restricted to active workers. The possibility of having an honorary, advisory group was mentioned. The desirability of increasing the size of the board in order to have more women informed on the policy and procedure of the state League and prepared to fill vacancies in committee or department chairmanships was discussed. It was suggested that the danger in adding to the board would be to decrease the responsibility of individual members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M. for luncheon and re-convened at 1:49 P.M.

Institute of Government - The question of Institute finance and registration fees was submitted to the board by the chair. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Griswold, second of Mrs. Ringstad, that Mrs. Colby be asked to serve as chairman of the Committee on Institute Finance. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dietrichson, second of Mrs. Dowling, that Mrs. Wittich be asked to serve on the committee. There was general discussion of the amount of the registration fee and it was thought that a fee of \$3 would not limit attendance from the state at large. It was agreed that the decision as to the fee be left with the Finance Committee.



The chair asked that the responsibility of board members for securing attendance at the Institute be discussed. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Dowling, second of Mrs. Colby, that Mrs. Weeks be asked to assume responsibility for conferring with each board member as to possible help in promoting Institute attendance. Mrs. Weeks called the roll of members present and recorded the specific help volunteered. It was agreed that each member of the board should also be asked to assume responsibility for the sale of 5 Institute tickets.

It was agreed that Mrs. Sherwin be asked to represent the state League in hospitality to out-of-town women attending the Institute and convention and that the district chairman and Miss Beggin should share this responsibility. Mrs. Dowling suggested that Mrs. Dieudonne be asked to assist also.

Supplementing this plan, it was suggested that entertainment in private homes be arranged through the Hospitality Committee of the Minneapolis League and through the assistance of state board members. Miss Lusk reported the tentative plan of the Ramsey County League to arrange for daily automobile transportation, from certain points in St. Paul, to the Institute sessions.

1927-28 Program of Work - The secretary read Miss Sherwin's letter outlining federal measures in the League program for support in this Congress. There followed discussion of the items in a proposed Program of Work for Minnesota to be sent out to local Leagues in advance of convention. The following items were agreed upon:

- Maternity and Infancy
- Jury service for women
- Reorganization of state government
- Arbitration and disarmament
- Pre-election activities such as:
  - Vote surveys
  - Candidates' meetings

It was further agreed that the following Methods of Work should be proposed as part of the program:

- One-day schools
- Study groups
- Discussion method
- Speakers

It was agreed that the measures supported in the last state legislature, for which additional preparation must be made before the next legislature, should be included in the program of one-day schools, together with a discussion of the organization and work of the League.

IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Monahan, second of Mrs. Weeks, that the above program be sent out to local Leagues preliminary to its proposal for adoption at the state convention.

Miss Monahan asked whether anything had ever been done to request the U. S. Children's Bureau to conduct a survey in Minnesota of conditions affecting women in industry, as a preparation for the support of needed legislation. Mrs. Dietrichson explained that such a request should clear to the Women's Bureau from the State Industrial Commission. It was suggested that such a study might possibly be made by an Interim Committee of the state Legislature or by a special commission appointed by the governor. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Mrs. Weeks, second of Miss Kercher, that the board authorize Mrs. Dietrichson to make inquiry as to the possibility of securing a state-wide survey of conditions for working women through one of the agencies suggested.

Reports of District Chairmen - Mrs. Ringstad reported for the THIRD DISTRICT mentioning recent activities in the Northfield League. Miss Lusk reported for the FOURTH DISTRICT that organization is now practically completed in all wards. Mrs. Spear reported for the EIGHTH DISTRICT upon activities in Duluth. Mrs. Roulo is to go to Nashwauk to speak before the new local League there. Mrs. Spear plans to visit Nashwauk and Carlton in the interest of organization, in the near future. Organization and meetings of the League in the Duluth State Teachers College will be resumed in December. Mrs. Sherwin, of the TENTH DISTRICT, reported a visit to the Elk River League in the SIXTH DISTRICT and said that the Monticello League will join with the Elk River League in planning League activities for the coming year.

Miss Child reported a message from Miss Beggin that she recently talked with Mrs. J. D. Morrison in regard to serving the state League as FIRST DISTRICT chairman, to succeed Mrs. Botsford of Winona resigned. IT WAS VOTED on motion of Miss Lusk, second of Miss Monahan, to ask Mrs. J. D. Morrison of Winona to accept appointment as chairman of the first district.

The meeting adjourned on motion at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Gage Colby, Secretary

115 copies, together with enclosures below, sent to local Leagues and board members

# THE MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

Telephone: Atlantic 1171

## DIRECTORS

Mrs. R. M. Bennett, Minneapolis  
Mrs. C. P. Noyes, St. Paul  
Mrs. W. H. Thorp, Minneapolis  
Mrs. W. C. Cobb, Brainerd  
Mrs. R. N. Marble, Duluth  
Mrs. Walter R. Ramsey, St. Paul

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. O. M. Botsford, Winona, First District  
Mrs. Edward Ringstad, Northfield, Third District  
Miss Cornelia Lusk, St. Paul, Fourth District  
Mrs. S. T. McKnight, Minneapolis, Fifth District  
Mrs. M. J. Dowling, Olivia, Seventh District  
Mrs. George H. Spear, Duluth, Eighth District  
Mrs. J. Pierce Wolfe, Moorhead, Ninth District

## OFFICERS

President  
Miss Marguerite M. Wells  
First Vice-President  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich  
Second Vice-President  
Mrs. A. J. McGuire  
Third Vice-President  
Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight

Secretary  
Mrs. Woodward Colby  
Treasurer  
Mrs. Harold G. Cant

Executive Secretary  
Miss Emily Child  
October 19th,  
1927

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gerhard Dietrichson,  
Protection of Women in Industry  
Miss Isabel Lawrence, Education  
Mrs. Myra Griswold, Child Welfare  
Miss Florence Monahan, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. John M. Gaus,  
Public Health and Social Hygiene  
Miss Alice Kercher, Law Enforcement  
Miss Martha Botsford, Living Costs

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

## To Be Discussed with Members of Your Board

Dear local League Chairman:

I enclose the Program of Work for 1927-28 recommended by the state board at its meeting last week. I would like to have you discuss this suggested program in your local League in order that your delegates may be prepared to vote upon its adoption in the business session of our state convention on Saturday morning, December 3. No definite instructions need be given your delegates since the convention is a deliberative body. Your discussion will, however, help your representative to be an "informed voter".

Other CONVENTION EVENTS in which we hope your League will be represented are two "fireside evenings" to be held at private homes when delegates will be guests at a buffet supper.

### A League Evening on Tuesday, November 29.

The League and our relation to it will be discussed by the fascinating new method introduced by Professor Harrison Elliott and adapted by Mrs. Wittich's "Talk It Over" pamphlet. The subject of this discussion will be, "Does the League of Women Voters fill a necessary place in our present political life?"

### A Local League Evening on Friday, December 1, at which representatives of local Leagues will be asked to tell about the most interesting piece of local League work during the year. And we shall have an opportunity for helpful, informal discussion of problems connected with our League work.

There will also be luncheon or late afternoon CONFERENCES OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN in local Leagues - Public Welfare in Government, Efficiency in Government and International Cooperation to Prevent War - with the state League department chairman, to discuss together the program of work for the department. We hope all three of your department chairmen will be there. And there is the CONVENTION LUNCHEON on Saturday, December 3, at which we shall present as speaker one of the most interesting women in the country.

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3



-2-

Delegates' credentials will be sent you for those who will represent your League in the convention business session and in the special events planned for local League delegates. Admission to these will be limited to accredited delegates and extra credentials will be supplied you to meet all possible need.

The INSTITUTE is open to the public. Please help us to spread the news as widely as possible. There will be a registration fee of \$2.50, providing admission to all sessions of the Institute and to the mass meeting on Thursday evening at which President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin, former editor of the Century Magazine, is the speaker.

I enclose a list of questions that I would be glad to have you answer and return promptly in the enclosed, stamped envelope, for the information of those in charge of convention arrangements. Do not wait to secure one missing piece of information but fill in the questionnaire as far as you can now and let us have it by November 1 at the latest. Otherwise we shall be much handicapped in our convention arrangements.

I am looking forward to meeting you and others from your League at the "fireside suppers" that are to be a feature of our program this year for the first time. We shall have an opportunity to become acquainted and to talk over mutual interests for two whole evenings.

I suggest as our goal for the 1927 Institute and Convention, "No local League without representation".

Cordially yours,

*Marguerite M. Wells*

Marguerite M. Wells,  
President

MMW ms  
Encs.

P.S. Have you considered possibilities for raising money to pay all or part of the expenses of an official representative from your League? We shall be glad to cooperate by securing entertainment for her in a private home in Minneapolis or by arranging for a low weekly hotel rate.

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-5-

115 copies, sent with local League letter.

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
October 19, 1927

To be returned by November 1

#### LOCAL LEAGUE CONVENTION REPORT

Name of League \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last annual election of officers \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meeting day (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

How many meetings have been held in the past year (since Nov. 1, 1927)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many credentials for CONVENTION DELEGATES do you wish? \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Department Chairmen (if appointed):

Efficiency in Government \_\_\_\_\_

Public Welfare in Government \_\_\_\_\_

International Cooperation to Prevent War \_\_\_\_\_

List of women who may attend Institute to whom special information on program,  
accommodations available, etc. should be sent

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1927 Convention Goal

NO LOCAL LEAGUE WITHOUT REPRESENTATION



115 copies, sent with local League letter  
Nov. 28 - 250 run

Minnesota League of Women Voters  
PROGRAM OF WORK  
1927-28

"The League of Women Voters is making a creative attack upon indifference and ignorance through training in citizenship and by supporting needed legislation. The League believes in a program of education which prepares for action."

The coming year is a presidential election year (occurring every four years) and the year of the General Election (occurring every two years) in which state and county officers are chosen. It is not a year in which the biennium meeting of the state legislature is held. The Program of Work proposed for adoption by the state League at the convention session on December 3, therefore represents a program of activities especially planned for the year ending October 31, 1928.

PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Such as:

Surveys of Voting Habits - Candidates' Meetings

Encouraging participation of qualified voters in every step of the process by which public officials are nominated and elected, including caucuses, primaries, conventions, elections

Encouraging the service of qualified women in public office

PUBLIC WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT

Continued inquiry into state activities under Sheppard-Towner Act, looking toward possible support of new federal Maternity and Infancy measure

Work to assure inclusion of women's names in local jury panels in counties where, for various reasons, women have not been listed for jury service

Work to interest women in accepting service as jurors

Study of hydro-electric power in its relation to the public welfare

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Continued study of

a) Administration of Minnesota state government

b) Operation of nomination and election procedure

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

Study and support of measures:

Providing for the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration and

Permitting the United States to take part in international reduction of armaments

Support of the entry of the United States into the World Court

METHODS OF WORK

One-Day Schools for Voters

Discussion Method

Study Groups

Training speakers to present facts

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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. L. C. Weeks  
International Co-operation to Prevent War  
Mrs. Frederick W. Wittich,  
Efficiency in Government

Office Secretary  
Miss Anita Hampe

November 1st,  
1927

Dear Board Member:

Mrs. A. J. McGuire has invited the state board to hold its November meeting at her home, 444 Otis Avenue, St. Paul. The day will be, as usual, the second Friday of the month - November 11.

The all-day meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. This is the last meeting of the board before the opening day of the Convention and Institute on November 29. Therefore, all final Convention plans must be made at this meeting.

Mrs. McGuire's home can be reached by the Selby-Lake carline or by the Marshall-Lake bus, from Minneapolis or St. Paul. Get off at Otis Avenue, one block from the St. Paul end of the Lake Street bridge, and go two blocks North (toward the Franklin Avenue bridge).

Please let us know whether you will attend and whether we may make a luncheon reservation for you.

Sincerely yours,

*Emily Child*

Emily Child,  
Executive Secretary

EC ms

ANNUAL CONVENTION and INSTITUTE of GOVERNMENT and POLITICS  
CURTIS HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3



