

# LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of INDIANA

**HISTORY**  
**1920-1952**



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PRELUDE

A  
HISTORY  
OF  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF  
INDIANA  
1920 - 1952

as written

by

KATHERINE CROAN GREENOUGH

prepared

by

Donna Langfitt

## FOREWORD

This history covering the early years of the League of Women Voters of Indiana has languished in the files in the state office. The paper is turning yellow and some of the sheets are dog-eared. From time to time, someone brouses through them while searching for information on something that may or may not have happened in the past. Oft times it has been to settle a difference. But for whatever the purpose of the retrieval, everyone who has done so expressed the opinion that this history is so interesting -- something should be done with it.

We think this history tells in an interesting way, the origin of the organization and how and why it has become what it is today even without its being completed up to the present time. You will note that the League has been a flexible organization. It has changed its methods of operation from time to time as change has come about throughout the country. However, some of the same problems seem to stay with us in finances, in membership, and in the areas of our concerns. You will note, as originally structured, the state League was the heart of the organization. Gradually the National and local units became the more dominant.

This manuscript was written by Katherine Greenough (Mrs. Walter S. Greenough). We did not make substantial alterations in her original writings.

We hope this is only the beginning. Time was short when it was decided to do this project so we are able at this time to publish only those years that were in the manuscript. The remaining years, up to the present, will be completed and published.

Mrs. Greenough was on the first board of the Indiana League of Women Voters as it was called then, and was probably involved when the League organized from the National American Women Suffrage Association. She served in various capacities for many years from 1920 to 1954, the last year we can find record of her League activities. She served as state president from 1922-23 and from 1928-29. She also was president of the Indianapolis League. She was here in 1969 for the fiftieth anniversary celebration in West Lafayette and was a delight to all who met her. As far as we know, Mrs. Greenough is still living in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida (near St. Petersburg). At least she was still listed in the phone book there in March, 1977. We are greatly indebted to her for writing this history that gives us so much the feel of the times.

1975-77 State Board

THE NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION  
becomes  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The year 1920 was a year of great achievement for women. The right to vote was finally won in time for women to cast their first ballots for the presidential election of 1920. It was the end of a long uphill fight. Since woman suffrage was first seriously proposed by an organized group of women in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, there had been constant agitation by women's groups for the right to vote. Two suffrage groups, one of which believed in the method of winning suffrage for women state by state, and the other by an amendment to the United States Constitution, finally had been amalgamated to form the powerful National American Woman Suffrage Association. The Association pressed on both fronts vigorously and effectively, and gradually the bitter opposition lessened. The public began to accept the premise that women should be allowed to vote, and that it was not ridiculous but perhaps only fair that women should be counted as citizens. In several states, women had been voting on state issues for years, without any noticeably dire results as predicted by the opponents of woman suffrage.

By 1919, victory was in sight. The suffrage amendment to the federal constitution was finally passed by the Congress in that year. The final steps for the ratification of the amendment by the requisite number of state was begun. Responsible suffrage leaders began to look ahead and plan for the tremendous new electorate that ratification would add to the political scene. So in 1919 they set up a division of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, naming it the League of Women Voters. Mrs. Charles Brook of Kansas was made chairman of this division. A year of planning and consideration was thus made possible before the vote actually was won for women.

The leaders of the suffrage movement were confident by this time that the suffrage amendment would be ratified by the states and held their victory convention in February, 1920, at Chicago, actually several months before ratification. Meeting at the same time and place was the League of Women Voters, still as a division of the Suffrage Association. There was division among suffrage leaders as to the future of their organization. Debate centered around the following questions propounded in the convention program:

1. Shall the National American Woman Suffrage Association dissolve when the last task concerning the extension of suffrage to women is completed? If so, what techniques shall be used to dispose of its unfinished business and physical property?
2. Shall it recommend that its members join the League of Women Voters?
3. What plan for the intensive education of the new women voters is possible, and shall it be conducted under the auspices of the National American Woman Suffrage Association?

The convention finally voted to dissolve the Suffrage Association, leaving only a skeleton organization to wind up the business, dispose of the physical property and be the guardian of the historical data of the suffrage fight. The convention endorsed the League of Women Voters as the follow-up organization to be



charged with the education of women for their soon to be acquired citizenship. Consequently, the Suffrage Victory Convention adjourned Saturday noon, February 14, 1920, and the first official convention of the League of Women Voters started that afternoon. The women were ready. They chose as their purpose, "fostering education in citizenship" and "supporting improved legislation". Committees had been meeting diligently during the suffrage convention, preparing to report their recommendations to the new organization, if it should be decided to launch one. These meetings reflected the frustrations women had felt along many lines, in addition to the fundamental frustration of not having the right to vote. The committees included American Citizenship, Protection of Women in Industry, Child Welfare, Food Supply and Demand, Social Hygiene, Unification of Laws Concerning Women, and Election Laws and Methods.

There was lively debate on the recommendations, and after much consideration, many of them were adopted, and thus was formed the first program of the League of Women Voters. A constitution was framed and accepted. Mrs. Maude Wood Park of Bangor, Maine, was elected the first president. Plans were made to open headquarters, if possible, in Washington. The new organization had taken its first tentative steps.

The organization of the League of Women Voters of Indiana followed the same general pattern. Mrs. Richard Edwards of Peru, an active suffrage worker, president of the Women's Franchise League of Indiana, was made treasurer of the national League. An office was established in Peru, and she immediately set about promoting the new organization in the state.

A HISTORY  
OF  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

1921

The new organization started with a flourish. Mrs. A. H. Beardsley of Elkhart was made the first president. Offices were established in Elkhart in the Monger Building and Miss Roberta Starr was employed as executive secretary. This set a pattern from which the League did not deviate for many years. There has always been a headquarters and always been paid staff.

Serving with Mrs. Beardsley were Mrs. Alice Foster McCulloch, Fort Wayne, first vice president; Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend, second vice president; Mrs. E. A. Gould, Peru, third vice president; Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, fourth vice president; Mrs. Homer McCray, Kendallville, Treasurer; and, Mrs. Olive Beldon Lewis, Indianapolis, secretary.

The transition from the Women's Franchise League to the League of Women Voters was not an easy one. The suffrage leaders were tired after their long fight and many of them felt unequal to the challenge of a new demanding task. The suffrage struggle was focused on one objective upon which all the members agreed. It was an entirely different procedure to get agreement on a government issue, often a complicated issue that needed patient study and research. The suffrage dues had been made very low, sometimes only twenty-five cents a year, and the emphasis had been on numbers and enthusiasm. According to the Indiana Woman Voter of May, 1921, the Franchise League turned over 112 local organizations. All but about sixty died or languished and had to be reorganized. However, the Voter stated that many had been reorganized and that there were at the time of publication 131 Leagues, which the Voter listed by districts. Each district had a chairman who was a member of the state board of directors.

While the actual transition from one organization to another was posing difficulties, the 1921 General Assembly posed a challenge. There were many issues women had been feeling deeply about that needed legislation. It was finally decided to concentrate on three issues: equal guardianship of children, the eight hour day for women in industry, and the school attendance-child labor law. The interest of women in child welfare legislation over a long period of time finally had resulted in the appointment of a Child Welfare Commission, authorized by the 1919 Legislature, to study the problems dealing with the welfare of children and report to the 1921 Legislature its recommendations. These recommendations and the study preceding it were of great interest to the members of the League and were the basis of their advocacy of the two child welfare items on their legislative program.

However, before any effective legislative work could be done, it seemed imperative to have a headquarters in Indianapolis. Miss Adah Bush, the governor's secretary, was an enthusiastic League member, and was instrumental in securing this much needed office space in the State House itself. With this convenient base for their legislative work, the League made good use of its members who were old hands at legislative work because of their efforts in behalf of woman suffrage. The equal guardianship law was easily passed with very few dissenting votes. It was comparatively simple and appealed to the sense of justice of the

legislators. After all, mothers should have as much right to the guardianship of their children as fathers.

Passage of the Child Labor-School Attendance Law was a much more difficult task. It was a long and complicated piece of legislation. It codified existing child labor laws and provided for their enforcement. It set up a school attendance system to replace the outmoded truant laws of the state. There was definite opposition to the measure that had to be met. But the most demanding task was to familiarize both the legislators and the public with the provisions of the proposed law and how it would operate. To successfully embark on this program of public education, the League members had to become educated themselves-- at least those who were in charge of the legislative work. The task was finally accomplished and the bill passed with large majorities.

The eight hour day for women proposal was defeated. There was a great deal of opposition from hotel and restaurant owners, from other industries and businesses, and from business and professional women themselves who felt that the bill might hamper them. These objections were met in part. Business and professional women were excluded from the bill, and so were hotel and restaurant workers. Two amendments to the bill throw an interesting side-light on the thinking of the time. One amendment provided for a 57 hour week for women. This was defeated, but the other amendment providing for a 52 hour week was accepted. Even this concession was not enough to save the bill.

The 1921 General Assembly had before it 13 amendments to the state Constitution, which had been passed by the 1919 session. The League was committed to the first amendment, known as the citizenship amendment. It had been supported by the Franchise League and so was an inheritance from them. Many who had become responsible League leaders had worked for it before they got the vote, and so were familiar with its provisions. It provided that, "In all elections not otherwise provided for in the Constitution, every citizen of the United States of the age of 21 years and upward who shall have resided in the state during the six months, and in the township 60 days, and in the ward or precinct 30 days immediately preceding such election, shall be entitled to vote in the township or precinct where he or she may reside."

The amendment removed the word "male" from constitutional provisions for voting. While this change actually had no effect upon the law, since suffrage was secured by amending the U. A. Constitution, it did bring the state Constitution into conformity. There was another reason for supporting the amendment. Up to this time, any male could vote in Indiana who had declared his intention of becoming a citizen, so many foreigners never bothered to go through the final process of becoming citizens.

The other twelve amendments were sponsored by vigorous and large groups. All of them passed the 1921 session. The newly founded League found itself with another sizeable task in connection with the amendments. It had to become familiar with the provisions of the Indiana Constitution setting forth the amending process, and in the process, sponsor with the other groups, a bill providing for a special election for the consideration of the amendments alone, to be held September 6, 1921. This was necessary because of the language of the Indiana Constitution, which not only required that any amendment should go through two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly in exactly the same form, but must then be submitted to the electorate of the state, and secure a majority vote. The difficulty lay in the interpretation of electors to mean all those voting at the election, it could only pass if it had a majority of all those voting at that election. Therefore, if an amendment was submitted at a general election, it could

only pass if it had a majority of all those voting at that election. Too many voters failed to vote on the amendment to secure such a majority--any one failing to vote on the amendment in effect cast a negative vote. So it became necessary to provide for special elections for the consideration of amendments, if there was any hope of securing the requisite referendum majority. The bill providing for a special election also was successfully piloted through the General Assembly by the interested groups, including the League.

The League was catapulted thus early into an intensive campaign of citizen education. From the adjournment of the Legislature, early in March, until the September 6th special election, the League was very active in spreading information about the citizenship amendment. Fortunately, it could call upon the experience of suffrage leaders who had originally sponsored the amendment and who had the know-how of reaching the public and securing wide-spread support for an issue. It also had the advantage of a carry-over of a large membership from the suffrage organization, and the impetus of the suffrage campaign which was transferred to the citizenship amendment issue.

The delegates to the League convention preceding the 1921 General Assembly had taken the position that the League was not prepared to support the other twelve amendments, but had the obligation of disseminating information about them; presenting impartially the arguments for and against them. The month of August was set aside for sponsoring forums on the amendments throughout the state, and careful programs for the forums were developed. The amendments covered a variety of subjects: apportionment, lengthening the terms of the two-year state officials and the two-year county officials to four-year, providing for the governor to have the power to veto separate items of the appropriation bill, providing for qualifications to practice law, and providing for a state income tax.

The results of the special election were amazing, and in some ways, disconcerting. So vigorously had the League and other groups campaigned for the citizenship amendment, that it was the only one that passed. The vote was 130,242 to 80,574. The public reaction is difficult to understand. There must have been a great deal of interest in and support for the other amendments to have them survive two sessions of the General Assembly. It never has been easy to secure a special election with its attendant expense, and yet such an election was secured. But when the people voted, only the citizenship amendment came through undefeated. There might be a partial explanation in the very vigor of the campaign for the citizenship amendment. The proponents of the other amendments might not have felt the necessity for wide-apread appeals to the voters.

Two other actions of the League were taken in this first two years of its existence. It petitioned the governor, Governor McCray, to appoint qualified women for State School Attendance and State Probation officers, and to the appointive state boards.

The Woman Voter also was launched, the first issue being published early in 1921. The subscription price was fifty cents a year and the Voter became the principle means of spreading information to the members. In later years, all kinds of other types of material were developed, but in the first years, League information service was concentrated in the Voters. This tended to make the early Voters larger and more imposing than they have been in more recent times.

Mrs. Katharine Croan Greenough, President

State Convention held in Lafayette, May 9-11, 1922.

Eight new directors were elected by the convention and, interestingly enough, by the method of proportional representation, directed by Mr. Walter Millard, ardent advocate of the system, who attended the convention to demonstrate and talk about it. The new directors were:

Mrs. W. T. Barnes, Indianapolis  
 Mrs. Thomas Arthur Stuart, Lafayette  
 Mrs. Chester Evans, Bloomington,  
 Miss Gertrude McHugh, Indianapolis  
 Mrs. Ella B. Kehrer, Anderson  
 Mrs. E. A. Gould, Peru  
 Miss Agatha Disk

The directors elected the following officers immediately after the convention adjourned:

Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, President  
 Mrs. E. A. Gould, Peru, First Vice-president  
 Mrs. Harry McMullen, Aurora, Second Vice-president  
 Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend, Third Vice-president  
 Mrs. Ella B. Kehrer, Anderson, Fourth Vice-president  
 Mrs. Chester Evans, Bloomington, Treasurer  
 Mrs. William T. Barnes, Indianapolis, Secretary

The program of the convention featured speeches by the rival contenders for the senatorship from Indiana: Mr. Albert J. Beveridge, Republican and Mr. Samuel Ralston, Democrat. They spoke at a large mass meeting, open to the public. There were several social events. A tea was held at the home of Mrs. Charles and Mrs. Arthur Stuart; a luncheon at Purdue University which was a demonstration of the domestic science work, and a tour of the university; and finally, the convention was invited to Turkey Run to be the guests of the Director of Conservation, Mr. Richard Lieber and Mrs. Lieber for luncheon and to open the new hotel officially.

The standing committees of the Indiana League paralleled those of the national organization, and the following chairmen were appointed:

International Cooperation to Prevent War; Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl  
 Social Hygiene, Mrs. Carrie B. Banning  
 Child Welfare, Mrs. Wilbur Templin, Elkhart  
 Uniform Laws for Women, Miss Helen Benbridge, Terre Haute  
 Efficiency in Government, Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
 Education, Mrs. Alice Foster McCulloch, Fort Wayne  
 Living Costs, Mrs. Frederick Lauenstein, Evansville  
 Women in Industry, Mrs. A. T. Cox, Indianapolis

Mrs. Raymond Stone served as publicity director and assumed much of the editing of the Voter, being a part-time employee in the state office. Miss Adah Bush

served as the finance chairman; Miss Alma Sickler as literature chairman; Mrs. W. W. Black, Bloomington, program chairman; and Mrs. Earl Hummer, South Bend, public relations chairman.

The budget hopefully adopted by the convention included the following expenditure items:

Administration	\$4,000
Organization	2,100
Citizenship	150
Publicity	1,000
Legislation	500
Convention	150
National Dues	750
Emergency	300
	<u>\$9,000</u> (Total isn't correct)

It was unrealistic in that it was predicated on the needs of the League and not upon the expected receipts. The receipts of the proceeding year had come from \$1300 in dues, \$2882 in League Pledges, \$1845 in personal pledges, \$1249 in contributions and a few miscellaneous receipts. The League also had debts: two notes of \$1000 each, one of which was paid by Mrs. Beardley, retiring president, and over \$900 currently borrowed from the bank.

The state offices were moved to Indianapolis, where they have remained. There have been many advantages in locating the offices in Indianapolis. It is the state capital, and the interests of the League consistently have led to legislative action. It would have been much harder to carry on the legislative programs successfully without the help of the state office. The city has the advantage of being in the exact center of the state, with good roads and transportation facilities. It is the center of news dissemination.

The state office was established on East Washington Street, in cramped and inconvenient quarters when compared with the location of the present office. Miss Helen Hand became executive secretary.

The carry-over from the dynamic suffrage organization to the League of Women Voters, presented many organization problems. The emphasis had been on numbers of members, with consequent low dues to make it possible for any interested woman to become a member--dues were usually twenty five cents. Women of means were accustomed to pay the dues of many members themselves. The suffrage organization was animated by one issue alone, for which it campaigned strenuously. The League was essentially very different. In October of 1922, the board of directors of the League decided to take a bold step. They were concerned with the lack of information received by the individual member about the work and purposes of the League. To help remedy this condition, they decided to discontinue subscriptions to the Woman Voter, which had been fifty cents a year and had gone to a relatively few members, and send it free to every paid up member in the state. In order to meet the expense involved, the local Leagues had to find more money for the state organization, and in most cases, met the increase by raiding the local dues. Each local League had to send in a bona fide list of their members, and at least start the process of dropping names that had been retained without justification. However, although there was a shrinkage in membership, the results were salutary. The members knew they were members, as sometimes they had not before, and became better and more understanding members, with the Woman Voter magazine coming to them regularly. It was a necessary transition from one type of organization to another and the result was a compact, fairly solid, but smaller membership.

## 1923 General Assembly

The General Assembly of Indiana convened in January 1923, and the League again embarked on a legislative program. There were only three items, and the Leagues had done a good job of studying the issues and preparing themselves. Efforts were made to develop legislative committees in each League, who could interview their legislators about the League program. Mrs. Charles Arthur Carlisle of South Bend was made chairman of the legislative work, with a large state committee to assist her. Committees in the district also were appointed. The League sent questionnaires to all legislative candidates (including congressmen and U. S. senators) and the replies were printed in the Woman Voter. The actual day by day work necessary to steer bills through the General Assembly, fell largely on the state office and the Indianapolis League members of the legislative committee.

The Mother's Aid Law, which permitted mothers of good moral character, to keep their children in their homes with the help of county funds was generally accepted by the General Assembly and finally passed with almost no dissenting votes.

The second legislative proposal presented a more difficult situation. It called for the state of Indiana to match funds with the federal government for infant and maternal work, setting up a separate bureau in the State Board of Health for this purpose. The National League had sponsored the Sheppard-Towner Act, which provided funds for education in maternal and child hygiene care. The death rate of mothers and babies in their first year was high at the time: much more than in other countries which had established effective programs for the care of mothers and babies. A few of the states also had demonstrated the possibilities of such a program. Passage of the bill was one of the major legislative concerns of the National League. It was a major legislative triumph for the interests of women in its advocacy of the conservation of human lives, in contrast to the emphasis of the past, which had largely been on the conservation of property.

The Act called for matching funds by the states, and here was the rub. There were many cases of matching funds in the state of Indiana, notably in the roads and in agricultural programs. But this was a new field, and there was bitter opposition. The measure providing for these matching funds finally passed the Indiana General Assembly with comfortable majorities.

The value of the legislation was demonstrated in the following years. The death rate of both mothers and children decreased steadily. The medical profession itself became increasingly aware of the importance of the problem, and advances in techniques and knowledge were steady and gratifying. The most salutary effect of the legislation probably was the change of attitude of both the doctors and the public.

The third legislative item was not immediately successful. It reflected the interests of party women, who found themselves thwarted in their attempts to be part of the party organization. It proposed a change in the election law which would give men and women equal, or fifty-fifty representation in the party, starting with the election of both a man and woman from each precinct. Members from the precincts then would constitute the county committee, and the fifty-fifty representation would be continued through to the district and to the state committee.



This proposal the men in the General Assembly were not prepared to grant. The lone woman legislator, Mrs. H. R. Misner of Michigan City, a good League member and a good exponent of the value of using the abilities of women, made a fight for the legislation, which bore fruit in the very next session of the legislature. Public opinion had veered materially, party women had become increasingly interested, and a modified version of the original bill was passed without too much difficulty. The modification came in the provision that the vice-chairman of the opposite sex be appointed by an elected precinct committeeman, instead of elected by the voters, but there was no prohibition against women being elected precinct committeemen. The fifty-fifty representation in the party hierarchy was provided for, as in the original bill.

The League also had a fight on its hands to retain the legislation won in the preceding session which they managed to win. The foresight of the League in urging a program of follow-up work on the School Attendance-Child Labor law by the local Leagues was a great help in that fight. The League also had been vigilant in advocating proper enforcement of the citizenship amendment to the state constitution. It took on the task of following the enforcement of the new federal law sponsored by the National League, which provided for independent citizenship for women.

The League was very active and effective in legislative work, but it should always be remembered that it was not alone in the field. Other organizations, groups of citizens, newspapers, party officials themselves gave effective support to the passage of legislation.

#### Program

In response to requests from many of the local Leagues, an outline for suggested programs for the year was developed. It included both programs for the open meetings and study programs, as well as suggestions for projects by the local affairs committee. In October, for instance, the suggestion for the open meeting was to have a discussion of the campaign issues by opposing candidates for office, and the study group concerned itself with the legislative program of the state. By April, the suggestions had moved to a resume of local school conditions, and a preliminary study of the judicial system: national, state, and local.

There were other activities during the year. Before election, citizens were urged to vote conscientiously, and the pledge of citizenship by Mrs. Park, National president, was used extensively. This activity was a mild forerunner of the intensive get-out-the-vote campaigns of future years. The League cooperated with the National Council in its campaign for the reduction of armament by planning a "No More War" demonstration in July. The demonstration had two simple undertakings: first, to distribute as many placards as possible bearing the words "No More War": and second, having telegrams and letters sent to the President of the United States, urging definite steps toward world peace.

Mrs. Alice Foster McCulloch, President

The 1923 convention was held in Indianapolis at the Claypool Hotel, May 1-3. The convention elected the following new directors:

Mrs. Alice Foster McCulloch, Fort Wayne  
 Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
 Miss Adah Bush, Indianapolis  
 Mrs. Christian Eby, Connersville  
 Miss Etelka Rothenbach, New Albany  
 Mrs. Frederick Lauenstein, Evansville  
 Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
 Mrs. Isaac Born, Indianapolis

The board then proceeded to elect the officers, as provided by the Bylaws, as follows:

Mrs. Alice Foster McCulloch, Fort Wayne, President  
 Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, First Vice-president  
 Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend, Second Vice-president  
 Mrs. Christian Eby, Connersville, Third Vice-president  
 Miss Etelka Rothenbach, New Albany, Fourth Vice-president  
 Mrs. John T. Boss, Elkhart, Treasurer  
 Mrs. W. T. Barnes, Indianapolis, Secretary

The retirement of Mrs. Greenough after one year established a precedent which was followed for some time. The term of office was for one year, and by the expiration of the year's term, the presidents insisted on retiring. Leadership in the League always has been a demanding task, but in those early days it needed terrific effort to keep the struggling new organization going.

War prevention was the general subject of the mass meeting, addressed by Miss Ruth Morgan of New York, National League chairman of the Committee on International Cooperation to Prevent War, and Professor Robert Philips of the history department of Purdue. A garden party at the home of Senator and Mrs. Samuel Ralston, and a local presidents dinner were the social events. The convention banquet was addressed by Mrs. George Gelhorn of St. Louis, and Mrs. William Hibbard of Winetka, Illinois, fourth regional director.

A sizeable budget of \$8,605 was adopted. The National League money raising plan of a "dollar a member" was initiated. There were several program resolutions, including one on peace, another to actively work for the fifty-fifty party organization bill defeated in the 1923 General Assembly, and two seemingly unrelated resolutions demanding immediate investigation of the sugar situation by the Living Costs Committee, and the deploring of the constant display of crime stories on the front pages of the newspapers.

The convention took as its primary work for the non-elective year "Know Your County". Consequently, one of the first tasks of the state office was to devise and promote surveys of county government for each local League.

Miss Helen Hand was continued as executive secretary. The headquarters were moved to larger and more accessible rooms in the Spink-Arms Hotel, 410 N.

Meridian St. The newly built hotel offered a room for meetings and, as was natural, as long as the offices were continued in the hotel, the luncheon and dinner meetings were held there, too. During the year, the Indianapolis League joined the state League in their headquarters, which established another precedent persisting for a number of years.

Soon after her election, Mrs. McCulloch married Thomas Mullins and moved to Indianapolis. It was thus possible for her to be in touch with the headquarters a great deal of the time. Since this was a non-legislative year, there was time for the League to catch its breath and further other important interests.

Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle of South Bend was appointed organization chairman with the district chairmen as her committee, as follows:

First District - Mrs. Christine Cunningham, Princeton  
Second District - Mrs. John Neill, Bloomington  
Sixth District - Mrs. Charles Teetor, Hagerstown  
Seventh District - Mrs. Allen T. Fleming, Indianapolis  
Eighth District - Mrs. I. E. May, Anderson  
Ninth District - Mrs. Louise Helwig, Kokomo  
Tenth District - Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross, Rensselaer  
Eleventh District - Mrs. D. M. Coppock, Peru  
Twelfth District - Mrs. Maude Murray, Helmer  
Thirteenth District - Mrs. L. S. Fickenscher, South Bend.

The districts of Indiana have since been changed, both in number and in location. (1977 - districts no longer in existence) Miss Mary Gallahan of Peru (later became Mrs. L. E. Kolb whose daughter carried on the family tradition by working in the state office) traveled over the state promoting organization work, both in established Leagues and in places where potential new Leagues might be formed. Two new Leagues were added during the year: Tipton and Madison. Cooperating closely in organization work was the state membership committee with Mrs. John I. Gwinn as chairman and the speakers bureau with Mrs. Christian Eby of Connersville as chairman.

Under the direction of Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, First Vice-president of the National League, much of the work of the national organization was carried on in an office established in Peru, Indiana. Miss Etelka Rothenbach of New Albany, a secretary in the office, traveled through the state in behalf of a money raising plan of National to secure \$100 pledges. Miss Mary Gallahan, also a staff member, was in charge of organization work. A great deal of National literature was handled from this office.

The Elkhart League was the recipient of a gift of a club house by Mrs. A. H. Beardsley. It was one of the very few in the country, and the Elkhart League maintained it for many years.

The Woman Voter became even larger, at least in appearance, with the publishing of advertising. Miss Julia Landers was appointed advertising manager for the League and was energetic in securing ads for the Voter and for the Year Book, both published at convention time. The Year Book was a handsome and fairly large publication in those days, supplementing the Voter as a source of information to League members. Miss Edith Evans of Indianapolis became the editor of the Voter and publicity chairman.

## Program

Along the program front, interest in the fifty-fifty bill which provided equal representation of women with men in the party organization structure and which was defeated by the 1923 General Assembly, was maintained. The entire text of the bill was printed in the Voter, and there were several editorials on the subject. Displays for the county fairs on program material were urged on the "Know Your County" surveys and on the various peace plans and work. The National League was emphasizing three issues: the peace issue; a study of the proposed equal rights for women amendment to the United State Constitution which they were growing to be uncertain about; and the child labor amendment--made necessary by a Supreme Court decision declaring the national child labor law invalid.

## Convention

The fifth annual convention was held in Michigan City, May 13, 14 and 14, 1924. It was planned as an all-woman convention with only women speakers on the program. Mrs. James W. Morrison of Chicago made one of the principal addresses on the subject of international affairs. Mrs. Morrison was the daughter of William Dudley Foulke, Indiana writer and poet from Richmond, who was one of the earliest and most stalwart supports of woman suffrage. Mrs. May Wood-Simons, chairman of citizenship training for the Illinois League, was the banquet speaker. Mrs. William J. Hibbard, regional director, and Mrs. Paul Ritterhouse, regional secretary, took part in the program. The laws sponsored by the League were reported by the women who had been appointed to administer them: Mrs. Carina C. Warrington, State Probation Officers; Miss Blanche Merry, State School Attendance Officer; and, Dr. Ada Schweitzer, in charge of the maternal and child hygiene work of the State Board of Health.

## 1924-25

Mrs. William T. Barnes, President

First Vice-president, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross, Rensselaer  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Frederick Lauenstein, Evansville  
Fourth Vice-president, Mrs. I. E. May, Anderson  
Treasurer, Mrs. Thomas (McCulloch) Mullins, Fort Wayne  
Secretary, Miss Adah E. Bush, Indianapolis

The standing committee chairman were as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie, International Cooperation to Prevent  
War and legislative chairman  
Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis, Efficiency in Government  
Mrs. Wilbur Templin, Elkhart, Child Welfare  
Mrs. Mary Stover Hay, Anderson, Legal Status of Women  
Mrs. Margaret Hoop, Shelbyville, Women in Industry

The Get-Out-The-Vote campaign, urged by the National League as a concerted effort over the country, occupied the energies of the League until after the November presidential election. Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, was the chairman and many committees were set up: a speakers bureau, a committee to cooperate

with the schools and colleges, information and statistics, publications, special features, cooperation with the clergy, finance, and an advisory publicity committee.

Mrs. Maude Wood Park, National president, sent out a pledge of good citizenship as follows:

"Believing in government by the people, for the people, of the people, I will do my best. First: To inform myself about public questions, the principles and policies of political parties, and the qualifications of candidates for public office. Second: To vote according to my conscience at every election, primary or final, at which I am entitled to vote. Third: To obey the law even when I am not in sympathy with all its provisions. Fourth: To support by all fair means the principles that I approve of. Fifth: To respect the right of others to uphold convictions that may differ from my own. Sixth: To regard my citizenship as a public trust."

Thousands of these pledges were distributed in Indiana, as were the flyers, stickers for cars, placards and the like with "Vote as You Please, but Vote".

The results in Indiana, where the interest in politics is perpetual, were gratifying. According to the statement of the National Association of Manufacturers, Indiana led all states with 83% of the vote cast. However, the state already had been far ahead of the national average having cast 75% of its vote in 1920. The campaign nationally increased the vote from a little under 50% to a little over the mark. However, it demonstrated the value of pre-election activity and gave the League a chance to emphasize its non-partisan character. It was endorsed by the leaders of both parties in Indiana. A joint statement was issued by them saying in part, "The party groups recognize in the League of Women Voters a citizen agency that is seeking and disseminating authentic information on the basic facts of government and that is developing informed and intelligent voters. Therefore, we urgently recommend that the women of Indiana unite in a concerted effort to bring every qualified voter to the polls November 4, to the end that government may continue to be a government by the people."

In a light vein was the poem published by the Indianapolis Times by Pauline Holmes:

"You'd better pick your party and you'd better pick your man  
Or you'll have to seek seclusion and hide the best you can.  
Get your mind made up for voting in the next November bout  
Or the Voter's League'll get you if you don't watch out."

One of the great issues of the day was the proposed child labor amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Twice, child labor bills had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, so amending the Constitution seemed the only feasible solution to a serious situation in the country. The amendment was finally passed by the Congress, seemingly with almost unanimous citizen and organization approval. But when it was submitted to the state legislatures for ratification, it ran into tremendous opposition. The opponents organized swiftly and effectively. Those who had supported the amendment through their national organizations seemed to be bewildered by the violent attacks, or actually convinced by the arguments against the amendment. It failed to be ratified in many state legislatures, including Indiana. As a matter of record, the amendment never did pass and child labor was permitted in

those states which did not prohibit it until 1934. Then the Congress finally devised and passed a measure prohibiting child labor that passed the test of the Supreme Court.

Indiana was not affected by the defeat. Child labor had been banned in the state by legislation reaching over a period of years and recently brought up to date and repassed in the League sponsored School Attendance-Child Labor bill. However, the implications of the strength of adverse propaganda was of great concern to the Indiana League, as well as to the National League. As an Indianapolis newspaper put it, never had a public issue been decided upon such false premises. It startled the League into a program of self education and forced the basis for the development of study groups which characterized the years that followed.

The rest of the legislative program, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, legislative chairman, was concerned with maintaining the gains already won by the League. There was general acceptance of the equal guardianship law, the mother's aid law, and Indiana's part in implementing the national maternity and health program (known as the Sheppard-Towner law). But the situation was different with both the school attendance and the probation departments. They were under constant fire in the legislature but were finally saved by the combined efforts of the League and the other large state women's organizations. The fifty-fifty bill, giving women equal representation in party organization, was passed largely by the work of women party workers but with the help and interest of the League.

The interest in citizenship schools continued. The state League school was held at Purdue University on November 21 and 22. Mrs. Thomas Arthur Stuart was chairman and the university cooperated with the League in working out the two day program.

#### 1925 National Convention

The call to the National Convention, held in Richmond, Virginia, in the spring of 1925, was issued by the new president, Miss Belle Sherwin. It stressed the obligation of the League to support needed legislation with abundant and tested facts; it called for continued effort to seek for the causes and cure of war. The convention took appropriate action in these fields, but was particularly interested in working out techniques of study groups, and the use of factual material in considering governmental problems. Miss Sherwin was convinced that if citizens knew the facts, their decisions would be wise.

#### 1925-26

Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute, President

The state convention was held in Terre Haute, at the Hotel Deming, May 7 and 8. Mrs. B. B. White, program chairman, and Mrs. F. H. Nosler, fifth district chairman, had charge of the local arrangements. The convention program again featured only women speakers, as had the previous successful convention. The out of state speakers were: Judge Florence Allen of Ohio, the first woman in the United States to preside over a state Supreme Court; Miss Alice M. Hunt of Rhode Island who had attended, as an observer, the sessions of the League of Nations in Geneva; and, Mrs. Craig Miller, president of the Michigan League. Mrs. William O. Hibbard of Winnetka, Illinois, the fourth regional director,



had become so identified with the Indiana League that she seemed one of the League's own officers. In addition, Mrs. William S. Ehrich, Evansville, reported on the Conference of the Causes and Cure of War which she had attended in Washington, D. C.

At the finance session, which adopted a \$7,500 budget, Good Citizenship bonds were sold at \$10 each. Almost \$2,500 was subscribed by the convention, with Miss Sara Lauter of Indianapolis, in charge of the effort. Mrs. Alice Foster Mullins was chairman of the Finance Department which proposed that \$1,250 come from local Leagues, being about twenty-five cents each from 5,000 members; \$5,000 be raised by personal pledges and the sale of the Good Citizenship bonds; \$750 from advertising in the Convention Program and other sources. The Convention Programs were large and handsome booklets, well illustrated, full of information about the activities of the preceding year, and carried a great deal of advertising.

The new officers elected at the convention were:

President, Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross, Rensselaer  
Second Vice-president, Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend  
Fourth Vice-president, Miss Emma May, Terre Haute  
Treasurer, Mrs. Alice Foster Mullins, Fort Wayne  
Secretary, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis

The newly elected members of the State Board were as follows:

Mrs. Thomas A. Stuart, Lafayette  
Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
Miss Anna O'Flynn, Vincennes  
Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Ella Bagot Kehrer, Anderson  
Mrs. Lucile Myers, Hammond

Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend  
Mrs. O. R. Webb, Evansville  
Mrs. Theodore Loudon, Bloomington  
Miss Emma May, Terre Haute  
Miss Gertrude McHugh, Indianapolis

The hold-over directors included:

Mrs. W. T. Barnes, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer  
Mrs. I. W. May, Anderson  
Mrs. Homer McCray, Kendallville  
Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend  
Mrs. C. C. Warrington, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. A. H. Beardsley, Elkhart  
Mrs. Christian Eby, Connersville

Mrs. Elizabeth Earl, Muncie  
Mrs. Frederic Lauenstein, Evansville  
Mrs. Isaac Born, Indianapolis  
Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute  
Mrs. Alice Foster Mullins, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indpls.

The new president and her board were confronted immediately with the problem of carrying on an efficient state office with the president living in a different city and, therefore, not available for the daily decisions entailed in League work. It was finally resolved by giving each officer a portfolio in addition to the regular duties of the office. Accordingly, Mrs. Ora T. Ross was made chairman of the local League programs; Miss Sara Lauter, Finance; Mrs. J. E. Neff, Speakers Bureau; Miss Emma May, "Woman Citizen" campaign; and, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Voter editor. In addition, Mrs. H. R. Misener became chairman of Organization and Mrs. May Gallahan Kolb, Membership chairman.



The standing committees were as follows:

Child Welfare, Mrs. Edna Hatfield Edmundson, Bloomington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl,  
Living Costs, Mrs. Frank Hatfield, Indianapolis Muncie  
Women in Industry, Mrs. Margaret Hoop, Shelbyville  
Social Hygiene, Mrs. Fred Longdon, Bluffton

### National Issues

There were three national issues about which the League was actively concerned. The first had to do with the reenactment of the Maternity and Infancy Act, now that the five year limitation of the original act was drawing to a close. The Indiana League was actively interested in the work done in the state under the Maternity Act by the Division of Infant and Child Hygiene of the State Board of Health. In her annual report, Dr. Ada Schweitzer, director, pointed out the decreasing rate of infant mortality in the state. She attributed this gratifying improvement in some measure to the interest aroused by the Better Baby Contest at the State Fair, and the vigorous campaign of publicity and exhibits which extended to many local communities. Much of this was made possible by the federal funds available to the state under the matching provisions of the Maternity and Infancy Act. Nationally, similar advances had been made. Of course, the improvement could be credited partially to the better techniques of the medical profession, but there was no doubt that the operation of the law itself had disseminated sound information on maternal and child care, and had stimulated healthy interest in the subject.

The second national interest had to do with the question of the entry of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice. The Congress had refused to go into the League of Nations, but the question of the World Court seemed to be less controversial and action on it was still pending. Both of the major political parties had endorsed entry into the Court, and the National League urged interviews with Senators and Congressmen before they returned to Washington, asking support of the measure. In addition, in order to spread factual information about the World Court, the National League promoted the formation of conversation groups in each locality.

The Wadsworth-Garret amendment to the Constitution of the United States was before the Congress and was the third national issue upon which the League had taken a firm position, this time in opposition. The amendment sought to change the amending process, making it even more restrictive and difficult. The proposal was defeated and, indeed, has been a dead issue for many years.

The Maternity and Infancy Act was extended by the efforts of the League at this time. Eventually, it was no longer necessary because the individual State Health Boards absorbed this program and continued to make advances in the field.

The year was a non-legislative one for the League and attention was focused on a study program. Each year a proposed program of work was prepared for local guidance. The study of the city manager form of government, and of the proposal to make the county the administrative unit for the schools were included in this program. It also suggested that the problems of women in industry be discussed, and that one meeting be devoted to a discussion of the League's own program to be selected at the next state convention. Activities, as usual, included finance and membership drives. First voters birthday parties before the fall elections, citizenship schools on local issues, and a mass meeting on the World Court were included in the program.

## National Board

Miss Belle Sherwin of Cleveland, Ohio, had become the president of the National League, succeeding Mrs. Maude Wood Park. Since her election in 1924, Miss Sherwin had made her home in Washington, D. C., where the headquarters of the League had been located, and had made the League presidency a full time job. Associated with her were a devoted group of women: Mrs. Harris Baldwin of Washington, D. C.; Miss Katherine Luddington of Lyme, Conn.; Mrs. George Gellhorn of St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Ruth Morgan of New York City; Mrs. William Hibbard of Winnetka, Illinois and her fourth regional secretary, Miss Florence Harrison, and many others. In these difficult years, the League was small, and in order to survive, demanded almost full time from its responsible leaders.

## Proposed Program of Work

The proposed program of work prepared for the state convention was an illustration of the trend of the League to become at the same time more academic and more diffuse. Each committee program was divided into study items and support items. The committee on Child Welfare, for instance, listed its support items as acceptance by Indiana of the Maternity and Infancy Act, with adequate appropriations to secure full benefit of the Act, and the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment by the Indiana General Assembly. Its study items included the following: child labor; protection given by the state to children in need of special care, such as the dependents, the delinquents and the defectives; continued study of the operation of the laws sponsored by the League--the mother's aid law, the work of the school attendance office, and of the probation officer.

Under Efficiency in Government, the legislative recommendations included the manager plan in local government; simplification of state administration; the "short ballot" of the office type; opposition to repeal of the primary. Their study items included consideration of the four amendments to the state Constitution that were pending; registration laws; legislative bodies--national, state and local; county administration; taxation methods of amending the federal Constitution; federal aid. The interest in this department was growing increasingly stronger.

## State Convention, 1926

The state convention was held in Indianapolis, March 24-26, 1926, at the Lincoln Hotel. Miss Belle Sherwin, National president, was the banquet speaker and Dr. Isador Loebl, Washington University Commerce dean, spoke at a mass meeting on the subject, "Where State and Nation Meet." The convention had before it the task of revising its Bylaws. Most of the proposals were designed to provide stability to the organization by defining more carefully the purpose of the League, providing for state dues of fifty cents per member, and lengthening the terms of the officers to two years. It also reduced the number of the directors to six at large, with a director for each of the thirteen congressional districts which the state had at that time, and making their terms two years, also. All these proposals carried at the convention, but the election of directors and officers proceeded under the old provisions for one year terms.

President, Mrs. Frank H. Streightoff, Indianapolis

The new officers of the League were:

President, Mrs. Frank R. Streightoff, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. L. H. Kolb, Peru  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. M. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend  
Secretary, Mrs. Walter S. Huffman, Elkhart  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

Directors:

Mrs. C. A. Carlisle, South Bend	Miss Gertrude McHugh, Indianapolis
Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie	Miss Anna O'Flynn, Vincennes
Mrs. Russell Fortune, Indianapolis	Mrs. Thomas A. Stuart, Lafayette
Mrs. Ella Bagot Kehrner Anderson	Mrs. O. R. Webb, Evansville
Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington	Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute

Standing Committee Chairmen:

Education - Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute  
Child Welfare - Dr. Edna E. Edmondson, Bloomington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War - Mrs. William S. Ehrich, Evansville  
Social Hygiene - Mrs. Ethel F. Clarke, Indianapolis  
Efficiency in Government - Mrs. Sue Hamilton Yeats, Indianapolis  
New Voters - Mrs. Walter Greenough, Indianapolis  
Finance - Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis

There were also District Directors at this time who were as follows:

First - Mrs. Lulu S. Halvorson, Evansville  
Second - Mrs. Pearl Vernon, Martinsville  
Fifth - Mrs. J. F. Hocker, Terre Haute  
Sixth - Mrs. Earl Ruff, Glenwood  
Seventh - Mrs. Frank Hatfield, Indianapolis  
Ninth - Mrs. W. A. Morris, Frankfort  
Tenth - Mrs. Effie Earl, Valparaiso  
Eleventh - Mrs. L. I. Kolb, Peru  
Thirteenth - Mrs. W. J. Fealock, Michigan City

The executive secretary, Miss Helen Hand, resigned to take a position in Chicago. In August, her place was filled by Miss Florence Kirlin, who had been secretary to the head of the Department of Psychology, Indiana University, for four years and had majored in commerce and political science at the university, taking an additional master's degree in psychology. Miss Kirlin spent part of the summer in the office of the Illinois League, familiarizing herself with the work of the League of Women Voters.

#### Local Leagues

Simple goals for the local Leagues were established and stressed. These goals included:

1. A budget, no matter how small
2. A month payment, no matter how small, on the quota to the State League
3. Regular monthly meetings of the local boards of directors
4. A definite program to be carried on in open meetings (Dates and committees to be arranged at least two months in advance)
5. At least one study group
6. Educational survey of the county

The State Board also adopted a program plan for the year for the local Leagues, with the focus each month on the program of one of the standing committees. For instance, the September meeting was in charge of the Child Welfare Committee, with the suggestion that there be a review of the child welfare laws enacted as a result of League activity: School Attendance-Child Labor law, Maternity and Infancy Act, Probation law, Equal Guardianship of Children, and Mother's Aid law.

September was to include as its special activity a Citizenship School. October was to be in charge of the Efficiency in Government Committee, and the meeting was to be a presentation of the four pending amendments to the state Constitution (no stand by the League on amendments), registration and election laws, and the principle of federal aid. The special activities were to be non-partisan candidates meetings, ballot marking or voting machine instruction classes and a party for precinct committeewomen of both parties. Detailed plans along these general lines were made for each month of the year.

The local Leagues had become 28 by this time, which indicated a gradual reduction through the years. There were Leagues in every district but the fourth, however, and the decrease was not as alarming as the number of Leagues would indicate. The tendency had been to amalgamate several small Leagues into one city or county organization. The League numbership as a whole was smaller than the first years. The scholarly and authoritative material of the League in the field of government seemed to attract only a certain type of woman.

#### Woman Voter Magazine

Mrs. Frank Hatfield became editor of the Woman Voter. The Voters of this year reflected a growing interest in educational problems, and carried articles on the educational program of the National League and on the educational needs in Indiana.

#### Legislative Work

The General Assembly of Indiana met in January, and the League was busy as usual protecting the legislation it had been instrumental in securing. The League also decided to fight for the retention of the direct primary law of Indiana, which it did successfully. The pending amendments to the constitution, although the League was taking no position on them, were analyzed and information about them were widely disseminated. The amendments were: (1) to permit the legislature to classify for the purpose of registering voters (already provided for in the Constitution); (2) to extend the terms of two year officers to four years, but expressly prohibited such increases in length of term or in salaries to apply to present incumbents; (3) to enumerate voters every six years, and apportion the number of state senators and representatives in accordance with the number of voters; (4) to tax personal incomes. In presenting arguments for and against these amendments, the League was starting a long continued practice of covering issues of general interest, even though no stand was taken by the League on the issues.

Mrs. T. J. Loudon was made chairman of the steering committee and Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend, chairman of the state legislative committee. The results of the work in the session were to retain the legislation sponsored by the League in the past, defend successfully the direct primary, but not even to present the Child Labor amendment for ratification in face of the opposition against it.

#### Administration

Miss Florence Harrison, fourth regional organization secretary and Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, new voter chairman, organized college Leagues at Butler and Indiana University during the year.

The headquarters were moved from the Spink-Arms Hotel to the Illinois Building, Illinois and Market Streets, a downtown location convenient to bus and inter-urban stations and to the state capital. Here they have remained.

#### 1927-28

President, Mrs. Frank H. Streightoff, Indianapolis

#### Officers for 1927-28 included:

President, Mrs. Frank H. Streightoff, Indianapolis  
First Vice President, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
Second Vice President, Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Third Vice President, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend  
Secretary, Miss Adah Bush, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

#### Directors at large:

Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie  
Mrs. Russell Fortune, Indianapolis  
Mrs. B. B. White, Terre Haute  
Mrs. C. A. Carlisle, South Bend  
Mrs. J. C. Boss, Elkhart  
Mrs. L. L. Kolb, Peru

#### District Directors:

First, Mrs. Lulu S. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Second, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
Fifth, Mrs. J. F. Hocker, Terre Haute  
Sixth, Mrs. Earl Wood, Glenwood  
Seventh, Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
Ninth, Mrs. W. A. Morris, Frankfort  
Tenth, Mrs. L. E. Myers, Valparaiso  
Eleventh, Mrs. L. L. Kolb, Peru  
Thirteenth, Mrs. W. A. Huffman, Elkhart

#### Standing Committee Chairmen:

Child Welfare, Dr. Edna H. Edmundson, Bloomington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. William S. Ehrich,  
Evansville  
Women in Industry, Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Indianapolis  
Finance, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend

## Convention

The eighth annual convention was held May 9-11, 1927, in Elkhart. The meeting place was the club house of the Elkhart League of Women Voters, one of the few League owned club houses in the country. The program included David Lawrence speaking on "The Trend of the Times" and Dr. H. H. Young of Indiana University whose subject was "The Special School and Its Relation to Problem Children". Miss Elizabeth Hauser of Gerard, Ohio, was the guest representative of the National League.

Elections were held for the first time under the new Bylaws adopted at the preceeding convention making the terms of the officers and directors for two years.

## Voters Service

Early in the year, Miss Florence Kirlin became editor of the Women Voter. As a non-legislative year, the program revolved around study of the items felt to be most important to League members. In addition, the campaign for the national election of 1928 already had begun, and the League was again interested in stimulating voting but with a difference. The interest veered from getting out the vote to an effort to arouse citizens to become informed voters by providing factual information on issues and candidates in every possible way. This year reflected the growing interest in honest elections: making sure that every qualified citizen could vote, that his vote was counted, and that there be only one vote per citizen.

This trend was stimulated by the report of the Committee of Nine, authorized by the General Council of the National League. They recommended continuation of ballot marking information; providing service to voters such as political calendars, information booths, and digests of election laws; sending questionnaires to candidates and holding candidates meetings; encouraging women to become active in the parties of their choice; improving registration and election machinery; stressing the importance of taking part in the nomination of candidates; and reaffirming the belief that the direct primary was the best method for giving the average voter--especially the woman voter--a voice in nominations.

## Program

The program of the year in the Indiana League was greatly influenced by this report. Study of election laws, with special emphasis on the reasons behind the repeal of the registration law by the 1927 General Assembly and the qualifications and training of election officials, was urged. Citizenship schools were to make a large part of their programs revolve about the recommendations given above. The next convention, that of 1928, took as the theme of its program items on the Efficiency in Government program dealing largely with these issues but also including the city manager form of government. An extensive kit with outlines for several meetings--costing, by the way, \$1.50--was assembled from material available from the National League and through other organizations in the field of government science.

However, the other program items of the League were not neglected. The suggested program for the year included local investigations into the local work of the Maternity and Infancy program, the School Attendance-Child Labor law, probation work, and a survey of the situation in regard to women in industry. Foreign policy was a continuing interest, and the Living Costs committee had a hot issue in the Muscle Shoals problem--what to do with the installations made during the war for war use. As usual, each meeting was in charge of a standing committee, but there was much more emphasis on study groups. One meeting proposed an explanation of the Indiana law giving women the right to serve on juries bolstered by a report of the use made of women for jury service by the local courts.



In September, there was a conference of the four college Leagues in Indianapolis. The Leagues were Butler University, Indiana University, Terre Haute State Normal, and Purdue University. Tentative program suggestions were developed, and the girls showed particular interest in "go-see" projects such as actual visits to the courthouse and city hall and the various city projects--parks, sewage disposal plants, and the like.

#### Administration

The budget for the year showed a new approach to the income possibilities. Each local League was given a quota for state League work, and most of them accepted these quotas set by the state finance committee. At the same time, the budget was made more specific with items for rent, telephone and telegraph, supplies amounting to \$1000, executive secretary--\$1800, part-time helper--\$600, national League quota--\$750, other items of traveling expenses, state convention, Woman Voter (\$660), and a \$600 debt; the total amounted to \$6000. The local Leagues listed in the budget were 20 which showed a decrease.

During the year, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown, was made chairman of the Living Costs committee where the national Muscle Shoals item was the active and controversial issue.

Mrs. Warren K. Mannon of Indianapolis was elected a director at large during the year to fill a vacancy.

#### Voters Service

The National League embarked on an ambitious new program by establishing a weekly broadcast in conjunction with the National Broadcasting Company. Miss Katherine Luddington was the chairman, and the series was called Voters Service programs and was designed to throw light on the issues of the presidential campaign. The program was started in January of 1928 and was carried through with much success and interest for many months until after the national election. The expense in the end became too much for the League. While the time was donated by the NBC, the development of significant programs with national speakers required the maintenance of a New York city office and a large allowance for traveling expenses. However, this pioneer effort to acquaint the voting public with the issues and the candidates of a presidential election started the ball to rolling and encouraged the development of more and better programs along the voters service lines. Since that time, there have been countless broadcasts by state and local Leagues using this medium to create interest in the League program with its many issues. There have been national broadcasts, too, and the variety of form and subject matter has demonstrated the versatility of the League members. To look into the future, when television became a reality, the Leagues seized upon this medium also to spread their interests before the public.

#### National Issues

After a decade of floundering in the international field to find any solution to peace, during which time the Congress refused to go into the League of Nations, refused entry to the World Court, and found the disarmament conference an almost complete failure, a positive plan emerged in the Capper resolutions. These resolutions outlawed war, defined an aggressor nation, and requested the President of the U.S. to enter into treaties with France (where the proposal originated) and other like-minded nations to further these ends. The League acted at once in favor of the proposal which became a major project of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War.



President, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis

At the convention, Mrs. Streightoff, who had another year as president, resigned, and Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, was elected to fill the unexpired term.

The roster of officers and committee chairmen for the year included the following:

President, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
First Vice President, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
Second Vice President, Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Third Vice President, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend  
Secretary, Miss Adah Bush, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora Thompson Ross, Rensselaer

Directors at Large:

Mrs. Charles A. Carlisle, South Bend  
Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie  
Mrs. J. C. Boss, Elkhart  
Mrs. Warren K. Mannon, Indianapolis  
Mrs. R. C. Small, Hagerstown  
Mrs. Lewis E. Myers, Valparaiso

District Chairmen:

First District, Mrs. Lulu S. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Fifth, Mrs. Fred Scott, Terre Haute  
Sixth, Mrs. Fred Canaday, Hagerstown  
Seventh, Mrs. Warren K. Mannon  
Tenth, Mrs. R. R. Sherburne, Valparaiso  
Thirteenth District, Mrs. Albert Kreuger, Michigan City

Standing Committee Chairmen:

Efficiency in Government, Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Child Welfare, Miss Mary Lane, Indianapolis  
Education, Mrs. Frank H. Streightoff, Indianapolis  
Women in Industry, Mrs. Edna Christian, Indianapolis  
Living Cost, Mrs. Charles N. Teator, Hagerstown  
Legal Status of Women, Mrs. Helene Guy, Remington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. William S. Ehrich,  
Evansville

Special Committee chairmen:

Organization, Mrs. J. C. Boss, Elkhart  
Publicity Advisor, Mrs. Frank Hatfield, Indianapolis  
Pre-election Activities, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
New Voters, Mr. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Radio, Mrs. J. E. Neff, South Bend

Miss Florence Kirlin continued as executive secretary and remained editor of the Indiana Woman Voters. She also became the legislative representative of the League in the General Assembly.

## 1929 General Assembly

This was a legislative year, and as such, the pace of activities was stepped up appreciably. The program of the League adopted at the 1928 convention made an important change in form which was really a return to the original procedure in use before the program became complicated and lengthy. Three measures from the program were selected as the legislative program: a workable registration law; the direct primary, with modification to make nominations more representative; increased appropriations for the maternity and infancy work in the State Board of Health. The program itself remained in the same format with items under child welfare, efficiency in government, living costs, women in industry, legal status of women, education, and international cooperation to prevent war.

The suggested programs for the local Leagues reflected the growing interest in election laws, campaign issues and pre-election activity, candidates meetings, and the city manager law in Indiana. In the international field, the interest centered around the proposal to outlaw war by multilateral treaty. For the March activity, the League was urged to make an analysis of itself as to growth in membership and activities of the members in study groups, attendance at open meetings, and participation in community problems. The goal for the year had been set early in the year as a 25% increase in every activity.

At the time of the September Board meeting, an institute of government was arranged in cooperation with the Indianapolis League and individual sponsors. Mr. Walter J. Millard, field representative of the National Municipal League covered the subject "How to Make Your Ballot Count", and Professor Joseph P. Harris of the University of Wisconsin, expert in the field, gave his analysis of "A Permanent Registration Law for Indiana". Following this institute, questionnaires were sent to all candidates for the General Assembly, and the replies were carefully analyzed and published in a special edition of the Women Voter. This required one of the largest Voters ever published. The local Leagues interviewed their candidates individually and held more candidates meetings than ever before. The three questions asked concerned the legislative program of the Leagues but went into some detail. The question on registration asked for support of a permanent registration measure which would give most convenience to the voter and be operated with economy. The question stated that the bill probably would contain such provisions as adequate means of canvassing the lists of voters to keep them up-to-date requiring the signature of the voter at the time of registration and of voting with all year round registration at a central registration place in charge of a single responsible official.

The question dealing with the increased appropriation for the work of the Maternal and Child Hygiene Division of the State Board of Health asked for support. The direct primary question asked the following:

"What is your attitude towards the direct primary? Approval of existing law or modification of existing law--and if so, in what ways? Do you favor a return to the convention system?"

The General Assembly convened in Indianapolis in January for the constitutional sixty-one day session, and the League launched its legislative work. It was an easy victory to obtain an increased appropriation for the Child Hygiene work to offset the loss of federal aid which had been available under the Maternity and Infancy Act for several years. This Act had not been extended since it was felt that the State Board of Health was absorbing the work.

The direct primary issue was a different story. The Republican platform had advocated modification of the primary law to remove the offices of U. S. Senator and Governor of the state from the provisions of the primary. The Republicans won the election and so were bound to initiate and carry through a bill to make good their platform commitment. The bill as presented originally deleted the Congressman from the primary, but this provision was defeated. Since this was an administration and party measure, there was little the League could do about its adoption.

The registration bill was an entirely different matter. It was peculiarly the League's own. The growing interest in honest elections coupled with the repeal of the former registration law and the resulting election scandals had given impetus to the issue. Study groups in local Leagues had worked on the registration material prepared for them and were ready for action. The 1928 League convention took as the major legislative activity, securing of a permanent registration system for Indiana. Immediately following this action, a registration committee was appointed to draft a model bill with the following members: Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Indianapolis; Mr. Winfield Miller, state senator; Lewis G. Taylor, legislative chairman of the Farm Bureau; Dan Sims, legislative chairman of the Indiana Bar Association; Professor Frank G. Bates, Indiana University; Mrs. H. R. Misener, former representative in the General Assembly; with Mrs. Greenough and Miss Kirlin, exofficio members. The committee worked hard and, with the invaluable help of Mr. Charles Kettleborough of the state Legislative Reference Bureau, were ready with a draft of the bill for the critical analysis of Professor Joseph P. Harris of the University of Wisconsin who was a recognized expert in the field of election laws--particularly registration laws--when he came to Indiana to speak at the state institute of government sponsored by the League. Further polishing incorporated his suggestions, and the bill was finally drafted. Copies of the actual bill were made and sent to the governor, the chairmen of the major political parties, county auditors (whose jobs were enlarged by the bill), state board of election commissioners, and to many newspapers and lawyers throughout the state. Each League had a copy, and digests were sent to all members of the General Assembly offering the entire bill on request. The questionnaires for the legislative candidates had, as has been said, asked for support of the bill. The replies were published in the Woman Voter. A great deal of the pre-election activity of the League and intensified activity after election centered around public education on the need of such a measure.

The League was sold, but there was a great deal of opposition. The bill changed the rules, and politicians of both parties were against it. The unfortunate registration legislation of the past had convinced many honest citizens that it was hopeless to frame a satisfactory registration law. The atmosphere of the General Assembly was so hostile that few people believed the bill would survive the elections committee. But it did, and in the midst of a bitter fight, the bill weathered each crisis in both houses and was finally passed. It was a signal victory. It was a deep disappointment to have the measure then vetoed by the governor.

The legislative work was under the direction of Miss Kirlin, executive secretary, with the following League committees:

General Legislative Committee - Mrs. Charles E. Carlisle, South Bend, chairman; Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Indianapolis, vice-chairman; Mrs. Albert J. Beveridge, Mrs. John W. Kern, Mrs. Samuel Lewis Shank, Mrs. C. J. Buchanan, all of Indianapolis; Mrs. L. L. Kolb of Peru; Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie;

Mrs. Thomas A. Stuart, Lafayette; and a representative selected by each local League. In addition, a legislative steering committee was developed. Weekly meetings were held in the state office, and each member took as her responsibility attending the sessions of the General Assembly one day each week. However, so much interest was engendered in the legislative program, especially in the fight for the permanent registration of voters bill, that the members were on hand far more frequently than their regular assignments required.

The steering committee was composed of the following: Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington, chairman; Mrs. S. Neil Campbell, Indianapolis, vice-chairman; Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Mrs. Warren K. Mannon, Mrs. Frank D. Hatfield, Mrs. George C. Finfrock, Mrs. Harry E. Barnard, and Mrs. W. T. Barnes, all of Indianapolis; and Mrs. Otto Fifield, Crown Point.

Miss Adah E. Bush, Indianapolis, became the legislative advisor.

#### 1929-30

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown

The convention elected the following officers and directors:

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown  
First vice-president, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
Second vice-president, Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Third vice-president, Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Secretary, Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

Directors at large:

Mrs. Warren K. Mannon, Indianapolis  
Mrs. R. C. Small, Hagerstown  
Mrs. C. D. Greenleaf, Elkhart  
Mrs. E. S. Webster, South Bend  
Mrs. L. R. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Miss Adah E. Bush, Indianapolis

District Directors:

First, Mrs. L. R. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Fifth, Mrs. Fred Scott, Terre Haute  
Sixth, Mrs. Louie Canady, Hagerstown  
Seventh, Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis  
Eighth, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie  
Tenth, Mrs. R. R. Sherbourne, Valparaiso  
Thirteenth, Mrs. Albert Kreuger, Michigan City

Program Chairmen appointed by the president were:

Child Welfare, Mrs. J. A. Niel, Bloomington  
Education, Mrs. C. D. Greenleaf, Elkhart  
Living Costs, Mrs. Warren K. Mannon, Indianapolis  
Women in Industry, Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Indianapolis

Legal Status of Women, Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington  
Social Hygiene, Mrs. S. M. Compton, South Bend  
International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. William S. Ehrich,  
Evansville  
Efficiency in Government, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis

Two standing committee chairmen were Mrs. S. Neil Campbell, Indianapolis, Organization and Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart, New Voters.

An executive committee was established consisting of the president, first vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and three members elected from the board who were Mrs. Earl, Mrs. Campbell, and Mrs. Greenough.

### State Convention

With the end of the legislative session, the League turned its attention to the state convention preparation. The convention was scheduled for April 11th and 12th, 1929 at Evansville. The program, as it was finally given, was full of interest. Mrs. George Gellhorn, president of the Missouri League, addressed the banquet on "The Power of Facts". Miss Florence Harrison, fourth regional secretary, gave a graphic account of the development of the National League, and presidents of the local Leagues reported on the outcome of their efforts to increase their activities and membership 25% during the year.

The real focus of the convention was the referendum on the calling of an Indiana state constitutional convention to be submitted to the voters in the November election of 1930. Mr. Ross Lockridge presented the case for calling such a convention and reviewed the thwarted efforts of the past to revise and amend the state Constitution. The Year Book, still a feature at this time at each convention, devoted itself to this issue and carried articles by Mr. Lockridge on The Need of a New Constitution for Indiana; the History of Constitutional Revision by Mr. Charles Kettleborough, director of the Indiana Legislative Reference Bureau; Taxation and the Indiana Constitution by state senator Winfield Miller; Home Rule for Cities by John F. White; Is a Major Operation Necessary on our Governmental Machinery by C. O. Holmes.

This was a non-legislative year which gave the League a chance to catch up on needed work in the field of organization and in developing program material along the lines suggested by the convention. Miss Florence Kirlin continued as executive secretary and editor of the Voter. Indeed, during the years of Mrs. Teetor's presidency, Miss Kirlin remained with the League. It was her long experience and thorough understanding of the League program that provided the stability of operation needed by Mrs. Teetor as an out-of-town president who could not be on hand every working day as most of the presidents had been until this time. The two women worked well together and complemented each other's abilities.

### New Projects

Publication of a pamphlet on Registration and a Voters Handbook were two major projects undertaken by the League. The Voters Handbook was to replace the usual Year Book published at the close of each year. It was a major undertaking to gather together authentic information on elections with a political calendar, pertinent election laws, and lists of offices to be filled by election. The Handbook also contained factual material about state and local governmental structure and political party organizations. It could only have been accomplished with the invaluable assistance of Mr. Charles Kettleborough, director of the Indiana Legislative Reference Bureau. Mrs. Ralph E. Carter was chairman of the committee. The cost, which was considerable, was underwritten by contributions of \$10 or more, and the price per copy was set at thirty five cents in order to secure a wide distribution.

The Registration pamphlet gave the text of the registration law which had passed the General Assembly only to be vetoed by the Governor and date and information concerning registration laws in other states. Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City, elected member of the General Assembly, was made chairman of the committee in charge of editing the pamphlet assisted by Miss Adah E. Bush and Miss Kirlin.

#### Organization efforts

Follow-up of the convention interest in expanding League organization resulted in several meetings in Gary, LaPorte, and Richmond to explore the possibilities of forming Leagues. Before the end of the year, the Gary League completed its organization.

#### Finance Plan

A sound finance plan was developed--so sound that it has remained basically intact ever since. The budget, however, was small--only \$5000 which seemed to be more of a decrease than it actually was because it represented more nearly the actual amounts raised and spent in the preceding few years. Of this amount, \$4000 was pledged by the local Leagues, and \$1000 was the responsibility of the finance committee, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, chairman. Each local League was urged to adopt a budget with a definite plan for raising the necessary income to meet expenditure, these budgets to be approved by the local League board and acted upon at an annual meeting. Details of budget making and a suggested plan for finance work were presented in the Voter. As had been done for some time, each League was assigned a quota: its proportional share of the state budget. Quotas were determined on the basis of the population and wealth of the community in which the League was established plus the strength of the League organization.

#### Referendum issue

The outstanding issue of the year was preparation for the referendum on calling a constitutional convention to be voted on at the 1930 election. The legislation was sound and carefully worked out to provide a clear decision by the voters. If the decision turned out to be favorable, 100 delegates apportioned on the basis of the Indiana House of Representatives were to be elected to draft the new Constitution for the state. The League embarked on a campaign of education. A kit of publications on the various phases of state government, accompanied by a study outline, was prepared by Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, chairman of the Efficiency in Government Committee, early in the summer. In October, an Institute of Public Affairs was held in Indianapolis in cooperation with the local League to create interest in these governmental issues. Professor Thomas J. Reed of the University of Michigan presented the subjects of Home Rule for Cities and the Shorter Ballot, and A. R. Hatton spoke on Modern Trends in State Government. Miss Louise Overacker of Wellesley presented the Direct Primary issue. These out-of-state speakers were ably supplemented by Indiana speakers. The burning issue at the time was the recent Supreme Court decision declaring the city manager law unconstitutional. Several editorials and front page coverage demonstrated the interest of the Indianapolis newspapers.

#### Appointments

Mrs. Leetor, president of the League, was appointed by the governor to serve on the Tax Committee, to study the tax problem, and to draft remedial legislation. Mrs. Richard E. Edwards of Peru accepted the chairmanship of the Memorial and Anniversary Fund: a tenth anniversary of the League recognition of the work of pioneers in the suffrage movement.

## Voter Articles

The Voter contained articles showing the varied interest of the League. Mrs. William S. Ehrich, chairman of the Committee on International Cooperation to Prevent War, wrote on the "Year that is Past", outlining the efforts of the League in bringing about cooperation among nations. The Child Welfare program was presented by the chairman, Mrs. J. A. Neill. "The Living Costs Program in Relation to Indiana Problems" was the title of Mrs. Virginia Mannon's article. A List of Program Helps showed the development of national League material on current issues.

## 1930-31

President, Mrs. Charles M. Teetor, Hagerstown

The starred officers and directors in the following list were elected by the 1930 convention:

- President, Mrs. Charles Teetor, Hagerstown  
\* First Vice-president, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
\* Second Vice-president, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Secretary, Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Indianapolis  
\* Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

### Directors at Large:

- \* Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary  
\* Miss Minnette Baum, Fort Wayne  
\* Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Mrs. C. D. Greenleaf, Elkhart  
Mrs. L. R. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Mrs. E. S. Webster, South Bend

### District Directors:

Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis  
Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie  
Mrs. R. R. Sherbourne, Valparaiso  
Mrs. Albert Kreuger, Michigan City  
Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru

### Appointed Standing Committee Program Chairmen:

Efficiency in Government, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
Child Welfare, Mrs. J. A. Neill, Bloomington  
Education, Mrs. George Keagy, Hagerstown  
Women in Industry, Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Indianapolis  
Social Hygiene, Mrs. S. M. Compton, South Bend  
Legal Status of Women, Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. William S. Ehrich,  
Evansville



#### Other Standing Committee Chairmen:

Young Voters, Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Publicity, Mrs. Frank D. Hatfield, Indianapolis  
Publications, Mrs. J. J. Littrell, Elkhart

#### Convention

When the time for the annual convention rolled around, it was set for the Lincoln Hotel in Indianapolis March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Most of the officers were hold-overs having been elected for two year terms. There were some changes as the new system got underway, namely that the president, third vice-president, and secretary be elected in the odd numbered years together with three directors at large. In the even numbered years, the first and second vice-presidents and treasurer were to be elected with three directors.

The League year of 1930-31 was a very busy and, in some ways, a very frustrating one. The advance in the internal organization of the League was healthy. Immediately following convention, the League made an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. Recognizing the crying need for more Leagues in the state, the organization committee with Mrs. S. Neill Campbell as chairman set as a goal for itself six new Leagues. They were encouraged by their success in establishing a new League in Gary and in reorganizing the Fort Wayne League. The analysis seemed to show that the local Leagues needed better techniques for membership work, both in securing new members and renewals, and in finding ways to interest and hold their members. Finance planning on a yearly basis was cited as a need by the analysis which pointed out that the Leagues planned their program work on a yearly basis: scheduling Voters Service work, preparation for legislative work including interviews with key people, public meetings and plans for arousing understanding and support for the issues supported by the League, organizing study groups, and regular monthly meetings. In other words, it was felt that the Leagues were more interested in program than in any other phase of League work and should come to realize that only by good finance and membership planning could they become as effective as they wished to be in advocating issues.

#### Program

The program adopted at the convention was long and comprehensive. From this program, the board of directors was delegated to select measures for legislative work customarily not more than three. However, the convention did give some direction to this selection by dividing the program into one of study and support. The support program included permanent registration of voters, extension and improvement of the direct primary to make nominations more representative, a constitutional convention, child welfare measures including maternal and infant hygiene, probation, support of the child labor-school attendance law, and the equalization of educational opportunity for school children. The study program reflected expanding League interests especially in the economic field. The Living Cost study program included, for instance, regulation of public utilities, Muscle Shoals (which later developed into the Tennessee Valley Authority), and the tariff. The Women in Industry study program included, for the first time, unemployment insurance. There were four items on the Legal Status of Women program, three with historic interest having long since been secured, namely, jury service for women, the right of separate domicile, and property rights of married women. The fourth item, "Marriage and divorce laws", has not appeared on the program for many years, perhaps partially due to improvement in these laws.

The program also reflected the end result of the long program of the National League. The Indiana League felt free to choose from the national program those items which particularly interested them and work on them exclusively.

### Referendum

The referendum on holding a state constitutional convention was the important non-political issue up for decision at the November election. It was defeated decisively by the voters. The proponents of the measure were stunned by the results for they had confidently expected to be successful. Representatives of the various state organizations and individuals favoring the constitutional convention had been organized in May for the drive to present the issue to the voters. There was little organized opposition and not too much vocal opposition. Every step leading to the referendum had been easily taken, so an easy victory seemed assured. But, as the November election approached, opposition developed which effectively appealed to the innate conservatism of the Indiana electorate by pointing out the danger of tampering with the fundamental principles embodied in the Constitution. Particularly telling was the argument that the constitutional prohibition against state indebtedness might be tampered with. Vainly, the proponents pointed out that the good and tested provisions of the present Constitution would be the first things agreed upon by any constitutional convention, in all probability, and that the debt prohibition, popular as it was with the citizens of the state, would be retained.

There was a bitter lesson in the defeat for the League. Along with other groups, they had fallen into the fallacy of over-confidence. They had not realized how much public education was necessary for the voters to stand by their convictions; how easily the electorate was swayed. Consequently, there was not enough hard and effective work done before the election. The League had allowed itself to be deflected by the many other issues in which it was interested. Constitutional revision was a burning issue in the state and in the League for many years but has never been so close to success as in the 1930 referendum.

### General Assembly of 1931

Preparation for the 1931 General Assembly was carried on vigorously. Questionnaires to the candidates for the legislature contained three questions: (1) registration of voters--Are you in favor of the enactment of a registration law embodying the principles explained in the enclosed pamphlet? (2) direct primary--Are you in favor of strengthening the direct primary system of nominations and what suggestions do you have? (3) Do you favor the retention of the School-Attendance-Child Labor law with no weakening modifications which would make it less effective? The candidates also were given the opportunity of stating their attitudes towards some of the other problems of public concern by the request--The League of Women Voters also would like to have a statement from you on any subject of public importance such as taxation, the prevention of crime, and state aid to education; all of which have been the subject of special investigations by especially appointed commissions.

A large number of the legislators responded to the questionnaire which was supplemented by follow-up letters and by personal interviews by local League members. The results were published in a special, large edition of the Voter that also carried the voting records on the registration bill, the primary bill, and weakening amendments to the School attendance-Child Labor law of those candidates who had been in the 1929 session.

The results of all this preliminary work was on the whole gratifying. First, on the permanent registration bill, the party platforms of both major parties had endorsed the bill, and the replies of the candidates for the legislature were largely favorable. A good pamphlet had been prepared and given wide distribution setting forth the major provisions of the bill and the reasons for these provisions. So it was no surprise when the General Assembly passed the bill with large majorities. The great disappointment came when the governor again refused to accept the measure and pocket vetoed it. It was another example of the bitter lessons that had to be learned the hard way by the League. A really fine job had been done with the legislators who stood fast in favor of the controversial measure. But the governor was unconvinced and nullified the work that had been done.

The situation in regard to the primary was entirely different. From their discussions and study of the primary before the legislature convened, no clear cut issues were developed upon which the Leagues agreed and were willing to take concerted action. The answers of the legislative candidates showed the same confusion about how to change or improve the primary. The answers did evidence general agreement that what was left of the primary after the action of the 1929 session should be retained. The League was in accord with this. The General Assembly did defeat repeal measures, but the Assembly also defeated measures which would have reinstated the offices of governor and United States senator in the primary.

The School Attendance-Child Labor law was successfully defended by an effective combination of women's organizations including the League. There were several attempts to weaken the provisions of the law in regard to child labor. These reflected the problems incident to the increase in unemployment and in business failures which put a premium on cheaper labor. The country was sliding gradually but inexorably into a deepening depression. In this connection, the League became very concerned over the plight of public education. Many communities found it difficult to keep their public schools open at all with the falling off in tax revenue that they were experiencing. The education chairman, Mrs. Mary Hatfield, collected current material and promoted serious study of the situation. Nothing concrete was proposed by the League in the 1931 session, but the gravity of the situation was generally recognized, and the League was endeavoring to find the answers.

#### 1931-32

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown

Election of officers resulted in the following roster. The starred names are those elected by the convention for two year terms:

- \* President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown
- First Vice-president, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis
- Third Vice-president, Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru
- \* Secretary, Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Indianapolis
- Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

#### Directors at Large:

- \* Mrs. E. S. Webster, South Bend
- \* Mrs. L. R. Halvorsen, Evansville
- \* Mrs. B. J. Jones, Greencastle
- Miss Minnette Baum, Fort Wayne
- Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City
- Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary

#### District Directors:

- First, Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary
- Third, Mrs. J. J. Littrell, Elkhart
- Fourth, Mrs. J. E. Moring, Fort Wayne
- Seventh, Mrs. J. A. Neill, Bloomington
- Twelfth, Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis

#### Standing Program Committee chairmen (appointed board members):

- Efficiency in Government, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis
- Child Welfare, Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart
- Education, Mrs. George Keagy, Hagerstown
- Living Costs, Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis
- Women in Industry, Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Indianapolis
- Legal Status of Women, Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington
- International Cooperation to Prevent War, Mrs. William S. Ehrich, Evansville

#### Special Committees:

- Publicity, Mrs. Frank D. Hatfield, Indianapolis
- Publication Promotion, Mrs. J. J. Littrell,
- Legislative, Mrs. Loudon
- Organization, Mrs. Campbell
- Finance, Mrs. Edwards

Miss Florence Kirlin remained as executive secretary and editor of the Voter. One of her first reports to the League after the convention was an analysis of the past legislative session. She made these points: (1) The need for a keener, more widespread understanding of the problems of government, affecting as they do, the lives of individual citizens. (2) A change in legislative procedure to obviate the frantic scramble of the last days of the limited 61-day session. (3) Constitutional change, particularly in the fields of taxation and more "home rule" for cities and counties.

Miss Kirlin pointed out that the conclusions were her own, presented for comment and study. So was launched unostentatiously what became some of the major interests of the League.

The state office still issued a plan of work for the year, to be followed by the local Leagues if they so desired. The topic for the monthly open meeting, the study group for the month and the special activities were spelled out in detail. The county government survey, problems of juvenile delinquency, the World Court, "Can School Costs be Cut?", marriage laws of Indiana, unemployment insurance, and the study of election laws were the topics suggested.

An interesting development in the open League meetings was taking place. Where formerly the League depended upon speakers which they had to scramble to secure from the colleges and other sources, they began to use the League members

themselves. After a topic had been studied by a League committee and more and more aids for study were being developed, it became customary for the committee members themselves to present the topic at an open League meeting.

### National Council

The national council followed the state convention, being held as customary, in Washington. Mrs. Teetor and Mrs. Greenough were the two delegates from Indiana. A feature of the council was the unveiling of the roll of honor, commemorating those women who had made woman suffrage possible. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the American National Woman Suffrage Association when the vote was won, accepted the roll of honor. Indiana had a special interest in the event, since Mrs. Richard Edwards was the national chairman of the event. Miss Bell Sherwin, National president, made the point that the League was not a luxury to be maintained in times of plenty, but was especially necessary in the dark days when life was being stripped to its barest essentials. The council added to the active support program, the following item, an effectively coordinated system of federal and state employment offices in which system there is due regard for the interest of women. This was done under the clause in the Bylaws permitting program change in an emergency. The familiar national items for active support remained the same: continued operation of Muscle Shoals; passage of the so-called "Lame Duck" amendment to the federal Constitution; and entrance of the United States into the World Court.

Miss Edith Rockwood of the National League staff came to Indiana in the fall to conduct institutes on the program of the Public Welfare in Government Department. She covered Evansville, Indianapolis, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Peru, and Rensselaer. While in the state, she also interviewed various state officials whose duties fell into the public welfare field.

### State Program

The county government survey committees were groping towards definite recommendation to present to the convention. The recommendations were passed, during the year, through the accepted sifting processes which had become the safeguards of any legislative action designed to be made as sure as possible, final membership acceptance and understanding. First, the work of the county government committees themselves and their findings; second, these findings presented to the local boards of directors for action and then presented to the membership of the local League; third, coordinated by the state committee and presented to the state board for action. Only then were they ready for convention action.

The serious tax situation confronting the State of Indiana was a matter of deep concern to the League during the year. The burdens of government had become very heavy with so much actual want to be alleviated, and the property tax was carrying a large proportion of the load. This was an area where the League felt keen responsibility but did not function very effectively. The organization could not arrive at any consensus upon what should be the solutions to the taxation problem.

Mrs. Earl's death. During the year Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl died. She was one of the early suffrage leaders who became a staunch supporter of the League of Women Voters. She was faithful and effective, especially in the field of foreign affairs.

Miss Dorothy Misner of Michigan City was appointed to the chairmanship of the Efficiency in Government Department. Mrs. Greenough, who had been the state chairman, became the National League chairman of the Department.

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown

The annual convention was held in South Bend at the Oliver Hotel, March 24 and 25. The attendance was surprisingly good considering that there was a blizzard, hazardous driving conditions, and the depression to discourage the delegates. Professor Clarence Manion of the University of Notre Dame spoke on the subject of monopolies. R. Clyde White of Indiana University, director of the Bureau of Research in Social Science, presented the need for a better state system of probation. At the banquet, Mrs. J. H. Rosenstiel, who had followed Mrs. William Hibbard as fourth regional director, spoke on the League itself, and Professor Thomas H. Reed presented the need for reorganizing local government. At the afternoon session, preceding his speech, the local county government survey groups had presented their findings and recommendations, and these were generally in accord with the points made by Professor Reed.

The recommendations included:

1. Abolishment of township government, transferring its functions to county government.
2. Elimination of fees to individual officials.
3. More business-like methods of financial administration for the county.
4. Wider distribution of the gasoline tax and automobile license fund to the counties.
5. Centralization of administrative responsibility in the county, by eliminating the present board of county commissioners and county council and providing instead for a strong executive type of government with an elected council and a county administrator.
6. Appointment of a committee of trained persons to make an intensive survey of county and state government to determine how costs could be lowered, efficiency increased and government made more responsive to the will of the people.

These recommendations were adopted by the convention.

The study program adopted was as comprehensive as ever. It was even longer, with new items reflecting the problems of the depression. The adopted legislative program, from which the state board of directors could select measures for active support, was long and formidable. It included:

1. Gradual revision of the structure of county and township government to eliminate overlapping functions, to focus responsibility, to eliminate obsolete units, and to reduce the cost of local government.
2. Election law revision: a. permanent registration of voters; b. elimination of election sheriffs; c. ballot reform, including a simple method of scratching the ticket, and the removal of the names of the presidential electors from the ballot; d. the direct primary; e. appointment of an election code commission.

3. Five day marriage license law.

4. Modification in state probation system to raise standards and effectiveness of the work.

5. Ratification of the so-called "Lame Duck" amendment to the U. S. Constitution by the Indiana General Assembly.

6. Continued support of legislation which the League had been instrumental in securing and maintaining in Indiana: a. School Attendance-Child Labor law; b. infant and child hygiene work; c. mother's aid law.

7. Support of federal legislation sponsored by the National League.

Not content with an already heavily loaded program, the convention took on the added task of revising its Bylaws. The principle changes made were in stating more clearly the basis of membership and the provisions by which a new local League could be organized and accepted.

The convention made very little change in the officers, board of directors or standing committee chairmen.

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown  
First Vice-president, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru  
Secretary, Mrs. Ralph E. Carter, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

Directors at Large:

Mrs. L. R. Halvorsen, Evansville  
Miss Minnette Baum, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. E. S. Webster, South Bend

Mrs. B. F. Jones, Greencastle  
Mrs. H. R. Misener, Michigan City  
Mrs. Walter S. Hadley, Gary

District Directors:

Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary  
Mrs. J. J. Littrell, Elkhart  
Mrs. Lyman Hall, Peru

Mrs. J. A. Larsh, Rensselaer  
Mrs. J. E. Moring, Fort Wayne  
Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis

Chairmen of Program Departments (appointed):

Efficiency in Government - Miss Dorothy Misener, Michigan City  
Child Welfare - Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Education - Mrs. George Keagy, Hagerstown  
Living Costs - Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
Social Hygiene - Mrs. S. M. Compton, South Bend  
International Cooperation to Prevent War - Mrs. William S. Ehrich, Evnsv.  
Legal Status of Women - Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington

Miss Florence Kirlin remained the executive secretary, and the editor of the Voter. However, some recognition of her over-worked status was made in the appointment of Mrs. Mary Nash Hatfield as associate editor. As long as Miss Kirlin remained with the League, she always directed the legislative work, and did a great deal of the actual work in steering the League bills through the General Assembly.



## Legislative Work

This was a year of intense League activity, especially in the legislative field. The unrest and the groping for solutions of the problems of the depression were affecting all groups of citizens. The planks proposed by the Indiana League for inclusion in the party platforms, were several and stressed a thoughtful approach to these problems. They suggested gradual revision, under expert advice, of the structure of county and township government to focus responsibility and to reduce the cost of local government without harmfully curtailing needed services. To facilitate these changes in local government, they suggested revision in the amending process of the state Constitution. They advised election law revision to provide for permanent registration of voters, to simplify election procedure, and to lower election costs.

They urged continued protection of the rights of children in health and education as instanced by existing provisions for infancy hygiene protection and the School Attendance-Child Labor law, pointing out that in times of economic stress false economy sometimes destroys services which over a long period of time would result in much greater savings. They pointed out the need for revision of the present probation law and urged careful scrutiny of poor relief laws and their administration in order to develop more constructive measures for unemployment relief. These planks were accepted substantially as suggested by both party platforms, and formed the basis for the eminently successful League legislative program in the 1933 session of the General Assembly.

Special Session. Legislative measures became pressing long before the regular session. In the midst of the excitement and bitterness of a national election, a special session of the Assembly was called in the late summer of 1932. At this session, the League won a significant victory in the ratification of the "Lame Duck" amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The story of the amendment illustrates the effectiveness of the League when a single issue is concentrated upon. For many years, political scientists had pointed out the serious lag between the time of the election of the President and the Congress and their induction into office. The elections occurred in November and the inauguration the following March. In the Congress, this resulted in a short session that had to adjourn by the March date, and often with many Congressmen who had already been defeated at the polls but were still representing their constituents. They were popularly called "Lame Duck" Congressmen. It was a frustrating situation but nothing effective had been done about it until the late nineteen twenties when the League became interested. After two years of study, the League adopted a support item amending the Constitution to provide for the inauguration of the President in January following the November election and for the newly elected Congress to take office at approximately the same time. The time seemed ripe for the change and the League was able to secure powerful support of the amendment. The Congress passed it in record time, and when the special session was called in Indiana, it was before the state for ratification. The legislature did ratify it; a result gratifying to the Indiana League in giving support to the National League in a reform long overdue. Other states followed with ratification as soon as their legislators met, and the task was accomplished in about as short a time as possible.

The League also supported, but did not initiate, the measure to redistribute the revenue from the gasoline tax and auto license fees to relieve the tax load on property for road building and maintenance in local units of government. In line with its advocacy of real home rule for local government, the League successfully opposed a bill providing for blanket repeal of all mandatory measures. This was done on the grounds that it was in no sense a true home rule bill, and so wide-

spread in its application that no one had any idea of all the laws it would modify.

### Election

The November election was a presidential one, and very heated. The League's voice was a calm one, advocating interest in the forgotten issues of the campaign; namely, the two constitutional amendments to the Indiana State Constitution up for the referendum vote. One permitted the levying of an income tax in the state, and the other struck out a section of the Indiana Constitution which prescribed the qualifications of lawyers as "twenty one years of age and of good moral character", thus clearing the way for establishing professional requirements for the practice of law in the state. The League also pointed out the importance of the local officials to be elected. It made available the replies of the candidates for the General Assembly to the League's questionnaire on its proposed legislative program, and gave the roll call votes on League measures of those legislators who had been in the previous session and were up for re-election.

### Legislative Program

The League scored a signal and long overdue success in the 1933 legislature. They had by no means given up the fight to secure a permanent registration of voters bill, which they had passed through two successive sessions of the General Assembly, only to have the same governor veto the measure each time. The election had resulted in a political overturn and the League had the support of the new governor, who promised to sign the bill if it came before him. However, it was no easy task to get the new legislature to pass the measure. There were a large number of new legislators, who were serving their first terms and were unacquainted with the complicated provisions of the bill and not convinced of the necessity for registration of voters. It was a problem of re-education, helped materially by the plank in the party platform endorsing the idea. Its final enactment into law was a major legislative triumph, culminating six years of effective hard work.

In the election field, two other measures were successfully sponsored by the League, designed to simplify the task of the voter. Removal of the names of the presidential electors and substituting for them the names of the candidates for president and vice-president instead not only shortened the ballot but made it less confusing. The other League election measure separated the state and national ballots.

The League was responsible (in line with one of the important county government survey recommendations) for the introduction of a resolution which authorized the governor to appoint a committee to study the forms and functions of government, the methods of taxation used to finance the various governmental activities, and to report to the next session of the General Assembly. The resolution passed almost unanimously.

In order to clear the way for any changes that might be recommended by the study committee which would involve constitutional change, the League sponsored another measure simplifying and changing the amending process of the Indiana Constitution. It passed easily, but of course, was only the first step in a long process, including passage by the next session in exactly the same form and then approval by the voters in a referendum vote. The change provided that a majority of the votes cast on an amendment itself would be sufficient for ratification. At that time, the state Constitution had been interpreted to require a majority of all the votes cast at the election where the amendment was submitted, so that citi-

zens who did not vote on the amendment at all, were in effect, counted as voting against it, if they cast their votes at the election for other items on the ballot.

The League sponsored and passed another measure designed to make possible wider and more effective use of probation by reorganizing the Probation Department.

The depression had brought about problems which made advisable strengthening the Child Labor provisions of the original School Attendance-Child Labor law sponsored by the League. It, therefore, endorsed a measure which became law, placing children who were employed in violation of the child labor provisions under the workmen's compensation act, and also provided an additional payment to minors who were injured by so working. This had the effect of protecting the children who were competing with heads of families for the few jobs available, but it also made employers reluctant to run the risk of employing children who might be injured in their work.

At the very time the League was justifiably congratulating itself on a very successful legislative year, it was pointing up its future responsibilities and major activities. It pointed out the great need for proper administration of the laws sponsored by the League, and the need to follow through in the state and in the local communities to secure good administration. It recognized the need for establishing the principle of merit in selecting and in keeping government employees. Finally, the League expressed its regret at the change of the date of city elections so as to come at the same time as the general elections. It was felt important to segregate city elections from state elections, so that the voters could concentrate on their local problems. The city election ballot had been the only short ballot in the state--the usual ballot being very long and crowded with offices to be filled by election.

#### 1933-34

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown

There were two new Leagues organized during 1933--Culver and Kokomo.

The "call" to the convention reflected the economic crisis of the country, stating: "This is a period of re-evaluation, of searching scrutiny of our forms and philosophy of government, of questioning our economic structure. Everyone is seeking enlightenment.-----The convention program is planned to give each delegate knowledge of fundamental principles of reorganization of our political and economic structure."

The convention was held at the Hotel Graham at Bloomington, May 4-5. On the lighter side, a trip to Brown County, especially attractive in the spring with its orchards in bloom, was a feature of the convention. The convention attendance was larger than it had been for the last five years, and every League was represented.

The program carried out the theme of the "Call to Convention". Three Indiana University professors gave talks on Economic Reconstruction. Professor Herman B. Wells talked about "The New Relation of Government and Business", Professor Carroll Christenson spoke on "International Aspects of Economic Recovery", and Professor Frank G. Bates covered the subject "Constructive Economy in Government."

Dr. Mollie Ray Carroll, former vice-president of the National League, was the luncheon speaker with the subject, "Problems of Employment".

In the report of the council meeting of the National League, Mrs. Teetor and Mrs. Campbell who were the delegates, pointed out the attention given to the successful legislative program of the Indiana League as one of the achievements of the year among the states. They were constantly being asked for advice on legislative techniques and preparation of such work.

### Program

The program adopted by the convention was just as extensive as ever. The Department of Efficiency in Government, under Units of Government, listed continuing study of state government under the new reorganization law with emphasis on the merit system in the civil service and an independent auditing department; rural local government; and city government with emphasis on the city manager plan. Under Elections, administration of the permanent registration of voters law and improvement in nominating methods. Under Public Finance, proposals and recent changes in the tax structure and budgets. The Department of Living Costs included the tariff, regulation of public utilities with emphasis on the new Indiana laws and their administration, new developments at Muscle Shoals, and activities of the Federal Trade Commission in protecting consumers.

This program particularly reflected the practice of choosing from the large National program certain items for state study and interest, for most of the items were federal in scope. The Department of Women in Industry reflected the employment problems of the time by adopting the following items: means of improving employment opportunities; methods of relief; unemployment compensation and dismissal wage; employment offices; and a survey of the operation of the Indiana laws regulating employment of women. There were four other departments with comprehensive programs: Child Welfare, Education, Social Hygiene, and Legal Status of Women. In addition, from the National program of the Department of International Cooperation to Prevent War, certain items were listed as especially pertinent, including economic causes of war, the war debts, embargo on the shipment of arms, the world disarmament conference, and the world court.

### 1933-34

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown

The following officers were elected or were hold-over officers from the preceding year.

President, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown  
First Vice-president, Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
Secretary, Mrs. Dow Harvey, Kokomo  
Treasurer, Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer

### Directors:

Mrs. Robert Rossow, Culver	Mrs. Frederick Kranz, Fort Wayne
Mrs. Heber Walker, Evansville	Miss Phyllis Beyer, South Bend
Mrs. Walter E. Hadley, Gary	Mrs. John Crume, Peru

#### District Directors:

First, Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary  
Second, Mrs. William Taylor, Lafayette  
Fourth, Mrs. J. E. Moring, Fort Wayne  
Seventh, Mrs. Alexander King, Bloomington  
Eleventh and Twelfth, Mrs. J. J. Daniels, Indianapolis

#### Department Chairmen:

Efficiency in Government-Miss Dorothy Misener, Michigan City  
Child Welfare-Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Education-Mrs. George Keagy, Hagerstown  
Women in Industry-Miss May Cory, Lafayette  
Social Hygiene-Mrs. S. M. Compton, South Bend  
Living Costs-Miss Sara Lauter, Indianapolis  
Legal Status of Women-Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington  
International Cooperation to Prevent War-Mrs. William Ehrich, Evansville  
Ex Officio, National Chairman - Efficiency in Government-Mrs. Walter S. Greenough

During the year, Mrs. Fred Noble of South Bend became the Third District Director, and Mrs. Charles E. Cory of Lafayette was appointed to fill the unexpired term of director-at-large, Miss Phyllis Beyer, who moved from the state.

A new League was added to the state, Hammond, with 45 members, a full board of officers and committee chairmen. The League at Gary assisted in the organization.

The League carried on its now customary plan of offering suggested programs for local Leagues, with a topic for each monthly open meeting, a study group suggestion and a special activity for each month. The local Leagues had come to depend upon these suggestions for the development of their local programs, and followed them rather closely. A typical program suggested a citizenship school for the open meeting in October, with a study group under the education committee investigating the topic, "Larger units of Administration and Taxation for Schools". The special activity for the month was to be the membership campaign.

#### Indiana Voters Handbook

The Indiana Voters Handbook was revised and published by the end of the year. The first edition had proved itself to be most useful and the Handbook had become one of the best public services undertaken by the Leagues. It was used in the public schools, in libraries, in adult education classes, and had become a handy reference book for many citizens. The League members themselves used it widely. The League was indebted to Mr. Charles Kettleborough, Director of the Indiana Reference Bureau, for doing the major editing and compiling of the material contained in the Handbook. The price was set at twenty five cents per copy, with reductions for quantity purchases, and the foreward contained endorsements for the book from the presidents of Indiana and Purdue Universities, the state chairmen of both political parties, the Farm Bureau, the Y.W.C.A., the Business and Professional Women, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

#### Registration Law Follow-up

A major action project of the local Leagues was the follow-up of the newly enacted registration law. After almost six years of constant effort, the League had been successful in passing a model registration act. This they found to be only the

beginning and they again demonstrated their sense of responsibility by carrying through on the appropriations for the measure. In most places, the League found the suggested appropriations larger than necessary to put the registration law into action, and were generally successful in securing lower budget allowances when this condition was found to exist. In a few places, including Marion County, the county councils refused to appropriate anything for registration. The League followed through on the opinion of the Attorney General that any election held without registration was illegal and invalid, and finally secured adequate funds.

### Woman Voter

Miss Florence Kirlin, who had been loaned for part time work in organization to the State Relief Administration, returned to the League as a full time secretary and editor of the Woman Voter. The articles in the Voter reflected the problems of the times including: Unemployment Relief in Indiana by the director of the State Department of Public Welfare; The League and the NRA (National Recovery Act) written by Miss Belle Sherwin, National president; an explanation of the legislation making up the "New Deal"; What the League Suggests for Welfare Work by the chairman of that committee, Mrs. Dorothy Boynton; Educational Outlook in Indiana by Louise Keagy; and a summary of the bills before the Congress dealing with pure-food legislation.

### 1934-35

President, Mrs. S. W. Campbell, Indianapolis

The national convention was held in Boston, from the 23rd to the 28th of April. The state convention was the fifteenth and was held at the Fowler Hotel, Lafayette, May 15-18. Both conventions had larger attendance than ever before, and the Indiana delegation to the national convention reflected the general trend by increasing its delegation. The membership reports at the state convention showed a substantial increase in membership during the year and a better financial status. The \$700 to the National League was oversubscribed and the pledge payments of the local Leagues showed improvement. In accordance with the action taken at the national convention, the state League realigned its departments into six; eliminating the Departments of Living Costs, Women in Industry, and Social Hygiene as such. The items on the programs of these departments felt to be of current interest were absorbed into the other departments. The national convention had made a drastic program change in voting to select only two measures for emphasis during the following two year period. These were Public Personnel and Taxation. The League as a whole embarked on a campaign to call attention to the need of securing qualified personnel to carry on the increasingly heavy load of government, and to find equitable ways to secure the necessary money for this load.

The Indiana League convention felt itself ready to cooperate fully with the first emphasis item, having actively studied personnel problems of the government during the year, and having already proposed it as one of the legislative measures for the coming year. In addition to personnel, the Indiana convention tried to select from among its program items for emphasis, but came out with a much longer program than the National had been able to achieve. The state legislative program had 7 items, as follows: A system of public personnel management for state and local governments; improvement of nominating methods; organization of county welfare units; ratification by the General Assembly of the child labor amendment



to the U. S. Constitution; appropriate action on unemployment compensation measures; five-day waiting period before issuance of marriage licenses; support of recommendations from official governmental agencies which may be chosen by the board of directors as appropriate for League action. A footnote suggested that it was not anticipated that an attempt would be made to support measures on all these subjects, but that the board of directors should choose specific measures.

The program as a whole was re-aligned by the state convention to conform to the six department of the National League, but without any very noticeable shortening of the program.

The officers and directors chosen by the convention were as follows:

President, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Oliver Starr, Gary  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. William S. Ehrich, Evansville  
Treasurer, Mrs. Edgar H. Burt, Lafayette  
Secretary, Miss Evelyn Chambers, Indianapolis

Directors at Large:

Mrs. Ora T. Ross, Rensselaer	Mrs. Charles E. Cory, Lafayette
Mrs. Dan Albrecht, Elkhart	Mrs. A. Boyd, Michigan City
Mrs. I. S. Selector, Fort Wayne	Mrs. S. N. Compton, South Bend

District Directors:

Mrs. Walter E. Hadley, Gary	Mrs. F. W. Krantz, Fort Wayne
Mrs. D. I. Coppock, Peru	Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington
Mrs. Paul Prickett, Evansville	Mrs. Ray Small, Hagerstown
Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis	Mrs. J. J. Daniels, Indianapolis
Mrs. William Taylor, Lafayette	Mrs. Fred Noble, South Bend

Department Chairmen:

Government and Its Operation - Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
Government and Child Welfare - Mrs. C. Y. Boynton, Elkhart  
Government and Education - Mrs. W. Dow Harvey, Kokomo  
Government and Economic Welfare - Mrs. Ralph Mowbray, Culver  
Government and the Legal Status of Women - Mrs. Helene A. Guy, Remington  
Government and International Cooperation - Mrs. R. S. Sinclair, Indpls.  
Government and Its Operation - Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis (ex officio, National chairman)

The convention marked the end of four years of service as president by Mrs. Teetor. It was the first time a president had served so continuously, and it marked the beginning of a custom that prevailed for years. The change in the Bylaws in 1931 making the terms of officers two years instead of a single year was one factor in making possible four year terms, the presidents usually being elected to serve a second term. Conventions were hereafter held every second year, with a state council meeting in the interim year. It was a healthy development for the League, for it provided continuity and stability in administration that one-year term presidents and officers could not provide. It also indicated that the League was on a firmer basis financially and the local Leagues were growing surer of their places in community life and their programs, so the job of president became a possible one for more people. Mrs. Teetor retained her



interest in League work and her generous financial help enabled the office to keep going many times when otherwise it might have had to close.

Mrs. Campbell had a strenuous first year as president. She immediately had a legislative year with which to cope and to promote an ambitious program of legislation and protection of measures sponsored by the League in the past. She had to do it without Miss Florence Kirlin, who had become an expert in legislative work, in editing the Woman Voter, in promoting the program and a fixture in the office. The National League had asked permission to offer Miss Kirlin a place on their staff as League Congressional secretary, and since it was an advance in every way for Miss Kirlin, the Indiana League did not feel that it could refuse to let her go. The editor in the Woman Voter on her departure had this to say: "The only drawback about the "Great Minds" of this world is that everybody else wants them too. Take Miss Kirlin, for instance, here the Indiana League of Women Voters was fixed for life with a distinguished expert and an A-1 executive rolled into one. Miss Kirlin not only knew everything, she could do anything, and what happens? Along comes the National League and whisks her off to Washington to be Congressional secretary."

Miss Evelyn Chambers became executive secretary and editor of the Voter, and Mrs. Virginia Moorhouse Mannon became legislative director. Department chairmen took more responsibility for preparing their material, and the study kits which had become a feature of state League service to local Leagues, were prepared and distributed free to the local chairmen of these Departments. Mrs. C. C. Warrington of Fort Wayne prepared a digest of Indiana Laws Relating to Women for the use of the Department of Government and Legal Status of Women. An orientation kit on the work of the League in the international field was prepared by Mrs. R. S. Sinclair. Mrs. Richard E. Edwards sent out study material on the Voters Handbook which was extensively used before elections. Finally, Mrs. Dow Harvey sent out a survey outline on school costs and the results of budget reductions on the school system, and Mrs. Ralph Mowbray gathered together material and a study outline on the Administration of Unemployment Relief.

The Indiana League cooperated fully with the campaign of the National organization for better public personnel. Mrs. Thomas Sheerin became chairman of a special campaign committee and with characteristic energy, attended the Civil Service Assembly of the U. S. and discussed the proposed Indiana bill with experts on the subject. Later, Dr. Harvey Walker of Ohio State University, spent two days in the state conferring with Mrs. Sheerin, Mrs. Richard Edwards, Mrs. Campbell from the League, and Dr. Leonard White of Chicago University, a member of the United States Civil Service Commission at that time. The January issue of the Voter was devoted to a digest of the proposed bill and an analysis of the need for better personnel in the state government.

### Legislative Activity

The preparation for the session of the General Assembly was thorough. The October Voter was large containing twenty pages giving the answers of the legislative candidates to the League questionnaires in as much detail as possible. In addition, the Voter contained the voting records on League sponsored legislation of those candidates who had served in the preceding Assembly. This information went to every League member and was widely used for study by other groups. The local Leagues supplemented the questionnaires with personal interviews with the candidates, and in many cases, open meetings were held on the League legislative program where the candidates were asked to give their views. As is customary, there was a Steering Committee working through the state office in Indianapolis, composed largely of Indianapolis women, and a state-wide legislative committee.

The results were summarized by Mrs. Mannon, legislative director. The Child Labor Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was ratified by the Assembly by a large vote. However, events were moving so rapidly that such an amendment became unnecessary. The Congress finally drafted child labor legislation which stood the court test and was deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court.

A second major interest of the League had a somewhat similar experience. The League had sponsored an amendment to the Indiana Constitution on the amending process, which was unduly restrictive in that it had been interpreted to mean that an amendment must receive a majority of all those voting at an election where such amendment was being submitted for ratification. Since many voters did not bother to vote on these amendments, the necessary number of votes for approval never could be mustered at any regular election. The League's measure defined "electors" as those voting upon the subject. It had passed one session of the Assembly and was up for action in the 1935 session. It had passed one house with a gratifyingly large vote, when a decision from the Indiana Supreme Court on the subject was handed down. This decision, by court action, accomplished exactly what the amendment would have accomplished, which therefore became unnecessary.

As was so often the case, when a major legislative act had been passed in the preceding session, it was open to attack. This was especially true in regard to registration of voters. Under constitutional provisions, the measure had to apply to all places in the state. Many of the smaller counties felt that registration was not needed in their localities, and had not had time to realize that the law, once established, could be easily and inexpensively maintained. In addition, those who had been able to manipulate the voting in border counties of the state, were no longer able to bring in voters from the neighboring states without detection under the stringent registration provisions. There were several attempts to repeal or seriously cripple the measure, which the League and others interested in maintaining integrity in elections, were able to fight off.

The Child Labor bill needed a clarifying amendment, which was obtained. A bill to regulate slates of candidates, requiring the candidates written permission to use his name, and requiring the names of the sponsors and the printers to appear on the slate was passed--although not without excitement and delaying tactics. Another measure providing petition requirements for candidates, had little opposition. There was an attempt made to repeal the law which the League had been instrumental in passing in the preceding session, separating national and state ballots, which was unsuccessful.

The public personnel bill, putting the state employees under a merit system, aroused a great deal of opposition and, after a hectic open hearing in the Senate, was recommitted to committee. It was introduced immediately following the report of the governor's Committee on Governmental Economy, which strongly recommended such legislation. This committee had been at work for two years, and had prepared a voluminous report of several hundred pages. Although the committee did not agree on as many solutions to the problems of government studied as the material would seem to warrant, there were many clear recommendations in the report, and to this day, still remain as governmental concerns. However, the plan for the organization of the newly created Department of Public Welfare was followed in its essentials. There was some improvement in safety measures in school busses and in other fields. The study had been sponsored by the League and two League members were on the Governmental Economy Committee, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, and Miss Florence Kirlin and then following her, Mrs. Thomas Sheerin.

### First State Council

Indiana's first state council meeting was held at Turkey Run, May 16 and 17. The plan for such council meetings was to evaluate the work done and plan for the future year under the same program and the same officers. Only a limited number of delegates were permitted to attend, and 64 such delegates did take part in the council. The number of Leagues at the time was 15, but the council welcomed into membership a recently organized league at Richmond with Mrs. Gurney Mann as president.

The program of the council concerned itself with the problem of lightening the burden of the taxpayer by eliminating unnecessary expense. Mrs. Dow Harvey pointed to the finding of the Governmental Economy Committee in the education field, and the savings that could be effected by better practices. Professor Frank G. Bates, I. U., stressed the need for larger units of government and for county reorganization.

### Program

The suggested program for local League meetings, which was prepared soon after the council meeting, followed the same general pattern but had added a new feature in local projects suggested by the department chairmen. These included: analysis of local budgets by September 1, the date for their adoption; investigation of local state employment offices; in the international field, developing a scrap-book of best magazine articles and a map of the world with trouble centers indicated; analyzing the community work of both public and private agencies in child welfare; and discussing with individuals and groups the need for a waiting period marriage law in Indiana.

### Personnel Campaign

The big push of the year was the personnel campaign. With the appointment of Mrs. George Gellhorn of St. Louis as National chairman, and Miss Margaret Denny of Indianapolis as state chairman, the campaign was off to a two year effort to arouse the public on the issue. Schools for speakers on better government personnel were held throughout the state, and were based largely on an outline prepared by Miss Evelyn Chambers. She had conducted such a school in Indianapolis which had turned out to be successful. The outline of which was published in the Woman Voter. After the schools were held, speakers addressed many meetings of all kinds of groups: women's clubs, men's luncheon groups, church societies, and many others.

One of the most successful undertakings of the campaign to stimulate public interest in the problem was a slogan contest carried on nationally. The winning national slogan "Find the man for the job, not the job for the man" received a great deal of attention and was used widely. Indiana carried on its own slogan campaign and Miss Denny announced that Miss Virginia Hill of Bloomington had won with the slogan, "Efficiency depends upon qualifications, not affiliations".

The campaign received a great deal of attention from the press, so much so that one issue of the Woman Voter was given over to editorial comments. These editorials came from the South Bend News Times on "Influential Women"; the Dana News; the Indianapolis News on "Public Careers"; the Indianapolis Star on "Merit in Public Service"; the Evansville Courier Journal; the Rochester News Sentinel; and the Indianapolis Times.

A Public Personnel Day was held on January 29th, with a national broadcast over the NBC network and listening parties organized over the country. Indiana was in the fore of the effort.

### Indiana Voters Handbook

In the midst of the campaign, the third edition of the Indiana Voters Handbook was published, bringing up-to-date the material in the booklet after the sweeping changes that had been made by the preceding two General Assemblies. The book still filled a real need for factual, concise information on the state and local government of Indiana and election information. Each edition had become larger and sold with less effort.

### Other Involvement

Other interests of the League were covered by articles in the Voter. "Indiana's Tax Prospects for 1936" was the title of an article by Mr. Virgil Sheppard, director of the Bureau of Governmental Research of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. His article mentioned the upswing in business conditions from the low of the depression and analyzed the effect of the gross income tax, which had been enacted by the 1933 legislature. He pointed out that the tax had been used, in part, to pay teachers salaries in local communities, and that these communities were receiving state sharing of other taxes, but that the property tax load was still onerous.

"Paths to Peace" by Kathryn Smith pointed up the League's sustained interest in international cooperation. Maurice Early, columnist for the Indianapolis Star, covered the subject of "Increased Aid to Mothers", and Mrs. William P. Snethen asked in an article about an experiment in personnel management within the League in developing the interests of the members, "Are You Practicing What We Preach?"

Unexpectedly, the Personnel Campaign began to show tangible results. The governor had appointed a legislative committee to draft appropriate legislation to bring Indiana, social security. The committee was charged with presenting its proposals to the special session of the General Assembly, called for March 5. Mrs. Frank Bane, executive secretary of the Federal Social Security Board conferred with the committee and advanced strong arguments for securing trained workers to administer in the state and locally, the various phases of the federal program. The League was active, also, in pointing out the need for merit provisions to make the program acceptable to the Federal Social Security Board. Since the program was based on federal funds to be shared with the state and local communities. Indiana had to meet the requirements of the federal law. The legislation, as passed by the special session, was not very encouraging, saying merely that all employees should be selected on a merit basis. It was, however, a beginning which enabled the League to be effective in the follow through, taking place in the next few months.

### 1936-38

President, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis

The state convention was held at Culver on the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee, May 12-13. Mrs. Roscoe Anderson of Webster Groves, Missouri, chairman of the Department of Government and Education, attended as the National board member. Mrs.

Walter S. Greenough of Indiana attended also as a National board member. Major Ralph Mowbray of Culver spoke on "Expanding Governmental Functions" and Mr. Joseph A. Andrew challenged the League as exponents of the merit system when he discussed "Obstacles to be Surmounted in Obtaining a Merit System in Indiana." The call to convention reflected the League's emphasis by saying "Come to the convention to face anew the challenge to us as responsible participators in government; to renew our faith in an ideal of good government which the Personnel Campaign has fostered during the past year; and to consider new fields of League activity."

Officers:

President, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Charles E. Cory, Lafayette  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Walter E. Hadley, Gary  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis  
Secretary, Miss Evelyn Chambers, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis

Directors:

Mrs. Ralph Mowbray, Culver	Mrs. Dan Albrecht, Elkhart
Mrs. Milford Miller, Evansville	Mrs. W. W. Gasser, Gary
Dr. Hedwig S. Kuhn, Hammond	Mrs. Donald Coppock, Peru
Mrs. Ray Small, Hagerstown	Mrs. Roa Thompson Ross, Rensselaer
Mrs. Clarence Merrell, Indianapolis	Mrs. Frank Pennell, Kokomo
Mrs. Charles Q. Erisman, Lafayette	Mrs. S. M. Compton, South Bend

Department Chairmen:

Government and Its Operation, Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
(Ex officio - National Chairman, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis)  
Government and Economic Welfare, Mrs. Ralph Mowbray, Culver  
Government and Education, Mrs. James L. Murray, Indianapolis  
Government and Child Welfare, Mrs. C. T. Boynton, Elkhart  
Government and Legal Status of Women, Mrs. Paul Ford, Kokomo  
Government and Foreign Policy, Mrs. Leonard Smith, Indianapolis

There were no district directors on the board. The League recognized officially what had become a fact--that the district organization was no longer functioning. The program adopted by the convention was as long as ever, but it had been changed materially in form. There was only one item on the legislative program, "A System of Public Personnel Management in State and Local Government". The League, in this way, affirmed its belief in the personnel campaign, and tried again to find a satisfactory way to phrase an item on the merit system which would not arouse slumbering prejudices and yet would convey their meaning.

New Methods

Each department program was divided into three headings, if there were appropriate items under the headings. The headings were: Continuing Responsibilities, For Emphasis, and For Study. The listing of the continuing responsibilities express the feeling of the League in regard to legislation which it had sponsored, in protecting such legislation from repeal or crippling amendments, proposing changes in the laws when they felt such changes would be strengthening, and taking an interest in their good administration. In the emphasis items of the departments, the state board was authorized to select subjects for legislative

action if it so desired. The study items were those which were felt to be vital to the subject matter, but upon which the League had taken no stand, or had not found any satisfactory solution.

The Child Welfare program might be taken as an example since it included the legislative items upon which the League had first taken successful action. Under Continuing Responsibilities were: coordinated systems of public welfare and public health with adequate mother's aid and provisions for maternity, infancy, and child hygiene; maintenance of child labor standards; and, improvement in probation.

For Emphasis: adoption of merit system in State Public Welfare Department and, extension of the public welfare system as recommended in the report of the Committee on Governmental Economy.

For Study: governmental provisions for the control of juvenile delinquency; care of dependent children; protective measures for children born out of wedlock; adoption policies; and, provisions for the care of physically and mentally handicapped children.

### Personnel Campaign

In June of 1936, Mrs. Richard E. Edwards of Peru was appointed to the State Public Welfare Board as one of the Republican members by Governor McNutt. She immediately interested herself in the personnel problems of the department, and was appointed a member of a committee to draft a plan for merit appointment of the welfare employees. The other members were Virgil Sheppard and Mrs. A. K. Zink, both Welfare Department officials.

At about the same time, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough of Indianapolis was designated as the representative of the Indiana League of Women Voters on the committee to draw up a merit plan for employees of the State Unemployment Compensation Division. The other members were Dr. R. Clyde White, director of the I. U. Bureau of Social Research, and Martin F. Carpenter, director of the Indiana State Employment Service. It was evident that there should not be two merit plans in the state government, so both committees met together and worked out joint plans. The cause of merit was strengthened by the attitude of the Federal Social Security Board, which had been encouraged to insist on securing good personnel, at least partially, through the efforts of the National League of Women Voters and its Personnel Campaign.

The interest aroused by the vigorous Personnel Campaign carried on by the Indiana League enabled the two committees to secure the services of the Public Administration Clearing House to make thorough studies of the jobs of both divisions, classify and define them and set up salary scales. In the end, their report was accepted by the boards of the two groups and the administration was placed in the hands of a personnel board, consisting of the directors of the Public Welfare Department, and the Unemployment Compensation Division (later known as the Employment Security Division), together with a representative of the public who was well versed in personnel work. An opening wedge of considerable size had been made in the patronage concept which had prevailed in Indiana that "to the victor belonged the spoils".

### Legislative Activity

This success, however, merely whetted the League's appetite to bring the entire state service under the merit system. They immediately began to prepare for the legislature. Mrs. Virginia Mannon, who had become executive secretary and editor

of the Voter, supervised the publication of a handsome little pamphlet, "Why We Need the Merit System", to be sent to every legislator and to be distributed widely. A Voter article entitled, "On Your Mark! Get Set!" outlined the organization's legislative plans. A legislative policy committee was formed, consisting of Mrs. Charles E. Cory, Lafayette; Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown; Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin and Miss Evelyn Chambers, Indianapolis. A large Indianapolis steering committee was organized with Mrs. Oliver Greer as chairman and Mrs. John K. Goodwin as vice-chairman. Committee members attended a legislative school conducted by Mrs. Mannon prior to the General Assembly.

The board of directors had decided that the focal points of the program were to be the personnel bill and measures to shorten the ballot. The results were somewhat disappointing. Among its successes, the League again demonstrated its ability to protect legislation which it had sponsored in the past. Two measures to shorten the ballot passed both houses and were signed by Governor Townsend. One was a constitutional amendment to remove the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction from the ballot and the other, to remove the names of the presidential electors from the ballot was needed to clear up a technical difficulty in the election law dealing with the subject. A significant advance for the merit system was the legislation which extended it to the County Welfare Departments.

The merit bill--a bill for placing all state employees under a personnel department--received a great deal of attention and was vigorously championed and vigorously opposed, but did not even pass the house of its origin. Two other measures which provided for the appointment by the Supreme Court Judges of the reporter of the Court and a constitutional amendment to remove the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court from the state Constitution, were defeated.

### Organization

Organization of the Logansport League was completed in February with Miss Laura Howe as president. Assisting in the organization were Miss Constance Roach, organization secretary of the National League, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, president of the Indiana League, Mrs. Richard E. Edwards and Mrs. Joseph Shirk of Peru.

One of the interesting articles in the Voter, which showed the slowly developing change in League interest, was written by Mrs. Else Datisman, Economic Welfare chairman of the Gary League and entitled, "What Now in Collective Bargaining?"

Following is a quotation from a speech given to the Indianapolis League by T. V. Smith of Chicago, Congressman from Illinois, and author of The Promise of American Politics. "Consider, for instance, the League of Women Voters. Here is an organization which arose from the frank recognition that before women became effective voters they would have to undergo special treatment. To lift their solicitude about persons above the level of domestic love and small-group gossip, this organization set about definitely educational work. To overcome the dispersion of those whose business is not specialized, they established the policy, long and beneficially maintained, of focusing attention upon a very small sector of political activity. By study groups, by pointed literature, by well chosen speakers, by skillfully conducted discussions, the League has trained a body of citizens into genuine habits of political effectiveness. The program is of weight in every state legislature and their voice is heard penetratingly in the halls of Congress."



## Publications

During the year, the edition of the Indiana Voters Handbook was sold out. New kits, one on Child Welfare and one on the study of Taxes, were prepared by the Department chairmen. Nationally, the Congressional News Letter was being developed to fill the demand for up-to-the-minute information on the Congress and several national publications including a packet on the U. S. Constitution, were published. The National League was experimenting with terse inexpensive flyers in response to a growing demand for every member publications.

## 1937 State Council

The council meeting of the League was held in Elkhart in the League's club house on May 18 and 19. Speakers included Mr. Richard Bunch, Director of the Bureau of Personnel for the Indiana Department of Public Welfare and Unemployment Compensation Division, State Senator Walter Beardsley spoke on the Party Patronage System, and Miss Janet Weiss of Hammond spoke on Collective Bargaining. In the announcement of the council, prices for the luncheon were fifty cents; for the dinner, \$1; for registration of delegates, \$1; for visitors, fifty cents.

The dinner speaker was Dr. John F. Senning of the University of Nebraska who discussed the need for modernizing state legislatures. He described the uni-cameral, one house legislature, of Nebraska. After his talk, there was a demonstration of the electric roll call system to take the votes of legislators automatically instead of by the present time-consuming method of calling names for every vote.

Mrs. Campbell, state League president, said that Indiana had qualified under new standards set by the National League and were far ahead in several activities including legislative work, but were low in membership and in number of Leagues. The council voted to place "Legislative Reforms" on its program.

## Personnel Campaign

Mrs. Tristram Coffin, Indianapolis, was appointed as the new chairman of the Personnel Campaign. The campaign took a slightly different slant by developing an every member project called "Consider the Party Patronage System".

It was designated as an every member project and this was one of the first evidences that the League was beginning to realize the value of giving as many members as possible definite work to do. The Voter carried the questions for interviews with precinct committeemen and vice-committeemen, asking about their experiences with getting jobs in government for people. There were questions for the rest of the hierarchy of party organization, and the answers were sent in for a League committee to analyze. The interviews with the precinct committeemen could not be done without enlisting a large number of League women, for they were supposed, as far as possible, to interview their own precinct party workers.

Some of the results of the personnel campaign of the National League were found to be: five states--Maine, Connecticut, Arkansas, Tennessee, Michigan had adopted thorough-going merit system laws; others, like Kentucky, had set up partial systems. Almost every state had by now, some experience in selecting qualified employees through the social security program with its federal grants of money dependent upon acceptable state plans.

## Publications

The state League continued its practice of sending out inclusive suggestions for local League programs and activities, month by month. These were widely used. Another accepted activity was the revision of the Indiana Voters Handbook. The former edition had been sold out completely and there was a real demand for the booklet from schools, libraries, and the like. Mrs. Virginia Mannon, of the office staff, did most of the work with the help of Mr. Charles Kettleborough, head of the Indiana Legislative Bureau. Each year, some additional features were added, and the factual material brought up to date by incorporating changes made in the preceding General Assembly. This year, the new material concentrated on the newly organized Department of Public Welfare replacing the State Board of Charities, the Unemployment Compensation Division, and the new Labor Division.

## Other Activities

A county survey contest was held during the year with the Leagues competing for the Misener Cup, held by the Tippecanoe County League. The survey was based on the National League pamphlet, Know Your County, and on questions on county government which had been revised by Mrs. Greenough as national chairman of the Department.

Meetings during the year were many and varied. There was a fall program conference at Culver, where the departments had the opportunity to talk over their program items and plans at their leisure. The national convention at St. Louis was very well attended by Indiana League members, who felt that it was a golden opportunity to have a change at a national convention so near at hand. There were organization trips, program trips, and meetings.

## 1938-40

President, Mrs. Clarence P. Merrell, Indianapolis

The state 1938 convention was held in Indianapolis, May 17, 18 and 19, at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. One of the headline speakers was Louise Leonard Wright, national chairman of the League's foreign policy department. Mrs. Wright lived in Chicago and had just finished a League publication, "Toward a Collective Peace System". Featuring Mrs. Wright at the convention reflected the growing concern over the world situation with continued warfare in China and its attendant perplexing problems in regard to the neutrality law of the United States.

Other speakers were Mr. Murray Seasongood of Cincinnati, Ohio, president of the Hamilton County Good Government League, gave a talk on problems of county government; T. V. Smith, Illinois State Senator and Chicago University philosophy professor, who was banquet speaker with the subject, The Expert and the Politician. Executive sessions of the six program departments were held, a presidents' council, and "little dinners" at the homes of Indianapolis women.

New Officers and board elected by the convention were as follows:

President, Mrs. Clarence F. Merrell, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. S. N. Campbell, Indianapolis  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Charles E. Cory, Lafayette  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Thomas Kimball, Hammond

Secretary, Mrs. Rex Van Tilbury, Logansport  
Treasurer, Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis

Board Members:

Mrs. T. J. Loudon, Bloomington	Mrs. David Russell, Elkhart
Mrs. Milford Miller, Evansville	Mrs. Leon Snyder, Gary
Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown	Mrs. J. P. Pennell, Kokomo
Miss Dorothy Misener, Michigan City	Mrs. Joseph Shirk, Peru
Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru	Mrs. W. C. Dennis, Richmond
Mrs. C. Q. Erisman, Lafayette	Mrs. Oscar Strom, Hobart
Mrs. Arthur Bierhaus, Vincennes	Mrs. Herbert Keller, Culver
Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis	Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis
Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin, Indianapolis	Mrs. Joseph Graffis, Logansport
Mrs. Clyde Jordan, South Bend	Mrs. John Hickey, Terre Haute
Mrs. John Herman, Fort Wayne	Mrs. C. A. Corns, Jasper County

The following program department chairmen were appointed by Mrs. Merrell:

Child Welfare - Mrs. David N. Burrus, Jr., Hammond  
Economic Welfare- Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary  
Education - Mrs. James L. Murray, Indianapolis  
Legal Status - Mrs. Paul V. Ford, Kokomo  
Foreign Policy - Mrs. Leonard A. Smith, Indianapolis  
Government Operation - Mrs. Lester Smith, Indianapolis

The large board of directors reflected the policy of the League to include one representative from each League on the board, giving the local Leagues the opportunity to select their own representatives even though they were already represented by an officer or committee chairman.

Miss Mary Sinclair, who had become editor of the Voter in November of 1937, continued as editor in addition to her other duties. The new administration plunged into two major activities, namely, the legislative program of the League and the expansion campaign for League growth, initiated by the National League, under the direction of Miss Marquerite Wells, president.

Legislative Activity

The legislative work was very heavy, with the League pushing for action on several fronts. Proposed merit bills went further than ever before. The House of Representatives passed the League's bill to establish a state merit system for all employees. The Senate took action on a similar bill, which received a majority of the votes, but not a constitutional majority. Eloquent and intelligent talks for the merit system were made in both houses. The diligent work of the League in sponsoring merit legislation seemed to be paying off, with ultimate success in sight.

Amendments to the marriage law, long supported by the League, were secured. They included mandatory blood tests performed in the laboratory of the Indiana State Board of Health or an approved laboratory. The blood specimen and the laboratory report were to be transmitted by the U. S. mails, thus providing an automatic waiting period between the application and the issuance of the license. This was a carry-through from the 1933 legislature, when the League introduced a bill which would have provided a waiting period for the issuance of marriage licenses. The League was unsuccessful then, but as was so often the case, public opinion finally caught up with the League, and six years later, because of the interest

of many different people, an even better measure was relatively easy to secure.

The same story was true of the bill which provided central counting of ballots in primary elections in cities of the first and second class. It was first introduced in 1935, was of great interest to the Indianapolis League, but again the League was ahead of the times, and it took four years before it was passed in the General Assembly of 1939.

A food and drug bill also passed with League support. It was a further implementation of the food and drug legislation, sponsored by the National League, in that it was a model bill prepared by the National Food and Drug Administration for passage by state legislatures, and took care of food and drugs sold only in intrastate commerce not covered by the new law.

The constitutional amendment to remove the section of the Indiana Constitution providing that the Superintendent of Public Instruction should be elected every two years was not so fortunate. It was up for second and final action by the legislature before being submitted to a referendum of the voters. The League had learned by now, that it was not too hard to pass a constitutional amendment the first time, but that when it came to the succeeding General Assembly, it had much rougher sledding. It did receive a majority of the votes, but never a constitutional majority. It would seem that the legislators were willing to be obliging as long as their action was not final, but when it came to the decisive vote, they backed away. There was another contributing cause for the defeat of this amendment. The questions were naturally asked about how the Superintendent was to be secured--by appointment of the governor or by the Board of Education--and would this ensure a better type of Superintendent, and could there be any assurance of job security for a longer period than four years? It posed the eternal problem of how to secure qualified people to do important governmental jobs.

Several small bills approved by the League in the field of child welfare and election laws passed.

### Organization

It should be noted that at this time the League was very much departmentalized. Each of the six departments had national, state and wherever possible, local chairman; the latter with committees who studied the items on the program and who were depended upon to present the subject matter to their local Leagues. Correspondence, literature, bibliographies were funneled down the department channels. The presidents of the state and local Leagues received copies, of course, but to a large extent, each department was a self contained unit in the League. This tended to make certain members very knowledgeable about their own subjects, but with little opportunity to grasp the issues of other departments. It tended to develop experts who were far ahead of new members, and who had difficulty adapting their committee work to the novices. The League was posed with the question, Should it continue to develop expert and responsible women citizens in fairly limited numbers or should it so modify its program that many more women were attracted to and could understand the League?

### Expanded Horizons

The question was sharpened and made urgent by the world situation. The increasing tension in Europe was tightened by the Munich fiasco. The debates in the smaller European countries and among many people centered about whether to accept the Nazi or Fascist form of government or turn to Communism. The League felt that the case for the Democratic form was being made feebly or not at all. They felt

that the time had come for a reaffirmation of faith in the personal liberty and individual initiative enjoyed by citizens of the United States.

To accomplish these ends, an Expansion Campaign was launched. In Indiana, Mrs. Mark Ferree was made the chairman. Part of the campaign--as a matter of fact, the dominant part--was to secure much better financing for the local Leagues. The core of the effort was to use this money to secure more members, to have a dynamic program for the better understanding and more faith in our own form of government. Some of the pamphlets, in addition to the elaborate helps on securing League donors, demonstrate the new approach: By the Consent of the Governed, The A.B.C. of the U.S.A., The Member Approach, took their places with, The Neutrality Act, The Federal Merit System, The National Labor Relations Act. The Indiana League had been publishing for some time an Explanation of the Program of Work, and they now cast about for ways to emphasize the points locally that were made by the new national publications.

### 1939 State Council

Just at this time, the council meeting was held in Lafayette, May 11 and 12. Miss Marquerite Wells, National president, presented the expansion campaign to a large luncheon meeting. The rest of the council was taken up with discussion of how to implement the campaign and program conferences.

In November, a large dinner was held in Indianapolis for the expansion program, with the central theme, "The Making of Public Opinion in a Democracy". Mr. Isaac F. Marcossan, writer on world affairs was the headline speaker. Mr. Stephen Noland, editor of the Indianapolis News and Mr. Gilbert Forbes of Station WFBM, gave the Indiana angles. Mrs. George Gellhorn of St. Louis, told the story of the expansion campaign and what the League hoped to accomplish by it.

By March, Mrs. Ferre reported an expanded office and force with more room in headquarters, Mrs. Virginia Mannon returned to the League office with, at last, the assistance of a stenographer, someone capable of mimeographing the increasing supply of League state material, Miss Maxine Miller.

The articles in the Voter reflected the growing concern with international affairs felt generally. "The League Position on Neutrality Proposals", "Indiana and the Trade Agreements Program" were two long and thoughtful articles.

### 1940-42

President, Mrs. Clarence F. Merrell, Indianapolis

The 1940 convention of the League was held on the campus of Indiana University at Bloomington, May 15-17. The delegates were given the privilege of staying in Sycamore Hall, the newly completed residence hall for women. Mrs. Raleigh W. Holmstedt, president of the Bloomington League, was chairman of the local arrangements. The program featured Mrs. Marion Cheek, National League chairman of Economic Welfare, whose subject was "Interstate Trade Barriers". Clifton M. Utley, director of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, was the dinner speaker; Dr. Roy V. Peel spoke on "More Democracy at the Crossroads"; William

H. Book, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, on "Improving Township Relief Administration"; and Dr. Ford P. Hall, head of the Department of Government at Indiana University and presently serving as chairman for the joint committee of Public Welfare and Unemployment Compensation, on "Newest Practices in Obtaining Qualified Personnel in Government Service.

A new League in East Chicago was organized just in time to be announced to the convention. The revised Voters Handbook, by reason of last minute intensive work, also made its initial appearance at the convention.

The delegates reaffirmed their desire to proceed with the Expansion Campaign, and took steps to modify the state program to conform with the changes made in the national program at the national convention just preceding the state meeting. The Child Welfare Department was changed to Social Welfare and the Legal Status of Women was discontinued, with the pertinent items assigned to other departments. This was the gratifying result of the work done by the League and other women's groups to remove many of the legal discriminations against women that were in effect generally when women were given the vote.

Bolstered by the organization of an Indiana Merit System Association, composed of many large state-wide organizations to push for the merit legislation so steadfastly advocated by the League, it was decided to make an all-out effort in the 1941 session of the General Assembly.

The convention selected the following officers for the coming two years:

President, Mrs. Clarence F. Merrell, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. A. L. Spohn, Hammond  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Allen C. G. Mitchell, Bloomington  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Charles E. Shambaugh, Lafayette  
Secretary, Mrs. Norman Johanning, Richmond  
Treasurer, Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis

#### Directors:

Mrs. Robert Rossow, Culver	Mrs. R. L. Beck, Michigan City
Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis	Mrs. John Pennell, Kokomo
Mrs. Rex Van Tilbury, Logansport	Mrs. T. O. Ferkinhoff, Hobart
Mrs. J. J. Detzler, South Bend	Mrs. John Hickey, Terre Haute
Mrs. Allen Loomis, Elkhart	Mrs. James W. Bell, Evansville
Miss Blanche Merry, Jasper County	Mrs. Joseph Shirk, Peru

In addition, each League not represented on the board, elected a board representative. Mrs. Merrell appointed the following chairman to the board:

Mrs. Charles Teetor, Hagerstown and Mrs. R. M. Standley of Gary  
Government and Its Operation - Mrs. Lester Smith, Indianapolis  
Government and Economic Welfare - Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary  
Government and Foreign Policy - Mrs. Leonard Smith, Indianapolis  
Government and Education - Mrs. Bawden  
Expansion Campaign - Mrs. Mark Ferree, Indianapolis  
Legislative - Mrs. Walter S. Greenough  
Legal Status Advisor - Mrs. S. N. Campbell

With such a large board, it became increasingly necessary to have frequent meetings of a small executive board. There was growing dissatisfaction with the unwieldy size of the board, and the weight of the recommendations of the National League for a small responsible board was being felt. There was no action to change at this time, however.



## Questionnaires to legislative candidates

The League immediately plunged into the work of preparing and compiling questionnaires to the legislators. By this time, it was recognized procedure for the local Leagues to interview their local candidates on the questions asked by the Leagues, usually to hold candidates meetings and in many ways, acquaint both the candidates and the public on the issues involved. The first question asked was, "Would you favor the extension of the merit system in Indiana?" The replies were 111 unqualified "yes"; 15 qualified "yes"; and one unqualified "no". The question on relief drew mixed answers. "Do you believe that township administration of direct relief is the most efficient system?" Ninety percent of the candidates favored adequate appropriations for the School Attendance-Child Labor law. Since the commission mandated by the last legislature to study the problem of permitting Indiana Cities, if they choose, to adopt the city manager form of government had reported their findings to the governor, the League asked the following, "If your city or county wished to have a manager form of government, do you think it should be allowed to do so?" About ninety-five percent answered affirmatively for cities, a considerable number stating that they did not approve the city manager plan, would work against it in their own communities, but believed that citizens should have the opportunity to approve it if they so desired.

The League appeared before the platform committees of both major political parties asking for planks endorsing "a system of public personnel management in the state government, with special emphasis on qualified employees in the penal, correctional and benevolent institutions". These they secured.

## 1941 General Assembly

Passage of the merit bill was the primary legislative triumph--a triumph achieved only after six years of hard work on the part of the League, and with the Indiana Merit System Association giving invaluable assistance and strength. Mr. William J. Stout was chairman, and Mrs. Walter Greenough, vice-chairman. Miss Mary Sinclair, the League legislative chairman serving as secretary and legislative chairman of the new organization. There were two crises. One occurred when the American Legion sponsored a veterans preference amendment to the bill. A compromise proposal was finally accepted. The other crisis came when the governor, who was of the opposite political party from both houses of the General Assembly, objected strongly to the method by which the merit board was to be appointed--two by the governor and two by the lieutenant governor. This method of appointment was a change from the original bill and was in conformity with the state reorganization measures sponsored by the dominant party in the General Assembly. He allowed the bill to become a law without his signature.

The amendment providing for city manager form of government, if so desired by the cities, passed in an amended and shortened version. The first step had been taken in the long amending process provided by the state Constitution.

Other bills in which the League had an interest, but not part of the League's all-out legislative work were reported in the League's legislative letters. These letters had become one of the standard tools of League work. They were sent to the local Leagues each week, supplemented by emergency calls for action, of course. The appropriation for the School Attendance-Child Labor law was secured, but the law itself was amended to exclude newspaper carriers from certain physical examinations and working hour regulations. Once more an amendment to the state Constitution removing the Superintendent of Public Instruction from the Constitution was passed. It was pushed by the state teacher's groups, and approved by the League.



## War Clouds

As the clouds of war gathered over Europe in 1941, the League nationally saw the need for arousing citizens to the problems of defense. They began by developing new material for use by League members. These were quizzes on Civil Liberty and Democracy; Taxation, 1942 and After; Prices and Inflation; Strikes and the Citizen; Housing and Defense; School Defenses in Defense Areas; the Americas and Defense.

During the summer as conditions worsened, the League undertook a campaign on a national scale, calling it, The Battle of Production. Four editions of a basic pamphlet on the "Battle of Production" were issued with a quizz to be used by discussion groups. Millions of flyers were used all over the country, passed out from door to door, on street corners, in meetings. Wide use of press, radio, and speakers bureaus brought "The Battle of Production" to the attention of the American people.

With all this effort, the Indiana League cooperated fully. Their speaker's bureau in the state League was very active, filling engagements to talk to a wide variety of clubs, both men and women's clubs. The flyer was distributed from door to door by teams of League members. Grocery men cooperated by putting a flyer in each basket (these were the days of grocery deliveries), utilities enclosed it with monthly bills, defense plants enclosed it in pay envelopes. A car sticker was designed and widely used. League members organized discussion groups in neighborhoods, which meant that leaders had to be trained in the use of the quizz. The newspaper support was tremendous, with feature articles, editorials, news articles appearing regularly.

## War becomes a reality

Then came Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, and the United States was in the war. Immediately after the Japanese attack, Germany declared war on the United States. This was a national crisis which the League, with millions of other citizens, had earnestly hoped to avoid. In January of 1942, the National League called the national council in session at Indianapolis, to evaluate the usefulness of the League in wartime. This was the time for decision. Should the League continue to exist or funnel the activities of its members in the traditional wartime services? The council answered the question after serious debate with the statement: "The League looks to itself and asks not just what it may do better or differently, but asks whether it shall continue to exist. Has it a reason for being, sufficient to justify it in times when every non-essential commodity and activity is being sacrificed? Approaching our situation in that mood, the League Council votes unanimous conviction that if an organization having the purpose of the League of Women Voters did not exist today, it should be created--that no grant of executive power in a war emergency, however great, lessens the importance of an alert, understanding, critical body of citizens active continuously in relation to the functioning of government. Without this the people would become passive and democracy at its very roots, would die."

Consequently, the League intensified its efforts to study the problems of the war, to develop effective easily read flyers presenting these problems and necessities, and to devise means to reach more and more people.

In quick order came, This is Rationing; Brakes on Inflation; Forced Savings; Bigger Taxes are Better Taxes; and Why Buy War Bonds. These were single sheets, presenting some of the knottiest war time issues succinctly and impersonally.

The Indiana League cooperated fully with the national organization in using these broadsides. Thousands were distributed and made the basis for discussion groups and individual conversations.

Office changes. Mary Sinclair, League secretary and director of the legislative work, left to take a position with the Advisory Defense Council of Indiana. She became deeply involved in the war effort and eventually was sent to England. Dorothy Gardner became editor of the Voter, which was reduced to one page as an economy measure. Irene Sweeney joined the League staff as a field worker and organizer. With her help, the new League in Marion became a reality, with Mrs. Drysdale Brannon as president.

1942-44

President, Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis

### The 19th Convention

The state convention was held at the Indiana State Teachers College at Terre Haute, May 13 and 14, 1942. The Wartime Service of the League was emphasized in the report of the director, Mrs. Richard Edwards of Peru, which showed the number of broadsides distributed, the latter figure being 85,000. The convention passed a resolution to the effect that the League conduct a vigorous summer campaign to relate local government to the necessities of wartime; fighting inefficiency, graft and extravagance by detailed scrutiny and the spreading of information on such impending activities of government as assessments, budgets, taxes and services. In line with this proposal, the League stated in the proposed program for '42 and '43, that attention would be focused on the proper financing and efficient administration of the permanent necessary activities of government, and the curtailment of non-essential expenditures and unnecessary functions and personnel.

The adopted program was as follows:

1. Permanent registration of voters
2. Marriage license law
3. State and local administration of the Social Security Act
4. State Personnel Act

Explanation of these items stated that the League had in the past been instrumental in securing passage of these measures and, therefore was responsible for protecting them against attack and scrutinizing their administration.

Active program:

1. Extension of the merit system in Indiana
2. Reinstatement of adequate appropriations for effective administration of the School Attendance-Child Labor law.
3. Support of constitutional amendment permitting the manager plan for local units of government.
4. Reform of legislative procedure
5. Improving machinery of elections
6. Protective legislation for children
7. Opposition to interstate trade barriers
8. An enabling act permitting non-profit hospitalization insurance

Mrs. William P. Snethen gave the annual treasurer's report. It showed, as usual with the League, a small balance of \$85 with total expenditures during the year of \$11,102. The special gift report showed that 92 shares of Standard Oil of New Jersey had been given the League by Mrs. Charles Teetor of Hagerstown, in addition to her customary generous and consistent financial support of League work. A clever headquarters report by Maxine Miller, and an "Uncensored Report of the National Convention" added spritely touches. The banquet speaker was Dr. John K. Langum of the Federal Reserve Bank, whose subject was "Sprials and their Control". The second outside speaker was John P. Sembower, Director of Public Relations of the Indiana State Teachers College, whose subject was, "Public Relations Aren't Incidental".

The officers were:

President, Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Allen Mitchell, Bloomington  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Clarence F. Merrell, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Roy Gibbons, Hammcd  
Treasurer, Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis  
Secretary, Mrs. Hans Reimer, Michigan City

Directors:

Mrs. Ted Plimpton, East Chicago	Mrs. Otto Fifield, Crown Point
Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown	Mrs. Robert Rossow, Culver
Mrs. Fred Brengle, Terre Haute	Mrs. William Hilliker, Porter-Chesterton
Mrs. Delbrook Lichtenberg, Hagerstown	Mrs. Leonard Kolb, Peru
Mrs. Robert Ryan, Terre Haute	Mrs. Thomas Sheerin, Indianapolis
Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru	
Ex officio, Mrs. Leonard Smith, Indianapolis, newly appointed national chairman of the Department of Government and Foreign Policy	

The new officers and directors faced a busy year. In May of 1942, Indiana held a primary election, and the League issued two penny sheets of factual information, which were widely used. They were "Voting is Especially Important in Wartime", which gave information on registration and pointed out how a soldier could vote by absent ballot if he was registered. A companion penny sheet, "Why, Where, When and How" of voting was issued. Before the November election, an even briefer flyer was distributed free, called "Suppose You Could Not Vote".

In the summer of 1942, the Indiana League took part in a nation-wide campaign on taxes. Another flyer for free distribution was issued, "Are You Afraid to Pay Your Taxes?" The National League continued to provide broadsides on "OPA - Cheap at the Price", "Next Year's Taxes - Will They Be Adequate?", "The Next Congress - Most Important in U. S. History", and "Manpower- A Birdseye View".

Wartime changes. All of these reflected the changes that had come about because of the war. No longer was there a depression and wide unemployment. Quickly, the problem had shifted to a shortage of manpower with mobilization the order of the day, not only for waging the war itself, but for work in making guns, tanks, planes, and ships; in stepping up the production of food and in many other ways. The danger of runaway inflation was real. Civilian goods were in short supply and there was a good deal of money in the country to buy these goods.

#### Legislative work

The 83rd session of the Indiana General Assembly was started in January, 1943.

The League had the fight of its life on its hands to save the 1941 Personnel Act. The philosophy of doing away with patronage was a comparatively new and strange idea in Indiana, and many of the legislators did not like it. In addition, the war shortages of manpower had hampered the new Personnel Division in establishing itself. The storm centered on the director and the board. Efforts to abolish the law itself were fought off by the Indiana Merit System Association and the League, but only by accepting a crippling change in the law. The bill was amended to scrap the office of Personnel Director and the Personnel Board, and then recreate them under slightly different titles. The directors was removed from the classified list and the provisions which made his selection on a basis of merit were deleted. Another move to cripple the Division by drastically cutting the appropriation was finally defeated.

The legislature also defeated the city manager amendment, which had gone through the previous session with a large majority. The Junior Chamber of Commerce had sponsored first the commission to study the problem and then the amendment recommended by the commission. In this session, many of these young men were away on war duty and not available for leadership. The League could not do the job alone.

There were minor changes in the registration law, and a commission to recodify election laws was authorized. The League's opposition to interstate trade barriers was bolstered by a proclamation of the governor so no legislation was necessary.

#### 1943 State Council

The council of the League was held in Gary, May 11 and 12, 1943, with the Lake County Leagues as hostesses. Mrs. Emmett White, president of the Gary League, had charge of the local arrangements. Miss Ruth Mitchell, National League board member from Minnesota, was the speaker for the dinner meeting. It was a working conference with the pressing problems of the war in the forefront of the discussions.

The broadsides of the National League indicated the progress of the war. The revised edition of "Subsidies and Price Control", "Congress Turns to Patronage", was supplemented by flyers in the foreign relations field. "Lend-Lease - Cornerstone of U. S. Foreign Policy", "Isolationism Again", a quizz for self-examination "Am I an Isolationist?", "Lend-Lease Makes Good" reflected this League interest. "Trade Agreements - Key to Postwar Policy", "Whose Foreign Policy?", and "Congress and Foreign Policy" were used in large numbers. The Indiana League began a review of the parole system and became concerned with the increase in child delinquency and child labor. The inevitable dislocations of the war included changes in the family life of many people, with its attendant problems for children.

#### 1944-46

President, Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis

The 1944 convention of the League was held in Indianapolis at the Claypool Hotel. The featured speaker was Charles Taft of Cincinnati, who was serving in the State Department at that time, with the topic "America's Foreign and Economic Policies".

A panel discussion of Public Welfare was featured with Mrs. James Moffat of Bloomington, a former member of the Monroe County Welfare Board; Mr. Alfred Potts, Director of the Division of Public Assistance of the State Department of Public Welfare; Robert Nelson, General Secretary of the Family Welfare Society; and, Fred Telford, an expert in the field of public personnel.

The program added two items: Strengthening of Probation and Parole Systems and Reorganization of the State Department of Public Instruction.

The Continuing Responsibilities were listed as follows: School Attendance-Child Labor Law; Permanent registration of voters, enacted in 1933; Marriage Licence Law, as amended in 1939; State Personnel Act, enacted in 1941;

Listed were the items that might come up for legislative action: Strengthening of the merit system; Improvement of election procedure; Legislation permitting the adoption of the manager plan for local units of government; Improvement of legislative procedure; Legislation for the protection and welfare of children, and the two new items given above.

Mrs. Austin Clifford became the executive secretary for the state League. Her husband, Captain Clifford, was stationed in England.

The officers elected by the convention were as follows:

President, Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Delbrook Lichtenberg, Hagerstown  
Secretary, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion  
Treasurer, Mrs. A. W. Noling, Indianapolis

Chairmen were appointed for special topics, which followed the pattern of the major change in the program form of the National League. Program Departments, as such, had been discarded and the program was divided into an Active List upon which the League would focus its attention and the Platform, the repository of League action in the past, and a statement of governmental principles upon which the League has agreed.

The program chairman appointed were as follows:

Government - Mrs. Frank Cox (This item included city manager, legislative reform and constitutional amendment.) Indpls.  
Social Security, Probation and Parole --Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Peru  
Merit System - Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis  
Elections - Mrs. Lester Smith, Indianapolis  
Child Welfare - Mrs. Fred B. Johnson, Indianapolis  
Education - Mrs. James L. Murray, Indianapolis  
Child Welfare - Mrs. Robert White  
Day Care and Girls School - Mrs. Fred Bates Johnson  
International Relations - Mrs. Mollie Donlin, Chesterton  
Economic Welfare - Mrs. James Moffat, Bloomington  
Item 2 - Mrs. William Snethen, Indianapolis  
Item 3 - Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary  
Equalizing Opportunities - Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru  
Item 8 - Mrs. James Murray, Indianapolis  
Item 9 - Mrs. Wayne Nattkemper

These were the days of the large board of the League. Every League was given representation, if not by election or appointment, then of their own choosing. So the following members of the board represented their local Leagues:

Mrs. John Gowan, Culver	Mrs. C. D. Root, Crown Point
Mrs. Paul Kleinholtz, East Chicago	Mrs. Paul Kerr, Elkhart
Mrs. C. C. Puett, Gary	Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown
Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, Hammond	Mrs. Frank Kurth, Hobart
Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis	Mrs. Clarence Merrell, Indianapolis
Mrs. C. B. Durham, Indianapolis	Mrs. Helene Guy, Remington
Mrs. J. P. Pennell, Kokomo	Mrs. Norman Fox, La Porte
Mrs. Harry Tutewiler, Logansport	Mrs. Merrell David, Marion
Miss LaTourette Stockwell, Michigan City	Mrs. Wayne Nattkemper, Peru
Mrs. E. A. Wysong, Richmond	Mrs. Fred Brengle, Terre Haute
Mrs. E. T. Stahl, Lafayette	Mrs. John Stambaugh, Valparaiso
Mrs. Leonard Smith, Indianapolis	Mrs. Lester Smith, Indianapolis
Mrs. Neill Campbell, Indianapolis	Mrs. Thomas Sheerin, Indianapolis

### National change

For the first time in the League, nationally, there had been a contest for the presidency which resulted in the election of Miss Anna Lord Strauss of New York as president, succeeding Miss Marquerite Wells of Minnesota who had served for eight years. She defeated Miss Ruth Mitchell of Minnesota. The revolt seemed to signify a desire for a change of emphasis in the national program, with more attention to domestic problems, in contrast to the promotion of study and quieter program development in the campaigns which the League had been conducting during the war.

The imminence of the national election of 1944 brought forth two new broadsides, "Your Next Congress Must Act on These Issues" and "Just Any Congress Will Not Do". After the election, the League focused its attention on stimulating discussion of proposals that would be a basis for a world organization. Broadside were again used to implement this campaign, such as, "What Happened at Dumbarton Oaks?" (meeting place of the big four nations to discuss peace plans and the basis by which nations would work together to maintain peace), "Power Politics or the United Nations?", "Trade Makes Jobs", "Victory is not Peace." These followed the progress of the war. With the collapse of Germany in the spring of 1945 and of Japan in the same year, the attention of the League, nationally, focused on the San Francisco conference which brought into being the United Nations. With only two dissenting votes, the Senate of the United States ratified the United Nations chapter on July 28, 1945.

Pre-election activity. The Indiana League cooperated with the National organization fully. It was, however, busy with its own program. The public, generally, had come to expect a good deal of service and information from the League preceding elections. Since this was a national election, interest and feeling ran high, but never-the-less, while maintaining its non-partisan attitude, the League had booths in public places with voting information, gave voting machine demonstrations, held candidates meetings and the like.

### General Assembly Rolls Around

In January, 1945, the League had another General Assembly of the state to face. While the League had no legislation which it had prepared and campaigned for, there were many matters in which it was interested. There was a bitter legislative fight on the state Public Welfare Department. A legislative committee had

been authorized in the previous General Assembly to report on the operation of the Welfare Department and make legislative recommendations. These recommendations were embodied in an omnibus bill with, from the League's viewpoint, some good and some bad provisions. When the dust of the session settled, not too many changes had been made. The most important of these were that the governor selects the administrator of Public Welfare and the principle of merit was recognized by providing that the three regional directors created by the act be under the merit system, restating that employees, including county directors, be under the merit system, too.

There were several more bills in the welfare field reported upon, either as having passed or having been defeated. The same was true in the field of education. Once more, an amendment to the state Constitution removing the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was defeated, but an amendment lengthening the term of office of the superintendent from two to four years, was passed. The School Attendance-Child Labor law was amended to permit 16 year old children to get work permits without proof of having gone through the eighth grade. This was to take care of backward children and came at the request of the school superintendents.

In the field of merit there was much action. It was clear that the League took a dominant part, backing up the action of the Merit System Association and providing legislative workers. A ripper merit bill, carrying out the recommendations of the 1943 Legislative Commission to investigate the Personnel Division with the goal of abolishing the merit system, was successfully opposed. The move to put the employees of the State Conservation Department under the merit system passed the House, but was smothered in the Senate in committee. A technical bill which permitted more latitude in the Personnel Division to take care of the war emergencies in manpower, was passed.

There were four Juvenile Court bills reported: two in the field of recreation, six in the health field. The two most important being the authorization of cities and counties to build and maintain health departments and levy taxes for their maintenance, and the creation of the Council on Mental Health.

The codification of election laws measure protected the provisions of the permanent registration law, the League's own measure, and was of general importance to the electorate. Another measure of general interest enlarged the Legislative Bureau and created a joint Legislative Advisory Commission to serve between legislative sessions, composed of the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and 3 members from each house.

With sixty one days of the General Assembly over, the League turned to more intensive work in the national field, especially promoting wide discussion of the proposals of the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods conferences upon which the peace, which seemed to be in sight, and the United Nations would be based.

#### 1945 State Council

The council meeting was held in Indianapolis, May 16-17, at the Columbia Club. The dinner speaker was Dr. Nathan Silverstein, Indiana University professor, with the subject, "The Price of Peace". After his talk, each local chairman gave a three minute report on the United Nations Campaign in her community with Mrs. Molly Donlin, Foreign Policy chairman, presiding.



The second council speaker represented another growing interest of the League. He was Mr. Joseph Sullivan, Division of Corrections of the Indiana Department of Public Welfare, whose subject was, "Indiana and Parole". League members who participated in the program were Mrs. John K. Goodwin, president; Mrs. Austin Clifford, executive secretary; Mrs. William P. Snethen, budget report; Mrs. S. N. Campbell, field work; Mrs. Alfred Noling, legislative steering committee; Mrs. John Fuller, National League council meeting; Mrs. Drysdale Brannon; Mrs. E. E. McMichael; and Mrs. Richard E. Edwards.

Handbook discontinued. With the edition of the second book on Indiana Government by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, it was decided to give up the traditional Voters Handbook of the League. With the death of Mr. Kettleborough, director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, who had given generously of his time and knowledge of state government to make the compilation of facts contained in the Handbook possible, preparing the material had become increasingly difficult. The Chamber's book was a well done, factual presentation and more elaborate than the League could produce.

Although it sold for a dollar, the price to the League was thirty cents a copy. The Handbook had been one of the major League activities in the field of voter education, and had reached thousands of school children, many libraries, and clubs.

The energy released by discontinuing the Handbook was profitably used in the ever pressing problems of the League program. It was a time of ferment and decision in the national field, with the needs of starving countries against the understandable desire to be done with rationing and privations; the ever present danger of inflation; the haste of rapid demobilization after the end of the war and its attendant troubles. In all these problems, the League promoted discussion groups and presented facts. But the League's basic interest lay in the establishment of peace plans that would prevent war. For these studies, it was felt that public understanding was vital and so the three publicity clinics held in the state by Mrs. William Nessler, National League director of publicity, were timely. Mrs. Pauline H. Hoover became editor of the Voter as well as publicity director for the state League.

Study kits. Study kits on the state program were prepared for the local Leagues. They were widely used as a basis for discussion of the League state program, to be adopted by the next convention.

#### 1946-48

President, Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis

The convention was held at Lake Wawasee at the Lake Shore Inn, May 14, 15, and 16, 1946. The headline speakers were Miss Florence Kirlin, former executive secretary of the Indiana League, now an assistant in the State Department, who presented the problem of control of atomic energy and Mr. Ford Hall, Professor of Government of Indiana University, who spoke for renewed public education of the importance of the existent Merit Law. The convention went on record for renewed efforts in the line of merit safeguards, standards, and citizen education. A panel on merit followed Dr. Hall's talk with Mrs. Walter Greenough as moderator; Mrs. Richard Edwards, Mrs. Fred Bates Johnson, and Mrs. Alfred Noling presenting different angles of merit, county welfare, state institutions, and city-merit systems.

The story of the National League convention was given by Mrs. E. H. Showalter, Kokomo; Mrs. John Stambaugh, Valparaiso; and Mrs. C. B. Durham, Indianapolis.

Sprightly reports of special projects by local Leagues were given: 'hugh visual charts on local taxes were explained by the Marion tax panel, which had presented them widely; a community recreation project in Bloomington by Mrs. Robert Telfer; "Know Your Schools" by the Kokomo League.

The retiring president, Mrs. John K. Goodwin handed the gavel to the incoming president, Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, with a report of the League work during the war years and the challenge for the League in building a lasting peace for the future.

#### Officers:

President, Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. E. E. McMichael, Crown Point  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. John P. Pennell, Kokomo  
Secretary, Mrs. Edward Troy, Peru  
Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred Noling, Indianapolis

#### Directors:

Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion	Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary
Mrs. Molly Donlin, Chesterton	Mrs. Norman Fox, LaPorte
Mrs. R. C. Johnson, Richmond	Mrs. Paul Kerr, Elkhart
Mrs. McKinny, Culver	Mrs. R. N. Shreve, Lafayette
Mrs. William P. Snethen, Indianapolis	Mrs. John Stambaugh, Valparaiso
Mrs. Charles N. Teetor, Hagerstown	Mrs. Clinton While, Hammond
Mrs. David Strauss, Michigan City	Mrs. C. B. Durham, Indianapolis
Mrs. Paul Kleinholz, East Chicago	

#### Board Assignments:

Public Relations, Mrs. John K. Goodwin  
Finance, Mrs. E. E. McMichael  
Program Coordinator, Mrs. John P. Pennell  
Field Work, Mrs. William P. Snethen

#### Program Items:

International Relations - Mrs. Molly Donlin  
~~Economic Policies - Mrs. Lawrence Dorsay~~  
Re-organization of Congress - Mrs. Allen Smith  
Machinery of Government - Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Chairman  
    1. Merit System, Mrs. Greenough  
    2. Improvement of Legislative Procedure, Mrs. Allen Smith  
    3. Elections, Mrs. Lester Smith  
    4. Primary Elections (methods), Mrs. C. D. Root  
Welfare of Children, Mrs. Austin Clifford, Chairman  
    1. Child Labor, Mrs. Robert White  
    2. Education, Mrs. James L. Murray  
    3. Recreation, Mrs. Wanita Hughes  
Welfare of the Public (Penal System, Public Welfare, Public Health, Recreation, Housing), Mrs. Richard E. Edwards, Chairman; Mrs. Thomas Sheerin, VP

Constitutional Convention, Mrs. Frank Cox, Chairman; Mrs. Don Datisman, VP Steering Committee for the General Assembly, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Chairman; Mrs. William P. Snethen, Vice-chairman

An office change reflected the end of the war. Mrs. Austin Clifford retired as executive secretary when her husband, Major Austin Clifford, returned from Germany. Her place was taken by a returned veteran of the war, Mrs. Harriet Stout of Indianapolis. She had served in the WACs during the war, rising to the rank of captain, serving as Assistant Director of the Information and Education Division, First Service Command. Soon after she became identified with the League, the able editor of the Voter, Mrs. Pauline Hoover left Indianapolis and she became editor of the Voter.

The new administration plunged into the hectic work of preparing for the legislative work to which the League was committed in the 1947 General Assembly. The timing of the elections of the League was unfortunate in this respect, for the new president should have a year in which to become familiar with the responsibilities of the League before having to face the onerous legislative work.

Questionnaires were sent to all legislative candidates, asking four questions. The first question asked for the legislator's opinion on nominating methods, what could be done to increase the effectiveness of the primary, and what to improve convention procedures? (The primary in Indiana, at that time, covered all local offices and Congressmen, while the state ticket including the governor and the United States Senator were selected by the party convention.) The second question dealt with changes in the state Constitution, probably by constitutional convention. The third was a question on extending the merit system and making its administration more effective. The fourth suggested improvements in the state penal system and asked for approval of a commission to make a two-year study and present its findings to the following legislature.

Fall Conferences. The League could not neglect its other interests, however, Mrs. Harold D. Dyke of Syracuse, New York, dynamic chairman of Finance for the National League, gave zest to the two conferences held in the fall. The first was held at Michigan City, Spaulding Hotel, and the second at Indianapolis, Lincoln Hotel, September 10 and 11. She met with the state board on the 12th, where the League decided to hold a coordinated finance drive and to use many of the techniques she had suggested for Indiana. The League, for several years, had been achieving a much better financial status, with most of the support coming from the local Leagues and paid in monthly quotas. The Leagues had been faithful in meeting their obligations and paying in full to the state League, but the Indiana League was operating on a slim budget for all the work it undertook--varying from ten to twelve thousand dollars a year.

The expansion campaign, undertaken some years before, had to be abandoned when the United States entered the war and the League threw itself into its own sphere of war usefulness in clarifying and promoting the governmental issues vital to the war effort. After discussion and a subsequent meeting of the finance committee with Mrs. E. E. McMichael, chairman, a finance plan was adopted which included the preparation of a kit for the local finance chairmen to help them with basic information, a plan for the campaign, and material showing the achievements of the League in the public interest. The plan included the setting of local finance goals, preparing and completing a prospect list by the middle of January, with training meetings in February and the campaign from March 1 to the 25th. Many of the Leagues cooperated and were successful in attaining their goals. However, there was reluctance on the part of some of the Leagues to ask for contributions from the public. This sprang in part from their feeling that the local League

had not done enough in the community to ask for outside financial help. All this led to serious consideration of local projects and to later developments in this area.

#### General Assembly of 1947

The next task confronting the League was the legislative work. The steering committee had Mrs. Drysdale Brannon of Marion as chairman and the following Indianapolis members: Mesdames Thomas J. Beasley, Jr., Roy Coats, Frank Cox, H. G. Crawford, L. H. Dorsey, Gail Eldridge, L. H. Earle, Herbert Fallendar, Walter Greenough, George W. Hamilton, R. J. Hudelson, Charles T. Harmon, F. E. Johnson, Allen Kahn, Howard King, Clarence Merrell, R. M. Loomis, James L. Murray, Herbert Oles, A. H. Allen Smith, William P. Snethen, Lester Smith, A. K. Scheidenhelm, William J. Stout, Taylor N. Todd, C. D. Vawter, Walton Wheeler, Richard K. Zimmerly, and Bert McCammon.

These women were so organized that there was at least one, sometimes two of them in attendance at every session of both the House and the Senate to report the action of the day, and to be prepared for any emergency that might arise in the bills which the League was promoting. There were many out-state women who came to Indianapolis to attend the legislature and to confer with their own legislators on the League program. The effectiveness of such visits was great.

For the first time electric voting was used in the legislature. Each legislator could vote by means of a push button panel on his own desk. The votes were flashed on large panels at the front of the hall. The system eliminated the time consuming roll call on all voting, gave an accurate and readily available record of the voting, and did away with the legislator's custom of explaining his vote whenever he so desired. It was an improvement over the old system which the League had been pointing out was needed.

The Legislative Letters became longer and more detailed. Each week there was a schedule of the measures which had been reported in previous letters and the action taken on these measures, as well as the League's position on them. When the session was over, Mrs. Brannon summarized the action. She pointed out the success in the passage of a bill calling for a penal survey and a recodification of Indiana penal laws. The most discouraging task was to retain the merit system. Successive attacks were fought off, including an ingenious move to place the director on the merit board and enlarge the board, but no advances were made.

There were two child welfare bills for which the League worked. One increased the grants for dependent children, and the other amended the child labor work permit requirements.

The legislature defeated a direct primary bill, and passed a measure which made several improvements in the party convention procedures: notably to do away with the unit voting by counties and have individual voting on voting machines, changing the order of selection of officials, and improving the regulations in regard to proxies. The League successfully opposed a move to put city elections back into the general election. The League also supported a bill providing for the restoration of the lien on the property of recipients of old age assistance, which passed. In all, some 70 bills were read and analyzed.

## 1947 State Council

Postwar Problems. The postwar problems confronting the nation were the immediate next concern of the League. At the spring 1947 council meeting, held at Maxinkuckee Inn, May 13th and 14th, these problems were carefully considered by two workshops--one on foreign policy led by Mrs. Mollie Donlin, and the other on Economic Welfare headed by Mrs. Lawrence Dorsey. Recommendations to support the action of the National organization in advocating reciprocal trade agreements were adopted by the council. The group further recommended work on strengthening the United Nations, continued aid to war torn countries, and education on the control of atomic energy.

In the field of economics, it was felt that citizen interest must be aroused and informed before any action could be taken. Mrs. Marc Law of Illinois, a member of the National Board, spoke on economics at the dinner meeting.

The Indiana League program was emphasized by a presentation by Mrs. Richard Edwards of the topic, "Looking Ahead at Indiana's Penal System" at the final luncheon, Mrs. Austin Clifford on adoption laws, and Mrs. Don Datisman on housing. The budget adopted was \$10,280, the same amount as the previous year. It was significant and encouraging that local League pledges were \$1,600 higher than the previous year, and the nearly thousand dollars to be raised by personal pledges had been underwritten by the end of the council meeting. Mrs. William P. Snethen presented plans for expanding and strengthening the League in strategically located towns and cities. Consequently, a statewide committee was authorized to work for League organization. The Culver League was the hostess League, Mrs. J. D. Newman, president, and Mrs. Frank Cox, who had a summer home on Lake Maxinkuckee was chairman of arrangements.

Local Projects. Following the suggestion of the council delegates, who felt that local projects, wisely selected, strengthen a local League, Mrs. Fuller appointed a chairman of Local Projects and Problems. This was the first time such a committee had been made a state standing committee.

Staff change. Upon the resignation of Mrs. Harriet Stout, Mrs. Mildred Richey (Mrs. Robert S. Richey) became executive secretary on a part time basis, with hours from one to five. Mrs. Richey was a graduate with honors from Indiana University, had office experience, and had worked diligently in the Indianapolis League. Mrs. Allen Smith once again became editor of the Voter. Mrs. A. R. Lindesmith of Bloomington replaced Mrs. Edward Troy of Peru as recording secretary of the state League.

Changes. Since this was a non-legislative year, there was more time for the consideration of purely League policies. The National League had set up recognition standards which the state League endeavored to help the locals meet. The state League board also, to conform to the suggestions of the National, seriously considered its Bylaws during the year, and when the state convention was held, proposed many changes which were adopted. The most important changes were: the size of the state board was restricted to 17 members, 6 officers, 6 directors elected and 5 appointed; state meetings were provided for to take the place of the large board of directors meetings. The name was changed to League of Women Voters of Indiana.

Organization. The expansion committee reported preliminary work in Warsaw, South Bend, Fort Wayne, and other cities and asked cooperation in securing names of residents of these and other cities where there were no Leagues. The committee

recommended a part-time field secretary whenever it became possible for the League to finance the project.

The Economic Primer of the National League aroused some controversy during the year. While the majority of the Leagues and the state board of directors accepted it as a useful tool to start the study of economics as it related to government action, the Valparaiso League took the opposite view. After several meetings failed to bring the viewpoints together, recognition was withdrawn from the Valparaiso League.

#### Program

The League moved actively into the study field in preparation for the next General Assembly. A penal survey kit was evolved for the study of the recommendations of the Commission, and a state council to acquaint the public with the recommendations was proposed by the League to the governor and appointed.'

The next important area of League interest was covered by a "Home Rule" kit, which presented factual material on the proposal to give local communities optional power to select their own charters. The kit was widely used during the year.

The simplified forms of the national and state programs seemed to engender thoughtful discussion of the issues during the year. The state League had several suggestions for the Current Agenda of the national program upon which they agreed.

More changes. Another National change had been made. Delegates to the national convention were sent from local Leagues, while the Indiana League had only two state delegates. The board selected Mrs. Fuller, president, and Mrs. Brannon, as the delegates and Mrs. McMichael as the alternate.

#### 1948-50

President, Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis

The state convention was held at the South Shore Inn, Lake Wawasee, May 18th and 19th. The featured speaker was Mrs. Harold Stone, first vice-president of the National League, co-author of a book, City Manager Government in the United States. Her subject was on the general topic of how to make local government work effectively.

The swing away from conventions in cities was an interesting development. The delegates found that they liked the relaxing atmosphere of a lake resort hotel, which they could reserve for themselves before the regular season. Along with city conventions had gone noise, parking difficulties for cars, and outside distractions.

#### Program

Current Agenda:

1. A constitutional amendment permitting local governmental units to choose their own form of government.
2. Improvement of the state penal system



These two items were selected for concerted action. The Continuing Responsibilities were items upon which the League had worked in the past, and wished to protect if the need arose. They included the merit system, permanent registration of voters, improved nominating methods, the short ballot, and revision of the state Constitution.

The program included, also, strengthening and enforcement of the School Attendance-Child Labor law; improvement of public health services; extended recreational programs; improvement of court procedures relating to children; adequate grants for dependent children, aged and handicapped persons; improved public welfare administration; and state-wide coordination of activities concerning children and youth.

An item of early League interest was reinserted into the program: the combining of educational units for economy and efficiency. A second item was on legislative reapportionment and the state League was directed to work for it in conformity with the Indiana constitutional requirements if opportunity arose in the next General Assembly. It was stated in this way because the Constitution provided for an enumeration by the township trustees of the male inhabitants every six years. No such enumeration had been made since 1931 and no legislative apportionment since 1921.

#### State Officers:

President, Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Logansport  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, Crown Point  
Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Hoepfner, Rensselaer  
Treasurer, Mrs. John P. Pennell, Kokomo

#### Directors elected:

Mrs. Russell Beck, Michigan City	Mrs. Austin Clifford, Bloomington
Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary	Mrs. Molly Donlin, Chesterton
Mrs. Lawrence Dorsey, Indianapolis	Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru
Mrs. Norman Fox, LaPorte	Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis
Mrs. M. O. Lundt, Elkhart	Mrs. C. F. McKinney, Culver
Mrs. Alvin Newman, Evansville	Mrs. Roy Street, Lafayette

#### Directors appointed:

Mrs. Frank Cox, Indianapolis	Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis
Mrs. Alfred Noling, Indianapolis	Mrs. William Snethen, Indianapolis
Ex officio, Mrs. Allen Mitchell, Bloomington - National board member	

The new board was elected and appointed in accord with the new Bylaws which did streamline the board to some extent, but not quite to the small size recommended by the National League. The reason for the appointment of Indianapolis women as directors was a recognition of the need for the state office and the president to have board members available for work and consultation when time became a factor.

State Meetings. In line with the new Bylaws, which provided for state meetings on specified subjects to supplement the small board meetings, a state meeting was held in Peru on September 9th for Voters Service, Membership, and Finance



chairmen. Voters Service had come to be a public service expected of the League and had grown more popular with the public. Since a national election was to be held in 1948, which aroused intense interest and antagonisms, the League problem was to retain its reputation for non-partisanship and fairness in giving out information on the candidates.

Another state meeting was held in December in Indianapolis for the legislative chairman of the local Leagues, to go over the League program in detail and get first hand information about the attitudes of the legislators. Mrs. A. L. Noling of Indianapolis was the chairman of these state meetings.

Miss Irene Sweeny of the National League staff came to Indiana in early December. She traveled in the state to those Leagues which had been selected by the organization committee, now consisting of Mrs. William P. Snethen, chairman; Mrs. Russell Beck, Michigan City; Mrs. Don Datisman, Gary; Mrs. C. F. McKinney, Culver; and Mrs. M. O. Lundt, Elkhart. Miss Sweeny also met with the provisional League of South Bend--the original League there having passed out of existence--and spent one day with the state board discussing the duties and problems of League boards, both state and local.

Questionnaires to candidates for governor. In preparation for their legislative work, the League sent questionnaires to all candidates for governor and printed the answers in The Woman Voter. The questions were as follows:

1. Would you support a constitutional amendment which permits local units of government to choose their own form of government?
2. Will you support, in the legislature, recommendations which, in your opinion, will improve the penal system in Indiana?
3. Do you believe in the principle of the modern personnel system now covering about half the employees in the state? What other departments of the state do you think would be benefitted by having the services of the State Personnel Division to help them select the best possible employees?
4. Do you believe it is the responsibility of the legislature to see that a reapportionment is made as soon as possible? Do you think of a better method than the present one, which provides for an enumeration of all male voters by the township trustees, could be provided by the legislature?

(The Indiana State Constitution mandates an enumeration of all male voters every six years, to be followed by legislative reapportionment. This had not been done for many years.)

The steering committee chairmen were Mrs. Drysdale Brannon of Marion and Mrs. William P. Snethen of Indianapolis. Many of the same women served on the steering committee who had served previously and had become knowledgeable about legislative work. Preparation was thorough and excellent.

#### 1949 General Assembly

In spite of the excellent committee, the legislative results were a disappointment to the League. The election had resulted in a turnover. The House of Representatives and the governor were of the party that had been out of power, while the Senate, with its holdover members, was of the opposite party. This resulted in a minimum of legislation, being those measures upon which they could both agree. Penal reform was postponed. The Penal Commission would not seek

introduction of the bills which they had written to implement their report, feeling that their duties ended with reporting the survey. Actually, no legislation for over-all penal reform was introduced.

The constitutional amendment for the optional city charters was introduced early in the session and held in committee until the 58th day when there was no opportunity to act upon it in the 61 day session.

The successes were: in the field of merit where the system was extended to include personnel of the new state mental hospitals; in child welfare where some increase in allowance for aid to dependent children was allowed; in saving the lien act which was marked for repeal; and in defeating the skip election bill which again would have placed the city election in the presidential election year.

The Legislative Letters, of which there were ten, were full of information, keeping the recipients up to date on the progress of many bills, explaining the pros and cons of important legislation, as well as being the bulwark of the League's own legislative work.

United Nation. During the year there was consistent work in the League to make every member acquainted with the United Nations. It culminated in a state meeting, March 10, at the Y.W.C.A. in Indianapolis, which had good state representation and program in spite of unfavorable weather. Mrs. Norman Fox was chairman of the meeting, aided by Mrs. Ralph Fuchs, a former member of the staff of the National League who had married and moved to Bloomington. Mrs. Molly Donlin was just as assiduous in presenting other facets of the international situation to the League.

National growth. Miss Anna Lord Strauss, National president, reported encouraging growth in the League. Membership had increased and finance was on a sounder basis than ever before. There were 110 new provisional Leagues organized recently and the League had some organization in 41 states, Hawaii and Alaska. Literature had sold in large quantities. The memo, "The Citizen and the United Nations" had 35,000 circulation and 19,000 copies of "The Forty Billion Dollar Question" had been sold.

#### 1949 State Council

The League Council meeting was held May 24-26, 1949, in Bloomington. The program reflected the sustained interest of the League in constitutional reform. Professor Pressly Sikes of Indiana University, addressed the meeting on "Does Indiana need a new Constitution?" He pointed out the areas in which Indiana has been retarded by constitutional limitations; such as, home rule, certain legislative procedures including reapportionment, and the judicial system. The growing interest in economic affairs was reflected by the speech by Mr. Frederick L. Deming of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Missouri, on the "Importance of Economic Stabilization". One of the most lively sessions was an economic workshop lead by Mrs. Lawrence Dorsey, state chairman. The National League had actively promoted study in this field by film strips and memos with such titles as: "How the Wheels Go Round", "Uncle Sam's Finances", "Full Employment and Democracy", and "The forty Billion Dollar Question".

A new League at Wabash was announced by Mrs. Snethen, organization chairman. The council sent a telegram to the U. S. Senate in support of the Atlantic Pact.

Voter. Mrs. Frank Cox became the Voter editor. The Voter had grown smaller during the years and was published only five times a year, other material taking its place--material diversified in form and widely used. But The Voter remained the only publication reaching every League member in the state. A proposal to have a national publication that would go to every member was discussed during the year, and finally adopted at the national convention in the spring of 1950.

National Program. There was a great deal of interest in the National League program, and many suggestions came in from the local Leagues. They were summarized by Mrs. John Fuller, state president, as follows: continue strengthening the U. N.; extension of world trade; reconstruction development of world resources; federal fiscal policy; and the Hoover report on the reorganization of the federal government. The final program adopted at the convention did not follow all these suggestions and reworded them but on the whole, the basic ideas were accepted.

ABC of Voting. A memorial to Mrs. Thomas Sheerin of Indianapolis, a devoted League member of long standing who had died during the year, took the form of a pamphlet, "The A. B. C. of Voting". The committee charged with preparing the pamphlet was Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, chairman, Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Mrs. Frank Cox, and Mrs. Norman Fox. The pamphlet was designed for mass use. The price was low due to the generosity of friends of Mrs. Sheerin, and the material was made simple and as clear as possible. Thousands of copies were distributed.

## 1950-52

President, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion

The 1950 state convention was held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, May 16 to 18. The delegates were housed at the Student Union Building on the campus, and the meals were served as buffets. Mrs. Joseph Taylor of Logansport was chairman of arrangements and Mrs. W. I. Spitler was president of the hostess League. Professor Clark F. Norton, Department of Political Science, DePauw University, had as his subject, "Improving Local Government in Indiana". The League interest in health problems was reflected in a program entitled, "Full Time Public Health Departments", with Dr. L. E. Burney, State Health Commissioner, and Mrs. A. E. Newman, a member of Vanderburgh County Board of Health, taking part. A panel on "The League Program and Constitutional Revision" had Mrs. Frank Cox, chairman, Mrs. Walter Greenough, Mrs. Brannon, Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, and Mrs. Goodwin as participants. During the panel, the recommendations of a state-wide meeting on constitutional revision held in January with many groups participating, were presented.

Out-state president. The nominating committee considered seriously the problem connected with having a non-resident of Indianapolis as president of the League. The work of the president had become almost a full time job, with daily attendance at the office necessary to carry the responsibilities. Ever since the election of Mrs. S. Neill Campbell of Indianapolis in 1934, the presidents had been Indianapolis women and all of them served two terms or four years: Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Clarence Merrell, Mrs. John Goodwin, and Mrs. John Fuller. The

League was greatly indebted to these leaders. The nominating committee felt that the time was at hand to try the experiment of electing a president who did not live in Indianapolis, but who was sufficiently close to be able to keep in close contact with the office. Mrs. Drysdale Brannon of Marion was nominated and elected by the convention. Mrs. E. E. McMichael, Crown Point, was chairman of the nominating committee.

The officers were:

President, Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Frank Cox, Indianapolis  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Austin Clifford, Bloomington  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Alfred Noling, Indianapolis  
Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Hoeppner, Rensselaer  
Treasurer, Mrs. Hubert Hall, Crawfordsville

Directors: Mrs. Thomas Carswell, Terre Haute  
Mrs. Norman Fox, LaPorte  
Mrs. John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis  
Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, Crown Point  
Mrs. Charles Harmon, Indianapolis  
Mrs. A. H. Highland, Hammond

Chairman, Nominating Committee: Mrs. John P. Pennell, Kokomo

Appointed directors: Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis, Health and Recreation  
Mrs. Walter Greenough, Indianapolis, Structure of Govern.  
Mrs. Lawrence Dorsey, Indianapolis, National Economics  
Mrs. Russell Beck, Michigan City, Membership, Organization  
Mrs. Molly Donlin, Chesterton, Foreign Policy  
Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru, Improvement of the State Penal System

The office force remained the same. Mrs. Mildred Richey continued as the efficient executive secretary, and Virginia Sorley as stenographer. Mrs. Frank Cox continued to edit The Voter in her familiar spritely manner. For part of the year, Mrs. Martha Gentry was employed as publicity director, especially needed during the legislative session.

Mrs. John Fuller, the retiring president, became organization chairman, and during the year, the Fort Wayne League was given full status as a new League. There had been a League in Fort Wayne many years before, but it had gone out of existence several years before the new organization was started.

Local Government Study. The important non-legislative work of the year came in implementing the local government item adopted at the 1950 convention. It was as follows: Survey and correlation of the problems of local governmental units for the purpose of recommending changes in the interest of greater economy and efficiency. There had been debate at the convention over the wording of the item, but no one was in doubt as to what the convention delegates desired, which was a thorough going review of local government, taking into account the relationships of one unit to another and the problems of overlapping functions. Mrs. Robert Telfer of Bloomington was made chairman of the survey committee. A kit of material was prepared and forms developed, both for suggested questions to ask public officials and also for the answers to be sent to the state office.

When Mrs. Telfer retired, Mrs. L. W. Bieker of Hammond became chairman. It was a major undertaking of the League. The forms were modified at different times to become more useful, and the results were finally tabulated and assessed. It was familiar ground to older League members for there had been several surveys of local government in the past. But there were many new members who enjoyed becoming oriented into the intricacies of their own local budgets and units of government.

Legislative Questionnaire. For some time, there had been discussion about the effectiveness of League questionnaires to legislative candidates. The Board decided to prepare questionnaires for use by the local Leagues when they interviewed their own candidates. They then decided to supplement these questionnaires by a letter from the state office announcing the League legislative program and giving the reasons for our support. Even the legislative state meeting took on a different aspect. The legislators were invited to be the guests of the League at a buffet luncheon at the Claypool. There were no set speeches, but each legislator was the guest of his constituents and sat with them during the luncheon where the League's program was discussed.

The candidates for the Congress of the United States were sent questionnaires, however, asking them to answer the following questions:

1. What steps do you consider most important to our foreign policy in securing the peace?
2. What federal fiscal policies do you believe will best promote a prosperous U.S. economy?
3. In what pieces of legislation are you especially interested? Please state support or opposition.

The 1951 General Assembly. Mrs. Arthur Medlicott and Mrs. Bennett Kraft were the co-chairmen of the League Steering Committee. As usual, there was a large and faithful committee who saw to it that every session of the Assembly was covered and, in addition, attended weekly Monday morning meetings to be briefed on the state of the League legislation.

The League's all out effort to cooperate with the Indiana Merit Association to extend the merit system to the Highway, Conservation, and Revenue Departments was unsuccessful. No penal reform legislation was undertaken by the League at this session.

As a watchdog, the League was successful. Several bad bills, at least three in the field of personnel, were defeated by the League in cooperation with other groups. But, actually that was the extent of League influence. It was especially disheartening because the Steering Committee had been very well organized, and the members were faithful and well informed. The Legislative Letters were popular, and well done and demanded a great deal of time and research from the office staff and the Steering Committee.

The General Assembly itself set a record for passing few important measures, and many relatively trivial bills were given the "go" sign.

None of it was due to lack of effort on the part of Mrs. Brannon, state president. She drove back and forth from Marion in all kinds of weather--mostly bad--and was available for the many legislative crises that always occur during the session of the General Assembly.

Finance. Mrs. Malcolm Cummings, National Board member from Pittsburgh, Pa., was the headliner for a state meeting on Finance, held at the Athletic Club, Indianapolis, March 27. Mrs. Cummings had charts and figures which demonstrated the advantages to the local Leagues when they conducted finance drives. There was lively discussion and many questions. Mrs. Cummings also analyzed the growth of the Indiana League in the past 10 year period with the organization of seven new Leagues and a paid membership of 2,267 members. This was slightly under the national average.

### 1951 State Council

Preceding the state council meeting at Terre Haute, May 17-18, the board met for dinner with Mrs. Thomas Carswell. The council had two featured speakers: Professor John Stoner, Department of Government, Indiana University, whose subject was "Some Unsolved Problems of Indiana Government"; and Mr. John Langum, visiting professor on the I.U. faculty, who talked about economic problems such as inflation, wage and price controls, credit restraints, and balanced budgets. Mr. William Biddle, professor of community dynamics at Earlham College, the third speaker, became so much a part of the League council that he could hardly be spoken of as an outside speaker. He analyzed the reports of three local projects: one, the story of revitalizing the Evansville League by Voters Services, given by Mrs. Maynard Rogers; the second, the fight for the grade A milk ordinance in Peru, presented by Mrs. Russel Keith; the third, an account of taking the National League economic item to the community in Westchester, given by Mrs. Hamilton Rogers. The council also had a round table on the local government survey with Mrs. Robert Telfer as chairman. The round table was participated in by Mrs. Laurence Bieker, Hammond; Mrs. B. I. Dodd, Tippecanoe County; Mrs. Henry Oliver, Bloomington; and Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis.

The year 1951-1952--that is, between the council meeting in May of '51 and the convention in '51--was characterized by an effort to analyze and evaluate League work in the stress of current government problems and to take these discussions to different parts of the state. Mrs. Brannon, state president, was a resident of Marion, Indiana. She had more opportunity than most presidents to know what the local Leagues wanted and how much actually filtered down to them from all the fine efforts of state and national workers.

For instance, in September, a two day institute was held in Indianapolis, with Mrs. Waldo Stevens, national director and Mrs. Alexander Guyol, national staff member directing the discussion. The question posed was the purpose and relationship of the League program in the face of present national needs and dangers because of the Korean war situation. It was really a soul searching meeting which questioned the adequacy of the League program, its tools, and preparation to accomplish its aims. In the end, the assets and liabilities of the League were listed, and there was an attempt to reach conclusions which would be a sound basis for future action and program making.

To the Local Leagues. This institute plan, modified to the situation in the state of Indiana, was taken to the local Leagues by teams of leaders. The discussions seemed to be worthwhile by pointing up the League program, showing the need to carry national issues to the local community, and to have more working members to do so.

The local Leagues were visited in other ways by board members and members of the organization committee. They were drawn together by state meetings. The first of these meetings was in the nature of an interim report of the survey of local government which had been undertaken by the Leagues. Mrs. L. W. Bieker, Hammond, chairman of the survey, presided at the meeting held at the Honeywell Center in Wabash. It was found that the Leagues wanted more detailed material and were anxious to be assured that the material would be correlated at the state level. There was a general feeling that not enough local League members participated in the survey, although it was felt that it was an excellent way to use new members. Some of the Leagues which had done an indifferent job or had started late, were urged to participate in order to make the finding truly representative.

Special Session of the General Assembly. The welfare issue necessitated a special session of the General Assembly which was called in September. Since the state Constitution prohibits the limitation of a special session to one issue, the League had to stand by and be ready for action if it became necessary. One action taken by the session had the hearty endorsement of the League. It memorialized the Congress to pass the legislation before it, to give the privilege of voting to the residents of the District of Columbia.

The welfare issue was brought about by the action of the General Assembly in its regular session, throwing open welfare lists and amounts received to public inspection. Since such procedure was prohibited in the federal bill, \$20,000,000 had been withdrawn from Indiana and had to be replaced. The League had taken no action in the controversy, largely because welfare files always had been open to authorized persons. However, the League opposed one measure which would abolish the Welfare Board of lay persons and put administration in the hands of the state finance committee. In the end, the session had little work to do because of Congressional action which modified the inspection clause of the national welfare law.

Several kits were issued during the year. The constitution kit was brought up-to-date and was widely used by high schools over the state which were following Purdue University's discussion topic. A primary kit was developed by Mrs. Charles Harmon in response to demand for material to implement the item on the state program calling for a study of the primary. The A.B.C. of Voting was still a popular publication.

As the convention approached, much of the energy of the League was devoted to discussing the proposed programs of the state and national Leagues.

#### 1952-54

President, Mrs. Austin Clifford, Bloomington

#### Officers:

President, Mrs. Austin Clifford, Bloomington  
First Vice-president, Mrs. Hubert Hall, Crawfordsville  
Second Vice-president, Mrs. Lawrence Dorsey, Indianapolis  
Third Vice-president, Mrs. Norman Fox, LaPorte  
Secretary, Mrs. Frank Cox, Indianapolis  
Treasurer, Mrs. Carl Luedeking, Lafayette



Directors:

Mrs. L. W. Bieker, Hammond	Mrs. George Hollis, Terre Haute
Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion	Mrs. J. D. Newman, Culver
Mrs. George Hammerschmidt, Crown Point	Mrs. T. Hunton Rogers, Westchester County

Chairman of nominating committee, Mrs. Russell Beck, Michigan City. Mrs. Brannon became editor of the Woman Voter. Mrs. Mildred Richey remained as the efficient executive secretary.

The Appointed Directors were:

Mrs. Charles Harmon, Indianapolis, chairman of the primary study  
Mrs. Thomas Beasley, Jr., Indianapolis, Legislative chairman  
Mrs. Foster Montgomery, Indianapolis, Finance chairman

The non-board resource chairmen were:

Mrs. Richard Edwards, Peru, Improvement of the State Penal System  
Mrs. John K. Goodwin, Indianapolis, Health and Recreation item  
Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, Indianapolis, Structure of Government  
Mrs. Allen Mitchell, Bloomington, Foreign Policy.

Mrs. Charles Teetor, who had been president of the state League for four years and had continued her interest for many years both as a member of the state board of directors and a stalwart supporter of the Hagerstown League, died in Florida. Her generous financial support had helped to tide the League over in its most crucial periods. Dividends from gifts of stock made by Mrs. Teetor still enable the League to undertake worthwhile projects.

Convention. The 1952 convention was held in Indianapolis at the Marott Hotel, May 20, 21, and 22. Mrs. Charles Harmon was the local League convention chairman and Mrs. Horace Shonle, the Indianapolis League president.

The convention had two dinner meetings. Mrs. Norman Fox, LaPorte, presided at the dinner with Dr. Herbert C. Modlin of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas, as the featured speaker. His subject was Mental Health, particularly timely at this time in that the convention would be discussing the pros and cons of placing the subject on the Current Agenda program.

The second dinner meeting, Mrs. Frank Cox, presiding, was a panel discussion "The Government Survey". Mr. Scott Ging, President of the Marion County Council, Mr. Oscar Berry, Sr. of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, and Mrs. Cox were the participants.

The report of the Steering Committee was given by Mrs. Bennett Kraft, Indianapolis; nominating committee report was presented by Mrs. John Pennell, Kokomo; budget report, Mrs. J. H. Petty, Lafayette and Mrs. William P. Snethan, Indianapolis; finance committee, Mrs. Alfred Noling, Indianapolis. A resume of the National League convention was given by Mrs. Carter Harrison and Mrs. Helen Luedeking.

Program. Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, president of the League, presided at the business session. The convention was highlighted by lively discussion on the program of the League for the next two years, with special emphasis on the items to be placed on the Current Agenda. The proposed items were presented by Mrs. Frank Cox, Mrs. Charles T. Harmon, Mrs. Walter S. Greenough, and Mrs. Austin Clifford. The non-recommended items were given by Mrs. Laurence Dorsey.

A great deal of interest in the selection of the program had been engendered in the local Leagues in the weeks preceding the convention. While the delegates came uninstructed, they had the background of these local League discussions. The demand to have a short program on which all the Leagues were committed to work influenced the discussion greatly, for a limited program meant that there had to be a choice between conflicting issues. The Current Agenda as finally adopted came to three items, as follows:

1. Revision of the State Constitution
2. Action to effect efficiency and economy in local governments
3. Study of the primary election.

The problem of the primary had been before the League for years, without arriving at too much consensus, so the time seemed ripe for a thorough, concerted study of the subject. The second item on the Agenda was the outcome of the local government survey and was intended to authorize action if it was found to be feasible.

The obsolete and hampering features of the state Constitution had been the subject of years of study and of legislative proposals, so the first item, "Revisions of the State Constitution" stated a League stand that had become traditional.

A long list of Continuing Responsibilities were approved by the convention, as follows:

1. Reapportionment
2. Support of the Merit System
3. Improved nominating methods
4. Permanent registration of voters
5. Permitting local governmental units to choose their own form of government
6. Short ballot
7. School attendance-child labor law
8. Public health services
9. Combining units of education
10. Court procedures relating to children
11. Coordination of activities concerning children
12. Grant for aid to dependent children, aged, and the handicapped
13. Improved public welfare administration
14. Extended recreational programs, local, county, state
15. Improvement of the state penal system.

The convention voted to "support the pending constitutional amendments extending the terms of office of those specific public officials from two to four years". The terminology of the action was meant to indicate the public officials mentioned by name in the pending amendments and not to include all public officials.

A second significant convention action was taken on motion of Mrs. John Campbell, which was to set up a special committee to study the Continuing Responsibilities section of League program, bring them up-to-date, clarify them, and report their findings to the next convention.

Busy Year. The new president, Mrs. Austin Clifford, was catapulted into intense activity. 1952 was, of course, the year of a presidential election, which engendered tremendous activity and excitement. The local Leagues responded by accelerating their Voters Service, emphasizing especially the importance of the state ticket and the local officials to be elected. The League's non-partisan stand and reputation for furnishing authentic, factual information was especially valuable at this time.

The state office, under the direction of Mrs. Richey and a committee of contributors, got out an "Explanation of Continuing Responsibilities" which was available for twenty five cents. Through a contribution of the Indianapolis League, a pamphlet entitled, "Should Our Constitution be Revised?" was issued. It was printed in color, was brief and vigorous, and was designed for wide distribution.

#### General Assembly of 1953

Since the League had ahead of it the 1953 session of the General Assembly, starting in January and continuing for 61 days, there was active pre-legislative work to be done all summer and fall. The election resulted in a legislature predominately Republican, with a governor and state officials of the same party. Ordinarily, this set-up would have resulted in a very active legislative session but soon after the session convened, the House and the Senate were at odds, to the extent that they rather generally refused to pass each other's bills. As a result, a minimum of bills became law and many of those which survived were of a minor or non-controversial nature.

However, the bright spot in the legislative program of the League was the passage of the optional city charter amendment to the state Constitution, jointly sponsored by the League and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This was a highly controversial measure and the League had a right to feel proud of its success. But the pride was tempered by the realization that it was only a promising beginning, due to the provisions in the state Constitution relative to adopting an amendment. The same amendment, in exactly the same form would have to be passed by a second session of the General Assembly and then survive a referendum to the voters.

The amendment provided that cities and towns would be permitted, if so desired, to draw up their own form of local charter. Certain limitations were placed on this power, but in general, any city or town forming it's charter under the amendment would be granted authority over local affairs: namely, to prescribe its own form of local government; to adopt methods for the nomination, election and recall of its elected officers, maintaining secrecy of the ballot; to create abolish or combine departments, commissions, etc.; to carry out the functions of local civil government; to provide for the selection, compensation, hours of work and dismissal of all its officers and employees.

Department of Correction. Another major interest of the League was the measure to create a Department of Corrections. The recommendations of the Penal and Correctional Survey were followed in part in drafting the bill which was finally introduced. It had a stormy life, being amended, deleted, deletions restored, parts rewritten not once but several times. In its final form, the bill was endorsed by the League. Although there was not agreement with many of the provisions and deletions, it still represented improvement with good administration vital to its success.

Merit. There was a great deal of public interest in merit, but no merit bills, good or bad, passed the session. The three bills, endorsed by the League and the Indiana Merit System Association which would have placed the employees of the Revenue, the Conservation, and the technical employees of the Highway Departments under the provisions of the State Personnel Act, met varying degrees of success but none of them quite made it. The bill to permit the city of Indianapolis to set up a personnel department, was finally defeated in the Senate. Several harmful bills in the personnel field were defeated.

As usual, many bills were read, digested, and reported in the Legislative Letters. There were 53 such bills on which the League took a position and followed carefully during the session. All of these bills were connected in one way or another with the League program, largely in the items under the program Continuing Responsibilities.

Mrs. Bennett Kraft and Mrs. Foster Montgomery were co-chairmen of the Steering Committee, which consisted of 27 Indianapolis women and out-state members who attended regularly from Bloomington, Crawfordsville, Laporte, Peru, and Richmond. The session was a strenuous one for the state president, Mrs. Austin Clifford, who made the necessary frequent trips between Bloomington and Indianapolis in all kinds of weather.

New League. The New Albany League received full recognition during the year. One of their first projects was the publication of a booklet entitled "Know Your Home--New Albany".

#### Political Effectiveness

A "political effectiveness" regional conference was held at the Antler's Hotel, March 31 and April 1. Mrs. Rensis Eikert of Anne Arbor, Michigan, and Mrs. Drysdale Brannon, Marion, Indiana, National board members, led the discussion. Mrs. Brannon had been appointed to the National board and was serving in various capacities there. Although the National board was a small, exceedingly hard working board because of the heavy work-load of each board member, Indiana had been represented by a member for a long period, almost continuously. Immediately preceding Mrs. Brannon had been Mrs. Allen Mitchel of Bloomington whose specialty was in the foreign policy field.

Mrs. Brannon's leadership in the conference made it of more than ordinary interest to her Indiana League. The need to review the effectiveness of League techniques was occasioned in part by the tremendous membership growth of the League.

Reciprocal Trade. Because of the expiration of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act in June, 1953, the League undertook a nationwide investigation into local angles of world trade. The local Leagues in Indiana assembled a comprehensive kit of factual information relating to Foreign Trade. Several large corporations, such as Studebaker, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Chrysler, and Standard Oil of Indiana, cooperated with information.