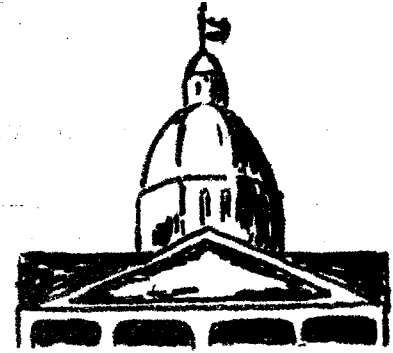




Tallahassee VOTER



League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, Florida

Purpose: To Promote Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation of Citizens in Government

President - Mrs. N. E. La Seur
Rt. 9, Box 905
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May - June, 1969

CALENDAR

- May 13 --- "Go See" Day - County Commission, 9 a.m. - County Court House - Room #203 - Florida State Legislature in between - City Commission, 2:30 p.m. - South entrance of City Hall
- May 15 --- Board Orientation - Dinner Meeting - Skyline Restaurant - 7:00 p.m. - Mrs. David Aronson, our consultant from the state board will meet with us.
- May 18 --- Human Resources Clearing House Women's Club - Silver Tea - 4 to 6 p.m. - 622 North Copeland Street.
- May 28 --- General Membership Meeting - City-County Consolidation - at the home of Mrs. J. Clark Weaver, 1708 Myrick Road - 8 p.m.
- June 4 --- Regular Board Meeting - Home of Mrs. Dorothy Sidwell, 132 N. Copeland St. 8 P.M.
- June 11 -- Review of Florida State Legislative Session - Mrs. Charles Mann, State Legislative Chairman - home of Mrs. N. E. La Seur, Rt. 9, Box 905, Old Bainbridge Road. 8 P.M.
- June 18 -- General Membership Meeting - Human Resources - "The Savannah Plan" - Our guest speaker will be The Reverend George Telford - Westminster Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Adams and West Park Avenue. 8 P.M.

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The annual dinner was held at the Skyline Restaurant, April 10. The five former presidents giving their recollections of their terms in office were Mrs. Walby, first president of the Tallahassee League; Mrs. Pankaskie, fourth president; Mrs. Kromhout, fifth president; Mrs. Mann, sixth president; Mrs. Chapman, seventh, and out-going president

During the business meeting that followed, officers were elected and we voted to continue the same local program - Education and Community Planning.

YOUR NEW BOARD FOR 1969-1970

OFFICE

PORTFOLIO

Mrs. N. E. LaSeur ----- President
Mrs. M. A. Dyckman ----- 1st Vice President --- Voter Ed. & Pub. Rel.

	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PORTFOLIO</u>
Mrs. J. Clark Weaver -----	2nd Vice President -----	Community Planning and Zoning
Mrs. Karl Brooks -----	Secretary	
Mrs. William Watson -----	Treasurer	
Mrs. Robert Palmer -----	2-Year Director -----	Water and Other National Items
Mrs. James Beck -----	2-Year Director -----	State Education
Mrs. Rebecca Hawkins -----	2-Year Director -----	Con Rev and State Taxes Study
Mrs. Herbert Wills -----	-----	Human Resources
Mrs. George DeVore -----	-----	Local Education
Mrs. Dorothy Sidwell -----	-----	Executive Assistant
Mrs. Robert Summerville -----	-----	Publications
Mrs. Lewis Pankaskie -----	-----	Voters Service
Mrs. Anatole Martin -----	-----	Present Finance Drive and Observers Program
Mrs. Edwin Megargee -----	-----	Membership
Mrs. Myron Blee -----	-----	Electoral College

Nominating Committee for 1970 - Mrs. H. R. Partridge
Mrs. Duane Meeter
Mrs. Harold Chapman

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Robert Kromhout and Mrs. Charles Mann, new state board members.

THANK YOU TO OUT-GOING BOARD MEMBERS. We wish to express our gratitude to those board members who have worked so faithfully and are now taking a rest from board duties. Those who have gone off the board this year are:

Mrs. Harold E. Chapman - Thank you, Ruth, for efforts far beyond the call of duty.	
Mrs. H. R. Partridge	Mrs. A. L. Buford
Mrs. Beatrice Olson	Mrs. R. W. Menzel
Mrs. Robert Garvue	Mrs. Duane Meeter
Mrs. Sam Moorer	Mrs. Howard Baker

ANNIVERSARY FUND

Evelyn Martin has reported that we have a total of \$886 pledged and the amount paid is \$686. Some leagues are aiming for 100% membership contribution.

REPORT FROM STATE CONVENTION

The Tallahassee LWV was represented at the 30th Anniversary State Convention in Tampa, March 25-27 by Ruth Chapman, Frances LaSeur, Ora Kromhout, Dorothy Sidwell, Margaret Menzel, and our State Board member, Dorothy Mann. (Ora has accepted a State Board appointment for 1969-70, giving us two members on the board for the first time.) From the opening call to order by outgoing

President, Mrs. Walter R. Churchill, Tuesday afternoon to the adjournment at noon Thursday, it was fascinating, illuminating and sometimes a bit awe-inspiring.

Some of the highlights: (1) The spirited consideration of pros and cons of adopting a single versus several program items, finally resolved (after an entertaining parliamentary battle and heated caucusing) in favor of the three recommended Current Agenda Items (reform and implementation of the new constitution; structure and financing of education; Florida tax structure) and no CR's. (2) The clever "Laugh-in" theme of the Tuesday evening dinner meeting, which featured Florida Senate President John E. Mathews and Minority Leader C. W. "Bill" Young as speakers. (3) The chance to meet our impressive National President, Lucy K. Benson, and to hear her speak at the Wednesday evening banquet about the aims of the 50th Anniversary Finance Drive and her hopes and ideas for a more effective and streamlined League. (Asked how she replied to Leaguers who complain, "I didn't join League to raise money and I'm tired of it," she quipped, "I didn't either but I'm doing it.")

It was heartening to learn that many other local leagues were concerned over the too-heavy program load of the past year--too many study items, too many hasty consensus questions, too little time to orient new members, too much cumbersome procedural machinery for action on matters we have studied thoroughly. Heartening too was the lasting impression that the State Board is composed of busy, human, concerned women like you and me (although formidably well informed on facts and issues) and that the activities of the State League are not beyond influence from concerned local league members. - Margaret Menzel

STATE CONSENSUS

TAX STUDY:

League members agreed that criteria for a good state-local tax structure should be equity and ability to pay; stability of revenue sources, ease of collection and adequacy of revenue.

Based on these criteria, the League of Women Voters of Florida believes that in order to establish a state-local tax structure which would be equitable and provide adequate revenue the following measures should be taken:

1. INCOME TAX: Both a personal and a corporate income tax should be levied.
2. PROPERTY TAX: There should be no increase or extension of homestead exemption. Reevaluation should be made of exemptions granted to charitable, religious, educational, fraternal and civic properties to determine which serve a public purpose. Exemptions on properties owned by such groups should be limited to the extent such subsidies are justified.
3. SALES TAX: There should be no increase in sales tax until the two sources above are utilized sufficiently and equitably to provide a more balanced tax structure.

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION:

The League of Women Voters of Florida believes that the major financial support for education should be provided from state funds. This should include capital outlay.

Each local school district should be allowed to tax itself to supplement the state program.

There should be no ceiling on the amount of millage that district taxpayers can vote to levy.

Real property should continue to be the main source of local revenue for education.

The foundation program funds should also continue to be distributed according to each local school district's ability to pay.

TIME FOR ACTION

Your local board has received a call for action on our National Human Resources Item. Leaguers are urged to write individual letters.

RE: Opposition to abrupt closing of Job Corps Centers

AIMS OF THE TIME FOR ACTION:

- 1) To convince the administration that Jobs Corps centers should not be closed until adequate and expanded facilities are in operation to guarantee continuation of programs to train the hard core unemployed and underemployed. Write now to: The Honorable George P. Shultz, Secretary of Labor, Washington, D. C.
- 2) To urge members of the House and Senate to oppose closing of Job Corps until such time as adequate and expanded facilities are available and functioning. Write now to: your senators and representatives.

To set up replacement facilities in 30 urban centers by July 1 seems unrealistic. Therefore, the League opposes the abrupt closing of Job Corps centers. Continued withdrawal of promised assistance and opportunity cannot help but make the disadvantaged cynical and disillusioned about the depth of commitment the nation has to overcoming poverty and discrimination.

EXCERPTS ON OBSERVERS' PROGRAM

Six government boards were regularly observed by a total of 19 members, during the last year. These were: School Board, County Commission, Planning Board, Community Action Program Board, City Commission, State Cabinet. Annelle Sterk has been coordinator of the entire program.

Capsule reports have been presented, by observers, at membership meetings and information has been shared with related LWV committees. Annual reports,

submitted by each chairman in the observers' program, are on file. Excerpts are included here:

SCHOOL BOARD: Agendas used and followed, presentations, and discussions are factual. Meetings sometimes late starting, coffee breaks sometimes too long, there is often wrangling between board and superintendent. Expert advice sought and recommendations listened to, but influence of public opinion and community attitudes appears to weigh heavily in decisions, as does influence of special interests and personal prejudices. At times procrastination is used to avoid unpleasant decisions, but this has improved somewhat. Master plans, long range plans, in greater use than in past. No annual reports given to public, too much reliance placed on civic organizations to get important issues to public. A good public relations person would be a good investment.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION: City-county board, advisors only. Commission trying to do a good job and sometimes its advice is not taken. Speakers are given enough time to present their arguments, expert advice is always sought, master plan is always considered. Office has been most helpful and agendas always sent to LWV prior to meetings.

COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD: CAP does not hold regularly scheduled meetings, and in 1968, when meetings were held, a quorum was never present. Information to the public is almost non-existent. CAP needs public support, newspaper cooperation and interested board members.

CITY COMMISSION: More study and use of expert advice is needed, influence of special interests, public opinion and community attitudes is noticeable. Better planning and reporting is needed. Agendas and data sheets not always available to those attending. Very good news coverage, usually.

STATE CABINET: Meetings efficient, members well briefed, persons making presentations well prepared. Meetings simply formalize action already determined in hearings and committee meetings, so very little controversy and little evidence of influence of special interests or prejudices. Agendas available, but each must be obtained from commission or division responsible, no central source.

COUNTY COMMISSION: Zoning procedures of the County Commission do seem to favor the homeowners who are the most noticeable observers at meetings. In many cases their objections to undesirable rezoning applications are mollified with token changes and the homeowners, warmed down, return to their neighborhoods with a sense of having been wronged, but without enough motivation to make a permanent fight. Many feel that promises made to them by real estate salesmen have been betrayed. They never seem able to form a strong, solid front with other neighborhood groups.

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 1969-70 MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Make out your check for \$7.50 right now, fill in this form:

Name _____

Address _____

I should like to work on the following:

Committees: Bulletin ("Voter") _____
Membership _____
Finance _____
Voters Service _____
Telephoning _____
Typing _____

Program Items:

Electoral College _____
Human Resources _____
Foreign Policy _____
Water Resources _____
Florida Tax _____
Structure _____
Florida Con- _____
stitution _____
State Education _____
Local Education _____
County Planning _____
and Zoning _____

or, I should prefer to remain inactive _____

Mail to: Mrs. William Watson
Treasurer
2528 Mission Road
Tallahassee, Florida, 32304

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
P. O. BOX 2624
TALLHASSEE, FLORIDA 32304



Grandma Moses

6c U.S.

Mrs. Robert Palmer
1733 Sunset Lane
Tallahassee, Fla. 32303