

Inventory of the

DeKalb League of Women Voters
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 118

INTRODUCTION

Elizabeth Bass, President, donated the DeKalb League of Women Voters Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on December 8, 1980. Addenda were added at later dates.

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Linear Feet of Shelf Space: 10.5
Number of Containers: 20
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 118

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The DeKalb League of Women Voters, organized soon after the formation of the national League, educated the first women voters of DeKalb County on the mechanics and policies of government. These records document the League's efforts towards securing legislation of special interest to women, wiping out legal discrimination against women, and educating the general public on city, county, state, and national politics. Information is available on the League's work to save the DeKalb city park in the 1930's, its support of the city manager form of government and the Unit District for DeKalb Schools, and its efforts at the Illinois Constitutional Convention. In addition, the collection contains an evaluation of the DeKalb County Jail (1976) and a criminal justice study manual (1975) used in a League class.

Researchers should note that very little of the core materials-minutes, annual reports, and newsletters-predates 1936. Nevertheless, a history of the organization, located in Box 1, Folder 1 fills in some of the missing information. The minutes (1936-1978) describe the League's monthly meetings and detail lectures heard by the group. Descriptions of club activities, government policies of interest to the League, local campaigns and projects to educate the public on politics, and national League programs are available in the newsletters (1918-1972). The radio skits aired on WLBK also describe the political concerns of the League (1948-1965).

Related collections held by the Regional History Center include the Business and Professional Women's Club collections and politicians papers. Some of the local government records may further detail the government policies studied by the League. The Regional History Center Guide index, under the subject tracings listed in this inventory, will help the researcher specifically locate related materials.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb League of Women Voters officially organized on June 30, 1921 as a county-wide group, just sixteen months after the national League formed. Mrs. Hattie Morton Keene served as the first president. Four policies comprise the group's purpose: (1) to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, (2) to work for the adoption of legislation which will increase the efficiency of our government, (3) to educate the public politically by dispensing information on matters of voting, and (4) to publish facts about candidates while supporting none. The club often worked with other local women's organizations to fulfill these goals.

The League worked on its first project with the DeKalb Women's Club; the groups held a mass meeting on the question of disarmament. The first money-raising event consisted of an entertainment evening held in June 1922, where members presented a one-act play, music, and readings. Other methods of fund-raising used later included bake sales, doughnut sales, rummage sales, white elephant sales, and cooking schools. In October 1924, the first "Get Out the Vote" campaign got underway. Some other firsts were a monthly newsletter, later to become The DeKalb Voter in 1945, the distribution of Know Your Town in 1955, and a booth at the DeKalb County Fair to disseminate voters information in 1968.

Throughout its history, the League politically involved itself in a number of worthy causes. During the 1930's members studied the merit system and civil service, equitable taxation, the city manager form of government, child labor, the need for a Pure Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act, an eight hour working day for women, and juvenile delinquency. Locally, they helped save the city park and initiated a move to create a Park District in 1935. In 1955 the League supported a referendum changing DeKalb Schools to a Unit District. And in 1968, the group brined the county citizens committee for a Constitutional Convention. The League continued to be politically active until June 30, 2005 when the group disbanded due to declining participation.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb, Politics
 DeKalb League of Women Voters
 Elections
 League of Women Voters
 Politics
 Prisons
 Women's Organization

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Historical Information, State and Local	
	2	Informational Pamphlets on DeKalb League, n.d.	
	3	By-Laws, 1951-1975	
	4	Minutes, Study Group, 1936-1943	
	5	Minutes, Study and Evening Groups, 1943-1948	
	6-15	Minutes, 1944-1955, 1957-1978	
	16-24	Annual Reports to Illinois L.W.V., 1929-1930, 1960-1969	
	25	Annual Reports to Members, 1961-1979	
	26	Correspondence, 1924-1973	
	27	Treasurer's Reports, 1966-1981	
	28	Month By Month Newsletter, 1948-1952	
	29-30	The DeKalb Voter, Newsletter, (1956-1964)	
	2	1-4	The DeKalb Voter, Newsletter, 1965-May 1972
		5	Membership Lists, 1942-1975
6		Membership Interest Inventories, 1973-1974	
7-8		Yearbooks, (1926-1981)	
9		Annual Program Proposals, 1970-1974	
10		Proposal to Change Back to a County League, 1970-1972	
11		Early Radio Skits on WLBK, (1948-1965)	
12		Grace Nix Scholarship, 1943, 1951	
13		Know Your Town, Manuscript, 1939, 1972-1973	
14		Know Your County Information, (1966-1976)	
15		Park Board Referendum, 1961	
16		School District Referendum, 1963	
17		DeKalb's New City Hall, 1964-1966	
18		City Manager Form of Government, 1964, 1969	
19		City Manager Referendum, 1979	
20		Illinois Constitution Revisions, 1967	
21		Evaluation of the DeKalb County Jail, 1976	
22		Questionnaire, City-School Survey, n.d.	
23		Program Suggestions to the National League, 1948-1950	
24		League Information on DeKalb Laws and Voter Registration, n.d.	
25		Voter Information Service Pamphlets, 1966, 1969	
26		Publications 1955-1972: <u>DeKalb: The Community and Its Government</u> , June 1955; <u>Your Vote in DeKalb</u> , 1966; <u>This is Your Town</u> , November 1967; <u>Registration Procedures and Election Procedures in the Polling Place</u> , April 1972	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
2	27	Certificate, 1975	
	28	Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1981	
	29	Photographs (28), 1937-1976	
	30	State and National League Information, 1939-1979	
	31	National League's 50th Anniversary Campaign, 1968-1973	
	32	Criminal Justice Study Manual, 1975	
	33	Scrapbook, 1938-1941	
3	5 volumes	Scrapbooks, (1941-1968)	
	<u>TAPE</u>		
4	1	Special Broadcast in Observance of United Nations Day: Mrs. Edwards Boyne, Overseas Education Fund of the L.W.V. interviewing Paul C. Hoffman, Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund, n.d.	
	2	"New Perspectives: The United Nations": Discussion with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Representative to the United Nations and Andrew Cortier, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General of the U.N., n.d.	
	1 (a,b)	Lecture by Dr. James Shirley, Professor of History at N.I.U. on United States-Chinese Relations, June 18, 1966	
4	2	"New Perspectives: International Communications": Discussion with George V. Allen, Director of the United States Information Agency, Dr. Vernon McKay, Professor of African Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University, and Mr. Robert O. Mensah, Press Attache of the Embassy of Ghana, December 23, 1958	
	3	"New Perspectives: The Impact of Science on Foreign Policy": Discussion with Dr. Charles Malik, President -U.N. General Assembly Dr. Henry Kissinger , Author Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy Dr. Hugh Odishaw, Director-U.S. Committee for the International Geo-physical Year, and Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, Director-Institute for Advanced Study, February 24, 1959	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
4	4	“New Perspectives: The Communist World and Ours”: Discussion with Lawrence Weiler, Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Disarmament and Atomic Energy Matters, Frederick Kuh, Chicago Sun Times Benjamin V. Cohen, US Representative in disarmament discussions at the U.N., April 20, 1959	
	5	League of Women Voters Radio Show, WLBK, DeKalb: Mrs. Dale Weeks, Mrs. Donald (Sevetson?), Dr. Maude Uhland, and Mrs. John Lloyd discussing continued support of the U.N. system and an evaluation of mean to strengthen it under present day conditions, (1962)	
	6	Explanation of the DeKalb Juvenile Protection Program	
	7, 8	“DeKalb County Jail,” 1977 (2 cassettes)	

ADDENDUM

	1 vol.	Scrapbook, 50 th Anniversary including the 70 th and 75 th Anniversary Celebrations, 1920-1970, 1990, 1995	
5	1	Aids to President, 1947-1964	
	2	50 th Anniversary, LWV DeKalb, 1970	
	3	Annual Reports to League, (1969/1970-1977)	
	4	Annual Reports to Members, (1980-1998)	
	5	City Council/School Board, March 1996	
	6	City Manager Referendum, 1969, 1979	
	7	Constitutional Convention, 1959-1971	
	8	Correspondence, 1967-1970	
	9	Fifty Years at the Grassroots: A History of the League of Women Voters of DeKalb, IL, 1970	
	10	“Freedom to Be: Women Celebrate the 200 th Year of the Constitution,” Fall 1987	
	11	History-50 Year History, 1962-1980	
	12	History-LWV Local, 1977-1987 (Skits)	
	13	History-LWV Illinois/DeKalb, 1925, 1964-1996	
	14	Public Relations, 1956	
	15	Publications, 1961-1982: <u>This is Your Town</u> , September 1961; February 1973; <u>Know Your Community, Sycamore, IL</u> , April 1972; <u>Know Your Town</u> , 1982	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
5	16	Recycling, 1989-1990
	17	Yearbooks, (1981-1997)
6	1	Financial and Membership Ledger, 1928-1946
	2	Press Releases including League's Recycling Project, 1989-1990
Oversize Drawer 12, Folder 1		DeKalb, Street Map, 1956

ADDENDUM

7	1	History, 19769, 1985
	2	League Handbook, n.d.
	3-4	Membership Booklets, 1975-2002
	5	Know Your County, (1966-1982)
	6	"Where We Stand" State Program, (1983-2001)
	7	Meeting Minutes, October-November 1979, 2001-2003
	8	Meeting Notes, 2001
	9	June Luncheon, 1967
	10	"Freedom to Be" Constitution Bicentennial
	11	Annual Meeting, 1979-2002
	12	State of the Community Dinners, (1987-1998)
	13	Spring Luncheon, 1987
8		Anniversary:
	1	50 th , 1970
	2	60 th , 1980
	3	70 th , 1990
	4	75 th , 1995
	5	80 th , 2001
		Voter Registration Drives:
	6	DeKalb High School, 1976
	7	Northern Illinois University, 1971-1972, 1976
	8	Sycamore High School, 1976
	9	University of Illinois, 1971
	10	Voter Registration Drive, 1993
		Community Events:
	11	Back to School Health Fair, 1995-2001
	12	Back to School Health Fair Evaluations, 1998
	13	Candidate Night, 1976-1996
	14	Candidate Night Letters, 1976

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
8	15	Candidate Response to League of Women Voters' Questionnaire, 1975-1983
	16	Community Action Fair, 2001
	17	Community Recycling, 1989-1996
	18	Environmental Fair, 1993
	19	League Lyrics for Virgil, n.d.
	20	Party Poopers Skit, 1970
	21	Poem for Betsy McBride, June 1982
	22	State Convention Roast Lyrics, Mary 1983
	23	Newspapers, 1970-1999
	9	1
2		Bylaws, 1998
3		Policy, 1992-2001
4		Board Handbook, 1988, 2001
5		Guidelines for Board Members, 1980-1988
6		President's Handbook, 2000-2004
7		Application for Project Proposal, 1995
		Memberships:
8		Sample Forms, 1999
9		Paid Dues, 1990-1997
10		"Membership Management: Getting a Handle on the Job", n.d.
11		Membership Information Change Form, 1996-1999
12		Interest Surveys, 1999-2000
13		Rosters, 1994-2000
14		Recruitment Strategies, 1998
15		Recruitment Poster, n.d.
16		Online Membership Database User Guide, 2004-2005
17	Per-Member-Payment Information, 1995-2004	
10	1	Disbandment, 2003-2006
	2	Awards, 1983-1997
	3	Letters, 1964-2004
	4	List of Memberships, Coalitions, and Partnerships, 2002-2003
	5	Scholarship, 2002
	6	Website, 2002
		Finances:
	7	Checking Account Statements, June 1994-July 2004
	8	Check Registers, 1994-1996
	9	Dental Fund, 1999-2003
10	Health Care Finances, 1995	
	Education Fund:	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
10	11	Campaign for the Future, 2005
	12	Fund History, 1983
	13	Finances, 1989-2004
	14	Proposal and Guidelines, 1995-2002
	15	Financial Statements, 1998-2006
11	1	Saving Account, September 1994- October 2001
	2	Guidelines for Treasurer, 1997, n.d.
	3	Treasurer's Report, 1996-1997
	4	Treasurer Due Records, 1995-1996
	5	Treasurer Bonds, 1995- 2001
	6	Income Vouchers, 2003-2004
	7	Expense Vouchers, 2003-2004
	8	Signature Cards and Resolution Signatures, 1999
	9	Illinois Department of Revenue Tax Exemption Letter, 1996
		Financial Records 1997-1998:
	10	Budget
	11	Cancelled Checks and Register
	12	Checking Account
	13	Education Fund Finances
	14	Financial Statements
	15	General Ledger
	16	Income Voucher
	17	Expense Voucher
	18	Membership Dues
	19	Savings Account
		Financial Records 1996-1997:
	20	Checking Account
	21	Checks
	22	Deposit Slips
	23	Education Fund
	24	Expense Voucher
25	Income Voucher	
26	Financial Statements	
12	1	General Ledger
	2	Register
	3	Savings Account
	4	Interests and Concerns: Agriculture and Food Policy in and Independent World, 1991

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	9
12	5	Comprehensive Master Plan for Parks and Recreation, 1992-1997	
	6	County Home Referendum, 1991-1996	
	7	DeKalb County Forest Preserve, 1996	
	8	DeKalb Public Schools, 1986-1993	
	9	Economic Growth, 1994-1996	
	10	Hopkins Park Improvement Association	
	11	League of Women Voters' Park, 1995-1996	
	12	Prison Reform, 1982	
	13	Safe Drinking Water, 1987	
	14-15	Waste Management, 1987-July 1996	
		2002-2003 Programs and Concerns:	
	16	District 428 Candidate Information, 2003	
	17	District 428 Building Tax Referendum, 2002	
	18	Household Hazards Waste Collection Day, 2002	
	19	Illinois Student Vote, 2002	
	20	Navigating Election Day Donations, 2002	
	21	Planning Calenders, 2002-2003	
	22	Pollwatching, 2002	
	23	Proposed Tax Legislation, 2001	
	24	Toll Rate Increase, 2002	
	25	Updates, 2002	
		Local Continuing Responsibilities:	
	26	Mental Health System, 1995	
	27	Juvenile Justice, 1995	
13	1	Open Meeting Act, 1996	
	2	Welfare Reform. 1995	
	3	Home Rule, n.d.	
	4	Voter Services, 1994-1995	
	5	Voter Registration Act, 1995-1996	
	6	Proposed Judicial System, n.d.	
	7	DeKalb Park District, 1993	
	8	Coalition for Education Rights, n.d.	
	9	Child Care Professional Development Resource Handbook, July-December 2005	
	10	Illinois Kids Count, n.d.	
	11	Health Fair and State of the Community Ledger, 1996	
	12	Population Coalition, 1997-1999	
	13	Voices for Illinois Children, 1998-1999	
	14	Township Abolishment, 1981-2001	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	10
		Impact Fees:	
13	15	Newspapers, 1995-1998	
	16	Hypersprawl, 1998	
	17-18	Development Impact Fees, 1997	
	19	Correspondences Out, October 1995-May 1997	
	20	Community Directory, 1994	
	21	Fiscal Impacts of Development Within the City of DeKalb, 1997	
	22	Definitions, 1995-1996	
	23	Tax Increment Financing, 1996	
	24	Meeting Notes, n.d.	
	25	Impact Fee Notes, 1995-1996	
	16	Consensus Questions, 1997	
14	1	Barrington Area Development Impact Fees, 1995	
	2	Information to City Clerk on Impact Fees, 1994-1998	
	3	Impact Fee Survey, n.d.	
	4	Development in DeKalb County, 1995-1997	
	5	Development Trends and Their Fiscal Impacts in DeKalb, Illinois, February 1995	
	6	Alternatives, n.d.	
	7	Sycamore Education Fee Ordinance, 1992-1996	
	8	Letter to the Editor, 1998	
	9	Presentation and Discussion, 1995-1997	
	10	Public Hearing, 1997	
	11	Illinois Municipal Directory, 1993-1994	
		League Publications:	
	12-13	The DeKalb County Voter Newsletter, May-June 1981, March 2001-March 2003	
	14	Rockford Voter, League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Newsletters, (September 2001-December 2005)	
	15	Hub Lights: Rochelle League of Women Voters Bulletin, (September 2001- January 2003)	
	16	Freeport Voters Newsletter, Summer 1997	
	17	Jo Daviess Voter Newsletter, June-July 1997	
	18	Civic Action Training Materials, 2001	
15	1	Illinois Voter Newsletter, (Winter 1999-Fall 2005)	
	2	The Nation Voter Newsletter, Winter 1997	
	3	<u>NationalVoter Magazine</u> , (December 1991-October 2005)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	11
15	4	Choosing the President: A Citizen's Guide to the 2000 Election, 2000	
	5	Impact on Issues, 2000-2002	
	6	It Makes a Difference, n.d.	
	7	A Leader's Handbook for Holding Community Dialogues, 2000	
	8	Publication Catalogue, 2002	
	9	Vision and Strategies for the Year 2000, 1995	
	10	2003 Calender, 2003	
		Other Publications:	
	11	Charter Schools Study Packet #1, April 2000	
	12	Charter Schools Study Packet #2, July 2000	
	13	Growing Together Issue Two: Impact on the Local Economy, 1997	
	14	Rebuilding Our Schools, November 1999	
		Government and Voting:	
	15	City Manager Government Referendum, 1962, 1979	
	16	Petition to Retain Managerial Form of Government, 1979	
	17	Moderators, 2002	
	18	The Project Democracy Workbook, 1995	
	19	Understanding the Illinois Constitution, 1986	
	20	Voting Trends and Patterns	
16	1	Constitutional Convention, 1968-1970	
	2	County Board Candidate Information, 2002	
	3	Government Policies, 1985	
	4	Illinois Constitution Annotated for Legislators, 1970	
	5	Illinois Elections, n.d.	
	6	Illinois Student Vote, 2002	
	7	Legislative Interviews, 2001	
	8	Legislative Seminars, 1997	
	9	Lobbying Resources, n.d.	
	10	DeKalb Area Women's Center, May-June 1997	
	11	Letterhead and Labels, n.d.	
	12	Patriotic Activity Books, n.d.	
	13	Partnership Programs, 1996-1997	
	14	Redistricting Testimony, 2001	
	15	Positive Promotions Catalogue, 2005-2006	
	16	Quilt Explanation, n.d.	
	17	Regional History Center Collection, 2004-2005	
	18	Resource Catalogue, 1997	
	19	Senior Needs Task Force, 1996-1997	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
16	20	United Nations Concurrence Kit, 2002
	21	Illinois League of Women Voters, 1998
	22	United States League of Women Voters, 2002
	23	Oral History Project, 2001
18		Oral History Project Interview Audio Cassettes:
	1	Ellen Barker, July 7, 2002
	2	Eva Marie Leonard, June 13, 2002
	3	Fern Wernick, August 3, 2002
	4	Janet Haugland, August 2, 2002
	5	Marie McDowell, July 1, 2002
	6	Mary Roman, July 1, 2002
	7	Maureen Russell, June 7, 2002
	8	History Meeting Audio Cassette, January 11, 2001
		VHS Tapes:
	9	Education Reform Panel Discussion, September 10, 1985
	10	Leadership Development Teleconference II, October 13, 1990
	11	Membership Development: Flexible Strategies, 1992
	12	Take Back the System, 1992
	13	Seventy Five Years of a Good Idea, 1994
	14	Education Fund History and Current Events, 1995
		Artifacts:
		Gavel
		Stamp
		Bus Tokens
Oversize Drawer 23, Folder 1		Community Action Fair Signs, 2001 (2) Felt Banner, n.d. (2)

ADDENDUM

16	24	Board Meeting Minutes, 1983-1985
	25	Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes, 2001-2004
	26	Annual Meeting, 1984-1991, 2001
17	1	Budget and Financial Reports, 2001-2005
	2	President's Records: Legislative Activities (1977-1989); "Where we Stand," 2004
	3	President's Records, 1988-2003
	4	President's Handbook, 2003

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	13
17	5	Member Lists	
	6	The DeKalb County Voter, 1978-1980	
18		VHS: 1 st Annual DeKalb Forum on School Funding (nd) Artifact: DLWV Stamp	
19	1-5	The DeKalb County Voter, 1980-2003	
20	1	The DeKalb County Voter advertisements, (1999-2003)	
	2	Newsletters, 2001-2003	
	3	"Freedom to Be," Bicentennial of the Constitution, 1987	
	4	"This is Your Town," Local Government Handbook, (1971-1982)	
	5	DeKalb & Sycamore Histories, 2001-2003	
	6-7	News Clippings (DeKalb City Government Pay Hike), 1980	
	8	Illinois State Board Report, 2003	
	9	DeKalb Public Library, 1975	