

THE LEAGUE IN THE 1940s

World War II brought many changes to Colorado that dominated and influenced League activities in the early part of the decade of the 1940s. National president Marguerite M. Wells directed that state Leagues support efforts designed to keep the conflict away from this country by providing aid to the Allies in Europe. Her letters to state League presidents acknowledged the risks of war, but urged “that the League should concentrate its efforts on an immediate campaign to arouse public demand for an all-out effort to Win the Battle of Production.”¹⁶ Wells suggested that local Leagues adopt a mission of education to turn public opinion toward understanding the role of the United States in what was happening in Europe.

The League's background for this campaign was rooted in the Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1925.¹⁷ Although the interest and efforts of the League had been toward world peace, the organization had marshaled its support of the repeal of the Neutrality Act that cleared the way for winning the war. In a letter to state League presidents, Wells outlined a plan approved at a national Council and titled “*Wartime Service for Carrying Information on Government to the Public.*”¹⁸

The War's impact on Colorado brought increased population in areas around the numerous military bases and the Denver Arms plant, which was built in southwest Denver in 1941 to manufacture ammunition. The wartime economy changed Colorado, especially Denver, with increased business opportunities, employment, and tourism.

Colorado's Governor Ralph Carr vehemently opposed the internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry when the Amache relocation camp was established near Granada. He did what he could to make life more bearable for the internees who had been moved from their homes on the West Coast in August 1942. However, many years were to pass before Governor Carr was recognized for his humanitarianism.¹⁹

In July 1943, the national board reported that the League would continue to oppose the Equal Rights Amendment because it was believed that it would create confusion and uncertainty. There was a question of the difference between rights and duties that might result in litigation, as well as uncertainty about existing protective legislation. The Colorado League apparently took no action.

Delegates to the national League convention in 1946 reported passage of a floor resolution that “*no League convention be held in a city in which the hotels discriminate against delegates because of color.*” In 1947, national president Anna Lord Strauss wrote to League presidents urging them to lobby for a bill in Congress that would “declare a national policy against discrimination based upon sex, and to create a Commission on the Status of Women.” The national board reported broad bipartisan support by members of Congress, and that it would carry out the spirit of the United Nations Charter provisions on human rights.

Jury service for women in Colorado had been on the League's Agenda for more than a decade, but had failed to pass in the General Assembly. Bertha Perry, president of the Woman Citizens League of Colorado in 1934 and a practicing attorney, had drafted the legislation that was introduced in the Senate by Denver League member Senator Eudochia Bell Smith in 1937. The issue was brought up during several sessions, but not approved by popular vote until the election in 1944. Newspaper publicity at that time identified the League members as successful opinion-makers.²⁰

¹⁶ Marguerite M. Wells, **Leadership in a Democracy**, pp. 33-34.

¹⁷ Robert Booth Fowler, **Carrie Catt Feminist Politician**, p. 33.

¹⁸ Wells, *op.cit.*, p. 51 ff.

¹⁹ Carl Ubbelohde, **A Colorado History**, p. 317.

²⁰ Robert L. Perkin, “*Jury Service Favored by Denver Women Leaders,*” **Rocky Mountain News**, January 5, 1941.

Convention 1940.

For the Colorado League, this decade began with the untimely death of state president Mary Warfield Ruffner. She had been president of the Denver League and on the State Board. Mrs. Lawton, Edith Cherrington, and Gladys Wiggin presented this expression of appreciation of her at the state convention on May 21, 1940:

With her rare insight into human needs and social problems, her keen and intelligent grasp of those problems and her gift for interesting and working with persons of varied points of view, Mary gave to the League a leadership that was unique. Coupled with these qualities of leadership, was a capacity for hard work and a sustained devotion to the causes to which she had committed herself. It is not possible to express adequately our sense of deep gratitude for all that Mary gave to the League. We think of Mary not merely as a gifted leader of an organization but as a radiant personality and a social force that will live on through the years.

The 1940 state convention was convened by Acting President Edith Fidler at the Albany Hotel in Denver. There were 3 delegates from Boulder, 9 from Colorado Springs, and 21 from Denver—each of whom paid the registration fee of 10 cents. Delegates included: Opal Houseman, Mrs. Richard Murphy, Alice Van Diest, Florence Harper, Elisa Palladino, Mildred Biddick, Edith Fidler, Edith Cherrington, Mrs. Lawton, Helen Cool, Esther Briesemeister, Bertha Perry, Beulah Fisher, Gladys Wiggin, and others.

The League's financial status had improved. The treasurer reported income of \$735.68, expenditures of \$832.43, and a balance on hand of \$31.15 – the beginning balance was not reported. The delegates adopted a budget of \$1,125 for the year 1940-41, to be financed by these local League quotas: Denver, \$175; Boulder, \$30; Colorado Springs, \$50. The pledge to NLWV was \$175.. Edith Fidler was elected president, with board members Helen Cool, Mildred Biddick, Alice Van Diest, and Opal Houseman.

A three-part program was adopted:

- I. **Program for Emphasis:** Merit system for Colorado, sound public finance system, low-cost housing, state aid for education.
- II. **Continuing Responsibilities:** Relief (welfare), income tax to replace property tax, consumer protection, state library, improved adoption laws, old age pensions, fair minimum wage for women.
- III. **Studies:** Constitutional convention, public adult education, guarantees of the right to bargain collectively.

Increased membership with active participation and more enlightened public opinion were highlights in the reports of the local League presidents: Mrs. Richard Murphy of Boulder, Alice Van Diest of Colorado Springs, and Florence Harper of Denver. Over 9,000 copies of the **Analysis of Proposed Amendments to the State Constitution** were published by the League and sold preceding the 1940 election. League members formed a speakers bureau to explain the ballot issues to citizens in many groups.

League finally gets “its name.”

On October 28, 1940, the name of the Woman Citizens League of Colorado was legally changed to the Colorado State League of Women Voters, Affiliated with the National League of Women Voters. The group that had incorporated as the League of Women Voters in 1920 had ceased to exist. A certificate of incorporation was issued on that date by the secretary of state and filed on November 6, 1940, in the office

of the Clerk and Recorder. It was signed by Edith Fidler, Helen Cool, Elisa Palladino, Elizabeth Bales, Edith Cherrington, and Harriet Lawton.

Mrs. W. Lewis Abbott, president, and Mrs. Lloyd Fenno, secretary, signed a Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation on May 17, 1947, that state the corporate name as LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO. On July 17, 1968, the secretary of state issued another Certificate of Amendment to change the name to LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO. A renewal certification of incorporation was issued by the secretary of state on October 5, 1979.

First Convention of the Colorado State League of Women Voters.

The first convention with the new name was held on May 17, 1941, at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. President Edith Fidler convened the session with a total of 105 paid registrations. The Credentials Committee reported these delegates: Denver – 28; Boulder – 16; Colorado Springs – 22. Mrs. Paul Eliel, NLWYV Secretary, and 32 visitors were present.

Delegates: Mrs. William Baynard, Margery Bedinger, Elizabeth Blanc, Mabel Costigan, Dorothy Culver, Sue Frances Dougan, Mrs. Paul Gottrick, Clara Hockstedler, Mrs. Adolph Kinsmiller, Myrna Langley, Anna McClintock, Mina Murchison, Theodosia Raines, Dr. Marian Rymer, Ruth Stuchfield, May Wood Wigginton, Vivienne Worley, Clara Avery, Dorothy Croasdale, Rose Dewey, Dr. Esther Goldstein, Sara Lou Harrison, Margaret James, Lulu King, Letitia Lamb, Mary Edith Morris, Elizabeth Pettus, Vena Russel, Helen Abbott, Mrs. Larson, Helen Cool, Alice Van Diest, Mrs. Shepherd, Edith Cherrington, Bertha Perry, Mrs. Baker, Florence Harper, Miss Thompson, Grace Shaw, and Mrs. Lawton.

Mrs. Eliel reported that every state had been represented at National Council where the delegates committed the League to campaign to educate public opinion toward support for the “Battle of Production” which had been added to the national program. She suggested that the budget should include provision for the expenses of a delegate to national convention. In previous years, Colorado delegates had attended national meetings (held in Washington, DC) only if they had already planned to be in the East, and they had paid their own expenses.

Identification with the National League of Women Voters, through the change of name, was credited with the increase in membership by 56 during the year. The Colorado Springs League more than doubled its membership. Boulder and Denver increased their numbers. The financial report showed total receipts of \$1,172.24 and expenditures of \$1,133.18. All local Leagues met their quotas. \$111.50 in non-member contributions was raised by Denver, and members at the convention gave an additional \$151.75. The Boulder League sponsored a tea with Mrs. Costigan as speaker and used the proceeds to pay its obligation.

According to the president, the state League office at the YWCA was running smoothly with the help of Mrs. McMillan, a part-time secretary who had “arranged the materials so neatly that we are now able to open the cupboard door in the office without a blush!” The policy of planning ahead had resulted in increased membership and participation, as well as better plans and greater confidence in the League. A workshop was conducted by a national board member where members “learned to think of our state program in terms of work instead of a list of noble aims.”

League Convention in 1942.

When the League met in Boulder for the 1942 state convention, Mrs. Fidler reported that the year had been one of “expansion in spite of the many uncertainties and the entrance of our country into war.” Boulder and Denver Leagues had distributed 9,000 flyers on the Battle of Production, but Colorado Springs did not participate. Flyers were included in the bulletins of the Chamber of Commerce and the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, business invoices, and grocery bags. They were handed out at political rallies

and given to people on the street. The League sold 242 copies of the pamphlet. All mail going out of the state office was stamped WIN THE BATTLE OF PRODUCTION.

Publicity in newspapers and on radio was excellent. League members spoke to 12 groups. The state board prepared and distributed 1,500 copies of flyer titled, "*Ballots Count as Well as Bullets.*" Governor Ralph Carr's address at a Denver League meeting on the subject of the Japanese evacuation from the West Coast to Colorado was described as an "event." League membership had a net increase of 83, and all quotas were paid. The CSLWV purchased many national League publications for resale and published "*The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Democracy*," "*Know Your State School System*," "*Problems Affecting Juveniles in Colorado*," "*Ballots Count as well as Bullets*," and "*Colorado Woman Voter*."

National flyers regarding wartime service were distributed by local Leagues. The Colorado League also responded to NLWV's request for action on federal legislation concerned with civil service employment, programs of the National Youth Administration, Farm Security Administration projects, the Equal Rights Amendment, repeal of the Neutrality Act, and changes in the Reciprocal Trade Agreements program.

Convention 1943.

The president's report given by Edith Fidler at the 1943 convention of the Colorado State League of Women Voters was long and detailed, as she had been president for more than four years. She stated that the weaknesses of the League were in Finance and Legislative action, saying:

In spite of success wherever it has been attempted, Colorado members react like timid mice whenever the subject of finance is broached. . . I simply cannot understand why so many Leaguers shake in their boots at the mere mention of finance. As one who has participated in League campaigns, I can say . . . finance is fun . . . In spite of the fact that in the four years just past, we have increased our National quota from \$150 to \$350 . . . I still must report that finance is our number one weakness.

In calling legislative action the number two weakness of the Colorado League, Fidler expressed the need for "about ten members who can attend the sessions and act as observers." She went on to say that lobbying was frequently disillusioning, but always interesting. It is apparent that the work of lobbying had been handled single-handed by the state president. At this convention, Margaret Christenson, Bertha Perry, and Elisa Palladino were appointed to assist the president in the job of lobbying. This committee was to analyze the bills, and the **Legislative Bulletin** was to be sent to all legislators and all League members.

The War did not distract the interest of League members from the issues of state government. Mrs. G. Durwood Baker, Alice Van Diest, and Mrs. Alexander Campbell presented the proposed program for 1943–44: *Jury service for women, Public protection of children, Public education needs for Colorado, Improved civil service, and Laws affecting labor-management relations.* A budget of \$1,235 was adopted. Helen Abbot was elected state president.

Convention delegates mentioned in the Minutes included: Mmes. Ben Cherrington, H.K. Runnette, Lewis Abbott, Edward Davison, Robert Woolbert, T. Gerowe Simmons, Lon Fidler, Platt Lawton, H.C. McNaught, Farrington Carpenter, Harl Douglass, Edward Costigan, Verne Marple, Elisa Palladino, Florence Harper, and Hazel Soderhaimer.

In July of 1943, state president Helen Abbott moved the League office to her home in Colorado Springs because she "found it impossible to work in the office which was shared with the local League, and her home responsibilities required that she be home by noon." League activities included a trip to Lamar to "see about starting a League there," and two trips to Pueblo to investigate whether that League could be reactivated. Mrs. Abbott's interest was in written leadership material, which prompted her to write a handbook for local

League presidents. At that time, Mabel Costigan was asked to write a history of the League in Colorado, but no such history has been found.

Convention 1944.

State convention of 1944 met at the YWCA in Colorado Springs on May 20. The fee for registration had been raised to 25 cents, and the **Colorado Woman Voter** provided train and bus schedules for the delegates.

Delegates: Mmes. E.W. Gunckle, Gordon Parker, William S. Roe, Max Loring, W.L. Abbott, James Donahue, Wayne Beattie, Lester Griswold, Lon T. Fidler, H.K. Runnette, H.A. Palladino, Farrington Carpenter, Lesley Fishman, Milton Green, Earl Crockett, Alexander Campbell, Howard Moore, and Carrol B. Malone; Misses Ethel Torrance, Olive Braughton, Helen Gauss, and Alice Van Diest; and Dr. Isabel Masten.

State Board: Mrs. Lewis Abbott, Edith Fidler, Olive Braughton, Mrs. Earl Crockett, Mrs. Carrol B. Malone, and Mrs. Alexander Campbell.

A budget of \$1,245 was approved, but later amended to raise it to \$1,395, including a national pledge of \$350. State program was adopted to include: jury service for women, public protection of children, public education needs for Colorado, and improved civil service. Membership in the local Leagues was reported: Boulder – 67; Colorado Springs – 248; and Denver – 210. There were no other active local Leagues, but a request had been received for information on reorganizing the League in Greeley.

Jury service for Colorado women.

After many years of League study and support, jury service for women in Colorado was finally approved in the November 1944 election. Previous legislation had been drafted by Bertha Perry and introduced in the General Assembly by Senator Eudochia Bell Smith—both were members of the Denver League.

With Edith Fidler in charge of lobbying for the measure, League members saw the bill through committee hearings, passed in both houses, signed by Governor Vivian, and referred to a vote of the people. It was approved and became Section 23 of Article IT of the Colorado Constitution. It did not take effect until September 1945, and the League's priority became to provide informational material to educate women for the jury service they had won.

Convention 1946.

The state convention of 1946 was held in Boulder. The registration fee was still 25 cents, but the charge for the luncheon had gone up to 75 cents. Local League presidents reported their quotas and the number of members:

Boulder, Emada Griswold – \$150 – 89 members
Colorado Springs, Mrs. Tor Hylbom – \$400 183 members
Denver, Mrs. Farrington Carpenter – \$300 – 277 members
Durango, Mrs. Jack Sadler – \$35 – 31 members
Greeley, Mrs. Oliver Troxel – \$50 – 30 members
Pueblo, Mrs. Clyde L. Davis – \$25 – number of members not given

For the first time, a budget item was adopted for organizing new Leagues. State organization chairman Mrs. Buchanan had reorganized the Greeley League and Mrs. Jack Sadler had organized a League in Durango. Program was hampered by lack of funding and lack of leadership training. The president

reported that services to local Leagues had increased with the purchase of a mimeograph machine that made it possible to circulate more program material to local Leagues. The Colorado League had been represented at national convention by Mrs. Hylbom, Mrs. Troxel, and Miss Griswold. They reported on the program, budget, and action on the national level. Delegates adopted a program consisting of:

- I. Children's Code
- II. An adequate health program

Convention 1947.

When the state convention of 1947 met in Denver, Mrs. Joel Rosenblum was elected state president with board members: Dr. Katherine Chapman, Mrs. Robert Woolbert, Mrs. L.H. Fenno, Mrs. David Crabb, Mrs. Oliver Greer, Mrs. Lawrence Pike, Mrs. W.F.E. Cabiness, Mrs. Ray Surguine, Mrs. J.W. Wilson, Mrs. Harl Douglass, and Miss Emada Griswold. Mrs. Gano Senter was parliamentarian. The local League presidents reported membership and pledges:

Boulder, Mrs. W.B. O'Rourke – \$175 – 70 members
Colorado Springs – \$500 – 171 members
Denver, Elizabeth Scripture – \$500 – 258 members
Durango, Mrs. W.J. Wilson – \$60 – 30 members
Greeley, Mrs. O.S. Herdman – \$100 – 42 members
Pueblo, Mrs. Phil K. Hudspeth – \$75 – 31 members

Although the proposed budget of \$1,725 was adopted, there was a strong feeling that the League did not have enough money to carry out its program. The state office had been moved from Colorado Springs to Denver, but the budget did not include an item for rental of the office the state board shared with the Denver League. League members supported their study of public health by major efforts in lobbying successfully for the passage of the “Sabin Health Act,” by which county health departments were established as promoted by Dr. Florence Rena Sabin.²¹

Convention 1948 – League changes its name again.

The convention held in Denver in 1948 was titled the FIRST BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO. The name had been changed to conform with the change of the national level, which had become THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES. State president Ruth Rosenblum announced that although this was the 17th convention of the League, the second biennial Convention would be in 1950, with a Council in 1949. She introduced Program Chair Mary C. Griffith, a Denver attorney and veteran of service in the WAVES. who had declined nomination to the state board because she planned to be a candidate for Colorado attorney general.

State Board: Mmes. Joel Rosenblum, B. Crabb, R. Woolbert, Lloyd Fenno, L. Pike, Harl Douglass, Ray Surguine, Tor Hylbom, D. Davis, Miller, George Saunders, B. Houchens, W. Cabiness, P. Clark, E. Starkey, W.L. Van Patten, O. Greer, and Dr. Catherine Chapman.

Nominees for State Board, 1948-50 (presented by Mrs. Arthur Cross): Mmes. Joel Rosenblum (president), W.F.E. Cabiness, Tor Hylbom, J.E. Starkey, J. Wilson, D. Davis, Harl Douglass, B. Houchens, Lawrence Pike, R.G. Woolbert, and Miss Elizabeth Scripture. Mrs. E. Franes was parliamentarian.

The convention registration fee had been raised to 50 cents. The finances of the League had improved, and the delegates seemed more optimistic than in previous conventions. Elizabeth Blanc presented a

²¹ **Rocky Mountain News**, February 12, 1947, and
Ubbelohde, **A Colorado History**, p. 328.

proposed budget of \$2,265, which the delegates raised to \$2,390 by increasing appropriations for the state **League Bulletin** and travel to state board meetings. \$625 was allotted for Office Administration, including legislative action. This budget was more than twice the amount of the budget at the beginning of the decade. In an innovative move, May 17 to 22 was designated State Finance Drive Week for all local Leagues, as funding had continued to be a major problem. The League's dues had been kept low to encourage more women to join; therefore, it was necessary to finance program from other sources.

Membership and League support of the state board had both increased as is shown in this report made by local League presidents:

Boulder – \$250 – 92 members
Colorado Springs – \$500 – 200 members
Denver – \$650 – 316 members
Durango – \$100 – 43 members
Grand Junction (provisional) – \$50
Greeley – \$100 – 40 members
Pueblo – \$100 – 33 members

An “active state agenda” was adopted that included: Education, Revision of the State Constitution, and the Children's Code. Convention delegates adopted a program that supported increased state aid for schools with a goal of 50% state support of public education and the reduction of the number of school districts from 2,000 to some smaller unspecified number. They also voted to support a ballot issue that would require that members of the State Board of Education be elected by the voters of the state. The Board would then appoint a Commissioner of Education to replace the Superintendent of Public Instruction, then elected every two years at the general election.

Reports on local League activities was the highlight of the 1948 convention:

In Boulder, membership had increased through the establishment of five discussion units and a local study of county government.

Colorado Springs reported a lack of leadership due to “exigencies put upon the city's woman power by the war emergency and the military installations in and near the city.” However, they had seven successful discussion units.

Denver League members studied the city charter and prepared material for citizen education in cooperation with other organizations. Membership had been increased by presentations at small teas given for prospective members. In a new venture, group leaders of six discussion units were meeting with resource chairmen each month to plan work and get materials together for the next meeting. The budget included a paid clerical worker to free members for volunteer work.

In Durango, members studied public health, a proposed restaurant code, and the annexation of Animas City to Durango that would increase the city's population to 10,000.

Greeley's discussion groups did not exceed 15 members, were held in homes, and were well-attended. The League was active in the city election and had sponsored a successful candidates meeting.

Pueblo had reorganized with discussion meetings every two weeks that continued during the summer. They had studied city government and supported the city manager form of government. The League's voters service work helped to increase voter turnout from 6,000 to 16,000. Candidate interviews were published in the newspaper. League members circulated petitions for a charter convention. League speakers were active in explaining the party caucus system and the need for active participation.

Council 1949.

Edna Starkey president at the 1949 Council because Ruth Rosenblum had resigned the presidency. Elizabeth Blanc, Budget Chair, presented a slightly reduced budget of \$2,167.50, which included a national pledge of \$725. The balance on hand of \$758.85 indicated that the League's finances had improved over the years. Plans were made to have finance drives a year-round effort with training for workers. Contributions from businesses were to be sought. Local Leagues were to determine when they would conduct finance drives in their own communities. The designation of a League Finance Week has not been successful.

State Board: Edna Starkey, Elizabeth Hylbom, Mary Elizabeth O'Rourke, Mrs. Robert G. Woolbert, Mrs. Jack Wilson, Elizabeth Scripture, Mrs. George Robinson, Mrs. Walter Cameron, Mrs. E.P. Swerdfeger, Mrs. Harl Douglass, Mrs. David Davis, Mrs. Alexander Stark, Allegra Saunders, Mrs. Oren Shaw, Mrs. Robert Berris, Mrs. Edward Miller.

Delegates: BOULDER – Mmes. E.P. Swerdfeger, W.W. Delapp, William B. O'Rourke, Harl Douglass. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Tor Hylbom, Oren Shaw. DENVER – Mmes. Robert Woolbert, Walter Bowman, Claude Blake, Robert Berris, George Robinson, Edward Miller, Alexander Stark, Joel Rosenblum, J.E. Starkey, George Saunders, and Miss Elizabeth Blanc. DURANGO – Mrs. B.H. Busbee. GREELEY – Mmes. Janet Lowell, Barnard Houtchens, John Wilken. PUEBLO – Mrs. David Davis.

Mrs. Harl Douglass reported for the committee on Education that information on reorganization of the State Department of Education, reorganization of school districts, and action in the General Assembly had been distributed to all interested groups and to legislators. An amendment that required reorganizing the Department of Education had passed with enabling legislation and an appropriation of a\$100,000. The bill for reorganizing school districts also passed. State support provided for classroom unit increased from \$1,800 to \$2,000, and average daily attendance allowance increased to \$50 per pupil per year. Since legislation on these issues had been successful, Education was removed from the League's active agenda.

Lobbying by the League also had helped pass legislation that discontinued the indenture of children, according to Children's Code chair Allegra Saunders. The League supported adoption laws passed in the 1949 session that made home visits mandatory, required a 30-day waiting period before final relinquishment of a child, and mandated full investigation of adoptive parents before an adoption would be approved. Political parties were urged to include the Children's Code in their platforms, and the governor was encouraged to appoint qualified people to the Board of Standards. Mrs. George Robinson spoke on the retention of the United Nations as a permanent and vital part of the League's agenda. League members were available to speak to groups on the importance of the United Nations.

Legislative co-chairs Mrs. Starkey and Mrs. Robley Brannon emphasized the need for training League members as lobbyists. Letters had been sent to all legislators to explain League positions and ask for their support of specific bills. League members had testified in committee hearings. The League's Legislative Committee included: Mmes. Robert Berris, C.H. Murphy, M.J. Brennan, Rexer Berndt, C.E. Burt, William Weil, Winthrop Kimball, A. Albert Lara, G. Walter Bowman, Alfred Crofts, David Ginsberg, and Paul Sands.

Proposals for revision of the Colorado state constitution had been studied by the League, and Governor Lee Knous addressed the subject as keynote speaker at Council. Delegates voted to add to the current agenda a study of the need for Fair Employment Practices legislation and protection from discrimination.

National Convention delegates Mrs. Harl Douglass and Mrs. Tor Hylbom reported that local League members would be asked whether they preferred a maximum-size or smaller national convention to be held in 1950. Finance and budget were the major problems of all Leagues. It was emphasized that local agendas are most important as they are the groundwork on which finance and membership are built. One speaker was quoted: "*Democracy can't be taught; democracy can't be bought; democracy must be shared!*"

Jury Service Favored by Denver Women Leaders

State Senator Would Again Refer Issue to the Voters

Measure in Principle Has Indorsement of Judge Walsh

By ROBERT L. PERKIN

Leading women of Denver, almost to a man, are behind the proposal to extend their citizenship to include service on juries, a survey of a number of prominent women disclosed yesterday.

State Senator Sam T. Taylor (D.), Walsenburg, has introduced a resolution in the Senate which, if adopted, would again refer the question of women jurors to the voters of the state in the 1942 election.

At present, the State Constitution bans the serving of women on Colorado juries, although in 25 other states women either are required to serve or permitted to serve on certain types of cases.

Leading states such as New York, Illinois and California, have extended women's suffrage to include the obligation of jury service.

Judge Indorses

Senator Taylor's measure has the indorsement, in principle, of Judge Joseph J. Walsh, presiding judge of Denver District Court.

"Before giving a blanket indorsement to the proposal that women serve on Colorado juries, I would like, of course, to know more about how the system has worked in other states," Judge Walsh said.

"But in view of the fact that suffrage and other rights have been extended to women, there seems to be no valid reason why they should be denied the privilege of serving on juries."

"They have other rights as full citizens; why shouldn't they sit on juries?"

Other jurists and several leading male attorneys sidestepped the issue with a "No comment" plea, possibly picturing political repercussions. The issue was referred to the voters in November, 1936, and was defeated, 108,850 to 74,757.

Leaders Outspoken

Women leaders, headed by Senator Eudocia Bell Smith (D.), Denver, only woman in the State Senate, were outspoken in support of the proposal, however.

Some of the comments follow:

Miss Florence S. Harper, president, Denver League of Women Voters: "In the program of our national organization we have included the support of all measures designed to improve the methods, election and procedure of juries. We feel juries can be improved by including women on the panels, and believe this would lead to a more satisfactory jury system. Of course the program of the National League of Women Voters is broader than merely the adding of women to juries. We want different qualifications for jurors, or more rigid enforcement of existing qualifications."

Question Studied

Mrs. Bertha V. Perry, attorney and former chairman of a committee, Mrs. Bertha V. Perry, attorney

jurors for the Denver League of Women Voters: "We found in our studies that women generally have improved jury service, and came to the conclusion Colorado should have women jurors."

"Many women are ignorant of court procedure, and serving on juries would not only interest and educate them, but also permits them to render a service to the courts."

"The fact that the age of criminal offenders is constantly decreasing and younger persons are coming into courts as defendants is especially pertinent. Women could render a great contribution to justice in sitting on juries trying these younger offenders."



Mrs. Perry

Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, widow of the late Senator Costigan: "I have always been very much in favor of women serving as jurors."

"I think it would be good for women as well as good for the law. Women must take their citizenship responsibilities very seriously, if we are to have the best civilization possible."

Mrs. Costigan

"I believe serving on juries would make women stronger and make the commonwealth stronger."



League of Women Voters Studies 'Children's Code' for Colorado

A proposed "children's code" for Colorado was discussed at a meeting of the Denver League of Women Voters in the YWCA yesterday.

Mrs. Bertha V. Perry, attorney, reported that compilation of present child welfare laws is nearly complete and a committee of the Colorado Bar Association has been appointed to study the code and draw up new laws if needed.

Mrs. George H. Garry, recently appointed by Governor Vroman to study the code, said that the chief need is for more adequate provisions for care of defective and mentally defective children.

Miss Blanche Ferguson, reported on a survey of Colorado child care institutions, and the following women also took part in the discussion:

Mrs. C. Walter Allen, who has just returned from a tour of Nebraska, Illinois, Ohio and New York, where she studied child welfare programs, and Mrs. Everett Shaw of the Board of Standards.

Mrs. Marie Smith of the State Welfare Board, and Miss Anne Sulley of the welfare department at Children's Hospital.

Child Code Law Attack Challenged

Mrs. Gladys Revell, president of the Denver council of social agencies, Saturday leaked back an attack on legislation calling for revision of Colorado child welfare laws.

"The fact that the validity of the law creating the children's code commission is being questioned places an even greater responsibility on the council of social agencies," she said. "We must see to it that the desires of the people as expressed through the legislature are not obstructed by legal maneuvers."

LAW'S VALIDITY QUESTIONED. Mrs. Revell was referring to a suit filed in Denver district court Wednesday by Victor A. Miller. It alleged the commission was error creating the commission was not the law passed by the legislature, and an amendment was omitted by the enrolling committee.

The five-man code commission appointed by Governor Knous is currently studying citizens' comments to aid in the revision and re-codification.

"The council of social agencies' committee on children's laws has been engaged for two months in a study of the law, and held a meeting Friday in spite of the challenged status of the commission," Mrs. Revell said.

Woman Sues to Oust Children's Code Unit

Mrs. Lucille Drinkwater Allen, chairman of the State Board of Standards of Child Care, sought ouster of the Children's Code Commission in a suit filed in District Court yesterday by Victor Miller.

Members of the commission named as defendants in the suit are Dr. Bradford Murphy, Denver physician; former Gov. Ralph Carr; El Rev. Myer John R. Mull; and Mrs. Paul Thompson and Elizabeth Pettit.

Says it lacks authority.

Mrs. Drinkwater contends that the commission during the past six months has expended public money and has been "using and exercising" its public office without authority.

The suit, known as a quo warranto proceeding, seeks to determine by what authority the commission operates.

Women Voters to Consider Pension, Children's Laws

Reports on studies of the old age pension law and the children's code will be submitted to delegates of the first biennial state convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado on April 16 and 17 in the YWCA Bldg., 1845 Tremont pl.

One of the principal speakers will be Mrs. Paul Thompson, one of five members of the Children's Code Commission appointed in January by Governor Knous to study the state's children's laws. The league, primarily interested in the gathering and dissemination of information of interest to the

public, has made a study of current state laws pertaining to children, many of which are outmoded and in need of reform. Mrs. Thompson, state president, stated.

In considering the Old Age Pension Law, the delegates will discuss how assistance can be bettered to help all needy groups and also determine principles which should be incorporated toward making the law more adequate.

Demands Reform



Miss Mary W. Ruffner

Women Voters Demand Civil Service Purge

League of Women Voters to 'Get Em Out'

Where to Vote? Take Look At Door Knob for Answer

By MARILYN HANCOCK
Rocky Mountain News Writer

Do you know what precinct you are in? Do you know where to vote in the May 20 election?

These questions will be answered specifically and simply for you by the League of Women Voters. Simply for you, that is, but after much hard labor on the part of the league.

Stacks and stacks of little cards giving this information are piled all over the league office in the YWCA Bldg., where frantic members are packing the small room, busily working to fill out the cards correctly for each district.

One for Every Doorknob

The cards, 115,000 of them, will be hung on every doorknob in Denver, beginning April 26, in the first organized "get-out-the-vote" campaign ever to be held here.

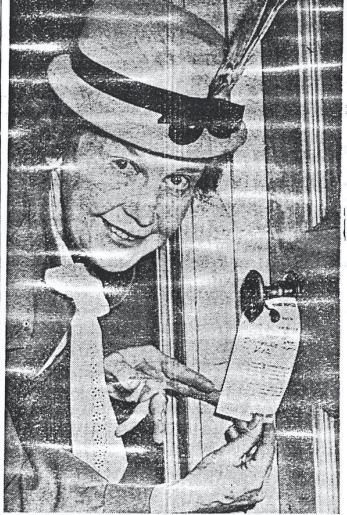
Under the chairmanship of Miss Mary Griffith, 25 district captains were briefed on distribution procedure at a meeting of the committee yesterday.

Help of the American Assn. of University Women has been promised in the three-day large scale campaign. Distribution of the cards in District V will be under the direction of Mrs. Odessa L. Sanders and the Colored Junior League.

Non-Partisan Group

"The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization," said Miss Griffith. "But we feel it is our duty to leave no stone unturned in an effort to get everyone to vote in one of the most important city elections ever to be held in Denver."

Mrs. Farrington Carpenter, president of the organization, stressed the fact that it is the duty of the voting public to exercise its privilege at the polls, not only in the city election but also in the school board election.



—Rocky Mountain News Photo.
Mrs. Farrington Carpenter, president of the League of Women Voters, displays the little cards which will be hung on 115,000 door-knobs beginning April 26. Assuring Denver residents that "Your Vote Is Your Power," the cards are a concentrated effort on the part of the league to "get out the vote" for the city election.

4/16/48 DENVER POST

State Women Voters Plan Stiff Candidate Scrutiny

Colorado women got around to some cold political facts yesterday—and their approach boded little good for this year's crop of unqualified candidates.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado began its first biennial state convention yesterday in the YWCA, 1545 Tremont pl. and talk centered on best ways of participating in politics, beginning at the precinct level.

Mrs. Joel Rosenblum, the organization's state president, said the league is concentrating on political participation "from the grass roots up." Discussions will include best methods of getting out the vote.

To Discuss ERP

Topics which are slated for discussion at today's session include the European Recovery Plan, federal aid to education and a bill to limit displaced persons to the U. S.

The league also will debate an amendment which would end earmarking of old-age pension funds. The constitutional change will go on the ballot for consideration this November.

Mrs. Thompson to Speak

Mrs. Paul Thompson, a member of the State Children's Code Commission will speak on work of that group.

Mrs. Rosenblum pointed out that the league is non-partisan and endorses no candidates, but does encourage political participation for everyone.

The convention will begin morning sessions at 9 a. m. today and will conclude this afternoon.



—Rocky Mountain News Photo.
High-ranking members of the League of Women Voters of Colorado line up at the YWCA registration desk to check in with Mrs. Rexer Berndt, credentials chairman, far right. Left to right, Miss Mary Griffith, convention chairman; Mrs. Allegra Saunders, children's code chairman, and Mrs. Joel Rosenblum, state president.

DENVER POST (February 2, 1947)



TAKING PEN IN HAND to continue her many activities in behalf of minority groups and the public welfare, Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, of 1642 Detroit street proves termination of the OPA job she has held since 1942 does not mean her retirement from public life. As she has done for years, she will work with community and national groups for civic betterment and needed legislation.

Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, Denver civic leader and champion of minorities' rights, was distressed Saturday by rumors that termination of her work as OPA regional consumer advisor indicated her "retirement from public life."

With the reminder it is every citizen's responsibility to take an interest in all affairs of government, she recalled a statement of Pericles to the effect that a man not interested in citizenship is not only quiet, but useless.

STARTED WITH OPA.

Mrs. Costigan, widow of the Colorado liberal, Senator Costigan, who served in Washington from 1930 to 1936, has herself long been a public figure.

She had served with the group services division of OPA from the agency's inception in 1942 until last October, when she undertook the advisory position, and long before that had been interested in consumers' problems. As chairman of the National Consumers' league

and the living costs committee of the National League of Women Voters, she worked for federal remedial legislation in the meat packing industry, for government operation and control of Muscle Shoals and for support of co-operative associations.

She plans to carry on her interest in the consumer as a member of the newly-formed National Association of Consumers, founded largely

through the efforts of members of the OPA's national consumers' advisory council.

"GREAT ADVENTURE."

Mrs. Costigan characterizes the reciprocal activities of consumers and the national agency as "the finest example of dynamic democracy" she has known and remembers her work as "a great adventure."

More than 200,000 volunteer workers served the 5,000 OPA boards.

"The cause of the consumer has been immeasurably advanced by the education the OPA has made possible during the last five years. The American people have learned there is such a thing as a fair price and that free people can act in full co-operation with their government for the general welfare. This is the essence of democracy," she declared.

CONTINUES OTHER WORK.

Besides her consumers' activities, Mrs. Costigan, an alert, dark-browed, white-haired woman, expects to continue work in the League of Women Voters, which she helped organize in Colorado and once headed as state president, in the Denver Unity council, the Y. W. C. A., which she serves as a member of the Japanese advisory committee and the international interpretation and support committee, and the Woman's club, of which she is past president.