

## THE LEAGUE IN THE 1950s

The years after the end of World War II were prosperous. Colorado veterans took advantage of government subsidies for college and vocational training tuition, as well as home and business loans, to build lives for themselves and their families. Employment was at a high level for men, with a measure of affluence for most people.<sup>22</sup> Many women joined the League to learn about government issues. As homeowners and parents, they wanted to know what they were getting for the taxes they paid.

These were good years for the League because these same young women were challenged by the need to understand the system that taxed their homes and provided schools for their children. They were attracted to an organization that told them they could influence government! And they said they joined the League to find a place where they could participate in intelligent, adult conversation! They found sitters for their children and volunteered for League committees and boards. They also found friends in their League units,

This was also the "witch hunt" period of the McCarthy hearings and the Un-American Activities Committee. League members were dealing with the First Amendment issue of freedom of speech in a national Freedom Agenda community education program. Discussions centered on federal loyalty and security issues. They studied the Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment, and other references and determined that a citizen does have a constitutional right to privacy — to be left alone and not be harassed by government. Nationally, the League of Women Voters adopted a position that emphasized the protection of the individual's rights as guaranteed by the federal constitution.<sup>23</sup> This is a consensus that may prove to be one of the most important of all grassroots decisions ever made by League members.

The Korean War, or "police action," is not mentioned in the minutes of the State Board or of meetings of the Colorado League. There was not the same citizen involvement that there had been in World War II.

### Convention 1950.

"We shall strive for perfection. We shall not reach perfection, but we shall strive." With this strong statement in her keynote speech to the Second Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado, held at the Denver YWCA on April 14–15, 1950, Mabel Costigan restated the policies and principles of the League. She then quoted the words spoken by Carrie Chapman Catt at the founding of the League of Women Voters:

*We are embarked on the greatest adventure of all time. We must be leaders, and not followers, of the political parties. Don't march in the middle of the procession, nor at the end. March ahead where the air is clear and the sun shines. Our mission is to make our democracy so safe for the nation — and safe for the world — that every citizen may feel secure and great men will acknowledge the worthiness of the American Republic to lead.*

She cautioned members not to be afraid of undertaking controversial issues, and reviewed some of the issues on which the League had worked successfully, and described women's great role in promoting peace in the world. The convention delegates responded to this great League leader with a standing ovation.

After President Edna Starkey introduced the State Board and Parliamentarian Mrs. Frakes, Convention Chair Mrs. George Saunders welcomed the delegates and invited them to a reception at her home following

---

<sup>22</sup> Carl Ubbelohde, *A Colorado History*, p. 318. [Print ed. 1995 is missing n. 22, so n. 22–23 are n. 23–24.]

<sup>23</sup> LWVUS, *Impact on Issues 1990–1992*, p. 5.

the afternoon session. Twenty-nine delegates, 6 alternates, and 14 state board members responded to the roll call by Mrs. Woolbert. It was announced that a room had been reserved at the Denver Dry Tea Room for delegates who wished to have lunch there on Saturday. The League was an organization based on friendship and a common interest in the process of government.

Three Boulder women presented the proposals for the Current Agenda. Janet Roberts described a "Study of the Constitution of the State of Colorado," telling how the study would ascertain whether present-day needs were being met, what revision might be necessary, and how the League should take action. The study also would consider the merits of a constitutional commission as a preliminary to calling a constitutional convention and amendments that would modernize state government. Mary Elizabeth O'Rourke presented the item on "Adequate Fair Employment Legislation." "Severance Tax — a levy on units of production resulting from the severing of substance from the soil or water" was explained by Elizabeth Evans. All three items were adopted. "Children's Code" and "Education" items were to be listed in the Platform. League members gained prestige from working on research committees because of their reputation for diligent and thorough investigation of all phases of the topic and the preparation of complete information for the members.

When Carletta McKee, of Boulder, presented the proposed budget for \$2497, it included support from Boulder at \$325, Colorado Springs at \$525, Denver at \$500, Durango at \$125, Greeley at \$125, and Pueblo at \$50 — for a total of \$1650, which fell short of the \$1885 support proposed. May Clark, of LWV Denver, was appointed to head a budget adjustment committee. Mrs. McKee had asked each League to increase its support by \$25 to meet the increase in cost of services of the national board, an additional \$50 to pay for the League's activities at the state legislature, and a modest increase in the President's travel expense item. When it was found that there was no place to cut the budget, delegates voted to transfer \$235 from reserves to balance the budget. It was pointed out that many individuals had been paying costs that should have been covered by the budget. This was the first recognition that these expenses were the responsibility of the organization.

Adelaide Cabiniss introduced the nominees for the 1950–52 State Board: President – Mrs. J.E. Starkey of Denver; Ist Vice President – Mrs. Edward Miller of Denver; 2nd Vice President – Mrs. Oren Shaw of Colorado Springs; Secretary – Mrs. Robert Berris of Denver; Treasurer – Mrs. Jack Wilson of Durango; Directors – Mrs. Walter Cameron of Boulder, Mrs. Roy Smith of Greeley, Mrs. Tor Hylbom of Colorado Springs, and Mrs. A.L. Burnett of Durango; Nominating Chair – Mrs. Barnard Houtchens of Greeley.

This convention highlighted the activities of the local Leagues. Boulder President Mrs. Ray Surgine reported that Boulder members lobbied members of Congress and interviewed Senator Milliken on concerns for displaced persons, housing, oleomargarine tax, reciprocal trade, and the Atlantic Pact. Members worked for passage of amendments to appoint a Commissioner of Education and to elect a State Board of Education, as well as a proposal to reorganize school districts in the state. She also reported a successful city council candidates meeting organized by Mrs. Cristol. Good publicity was received from the **Boulder Camera** and from radio stations. Membership reached 139 after a tea was held in the fall "featuring Mrs. Edward P. Costigan of Denver, who is probably the most beloved League member in our State." A committee was appointed to prepare a history of the Boulder League.

Denver President Katherine Bowman reported eight discussion units meeting regularly with an average attendance of 150, or almost half of the members. The Denver League was asked to give training in discussion techniques to groups from the YWCA and AAUW. Workshops in board orientation and lobbying were presented. Voters Service included distribution of election information, demonstrating voting machines, candidates dinner, and a get-out-the-vote campaign,

In Durango, reported President Marion B. Borden, there were 63 members who met in a discussion group twice a month. Twenty members had participated in a survey of health and housing. League members served on committees and were the speakers for United Nations Day.

The Pueblo League had been completely reorganized in March 1949, and President Elizabeth Hudspeth reported two very active discussion units that met every two weeks. Candidates meetings were held with 17 candidates. Proponents had explained the seven proposed amendments to change the form of the city government, but the opponents refused to appear. Previous efforts to attract minority women to the League had failed, but with the help of Mrs. A.C. Jones, a small discussion group attended by both white and "colored" women met regularly. Mrs. Hudspeth described this group as "alert, well-informed, and enthusiastic about the League." If this comment sounds condescending, it reflects the way things were at that time. It is important to know that non-discrimination has always been League policy.

### **Council 1951.**

State President Elizabeth Hylbom convened the State Council on April 4, 1951. Finance chair Shirley Swerdfeger called attention to the \$800 level of reserves that resulted from transfer to meet the national pledge in 1950, and urged the local Leagues to conduct successful finance drives to provide money for expansion and action in the legislature. A budget of \$2830 was adopted with pledges from local Leagues, as follows: Boulder, \$350; Cherry Hills, \$25; Colorado Springs, \$550; Denver, \$750; Durango, \$150; Greeley, \$150; Pueblo, \$30.

**State Board:** Elizabeth Hylbom, Ruth Shaw, Ruth Miller, Betty Berris, Mrs. Jack Wilson, Shirley Swerdfeger, May Clark, Judy Van Patten, Fletcher Swan, Evelyn Cameron, Margaret Fink, Kathleen Griswold, Tony Henry, and Mary Elizabeth O'Rourke.

**Delegates:** BOULDER – Elizabeth Evans, Helen Phillips, Anne Zubom. CHERRY HILLS (Provisional League) – Mrs. Bill Gumm and Mrs. Robert Woolbert. COLORADO SPRINGS – Ethel Hellgren, Blanche Janes, and Margaret B. Mills. DENVER – Judith Dixon, Betty Ehrhart, and Betty Robinson. DURANGO – Sally Snelling and Kay Watkins. GREELEY – Eva Wilken. PUEBLO – Marie Fraley.

Speaking on "The Essence of Problems of Finance," Mrs. Waldo Stephens of the national board commented: "As you have more money and the program is improved, you do a better job in the community." Progress was being made toward development of program that would attract and keep members.

May Clark, Legislative Chair, reported that, during the 1951 Session of the General Assembly, the League covered legislation to establish health programs, control stream pollution, improve adoption laws and other laws to protect children, provision for a legislative council, promote fair employment practices, and reorganize school districts.

### **Convention 1952.**

State President Elizabeth Hylbom convened the Third Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado on April 17, 1952. The meeting was held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Denver. The registration fee was \$2.00 and cost of the dinner was \$2.55. The total cost of the convention was \$401.05. With fees paid in the amount of \$379.50, it was apparent that the registration fee needed to be increased.

A press release sent to all Colorado newspapers and radio stations stated that the delegates represented "over 1,000 members in the state." It gave details about the adopted program agenda that included "Constitutional Revision" and "Children's Laws." This was the decade when the League was recognized by as a "newsworthy" organization—even though the photos and articles were usually on the Society or Women's pages.

Mrs. L.C. Matthews reported for the committee that had researched the provisions of the constitution and recommended that the item be continued with additional support for the proposed amendments "if a convention is not feasible." Mrs. Paul Thompson and Mrs. Wayne Beattie explained the details of the study

of children's laws which emphasized the care of dependent and neglected children. The convention supported a motion by Elizabeth Blanc that "the League of Women Voters of Colorado go on record as commending the outstanding report of the Committee on Children's Laws and that this work shows the conscientious research, thorough study, and the able presentations that characterize the best in League standards."

**Convention Committee:** Mmes. Gus Cozian, M.J. Brennan, Byron Russell, Harry Kaiser, Gordon Connelly. Ernest Ross (Chair). **Elections Committee:** Mmes. P.F. Fink, Arthur Harvey, and L.C. Matthews. **Parliamentarian:** Mrs. E. Frakes.

**Delegates:** COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. John Bennett, Fred Charlson, E. Payson Gregory, Robert Krouse, Donald MacCorquodale, Herbert Mills, C. McAleer Von Stein, FF. Wing; DENVER – Mmes. D.J. McAlister, Oliver Stonington, L.C. Matthews, Paul Meulengracht, Grady Mullennix, Hubert Henry, Lorna Herman, Robert Seyforth, Ralph Ehret, E.S. Miller, John F. Ehrhart; BOULDER – Mmes. John W. Evans, F. Havice, David Stacey, J.E. Starkey, H.F. Walton, Paul Maslin, A.A. Phillips, L.R. Wingfield; FORT COLLINS (Provisional) – Mmes. William Powers, W. Leonard, Hans Heynau; GREELEY – Mmes. C.W. Strubel, E.J. Randleman, Walt Cameron; DURANGO – Helen Buchanan, Mrs. Wagner, CHERRY HILLS – Mrs. Leland Modesitt.

**State Board 1952–1954:** (Presented by Mrs. Bernard Houchins) President Mrs. Tor Hylbom (Colorado Springs), Ist Vice President Mrs. E.P. Swerdfeger (Boulder), 2nd Vice President Mrs. Henry Swan II (Denver), Secretary Mrs. Walter Orr Roberts (Boulder), Treasurer Mrs. Francis Bain (Denver), and Directors – Mmes. Bert Lowell (Greeley), Edward Miller (Denver), Paul Thompson (Boulder), Robert Berris (Denver), John F. Ehrhart (Denver), O.S. Herdman (Greeley). Mrs. Oren V. Shaw (Colorado Springs) was chosen to chair the Nominating Committee.

Convention delegates recognized that there were expenses involved in the administration of the League, and approved an increased budget of \$3,450 which included additional funding to compensate the president for expenses incurred in travel to local Leagues and to provide for more publications. A new mimeograph machine had been purchased by the state board and the Denver League for use in the shared office.

The League had grown with the addition of a provisional League in Fort Collins, where Mrs. Hans Heynau (a former League member in another state) had organized a group of 20 women to start a League. In less than a year, it had grown to 75 members who met in four discussion units. In Cherry Hills, Mrs. Robert Woolbert had organized 57 members into a League to meet the unique problems related to a small-sized, rural community, by completing a Know Your County study. That League began with a meeting of twenty-five charter members on May 17, 1950, when they elected Mrs. E.D. Gumm as the first president. Additional funds were requested to develop Leagues in Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, and Montrose. The Pueblo League was reported to be in need of redevelopment.

### **Tributes to members.**

Mabel Costigan, founder of the Women Citizens League of Colorado, had died on September 22, 1951. In a tribute to her memory, Elizabeth Hylbom recalled that Mabel Costigan was one of the founders of the National League of Women Voters, as well as the moving force in the League organization. She had been politically active for many years along with her late husband, Senator Edward P. Costigan. She was also a former president of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. Delegates noted that she had been the keynote speaker at the 1950 convention.<sup>24</sup>

Other members commended for their service to the League were Mrs. Cameron of Greeley and Mrs. Wilson of Durango.

---

<sup>24</sup> **Denver Post**, September 22–23–25, 1951, and Rocky **Mountain News**, September 22–24, 1951. [Print ed. n.25.]

### **Council 1953.**

All of the local Leagues except Pueblo and Durango sent delegates to the state Council that was held at the American Association of University Women club house at 1400 Josephine, in Denver, on April 17, 1953. There were also visitors from Englewood, Sterling, and Jefferson County. (The League of Women Voters of Englewood was officially formed on October 8, 1953, with eighteen charter members who elected Anita Ausfahl president.)

Money was an important issue, but the registration fee was only \$2.00 and the lunch was an additional 50 cents. Treasurer Jean Bain reported a balance on hand of \$375.20. A budget of \$4,010 was adopted, with pledges of \$410 from Boulder, \$610 from Colorado Springs, \$1,000 from Denver, \$125 from Durango, \$100 from Fort Collins, \$175 from Greeley, \$35 from Pueblo, and \$75 from Cherry Hills. The budget discussion centered on those expenses incurred by board members who were not reimbursed. It was a general consensus that these amounts should be reflected in the budget to give the League a "sounder financial basis."

The "Children's Laws" committee was hampered in recommending increased appropriations, according to Dorothy Thompson, by their inadequate knowledge of the state's fiscal procedures. She recommended that the League adopt an agenda item on Colorado fiscal policies. Mrs. Matthews also commented on the need to know more about the state's financial problems when considering the question of appropriations for the Civil Service Commission. She reported that League was expected to support an amendment on reapportionment and one to provide for 4-year terms for the governor and other executive officers. Following this discussion, delegates approved an added agenda item titled, "A Survey of the Fiscal Structure of the State of Colorado."

Janet Roberts then moderated a discussion of "Colorado's Fiscal Problems," by Rep. Palmer Burch and Raymond Kimball, Assistant Director of the Colorado Public Expenditures Council. They commented on the fiscal structure, earmarking of funds, and the possible reforms expected to be made by the newly-formed Legislative Council.

The Colorado League's activity at the General Assembly during the 1953 session was reported by Mrs. Ehrhart, the Legislative Chair, who provided copies of the "Newsletter: Final Legislative Report 1953." In this newsletter (priced at two cents per copy), there was a listing of legislation of interest to the League on the issues of children's laws, constitutional revision, fair employment practices, education, and election laws. It reported that the Legislative Council had been created with an appropriation of \$12,500, that reapportionment had made a few minor changes, and that bills on fair employment practices, election laws, and presidential primary had been killed.

Communication between the State Board and local Leagues was stressed and procedures were outlined. State League publications, such as the amendments pamphlet, were in need of wider distribution. The Denver League had produced a popular publication, "Who Me?" It listed the qualifications required of candidates for elective offices.

### **Convention 1954.**

May Clark chaired the committee that made arrangements for the Fourth Biennial Convention, held on May 13-14, at Denver's Cosmopolitan Hotel. Registration fee was still just \$2.00, but this year it covered expenses. Jean Bain, State League Treasurer, was commended for her competence in managing the League's finances. A budget of \$4,385, adopted with support from the pledges of the local Leagues, reflected the requirements of a growing organization and demands of the coming state election and national and state League conventions. Local Leagues were organized in Aurora, Jefferson County, and Englewood during 1954.

Three Current Agenda items were adopted:

- I. A sound fiscal structure for the State of Colorado with emphasis on fair taxation policies and equitable distribution of funds among essential governmental services.
- II. Modernization of the State Constitution with emphasis on the old-age pension provisions.
- III. Adequate services and public protection for dependent and handicapped children.

**Convention Committee:** May Clark (Chair), Mmes. Arthur Harvey, David Lonsdale, Allen J. Garber, Joel Rosenblum, George Higgins, Alys Davis, Mary Cameron, William L. Van Patten, Clayton Sites, Kenneth Raetz, J.R. Chamberlain, K.G. Hellebust, M.C. Mosher, F.F. Clark, Ray E. Wilcox.

**Delegates:** AURORA – Mmes. M.J. Davis, Robert Wise. BOULDER – Mmes. Robert Low, D'Arcy McNickle, L.R. Wingfield, David Gottlieb, W.W. Longley. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. Joe Snepenger, J.J. Sparkman, A.A. Woodward. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Oren W. Shaw, James Donahue, Don MacCorquodale, Lee Lyon, Gail Ross, R.J. Booth, Harold Sippy, Kenneth Curran, Walter Cox. DENVER – Mmes. John Ehrhart, Lewis Bernstein, Lloyd Joshel, Byron Russell, Robert Davis, Leslie M. Zatz, John L. Chapin, Cassie Moore, Henry Linstrom, Howard Schoman, John Tweedy, Ralph Peck, Philip Kail, Oliver Stonington, Omer Griffin. DURANGO – Mmes. Robert B. Perry, William Wilmarth. GREELEY – Mmes. Nancy Ross, Sidney Baldrige, Walter Cameron. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Mmes. Velma Meulengracht, Parke Yingst, Janet Studard, Beverly Hunt, Gayle D. Smith. PUEBLO: Mmes. Palmer Challela, Herbert Casebeer. STERLING – Mrs. Mabel Schlatter. ENGLEWOOD – Mrs. Ralph Ehret.

**State Board:** Mmes. W.O. Roberts, Robert M. Dixon, Paul Thompson, Sherman Pinto, Robley Brannon, L.C. Matthews, Robert Gee, Tor Hylbom, R.M. Lundin, Robert Hacker, Arthur Ballantine, E.P. Swerdfeger, Francis Bain, Bert Lowell.

JEFFERSON COUNTY Observers – Mmes. Enid Gillully, Hayman, Nichols.

For the State Board 1955–1956, Mrs. Robert Dixon was elected President, with board members: Mmes. Sherman Pinto, Hans Heynau, Frank Havice, L.E. Modesitt, R.F. Hocker, James Gilluly, Arthur Ballantine, Lowell Mills, Robert Gee, and Dr. Elizabeth Fackt. Mrs. W.O. Roberts was elected to chair the Nominating Committee.

At the close of the convention, Elizabeth Hylbom presented a gavel to the League. It was acknowledged by Shirley Swerdfeger who expressed her appreciation of the leadership of Elizabeth Hylbom. Mrs. Dixon, the new president, stated that the League was beginning the new year in auspicious circumstances, having just hosted to the National Convention, where 180 Colorado women worked together to get a difficult job done exceptionally well. She cautioned that the League must face obligations taken on in adopting the extensive Current Agenda, and that the new board would be very conscious of the work load. She emphasized assistance to local Leagues, and announced that Elizabeth Hylbom would be going to Grand Junction to organize a League. There had been a League there in 1948–49, but it had disbanded.

### **National Convention in Denver.**

Individual liberties was the emphasis of program discussion at this national convention which adopted a "Freedom Agenda," that included community discussions to take place during the coming year. The program format was adopted, containing "Current Agenda" and "Continuing Responsibilities."

### **Council 1955.**

The registration fee for the Fourth Biennial Council, on April 13, 1955, had been raised to \$3.00, including lunch. In convening the meeting, President Judy Dixon stated that its purpose was "taking stock of our progress to date and a discussion of how to proceed with state program items," since this was the

year that the National Board required all state Leagues to certify that local Leagues met recognition standards. A budget committee of Mmes. W.R. Ewing, T.B. Fest, C.W. Corbett, M.R. Smith, Leland Modesitt, and R.F. Hacker presented a budget increased to \$5,720. Local Leagues supported it with their pledges, which included an addition of \$10 from Boulder to be used for "service to local Leagues."

This was a period of increasing membership and the expansion of organization to several cities throughout the state. Local Leagues in Grand Junction and Monte Vista had been recently organized as provisionals, and each pledged \$50 to the state League budget. New Leagues in Aurora, Sterling, and Englewood had been recognized by the National Board during the year preceding.

<p><b>Delegates:</b> AURORA – Viola Smith, Ruth Edwards, Jo Davis, Harriet Gagne, Margaret Lecznor, Esther Unger, Marjorie Wize. BOULDER – Mmes. D'Arcy McNickle, E.P. Swerdfeger, Paul Maslin, Sanford Schwartz, Janet Roberts, Lucille Fest. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. V.C. Zimmerman, Joe Snepenger, William Garrison, _____ Soll. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Oren Shaw, Agnew Donaldson, Eloise Ross. DENVER – Mmes. R.W. Ewing, Lloyd Joshel, Edward Chapman, Hazel Francone, R.W. Goard, Florence Johnson, H.L. Kaiser, Marion J. King, Florence Kosta, J.E. McCorkle, Thelma Mineau, T.G. Roche, Harry Rushton, Byron Russell, Curt Schneegas, Wilson Tanner, L.L. Young, Marjorie Hay, Jerome Harris; Betty Rae, Elizabeth Berger, Rosalyn S\$. Bernstein. DURANGO – Edith Camp. ENGLEWOOD – Mmes. Ausfahl, James Webb, A.L. Brandon, R.M. Lundin, George M. Otto. FORT COLLINS – Mmes. Carl Birkey, Robert Udall, Harold Hasticka, Warren Leonard, Ray Puleston, A.R. Patton. GREELEY – Mmes. Sidney Baldrige, Frank A. Berger. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Beverly Hunt, Margaret Textor, Mary Beth Hurd, Donna Kehrer, Betty Robinson, Margaret Sites, Sally Thorniley, Mary Towne, Evelyn Yingst. MONTE VISTA – Jean Neilsen, Irla Wiley. PUEBLO – Mmes. Al Davis, Palmer Challela. STERLING – Mmes. Lynn Lipson, Marvin McElwain.</p> <p><b>State Board:</b> Mmes. Robert Dixon, Paul Thompson, Hans Heynau, L.E. Modesitt, Frank Havice, William Van Patton, Robert Low, Carl Ross, Lowell Mills, Paul Meulengracht, Arthur Ballantine, Robert Gee, L.C. Matthews, James Gilluly.</p>
---

### **Advocacy and influence.**

Legislative Chair Mrs. Gee reported that the League had received more recognition as an influence in the legislature than ever before, with its action on constitution revisions, education, and children's laws. All but one local League had participated in a survey of trade as a grassroots issue.

The Platform of the League was reviewed and revised to conform with the definition: "The PLATFORM represents positions taken by the League of Women Voters of Colorado in fields of government, to which it has given sustained support in the past, and on which it may continue to take action." Positions retained were on constitutional revision, education, employment, public health, and public protection of children.

A discussion of "Development of Leadership" was led by Mrs. Pinto, who emphasized the valuable individual member orientation that comes from serving on a committee or board. The amount of time and energy required for League participation, and concern for thoroughness when there are many items adopted on the study agenda, were also discussed. "Putting Publications to Work" was a display of the League's publications with a panel discussion of responsibilities and rewards of promoting publications by Mmes. Van Patton, Herlinger, Harvey, Modesitt, Dieter, and Ketner. It was announced that the League would have a free "Freedom Agenda Conference," on April 11 and 12, 1956, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

### **Convention 1956.**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado held its Fifth Biennial Convention at the Albany Hotel in Denver, on April 9–10, 1956. The registration fee was only \$2.00, with a charge of \$2.50 for dinner. President Judy Dixon welcomed 64 delegates and 3 observers with a special introduction of Elizabeth Hylbom who had been nominated to serve on the National Board.

The budgeting process was somewhat different that year. A Budget Building Day was held on January 11, at which local League representatives presented realistic proposals for their support of the state League. In previous years, the State Budget Committee had recommended a pledge amount to each local League, which could be changed as it saw fit. This procedure made it difficult to plan efficiently, since the state Committee did not know the pledge amount until it was announced at Convention. Now the amount was determined in January. The Convention adopted a budget of \$4,255, following the new procedure, and avoided time-consuming discussion and revision.

**Delegates;** AURORA – Bernice Crouse, Harriet Gagne, Margaret Lezner. BOULDER – Mmes. Paul Maslin, W.B. McDowell, D'Arcy McNickle, Lynn Wolfe, Lucian Papachristou, E.P. Swerdfeger, H.B. Van Valkenburgh. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. V.L. Ashbaugh, Lewis Giesecke, Joe Snepenger. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Charley Adams, Tor Hylbom, Robert Krouse, Lee Lyon, J.J. Mallon, Robert K. Mendenhall, Oren V. Shaw, H.I. Szmanski, Paul Boucher, DENVER – Mmes. George Canetta, Alys Davis, Ross Ewing, Reginald Fitz, Rex Harding, Guy Justis, Carl Kadie, Calvin Larson, William B. Miller, Sherman Pinto, George Pitman, J.B. Pchtel, Walter Price, Alexander Stark, O.G. Stonington, John B. Tweedy, Earl Wennergren, C.R. Williams; Nancy Good, Betty Hecox, Thelma Mineau. DURANGO – Mmes. Arthur Ballantine, Jr., Robert B. Perry. ENGLEWOOD – Mmes. Irvin J. Bland, Paul C. Jamieson, Jr. FORT COLLINS – Mmes. Bruce Thornton, George Wilsnack, Harold Hosticka, R.H. Udall. GRAND JUNCTION – Miss Annie Dunstan and Mmes. Michael Lehrer, Thurston Phetteplace. GREELEY – Mmes. S.L. Baldrige, E.S. Ross, A.H. Trautwein. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Mmes. F.M. Baker, Howard Stafford, Billy L. Bickley, R.A. Hunt, Paul Thorniley. MONTE VISTA – Mmes. R.C. Battey, Robert Detweiler. PUEBLO – Mmes. William Leonard, Berl Ward. STERLING – Mmes. Lester Garner, Homer Schlatter. STATE BOARD – Mmes. Arthur Ballantine, Palmer J. Challela, Robert Dixon, Robert Gee, Hans Heynau, L.M. Matthews, Paul Thompson, Leland Modesitt, William Van Patten, Paul Meulengracht; and Enid Gilluly, Rosemary Low, and Evelyn Yingst,

Membership had reached a total of 1,675, a gain of 91 over the previous year. There were 410 new members. A League had been organized in Grand Junction with 57 members, excellent community relations under the presidencies of Mrs. Richard Gaines and Mrs. Michael Lehrer. Aspen's organizational meeting was held on February 20, with Mrs. Henry Stein as temporary chairman, assisted by Mmes. Fred Glidden, Robert Cass, Cistie Blanning, and Miss Kate Blakely. New League presidents were introduced: CHERRY HILLS, Mrs. Joe Snepenger, DURANGO, Mrs. Robert Perry; and PUEBLO, Mrs. Palmer Challela.

League members involved in local government were commended when it was announced that Janet Roberts had been appointed to the Boulder Planning Commission and Mrs. Robert Gee was serving on the Denver Parks Commission.

Judy Dixon was elected president, with these officers and directors: Mmes. E.P. Swerdfeger, Arthur Ballantine, Palmer Challela, Sidney Baldrige, R.D. Battey, Richard Gaines, William Garrison, Bruce Thornton, W.L. Van Patten. Mrs. Robert Gee was elected to chair the Nominating Committee. A proposal to revise the bylaws to change the date of state convention to the odd-number years was approved.

A Current Agenda proposal for "A sound fiscal structure for the State of Colorado with emphasis on fair taxation policies and equitable distribution of funds among essential governmental services" was presented by Mrs. Robert Low. An item relating to juvenile delinquency, separate juvenile courts, and the state institutional program for children was presented by Dorothy Thompson. After thorough and detailed discussion, both items were adopted.

The League's program building process had evolved into a rather complex statement of program agenda topics, with emphasis on scope, structure, and meaning of a suggested topic. Many debates centered on these criteria. Position statements tended to be narrow and restrictive.



### Convention 1957.

The cost of registration for the Sixth Biennial Convention in 1957, held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Denver, remained a modest \$2.00. However, the cost of dinner had gone up to \$3.50. The League of Women Voters had always maintained a policy of keeping membership dues low enough to be affordable for most women. It was believed that if costs were low or moderate, more members from outside the Denver area would attend meetings.

Membership had continued to increase and the number of delegates and observers at Convention reflects these membership totals, given with the amount of the local League pledge: AURORA – 46 members, \$90. BOULDER – 179, \$600. CHERRY HILLS – 78, \$135. COLORADO SPRINGS – 235, \$750. DENVER – 544, \$1250. DURANGO – 38, \$110. ENGLEWOOD – 34, \$95. FORT COLLINS – 64, \$170. GRAND JUNCTION – 63, \$215. GREELEY – 40, \$175. JEFFERSON COUNTY – 146, \$450. MONTE VISTA – 36, \$45. PUEBLO – 40, \$110. STERLING – 26, \$90. WESTMINSTER – 34, \$40.

Littleton Provisional League had been organized on September 20, 1956, with President Mrs. Walter Lowrie and 34 charter members. They pledged \$35, but gave no membership figure. Aspen, also a provisional, gave no figures. These pledges supported the budget approved at \$5,380.

**State Board 1957–1959:** President Mrs. E.P. Swerdfeger, 1st VP Mrs. R.A. Hunt, 2nd VP Mrs. Walter Orr Roberts, Secretary Mrs. Palmer Challela, Treasurer Mrs. Wayne O. Fox, and Directors: Mmes. Philip Dergance, Richard Gaines, Lester Garner, William Garrison, William B. Miller, and Paul Thorniley. Mrs. Robert Dixon was elected to chair the Nominatin Committee that included Mmes. Arthur Ballantine, Richard Gaines, Frank Havice, and Lloyd Joshel.

**Delegates & Observers:** AURORA – Mmes. James B. Forrest, Ernest Hagler, William B. Lecznar, Eugene Eagan, Robert M. Gagne, L.C. Richards. BOULDER – Mmes. Robert de Kieffer, Robert Hawkins, David Lamp, D'Arcy McNickle, Tician Papachristou, Paul Thompson, Paul Winston, Lynn Wolfe, John Wrenn. Richard Beno, Daniel James, Damon Phinney, Walter Roberts, Harris A. Thompson, and Barbara Schindler. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. Thomas Chamblin, Lewis Giesecke, Joe Lort, Jr., Joe Snepenger. M.G. Updegrove, William Carpenter, Robert Davison, Joe Morrone, Paul Spencer. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Charley Adams, R.J. Carran, Robert L. Krouse, Harold Kuhns, J.J. Mallon, N.H. Moore, Thomas Rawles, Oren V. Shaw, H.I. Szymanski, Sheldon Singer. Lowell Mills, Fred J. Zobel. DENVER – Mmes. Robert Berris, L. Bernstein, George Canetta, Richard A. Deam, Rudolph Fox, Herbert Gaskill, Ralph Goard, Rex Harding, Morris Hecox, A.H. Jansen, Lloyd Joshel, Gertrude King, William B. Miller, Sherman Pinto, Clyde M. Mineau, Walter E. Seyfarth, Leon Shelton, Alexander Stark, Oliver Stonington, William R. Woodman, V.L. Van Breeman, Lulu Campbell, John Adams, Jack Arent, Herman Johnson, Calvin Larson, Jared Morse, Charles Savite, Lowell Turner, Robert Willard, Karl Kadre; and Elizabeth Scripture and Loren Gleason. DURANGO – Mmes. Otto Brown, R.B. Perry, Charles D. Rea, Daniel P. Watkins. ENGLEWOOD – Mmes. Stephen Ensner, James Morris, Paul C. Jamieson, Jr., Fergus Lewis. FORT COLLINS – Mmes. J.K. Emery, Herman Furniss, Gordon Merrick, J.T. Strate, R.E. Casperson, Robert Udall, Violet Thorpe, Myrtle Hinds. GRAND JUNCTION – Mmes. Donald Elston, Michael Lehrer, Gordon Wier, O.C. Brown. GREELEY – Mmes. Uba Stanley, Clair Einhorn. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Mmes. William R. Banks, E.G. Fisher, T.W. Pehrte, Louis Puls, N.S. Stafford, Ralph Street, Dwight Tayler, S.V. Alford, Carl D. Broadbent, Charles Meyers, G.D. Robinson, Ellis Sobol. LITTLETON – Mmes. Walter Lowrie, Russel Snowperger, Kenneth Peterson. MONTE VISTA – Mmes. Wayne Bricker, W. Edward Sharp, Milo Wilson. PUEBLO – Mmes. Philip Beauvais, Robert Gordon, H.T. Snelling. Carl B. Smith Bernard Eisent. STERLING – Mmes. Norman Berry, Lester Garner. WESTMINSTER – Mmes. Paul Bartlett, Paul King, D.P. Velderale, Jack Campbell, Edward Wooddell.

**State Board:** Mmes. Sidney Baldrige, R.C. Battey, Arthur Ballantine, Palmer Challela, Philip Dergance, R.M. Dixon, Richard Gaines, Lester Garner, William Garrison, E.P. Swerdfeger, Bruce Thornton, W.L. Van Patten.

### **Study of water resources begins.**

After several years of lobbying by members of Leagues in the arid Western states, delegates to the National League Convention in 1956 had turned their attention to the nation's water resources by adopting a study of river basins. Margaret Garner, of Sterling, chaired Colorado's first "water" committee. At the 1957 State Convention, Colorado League delegates followed a national trend by approving a water item, along with others, on the Current Agenda:

- I. Water—Conservation and Utilization.
- II. Reorganization of State Government.
- III. Election Laws of Colorado.

### **Council 1958.**

On April 9, 1958, the League's State Council was convened at the Denver Dry Goods in the Lakeside Shopping Center. President Shirley Swerdfeger welcomed 28 delegates and 21 observers who paid the registration fee of \$1.00 — coffee was included!

<p><b>Delegates and observers:</b> AURORA – Elsie Forrest, Leveda Dill. BOULDER – Melissa deKeiffer, Sybil Downing, Mina Gill. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. Lewis V. Giesecke, Thomas Chamblin, Joe Lort. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Robert L. Krouse, Charley Adams, J.J. Mallon, H.E. Wagner. DENVER – Mmes. Sherman Pinto, Lloyd Joshel, Janet Pirkey, Anne Goard. DURANGO – Mmes. Andrew Vilasman, Pat Perry. ENGLEWOOD – Mmes. Harold Ausfahl, Stephen Ensner, Clara Nitzberg, Mary Olson. FORT COLLINS – Mmes. J.T. Strate, Laura Makepeace, W.H. Leonard, W.E. Wilmarth. GRAND JUNCTION – Mmes. John Chapman, William Ela. GREELEY – Mmes. Arthur Stanley, Harlan Strong, George Babb. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Mmes. E.G. Fisher, Carl Broadbent, Charles Adams, Ralph Street. MONTE VISTA – Mrs. W.E. Sharp. STERLING – Mmes. Homer Schlatter, LynnLipson, W.L. Myers, R.L. Montgomery. WESTMINSTER – Kay Velderale, Betty Campbell, Cordell Otto, Bertha Wood.</p> <p><b>State Board:</b> Shirley Swerdfeger, Janet Roberts, Denamae Fox, Sally Thorniley, Dorothy Thompson, Wilma Garrison, Alice Geddes, Beverly Hunt, Cay Challela, Margaret Garner, Nanna Alford, Peg Lehrer, Anne Miller, Mrs. Dumont Clark.</p> <p><b>Coordinators:</b> Mmes. Paul Clark, Robert Geem, Robert Low, Arthur Ballantine, Hans Heynau, Oliver Stonington, Tor Hylbom, Robert Udall, Vernon Henry, Robert Dixon, Joseph Holmes, D'Arcy McNickle, Ross Ewing.</p>
---

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$1,444.37. A revised budget of \$5,380, which included increased amounts for the expenses of the president and the State Board, was adopted. Mrs. Walter Price introduced League lobbyists Anne Miller and Judy Dixon, described how the LEGISLATIVE LETTER was produced and distributed, and praised local Leagues for their response to Calls to Action. The lobbyists had been meeting in the Capitol coffee shop at the beginning of each morning to discuss legislation to be covered

State program was evaluated with reports from Margaret Garner on the Water item and Sally Thorniley on State Reorganization. Mrs. Alford reported that the publication on "Primary Elections" had been completed, and one on "General Elections" would be next. Mrs. Thompson reported that consensus had been reached on the Judiciary and on Reapportionment.

There was enthusiastic response when Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Roberts discussed the Coordinator Program of assigning an experienced League leader to assist each local League. Other topics included the role of the local League president, finance drives, importance of local agenda in membership recruitment, and the

success of Voters Service programs. It was suggested that Publications and Public Relations should work together as two of the strongest portfolios, with publications displayed for sale at all meetings.

### **Convention 1959.**

Shirley Swerdfeger presided at the Seventh Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Colorado, on April 14–15, 1959, at the Olin Hotel in Denver. The delegates paid a fee of \$1.50 and observers paid 50 cents. Dinner was \$3.25. Special guests included past-state presidents Elizabeth Hylbom, Ruth Luby, Edith Fidler, Elizabeth Blanc, and Bertha Perry. Others were: Mr. & Mrs. Philip Danielson, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Peck, Liz Stark, Rep. Clarence Quinlan (Antonito), Sen. Hestia Wilson (Nucla), and Sen. Everett Cook (Canon City).

Delegates approved a budget of \$6,087.50, which included increases in board expense and full expenses for delegates to National Council. An unanticipated profit from the sale of the ballot issues pamphlet increased the cash balance and was applied to budget receipts "as a matter of putting income to work . . . in terms of service to the membership and to the Colorado community," according to budget chair Mrs. Victor Henry.

**State Board 1959–1961:** President Mrs. Paul Thorniley; Ist VP Mrs. Lester Garner; 2nd VP Mrs. William B. Miller, Secretary & Bulletin Editor Mrs. Rae Patton; Treasurer Mrs. Wayne O. Fox; Directors – Mmes. E.G. Fisher, Joseph Holmes, Robert L. Krouse, Clyde Mineau, Tician Papachristou, Robert Perry. Mrs. R.A. Hunt was elected chair of the Nominating Committee.

**Delegates and Observers:** AURORA – Mmes. Charles L. Crouse, Kenneth Proctor, Ernest Hagler, Mary Brown, Thomas R. Walker, Richard O'Brien, Edna Bronstine. BOULDER – Mmes. Margaret Tappen, Melissa deKieffer, Tician Papachristou, Helen Richardson, Evelyn Lance, Sybil Downing, Thea Phinney, Hilda Palm, Ruth Pollak, Jane Gill, Kay Dugan, Edith Estin. CHERRY HILLS – Mmes. Stasia Davison, Harold C. Wessel, Lewis V. Giesecke, James Parsons, G.E. Blon, Robert Frink, Gilman A. Hill, Leland Modesitt, Joe Lort, Jr. COLORADO SPRINGS – Mmes. Norman Foote, Charley Adams, Neale Reinitz, H.H. Moore, Zoe MacCorquodale, Glen Jones, Fred Zobel, Robert Krouse, James Young, J.W. Bradbury. DENVER – Mmes. John D. Anderson, Lewis Bernstein, H. Gulbrandsen, Jarvis Hadley, Charles H. Jones, Lloyd M. Joshel, Jack Lowery, Edward S. Miller, David Stephenson, Oliver Stonington, Charles Schweider, Walter Price, F.H. Weirick, Donald Long, V.L. Van Breeman, Jack Arent, Robert Berris, John Flavin, Ralph Goard, W.P. Pirkey, Sam Waldman, C.R. Williams, Robert Gee, Reginald H. Fitz, William Hackman, Jack Levin, David Lonsdale, Howard Schuman, William Segal, LE. Siegel, E.O. Starbuck, Anne Davis, Ethel Coulson. DURANGO – Mmes. Kenneth King, Grant Saeth, Coy Sweat, Ronald Lamb, John Heller, Robert Perry. ENGLEWOOD – Mmes. Harold Nitzberg, Fergus Lewis, Stephen Ensner, Paul Vranesic, Paul Busch, Fred Brown, George Woods, Mary Olson. FORT COLLINS – Mmes. Robert G. Hacker, R.E. Casperson, Carl Birkey, J.T. Strate, Marcile Wood, Norman Furniss, Mildred Thorpe. GRAND JUNCTION – Mmes. T.M. Phetteplace, Charles Lumley, Raymond C. Robeck, V.A. Crumbaker. GREELEY – Mmes. AE. Stanley, Olga Lyster, E.G. Dunn, Richard Dow, Harlan Strong. JEFFERSON COUNTY – Mmes. William A. Courtney, Robert Moench, Carl D. Broadbent, Leonard Beal, Lyle D. Paul, L.B. Coleman, Jr., K.G. Hellebust, Jeanne V. Naylor, E.G. Fisher, Frank W. Kuehnel, Harold B. Johnson, Ralph Street, Edie Mainwaring, Lawrence C. Craig, Clark F. Barb, Cynthia Daniels, LITTLETON – Mmes. R. Dana Russell, Kenneth Peterson, Stanford Green, F. Wesley Cowell, Eugene Pilz, George Miller, H.N. Hubbs. PUEBLO – Mmes. Thomas R. Edwards, Jr., Carl Petz, Paul Petz, Robert Cable, A.L. Raich, Carl B. Smith, Vernon O. Pierce. STERLING – Mmes. Homer Schlatter, Ellen Connelly, Marvin McElwain. WESTMINSTER – Mmes. Marcia Wooddell, Kay Veldorale, Peg O'Shea, Winnie Storeim, Julia Sokol, Donna Gobble, Doris Howe, Natalie Steinberg.

**State Board:** Mmes. Avis Patton, R.A. Hunt, W.O. Fox, S.V. Alford, Lester Garner, Joseph Holmes, Michael Lehrer, D'Arcy McNickle, William B. Miller, Clyde Mineau, E.P. Swerdfeger, Paul V. Thorniley, Paul Thompson.

**Executive Secretary:** Judy Dixon.

This was the first convention at which previously studied agenda topics were formally "placed in League history." These issues were retired from active status and would require restudy before any further action could be taken. They included modernization of the state constitution, fair employment practices, public health services, and old age pension provisions.

Current Agenda topics adopted for the biennium by delegates were typically phrased to include the scope of the studies:

- I. Measures to develop state water policies which will insure optimum use of Colorado's total water resources
- II. Evaluation of the relationship among governmental units, within and including the state, and the support of measures to increase their ability to cope with present and future problems.
- III. Reorganization of the judicial branch of government with emphasis on court organization and court procedures.

Janet Roberts moderated a panel on "Governmental Planning," with J.K. Smith of the State Planning Commission, J. Fred Schneider, General Counsel of Colorado Association of County Commissioners; Conrad McBride, University of Colorado Department of Political Science. A workshop presented by Roma McNickle was titled "How a State League Resource Committee Works," with discussion on how to get national and state publications to the community, reviews in press, sales and promotion, and how to get funding by city or county governments. A President's Round Table discussed distribution of **Colorado Woman Voter**, the coordinator program, board planning, communications, and the use of League publications. *"Leadership for Effective Leagues"* was distributed.

The dinner speaker was Philip Danielson, Chairman of the Colorado Bar Association, whose subject was "Cool, Clear Water — Sources of Water Policy." This was to be the beginning of many years of the study of water resources by the League of Women Voters. Margaret Garner was the first chair of the League's study of water resources which was to continue for many years.

## Women Voters To Discuss Care of Aged



Mrs. Oliver G. Sonington of 673 St. Paul st. will moderate a panel discussion on the care of the needy aged at the League of Women Voters' Face the Facts series at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Farmers Union Bldg. A special committee headed by Mrs. Joseph W. Holmes has been studying the problem. The public is invited and there will be a question period.

## Voters League To Have Panel on OA Pension

A panel on the old age pension will be sponsored by League of Women Voters Monday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Meeker junior high school, room 20.

On the panel will be Walter Bain, Mrs. Preston Strubel, A. B. Pace of Boulder, Representative

John Mackey of Boulder county and Judge Donald Carpenter, who will be moderator.

Bain, former state senator, will discuss disadvantages of the present system. Mrs. Strubel, an employe of the county welfare department, will tell how the pension is administered. Pace, district organizer for Townsend clubs will speak for the old age group. Representative Mackey will talk on the suggested changes in payments.

Mrs. Kenneth Einhorn and Mrs. Sidney Baldrige are co-chairman for the meeting. They urge the public to attend this important meeting.



Denver Post Photo

## 1959 ELECTED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

New officers of the Colorado League of Women Voters are shown after their election Wednesday. From left: Mrs. Lester Garner, Sterling, 1st vice president; Mrs. Rae Patton, Fort Collins, secretary; Mrs. Paul Thorniley, Jefferson County, president, and Mrs. William B. Miller, Denver, 2nd vice president. In center foreground is Mrs. Wayne O. Fox of Westminster, treasurer.

## League Studies State Water Use Policies

Development of state policies to insure optimum use of Colorado's water resources heads the study agenda of the Colorado League of Women Voters for the 1959-61 biennium.

The League adopted the three-item study agenda and elected new officers in the final session of its seventh biennial convention Wednesday at the Olin Hotel.

Mrs. Paul Thorniley, Jefferson County, was elected president for the forthcoming two years. Other officers named were Mrs. Lester Garner, Sterling, 1st vice president; Mrs. William B. Miller, Denver, 2nd

vice president; Mrs. Rae Patton, Fort Collins, secretary, and Mrs. Wayne O. Fox, Westminster, treasurer.

Other items selected for study during the next two years were:

1. Evaluation of the relationship among governmental units in Colorado—city, county and state.

2. Proposed reorganization of the judicial branch of Colorado, emphasizing organization and procedures.

From these studies, the league will determine the legislation it will propose to local and state government.

# Problems of Population Rise Discussed By League of Voters; Convention Closes



**MRS. PAUL THORNILY**  
Nominated to head LWV.



**PAT PERRY**  
LWVUS CONVENTION 1958



Denver Post Photo

## PANELISTS AT LEAGUE CONVENTION

Speakers at a meeting of the Colorado League of Women Voters Tuesday afternoon in the Olin Hotel confer with Mrs. Walter Orr Roberts of Boulder, chairman of the panel. From left, the men are J. Fred Schneider, Colorado Assn. of County Commissioners; Conrad McBride, University of Colorado, and Justus K. Smith, Colorado Planning Division.



# Problems of Population Rise Discussed By League of Voters; Convention Closes



**MRS. PAUL THORNILY**  
Nominated to head LWV.



**PAT PERRY**  
LWVUS CONVENTION 1958



Denver Post Photo

## PANELISTS AT LEAGUE CONVENTION

Speakers at a meeting of the Colorado League of Women Voters Tuesday afternoon in the Olin Hotel confer with Mrs. Walter Orr Roberts of Boulder, chairman of the panel. From left, the men are J. Fred Schneider, Colorado Assn. of County Commissioners; Conrad McBride, University of Colorado, and Justus K. Smith, Colorado Planning Division.