

## AMES

The Ames League was first represented at a state meeting in 1925. They were a small group but they worked hard as there was much to do. Their main work was "Citizenship Schools". These were held each year in the ballroom of the Sheldon Munn Hotel and they were very successful. Women from 22 women's organizations participated.

In the late twenties and early thirties the women were most interested in disarmament, efficiency in government, child welfare and the marriage laws of the State of Iowa.

In 1941 dues were \$1.50, the budget was \$175.00. \$125.00 of that went to state and \$50 was kept for local use. Their interests were 1) differences in rents, 2) prices between Ames and other college towns, 3) women on the school board, 4) maid school and 5) rooming houses. They were concerned about the current wave of Juvenile Delinquency. They supported a housing survey. To do this survey they followed P.O. routes and listed empty houses. They found the average rent to be \$38.50.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1941 the program was to be on "Elements of a Lasting Peace". Even though the Pearl Harbor attack came 2 days before, they went on with the program.

Through the years many devices have been used by the League to urge citizens to vote. Candidate's meetings have been held. Newspaper and radio have been used with our League having their own radio program for many years. Poster contests and "get-out-the-parent-vote" were held through the schools. To get people to the polls we have used radio spot announcements, mobile public address systems, placarded autos and front yards, offered transportation and babysitting services.

Probably the biggest project ever undertaken by the Ames League was the publishing of a citizen's handbook, "This Is Ames", in 1948. Mrs. Herbert Arthur was our local president then. Study groups compiled information on the many aspects of local and county government and the Ames School System. This handbook was revised and republished a few years ago. Both times every home in Ames received a copy.

1948 also found the League spearheading an all-out registration day in cooperation with 24 other local organizations. In 1952 over 1500 residents were registered in one day. Leaguers served as special deputy clerks for a day at the four polls in town.

Many Ames Leaguers have been active on the state board. Mrs. L.V. Haller served as State President and was a member of the National Board. Other state presidents have been Mrs. Herbert Arthur and Mrs. Austin Getz.

In 1955, local program centered around the Ames School district reorganization. In 1956 they studied hospital facilities and in the following year gave active support to the Hospital Board's plan of expansion. In 1959 The Ames Tribune printed the entire report of the Ames LWV workshop on the problems of annexation. This seemed to have a positive effect on the annexation of land to the city.

In 1962 a study and report on the physical education facilities in the City of Ames and in the Ames School District helped bring about our municipal pool at Ames High.

In 1965-66 we studied fair housing regulations and supported Ames adoption of such an ordinance.

Our dues are now \$6.00, we have 136 members and our proposed budget is \$3,800.00. Our interests still seem to center around the same subjects, housing, welfare, schools, government reorganization and peace.