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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LYNCHBURG PAPERS

The collection includes minutes, bylaws, bulletins, and rosters of members of the Lynchburg League of Women Voters, as well as publications produced by the local chapter. Also included are position papers, reports, pamphlets, and manuals from local, state and national chapters.

[Detailed finding guide available with the collection.]

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MS1270

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LYNCHBURG

The League of Women Voters was an outgrowth of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. It was founded in 1920, upon ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote. The Lynchburg League of Women Voters was first organized in 1936, but by World War II had become inactive.

In 1957, under the leadership of Rosel Schewel and Margaret Thomasson, the local chapter was reactivated. Its stated purpose was to help "all citizens become well informed about the structure and operation of...local, state, and national governments, important issues under consideration, and the ways the individual citizen can influence his government, for the common good." The League accomplishes this purpose by intensive study of issues at the national, state, and local levels.

Local issues on which the League has taken a position include a change to the ward system in the city, the establishment of the city library, real estate assessments and taxes, and adding counseling services to the city school system. Issues at the state level have included changes in property laws, land-use policies, public welfare and public assistance programs, fiscal policy and sponsoring forums in which candidates for public office make known their positions on a variety of topics. At the national level, the League has adopted positions on arms control, equality of opportunity, child care, and pollution control.

The League actively supports voter participation in the political process through its efforts at voter registration. One of its major efforts has been at the annual Day in the Park in Lynchburg.

League membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purpose and policies of the League of Women Voters. The League is a non-partisan organization and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

[League of Women Voters of Lynchburg Papers, MS1270, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA]