

Papers from the History Seminar of Kalamazoo College

No. 36. HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S CIVIC IMPROVEMENT  
LEAGUE, 1903-1912.

January, 1951

By Dolores Matheny

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE  
LIBRARY

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## Brief background.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all... let us strive to do all which may achieve...a just and lasting peace among ourselves..." said Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address to the people of the United States. The Civil War had made these ideas of union and freedom, of social harmony and justice, fundamental to American thought. Gradually, enterprising men and women in communities all over America began transforming these ideas into actions as they strove to solve the problems of social welfare which the conditions of the next half century brought. These actions took the form mainly, of social centers, social settlements and civic leagues. These places provided relaxation; recreation; service; and comfort to all who came,--from the poorest to the best regardless of nationality. Acts of legislation designed to "strike at poverty, crime, and disease...and do everything that government can do to make our country better, nobler, purer, and life more worth living"<sup>1</sup> were also advanced as the Progressive Movement of 1900-1917 moved forward.

<sup>1</sup>. De Witt, Benjamin Parke, Chapter I, "The Meaning and History of the Progressive Movement", The Progressive Movement, MacMillian Company, New York, 1915, p. 15.

In Kalamazoo, as in other American communities, ideas of social betterment for all were running rampant,-- better living conditions,-- freedom, liberty, equality. Kalamazoo was a city of great diversity. There were many different nationalities. The most prevalent were the Hollanders, but there were also a number of Germans, Negroes, Jews, Scandinavians, and Greeks. A variety of occupations was present, namely, celery workers, factory workers, saloonkeepers, railroad employees, physicians and dentists, etc.<sup>2</sup>. In her industries Kalamazoo also fulfilled the indications of diversity, there being about 550 industries of which there were over 100 different kinds, with more than twenty per cent of the population actively engaged in manufacturing.<sup>3</sup> Kalamazoo's industries, indeed, became an influential factor in the social structure of the city; a social structure which became increasingly strong as people identified themselves with not one but several different social groups, a lodge, a church,-- a club.<sup>4</sup> As these social ties crossed again and again and in different directions, social conditions were affected and what was felt in one group was soon felt in another. Thus there came the Women's Civic Improvement League, civic implying community-wide, improvement implying helpful action, by rendering its

2. "Social Study of Kalamazoo", 1902, Kalamazoo Telegraph, Social Life and Customs Scrapbook (2). Clipping.

3. "The City of Kalamazoo", 12-28-02, ibid.

4. Ibid.

services wherever needed and reaching out to all social groups endeavored itself to the people of Kalamazoo.

Beginnings of the Women's Civic Improvement League, 1903-1906.

Early in November, 1903, Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, one of the city's foremost civic leaders, suggested to the Ladies Library Association and the Twentieth Century Club that they unite in the establishment of a Women's Civic Improvement League. Her proposal was greeted with enthusiasm and a committee on organization was appointed, consisting of Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Mrs. G. I. Goodenow, Mrs. M. Westbrook, Mrs. J. A. Hoffman, F. N. Root (with Mrs. Balch and Mrs. Gelston as alternates from the Twentieth Century Club); and Mrs. A. J. Mills, Mrs. H. B. Peck, Mrs. C. Chamberlin, Mrs. A. G. Slocum, Mrs. E. J. Blekkink, Mrs. William E. Upjohn (with Mrs. M. C. Miller and Mrs. L. P. McDuffie as alternates from the Ladies Library Association). These women met and decided upon a federated organization, whereby women's organizations were members and would send two delegate representatives to the governing body of the League. Men could be admitted as associate members and children's groups could be admitted at half price. Late in January, 1904, formal organization took place, as the following organizations became members of the League: The Ladies Library Association, Twentieth Century

Club, People's Church, St. Luke's Guild, Daughters of the American Revolution, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Celery City Club, Hebrew Ladies, the Benevolent Society, and the Methodist Episcopal Pastors Union. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Howard Murray Jones; Vice President, Mrs. H. B. Peck and Mrs. C. G. Kleinstuck; Secretary, Mrs. D. B. Merrill; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles McGurrin; Treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Cowing; Organizer, Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane; Assistant Organizer, Mrs. A. J. Mills.

Early in February, the League employed a visiting nurse, Miss Chase, on a thirteen-week trial basis. So successful was she that the visiting nurse was made a permanent staff member of the League. On March 1, 1904, the League held its first public meeting at the First Congregational Church. Although the audience was not as large as anticipated, the interest was high, and the League was heartily welcomed into the municipal working force of the city by Mayor Folz as he accepted membership in the League for himself, the city council and the health officer. With this reassurance, the League moved forward. A Constitution and by-laws prepared by Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Mrs. A. G. Slocum, and Mrs. A. J. Mills were read and accepted at a meeting on March 8, 1904, setting forth the purpose of the organization, its membership, the election of officers and

directors, and the amending of the Constitution and by-laws.<sup>5</sup> The first Ward Directors elected were: Mrs. Fred Hotop, First Ward; Mrs. Mary C. Miller, Second Ward; Mrs. Walter J. Baker, Third Ward; Mrs. Sam Folz, Fourth Ward; Mrs. C. A. Carleton, Fifth Ward. Those who were elected as the first Delegate Directors were: Mrs. C. M. Chamberlin, Mrs. F. A. Taylor, Mrs. M. Lucas, Mrs. C. H. Williams, Mrs. C. F. McIntyre. Four standing committees were then set up: Out-door-art, headed by Mrs. A. J. Mills; Public Health, headed by Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane; General Welfare, headed by Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck; and the Membership Committee, headed by Mrs. H. Henicka. With this foundation laid, the committees became active.

In their campaign against ugliness, the Out-door-art Committee began in April by sponsoring a contest to end in October. F. F. Fowe of the Gazette pledged twenty-five dollars (\$25) to the committee to be used for prizes. They offered three dollars(\$3) for the best individual flower bed, ten dollars(\$10) for the best kept lawn and premises, and five dollars(\$5) for the best improvement of premises. An effort was made to interest not only adults but boys and girls in making Kalamazoo a more attractive city. Junior Leagues were organized. Evidence of their interest was shown when the North West Street School, at the close of the contest, was awarded second prize for the

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5. See appendix for a copy of the Constitution and by-laws.

best kept lawn and premises. The Junior League and the Out-door-art Committee acted jointly in looking up vacant lots for cultivation and gardening purposes. Early in the fall an exhibit was held showing the flowers and vegetables grown by the boys and girls of Kalamazoo. It added new impetus to the campaign. The women of this committee worked tirelessly distributing flower, grass and vegetable seeds to homes and schools and urging people to help make the city more attractive by improving their premises. It was not always an easy job. Some people resented being told, others demonstrated characteristic apathy. However, by the end of only eight months Mrs. A. J. Mills, the chairman, reported that "much more civic pride" was being shown by the people of Kalamazoo.<sup>6</sup> Many valuable hints concerning the beautifying of premises were given by two free public lectures illustrated by a stereopticon. One lecture was by a representative of the Men's Welfare League of the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, Ohio, showing the work done in beautifying their premises. The other was by Professor Charles Gueblin of the University of Chicago, showing the work done by the city of Harrisburg, a city similar in size to Kalamazoo.

Working hand in hand with the committee on Out-door-art, the committee on Public Health, with the slogan " a cleaner

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6. "Much Interest in the Work", Kalamazoo Gazette, November 19, 1904, p. 7, column 1.

Kalamazoo," inaugurated a campaign of cleaning alleys and streets and disposing of garbage. Street cleaning came first on the committee's agenda. Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane presented a petition to the city council asking that the Public Health Committee be given permission to take charge, through the Department of Health, of cleaning Main Street from Church Street to the Lake Shore tracks for ninety days. The petition asked for money equal to the sum usually expended in this work and also the necessary tools. The committee had two motives in this undertaking. First, they were trying to find out the best methods of sanitation for a city this size, secondly, by experimenting in a limited area they sought to prove its worth to the city authorities. In addition to the money asked for from the council, Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane had secured the promise of a payment of one dollar and fifteen cents (\$1.15) a day for thirteen weeks from business houses on Main Street. However, the council did not cooperate and supply the necessary brooms, and so the action was called off. During the summer months thirty cans for refuse disposal were placed throughout the city and slips and circulars were distributed by the committee. These cans were emptied twice a week. During the winter months they were given to the schools for use on the playgrounds. The street cleaning idea was not given up, however. The

committee carried on correspondence with the American Flushing Company of St. Louis and were able to gain more knowledge of street cleaning methods. After careful study, the Waring system of street cleaning was decided upon and the matter again brought before the council. This time the committee met with success. The city council consented to put the Waring system into effect by the end of fall of 1905, and also to provide the proper tools and uniforms for this work. The published reports of the League on street cleaning brought ninety-four letters to the chairman of the committee from other cities where they were attempting a similar project. Typical of the spirit and enthusiasm of the committee was that communicated to Frances Byers by Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane when she said, "Twice a week I arose at three o'clock in the morning in order to superintend the flushing of the streets".<sup>7</sup>.

In November, 1904, Mrs. Kleinstuck, chairman of the General Welfare Committee, reported on the Associated Charities work begun in this city in 1893, as lacking in success. Therefore, the work was undertaken by the League. A plan which might prove more successful was presented and acted upon. The plan set forth was to establish an office with a paid secretary to keep a complete record of all

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7. Biography Scrapbook(1) clipping, 7-6-19. Frances Byers' interview with Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane.

cases of applicants or recipients of charity in the city. The purpose was to avoid duplication of charity in single cases. The idea was to keep the information available to all organizations and persons dispensing charity. It would act as a clearing house for all charity offered in the city. This plan was endorsed by the city council and they appropriated twenty-five dollars (\$25) per month for four months to aid in establishing this central charities bureau. Generosity was shown by the Board of Trade, for it offered the use of its rooms to the committee during the organization of the work. The Michigan Telephone Company responded by giving a telephone; the Kalamazoo Gas Company offered to donate a check to pay the gas bill each month; and the Kalamazoo Valley Electric Company promised to do the same for electricity bills. More support followed. The city poormaster agreed to pay one hundred dollars (\$100) for the secretary's salary for four months, and the city officials said that pending the success of the League in that period of time, three aldermen would be among the holdovers in the city council the next year. The latter would aid the League in bringing matters pertinent to the organization to the attention of the council. Thus, with the good will of the city, the work began. Rooms were secured in the old Kalamazoo hospital building, free of charge, and were

largely furnished through the donations of Kalamazoo citizens, who donated such articles as a stove, axe, saw, keys, and shovel. One of the first things the committee did was to establish a wood-yard for the men who were unemployed. Here a man could earn a meal and support himself while seeking employment. The wood-yard was started by A. M. Todd, who gave a number of cords of four-foot wood. As the wood was sawed and purchased, and if no donations were forthcoming, the committee bought more. They also secured dry goods boxes from merchants, which the men cut up for kindling wood. This project was commended by the business men of Kalamazoo "as a much needed institution".<sup>8</sup>

The committee also aided unemployed women. Second-hand clothing given by the Bauer Laundry provided sewing for the women and an opportunity for them to earn a meal while waiting for employment. As the work of the visiting nurse expanded, her office was incorporated into the General Welfare Committee. She discovered that homes as well as the people in them needed nursing, consequently a visiting housekeeper who cared for the children of working parents was included. The need for such an organization was soon proven. The secretary, Mrs. Moses, reported receiving nine applications in the first three and one half days of the

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8. "Support Given Charity Plan", Kalamazoo Gazette, December 21, 1904, p. 2, column 1.

committee's establishment. The aid, legal or financial, of the General Welfare Committee characterized the times. A report dated April 15, 1905, tells of the operation of the DeBal child, which was made possible through the financial aid of the League. A case of a woman eighty-one years old trying to earn her way to her daughter living in Massachusetts was reported to the League and financial aid was given. A committee of three, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Schell, and Mrs. Lucas, were asked to see what could be done for a sixteen year old girl confined to jail. As the committee progressed, the name was changed to the Charities Organization.

With the taking of a lease of certain rooms in a house at 320 Kalamazoo Avenue, in 1905, the work of the League was centralized; here the office of the Charities Organization was located as well as the office of the visiting nurse and the meeting room of the Executive Board. Much had been accomplished since the League's beginning two years ago. At least 5,000 visits had been made among the sick poor of the city. The work of the Charities Organization had come to be held in high regard by the city council, as evidenced by the fact that they paid the salary of the secretary, forty dollars (\$40) a month, during the second year. The prizes given for the gardening efforts of the school children had proven an effective impetus to the improvement of many home premises.

The persistent efforts of the Public Health Committee for securing clean streets had found their reward in the use of the Waring system of street cleaning on a three mile stretch of the city's roads and the probable purchase of a modern flushing machine as recommended by the committee. The Legal Aid Committee was added to the League, consisting of Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Mayor Taylor, and Lee Barkerbus, each of whom donated his services. The League had gained more important recognition in the state, for it had become affiliated with the County and State Federation of Women's Clubs and had applied for membership in the American Civic Association. It had also invited the State Board of Charities and Corrections to meet in the city during the coming year, 1906, and the invitation had been accepted. Interest in national affairs was evident as the League, as urged by the president of the American Civic Association, voted to endorse the Furton Bill, which was before Congress, asking for the preservation of Niagara waters. At the close of two years the League's membership totaled thirteen affiliated societies, nearly 300 individual members and twenty associate members.

#### Progress of the Women's Civic Improvement League.

The years 1906-1908 saw many changes in the Women's Civic Improvement League. Early in the year, the Executive Board was made a committee of the whole on charities and they devoted themselves almost wholly to the work of this department.

A new branch of the Charities Organization, that of promoting thrift, was inaugurated. It was designed to promote family savings in the poor and less thrifty homes, and thus to help provide family reserve funds in time of emergency. Deposits were received by a house-to-house savings collector and she in turn gave the depositor a bank book. By the end of the first year, 698 bank books had been issued, recording deposits of from five cents (5¢) to thirty-five cents (35¢) per week. This demonstrated conclusively the importance of the work and plans were made to enlarge the department. Another committee was added to the League, that of the Playground Committee, headed by Miss Bessie Goodrich. The school board offered the committee the use of the Lovell Street School grounds, and a supervisor and kindergarten teacher were employed by the League during the summer. The relief given by the League was clarified for clients, January 6, 1906, by three resolutions, which stated:

"Resolved: that the giving of relief shall be confined to the residents of Kalamazoo City and township and to transients, who at the time of application, are within the prescribed limits.

Resolved: that relief shall be given only after investigation by the secretary or her assistant, under her direction, except such cases as she believes to be special emergencies, when she may at her discretion give temporary relief pending investigation.

Resolved: that any person wishing to lodge a complaint concerning the Women's Civic Improvement League or any department thereof shall bring the complaint to the chairman of the committee having immediate supervision of the work, or the office concerning whom complaint is made. Complaint can be heard in person and settled by the office or by a committee appointed by the president."<sup>9</sup>.

There was evidence of more financial support, for the Charities Organization reported employing four paid workers, whereas previously they were able to sustain only two. An assistant secretary was added to the League in August, 1906, and a Department of Social Hygiene, working in affiliation with the Academy of Science, was created. Increasing confidence in the League's work became apparent. It was noted that an increasing number of people were seeking advice and counsel at the office. The visiting nurse reported 300 more calls than in the previous years, ministering chiefly to maternity cases, young children, and chronic cases. And, 13,000 packages of seeds were purchased by the League and distributed for vegetable and flower gardens. These gardens paid richly,-- in some cases in dollars and cents. The financial support of the League, which at first had been derived from organizations and personal membership fees, now included collections from public gatherings sponsored by the League, collections by membership organizations, memorials, gifts, and even direct solicitation.

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<sup>9</sup>. Minutes of the Women's Civic Improvement League, January 6, 1906. Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, ms., volume 1.

The League soon became active in city politics. A League member, Mrs. Bigelow, became a candidate for school trustee and the League endorsed Dr. Jackson's petition for city alderman. The League asked the city council to pass an ordinance requiring licenses for theaters, dance halls and other public amusement places. The revision of the City Charter attracted their attention and a committee was appointed to advise the council on any suggestions which the League might have.

Other committees were organized to look into and bring before the League any resolutions of probable interest to it, currently before the state legislature. Some of the subjects which the League endorsed were: the Anti-cigarette bill petition, Civil Service Reform, Child Labor, Training for Crippled Children, Forestry and Reforestation, and an appropriation bill for the LaPeer School for the feebleminded. Through the bi-weekly column edited by the League in the city papers, the public was made aware of the civic improvements which the League advocated.

The value of the League rose in the minds of the people and for the "first time in the history of the league, now four years old, the office was open every day in the year Sundays and holidays excepted".<sup>10.</sup>

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Annual Report, 1908-1909. Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, MS., volume 3.

Heretofore, the office had closed during July and August. The "cases" during the summer were not as numerous, but were just as needy. The visiting nurse, assisted for the first time by a student nurse from the Michigan Insane Asylum, cared for 201 patients that year, (1908) with 3430 visits made. This was an increase of 1,293 over last year's visits, showing an increase in the usefulness of the nursing department.

The annual statistical report of 1909-1910 reveals further the increased work of the League in many fields of endeavor. Of the 627 cases handled, 444 were old ones. Food and shelter was given to thirty-seven homeless men and two homeless women; food to twenty-three families; fuel to fourteen families; bedding and furniture to five families; 1,893 articles of clothing were given out; thirty-eight men were sent to temporary places, fourteen men to permanent places; eighty-two women were sent to temporary places and seven to permanent places. Work in the wood-yard and about the premises of the headquarters was given to seventy-three men. The secretary had ten inquiries from other cities and wrote 237 letters and made 1,222 investigations.

In 1910, the League was incorporated.<sup>11.</sup>

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<sup>11.</sup> See appendix for a copy of the Articles of Association, May 13, 1910.

The League could now do business legally. Via the newspapers, the League continued its work by calling attention to the questionable conduct of the people frequenting the public parks during the evenings. Special supervision and better lighting were suggested. Reference was also made to over-crowded living conditions and sub-standard houses. Further sanitation improvement was urged and the fly nuisance was discussed, not only in the paper but through circulars distributed to grocery stores, restaurants and schools.

The appreciation which the League felt toward the newspapers for the many ways they had cooperated with the League was expressed by one member of the League when she said: "We greatly appreciate the scientific manner in which the Evening Press gave its Christmas cheer to the poor by furnishing the funds raised to an organized charity and leaving the distribution to its discretion. We thank the Evening Telegraph for their kindness in donating the paper daily, and we wish to thank all the newspapers for publishing our notices free".<sup>12</sup>. She also went on to express the League's gratitude to others, as she said: "We gratefully acknowledge the assistance, cooperation, and hearty support we have had from our citizens, the churches, the schools, the different societies,

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12.

Annual Report, 1909-1910. Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, ms., volume 3.

and public officials."<sup>13</sup>.

The devotion, the work, the money contribution and interest of the League had extended far beyond the members of the League, to include bankers, lawyers, merchants, editors, restaurant owners, and council men of the community. The need for men playing a more vital and active role in the actual running of the League was felt by many, but some of the women refused to recognize the need. They felt that they had labored hard and long laying the foundation of the organization and building upon it and they deplored the idea of admitting men to full membership in the League. However, on March 25, 1912, Francis H. McLean, general secretary of the National Association of Societies for Organizing Charity, made known the facts he had gathered from his survey of the League and presented constructive suggestions based upon these facts. He emphasized two phases of the League's work: that of intensifying, correlating and coordinating its work, thus avoiding duplication with other organizations; secondly, allowing men full membership in the League with from ten to fifteen men on the board of directors. Mr. McLean had brought forth what everyone was thinking but had not ventured to say. As he explained and clarified his conclusions for the audience, the hesitant and enthusiastic arose together with much applause. This enthusiasm continued and we find in the annual report of

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13. Ibid.

the League for 1911-1912, that "a motion was made and carried that men be admitted to full membership in the League, the same as women, and the name of the organization was changed to Kalamazoo Civic Improvement League".<sup>14.</sup>

Summary of the Women's Civic Improvement League, 1903-1912.

In eight years the League had grown to include a corresponding secretary, Charities Organization, a general secretary, a savings collector, an Out-door-art Committee, a Committee on Memorials, delegates to the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, state and county delegates, and a standing Finance Committee. It was impossible fully to estimate the League's services,--they were unlimited, for they were subject to each family or individual's need. Having a flexible policy became a keynote to the success of the League.

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<sup>14.</sup> Annual Report, 1911-1912. Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, ms., volume 3.

## Appendix

### Constitution and by-laws as adopted

March 8, 1904.

Article I. Name: This organization shall be called "The Women's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo".

Article II. Object. The object shall be the promotion of out-door-art, public health, general welfare of the city and the bringing into mutual acquaintance and helpfulness all women and women's organizations interested in these things.

Article III. Membership. a. All women interested may become members by the payment of annual dues as provided in the by-laws. b. Any women's organization making some phase of public improvement a part of the whole of its work shall be entitled to membership. c. Men may become associate members by the payment of annual dues as provided in the by-laws. d. The Executive Board may act on the application of organizations for membership at any regular or duly called meeting.

Article IV. Officers and Directors. The officers shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer. These officers with ten directors and the chairmen of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Board. Eight members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business. Meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the president or of three members of the Board.

Article V. Amendments. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the League by a two-thirds vote of those present and entitled to vote, the proposed amendments having been submitted to the Executive Board and appended to the call for the meeting.

### By-laws

\*I. The Annual meeting shall be held in March; place, time and program to be arranged by the Executive Board. There shall be two other regular public meetings held yearly, the first weeks in June and October respectively; other public meetings may be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

II. The officers and directors shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting. The term of office for officers shall be one year or until successors are elected and qualified. The term of office for directors shall be for two years, except that

at the first election, the delegate directors as hereinafter described shall be elected for one year. No officer or director shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

\*III. Five of the directors shall be elected from the delegate members, and shall be known as delegate directors, other directors shall be elected from among the individual members, each one living in and representing a ward of the city. Each ward director must be formally put in nomination by the members of the league from that ward, each ward director shall choose a vice-director to assist her and to represent her on the board in case of her necessary absence. Every organization holding membership in the league shall be entitled to two voting delegates.

IV. All the members of organizations holding membership in the league shall be entitled to the privileges of the floor at all business meetings, but only the accredited delegates may vote.

V. The Annual dues of individual members shall be \$1.00.

VI. The Annual dues of Associate members shall be \$2.00.

VII. The Annual dues of organizations shall be a sum equal to ten cents per capita of their membership; provided that no organization shall pay less than three or more than ten dollars. All children's organizations shall be admitted at half-price.

VIII. Each organization belonging to the League shall send to its secretary an annual report not less than two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

IX. The by-laws may be amended at any regularly called meeting by a two-thirds vote provided notice of such amendment shall have been appended to the call for the meeting or without such notice by an unanimous vote.

\* ~~Marked out with pencil.~~ Minutes of the League, 1904.  
Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, ms.,  
volume 1.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, )  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO.)

Received for record this the 13th  
as: day of May, 1910.  
Edwin W. Vosburgh  
County Clerk

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION  
OF  
THE WOMEN'S CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE, KALAMAZOO\*

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We, the undersigned, being of full age and desiring to become incorporated under the provisions of Act 171 of the Public Acts of Michigan for 1903, entitled, "An Act for the incorporation of associations not for pecuniary profit, "do hereby make, execute and adopt the following articles of association, to with:

ARTICLE ONE

The name or title by which said corporation is to be known in law is "The Women's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo".

ARTICLE TWO

The purpose or purposes for which it is formed are as follows: civic betterment and philanthropy as carried out in the following departments: Outdoor art, school and home gardening, public health, organized charities, wood yard, visiting nurse (visits city poor), savings collector.

ARTICLE THREE

The principal office or place of business shall be at Kalamazoo, in the County of Kalamazoo.

ARTICLE FOUR

The term of existence of this proposed corporation is fixed at thirty years from the date of these articles.

ARTICLE FIVE

The number of Trustees or Directors shall be ten(10).

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\* Minutes of the Women's Civic Improvement League. Archives of the Family Service Center, Kalamazoo, typewritten, volume 4.

ARTICLE SIX

The names of the Trustees or Directors selected for the first year of its existence are as follows: Florence G. Mills, Caroline I. Kleinstuck, Julia Snook, Jennie F. Folz, Martha E. Schell, Franc T. Kennedy, Annette H. Ames, Nellie S. Clark, Caroline H. Guerne, Luna H. Henshawe.

ARTICLE SEVEN

The qualifications required of officers and members are as follows: Officers must be elected from the active membership of the League; any person may become a member upon the payment of One Dollar(\$1.00) and subscribing to the by-laws.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We, the parties hereby associating, have hereunto subscribed our names this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1910.

FLORENCE G. MILLS

CAROLINE I. KLEINSTUCK

JULIA H. SNOOK

JENNIE F. FOLZ

MARTHA E. SCHELL

FRANC T. KENNEDY

ANNETTE H. AMES

NELLIE S. CLARK

CAROLINE H. GUERNE

LUNA H. HENSHAWE

LYDIA GOODWIN WOOD

STATE OF MICHIGAN) ss:  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

On this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1910, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared Florence G. Mills, Caroline I. Kleinstuck, Julia H. Snook, Jennie F. Folz, Martha E. Schell, Franc T. Kennedy, Annette H. Ames, Nellie S. Clark, Caroline H. Guerne, and Luna H. Henshawe, and Lydia Goodwin Wood, known to me to be the persons named in and who executed the foregoing instrument and severally acknowledged that they executed the same freely and for intents and purposes therein mentioned.

Mabel B. Lawrence  
Notary Public

My commission expires Oct. 9, 1910

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,) ss:  
LANSING, MICHIGAN)

Received for record the 11th day of May, A. D. 1910, and recorded in Record of Corporations No. 98. on page 297.

F. C. Martindale,  
Secretary of State

Note: The above is a true copy of the Articles of Association, obtained at the County Clerks' office by Mr. Walter M. Blinks, December 30, 1924.

May 7, 1905 election

President-----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President-----Mrs. H. E. Peck  
Second Vice President-----Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. C. H. McGurrin  
Recording Secretary-----Mrs. S. A. Hartwell  
Assistant Recording Secretary-----Mrs. S. H. Carleton  
Treasurer-----Mrs. J. D. Schell

May 1, 1906 election

President-----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President-----Mrs. Carl Kleinstuck  
Second Vice President-----Mrs. Samuel Folz  
Third Vice President-----Mrs. A. H. Rockwell  
Secretary-----Mrs. J. A. Hoffman  
Assistant Secretary-----Mrs. O. H. Clark  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Treasurer-----Mrs. J. D. Schell

May 7, 1907 election

President-----Mrs. C. M. Chamberlin  
First Vice President-----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
Second Vice President-----Mrs. H. M. Jones  
Third Vice President-----Mrs. M. Desenberg  
Secretary-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Assistant Secretary-----Mrs. J. F. Schell  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck  
Treasurer -----Mrs. A. A. Guerre

April 21, 1908 election

President -----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President -----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Second Vice President -----Mrs. Howard Murray Jones  
Third Vice President-----Mrs. M. Desenberg  
Secretary -----Mrs. A. A. Guerre  
Assistant Secretary-----Mrs. J. D. Schell  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck  
Treasurer-----Mrs. Edward Ames

May 4, 1909 election

President-----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Second Vice President -----Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck  
Third Vice President-----Mrs. Samuel Folz  
Secretary-----Mrs. A. A. Guerre  
Assistant Secretary -----Mrs. Edward Ames  
Corresponding Secretary -----Mrs. J. D. Schell  
Treasurer -----Mrs. Walter Henshaw

June 13, 1910 election

President -----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Second Vice President -----Mrs. C. J. Kleinstuck  
Secretary -----Mrs. Frank Manny  
Assistant Secretary -----Mrs. M. N. Kennedy  
Treasurer -----Mrs. Edward Ames  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. Walter Henshaw

May 9, 1911 election

President-----Mrs. A. J. Mills  
First Vice President-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
Second Vice President-----Mrs. Samuel Folz  
Secretary-----Mrs. A. H. Clark  
Assistant Secretary -----Mrs. Frank Manny  
Treasurer-----Mrs. Edward Ames  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. Walter Henshaw

May 7, 1912 election \*

President-----Mrs. L. H. Wood  
First Vice President-----Rev. Patterson  
Second Vice President -----Mrs. Samuel Folz  
Treasurer -----Mrs. Edward Ames  
Secretary -----Mrs. Charles Ferrell  
Assistant Secretary-----Mrs. S. O. Hartwell  
Corresponding Secretary-----Mrs. Ella Lewis

\* Information for Board Members, History written by Neil Frennan, p. 14-15. Typewritten. Archives of the Family Service Center.

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