

# CONSTITUTION

1914



The  
Political Equality League  
of Manitoba

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"Let us have faith that right makes might."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"The only security of natural right is the ballot."—GEO. WM. CURTIS.

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."

"For women, *justice* rather than *chivalry*, where they cannot have both."—LILLIAN DAVIS DUNCANSON.

"The fundamental argument for woman suffrage, of course, is its justice and this would be enough were there no other."—JULIA WARD HOWE.

N.B.—The following Articles from I to X inclusive concern branch leagues.

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of this League shall be "The Political Equality League of Manitoba." (.....branch).

## ARTICLE II

### OBJECTS

CLAUSE A—To unite all those in sympathy with the movement to gain political equality for the women of Manitoba.

CLAUSE B—To disseminate knowledge with regard to the legal status of women under present conditions.

CLAUSE C—To stimulate public opinion, by all lawful means, to the point of demanding political equality for women.

CLAUSE D—To promote the organization of affiliated Leagues.

## ARTICLE III

### OFFICERS

CLAUSE A—The officers shall be as follows : President, two Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

These shall compose the Executive Committee, with the addition of the conveners of standing committees and the retiring President.

CLAUSE B—The term of office shall be one year, dating from the annual meeting.

CLAUSE C—No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years.

CLAUSE D—Should vacancies occur during the term of office, new officers may be elected by a majority of voting members present at a business meeting, after due notification of each member previous to such meeting.

CLAUSE E—Any officer or convener who cannot be present at a business meeting must provide a substitute pro tem. from the membership, who shall fulfil the duties and present the written report of such officer. The absence of any officer, without adequate excuse

and substitute provided, from two consecutive business meetings shall be equivalent to resignation.

CLAUSE F—Officers and conveners of standing committees shall be elected at the annual meeting.

CLAUSE G—A nominating committee of seven members in good standing shall be appointed by the League two meetings before the annual meeting, and shall submit its report at the business meeting next before the annual meeting. Any other nominations may be handed in, and these must be endorsed by at least THREE voting members.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

CLAUSE A—The President shall preside at all meetings; shall enforce a strict observance of the rules of the League; shall appoint all special committees; shall be a member ex-officio of all committees; shall call special meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee.

CLAUSE B—In case of the inability of the President to act, the First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President, and failing the first the Second Vice-President shall act.

CLAUSE C—The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of each meeting, shall prepare matters for publication, shall have charge of all books and papers of the League, shall notify all members of meetings, and shall report without delay to the Corresponding Secretary whatever business requires to be dealt with by that officer.

CLAUSE D—The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the League; shall notify officers and conveners of their election; shall keep a list of names, standing and address of members; shall receive membership fees, and send out to each new member a membership card and a copy of the constitution; shall send in to the Recording Secretary names and addresses of all mem-

bers in good standing; shall hand over to the Treasurer all monies received.

**CLAUSE E**—The Treasurer shall collect all monies due the League; shall deposit the same in a chartered bank authorized by the League in trust for it; shall pay by cheque all accounts when passed by the executive committee,—such cheques to be countersigned by the President; shall make an annual statement to the League of the appropriation of its funds. The financial year shall end on March 31.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall arrange for meetings; shall conduct all business for its branch League; shall decide on the expulsion of objectionable members, subject to the final decision of the membership; shall have power to incur expenses in connection with the work of the branch to an amount to be settled by each branch.

Urgent matters which are usually the business of the Executive Committee may be dealt with by the President with the consent of a majority of the Executive Committee.

A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

There shall be four standing committees: (1) Literature and Petition; (2) Publicity; (3) Membership; (4) Programme and Social.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**CLAUSE A**—Men and women who believe in the objects of the League and who desire to promote the same, are eligible for membership.

**CLAUSE B**—Any member who is guilty of any conduct detrimental to the honor, morality or general interest of the League, shall be liable to expulsion by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, but shall have the right to appeal to a meeting of the membership which shall give the final decision by ballot.

## ARTICLE VIII DUES

- CLAUSE A—Each member shall pay an annual fee of one dollar.
- CLAUSE B—Fees for the current year shall be payable in advance.
- CLAUSE C—Fees received after January 1st shall give membership privileges until March 31 of the following year.
- CLAUSE D—No member whose fees are in arrears shall be entitled to a vote.
- CLAUSE E—Life membership may be secured on payment of fifteen dollars.
- CLAUSE F—Fees sent in from points where no branch exists, shall be paid in to the general fund.
- CLAUSE G—All extra funds shall be provided for by a majority vote at a business meeting.

## ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

- CLAUSE A—The branch leagues shall hold their annual meetings as soon as possible after March 31. Such time and the place of meeting to be fixed by the executive committee of each league. At this meeting reports shall be presented by the executive officers.
- CLAUSE B—Branch leagues shall elect representatives to district executive at any time that membership of branch warrants the election of another representative.
- CLAUSE C—Special meetings shall be called at any time by the President at the request of five voting members upon due notification of all members.
- CLAUSE D—At least NINE business meetings a year shall be held.
- CLAUSE E—All meetings are to be ruled by Bourinot's Procedure of Public Meetings.
- CLAUSE F—Order of business :
- Reading, correction and adoption of minutes.
  - Reports and communications.
  - Unfinished business.
  - New business.
  - Programme.
  - Adjournment.

CLAUSE G—Quorum. Ten per cent. of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at business and special meetings, but in no case shall the quorum consist of less than seven members.

## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

CLAUSE A—No addition, alteration or amendment shall be suggested to the constitution by any branch except at the annual meeting of such branch. The Recording Secretary of such branch shall thereupon notify the District Executive of such proposed change. The District Executive shall then notify the various branches, who shall notify their respective members individually of the proposed change. The voting on such proposed change shall take place at the annual meeting of the whole League, and a two-third vote shall be necessary before such change shall come into effect.

## ARTICLE XI

### AFFILIATION

CLAUSE A—The work of the Political Equality League of Manitoba shall be carried on by means of branch Leagues.

Leagues may be organized in any district of Manitoba in accordance with this constitution, and any league may apply for affiliation under the terms of this constitution to the Provincial Executive.

CLAUSE B—Any municipality having more than one branch League may form a District Executive. Such Executive shall consist of the Presidents and one representative for every twenty-five members over the first twenty-five from each branch in the municipality.

1. These Presidents and representatives shall meet annually to elect their officers from the membership in the municipality.

2. These officers shall be : a President, two Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. An Auditor must be appointed. Any other officers necessary to the



efficient carrying on of the work may be appointed by the District Executive from within itself.

3. The duties of these officers shall be as set forth above for the officers of Branches, with the following additions :

The Corresponding Secretary shall receive all affiliation fees, and shall keep a complete list of all affiliated Branches.

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys due the general fund, and shall deposit the same in a chartered bank in the name of the Political Equality League of Manitoba,.....Executive.  
(Blank represents the name of the particular District Executive).

Such moneys shall be disbursed by cheque on the order of the Executive, and cheques must be countersigned by the President. The Treasurer must present to the annual meeting of the Executive accounts duly audited. The financial year shall end March 31.

4. The Executive shall appoint from within itself, superintendents of literature, publicity, organization and programme.

5. The affiliation fee of any branch with the District Executive shall be 25 cents per capita. This sum shall be the basis on which shall be calculated the representation to which any branch is entitled on the District Executive.

6. Duties of a District Executive shall be to carry out the objects of the league as set forth above, in any way not inconsistent with the constitution.

7. The District Executive shall hold at least six business meetings a year to hear a general report of the work of each branch from its President, and to consider any other matters which may arise.

8. The District Executive shall hold its annual meeting before May 1, on which date the new District Executive shall hold office.

9. The Superintendent of Literature of the District Executive shall purchase literature and sell it to the branch Leagues at cost price.

The retiring President shall be a member of the new District Executive during its year of office.