

## Political Yet Nonpartisan

**“In the League of Women Voters we have an anomaly. We are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going to educate for citizenship. In that body we have got to be nonpartisan and all partisan. Democrats from Alabama and Republicans from New Hampshire must work for the same things.”**

– Carrie Chapman Catt at the League’s founding in Chicago, 1920

1. The League of Women Voters is a rarity in that it actually serves in the public interest and serves through volunteer time and effort.
2. The work of the League is group work – “people working together for people.”
3. The impetus for the work of the League should come from the broader membership, which is why it is so important to involve all members in the local League’s effort.

## The Observer Corps

The observer corps is the League’s eyes and ears at public boards and commissions. The corps functions to inform League members and the community about what takes place in decision-making bodies.

Observers look and listen carefully during the proceedings, noting important information. They do not speak. Their reports must be objective and factual because they are used as information in the Voter and during member meetings. Reports also serve as resources for program committees and as input for local programs. Although observers do not suggest that the League should act, they can alert the League to the opportunities for action.

Observers can also help the League to put its best foot forward by noting and reporting the kinds of testimony that impress governmental boards or committee members such as the type of questions asked in hearings, areas where officials seem to need more information, and the format and style of testimony that has been well received.

League members who observe decision makers in action find that observing is an education for themselves as well as for the League.