

**Education**  
**A survey of Teaching Government in the**  
**Appleton Schools**  
**1971**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY

In May of 1971 a group of Appleton League members (Marlys Fritzell, Vi Pelzer, Judy Winzenz, Marge Koepke, Maggie Headrick, Rose Dercks, Barb Tank + ) conducted a survey on the teaching of government in the Appleton Public Schools. This survey was initiated by State under the direction of Pat Anderson of the State Board. Ann Crowley was part of the State committee. For the local survey we interviewed teachers at all levels, librarians and administrative personnel. The survey idea originated with the thought that League members sometimes have special knowledge, skills and materials pertaining to local government which might prove useful to public schools. The purpose of the survey was to determine what is currently being done in the teaching of local government and what the needs and desires of school personnel might be. The results of our local survey are shown on the attached sheets.

In February of 1972 the local committee met to discuss the results of the survey and possible action. Since formal instruction in government doesn't begin until 9th grade we decided that the greatest need was in the elementary grades, particularly the primary level. At this level the social studies curriculum includes a study of Appleton, which, in the past, has emphasized Indians and history. Recently a local women's group supplied the schools with "Appleton kits" for use in teaching this unit. On examining this kit we found that it deals mostly with the paper industry. We feel that this kit could be augmented to include materials about local government.

Vi Pelzer and Barbara Tank were interested in pursuing this idea and wrote the attached article for the bulletin--to explain the project and, hopefully, to attract more interested people. On February 14, 1972 we met with Jim Westphal of the school administration to discuss our

ideas. Mr. Westphal was most receptive and it was decided that we should pursue the plan in co-operation with Ellie Eggener of his staff. Shortly thereafter Vi injured her hand and Barb broke her leg and the idea was dropped temporarily. Mr. Westphal was contacted again in the spring of 1972 and he said that the Appleton Unit curriculum had not yet been revised--they have many other things to do--and that we're welcome to pick up the idea again whenever we'd like.

Some of our ideas were:

1. A Unit plan for primary teachers to include:

Structure of city gov.: Mayor, officers, departments, etc.  
 Representation: ward, alderman, city council, committees, hearings  
 Taxation: property tax, use made of it, benefits to us  
                   salaries, buildings, streets, snow removal, garbage  
                   removal, parks, schools, police and fire protection, etc.  
 (This is a very rough outline!)

2. An abridged and simplified version of This is Appleton for child use at the primary level. (Could include questions at the end of sections, eg. for city map: How many wards in Appleton? In what ward do you live? In what ward is your school? etc.)
3. A film strip (or several?) covering #1, possibly showing the mayor, city hall, council chambers, views of tax money at work...  
 Might want to do a film strip guide to do with it.

Financing was only discussed briefly with Mr. Westphal. He said that they have a small "new ideas" fund which might be used. #1 would go through school channels anyway--we can only suggest. #2 could be mimeographed and financed through the League or Schools budgets--or maybe PC would print for a good cause. #3, the filmstrip would present more of a problem. Mr. W. said that the schools have a photographer who could work on it. Once we have the original, copies can be made for about \$3 each. If we come up with something really good I doubt that funds will be a problem.

It would be interesting to contact Pat Anderson and find out what other local Leagues have done following their surveys.

Barbara Tank