

## **Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917**

*Wendy L. Adams and Chelsea Sutton*

Before American women gained the right to vote on the national level with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, Hoosier women worked to change Indiana's state constitution and give women the right to vote on the local and state level. Following the Civil War and through the first two decades of the twentieth century, women in Indiana participated in a succession of suffrage organizations. The Woman's Franchise League of Indiana was one such organization. The league grew out of a voluntary committee of women who worked to elect a woman to the Indianapolis school board in 1909. The league's goal was "to educate the women of the State in civic consciousness and to secure for them the ballot." The league began in 1911, and membership continued to grow in number until the Indiana legislature ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. The league had thirty-six branches by 1912, which included the branches in Indianapolis and Vincennes formed the previous year. By 1916 the organization claimed three thousand members and sixty branches. When the Woman's Franchise League reorganized as part of the League of Women Voters in 1921, it boasted 112 branches.

The league's headquarters was in Indianapolis, the location of the central branch. In 1913 the league's board of directors consisted of twenty-five elected members and the thirteen chairmen of the congressional districts. District and county chairmen assisted the board on the local level. Each local branch elected its own president and secretary-treasurer. Members paid annual dues of fifty cents—half of which went to support the board of directors' activities. By 1916 membership dues were reduced to twenty-five cents a year, with ten cents going directly to the league's national level. The league held yearly statewide conventions, where members could make amendments to the organization's constitution and hear lectures on possible forthcoming state legislation and other topics related to the women's suffrage movement in Indiana.<sup>1</sup>

Housed in the Indiana Historical Society's William Henry Smith Memorial Library, the League of Women Voters of Indiana Records, 1908–2004 collection contains the records from the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana spanning from 1912 to 1920. The collection includes copies of the league's constitution from 1913 to 1919, transcripts from the annual convention in 1917, and miscellaneous lists of members for a number of counties and communities covering a variety of years between 1913 and 1920.

The following list of names is an alphabetized compilation of two Woman's Franchise League lists found within box 1, folder 15. The names dated 1915–1916 include women who had paid their membership dues for those years, women who had yet to pay their dues, and a short list of elected officers for 1916–1917. The remaining names appear on a list of members dated August 17, 1917. The 1917 list is organized by county, giving names of members as well as indicating county officers. Therefore, whenever a list supplies the county, the county will appear listed here as well. Both lists provide the city where the member lived and the occasional street address following the name. Also, names written in pencil on the 1917 list have been included, and any names crossed out have been omitted.

#### **Note**

1. Clifton J. Phillips, *Indiana in Transition: The Emergence of an Industrial Commonwealth, 1880–1920* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society, 1968), 498–502; The League of Women Voters of Indiana Records, 1908–2004 (M0612), Box 1, Folders 2, 15, 16, Indiana Historical Society; Katherine Croan Greenough, *A History of the League of Women Voters of Indiana 1920–1952* (Indianapolis: League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1977), 3.

**Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917**

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Abel, Mrs. Philip	Petersburg, Pike County	1917
Adams, Mrs. Viola	Sulphur Springs (Rosedale)	1915–1916
Anderson, Mrs. M. J.	Brookside (Indianapolis)	1915–1916
Artman, Mary E.	Decatur, Adams County	1917
Bain, Miss Mary	Martinsville, Morgan County	1917
Bain, Mrs. Fannie	Linton, Greene County	1917
Baker, Mrs. Lou Allen	Greencastle, Putnam County	1917
Ballou, Mrs. Alice K.	Lagrange, Lagrange County	1917
Barker, Miss Eleanor P.	North Indianapolis	1915–1916
Barnard, Mrs. Nelle	Richmond, Wayne County	1915–1916†
Barnes, Mrs. C. W.	Brightwood	1915–1916
Barnes, Mrs. W. T.	Indianapolis	1915–1916
Baumgaertner, Mrs. Helen M.	Rockport	1915–1916
Bear, Mrs. Zella	Vevay, Switzerland County	1917
Beck, Mrs. M. C.	Albion, Noble County	1917
Beers, Mrs. Laura M.	Versailles, Ripley County	1917
Benbridge, Miss Helen C.	Terre Haute	1915–1916
Bietman, Mrs. Isaac	[Wabash?], Wabash County	1917
Blessing, Mrs. Zella	Fort Branch	1915–1916
Blythe, Mrs. Edw.	Delphi, Carroll County	1917
Boucher, Mrs. C. W.	Valparaiso, Porter County	1917
Bridgeman, Mrs. I. M.	Brookville, Franklin County	1917
Brown, Mrs. Harris	English, Crawford County	1917
Bufkin, Mrs. Samuel	New Castle	1915–1916
Burkam, Mrs. Louise	Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County	1917
Bush, Adah E.	Kentland, Newton County	1917
Buskirk, Mrs. Thos. B.	Paoli, Orange County	1917
Butler, Mrs. Casper	Kokomo	1915–1916
Cain, Mrs. Geo.	Connersville, Fayette County	1917
Carlisle, Mrs. Chas. Arthur	South Bend, St. Joseph County	1917
Carton, Mrs. James	Kentland	1915–1916

*Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917*

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Christie, Mrs. Mary J.	Danville, Hendricks County	1917
Clark, Mrs. Thad	Huntington	1915–1916
Clarke, Mrs. L. Ella	Winchester, Randolph County	1917
Cochran, Mrs. James R.	Tipton, Tipton County	1917
Compton, Mrs. Leonard	Tipton	1915–1916
Cone, Mrs. Margaret A.	North Vernon, Jennings County	1917
Cook, Mrs. E. N.	Plymouth, Marshall County	1917
Cooper, Mrs. Louise	Rising Sun, Ohio County	1917
Cooper, Mrs. Sarah	Jasper, Dubois County	1917
Cowing, Mrs. Hugh A.	Muncie	1915–1916
Cox, Mrs. J. S.	Terre Haute, Vigo County	1917
Craig, Mrs. J. C.	Noblesville, Hamilton County	1917
Creecraft, Mrs. A. N.	Franklin, Johnson County	1917
Croan, Mrs. Wm. M.	Anderson	1915–1916
Culbertson, Miss M. E. B.	Richmond, Wayne County	1917
Curtis, Mrs. Caroline B.	North Boulevard (Indianapolis)	1915–1916
Dooley, Mrs. Rufus	[Rockville?], Parke County	1917
Drake, Mrs. J. F.	Youngstown	1915–1916
Edwards, Miss Betsy	[Shelbyville?], Shelby County	1917
Edwards, Mrs. R. E.	Peru	1915–1916
Ehrich, Mrs. William S.	Evansville	1915–1916
Embree, Mrs. Lucius C.	Princeton	1915–1916
Emment, Mrs. Kate	Greensburg, Decatur County	1917
Ersinger, Mrs. John	Sullivan	1915–1916
Evans, Mrs. Chester	Bloomington, Monroe County	1915–1916†
Evans, Mrs. Geo. E.	Fort Wayne, Allen County	1917
Felter, Mrs. Edna	Huntington, Huntington County	1917
Fisher, Mrs. Carl G.	[Indianapolis?], Marion County	1917
Fisher, Mrs. G. W.	Whiteland	1915–1916*
Fordice, Mrs. Ella	Russellville	1915–1916
Foster, Miss Eleanor	Merom	1915–1916
Frazer, Miss Harriet D.	Warsaw, Kosciusko County	1917
Frost, Mrs. Ada	Greenfield	1915–1916
Garber, Mrs. M. C.	Madison, Jefferson County	1917

*Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917*

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Gilpin, Mrs. Lizzie	Decatur, Adams County	1917
Gorgas, Miss Mary	Shelbyville	1915–1916
Greene, Mrs. Helen	Garrett, DeKalb County	1917
Griffith, Dr. Martha H.	Crawfordsville	1915–1916*
Haas, Mrs. John	[Poseyville?], Posey County	1917
Haas, Mrs. Oscar	Mount Vernon	1915–1916
Harper, Mrs. Ethel B.	Riley	1915–1916
Harrison, Mrs. Effie J.	Clinton	1915–1916
Hartley, Mrs. J.	[Muncie?], Delaware County	1917
Haugh, Mrs. J. A. E.	Anderson, Madison County	1915–1916†
Hawkins, Mrs. Genevra	Portland, Jay County	1917
Heath, Mrs. Perry	Rochester, Fulton County	1917
Heilman, Miss Rose	Evansville, Vanderburgh County	1915–1916†
Hellar, Mrs. Nellie	Paxton	1915–1916
Henry, Mrs. Edward	Parkway League (Indianapolis)	1915–1916
Hobbs, Mrs. H. C.	Salem, Washington County	1917
Holland, Miss Margaret	Vincennes, Knox County	1917
Hopper, Estella	Nashville, Brown County	1917
Hostetter, Mrs. Cora S.	Evansville, Vanderburgh County	1917
Howe, Mrs. N. J.	Delphi, Carroll County	1917
Hubbard, Mrs. Florence	Scottsburg, Scott County	1917
Huddleson, Mrs. L.	Winamac, Pulaski County	1917
Huffman, Mrs. Alberta K.	Rockport, Spencer County	1917
Jacquess, Mrs. Arthur	Poseyville, Posey County	1917
Jarrett, Miss Frances	Howell	1915–1916*
Johnson, Miss Harriette	Indianapolis, Marion County	1915–1916†
Jones, Mrs. Victor [?]	South Bend, St. Joseph County	1917
Jordan, Mrs. Flinn	Wabash	1915–1916
Karsell, Mrs. Thos.	Bloomington, Monroe County	1917
Keck, Mrs. Louis H.	Mount Vernon, Posey County	1917
King, Miss Florence	Richmond	1915–1916
Kochenour, Mrs. David A.	Brownstown, Jackson County	1917
Kurfees, Mrs. Fred	New Albany, Floyd County	1917
Laramore, Agnes	Knox, Starke County	1917

*Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917*

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Leatherman, Mrs. E. F.	Rockville, Parke County	1917
Levor, Mrs. Rachel	Attica, Fountain County	1917
Lloyd, Mrs. Nettie	Farmersburg	1915–1916
Loer, Mrs. Estella	Newcastle [sic], Henry County	1917
Lutz, Miss Anna	Wea Plains (Lafayette)	1915–1916
Major, Mrs. S. L.	Shelbyville, Shelby County	1917
Maxa[m], Ruth	Princeton, Gibson County	1917
McCain, Mrs. J. C.	Ben Davis (Indianapolis)	1915–1916
McConnell, Miss Fannie	Galveston	1915–1916
Meara, Mrs. T. G.	Hammond	1915–1916*
Mershon, Mrs. J. B.	Brazil, Clay County	1917
Mitchell, Mrs. J. A. S.	Goshen, Elkhart County	1917
Morris, Mrs. Will	Liberty, Union County	1917
Morscher, Mrs. Fred	Columbia City, Whitley County	1917
Mosier, Mrs. Wm.	[Loogootee?], Martin County	1917
Mullin, Mrs. Geo. E.	Brookville	1915–1916
Newsom, Miss Vida	Columbus	1915–1916
Newsom, Mrs. Albert	Columbus, Bartholomew County	1917
Overpeck, Mrs. Belle	Rosedale	1915–1916
Palmer, Miss Harriet	[Franklin?], Johnson County	1917
Pearson, Mrs. Henry P.	Bedford, Lawrence County	1917
Phelps, Dr. Mary	Newburg	1915–1916
Pitner, Mrs. Frank J.	LaPorte, LaPorte County	1917
Proter, Mrs. Alex	Greensburg, Decatur County	1917
Rawley, Mrs. W. R.	Eagles (Brazil)	1915–1916*
Reid, Mrs. B. C.	Pendleton	1915–1916
Reynolds, Mrs. Mary	Loogootee, Martin County	1917
Rice, Mrs. Isaac	Lafayette	1915–1916
Ritter, Mrs. C. V.	Hartford City, Blackford County	1917
Robbins, Miss Jennie B.	Rochester	1915–1916
Roberts, Mrs. Nora	Greenfield, Hancock County	1917
Rodarmel, Mrs. Frances	Washington, Daviess County	1917
Rodman, Mrs. Lee	Cannelton, Perry County	1917
Rogers, Mrs. Nina Schaefer	Logansport	1915–1916

*Members of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, 1915–1917*

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Rose, Miss Helen	Ireland	1915–1916
Rose, Mrs. Gladys W.	Muncie, Delaware County	1917
Ross, Mrs. Ora T.	Rensselaer, Jasper County	1917
Rowland, Mrs. S. C.	Crawfordsville, Montgomery County	1917
Sansberry, Mrs. James W.	Anderson, Madison County	1917
Scales, Mrs. Florence	Boonville, Warrick County	1917
Schneider, Selma	Greencastle (Depauw Branch)	1915–1916*
Sewell, Mrs. Chas.	Otterbein, Benton County	1917
Shearer, Mrs. W. F.	Angola, Steuben County	1917
Shedd, Mrs. E. E.	Valparaiso	1915–1916
Sheridan, Miss Mayme	Lebanon, Boone County	1917
Sheridan, Mrs. H. C.	Frankfort	1915–1916
Sherwood, Mrs. E. T.	Linton	1915–1916
Shreiner, Mrs. Frank	Elkhart	1915–1916
Sihler, Miss K. Elizabeth	Fort Wayne	1915–1916
Simmons, Mrs. Abram	Bluffton, Wells County	1917
Sims, Mrs. R. M.	Frankfort, Clinton County	1917
Smith, Mrs. John H.	Spencer, Owen County	1917
Snoke, Mrs. Alfred T.	Kokomo, Howard County	1917
Snow, Mrs. Guy	Farnsworth (moved to Sullivan)	1915–1916*
Southall, Mrs. Geo. A.	Marion, Grant County	1917
Sparks, Mrs. Fannie Pile	Jeffersonville, Clark County	1917
Stanley, Mrs. Ethel M.	Newcastle [sic], Henry County	1917
Steele, Mrs. H. C.	Sullivan, Sullivan County	1917
Stephenson, Mrs. John	Williamsport, Warren County	1917
Steward, Mrs. Cora L.	Rushville, Rush County	1917
Stocklager, Miss Georgia	Corydon, Harrison County	1917
Stone, Miss Nina	Kokomo, Howard County	1915–1916†
Stuart, Mrs. Chas. B.	Lafayette, Tippecanoe County	1917
Teal, Miss Lois	Arcadia	1915–1916
Thompson, Miss Helen	[Winamac?], Pulaski County	1917
Tilden, Mrs. Frank	Greencastle	1915–1916*
Torr, Miss Minnie	Connersville	1915–1916
Uhl, Mrs. Emily C.	Monticello, White County	1917

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR
Vogel, Mrs. Adah T.	Paoli, Orange County	1917
Wait, Mrs. Will	Newport, Vermillion County	1917
Wason, Mrs. James P.	Delphi	1915–1916
West, Mrs. Jessie H.	Denver, Miami County	1917
Wheeler, Mrs. Jennie W.	Crown Point, Lake County	1917
Wilson, Mrs. Cora	Wabash, Wabash County	1917
Woodburn, Mrs. James A.	Bloomington	1915–1916
Wright, Mrs. Claude	Elwood	1915–1916
Wright, Mrs. Pearl	Logansport, Cass County	1917
Zeller, Mrs. Clem	Brazil	1915–1916

† county chairmen regularly elected for 1916–1917

\* names on the mailing list but had not paid membership as of May 1, 1916

[Online Connections](#)

[Genealogy Across Indiana](#)