

SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The basic overall job of a local Navy League council is one of education and public relations. Fundamentally, what is desired to be achieved is an informed body of citizenry in each community who will understand the needs for a strong Navy and will be ready to intelligently and effectively support it whenever that becomes necessary.

The following activities are merely suggestions. A manual for local council operation is in progress and until it is completed and approved by the National Board of Directors, no official program may be stated. But in answer to the many questions as to what a local organization may do, the following activities are offered as suggestions:

1. An education program should be set up which will make use of every opportunity to see that information as to the needs for a strong Navy reaches all channels to the public through the schools, the press, and the radio. Debate, essay or oratorical contests on subjects related to the role of sea power or a strong postwar Navy is one way of creating interest. Appropriate awards may be offered by the local council to the individual team or school. Material for such contests will be available on request to the Regional Office.
Possibilities here are limited only by the ingenuity and the energy of the local organization.
2. Form an expansion committee to assist the state vice president in organ-

izing local councils in nearby cities. There still is a big job to be done and the local council may be of real assistance to the State Vice President if it will assume the responsibility for organization of neighboring cities.

3. The organization should become the counselors and assistants of the Navy on all of the Navy's local activities, such as:

- (a) Rehabilitation.
- (b) Recruiting.
- (c) Officer Procurement.
- (d) All other local projects.

Various civilian committees have assisted in these activities which logically belong to the Navy League. Speakers on the Rehabilitation Program can be made available for the Navy League and local organizations. The Navy League ought to use every means at its command to see that the men returning from the naval service make the transition from Navy life to civilian life with the least possible difficulty. A great reservoir of good will can be built by the civilian group if it will actively pursue a project of this sort adapted to the needs of the local community.

4. Meetings of its members held at least quarterly. The Navy will supply speakers with combat experience and a knowledge of naval history. Also recent combat films will be available.

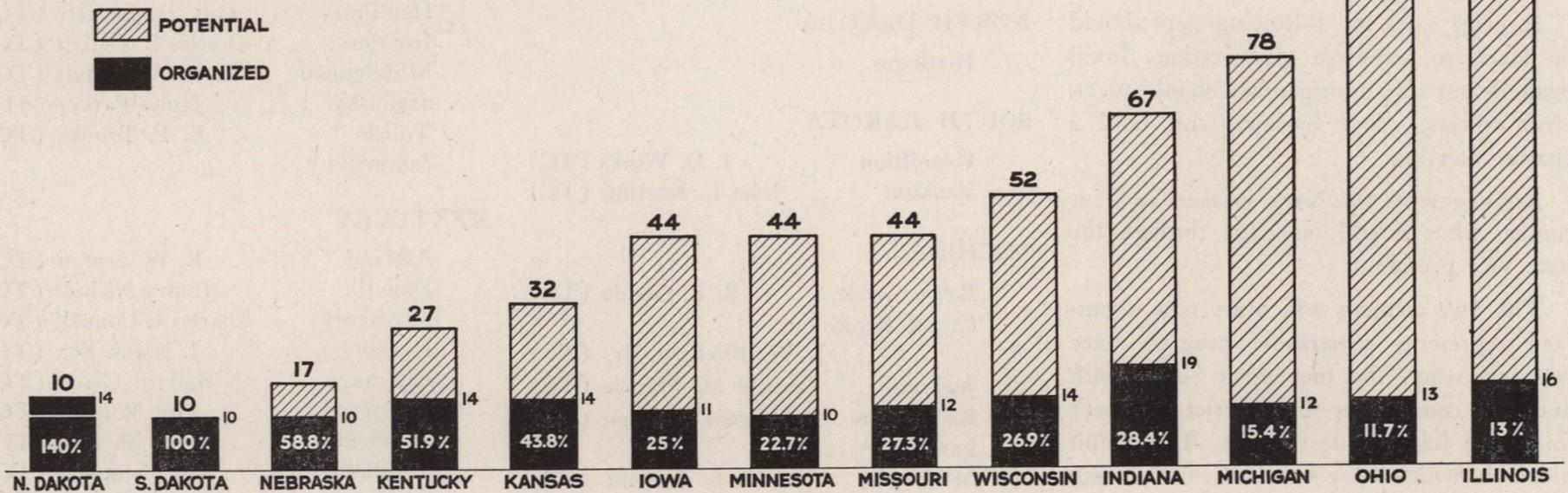
Requests for speakers and film must be made well in advance of the planned program. Such requests should be made to your State Vice President.

5. A speakers' bureau may be organized from local membership. The speakers should acquaint themselves with naval history and the story of the Navy League. They may speak at programs at all luncheon clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc., in the vicinity of the council of the Navy League. Speech material may be obtained on request to the Regional Office.
6. Navy Day celebrations (October 27 each year) should be organized and coordinated each year by the local council.
7. From time to time there will be various other local projects such as assisting in publicizing Navy movies such as "The Fighting Lady", and particularly Navy projects which may come to the local community.

All of the specific projects should be tied in to the one basic objective of keeping the membership and the public informed as to the needs of maintaining the position of the nation as the foremost seapower of the world.

All requests for assistance of the Navy should be made to the state vice president of the Navy League.

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF LOCAL COUNCILS WITH NUMBER OF CITIES OVER 5,000



The potential, represented by the figure atop the column for each state, is the number of cities over 5,000 in the state. The portion of the potential organized is represented by the solid black part of each column, thus Iowa with eleven councils has 44 cities over 5,000 and has realized 25% of its potential in organization. North and South Dakota both have exceeded their potential. This chart reflects the situation up to April 10.