



news release

RUTH C. CLUSEN

President, League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Ruth C. Clusen, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, was re-elected to her second two-year term as President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. in May, 1976. A member of the League's national board since 1966, Mrs. Clusen has also served in advisory positions to the federal government and to national and international organizations on such topics as the environment, urban problems and civil rights issues.

Mrs. Clusen also serves as Chairman of the League of Women Voters Education Fund where she played a principal planning and policy-making role in developing the 1976 Presidential Debates. Prior to her election as national president Mrs. Clusen served as the League's vice-president from 1968-70 and 1972-74. As a national board member, Mrs. Clusen chaired the Environmental Quality Committee from 1966-74.

As a long term advocate of a global approach to environmental problems, Mrs. Clusen was selected by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Russell Train, to be a member of the U.S. delegation to the US-USSR Joint Committee on Environmental Protection in Moscow in 1974. Two years earlier she had participated in the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Her environmental work has also included a role as an international environmental consultant under a grant administered by the State Department in 1971, during which time she traveled to Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

More recently, Mrs. Clusen worked with the U.S. Department of State as a member of the Advisory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. In June, 1976, as a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. HABITAT conference in Vancouver, Canada, Mrs. Clusen participated in an international effort to identify and solve interrelated environmental, economic, demographic, and technological problems of community living.

In addition to her international contributions, Mrs. Clusen has served as an environmental consultant to the Interior Department, the Conservation Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She is also a director on the board of the Joint Center for Urban Environmental Studies and recently completed her fourth term on EPA's Management Advisory Committee for the Municipal Construction Division. In 1976, Mrs. Clusen was elected an Honorary Vice-President of the American Forestry Association and also joined Science for Citizens, an Advisory Board to the National Science Foundation.

In her work as national president of the League, she has helped assure the League's leading role in environmental issues. Throughout her career with the League, Mrs. Clusen has given leadership to projects which help concerned citizens to understand how political decisions affect environmental quality and how citizens can influence such decisions. Under Mrs. Clusen's leadership, League members have worked at the local, state and national level on such environmental problems as air quality standards, pollution control, flood plain management, wetland preservation and land use. Stimulated by Mrs. Clusen, Leagues have increased their effort to build community understanding of the complexities and interrelationships of planning, administration, monitoring and financing in improving the environment.

From 1970 to 1972, the Environmental Quality Department of the League of Women Voters Education Fund carried on a nationwide air pollution education program, funded by contracts from the National Air Pollution Control Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, with concentrated efforts in nine air quality control regions. From 1965 to 1974 the League of Women Voters Education Fund conducted a series of land and water seminars built around river and lake basin problems and financed by training grants from the U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Interior's Water Pollution Control Agency (FWPA and FWQA) and the U.S. EPA. Mrs. Clusen directed both of these projects.

In November, 1976, Mrs. Clusen was awarded the First Annual Grand Marnier Civic Achievement Award and in May, 1977, was honored as a Woman of the Year by the Ladies Home Journal as a result of her work on the '76 Presidential Debates Project. She is listed in Who's Who In America and was selected for recognition in the 9th edition of Notable Americans of 1976-77. She has also been awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees in 1977 by Colgate University in New York and Wayne State University in Michigan.