



Lotta Hetler James (1876-1945) was a public speaker; active in civic, church and community projects; and a candidate for Governor of California.

Lotta Hetler was born in Chicago, Illinois. She taught at Elgin Academy for 8 years. She served 4 years as president of the Art Study Club in Elgin, Illinois, and was also president of the Hanford Woman's Club in Hanford, California. She was the first president of the Kings County Federation of Clubs; president of the San Joaquin District; and **president of the California Federation of Women's Clubs 1936 to 1938.**

Lotta James was also chairman of the Child Welfare Resolution Committee of the State Federation, charter member and chair of the Education and Membership committees of Elgin's Young Men's Christian Association, member of the Hanford Woman's Club Coterie, and the Hanford Business and Professional Women's Club.

In 1937, she ran for Governor of California. Her candidacy was launched during the annual convention of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, of which she was outgoing president. Dr. Louise May Richter, one of her sponsors, said: "We need a woman as State executive and Mrs. James has such good common sense, I am sure she would be an excellent governor. California never has had a woman governor. After watching the performances of some of the man, I think it is time to put a woman in office."

She died on March 18, 1945 and is buried with her husband at Hanford Cemetery in Hanford, California. As a perpetual memorial to her, the Hanford Women's Club provided a subscription to Reader's Digest Braille edition be kept in the California Home for the Blind.