



ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN

100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

October 2019 **Newsletter**

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“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

- 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution

WELCOME to the official newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women – *100 Years of Women's Right to Vote*.

As we launch Alexandria's efforts to commemorate next year's Centennial of Women's Suffrage and create a fitting homage to our City's unsung suffragist sisters, we eagerly anticipate your ideas, support and enthusiasm!

We are “putting our stamp” on our October issue...we've highlighting a few of the historic U.S. stamps commemorating women's suffrage. As always, the newsletter contains a bit of history, member news, resources, and links. We've added links to a calendar and a quick, time-sensitive survey to this issue.

We would like to know what you and your organizations need in order to commemorate this important anniversary! Please bring your ideas and questions to the next meeting or send them to me at gcprod@bellsouth.net

SURVEY

In the meantime, we ask that you please take a minute to click on the following link and complete the brief survey. Thank you! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5GRH2G>

NEXT MEETING

7 p.m. Monday November 11, 2019 -- Bon Vivant -- Del Ray

CALENDAR

Check our google docs calendar for women's events and observances!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nyQyZhuvhwCG0IOuTIBN1LI_wGPPjThzWJGvueRIDE/edit?ts=5d9376c9#gid=0



THE BASICS

The **19th Amendment to the United States Constitution** (Amendment XIX – often referred to as the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment”) granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women’s suffrage. The Amendment prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. When the Amendment was ratified August 18, 1920, it ended **almost a century of protest**. <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment-1>

The 19th Amendment **enfranchised 26-million American women** in time for the 1920 U.S. presidential election, yet the Amendment **failed** to fully enfranchise **African American, Asian American, Latin American, and Native American women**.



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MEMBER NEWS

The Alexandria Symphony (ASO) and its schedule of concerts for its 2019-2020 season (many featuring women composers and voter registration) was featured in the September 26, 2019 *Alexandria Times* <https://alextimes.com/2019/09/symphony/> Please check out the ASO concert schedule <https://concerts.eventful.com/Alexandria-Symphony-Orchestra> for music created for and by women!

As media attention grows for your organization's efforts to mark the centennial, we encourage group members to mention *Alexandria Celebrates Women* during news interviews.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **October 29th is the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail** for the November 5 General Election. Applications must be received in the Voter Registration Office by 5pm
- **November 2nd is the last day to vote absentee in-person.** Absentee in-person voting has already started at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections and will start at Beatley Library on 10/26.
- **November 5th is the general election** for Virginia State Senate, House of Delegates, and Clerk of Court. Polls are open from 6 AM - 7 PM. Earlier this year, Council approved two new precincts (Olympus and AlexRenew) that affected some voters who previously voted at Beatley, Tucker, Cameron Station, Lee Center, and Lyles Crouch.
- "Where Women Fall Behind at Work: The First Step into Management"
Well before the glass ceiling, women run into obstacles to advancement. Evening the odds early in their careers would have a huge impact. Read in *The Wall Street Journal*: <https://apple.news/AgNRgohzbTHiSBBXc-dprtw>
- CBS News "All-Female Astronaut Crew" <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/first-all-female-spacewalk-nasa-astronauts-international-space-station-this-week/>
- "Barbie Unveils New Judge Dolls"
Read in *TIME*: <https://apple.news/AdTMKIIVjRkq9s1KaWPFOUA>

BOOKS

- *Fair Play* -- From a decline in marital happiness and a loss of identity to health issues, Eve Rodsky explores the hidden cost of women doing it all.
Read in Harper's Bazaar: https://apple.news/AaquNqNRUQ_qCAWJk_q4fZQ
- *Leading the Way* -- Virginia Senator Janet Howell (New women politics book for children)

EVENTS

**Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
Annual Black History Luncheon**

Date: Saturday February 22, 2020

Location: Washington Renaissance Hotel

2020 THEME - African Americans and the Vote



The year 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote including:

- The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women's movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement.
- Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote.
- The fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today.
- The rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.



NATIONAL KEY DATES:

1848: Seneca Falls Convention – National-level launch of the movement for women’s rights

Following the Convention, the demand for the vote became a centerpiece of the women’s rights movement. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, along with Susan B. Anthony and other activists, raised public awareness and lobbied the government to grant voting rights to women.

August 18, 1920: Tennessee legislature ratifies 19th Amendment

Tennessee becomes the last of the necessary 36 states to secure ratification.

August 26, 1920: 19th Amendment officially certified by the U.S. Secretary of State

U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby **certified** the 19th Amendment and made the adoption of the Amendment official. Every year on this date, we celebrate **Women’s Equality Day** in commemoration.

September: Voter Registration Month

October: Voter Education Month

VIRGINIA KEY DATES

November 27, 1909 - A group of women, including Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston, Kate Langley Boshier, Adèle Clark, Nora Houston, Kate Waller Barrett, and Lila Meade Valentine, found the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia.

1917-- Women suffragists force fed at the “Occoquan” Workhouse

November 23, 1917 -- Suffragist prisoners released from Workhouse to attend hearing in Federal Court in Alexandria, VA Judge ruled that women protesters had been unlawfully imprisoned at Workhouse

August 1920 - Virginia women gain the right to vote after the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution becomes law.

1924 - Kate Waller Barrett of Alexandria serves as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

February 21, 1952 - The Virginia General Assembly ratifies the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, thirty-two years after it became law.

RESOURCES

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

<https://www.virginiahistory.org/what-you-can-see/story-virginia/explore-story-virginia/1876-1924/virginia-and-women’s-suffrage>

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association

<https://suffragistmemorial.org/suffragist-memorial-site-surroundings/>

Women’s Suffrage Museum (Lucy Burns Museum) “From the White House to the Workhouse to the Franchise”

<http://workhousemuseums.org/history/importance-of-womens-suffrage/>

Encyclopedia Virginia “Woman Suffrage in Virginia”

https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Woman_Suffrage_in_Virginia

William & Mary (W&M) Women's Law Society “Women's Suffrage in Virginia”

<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/wmws/womenssuffrageinvirginia>

League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area (LWVFA)

<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>

League of Women Voters Centennial

<http://www.lwnca.org/Centennial.html>

The National Women’s History Museum “Crusade for the Vote: Suffrage Resource Center”

www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources

<https://www.womenshistory.org/sites/default/files/document/2018-07/The%20Road%20to%20Suffrage%20timeline%20lesson.pdf>

www.crusadeforthevote.org/partners

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/exhibits/creating-female-political-culture>

Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

<https://www.womensvote100.org/about>

Suffrage Sisters | media@womensvote100.org

General inquiries | staff@womensvote100.org

Calendar submissions | staff@womensvote100.org

Media inquiries | media@womensvote100.org

Virginia History | <http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/wmws/womenssuffrageinvirginia>

suf·frage: the right to vote in an election
universal suffrage: the right of all adult citizens to vote in an election



