



## ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN

*100 Years of Women's Right to Vote*

September 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*.

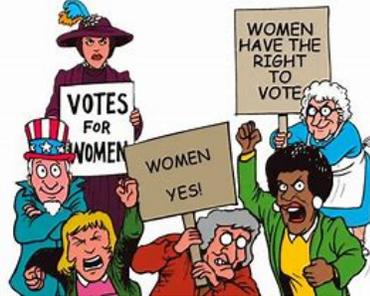
As we launch Alexandria's efforts to commemorate next year's Centennial of Women's Suffrage and create a fitting homage to our City's unsung suffragist sisters, we eagerly anticipate your ideas, support and enthusiasm! To get started, our inaugural issue (Happy Voter Registration Month!) contains a bit of history, resources and links. We will add to this list in future issues.

We need to know what you and your organizations need and *what you want to know* in order to commemorate this important anniversary! We would also like your *suggestions for a title* for our newsletter – please bring your ideas and questions to the next meeting or send them to me at [gcprod@bellsouth.net](mailto:gcprod@bellsouth.net)

**NEXT MEETING**

7 p.m. Wednesday September 25, 2019  
Del Ray Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, VA

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## 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**.

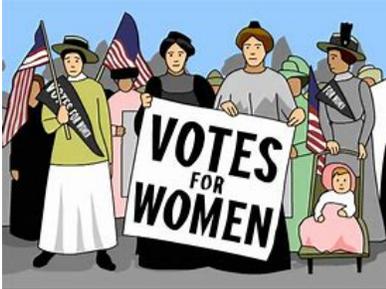
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## MEMBER NEWS

From Mindy Kernc, Executive Director of the Alexandria Sympathy Orchestra:

The Alexandria Symphony will offer voter registration through the League of Women Voters (LWV) at our opening **concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday October 5, 2019, at Schlesinger Concert Hall**. This is just in time for the fall election deadline in Virginia. Featured on the concert program is “On the Cliffs of Cornwall” by composer Ethel Smyth, known suffragist who went to prison fighting for the right to vote in Great Britain. Also on the program, an excerpt from the *Gaelic Symphony* by Amy Beach, the first woman to have a symphonic work published in the United States. (The program will also be featured Sunday, October 6 but the LWV will not be present.)

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## **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 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

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

### **August 26, 1920: 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment officially certified by the U.S. Secretary of State**

U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby **certified** the 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

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## **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.

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## **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](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.lwvna.org/Centennial.html>

### **The National Women's History Museum "Crusade for the Vote: Suffrage Resource Center"**

[www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources](http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources)

[www.crusadeforthevote.org/partners](http://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](mailto:media@womensvote100.org)

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**Media inquiries** | [media@womensvote100.org](mailto:media@womensvote100.org)

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

