



## Alexandria Celebrates Women

### November 2020 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***



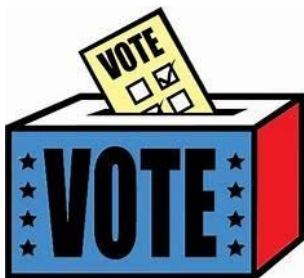
**W**elcome to the November 2020 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW).

**Following** a year of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment centennial celebrations, voter education and registration drives, special exhibits, drop boxes, mail-in ballots and early voting, the actual day is almost upon us. Although this year, the pandemic has created election *season*, **November 3, 2020 is the date of the next U.S. presidential election.**

Whether you choose to vote early or on Election Day, ACW urges you to create a plan for voting this year. We also encourage you to promote the importance and privilege of voting to your family, friends and co-workers. One idea growing in popularity is to encourage *voting in honor of someone!* But like the standard airline passenger safety advice: Before we can put a voting oxygen mask on others, we need to have it on ourselves!

We have provided current Alexandria and Virginia voter information in this newsletter and in the ACW monthly *Alexandria Times* column. The ACW Website also lists voter information: <https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/>

We hope that you, your families and friends are well and safe during this time and we hope the voting, *herstory* and educational links that follow can serve as a part of a plan to encourage your family's enthusiasm for American *herstory*.



## Events & Items of Interest

### **An Opportunity to Honor Suffragists in Alexandria**

**The** Office of Historic Alexandria is working with Alexandria Celebrates Women to install an historic marker to commemorate the location of an important American suffrage movement federal court case. The marker will be installed on the site where the Federal District Court in Alexandria was housed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The third-floor courtroom was located in the old Customs House which stood on the corner of South St. Asaph and Prince Streets in Alexandria.

*Suffragist Prisoners at Occoquan*

*in November 1917, 32 suffragists were arrested in Washington, D.C. for allegedly “blocking traffic” on a Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk. They were sent to the District of Columbia workhouse at nearby Occoquan, Virginia. The women were subjected to undue hardships and torture, resulting in the infamous November 14, 1917 “Night of Terror.” A number of women prisoners were threatened, beaten and hurled against walls and floors. A few days later, force feedings began. The suffragist prisoners were eventually freed from Occoquan following a hearing in Alexandria’s federal courthouse.*

The goal is to raise \$4,750 in order to fund this amazing monument. Please visit [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=RBW5ZJTT824V4&source=url](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=RBW5ZJTT824V4&source=url) to donate. We greatly appreciate your help in achieving recognition of the women who bravely endured imprisonment and brutality in their efforts to gain the vote for all women – across the nation and here in Alexandria.

***THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED!***  
***You are helping to make this historic marker a reality!***  
***YOU are Alexandria’s Modern Heroines!***

**“19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the War of the Roses” Art Exhibit** -- The Del Ray Artisans (DRA) suffrage exhibit, “19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the War of the Roses” will be presented November 6–28 2020 for DRA members and area high school students. Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA 22301 <http://www.delrayartisans.org/event/womens-right-to-vote/>

### **Alexandria Film Festival Women’s Showcase**

In this centennial year of the American Woman’s vote, please join *Alexandria Celebrates Women* in celebrating The Alexandria Film Festival 2020 Women’s Showcase.

The Thursday November 12, event begins at 7 p.m. with the first of four films highlighting women: “Lily Meade Valentine: Virginia Suffragist” – a short by 15-year old Julia Hocker.

“9-5: The Story of a Movement” by Oscar-winning filmmakers Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert is the story of women’s struggle for equality in the workplace and is based in part on the Hollywood comedy “9-5” starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton.

The Nov. 12 Showcase will also host a sneak preview of “The Housatonic at Stockbridge” - a story by filmmaker Tim McLoraine and inspired by a Charles Ives’ composition regarding a 1908 honeymoon in Western Massachusetts.

A fourth film, “Roe vs Wade” by filmmaker Ann Hartley explores the origins of the landmark decision.

Question and answer sessions with filmmakers follow each movie.

Tickets for the Alexandria Film Festival’s all-digital event can be purchased through [alexfilmfest2020.eventive.org](http://alexfilmfest2020.eventive.org)

The Alexandria Film Festival brings high quality short and feature-length films, documentaries, and filmmaker panels and arts presentations to the historic city of Alexandria, Virginia, via a four-day annual festival. <https://alexfilmfest.com/about/>

Alexandria Celebrates Women recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria, Virginia's women of the past, present and future. The volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization acknowledges the distinguished history of Alexandria's heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria's modern woman. <https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/>

### **From the National Women's History Museum:**

"The National Women's History Museum is pleased to announce our **2020 Women Vote! video project**, part of our Women Vote, Women Win initiative.

Participants are asked to record a brief video responding to one of five prompts about what voting means to them. The Museum will compile videos and share select submissions on our social media channels and other online platforms, including the Museum's website. Videos may be edited for length." <https://www.womenshistory.org/women-vote-women-win/women-vote-video-project>

"Join the National Women's History Museum on select Sundays each month as we bring you free virtual programming from the comfort of your home! From panel discussions, author talks, guest curated walk-throughs of brand-new online exhibits, and virtual workshops, we invite you to take a **"women's history break"** with us to feel inspired and come away empowered by the stories of women on whose shoulders we now stand."

[https://www.womenshistory.org/public-programs/nwhmpresents/sundayshome?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=nwhm&utm\\_content=1++LEARN+MORE&utm\\_campaign=NWHM\\_EM\\_EN\\_90DO\\_201016\\_1\\_1&source=NWHM\\_EM\\_EN\\_90DO\\_201016\\_1\\_1](https://www.womenshistory.org/public-programs/nwhmpresents/sundayshome?utm_medium=email&utm_source=nwhm&utm_content=1++LEARN+MORE&utm_campaign=NWHM_EM_EN_90DO_201016_1_1&source=NWHM_EM_EN_90DO_201016_1_1)



*Alexandria Times*, October 22, 2020 -- "Women: a Strong Political Force"

[https://alextimes.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/10\\_22\\_2020-Alex\\_Times-WEB.pdf](https://alextimes.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/10_22_2020-Alex_Times-WEB.pdf)

*New York Times*, Oct. 26, 2020 – "American astronaut Kate Rubins cast her ballot from space, joining 59 million early voters"

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/the-astronaut-kate-rubins-cast-her-ballot-from-space-joining-59-million-early-voters/ar-BB1apcPJ?ocid=msedgdp>

*The Patch*, Oct. 18, 2020 – "Vienna Girl among first Female Eagle Scouts"

<https://patch.com/virginia/vienna/vienna-girl-among-first-female-eagle-scouts-u-s>

*National Geographic*, Oct.16, 2020 -- "Why do we have the Electoral College?"

[ng@email.nationalgeographic.com](mailto:ng@email.nationalgeographic.com)

NPR StoryCorps, Oct. 16, 2020 -- “Her Mother Voted in the Wake of the 1918 Pandemic: now Voting is a Sacred Ritual”

<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/16/923766179/her-mother-voted-in-the-wake-of-the-1918-pandemic-now-voting-is-a-sacred-ritual>

CBS News, Oct. 14, 2020 – “All-female fire crew makes history working together”

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/all-female-fire-crew-makes-history-working-together/vi-BB1a1kCg?ocid=msedgdhp>



November is **National American Indian Heritage Month**. According to a recent study by the Native American Rights Fund, only 66 percent of the American Indian electorate is registered to vote. Despite the fact that women of American Indian confederations in Western New York State had a great influence on leading American suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, all American voters have not enjoyed free and fair elections and all women were not guaranteed the right to vote by passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed to secure people of color the right to vote, however the Amendment proved stronger in theory than in practice: poll taxes, literacy tests, harassment and physical violence prevented many Black Americans from accessing the ballot box. The 15th Amendment also did not include women.

Many communities of color were blocked from voting. Indigenous people won full U.S. citizenship in 1924, but Native Americans were not guaranteed the right to vote until 1962.

The election of the first American Indian women to Congress didn't occur until *two years ago*: in 2018, Sharice Davids of the Ho-Chunk nation, was elected to represent Kansas, as New Mexico voters chose Deb Haaland of the Laguna Pueblo.



**Voting**

## Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections

The **voter registration deadline** for the **November 3, 2020 General Election**, for those not already registered to vote at their current address, is **October 13**. To check your registration status and find your polling place, visit [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov), email [voters@alexandriava.gov](mailto:voters@alexandriava.gov) or call the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at **703.746.4050**. Any eligible U.S. citizen who will be 18 years old by November 3, 2020, is eligible to register.

Registration is open online <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections> for absentee ballots For the November 2020 Election. As of July 1, 2020, “no-excuse” absentee ballots are available.

If you would like to receive an **absentee ballot by mail**, you may apply online at [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) or download a paper application from the [absentee voting page](#)  
**The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2020.**

**In-Person absentee voting** for the November 3 General Election began Friday, September 18 in the Alexandria Voter Registration Office, 132 North Royal Street. Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The deadline to vote in-person absentee is 5 p.m. Saturday, October 31, 2020.**

**Military and Overseas Voters** may learn more about their voter registration and absentee voting options at [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html)

For more information on voter registration (and conducting voter registration drives), or to submit a paper registration application, please visit [Voter Registration Information and Application](#)

For questions regarding registration, absentee voting or to request and appointment, email [voters@alexandriava.gov](mailto:voters@alexandriava.gov) or call **703.746.4050**.



### Career

Most essential workers in the United States are *women*. If you are experiencing changes in your routine – whether currently working from home or being asked to return to your workplace, you might be worrying about finances and quarantine fatigue. Additional worry about mental health and risk of exposure to COVID-19 are affecting most of us.

We salute those of you who work in essential industries, including cleaning services, grocery and drug stores, farmer’s markets, transportation, federal, state and local government, active duty U.S. Military and Reserves, teaching, U.S. Post Office, and other delivery businesses. We thank the region’s brave first responders and their equally brave families: medical personnel, firefighters, law enforcement, and City and County maintenance crews and volunteers – everyone!



## 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>

### **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.

### **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”** <https://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”**  
<https://www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources>  
<https://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)
- **General inquiries** | [staff@womensvote100.org](mailto:staff@womensvote100.org)
- **Virginia History** <https://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/wmws/womenssuffrageinvirginia>



*Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW) recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria, Virginia’s women of the past, present and future. The volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization acknowledges the distinguished history of Alexandria’s heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria’s modern woman. <https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/>*

For more information contact Pat Miller at [AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com)