



Alexandria Celebrates Women

October 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



Welcome to the October 2020 newsletter of Alexandria

Celebrates Women (ACW).

October always marks the sprint to the finish line in election years. ACW urges you to check your voter registration and to create a plan for voting this year, whether you choose to vote by mail, or vote in-person early or on election day (Tuesday November 3, 2020). 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, in the ACW monthly *Alexandria Times* column or visit: <https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/>



October is also *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. *Domestic Violence Month* is also observed in October. Both of these critical issues affecting women and our health and well-being are currently magnified due to the risks and fears associated with COVID-19.

Read more below under "October News."

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 20th 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 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!

“19th Amendment, the War of the Roses” Art Exhibit -- The Del Ray Artisans (DRA) suffrage exhibit, “19th 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/>

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. This initiative honors the legacy of all of the women who have fought for women's right to vote, not only leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but throughout the many decades that followed and into present day.

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>



- **Alexandria Times, September 24, 2020 – “Gentleman’ Margaret Brent”** (Page 32) https://alextimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/09_24_2020-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf
- **New York Times – Keeping the Conversation Going** “Explore The Road to Women’s Suffrage. See how voting power really works with Representation and Democracy. Use the lessons of the suffrage movement to face today’s challenges with Women in the Public Spotlight. Or celebrate five unsung heroes of suffrage with our innovative virtual performance “Finish the Fight.” -- *NY Times*
- **PR Newswire, October 2, 2020 -- “SurvivorNet Finds That 1 in 3 Women Delayed Their Mammograms Due to COVID-19, While 45% Are More Nervous About Visiting a Doctor”**
<https://news.yahoo.com/survivornet-finds-1-3-women-132000192.html>
- **Atlanta Business Chronicle, Oct. 2, 2020 – “New 'safe' activities replace American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk”**
<https://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/news/2020/10/02/new-safe-activities-replace-annual-walk.html>
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-domestic-violence-awareness-month-2020/>

- **WhiteHouse.gov, Oct. 1, 2020 --**
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-domestic-violence-awareness-month-2020/>

HERstory



“Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” -- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

We lost a brilliant advocate and dissenter September 18. The death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was devastating to the nation with great implications for American women.

“...in 1993, (Ginsburg) became the second woman on the high court. Her fierce opinions as a justice made her a hero to the left. On the court, she became an iconic figure to a new wave of young feminists, and her regal image as the “Notorious RBG” graced T-shirts and coffee mugs. She also was the subject of a popular film documentary, “RBG,” in 2018. –*Washington Post*, Sept. 18, 2020

More Ginsburg quotes:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/23-ruth-bader-ginsburg-quotes-that-will-make-you-love-her-even-more_n_57a8b256e4b0aae2a5a0887b

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, email 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 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

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 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.



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 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.

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
- **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.lwvnca.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
- **General inquiries** | 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