



## **ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN**

***100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE***

### **JANUARY 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 January 2020 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women -- *100 Years of Women's Right to Vote.*

We've launched Alexandria's efforts to commemorate this year's Centennial of Women's Suffrage and create a fitting homage to our City's unsung suffragist sisters. We welcome your ideas, support

and enthusiasm!

We would like to know what you and your organizations need in order to commemorate next year's important anniversary! If you have a friend that you would like to receive this newsletter, let us know and we can add to our email list. Please bring your ideas and questions to the next meeting or send them to me at [gcprod@bellsouth.net](mailto:gcprod@bellsouth.net)

## **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>

## **BLUE STOCKINGS!**



**An early word regarding our fundraiser for our historic marker! Alexandria**

*Celebrates Women* will host a special evening at the Little Theatre of Alexandria <http://thelittletheatre.com/tickets/> this spring (April/May date TBA). The evening will be highlighted by a performance of “**Blue Stockings.**” The play follows the story of four young women fighting for education and self-determination against the larger backdrop of women’s suffrage written by director and writer, Jessica Swale.

In 1896, Girton College in Cambridge became the first college in Britain to admit women. The “Girton Girls” study ferociously and match their male peers grade-for-grade. Yet, when the men graduate, the women leave with nothing but the stigma of being a ‘blue stocking’ – an unnatural, educated woman. <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/blue-stockings-iid-153717>

*Funds will be used to purchase and install an historic marker on the site of the federal court that once stood in Alexandria – a hearing where imprisoned suffragists from the **Occoquan Workhouse** were*

brought (Please see Workhouse history below).



## EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT



The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was drafted by *Alice Paul\** in 1923. The United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the ERA in 1972. Thirty-eight states are required to pass a Constitutional Amendment for it to enter the Constitution. Because thirty-seven states have ratified the Amendment, only one more state is needed. That state could be the Commonwealth of Virginia this year. Watch: [https://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](https://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3)  
Hearing details: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+doc+S0810109>  
**Committee members:** Senators Deeds (Chair), Howell, Vogel, Reeves, Ebbin, Chafin, Ruff, Spruill, Peake, McDougle, Surovell, Mason, McClellan, Boysko, Bell

Note: this is one step to ratification. There will be more, on a fast track. The governor does **not** need to sign this legislation. The final date will be the third reading and debate in the second chamber.  
<https://equalrightsva.org/>

### **\*\* MORE ABOUT ALICE PAUL**



*Alice Paul raises a glass in front of the suffrage flag in September 1920 Collections of the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97500088/>)*

In 1917, **Alice Paul** and the National Women's Party (NWP) began picketing the White House -- the first time ever anyone had protested there. When World War I started, people felt that the nonviolent protests by these "Silent Sentinels" was disloyal. The women were harassed and beaten and were repeatedly arrested and jailed on charges of "obstructing traffic." The women were sent to the

**Occoquan Workhouse** (prison) in Virginia and the District Jail in DC.[2] Prison conditions were awful. In October 1917, Alice Paul and others went on a hunger strike in protest. In response, the prison guards restrained and force-fed her through a tube. In November 1917, the superintendent of Occoquan ordered over forty guards to attack the Silent Sentinels. Battered, choked, and beaten, some to unconsciousness, the women described it as the “Night of Terror.” <https://www.nps.gov/people/alice-paul.htm>

## **IMPORTANT – SURVEY!**

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

**7 p.m. Monday January 20, 2020 – Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market**

[2016 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2016+Mount+Vernon+Ave,+Alexandria,+VA+22301)

## **CALENDAR**

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

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nyQyZhuvhwCG0IOOuTIBN1LI\\_wGPPjThzWJGvueRIDE/edit?ts=5d9376c9#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nyQyZhuvhwCG0IOOuTIBN1LI_wGPPjThzWJGvueRIDE/edit?ts=5d9376c9#gid=0)

## **NEWS**

- *Alexandria Times* “Budding nonprofit honors Alexandria women” January 2, 2020 <https://alextimes.com/2020/01/womens-suffrage-centennial/>
- *Associated Press/Washington Post* “Lawmakers pledge ERA will pass in Virginia. Then what?” January 1, 2020 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/lawmakers-pledge-era-will-pass-in-virginia-then-what/2020/01/01/4515d64c-2c9c-11ea-bffe-020c88b3f120\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/lawmakers-pledge-era-will-pass-in-virginia-then-what/2020/01/01/4515d64c-2c9c-11ea-bffe-020c88b3f120_story.html)
- *USA TODAY* “Women catapult into power roles, thanks to lawmakers” [https://apple.news/AKNUpsdn3QRCio3J\\_jybKXQ](https://apple.news/AKNUpsdn3QRCio3J_jybKXQ) Shared from [Apple News](#)



## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**4<sup>TH</sup> Annual National Woman's March** will be held January 18, 2020 Washington, DC [Sign up to march here!](#) 500 DC area Volunteers needed: [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/volunteer-for-womens-march-2020-in-dc?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/volunteer-for-womens-march-2020-in-dc?source=direct_link&)

### **Arlington Prepares to Celebrate Centennial of Women's Right to Vote**

Arlington is hosting 19 events to commemorate the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. This initiative is brought to you by several Arlington County employee resource groups, departments and community partners. <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/19th/>

**The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission** officially launched [The Suff Shop: The Official Suffrage Centennial Online Store](#) November 29, 2019. Visit [WomensVote100.Shop](https://WomensVote100.Shop)



## **TRIVIA**

Did you know that currently there are 1,232 girls in K-12 that meet in Alexandria City Girl Scout Troops?

## **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.lwvnca.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)

**General inquiries** | [staff@womensvote100.org](mailto:staff@womensvote100.org)

**Calendar submissions** | [staff@womensvote100.org](mailto:staff@womensvote100.org)

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

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



