

December 2020 Newsletter

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The Iris is the Official State Cultivated Flower of Tennessee

In 1933 Tennessee recognized iris (genus Iridaceae) as the state flower without re-designating the existing state flower adopted in 1919 (passion flower), so legislation was passed in 1973 distinguishing the iris as the "state cultivated flower" and the passion flower as the "state wildflower" (a second wildflower was adopted in 2012; the Tennessee coneflower).



We're fishing for some new members to the ACDWC. Tell a friend to sign up as well. We're stronger together.

Board Members Announced

Pres Betsy Speed

V Pres Anne Mostoller

Sec Millie Taylor

Treas Anne Gladman

There are 2 going off board

Millie Taylor and Anne Gladman

Betsy Speed received flowers after being sworn in as this year's President with sister Nancy Lain Highfill.



There was one nominee for each open position.

OF INTEREST

Suffragettes Mascot is a what?

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/womens-suffrage-and-the-cat.htm> In England, suffragists reclaimed the cat. Postcards, posters, and cartoons showed cats in purple, green, and gold demanding access to the ballot. In the United States, there was also some reclaiming of the cat as a symbol of suffrage. In April of 1916, Nell Richardson and Alice Burke started a cross-country road trip. Setting out from New York City, these two women stopped in cities and towns across America, speaking on street corners, in people's homes, and other meeting places to talk about the importance of women's suffrage. Along the way, the women were given a little black cat. Named Saxon after the brand of car that they were driving, the cat became their unofficial mascot. Saxon's trials and tribulations were part of the stories the women published in newspapers across the country about their travels.

The Flag

On the flag of the United States, each state in the union is represented by a star. In 1919, the National Woman's Party led by Alice Paul began sewing stars on a giant purple, white, and gold flag. Each time a state ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, a new star would be sewn on the flag. There was room on the National Woman's Party flag for 36 stars, symbolizing the number of state ratifications required for the amendment to become law.

Last year we were gathered together without masks to share our time. But Covid came along and now we'll find a way to still make the holidays fun and interactive. Talk about Christmas past and Christmas present in how we plan to celebrate together while staying safe.

Ann Mostoller and Tom Burns



An American Suffragette: Alice Paul

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/alice-paul>



Alice Paul and the Suffragette flag

“Silent Sentinels”

In January of 1917, the “Silent Sentinels”, a group of 1,000+ women and their supporters, formed to win the right to vote. This began an 18 months picketing protest outside of the White House with signs that read, “Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?” During this time, Alice Paul was arrested and charged with “obstructing traffic” She was sentenced to seven months in jail.

While incarcerated, Paul organized a hunger strike in protest. Doctors force fed her and threatened to put her in an insane asylum. But newspaper accounts of what really happened garnered sympathy towards suffragettes.

By 1918, President Wilson announced his support for the Suffrage movement. It would take two more years before The Senate, the House, and 36 states voted to approve the amendment

Michals, Debra. "Alice Paul." National Women's History Museum. National Women's History Museum, 2015. Date accessed.

A Change Much Needed-The Biden Win

Opinion of: Yvonne Glasgow - Freelance Writer - [facebook.com/authorityvonneglasgow](https://www.facebook.com/authorityvonneglasgow)

2020 has been a nightmare of a year for many of us, but the election shed a little light on the gloom that has befallen us. With Joe Biden and Kamala Harris winning both the popular vote and the electoral votes to be nominated, there's more to look forward to in 2021.

I voted for Biden. It's been a while since I felt like my vote mattered, but there was so much at stake this year for me, as a woman, for many of my friends, and for the world. This may have only been a small victory, but it is still one worth celebrating. For me, this win means that women's rights will be better protected and that my friends in same-sex marriages and my friends who identify as other genders than those they were born into.

So, why was there a record number of voters this election? Why did Biden and Harris set records between popular votes and flipping two major red states (Arizona and Georgia)? If you don't know, I really want to ask you where you've been for the past four years, but I also know that as individuals we all have differing opinions.

In my opinion, it's because people have gotten tired of the childish behaviors of President Donald Trump. From his accusatory remarks to his flat-out lies, and not to mention his Twitter obsession. While, in one respect, it's nice to have a President who likes to connect with the people via contemporary means, such as social media. However, Trump takes his use of social media to a degree that can only be described as pure insanity. Are we going to miss that? I think not.

There are so many more positives to Biden and Harris taking office in 2021. Instead of focusing on building walls to keep people out of a nation that was built on letting people in, we can finally start focusing on the people again. Biden can mend the broken trust of allies that Trump instilled. But, none of this will happen overnight.

I am not an overly political person. While most years I research the candidates and chose the one who seems to fit closest to my personal ideals, this year I simply voted for the lesser of two evils. I personally feel like you have to be at least a little nutty to want to be the leader of any country, so to say that Biden is the universe's gift to us would be insane, but can he be any worse than the rest of them?

And, with Harris as his VP, we will have the first woman in the White House. That in itself is absolutely spectacular. It's a giant leap in women's rights and will show the world what the "fairer" sex is capable of.

As an American who didn't even start voting until she was in her mid-twenties, I finally feel like politics isn't completely against me. Sure, it's still a game filled with liars and old ideals, but the 2020 election has proven that change can be made if enough people are sick of the ways things are going.

The Last Word: Betsy Speed

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

Looking back on 2020, there have been many changes going on with ACDWC. We are changing with the times and moving forward. Our biggest most impactful change is how we are meeting. Since March, we were not able to gather in person for meetings or events. Prior to canceling in person, meetings were able to participate in several community outreach events.

Throughout the year we have continued to meet and stay connected by going online through Zoom. Even though meeting virtually has not been popular with many members, it was necessary. It allowed the club to continue moving forward while staying connected and informed.

We have continued to conduct club business even electing officers for 2021. These meetings have been very important to the success of our club. I want to stress OUR club. It is not just a few, it is for all of us. I would like to encourage everyone to join in the Zoom meetings. Many of the changes were definitely out of my comfort level. There again, "Moving forward". I am so proud our club has the talent and CAN DO attitude, allowing us to power through this year.

Thank you to the very hardworking board members. Thank you to all the members of ACDWC for staying active in this challenging time. Maintaining a presence in the community is so very important. It is what we are about.

I look forward to the coming year as club president.

Betsy Speed (President)