

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL**

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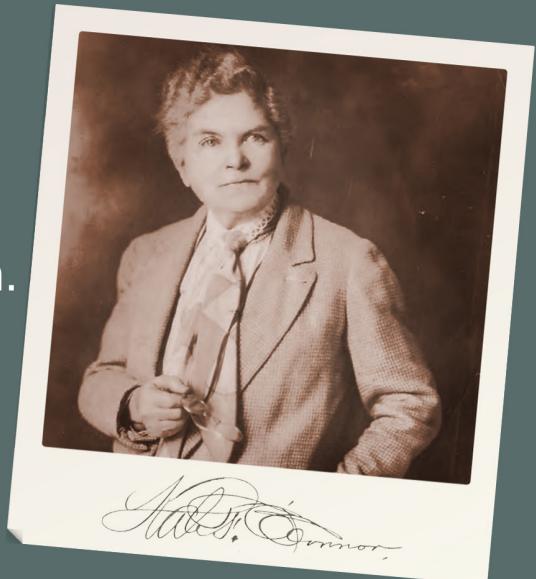
**NORTHERN  
ILLINOIS  
CELEBRATION**

*Celebrating Women  
Finding Their Voice with Their Vote!*

“Drop your excess baggage. Put on  
your shock absorbers. Forget the  
lipstick. Take a through street.  
And step on the gas.”

## KATE F. O'CONNOR

Advocate. Suffragist. Rockford's own.



We're proud to support the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration, and we salute Kate and her contemporaries who fought for a woman's right to vote.



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## *Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration*

In May of 2019, thirteen civic and women's organizations met to determine how best to commemorate 100 years of women's right to vote. Out of that discussion, key goals were outlined regarding community education and awareness; and most importantly, a permanent honoring of women in Rockford connected to the suffrage movement and voting rights.

Plans in the time of COVID impacted educational programming mid-March 2020 and will continue to require changes to plans into the fall. WSC2020 would like to thank the following organizations for their efforts to provide meaningful events and programming for the community: AAUW Rockford Area Branch, Ethnic Heritage Museum, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, The Harlem Veteran Project, League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford, Midway Village Museum, North Suburban Library District/Loves Park,

Rockford Chapter NSDAR, Rockford Public Library, WNIJ/Northern Public Radio, Womanspace, Women's March Rockford, YWCA Northwestern Illinois.

Our Steering Committee would also like to thank the many individuals who wrote the insightful articles included in this commemorative booklet. Some writers are from our member organizations and some from outside our group. These articles were designed to appear monthly on the editorial page of the Rockford Register Star with our WSC2020 logo to create community awareness of the year-long celebration. Some have already appeared in the RRS starting in January 2020 and some will be appearing through December 2020. Thank you to the RRS editorial board for their support and encouragement.

### WSC2020 STEERING COMMITTEE

- Livia Bane
- Martha Byrnes
- Clint Cargile
- Laura Furman
- Paulette Gilbert
- Christine Haeggquist
- Sheryl Hall
- Elaine Hirschenberger
- Audrey Johnson
- Jessica Lin
- Faye Marcus
- Claire McIntyre
- Mary McNamara Bernsten
- Kelly McNeal
- Zoe Norwood
- Rhonda Robinson
- Judy Schultz
- Terri Shierer
- Barbara Simon
- Patty Stadelman

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- AAUW Rockford Area Branch
- Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority
- League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford
- Midway Village Museum
- Rockford Branch NAACP
- Rockford Chapter NSDAR
- PAIC (Promoting an Inclusive Community) at RVC
- Rockford Public Library
- SPoRT Makeup, owned by IWBC\*
- WNIJ/Northern Public Radio
- Womanspace of Rockford
- Women's March Rockford
- YWCA Northwestern Illinois

\*International Women's Baseball Center

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO IN-KIND DONORS

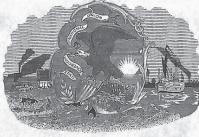
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WSC2020IL

suffrage\_centennial\_2020

[charity.gofundme.com/wsc2020il](http://charity.gofundme.com/wsc2020il)

# STATE OF ILLINOIS



101<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY • HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ACKNOWLEDGES

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL 2020

IN RECOGNITION OF

YOUR PURPOSEFUL WORK AS WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS TO THE DAY

THAT THE 19TH AMENDMENT WAS RATIFIED GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE

AND JOINS IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE EFFORT, DEDICATION AND HARD WORK THAT LED TO SUCCESS  
AND FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS BEST WISHES FOR PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

OFFERED BY: REPRESENTATIVE MAURICE A. WEST II

*Michael J. Madigan*

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



*John W. Holloman*

John W. Holloman  
Clerk of the House

NO. 101-24721



**STATE SENATOR  
Steve Stadelman**



**34th District**

July 2020

Northern Illinois Steering Committee  
Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020

Congratulations to the amazing coalition of civic groups that have come together to commemorate the ratification 100 years ago of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women across America the right to vote.

The tri-panel sculpture depicting Kate O'Connor, Dr. Constance Goode and a multi-cultural image of young women today exercising their power at the ballot box will provide our community with a towering symbol of the suffrage movement rich in local meaning and lasting value.

I'm proud of the prominent role Illinois women played in the suffrage movement and of the spirit and thoughtfulness of the women who envisioned and executed this inspiring centennial tribute and related ceremonies for our community.

As a father, brother and son, I'm grateful for every American who fought over decades for the equality that was finally achieved August 18, 1920.

May we always continue to move toward a more just society.

Sincerely,

Steve Stadelman,  
Illinois State Senator, 34<sup>th</sup> District



Thomas P. McNamara  
Mayor

## **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, *August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 marks 100 years since women's suffrage was achieved through ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; and*

WHEREAS, *the struggle for women's suffrage began in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 and lasted for 72 years; and*

WHEREAS, *a number of women from Rockford were nationally recognized in the suffrage movement, most notably Jane Addams, Julia Clifford Lathrop, and Kate F. O'Connor; and*

WHEREAS, *2020 marks 55 years since the height of the Civil Rights Movement which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, landmark legislation that prohibits racial discrimination in voting; and*

WHEREAS, *since 1920, the power of the vote has significantly impacted the lives of women and girls with passage of legislation specific to women's rights issues such as Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, Equal Pay, and lifting of the ban on women in the military; and*

WHEREAS, *the struggle continues to assure equal access for everyone who wants to vote;*

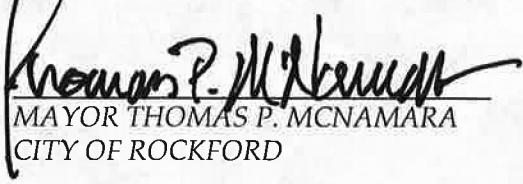
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS P. MCNAMARA, as Mayor of the city of Rockford do hereby proclaim August 18, 2020 to be:

### **"WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL DAY"**

*in Rockford, Illinois and urge all citizens, especially our daughters, to learn about the generations of women who fought for the right to vote, thus giving their daughters and granddaughters a voice.*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 18th day of August 2020.

  
MAYOR THOMAS P. MCNAMARA  
CITY OF ROCKFORD



# *Commemoration Program*

August 18, 2020

11:00 am, Maddox Theatre/Clark Arts Center, Rockford University

*Mistress of Ceremonies, The Honorable Rosemary Collins*

Processional of Dignitaries..... (Escorted by Girl Scout Troops #1243 and #1398;  
music provided by Ms. Aria Beert)

Presentation of Colors..... Rockford Chapter of National Women Veterans United SheVets

National Anthem ..... Ms. Gina Meeks, Vocalist

Welcome ..... Dr. Eric Fulcomer, *President, Rockford University*

Introduction of Dignitaries ..... The Hon. Rosemary Collins

Greetings..... Ms. Christine Haeggquist, *WSC2020 Steering Committee*

Poem...."Alice Paul" (K.R. Fisher) ..... Atty. Linda Zuba, *Grand Marshal*

State Proclamation..... Representative Maurice West, *Illinois District #67*

Reflections..... Ms. Michelle Duster, *Author, Public Historian and Great-Granddaughter of Suffragist Ida B. Wells-Barnett*

City Proclamation..... Mayor Thomas McNamara, *City of Rockford*

Poem...."Susan B. Anthony" (K.R. Fisher).. Ms. Dorothy Paige-Turner, *Grand Marshal*

Reflections..... The Hon. Rosemary Collins

The Women's Centennial Sculpture ..... Elaine Hirschenberger, *SSSF Executive Director of Womanspace*;  
Ms. Susan Burton, *Artist*

Closing Remarks..... The Hon. Rosemary Collins

*The Celebration Parade begins 1/2-hour after the end of the Commemoration Program.*



# State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross

speaking at Black History Month event

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Veteran's Memorial Hall



Good afternoon. This is an honor and a privilege to be here today. I want to thank each of our Honorees for their stellar service. I know it wasn't easy and I know that you are the face of courage today and you are our living history, so thank you.

I was asked to give a brief overview of the history of the 19th Amendment, and I have a short slide show for you. But I want to start out by saying the accomplishment of the 19th Amendment came about because of various groups within the community. It started and it totally intertwined with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendment. So it started with the abolitionist groups. It ended up being very active in putting an end to slavery so that the 13th Amendment was passed; then we got to the 15th Amendment that gave black males the right to vote, so the black male suffrage was accomplished; and then several years later, 1920, we finally got the women suffrage amendment passed. But, I want you to know all of those historical acts are intertwined, and I'm just going to give you a nutshell view of what occurred, if I could, please.

So given the efforts of the Civil War, most of the women in the activist groups suspended their activities regarding women suffrage to dedicate their efforts on the Civil War and ending slavery between 1861 and 1865. In 1866, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association, an organization dedicated to accomplishing suffrage for women. Those are the names that you hear most often, but you're going to hear a few names today that you don't hear as often as these two connected to the women's suffrage movement. In 1867 that organization had issues and they were divided.

Why were they divided? They were divided because of the controversy over the 15th Amendment. The women – the white women wanted suffrage for women and there was an intersection of disagreement regarding the suffrage for African-American men. So that group split in 1867, and what's displayed is an executive membership of the group that was formed when that group split, the National Women Suffrage Association, and you can see some of the figures that

are recognized in the middle there, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In 1869, as I indicated, there was a disagreement again over that, black male suffrage. The next slide just shows a picture again of the most familiar faces you see when you think about women suffrage, that's Elizabeth Cady Stanton who was sitting, and Susan B. Anthony who was the taller woman in the photo.



So what happened in 1870? 1870 the 15th Amendment gave black men the right to vote. The National Women Suffrage Association refused to work for its ratification and they wanted to advocate for the 16th Amendment for women suffrage, and at this time they split with Frederick Douglass who had previously worked with these women's groups.

In 1878, a women's suffrage amendment was first proposed to the U.S. Congress. Interestingly enough, more than 40 years later when the 19th Amendment was passed, the wording is exactly the same. In 1887 the first vote on women's suffrage is taken in the Senate and it is defeated. Now, in 1890 you then had the various groups working again for women suffrage, the NWSA, the AWSA which were the two groups that had previously flourished and they formed the National Association for Women Suffrage.



Along those same lines you had the first state in the union, Wyoming, who was admitted, and in its constitution it gave women voting rights. You also had other groups that were supporting women suffrage that you don't hear about most often, for example, The American Federation of Labor declared its support for women's rights to vote. The State of South Dakota campaigned for women suffrage. In the next slide you see pictured again the most famous faces regarding women suffrage at the National American Women Suffrage Association building.

Now, between 1890 and 1925 the progressive era begins and women from all classes and backgrounds enter public life. Women's roles began to expand and the politicization of women continued. The women suffrage movement finally becomes a mainstream issue in politics.



In 1894 more than 600,000 signatures are presented to the New York State Constitutional Convention in a failed effort to allow women the right to vote in the State of New York. So as you see, there were various strategies approached by these groups. They were approached at the state level and they were also approached at the state – and the national level – at the same time.

In 1895 we have Elizabeth Cady Stanton who publishes The Woman's Bible. After its publication many of the women who had previously worked with her felt she was too radical and they distanced themselves from her. In 1896 you have Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Frances E.W. Harper, and among others founded the National Association of Colored Women's Club, and they actually founded also the National Association of Colored Women that you will see on your next slide.



Again, these are faces that you don't usually see when people talk about women suffrage, but, again, I want to just indicate to you and share with you that there were various groups involved, and the National Association of Colored Women was very active. They were formed in 1896 and by 1900 they had over 5,000 members. In 1913 the suffragists organized a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Does that sound familiar?

When you want to get national attention to an issue, you go to the capital of our country and you march. The women paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue. It was organized by the National American Women Suffrage Association, commonly known as NAWSA. If you'll go to the next slide, you'll see a picture of the march in 1917. These are women marching for women's suffrage. Concurrently, in 1917 you see that



states are beginning to take notice of the State of New York recognizing women suffrage. In Arkansas, women were allowed to vote in primary elections. The National Women's Party picketers appear in front of the White House holding the banners that you saw in the last slide. So they're getting closer to seeing success for their efforts.

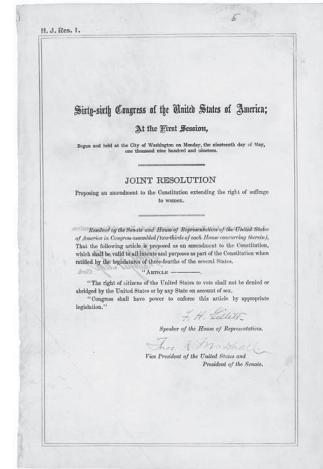
In 1919, Representative Rankin opened the debate on suffrage amendment in the house. The amendment passes, but the amendment fails to win the required two-third majority vote in the Senate. Meanwhile, again, the states are starting to take notice that women are going to get the right to vote, and they're going to recognize that individually as states if the United States Government refuses to do so. So you have Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma adopting legislation to allow women the right to vote. You also now have President Woodrow Wilson entering the arena in supporting the women's rights to vote. President Wilson actually addresses the Senate advocating for women suffrage at the end of World War I.

Finally, in 1919 the Senate passes the 19th Amendment, and the ratification process begins. So on August 26, 1920, three-quarters of the state legislatures ratify the 19th Amendment, and women finally, finally, get the right to vote.

I just want to share with you that, you know, we should not take this vote lightly. You know, we are here – we are here because we stand on the shoulders of all of these very diverse groups, diverse ethnicities who sacrificed their personal life to allow women the right to vote. Why? Because it was the right thing to do. I feel very blessed to serve as your 18th State's Attorney, the first woman, the first African-American or person of color to serve in that position, and I certainly wouldn't be allowed to serve in that position without the sacrifices of these women who allowed us to now be in this office.

And so what does it mean to vote? Victory occurs with tenacious efforts and that's exactly what these women did.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.



Winnebago County State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross  
Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office ©

# *Susan B. Anthony: A Champion for Equal Rights*

by Martha Byrnes

Regent, Rockford Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

In late November 1888, more than 500 Rockford area women and men crowded into a 30-room mansion at 427 North Church Street, Rockford, home of Adeline Talcott Emerson and her husband, manufacturer Ralph E. Emerson, to attempt a glimpse of Miss Susan B. Anthony.

The public invitation was from the president and officers of the State Equal Suffrage Association, according to articles in The Daily Register, a predecessor to the Rockford Register Star. More than a century later, we commemorate the suffragist by marking her 200th birthday. Born Feb. 15, 1820, to a modest Quaker family in Massachusetts, she championed universal suffrage, abolitionism and equal pay for equal work, temperance and additional rights for women. Her life's work took to heart the Quaker teaching that all humans are equal under God.

A lifelong friend of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the two co-founded the New York Women's State Temperance Society in 1852 after Anthony was prevented from speaking because of her sex. They formed The American Equal Rights Association in 1866, working to gain the right to vote for African Americans as well as women.

From 1868 to 1872 the pair published a weekly newspaper, The Revolution, with articles promoting suffrage, women's divorce rights and their rights to hold land.

In 1869, Stanton and Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association.

*Susan B. Anthony*

After the passage of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870, effectively giving African-American men the right to vote, Anthony was one of 50 women who attempted to persuade local boards of elections to allow them to register and vote in the 1872 presidential election. Although temporarily successful, two weeks later she was arrested. The next summer she was tried and convicted by a judge (not a jury of her peers) who fined her \$100. However, she refused to pay it. The court ultimately dropped the issue to avoid having her take the case to the Supreme Court.

For several decades she made her living on the lecture circuit, at \$50 per appearance. She traveled through northern Illinois numerous times. Scheduled for Brown's Hall on West State Street, Rockford, March 31, 1871, she was unable to appear due to illness; the Rockford Journal reported in April that she had gone on to Galena. In March 1873 she was featured at a meeting in Chicago of the Illinois Women's Suffrage Association. Her topic in Durand in March 1877 was "Woman and the 16th Amendment" (assuming it would grant the right to vote without discrimination on the basis of sex.) Anthony spoke in Rochelle early in March 1879 and in Rockford March 26.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) welcomed Anthony as a member in 1898; verifying her maternal grandfather served in the American Revolution. The DAR, founded in 1890, with a Rockford Chapter founded 125 years ago under the leadership of Adeline Emerson, is a non-profit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

Anthony was honored as one of the DAR "Daughters of Distinction" who have "made significant and positive contributions to American or international culture, society, or history through diligent application of their unique talents and abilities." However, when she joined the Irondequoit Chapter in Rochester, New York, Anthony explained that she wouldn't be taking an active role in the organization. She said, "I have been, and must continue, to be busy working to secure for the women of this day the paramount rights for which the Revolutionary War was waged."

At this confluence of Miss Anthony's birth 200 years ago and the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment, today's DAR members are proud to support our local Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 in her honor and to honor our founding members including Emerson. We encourage all who are eligible to register, vote, and volunteer.

# *Alice Paul and the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession*

by Mary Weaks-Baxter, PhD

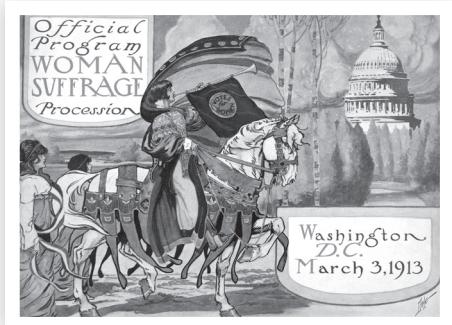
AAUW member, Andrew Sherratt Professor and

Director of the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement at Rockford University

The 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession was the first large-scale political march on Washington.

Marchers were from all walks of life, from healthcare workers and teachers to farmers and entertainers, with male allies represented in a group that marched alongside the women. As the procession moved down Pennsylvania Avenue, marchers reported hearing "indecent epithets" and "barnyard conversation," and allies heard calls of "Henpecko" and "Where are your skirts?" When the crowd watching the parade grew hostile, police did little to protect them, even though the march had been planned well in advance, permits secured, and security promised by the city.

The parade had been purposefully scheduled the day before the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson to give visibility to the cause by drawing the attention of visitors for the inauguration. Given the theme "Ideals and Virtues of American Womanhood" to quell criticism that voting took away women's femininity, the parade was led by "the most beautiful" suffragist, a labor lawyer dressed in a Greek robe and on horseback.



The march also drew controversy among the participants. African American women participating in the march were required to march in a segregated group, drawing criticism from Ida B. Wells, who refused and marched alongside suffragists from Illinois. Two weeks after the inauguration, Wilson met with the suffragists, explaining to them that he

believed it was not the right time for a constitutional amendment.

The march was organized by Alice Paul and fellow suffragist Lucy Burns. Born in 1885 in New Jersey, Paul was the child of Quakers who believed in equality for women. After receiving her MA degree in sociology, Paul studied social work in England and then returned to the U.S., receiving her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. While in England, Paul met Burns and learned suffragist strategies, such as hunger strikes and picketing.

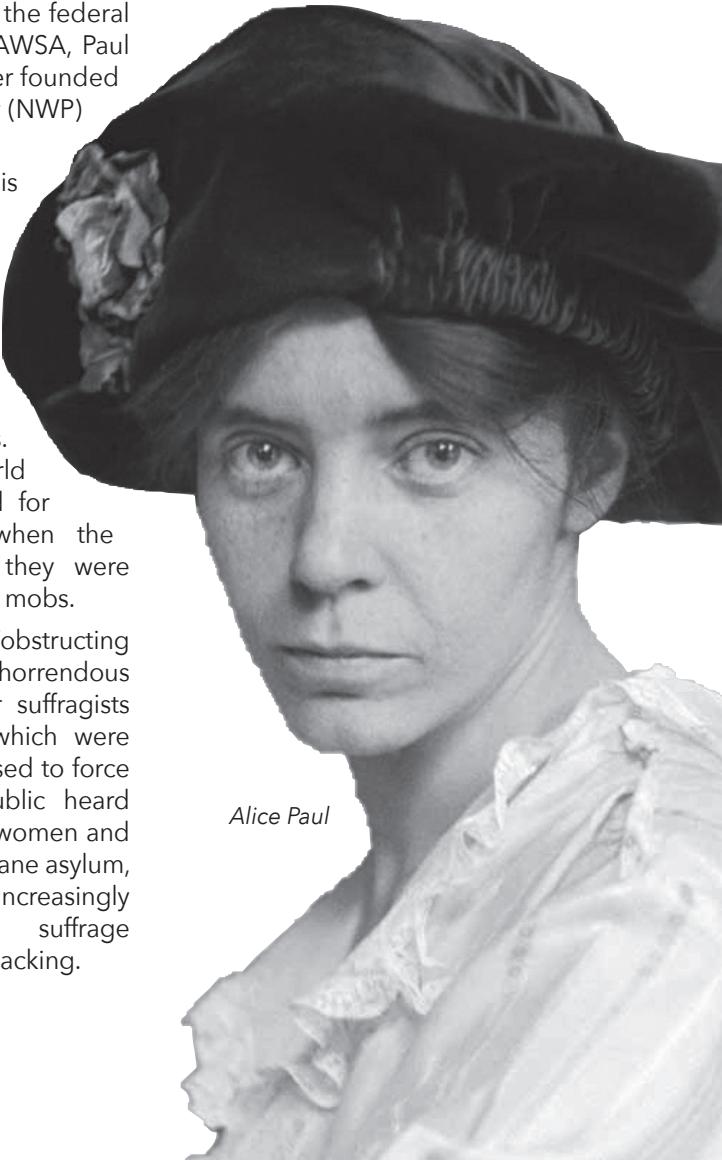
Upon returning to the U.S., Paul joined the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and became the head of the D.C. chapter. While NAWSA leadership believed in working at the state level for legislation, Paul believed in working at the federal level. Severing ties with NAWSA, Paul and others who followed her founded the National Women's Party (NWP) in 1916.

Holding Wilson and his administration responsible for the slow movement on granting women the vote, Paul and a group called the "Silent Sentinels" began picketing at the White House in 1917, an effort that lasted 18 months. After the U.S. entered World War I, they were criticized for continuing their efforts when the nation was at war, and they were physically attacked by angry mobs.

Arrested on charges of "obstructing traffic" and jailed in horrendous conditions, Paul and other suffragists went on hunger strikes, which were met with torturous tactics used to force feed them. When the public heard about the treatment of the women and efforts to send Paul to an insane asylum, public attitudes became increasingly sympathetic, and the suffrage movement gained greater backing.

In 1918, the movement gained the support of President Wilson, but it was not until 1919 that the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was passed by Congress and then sent on to the states for ratification. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify in 1920, the 19th Amendment was finally adopted on August 26, 1920.

Paul continued her work for equality by authoring the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in 1923. The ERA was introduced in every session of Congress until it was finally passed in 1972, but it has not yet been ratified by the states. Astoundingly, women are still working for passage of the ERA, almost 100 years after Paul wrote her original words calling for equality.



Alice Paul

# Do It for Them

by Kat Williams

Professor at Marshall University and  
President of the International Women's Baseball Center

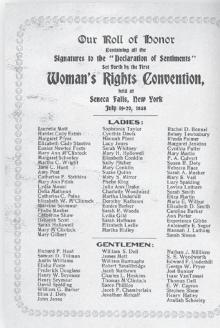
As a feminist and advocate for voting rights, I am often asked by young women, "Why should I vote?" Why? Because the right to vote was earned, fought and died for by countless, nameless women and men. If nothing else, we owe it to them.

The 19th Amendment reads, "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." It is a simple statement, only twenty-eight words, and unobjectionable to us today. But these were brave words, fighting words, for women to declare in 1848. And fight they did.

Fed up with their unequal treatment, a group of women, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, met over tea and drafted what amounted to a blueprint for revolution. In the *Declaration of Rights and Sentiments*, they laid out their grievances and resolutions. To make these grievances public, they planned a Woman's Rights Convention for July 19 and 20, 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York.

Three hundred people attended the Seneca Falls Convention. For two days, they listened to speeches and debated the resolutions, finally voting to pass eleven of them, including the most radical, the one calling for women to be granted the right to vote. One hundred people, 68 women and 32 men, signed the final draft of the Declaration and the long road to suffrage began.

For decades advocates fought for suffrage on every level. But it was not until suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns brought their modern brand of protest and mixed it with determination and courage that the battle was finally won. In 1917, suffragists led by Paul staged a protest in front of the White House demanding that women be granted the right to vote. The "Silent Sentinels" as they were called stood bravely for months. On November 15, 1917 they were arrested for "obstructing sidewalk traffic"



"Declaration of Sentiments"  
Woman's Rights Convention  
Seneca Falls, NY



*The Jailed for Freedom pin commemorates the jailing of 168 women suffragists who were arrested picketing the White House in 1917. In a December 1917 ceremony, the imprisoned suffragists were awarded with small silver pins in the shape of prison doors with heart-shaped locks.*

there was any community anywhere in which the souls of women were not beating their wings in rebellion."

Why should we vote, you ask? If unequal pay, health care, education, the environment, and terrorism aren't enough reasons, do it because we owe it to them. Never let their sacrifice be in vain. Run for office, vote, agitate, foment rebellion if you must, but get involved. It is your responsibility; it is your right; it is your legacy.

Miss [Lucy] Burns in Occoquan Workhouse (Left)



"Silent Sentinels" protest in front of the White House (Right)

and that night became known as the "Night of Terror." Urged by the warden to teach them a lesson, angry guards brutalized all 33 of the women. They beat Lucy Burns, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head, and left her hanging for a night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed, and left her for dead. The women's only water came from an open pail and their food was infested with worms.

When Alice Paul began a hunger strike, guards tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat, and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press. Embarrassed and angry, President Woodrow Wilson finally acknowledged that maybe these women had a point.

In August 1920, after 72 years of struggle, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. Only one woman in attendance at the Seneca Fall Convention, Charlotte Woodward, lived long enough to see this historic event. At the age of 90 she was too ill to vote, but proudly claimed her place among the thousands of women who fought for suffrage. "I was not alone. I do not believe

there was any community anywhere in which the souls of women were not beating their wings in rebellion."

Why should we vote, you ask? If unequal pay, health care, education, the environment, and terrorism aren't enough reasons, do it because we owe it to them. Never let their sacrifice be in vain. Run for office, vote, agitate, foment rebellion if you must, but get involved. It is your responsibility; it is your right; it is your legacy.

Miss [Lucy] Burns in Occoquan Workhouse (Left)



# Connecting Girls to Suffrage History

by Kathleen Baylis

Girl Experience Specialist at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois

To a child, 100 years is a very long time. However, 100 years in history is truly not very long at all. At Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, we plan most of our programs over a year in advance. So, we had known for a while that it was vital for us to plan a special event in celebration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment. We wanted to bring this historical event closer to girls, so they could understand the long struggle for women's right to vote. Our Votes for Women event was born!



**girl scouts**

2020 has been a history-making year for all of us. Sadly, our planned in-person Votes for Women event had to be canceled for the health and safety of our members. However, as an organization with over a 100-year history ourselves, we could not give up on it! Instead, we moved the event online, in virtual events divided by grade levels, to outstanding success. We were surprised when Girl Scouts from across the country signed up to attend!

The event took girls back in time to June 1920 when there was only one more state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment for it to become part of the Constitution. Girls explored women's suffrage history and talked about how women and men brought attention to this important subject. Girls told us how they planned to support the women's suffrage movement. We talked about individuals who actively worked for women's right to vote. We even discussed a local suffragist, Ruth Hanna McCormick, who has a special place in our hearts, as she donated land to local Girl Scouts which eventually became our much-loved Camp Medill McCormick in Stillman Valley. Families also had the option to order kits that included supplies to make a button, sash, and banner to decorate, as well as a commemorative patch. These supplies made history come alive!

It is important for girls to know about the fight for women's right to vote and why it is essential to vote. They need to know not to take this right for granted, as scores of people struggled for many years to gain this right for themselves and future generations!



The event also included history noting that while the 19th Amendment removed gender restriction to voting, it did not guarantee all women could vote. Although a milestone, voting rights were applied unevenly and restricted for many. Not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were many women of color able to register and finally cast their votes. Given the importance of gender equality and the need for a deeper look at history, we believe sharing information about this landmark achievement is critical!



Ruth Hanna McCormick

Votes for Women received such positive feedback from both girls and parents that we have now created a video reenacting the program along with additional resources on our website at [www.girlscoutsni.org/votesforwomen](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/votesforwomen).

Many girls were surprised at how long the fight for women's voting rights took, as well as how unevenly voting rights were distributed. It surprised most of them to learn that Girl Scouts in the United States started in 1912 – long before women in all the states had the right to vote!

Connecting girls to suffrage history shows them it was not that long ago that women had to fight for the right to vote. Reenacting this struggle will encourage them to look further into history and remind them they need to be active participants in our government by voting, by protecting voting rights, and possibly running for office themselves someday!

# *The Fight for Equality is Not Finished*

by Rhonda Greer Robinson

Rockford Branch NAACP President and member of the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020  
Northern Illinois Celebration Steering Committee

In February, our country celebrates African American heroes, men and women who have inspired many of today's leaders with their contributions and determination. The work of African American and all women suffragists has been little remembered and mostly uncelebrated.

Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Angela Davis and Rosa Parks are African American women in history who helped to empower women by working for the right to vote and civil rights. They worked to create an environment of equity in which all women can exercise their human and civil rights.

In the Rockford area, African American pioneers such as state attorney Marilyn Hite-Ross, Judge

Gwyn Gulley, past State Rep. Litesa Wallace, Alderwoman Venita Hervey, Gwen Robinson, Estelle Black and Constance Lane broke ground and became African American leaders in our community.

As a young educator in 1986, Lane took me under her wing and set the pathway in order for me to start substitute teaching. Today I have been a teacher for 31 years. Where would I be if it was not for Mrs. Constance Lane?

Today, we have a record number of African American women in the U.S. Congress, but our work is not finished. Women, go back to your area of expertise and organize locally. Actively fight for equality. This is how history begins and never ends.



Founded in 2016,  
Women's March  
Rockford is honored  
to be one of the  
member  
organizations for the  
Women's Suffrage  
Centennial Northern  
Illinois Celebration!

WOMEN'S MARCH ROCKFORD IS UNITED IN OUR BELIEF THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS A RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. WE WORK TO ENSURE OUR LAWS AND BEHAVIOR REFLECT THESE VALUES. WE ARE THE INTERSECTIONAL, COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS.

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# We're Everywhere, We're Everywhere

by Catherine Forslund, PhD and Isabel Ross Abbott  
Professor of History and Women's Studies, Rockford University.

Writing this column about American women's suffrage and in honor of national Women's History Month\* seemed a daunting task – even for a U.S. historian. There are so many stories to tell, twists and turns to reveal, legacies to trace, and so, so many sisters in the fight, known and unknown, sisters who fought to get women where we are today. So much to tell, but necessity dictates starting at the beginning.

A hot mid-July in 1848 was the scene when around 300 men and women gathered in the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York for the first U.S. Woman's Rights Convention. At the end, signatures of 68 women and 32 men were affixed to the *Declaration of Sentiments* which said, in part, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal...." and continued adapting the Founders' language that Thomas Jefferson penned in 1776 to reflect women's grievances. The Seneca Falls Declaration ended with a call for women's suffrage among demands for other women's "rights and privileges" as U.S. citizens. The fight for women's suffrage in America began.

By World War I, suffrage efforts were in full gear and eventually, public protests, lobbying, arrests of women activists – and revelations of their mistreatment in jail – pushed President Woodrow Wilson to support a women's suffrage amendment. It passed Congress in June, 1919. When Tennessee's legislature's one vote margin ratified it, the Anthony Amendment (as it was known) was the law of the land on August 26, 1920.

In the 100 years after women won "the franchise," we took the power of suffrage and ran with it, rising up the ladder of political citizenship. As voters, women confounded male political leaders when we didn't all vote the same way. Women got elected to public offices even before suffrage, including Jeannette Rankin from Montana, the first woman elected to Congress in 1916. Numbers of female elected office-holders have been rising ever since.



Women serving in the 116th Congress

And while we see women in political office and government jobs, we are particularly evident in journalism – especially on television where a quick look at any political talk show reveals women around the table too, on both sides of the political spectrum. Most recently, I've even noticed all women panelists or debate moderators. Watch and you'll see. We see female news anchors and talk show hosts,

female reporters covering everything from sports to war zones, women in boardrooms, in advertising – and not only as pretty faces or eager household managers – and in every setting from space to the ocean floor.

Today the U.S. ranks 76th (at 23.6%) out of 190 nations in the percentage of women in lower houses of national legislatures, below China and Afghanistan (as of 2/1/19 according to <http://archive.ipu.org/wmne/classif.htm>). The highest percentage is 61.3% in Rwanda, followed by 53.2% in Cuba, and dropping from there. Happily, one state in the U.S. – Nevada – now has a female-majority legislature, and Colorado, a majority-female house. Only nine of 50 states have female governors, but it's the highest number ever in our history.

Women were always rising through the ranks of every major power element of our society—and getting into the political realm was the last key needed to unlock the door to the glass ceiling. We're in business, the arts, science, politics, entertainment, media, and the military, and with the total female population routinely at half the nation, we are not as visible as our numbers should dictate. We are everywhere, and while not yet at the top everywhere, it's only a matter of time.

\*This article appeared in the March 2020 Rockford Register Star.



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## NATIONAL WOMEN VETERANS UNITED (NWVU)



### *Who We Are and What We Do...*

The NWVU comprises women who serve and have served in the Armed Forces, Reserve, and National Guard. NWVU members are active duty and retired officers and enlisted veterans.

### *Our Mission...*

The mission of NWVU is to ensure that women veterans are made aware and have access to their VA benefits and entitlements, including knowing about current or pending legislation that impacts them. We advocate for improved service delivery and adequate services for women veterans in federal, state, city and county services. We provide peer-to-peer support and preserve the legacy of women who have served in the Armed Forces. The NWVU has built alliances with various veteran organizations, VA benefit offices, to include VA clinics and hospitals and grass roots organizations. Through this collaboration, we provide individual and personal referrals for all women veterans. We monitor service delivery at VA clinics and medical centers.

### ★ NWVU ★

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- Plan events to support veterans
- Participate in:
  - stand downs
  - events that inform & educate the community about veteran issues
- Provide assistance/service to all veterans
  - sign up for benefits & entitlements
  - promote military/women veteran issues locally & nationally



### *The NWVU Rockford SheVets Chapter...*

We meet every month to share information; plan events that support veterans; we participate in stand downs, resource fairs, and other events that inform and educate the community about veteran issues. We provide assistance or service to all veterans with emphasis on women veterans in signing up for their VA benefits and entitlements. We also network with multi-sector partners and voices from the community to promote military/women veteran issues locally and nationally.

For More Information Contact:

Phone: (815) 980-9536 or (815) 505-3887 • Email: [SheVets@yahoo.com](mailto:SheVets@yahoo.com)

# *The Female Veteran Legacy of Suffrage*

by Catherine Forslund, PhD

Professor of History and Women's Studies at Rockford University with thanks and assistance from  
Theresa Criss-Amos, Shorty Ogden-Moles, Stephanie Jordan, and Nancy Clark  
and with inspiration from all women veterans and active-duty service members

Whether it be in or near a battle, in support of troops in the field, spying, propagandizing, or otherwise contributing, war consistently afforded American women access to areas of public life which they would otherwise be denied. We can find examples of women soldiering as far back as the American Revolution, such as Deborah Sampson and others; however, it was women's roles in World War I that directly helped them gain suffrage. Women's WWI experiences in a wide variety of roles like Navy Yeoman, Red Cross ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, ammunition makers, switchboard operators, or in myriad war production industries showed them to be worthy citizens. The numerous public suffrage activities and increasing favorable public suffrage sentiment by 1918 was enough to convince President Woodrow Wilson to finally support the national suffrage amendment. ([theworldwar.org/learn/women](http://theworldwar.org/learn/women)).

Women gained the right to vote in 1920, but it was a long time before women were given their equal place in the nation's armed forces. Even as voters, women could not quickly change centuries of gendered practices. Not until the late-20th century, after the nation turned to an all-volunteer military, did women's enrollment increase significantly. By 2018, female officers outnumbered female enlisted personnel in almost all service branches and women made up between 8.4% and 19.9% of the total active duty personnel – depending on the service branch. Instead of being limited to traditional female jobs like teacher, nurse, secretary, and clerk, military women made great gains in areas like motor mechanics, supply organization, high-tech equipment service, and other jobs which were traditionally non-female in civilian society.

When Nancy Clark enlisted as a WAC in 1970 she "had no idea what a WAC was" but "was challenged to become a WAC" so she joined the Women's Army Corps. A short time into her tour, she met her future husband while serving at Zweibrucken Air Force Base in Germany with US Army Material Command. As she remembered, "female soldiers were not allowed to marry until they completed 18 months of service," so they waited. She "liked being a WAC" and retired 20 years later.

Stephanie Jordan tried a variety of unsatisfactory jobs in the early 1970s, then saw a TV ad saying she could "choose[her] job" in the Army. She took the opportunity to become a mechanic following her "fascinat[ion] with cars." By the time she left the Army four years later, she had served in Europe as a "Wheeled Vehicle/Power Generator Mechanic" having the opportunity to pursue her goal without the usual civilian gendered hindrance. She experienced such discrimination in civilian life efforts to work as a mechanic, and it was also the reason she didn't re-enlist in 1981. She later joined the Reserves though and became an



instructor. As she put it, her "strength and 'gung-ho' attitude...gained in the military made the difference" in her ability to recover from an off-duty injury and discrimination to get on with her life. That didn't mean she faced no problems in the service, as one common experience for military women is gender bias of some sort, sometimes to the extremes of sexual harassment and rape.

Women became a permanent part of the armed forces in the late-1940s. There wasn't, however, any recognition of military sexual harassment until the late-1970s. Even then, it wasn't taken seriously until the 1991 Navy Tailhook Association Convention at which over 80 women were sexually assaulted. This dark side of military service has not gone away, but there is more light shining on it than ever before with Congressional inquiries and legislation to improve support for harassed women service members.

Many female veterans served in the era of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—the Clinton Administration policy that attempted to bridge the gap between those who wanted gays banned from the military altogether and those who sought the right for gays to serve openly. The rule was repealed in 2010 allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to serve openly in the military. There were reports of women being "targeted and then dishonorably discharged for being gay" according to Army veteran Theresa Criss-Amos. As a result, lesbians in the armed forces faced "increased... fear" making them "look over [their] shoulder" and be "more cautious of where [they] went and who [they] associated with." When Criss joined the Army in 2000, she had one requirement – that she be assigned to the Military Police. She got her wish and served until an injury forced her discharge in 2002. With the end of her military service she said her "fear of being targeted and discharged for being gay" was over. Criss-Amos is involved with the National Women Veterans United/NWVU/SheVets organization founded to ensure that women veterans are informed about and have access to any and all benefits to which they are entitled. They provide peer-to-peer support, referrals, and more while also monitoring service delivery. Contact them at 815-980-9536 or [facebook.com/NWVURockfordSheVet](http://facebook.com/NWVURockfordSheVet) or by email at [SheVets@yahoo.com](mailto:SheVets@yahoo.com).

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 inspired Shorty Ogden-Moles to join the Army and become an Apache Helicopter Mechanic Crew Chief, another area with very few women. She too was injured on the job and faced difficulties after separating from the service. These are the same problems that afflict many male soldiers too, especially after any sort of traumatic brain injury (TBI) like Shorty endured. Substance abuse, depression, and suicide are at record numbers among veterans—female and male. Both Ogden-Moles and Criss-Amos and many others give back to their veteran sisters and brothers and their communities in their retirement—living the legacies of suffrage and military service.

# *Women's March: Celebrating the 19th Amendment While Acknowledging Inequities*

Women's March Rockford Mission statement: We are united in our belief that every human being has a right to be treated with dignity and respect. We will work to ensure that our laws and behaviors reflect these values.

Women's March Rockford practices intersectionality. Intersectionality is a term coined by Dr. Kimberlee Crenshaw. Intersectionality recognizes that oppression experienced by women is not the same and has varying degrees; it pays close attention to race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, and how they intersect.

As we celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment we acknowledge the true history of the 19th Amendment and the suffrage movement that demanded its passage. While the 19th Amendment did grant voting rights to all women in theory, black women and other women of color experienced racism in addition to sexism that made it much harder for them to exercise their right to vote.

By not acknowledging and condemning white supremacy, while working towards the passage of the



19th Amendment, white supremacy flourished and black voters would have to wait another half century and create a new suffrage campaign with black women leading the charge until they were fully enfranchised with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



The fourth annual Women's March was held at noon Saturday, January 18, 2020 in downtown Rockford.

During the suffrage movement black women found themselves having to choose between standing with black men or standing with white women. Black men wanted them to help fight against racism while white women wanted them to help fight against sexism. This is the very intersection Dr. Crenshaw highlighted. While black women fought against sexism, they were simultaneously experiencing racism, and while they were fighting against racism, they were experiencing sexism.

White women knew what the oppression of sexism felt like, and black men could identify with what the oppression of racism felt like, but neither could understand what it was like to experience them concurrently. This is why black women's relationship with oppression is unique; Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 believes it is imperative that as we move forward we continue to acknowledge this disparity. While white women have certainly experienced sexism and trauma caused by the same oppression; intersectionality highlights the compounding factors of women of color combating the oppression and trauma of sexism and the additional trauma and oppression caused by racism.

The conversation of race and sexism, and the subsequent oppression caused by them, is difficult to navigate and is often met with high emotion and defensive reactions. Women's March Rockford encourages these difficult conversations. We provide a foundation based on trust so we can have these open and honest conversations. We encourage all women to start having this raw and real dialogue that causes breakdowns and breakthroughs.

Sometimes in order to build bridges we must talk about our painful history – not to diminish the positives of a movement – but to ensure the movement continues progressing, taking critical lessons from its history and not repeating the mistakes of its past. Let us acknowledge our different experiences and perspectives so we can truly understand them; let us unite because of them and not in spite of them.



Women's March Rockford believes that if we come together and fight against all things unjust as a collective unit, with a deep understanding of the unique oppression felt by each marginalized group, we will grow and heal our community. The influence and pressures of institutional racism, sexism, ableism, transphobia, and homophobia are holding us all back.

# *Call to Action*

by Livia Bane

Director of Provider Services,  
YWCA Northwestern Illinois and WSC2020 Steering Committee Member



You may have noticed our "Votes for Women" shirts around town or on social media. You also may have noticed they lend their likeness to a certain homegrown rock group.

If you haven't seen them, check them out on Facebook.com/WSC2020IL. The point of the shirts and the "Call to Action" is this: Voting matters.

"Votes for Women" does not translate to vote for a woman. It is a historic slogan used by women who fought to win the right to vote under the constitution. Until 1920 we were barred from doing this.

As you are well aware – 2020 is a pivotal election year. Whether you are voting for a candidate, a movement, to minimize regret or to express support – just VOTE! In the words of Larry J. Sabato, an American political scientist, "Every election is determined by the people who show up."

The "Call to Action" is this: Show up. Show up at the voting polls this November.\* Show up at a Women's Suffrage Centennial event. Show up for your community. Show up for our future. Show up for Democracy.

\*This letter to the editor in the Rockford Register Star ran in early April 2020 before COVID-19 required changes to voting access for the Rockford community in November 2020.



*The bicycle has done  
more for the emancipation  
of women than anything  
else in the world.*

~Susan B. Anthony 1896

KEGEL'S  
bicycle store



## *Thank You to Our Sculpture Sponsors*

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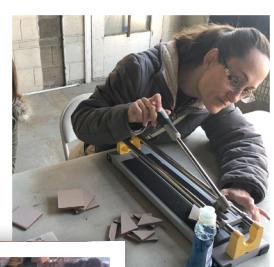
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# *A Community Project*

During the summer of 2019, citizens and artists of Rockford were invited to participate in concept development of a sculpture, intended to be the first public monument to honor women in Rockford. Upon recommendation of the ad hoc art committee, the Steering Committee engaged the services of mosaic artist Susan Burton of Marseilles, Illinois, to coordinate the project. Ms. Burton's public mosaic installations, particularly those in the cities of Princeton and Ottawa, coupled with her unique "community build" concept, seemed a perfect fit for the Women's Centennial Project. Mosaic was selected as our medium of choice to symbolize diverse elements of the community coming together to create a harmonious whole. Despite a 3-month delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, over a hundred volunteers have worked tirelessly on cutting, grinding and placing tiles into the design of the Women's Suffrage Centennial tower.



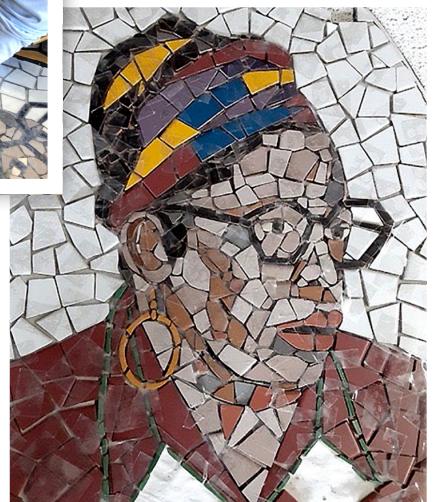
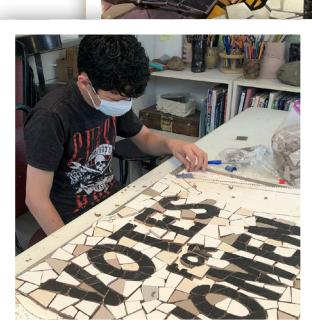
*Tile Cutting*



*Tile Grinding*



*Mosaic Assembly*



# *Assembly at the Art Farm*

Completed sections are carefully transported to Susan's "Art Farm" in Marseilles for final cementing and grouting. Two sides of the trilateral mosaic sculpture feature images of Kate F. O'Connor, a nationally recognized suffragist from Rockford and Dr. Connie Goode, an inspirational educator and prominent Civil Rights activist. The third side recognizes a diverse group of young women who represent future voters and leaders. This "community-built" sculpture, with its six surrounding mosaic benches (designed, cemented and grouted in Rockford), will be unveiled and dedicated in late October, 2020. It is intended to serve as a community gathering location for decades to come.



*Susan Burton*

**Women's Centennial 2020  
Mosaic Sculpture Artist**

Susan Burton is an artist and educator who applies her creative gifts to sculptural and public mosaic art. She works closely with clients and specializes in developing large-scale mosaic projects and site-specific and community-based sculptures. Susan trains volunteers of all ages to participate in and contribute to the public art experience. Her work fosters positive community engagement, offers art education, impacts economic development, and provides participants with experience in team building, creative exploration and collective purpose. A professional member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists, Susan has studied with teachers from around the world. Her use of symbols, light, and learning influence her work.

Burton's sculptures can be found in public spaces, parks, schools and commercial and residential settings throughout Illinois. The Women's Centennial Sculpture will be her first large-scale installation in Rockford. Her extensive home studio is a ten-acre "Art Farm" in Marseilles, outfitted with all the tools and resources that sculpture and mosaic artists require. There, visitors and students can experience sand casting pits, hot carving tools, and Susan's own personal sculpture garden, along with a bevy of playful farm animals.

[artexplorations.com](http://artexplorations.com)



Assembled Mosaics



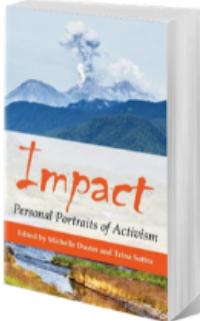
Grouting process



Assembling  
the sculpture  
form



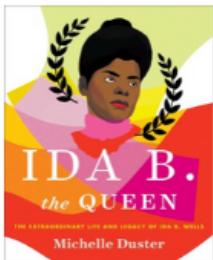
Preparing the topper



Something happened and motivated these quiet activists to make an impact on their family, organization, or community. They chose to speak up about issues they care about. Some are following a tradition of generational activism. Others became involved for the first time and suddenly realized they were engaged in activism.

**Impact: Personal Portraits of Activism** gathers poems, short stories, and personal essays from around the world to show how actions big and small can lead to some form of justice. (Co-edited with Trina Sotira.)

To be released by MuseWrite Press on September 20, 2020. Discount pre-sales available now at [www.musewrite.com](http://www.musewrite.com).



Ida B. Wells was born enslaved in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1862. In this inspiring and accessible book, Michelle Duster shares the life and legacy of her great-grandmother Wells. She highlights the pioneering work as a journalist, anti-lynching crusader, and suffragist through a contemporary lens.

Overlooked and underestimated, Wells single-handedly changed the course of American history and has inspired millions. **Ida B. The Queen** shines a bright light on one of the most extraordinary women in history.

To be released by Simon & Schuster on January 26, 2021. Available for pre-sale now anywhere books are sold.



**MICHELLE  
DUSTER**

Website: [MLDwrites.com](http://MLDwrites.com)

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Twitter and IG: @michelleduster

**CELEBRATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT**  
**and the ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY ALUMNAE**  
**WHO HELPED MAKE IT HAPPEN**

As a women's college for more than a century, Rockford University is often associated with leaders of the women's suffrage movement. Since Nobel Peace Prize winner and founding NAACP member Jane Addams, Rockford University alumni continue to march through history as advocates for social justice and equality. We celebrate their contributions and achievements on this centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

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# *Rockford's Leading Lady: Kate F. O'Connor*

by Kim Ortega and Laura B. Furman

Midway Village Museum

Kate F. O'Connor was born on June 1, 1863 in Rockford, Illinois to Irish immigrants Cornelius and Mary O'Malley O'Connor. She was the youngest of eight children. Kate attended Rockford schools.

In 1882, Kate was appointed as deputy to the Winnebago County Clerk and within four years was made notary public by Illinois Governor Richard Oglesby.

Kate advocated fiercely for any group she was involved in. Some groups included: The State Equal Suffrage Society, the Illinois League of Women Voters (of which she was a charter member), the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, the Business and Professional Women's Club, among several others. On many occasions she was elected as a delegate to national meetings for these groups, representing the Rockford area group and their interests.

As an outspoken supporter of equal rights for women, in an article from the Rockford Daily Gazette, Kate comments that "[t]here is certainly no good reason why woman should not vote if she wants to, and every argument advanced against it so far, is without foundation, and cannot be substantiated by rational proof." (1/26/1888)

The year 1894 brought controversy for Kate. Reports in the Rockford Morning Star paper said that the new County Clerk wanted Kate to resign her deputy post, citing that she was spending too much time with other commitments (11/15/1894). Five days later, following much discontent, it was reported in the same newspaper that Kate would stay on as deputy clerk (11/20/1894). However, in 1898, Kate did resign and opened her own office in the William Brown



Building, located at 226 S. Main Street, where she specialized in general business services, probate law, government claims, and real estate. In 1926, Kate moved her practice to the Rockford National Bank Building.

In the wake of the passage of the 19th Amendment, Kate continued to remind women of the difficult struggle that was the winning of suffrage, and that they had an important duty to vote. Kate urged women to vote, reminding them that the law which formerly required women to prove their exact age before voting had been revised, and reminding women to be "...independent in thought and action..." (Daily Register-Gazette, 12/13/1927). In 1929, she was honored by the national suffrage organization for her work in the movement, along with Jane Addams and Catherine Waugh McCulloch.

By 1932, Kate began working as the representative for the 12th Congressional District for the Illinois Democratic Women's Congressional Committee, and at the end of the next year she was appointed by Governor Henry Horner as the supervisor to the new minimum wage law for women and children in Illinois. Her work in the new position reflected her lifelong advocacy, pushing for new wage scales for women and minors working in laundries, and also pushing for wage regulations in beauty shops in 1935. In 1942, she was made assistant to Thomas F. O'Malley, the regional director of the federal wage and hour division of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Sadly, on May 25, 1945 Kate O'Connor suffered a heart attack and passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT

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.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

# *Constance Goode: A Life of Commitment to Education and Equality*

by Theresa Gilbert

Professor, Rock Valley College, member of Promoting An Inclusive Community (PAIC) and the Black History and Culture Committees of RVC, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

As I sat putting what I hoped were the final touches on an article about a woman I admired and loved, major cities across America were smoldering, the sites of peaceful and angry protests, not unlike the cities where mass demonstrations occurred between 1963 and 1967.

These current realities, created by those who voted and those who did not, threatened to subvert the original intent of this article. I reflected, though, on Constance ("Connie") Goode's words in response to similar situations. What would this brilliant and dedicated educator, activist, and mother say to us, in this moment, about the circumstances that gave rise to these not-so-new realities, to the persistent inhumane treatment of African Americans?

When Connie and Alphonso ("Al") Goode moved to Rockford in 1962, they discovered conditions similar to those elsewhere: redlining and housing with improper sewage and unclean water, a school district with too few black teachers and administrators, and governing bodies with no representation of its citizens of color. They discovered the nuanced and subtle voter repression present in a "company town" practicing de facto segregation.

By 1963, the Goodes had become parents, and many, including children, had marched and sacrificed their lives in the struggle for dignity and civil rights. By 1964, civil rights legislation had been passed, but it failed to address the problems African Americans encountered when trying to vote.

After its passage, the movement for political and economic gains continued. The 1964 Summer Project, the Freedom Democratic Party, and the murder of three civil rights workers kept the struggle front and center.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 cost no less: murders of civil rights workers, the brutal repression evidenced on that "Bloody Sunday" of the first attempt at a Selma-to-Montgomery March. Connie, the already committed activist, was painfully aware of these events and they fueled her desire to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of Rockford.

An avid reader, Connie was well-versed in the effective practices advocated by theologians and leaders of the movement. To this she added her personal knowledge of the hardships of single mothers and grandmothers, her concerns as a parent, and her acute sense of justice and "what's right."



Al Goode recalled his wife's efforts on the West End, where they first lived, to increase voting by its black residents. They organized transportation and childcare for residents, knocked on doors and talked with neighbors to explain the importance of voting.

Later, she encouraged individuals to run for office and helped organize their campaigns. It would take a few more years before these efforts bore fruit, but between 1971 and 1973, the first black county board member and the first black Rockford City alderman were elected. Indirect effects included the appointment of the first black fireman and the promotion of the first black police sergeant.

Connie, the committed educator, knew how necessary being knowledgeable was for successful representation. She used every career move - as an educator, community center director, arts supporter, board member, trainer and consultant - to build confidence and a strong sense of identity among black children and adults, provide opportunities for information-sharing and voter registration, and build community across the diverse sections of Rockford.

Her consistent efforts created a legacy of dedicated service that continues in the work of her friends and colleagues, students and mentees, and those influenced by them. What would Connie say about recent events?

Ask any of the many people, here and elsewhere, who were guided, encouraged, cajoled, and challenged by her, and the response is almost universal: "Get that education so that you understand the reasons for these conditions; know who you are. Be prepared, then, do something. Remain calm; organize, act, and vote! Work with others and work for change!" The truth of her words still resounds!

One of the panels on the sculpture designed to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment is dedicated to Connie Goode. It highlights her commitment to education and activism and to her belief in the power of the vote.

# *The Way to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Universal Suffrage is with Your Vote*

by Claire Flynn McIntyre

Past President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford and a former Specialist on Education and Fiscal Policy for the League of Women of Illinois.



2020 is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, promising citizens the right to vote would not be denied because of a voter's gender. After decades of struggle, women were guaranteed the right to vote.

While many events marking this historic moment have been toned down or cancelled due to the coronavirus, the greatest celebration of all will still occur – we will exercise that hard won gift to participate in government for the people and by the people. We will vote on November 3rd.

In November, the presidential race will easily be the most visible but will not be the sum of the election. Illinois will be electing candidates for every level of government from local and state races to Congressional representation. Known as down ballot races, local and state offices have the most immediate impact on our lives. Rock the Vote, a group dedicated to getting young people to the polls, put it forcefully. "We have the power to choose our Sheriffs, our Police Chiefs, our District Attorneys, our Mayors and our Judges. These people



we put in powerful spaces, facilitate the change we demand, or block the future we deserve and they are on the ballot every year, which is why voting is much bigger than the Presidency."

Given the impact on our lives, it would seem logical that voters would flock to the polls. But America's voter turnout is shamefully the lowest of all prosperous democracies. Even in the presidential election years less than 60% of voters cast a ballot. We have a unique opportunity this year to improve our poor record. Events have conspired to make a case for voting. The coronavirus, impacting all our lives,

has been particularly devastating to communities of color where healthcare continues to be inadequate. Millions of citizens have lost their jobs in a devastated economy. The

killing of George Floyd opened a broader segment of the population's eyes to the systemic injustices faced daily by people of color. Concerns about the impact of climate change and the opening of environmentally sensitive areas to exploitation are spreading. People are fired up to see changes made to improve. And that will take your vote.

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD BY DOING THREE THINGS:

### 1. Make sure you're registered.

You can register or update any changes to your voter information by going to your local election authority or using the Illinois State Board of Elections' online registration site: [ova.elections.il.gov/](http://ova.elections.il.gov/)

### 2. Request your Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot by October 29.

It's easy and safe to vote by mail. To protect susceptible populations and the election workers in the time of coronavirus, Illinois has responded by making voting easier than ever with an expansion of mail-in voting. This means anyone who voted in 2018, 2019, and 2020, or people who previously registered to vote by mail, will be sent a vote-by-mail application.

Anyone who prefers to VBM may also request a ballot online at:

- Rockford Board of Elections (Rockford citizens)  
[voterockford.com/voting-options](http://voterockford.com/voting-options)
- Winnebago County Clerk (living outside of Rockford)  
[winnebagocountyclerk.com/election-information](http://winnebagocountyclerk.com/election-information).

To request an application by phone, call:

BOE 815-987-5750

Winnebago County 815-319-4252

Boone County 815-544-3103

### 3. Make a plan to vote.

- Request your VBM ballot now.
- Polling places and early voting locations will still operate. If you're unsure of where and when these locations will be available, check with your election authority.
- Encourage family and friends to vote.

Although we can't celebrate the 100th anniversary of universal suffrage together, we can celebrate by making sure our voice in democracy counts. Your vote is your voice. Let it be heard.



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL  
2 ♀ 2 ♀  
NORTHERN  
ILLINOIS  
CELEBRATION



## 2020 Finale

by Judy Schultz and Barbara Simon  
AAUW Co-Presidents

"A woman is like a tea bag, you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water," said Eleanor Roosevelt. We certainly found out how strong the women behind the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 (WCS2020) efforts were this year.

In May, 2019, several AAUW members were discussing how to recognize 2020 as the centennial year for the passage of the women's right to vote with the 19th Amendment. As we talked, we realized that Rockford did not have a sculpture honoring women's accomplishments, so we decided to involve other area women in mounting an effort to raise a tribute to them. Other community groups were also thinking about how to celebrate this momentous anniversary and were eager to join in the effort, thirteen groups in all.

Together, we formed the WSC2020 Steering Committee and began brainstorming. We planned educational pieces written as monthly editorials in the Rockford Register Star, programs about national and local suffragists sponsored by each of the groups, a fundraiser call "Sippin' and Tippin' with Susan" in February to celebrate Susan B. Anthony's 200th birthday, book reviews, exhibits at the Ethnic Heritage Museum and Midway Village Museum, programs for youth at the Rockford Public Library, Midway Village Museum and the Girls Scouts, and films at Rock Valley College and the Nordlof Center, such as "Iron Jawed Angels," about the early 1900's protests with the first picketing of the White House.

For the Women's Centennial Sculpture itself, mosaic artist Susan Burton met with local artists to plan the sculpture with six benches surrounding it. It took many meetings to brainstorm and then choose the content that would be displayed, honoring our local suffragists and civil rights leaders. Eventually we chose Kate F. O'Connor and Dr. Constance Goode to be featured on the sculpture.

Susan invited members of the community to participate in the preparation and placing of mosaic tiles on the sculpture itself. The WSC2020 Steering Committee organizations and other community groups were involved in cutting, grinding and mosaic tile inlay on the sculpture.

Plans came to a screeching halt when the Covid-19 virus hit, but the WSC2020 coalition revamped and used Zoom for our committee meetings and direct appeals for support instead of fundraising events. We sold t-shirts, beanies, baseball caps, notecards, pins and more when City Market opened and at other venues. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois started us off with a \$20,000 grant, and the family of Dr. Constance Goode which had already established a scholarship fund at the CFNI this year added a matching amount up to \$10,000 for the Women's Centennial Sculpture.

We had to delay the community-build aspect of the sculpture and deferred the dedication date. Some programs were postponed and others became Zoom meetings. We continued to spread the word to the community that we were creating something really special.

August 18 will still be an important date to celebrate 100 years since women demanded the right to vote, but the celebration will have been live-streamed from Rockford University to meet health department guidelines for gatherings. The most important outcome of our efforts will be encouraging everyone to participate in our democracy by voting in the November election. That will be the best celebration of all.

*Save the Date!!*

2nd Annual  
**Women in Baseball Conference**  
September 11-13, 2020 ◆ Virtual Conference

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# *Thoughts from Our WSC2020 Steering Committee Member Organizations*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER ROCKFORD

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a "league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation." Rockford was blessed with several outstanding leaders who, with Carrie Chapman Catt, became founders of the national League of Women Voters as well as what would become the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford.

Julia Clifford Lathrop and Catherine Waugh McCulloch (alumni of Rockford Women's Seminary, now Rockford University) would go on to serve as national and state leaders in the League; Julia as state President of the Illinois League and Catherine as LWVUS' first vice-president and its legal advisor. Julia was one of the founding members of the Rockford League, along with Rockford native and suffragist, Kate F. O'Connor.

When first established, the League saw its role as educating women to use their newly guaranteed right to vote, teaching them to have an active voice. Its role expanded to study, advocate, and educate on important issues of the day. This year the League celebrates its 100th anniversary and remains true to its mission of helping millions of women and men become participants in government.

It is fitting that the League participate in celebrating that which codified its reason for being – the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment and suffrage for all. "Your Vote is Your Voice." Use it. Protect it. Congratulations to the Women's Suffrage Centennial Committee for an outstanding year of education and celebration. The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford is proud to be a participating organization.

## ROCKFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Rockford Public Library, founded in 1872, is honored to be one of the member organizations for the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration! RPL's mission to educate, inform, entertain, and culturally enrich the people of our community – highlighting our strategic initiative to celebrate diversity and inclusion in our community – is advanced notably by this involvement.

It is our hope that RPL's showing of the film "The Life and Legend of Sojourner Truth," leading of The Invention of Wings book discussion, hosting of Midway Village's "Roaring in Rockford" traveling exhibit at our branches, displaying our monthly Local History posters about area suffragists, planning for the upcoming Youth Services special story time and displays, and hoping for more involvement – contribute

in a meaningful way to celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



## Heroes of American Women's Voting Rights

### A Centennial Celebration in Portraiture

A collaboration of the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford  
and artist Janie Wilson-Cook



Exhibition schedule available on [lwvgr.org](http://lwvgr.org)  
[facebook/leagueofwomenvotersofgreaterrockford](https://facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofgreaterrockford)  
[info@lwvgr.org](mailto:info@lwvgr.org)

# *Thoughts from Our WSC2020 Steering Committee Member Organizations*

## YWCA NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS

YWCA Northwestern Illinois was honored to participate with the Steering Committee for the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration.

Through its mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all," YWCA provides essential and unique services to support the safety, stability and advancement of vulnerable populations. Since women achieved the right to vote in 1920, YWCA Northwestern Illinois has also been on the front lines, promoting women's empowerment since 1891. YWCA has encouraged past and present generations of women to take a stand for the rights of our future generations and we continue to do the work towards achieving greater equity for all.

## MIDWAY VILLAGE MUSEUM

For over forty-five years, Midway Village Museum has prided itself on preserving Rockford's unique history and using our collections, exhibits and programs to educate the public. Each year we welcome thousands of visitors from across the globe and all walks of life to learn about the things that shaped Rockford into the wonderful city it is today.

Midway Village Museum is thrilled to have been a partner in the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 sculpture project. Our staff lent their expertise, and we also looked into the museum's permanent collection to provide insight on the local women who aided in the Women's Suffrage Movement. This is a monumental moment in Rockford's history and we are proud to have been a part of it!

## SPoRT MAKEUP

The idea for SPoRT Makeup came out of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the champion Rockford Peaches and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The League existed during and shortly after WWII. For the first time in history women were paid to play the sport they loved and in so doing paved the way for passage of Title IX which provides equal access to sports in the schools.

Women playing professional sports and Title IX are just two of the many women's rights accomplishments realized because women were given the right to vote in 1920 with passage of the 19th Amendment. It is for this reason that SPoRT Makeup celebrates this important Centennial!

SPoRT Makeup is owned by the International Women's Baseball Center which is advancing efforts around the world for women and girls through the sport of baseball.



*Celebrating 100 years of women finding their voice with their vote!*

SPORT MAKEUP IS PROUDLY OWNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BASEBALL CENTER  
FIND US @ SPORT-MAKEUP.COM INSTAGRAM @ SPORTMAKEUP\_FOR\_WOMEN\_WHO\_PLAY

# *Thoughts from Our WSC2020 Steering Committee Member Organizations*

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ROCKFORD AREA BRANCH

AAUW has been empowering women since 1881 with its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. AAUW Rockford, founded in 1929, awards STEM scholarships locally each year; educates members about our national public policy initiatives on equal pay, immigration, voting rights, education and other women-related issues; and collaborates with the League of Women Voters of Great Rockford hosting candidate forums.

It has been our pleasure to join with other Rockford-area civic and women's groups, as well as WNIJ, to plan and carry out this year-long Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. We are proud to have been a part of the Women's Centennial Sculpture project honoring local women associated not only with the suffrage movement but later issues as well related to both the women's rights movement and equal access to the vote.

## WOMEN'S MARCH ROCKFORD

Women's March Rockford, founded in 2016, is honored to be one of the member organizations for the Women's Suffrage Centennial Northern Illinois Celebration! WMR is united in our belief that every human being has a right to be treated with dignity and respect. We work to ensure our laws and

behavior reflect these values. WMR is the intersectional, collective voice for women's issues and advocacy efforts, serving our community as a collaborative conduit to needed services, resources and representation.

One of WMR's primary goals is to educate our membership through the expertise of our membership; having women with respected careers in local government, social services, law, financial services, healthcare and education.

## WNIJ, NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO

As the history correspondent and host of "Drinkin' with Lincoln" at WNIJ, I love getting people excited about history. WNIJ is proud to salute the Women's Suffrage Centennial with special history programs and fundraisers like "Sippin' and Tippin' with Susan!" We raise our glasses to the dedicated women who fought long and hard to win the right to vote, and we celebrate that right on the 100th anniversary. We also stand with the women in Rockford and around the globe who are making their voices and their stories heard, and we recognize there is more work to do. Listen. Learn. Remember. Vote! – Clint Cargile

Members of the Rockford Branch  
of the American Association  
of University Women are  
proud to celebrate 100 years of  
women's suffrage and to support  
the Women's Centennial  
Sculpture 2020.



[http://  
rockfordarea-il.  
aauw.net](http://rockfordarea-il.aauw.net)



# *Thoughts from Our WSC2020 Steering Committee Member Organizations*

## NAACP ROCKFORD BRANCH

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded on the beliefs embodied in the Constitution of the United States of America. Thus, the NAACP Rockford Branch has been a leader in the fight for social justice for all Americans.

Our Rockford Branch President, Rhonda Greer Robinson, was honored to participate as a member of the Steering Committee for the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois celebration. As an organization, we support efforts to resist racial discrimination, increase civic engagement and voter empowerment, and provide quality public education for all. We salute those, like the WSC2020 Steering Committee, who are dedicated to ensuring that future generations in Rockford will be committed to a just world. At this critical moment in our country, we must do all that we can to defeat hate and exercise our right to vote.

## ROCKFORD CHAPTER NSDAR

It was only natural that Rockford Chapter NSDAR would want to contribute to and be active in planning the Rockford celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Our Chapter was founded in 1894, just four years after the national organization was founded by women whose ancestors fought or aided the American Revolution. Then and now, Daughters are vibrant, active women who are passionate about community service, preserving history, educating children, as well as honoring and supporting those who serve our nation. For more information visit our webpage ([rockforddar.org](http://rockforddar.org)), the state (ILDAR.org) or National (dar.org) webpages.

At the national level, NSDAR published a book as well as opened a special exhibit highlighting some of the DAR members who made an impact during this momentous cultural shift in the lives of women. *Ordinary Equality: DAR Members and the Road to Women's Suffrage, 1890-1920*, is available from [dar.org/store](http://dar.org/store), and libraries where copies have been donated. The Rockford Chapter is especially proud of two featured NSDAR members with Rockford ties – Hull House co-founder Jane Addams and Julia Lathrop, the first woman ever to head a United States federal bureau.



**Rockford Chapter — active since 1894**

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Today's DAR welcomes any woman, 18 or older, with direct lineage to Patriots who aided the American Revolutionary War.

**[www.rockforddar.org](http://www.rockforddar.org)**

**[rockfordnsdar@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordnsdar@gmail.com)**

# *Thoughts from Our WSC2020 Steering Committee Member Organizations*

## ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA (AKA) SORORITY

Founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the first African American female Greek organization. We represent nearly 300,000 members worldwide. Throughout its history, the organization has been consistently at the forefront of effective advocacy and social change that results in equality and equity for all citizens while cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards among college women. Its global programs focus on health, wealth, family, education, and human rights.

Pi Gamma Omega Chapter, chartered in 1986 in Rockford, IL, is honored to be one of the member organizations sponsoring the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration. Dr. Constance Goode, who is featured on the commemorative sculpture, was a beloved member of our organization. As a life-long learner, Dr. Goode was devoted to promoting education within the community; she was an activist who believed in the power of the vote.

Pi Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is not only proud of the honor being paid to our late member, Dr. Goode, but we are also proud to be a part of the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment. To honor Dr. Goode and all others, let's vote!

## WOMANSPACE

Womanspace is privileged to be a part of the Steering Committee for the Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Northern Illinois Celebration. Founded in Rockford in 1975, during the United Nations International Year of the Woman, Womanspace originally began as a ministry of the School Sisters of St. Francis. It was separately incorporated in 1977, and since that time has operated as an independent, interfaith, 501(c)(3) organization.

Its mission of connecting, empowering, creating and transforming our world, one woman at a time, is fully in line with the mission of the original suffragists - recognizing the inherent dignity of every woman as a full, creative, empowered and esteemed member of society.

The philosophy that guides Womanspace is carried forward and made visible throughout the greater Rockford region by the over-2500 women who have been members of this organization and who, over the years, have participated, served, taught, and helped guide this community toward a stronger, healthier and more peaceful place to live. Womanspace provides individuals and groups a serene, creative, beautiful environment, a place where ideas, art, social activism, community and spiritual development flourish. Womanspace strongly supports public art as a transformative force within a community and is proud to have introduced Susan Burton and her mosaic artistry to Rockford. We envision community gatherings at the Women's Centennial Tower for decades to come!



## *Something for Everyone*

For 45 years, Womanspace has provided programming in the creative arts, holistic health, self-development and social activism for women of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

We are a welcoming and inclusive organization that connects and empowers women to become engaged citizens and make a positive impact on the local community.

**Connecting, empowering, creating and  
transforming our world - one woman at a time.**



3333 Maria Linden Dr., Rockford  
815-877-0118 • [womanspace-rockford.org](http://womanspace-rockford.org)



Thank you to the  
**Women's Suffrage**  
**Centennial Celebration Steering Committee**  
for your work in reminding us of the importance  
of this historical moment and of all who came  
before us in the fight for a voice and  
a vote for women!



**RockValleyCollege.edu/PAIC**

SOMEONE STRUGGLED  
FOR YOUR RIGHT TO  
VOTE. USE IT.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY



"IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE TO WORK WITH ALL OF THE WOMEN AND THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. HERE'S TO CONTINUING THE WORK IN MOVING FORWARD FOR ALL WOMEN!"



PATTY STADELMAN, MARKETING CONSULTANT  
IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CENTENNIAL AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Forward, out of error  
Leave behind the night  
Forward through the  
darkness  
Forward into light.

- From a hymn associated with Inez Mulholland  
(d. 1916), martyr to the suffrage cause.

IN SUPPORT OF THE  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL  
FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS SPONSOR,  
SHERYL HALL

# Ethnic Heritage Museum Salutes

## Kate F. O'Connor

"Kate F. O'Connor – A Suffragist and So Much More" is the current exhibit in the Irish Gallery.  
*Call 815-962-7402 to schedule a private tour.*

## Dr. Constance ("Connie") Goode

An exhibit on Black Suffragists and Women Activists is coming in 2021 to the African American Gallery.

Heritage Museum Park  
1129 S. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101  
815-962-7402  
[ehm1129@comcast.net](mailto:ehm1129@comcast.net)  
[www.ethnicheritagemuseum.org](http://www.ethnicheritagemuseum.org)



We stand on the shoulders of those women who fought long and hard for the right to vote. May we honor them by cherishing that right and using it wisely to elect candidates who stand for women's equality in every way.



Email: [barb.giolitto@gmail.com](mailto:barb.giolitto@gmail.com)

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*"Any great change must expect opposition because it shakes the foundation of privilege."*

### LUCRETIA MOTT

IN SUPPORT OF THE  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL  
FROM KATE F. O'CONNOR SPONSOR.  
ROBIN GAUSEBECK



*'Miss Paul, how would you describe your contribution to the struggle for women's rights?'*

*"I always feel...the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."*

### ALICE PAUL

IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL  
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## Joining with our friends and neighbors to CELEBRATE

Celebrating the work of the Suffragists and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.



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*"The right is ours. Have it we must. Use it we will."*

*"I would have girls regard themselves  
not as adjectives **but as nouns.**"*

**ELIZABETH CADY STANTON**

IN SUPPORT OF THE WSC2020 CELEBRATION AND SCULPTURE  
FROM KATE F. O'CONNOR SPONSORS,  
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*"National events determine our ideals,  
as much as our ideals determine  
national events."*

*"Social advance depends as much upon  
the process through which it is secured  
as upon the results itself."*

**JANE ADDAMS**

IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL  
FROM KATE F. O'CONNOR SPONSORS.  
JACK AND COLLEEN HOLMBECK



*Born in Seneca Falls, NY, birthplace  
of the women's suffrage movement,  
Rich says, "vote and be heard."*

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*Hon. Lisa A. Jensen, Federal Magistrate Judge  
Northern District of Illinois, Western Division*

*Hon. Kathy E. Zenoff, Appellate Justice,  
Illinois Second District Appellate Court*

*Hon. Rosemary Collins, Circuit Judge  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Retired)*

*Hon. Lisa Fabiano, Circuit Judge  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

*Hon. Gwyn Gulley, Circuit Judge  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

*Hon. Janet R. Holmgren, Circuit Judge  
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*Hon. Jennifer Clifford, Associate Judge  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

*Hon. Mary Linn Green, Associate Judge  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit*

*Hon. Donna R. Honzel, Associate Judge  
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IN MEMORY OF

# *Dr. Constance Goode*

WIFE, MOTHER, FRIEND, SUFFRAGIST



## How do you know?

A young man once dreamed of a family to be  
Beautiful wife, beautiful children, beautiful life  
Got married, beautiful babies, and life happens  
True Blue Patriarch, not infallible, American dream delayed  
Regal Matriarch, bearing like a Queen  
Educated children with a seed of knowledge, love and respect  
Inspired women with humor and wit, a lion's heart  
Marched for the cause, justice and equality for all  
Generations of children bright and strong  
Solidifies the Faith that we lean on  
Trials and tribulations there will always be  
For Love demands sacrifice for you and me  
How do you know when an Angel is near  
A touch, a smell, a look in her eye  
Or perhaps after the last breath, there is no reason to cry

Al Goode

©7/18/2020





"Drop your excess baggage.  
Put on your shock absorbers.  
Forget the lipstick.  
Get a broker's license.  
Take a through street.  
Take a man's chance.  
**And step on the gas.**"

-Kate O'Connor,  
Rockford Suffragist & Businesswoman

Supporting the philanthropic,  
professional, & educational  
aspirations of the girls and women  
of northern Illinois, today and for  
generations to come.



## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

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