



NIKE The official publication of New York State Women, Inc.

VOL. 69 ■ ISSUE 3 ■ MARCH 2020

NEW YORK STATE
women, INC.

Our Mission

To build powerful women
personally, professionally,
and politically.

Our Vision

To make a difference in the
lives of working women.



CELEBRATING
A Woman's Right to Vote

1920-2020

**“The right
of citizens
of the United
States to vote
shall not be
denied or
abridged
by the
United States
or by any state
on account
of sex.”**

19th Amendment,
U.S. Constitution

Dated Material — Deliver Promptly



Powerful Women, Politically

-Robin Bridson
NYS Women, Inc. President, 2019/2020

HELLO EVERYONE!

Our right to vote is a result of our foremothers and their allies who fought long and hard despite the odds. We can also thank the state of Tennessee!

No, stay with me ...

On July 19, 1848, the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY. The 19th Amendment was first proposed in Congress in 1878. It finally passed the House and Senate on June 4th, 1919. After Congress passed the Amendment, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of it for it to become law (ratification). This didn't occur until August 18th, 1920 when Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify it, making it legal for women across America to vote.

It took 30 years from the first convention to have the 19th Amendment proposed. It took another 40-plus years to get passed and one more year to become official. Thank goodness for perseverance!

Please do not take your right to vote for granted!

Last year at our annual conference, we toured the Seneca Falls Women's Hall of Fame. At the end of October 2019 they closed their Fall Street location and are excited to open up in a new location on Canal Street (the former Seneca Knitting Mill) this spring. This is perfect timing as we'll be there again this year for annual conference.

NYS Women, Inc.'s 2020 annual conference will be held on June 12th to 14th. Our conference hotel will be the Waterloo Quality Inn. This used to be the Holiday Inn and we've had many NYS Women, Inc. meetings there. They are

excited to have us back and we're excited to be back!

Prior to that we will hold the Spring Board in New Hartford on Saturday, March 21st. You can find the registration form in this issue and it will also be on the website. We have some great workshops in the morning, a fantastic buffet lunch, and then we'll have our board meeting. All members are invited to attend but only board members are able to vote.

The Mohawk Valley Chapter is coming up with a fun activity for Friday night, March 20th. More details to follow, but if you are coming up the night before, be on the lookout for something to do!

I am very encouraged by all of the activities the chapters and regions are doing. You are very innovative, busy, and look like you're having a great deal of fun! You will have an opportunity to showcase what you are doing at the annual conference. We are also working on our awards. You'll be receiving more information on them soon and they'll be on the website.

Remember, **Membership Matters!** Not only recruiting but also retaining. We have gained over 50 new members since the last annual conference. Let's brainstorm on how we can retain our existing members! That will be the topic of the March Zoom Call and also discussed as a workshop.

Please reach out if you need anything!

Take care!
Robin



2020

MONTHLY
15 Communicator deadline

MAR
15 NIKE submissions deadline

MAR
21 NYS Women, Inc. Spring Board
New Hartford, NY
(near Utica)

JUN
12-14 NYS Women, Inc. Conference
Waterloo Quality Inn
Waterloo, NY

NOV
3 Election Day: VOTE!

NIKE Submissions

All contributed articles must be original work; all previously published works must be accompanied by the publisher's authorization to reprint. NIKE reserves the right to edit contributed articles for clarity and length, and reserves the right to refuse to publish any contributed article.

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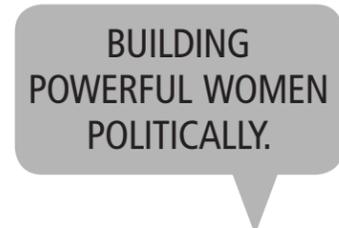
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A Woman's Right to Vote

1920-2020

Centennial of Nineteen Amendment



Suffragists, ca. 1917

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Celebrating Women's History Month



On August 18, 1920 the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. And on November 2nd of that year, more than 8 million women across the U.S. voted in national elections for the first time.

It's appropriate during Women's History Month that this issue of *NIKE* celebrates the centennial of ratification of the 19th Amendment. We're proud that New York State women were among the nation's earliest suffragists – including the famous Elizabeth Cady Staton and Susan B. Anthony – but their stories are well known. We're publishing some of the lesser-known histories in this battle for voting rights.

We pay homage to the many New York State African American suffragists who were not only unacknowledged by their white peers at the time but were in some cases actively shunned (page 5).

Our article on page 8 describes a shameful episode that many of us may have been completely unaware of: The imprisonment and mistreatment of the "Silent Sentinels," women from across the country who lawfully picketed Woodrow Wilson's White House.

And we're bringing you the story of Susan B. Anthony's precedent-setting trial for illegal voting – a trial which is still cited in law books today, although not necessarily for the reasons you might think. (page 15).

Curious just how long it took for ratification? We give the full timeline of which states voted when on page 14.

Check page 11 for information and registration forms for the March 21, 2020 Spring Board meeting in New Hartford, located just outside of Utica. Updates can be found on the NYS Women, Inc. website (nyswomeninc.org).

And be sure to send us info on your chapter's upcoming events so we can spread the word about our great organization!

Happy Women's History Month and, fingers crossed, welcome spring! 🐰

-Joyce DeLong

NIKE MAY 2020 ISSUE DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2020. Please type *NIKE* in your email subject line and send to the attention of Joyce DeLong, *NIKE* editor, at PR@NYSWomeninc.org. Previously published material must be accompanied by a letter from the publisher with permission to republish and credit line to be included with the article.

Say Their Names: New York State Black Suffragists

compiled by Katharine Smith

We've all heard their names, the famous suffragists from New York State who fought the long hard fight for the right to vote. Susan B. Anthony. Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Julia Ward Howe. They – among many, many other women from the Empire State – are renowned for their efforts. But who of us can name the African-American women from New York State, some not that recently emancipated from slavery, who had perhaps even more at stake? And who, quite frankly, suffered outright racial discrimination from their white counterparts. Here are some of their stories.

Sarah J. Smith Thompson Garnet



Born in 1835, Sarah J. Smith Tompkins Garnet was the first African American woman to found a suffrage organization and the first Black woman principal in the New York public school system.

In 1845, at the age of fourteen Garnet started working as a teacher's assistant, this would mark the beginning of her professional career. Nine years later she became a teacher at the African Free School of Williamsburg, which is now part of Brooklyn. All her hard work was recognized in 1863, when she was appointed a principal in the New York public school system. She would oversee two public schools until she retired in 1900.

In the late 1880s Garnet helped found the Equal Suffrage League, a Brooklyn-based club for Black woman. The league insisted that "women had the same human intellectual and spiritual capabilities as men and that the denial of women's right to vote in a

In 1913, Chicago journalist, Black activist, and suffragist, Ida B. Wells, founded the Alpha Suffrage Club. That same year she traveled to the first suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. organized by the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

At the parade, she and 60 Black women were told to march in the back. To this, Wells responded "Either I go with you or not at all. I am not taking this stand because I personally wish for recognition. I am doing it for the future benefit of my whole race."

nation that was founded on the ideal on the people's right to rule was unjust." Later in the early 1900s, after Garnet became the superintendent of the Suffrage Department of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), the Equal Suffrage League would become affiliated with National Association of Colored Women. Garnet along with the president of the league, Dr. Vienna Harris Morton Jones, supported the creation of the Niagara Movement, which demanded equal rights for all Americans. She died in 1911.

Hester C. Jeffrey

Born in Norfolk, VA around 1842, Hester C. Jeffrey was an organizer, and activist based in Rochester, NY. She established a number of African American women's clubs in Rochester. In 1902



she organized the Susan B. Anthony Club for

Continued on page 6

NYS Black Suffragists

Continued from page 5

Colored Women, which advocated for women's suffrage.

Her husband, Rev. Jeffrey, was also a political activist who stored the printing press of Frederick Douglass's North Star in the basement of the Favor Street A.M.E. Church in Rochester, NY.

Hester Jeffrey founded a number of local African American women's clubs among the growing African American community in Rochester in the early 1890s. In 1897, Jeffrey was appointed to serve on the (Frederick) Douglass Monument Committee, to raise funds for a statue that was going to be erected in Rochester, in honor of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, journalist, and champion of woman's suffrage.

In 1902, Jeffrey organized the Susan B. Anthony Club for Colored Women and served as its first president; the club advocated women's suffrage. Later that year Hester Jeffrey spoke at a Buffalo, NY convention of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), a group founded in 1896 by prominent African American women activists. Jeffrey, a friend and associate of Susan B. Anthony, was chosen to give a eulogy at Anthony's funeral in 1906. Jeffrey died in Rochester in 1934.

Dr. Verina Harris Morton Jones

Dr. Verina Harris Morton Jones (January 28, 1865 – February 3, 1943) was an African American physician, suffragist, and clubwoman. Following her graduation from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1888 she was the first woman licensed to practice medicine in Mississippi. She then moved to Brooklyn where she co-founded and led the Lincoln Settlement House.

Jones was involved with numerous civic and activist organizations and was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Jones married physician Walter A. Morton in 1890. They moved to Brooklyn, NY where they set up a medical practice. Jones was the first black woman physician practicing in Long Island's Nassau County. She was active in the Kings County Medical Society and the National Association of Colored Women, directing their Mother's Club in Brooklyn. From 1905 to 1906 she



Women's Club of Buffalo, NY

was a member of the Niagara Movement's female auxiliary. She also worked with the Committee for Improving Industrial Conditions of Negroes in New York City. Jones fought for women's suffrage and was president of the Brooklyn Equal Suffrage League. She conducted programs to educate voters, documented racial discrimination at polling places, and testified before investigative committees of Congress.

Jones co-founded Brooklyn's Lincoln Settlement, supplying the down payment for the house's property at 129 Willoughby Street. She gave up much of her medical practice and from May 1908 headed the organization, which began as an extension of the Henry Street Settlement founded by Lillian Wald. The Lincoln Settlement House offered free kindergarten, a day nursery and a clinic.

In 1913 Jones was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She served on its executive committee until 1925.

In the 1920s Jones moved to Hempstead and established a medical practice. She joined other women in the community to organize the Harriet Tubman Community Club in 1928 and from 1933 to 1939 directed the settlement house. She died on February 3, 1943 in Brooklyn.

Mary Burnett Talbert

Born in Ohio in 1866, Mary Burnett Talbert was an educator, suffragist, reformer, and civil right leader whose influence spread around the world. Talbert graduated from high school at 16 and



went on to receive a degree at Oberlin College. In 1887 she was elected the vice principal of Union High School in Little Rock, AR – an amazing achievement for a woman of color at that time.

Talbert developed her commitment to feminism and civil rights after her 1891 marriage to William Talbert and move to Buffalo, NY. She became a founding member of the Phyllis Wheatley Club, the first club in Buffalo affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACW). Talbert went on to serve as president of NACW from 1916 to 1920. She was instrumental in the founding of

the Niagara Movement, pre-cursor to the NAACP (1905). After the Phyllis Wheatley Club helped to organize the first chapter of the NAACP in Buffalo in 1910, Talbert also became a member of its board of directors, and eventually national director of the NAACP's Anti-Lynching Campaign.

Talbert was also an ardent suffragist, challenging both the NAWSA (the National American Woman Suffrage Association) and the NWP (National Women's Party) to welcome Black women.

On the international scene, she served as a Red Cross nurse during World War I in France, sold thousands of dollars of Liberty Bonds during the war, offered classes to African American soldiers, and was a member of the Women's Committee of National Defense. After the war, she was appointed to the Women's Committee on International Relations, which selected women nominees for position in the League of Nations. She died on October 15, 1923.

Sojourner Truth

An inspiring abolitionist orator, Sojourner Truth is most famous for her 1851 "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at a Woman's Rights Convention in Akron, OH, where she described her life of hard labor and her belief in gender equality in powerful terms.



Born into slavery in 1797 as Isabella Baumfree in Ulster County, NY, Truth had walked away from her enslavement in 1826, a year before she would have been freed under New York State law. After working as a domestic servant in New York City, in 1843 she experienced a religious conversion, renamed herself Sojourner Truth, and started life as an itinerant preacher. Walking through Long Island, then travelling into New England, she met many prominent reformers.

By the time of the Civil War, she had become a national figure, meeting President Lincoln and fighting segregation on Washington streetcars. She spent her later

Sojourner Truth, who had escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826, remained unwavering in her support of women's rights. She commented on the issue in 1867, when female suffrage was still very much being debated: "I feel that I have the right to have just as much as a man. There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights, but not a word about the colored women; and if colored men get their rights, and colored women not theirs, the colored men will be masters over the women, and it will be just as bad as it was before."

years in Battle Creek, MI, where she unsuccessfully attempted to vote in 1872. She died in 1883.

Fannie Barrier Williams

Frances "Fannie" Barrier Williams was a Black American educator and political and women's rights activist.

Born on February 12, 1855 in Brockport, NY, she was the youngest of three children. Just a few of the Black families in town, they were part of a privileged class since her father had built a solid real estate portfolio and owned a business.



Barrier and her siblings attended the "primary department" or campus school of the old Brockport Collegiate Institute. After that, Fannie Barrier continued on at Brockport State

Normal School (now SUNY College at Brockport) and was the first African American to graduate in 1870.

Barrier met her future husband after moving to the Washington, D.C. area to teach. Samuel Laing Williams of Georgia. He worked in the United States Pension Office while studying law at Columbia University (later George Washington University Law School). They were married in Brockport in August 1887 and eventually settled in Chicago, IL.

Associating with both Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, she represented the viewpoint of Black Americans in the Illinois Women's Alliance and lectured frequently on the need for all women, but especially Black women, to have the vote. Her women's rights was recognized when she was the only Black American selected to eulogize Susan B. Anthony at the 1907 National American Woman Suffrage Association convention.

After the death of her husband in 1921, Barrier Williams remained in Chicago until 1926. In 1924 the widowed Williams became the first woman and the first Black American to be named to the Chicago Library Board. She returned to Brockport in 1926 to live with her sister Ella, where she enjoyed a simpler and quieter life. On March 4, 1944, she died after a long illness.

In 2014, SUNY College at Brockport named the Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Scholarship after her. It is awarded to students with a 3.0 or higher GPA and the requirements include an essay of their commitment to social justice.

When Washington, D.C.'s first suffrage parade was organized, for 1913, lead planner Alice Paul, expressed concern that white women wouldn't show up if they knew they had to march with Black women. "As far as I can see, we must have a white procession, or a Negro procession, or no procession at all," was her reasoning.

Night of Terror: the radical women of 1917 tortured and beaten for their pursuit of the right to vote

by Katharine Smith

In their battle for the right to vote some U.S. suffragists suffered more serious repercussions than jeers or harassment. Throughout their two-and-a-half year-long vigil many of the nearly 2,000 women who picketed the White House were harassed, arrested, and unfairly treated by local and U.S. authorities, including the torture and abuse inflicted on them before and during the November 14, 1917 "Night of Terror."

On January 10, 1917 at ten o'clock in the morning, 12 women from the National Woman's Party picketed in silence outside the White House. The "Silent Sentinels" held banners reading "Mr. President, what will you do for woman suffrage?"

This was the beginning of a two-plus year vigil at the gates of Woodrow Wilson's White House – the first time the White House had ever been picketed – planned and executed by suffragists led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, the militant founders of the National Woman's Party (NWP).

Initially, Wilson shrugged off the demonstrators, smiling at them as he passed and inviting them in for coffee; they turned him down. They wore gold, purple, and white and carried banners – some of which quoted Wilson:

"We shall fight for the things which we have always carried



"Picketing in all sorts of weather. N.Y. Day Picket. Jan. 26, 1917." The National Woman's Party organized picketers like this state delegation from New York. They also set up special days for groups, such as, teachers day or nurses day.



"Suffragist arrests." Washington, D.C. 1918

nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments."

"Kaiser Wilson, have you forgotten your sympathy with the poor Germans because they were not self-governed? 20,000,000 American women are not self-governed. Take the beam out of your own eye." (Comparing Wilson to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, and to a famous quote of Jesus regarding hypocrisy.)

Public reaction varied, with some people even helping hold up the suffragists' banners although others harassed them. Attitudes changed after the United States entered World War I in April 1917, and the NWP insisted on continued picketing of the White House.

The more moderate suffrage movement – led by the National American Woman Suffrage Association – cast its support

behind the war effort. But at this point the picketers were considered unpatriotic for their vigil. Onlookers sometimes attacked the women; their banners were torn down and some men hurled insults or rotten fruit. The New York Times called the protests "silent, silly, and offensive."

In June 1917, police began arresting the Silent Sentinels standing on the sidewalk for "obstruction of traffic." Initially, they were discharged quickly, and without fines, soon however, the courts began sentencing them to three days in jail. But the suffragists continued picketing.

The arrests escalated in August when the Sentinels started carrying banners calling the president "Kaiser Wilson." Authorities clamped down, sentencing six women to 60-day prison terms, among them Janet Fotheringham of Buffalo, NY (pictured below center).



Janet Fotheringham, of Buffalo, NY.

"Lucy Burns, of NYC, in Occoquan Workhouse, Washington, Nov. 1917." Leader of most of the picket demonstrations, she served more time in jail than any other suffragists in America. Arrested picketing June 1917, sentenced to 3 days; arrested September 1917, sentenced to 60 days; arrested November 10, 1917, sentenced to 6 months; in January 1919 arrested at watchfire demonstrations, for which she served one 3-day and two 5-day sentences.

"To the Russian Envoys
President Wilson and Envoy Root
are deceiving Russia. They say
we are a democracy. Help us win
a world war so that democracies
may survive.

We, the women of America,
tell you that America is not
a democracy. Twenty million
American women are denied the
right to vote. President Wilson
is the chief opponent of their
national enfranchisement.

Help us make this nation really
free. Tell our government it must
liberate its people before it can
claim free Russia as an ally."

-Banner, designed to provoke Wilson,
held by Sentinels at the gates of
the White House during a Russian
diplomatic visit.



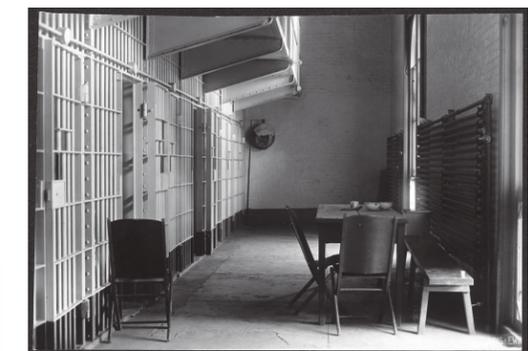
Alice Paul, between ca. 1920 and ca. 1925. (Library of Congress)

The Sentinels kept coming back, getting arrested and routinely refusing to pay fines in order to bring attention to their issue. They were sentenced to longer and longer terms and when space ran out at the District of Columbia Jail they were imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, a reformatory in Fairfax County.

Conditions at Occoquan were disgusting; the food contained worms; their water and bedding were filthy. The women also faced harsh treatment from guards: a former night officer, Virginia Bovee, contended that the superintendent and his son beat their prisoners.

Alice Paul was arrested that October, the banner she carried quoted Wilson: "The time has come to conquer or submit, for us there can be but one choice. We have made it." She was subsequently sentenced to seven months. Paul along with other demonstrators was sent to the District Jail; some were again sent to the Occoquan Workhouse.

Continued on page 17



Pictured left: Cell at Occoquan Workhouse, ca. 1917. At the right: Tier in D.C. prison where suffragists were confined in 1917.

Images: Unless otherwise noted, the source for all the historic images in this article is the Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov>).

Chapter and Region News

Central NY Chapter – 5

- submitted by Pat Ferguson, president

The Central New York Chapter welcomed its newest member, **Elaine Skibitski**, an independent sales consultant and director with Mary Kay. The chapter looks forward to seeing her at upcoming events. Do you have a friend you'd like to invite to join? 2020 is the year to do it!



Rome Professional and Business Women Chapter – Region 5

- submitted by Beth Jones, president

The **Rome Area Chamber of Commerce** hosted the Congressional Breakfast Forum on January 31st at the Delta Lake Inn. **Congressman Anthony Brindisi** (NY-D, District 22), pictured below center, was guest speaker. Rome Professional and Business Women Chapter President **Beth Jones**, pictured left, was the second speaker.

During the forum Rome Chamber of Commerce presented a check for \$101 to the chapter. The organizations had teamed up during the Congressional Political Candidate Breakfast Forum in October 2019, in celebration of National Business Women's Week and the chapter's "Yellow Rose of Challenge" ceremony. This money will be added to the chapter's 2020 scholarship account. Another \$500 check will be presented to the Rome College Foundation in August 2020.



Beth also introduced the chapter's 2019 scholarship recipient to the 150 people at the January forum. **Cortney Lamb**, pictured on the right, is currently attending Mohawk Valley Community Rome Campus. She is pursuing a degree in business administration.

St. Lawrence County Chapter – 5

- submitted by Sue Bellor, president

Chapter member **Denise Murphy**, pictured at the left, is the owner of **The Shop Around the Corner** in Massena. She gave St. Lawrence County Chapter members a tour of her shop which showcases art, collectibles, and vintage glassware, china, and jewelry. Denise shared the journey of starting her business.



New York State Women, Inc.

Athena Military Women's Initiative Update

- submitted by Sue Mager, chair

There's news to share on the committee home front. Chapters have done some remarkable work since September, and there's an exciting committee activity planned for the upcoming March Board meeting, so look for that information in the March *Communicator*.

The Buffalo Niagara Chapter was abuzz in December buying holiday gifts for a veteran's family that the Chapter adopted. The appeal came from the Veteran's One Stop Center in Buffalo to help a veteran's widow and her two sons. Sarah (although not a veteran herself) and her boys, ages 8 and 11, were having a hard time this year. She was still dealing with trying to obtain VA benefits two years after her husband (a 100% disabled Afghan veteran with PTSD) committed suicide. The chapter got behind the effort and pulled together to extend the Athena Initiative to help Sarah and her boys experience abundant Christmas joy.

Word from Yates County Women is that they enjoyed a presentation at their November meeting on careers in the service and benefits for women veterans. The 2nd Commander of the American Legion, an Air Force veteran, distributed U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs brochures entitled "Women Veterans Guide to VA Resources" to attendees and guests.

Don't forget to keep chair, Sue Mager, (LBer633655@aol.com), informed of your chapter and region activities to support our female veterans.

The last news bite is from Saratoga in the Capital region. VCHC (Veterans & Community Housing Coalition) has reached out to NYS Women, Inc. and will be featured at the March Board meeting. Guardian House in Ballston Spa is just one to two housing programs for homeless female vets in NY State that they support. And, there is more good news on the horizon for this 501(c)3. They are seeking help to open "Foreverly House" which will be the only female veteran's home for women AND their children in New York State.

Did you know a female veteran will live out of her car with her kids before seeking help? She fears her kids will be taken from her by DCFS before she can get on her feet. With this project, NYS women vets will have a place to seek shelter AND keep their kids. If you are in the Capital region and want to be involved, please contact Sue Mager.

Please share your chapter's Athena Military Women's Initiative with Chair Sue Mager at LBer633655@aol.com.

Email chapter and region news to Joyce Delong,
NIKE editor, at PR@NYSWomeninc.org.

New York State Women, Inc.

Spring Board Meeting • New Hartford, NY

CALL TO Spring Board Meeting

CALL TO: Spring Board Meeting
DATE: March 21, 2020
LOCATION: American Legion Post #1376
8616 Clinton Street
New Hartford, NY 13413

TO: Executive Committee, Members of Board of Directors and all members of New York State Women, Inc.

NOTICE is hereby given that the next board meeting of New York State Women, Inc. will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the American Legion in New Hartford, NY. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM.

The schedule will include a region directors/assistant region directors meeting, workshop, and a board of directors meeting. Buffet lunch will be available.

All board members in good standing will be eligible to vote. All members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting, but only board members will have a vote at this session.

Forms and further information will appear on the website and in future editions of *The Communicator*.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bridson, NYS Women, Inc. President

Schedule (as of publication date)

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Registration / light breakfast
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM RD/ARD meeting
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Workshop (to be announced)
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Buffet lunch
12:45 PM Board meeting

Nearby Hotels

Hampton Inn & Suites (New Hartford)
201 Park Ave, Clinton, NY 13323
(Less than a mile)

Town Place Suites by Marriott (New Hartford)
4760 Middle Settlement Rd, Whitesboro, NY 13492
(Less than a mile)

Holiday Inn (Utica)
1777 Burrstone Rd, New Hartford, NY 13413
(Less than three miles)

For updates and more info: nyswomeninc.org

MEETING Registration

Advance Registration Deadline: February 29, 2020

To Register: Registration can also be submitted online at nyswomeninc.org (go to the Calendar). When you register online you either pay by credit card or opt to mail a check.

If not registering online, send completed form and payment (checks payable to New York State Women Inc. and note in memo area Spring Board Meeting 2020) to: Patti Pollock, P.O. Box 30, Mt. Upton, NY 13809; phone: 607-316-6003; email: pjpollock63@gmail.com

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“The Night of Terror”

Continued from page 7

Paul was placed in solitary confinement for two weeks, with nothing to eat except bread and water. Weak and unable to walk, she was moved to the prison hospital. There, she began a hunger strike, and other picketers joined her in an effort to be recognized as political prisoners. In response, prison doctors force fed the women, putting tubes down their throats. Paul was repeatedly force-fed and moved in early November to the District Jail’s psychiatric ward.



National Woman’s Party members in prison dress holding wooden chairs, on rooftop of Occoquan Workhouse. All were arrested on July 14, 1917 for picketing the White House; sentenced to 60 days; and pardoned by Wilson after three days. Left to right: Doris Stevens, of New York City; Alison Turnbull Hopkins, of Morristown, NJ, NWP state chair (her husband supported Wilson, serving on the Democratic National Committee); Eunice Dana Brannan, state chair of the New York branch of the NWP.

On the night of November 14, 1917, during what the women would call the “Night of Terror,” Occoquan Workhouse Superintendent, W.H. Whittaker, ordered his nearly 40 guards to brutalize the 33 suffragists who had been taken into custody.

Lucy Burns was beaten and had her hands chained to the top of a cell, forcing her to stand all night wearing nothing but a blanket; she was also threatened with a straitjacket and a buckle gag. They threw Dora Lewis into a dark cell and smashed her head against an iron bed, knocking her out. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, who believed Lewis to be dead, suffered a heart attack, and did not receive medical attention until morning. Dorothy Day, future co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, was slammed over the back of an iron bench. Guards grabbed, dragged, beat, choked, pinched, and kicked other women.

The brutality did not end after that “Night of Terror.” Not to be dissuaded, the women refused to eat for three days. The guards tried to tempt the women with fried chicken, which the protestors viewed as insulting. Realizing something urgent needed to be done or he would potentially have dead prisoners on his hands, the warden moved Burns to another jail and told the remaining women that the strike was over. He also ordered Burns to be force fed. She described the experience in her secret diary: “I was held down by five people at legs, arms, and head. I refused to open mouth. Gannon pushed tube up left nostril. I turned and twisted my head all I could, but he managed to push it up. It hurts nose and throat very much and makes nose bleed freely.” Of the well-known suffragists of the era, Burns spent the most time in jail.

Word got out about the conditions the protestors were being held under and newspapers carried stories about their treatment. The articles angered some Americans and created more support for the suffrage amendment. On November 27 and 28, all the protestors were released, including Alice Paul, who had spent five weeks in prison. Later, in March 1918, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that women had been illegally arrested, convicted,

and imprisoned. The court held that the information on which the women’s convictions were based was overly vague.

Finally, on January 9, 1918, Wilson announced his support for the women’s suffrage amendment. The next day, the House of Representatives narrowly passed the amendment but the Senate refused to even debate it until October. When the Senate voted on the amendment in October, it failed by two votes.

Despite the ruling by the Court of Appeals, arrests of White House protesters resumed on August 6, 1918.

In a high pressure move, in December 1918, protestors began burning Wilson’s words in watchfires in front of the White House. On February 9, 1919, they burned Wilson’s image in effigy at the White House.



National Woman’s Party watchfires burn outside White House, January 1919.

May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the 19th amendment; two weeks later on June 4, the Senate finally followed. It was officially ratified on August 26, 1920, after ratification by Tennessee, the 36th state to do so.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”
-19th Amendment, U.S. Constitution



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19th Amendment Centennial: Timeline of Ratification

“A Vote for Every Woman in 1920!” was the slogan of the National American Woman Suffrage Association after passage of the 19th Amendment by Congress on June 4, 1919.

Adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires passage by two-thirds of each chamber of Congress, then ratification by three-fourths of the states, which in 1919 was 36 of the 48 states. (Alaska and Hawai'i were then still U.S. territories.)

On May 21, 1919, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the language that would become the 19th Amendment. It had passed it one time before in early 1918, but the Senate had not followed suit.

Action by Congress

January 10, 1918: The U.S. House of Representatives passed the amendment for the first time.

May 21, 1919: The U.S. House of Representatives passed the amendment again.

June 4, 1919: The U.S. Senate passed the amendment and the race to ratification began.

The first states to ratify

June 10, 1919: Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin became the first states to ratify the amendment.

June 16, 1919: Special legislative sessions called in Kansas, Ohio, and New York to ratify the amendment.

Summer 1919 brought more states...and the first rejection

June 24, 1919: Pennsylvania becomes seventh state to ratify.

June 25, 1919: Massachusetts became number eight, despite a powerful anti-suffrage presence.

June 28, 1919: Texas is first southern state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

July 2, 1919: Iowa, home of suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, became the 10th state to ratify.

July 3, 1919: Missouri ratified the amendment in a special session called by the governor.

July 24, 1919: Georgia became the first state to vote against ratification.

July 28, 1919: With the approval by Arkansas, suffragists were one-third the way to ratification.

August 2, 1919: With Montana and Nebraska, suffrage was back on track.

September 8, 1919: After a dry spell, Minnesota.

September 10, 1919: ... and New Hampshire.

September 22, 1919: Alabama became the

second state to reject the amendment.

What would autumn 1919 bring?
September 30, 1919: Utah, the early adopter

November 1, 1919: California ratified ... and the amendment was halfway to the finish line

November 5, 1919: Maine ratified in a special session

The holiday season: the fight moved West
December 1, 1919: North Dakota ratified the amendment ...

December 4, 1919: ... and South Dakota, too.

December 14, 1919: Colorado became the last state to ratify in 1919. How many would follow in 1920?

Ring in the New Year with more state ratifications

January 6, 1920: Kentucky, Rhode Island

January 13, 1920: Oregon

January 16, 1920: Indiana

January 27, 1920: Wyoming

February 7, 1920: Nevada

February 9, 1920: New Jersey

February 11, 1920: Idaho

February 12, 1920: Arizona

February 21, 1920: New Mexico

February 28, 1920: Oklahoma

March 10, 1920: West Virginia

March 22, 1920: Washington

Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, making women's suffrage legal in the U.S.

Late – and some very late – ratifications
Connecticut belatedly ratified the 19th Amendment on September 14, 1920.

Vermont belatedly ratified the 19th Amendment on February 8, 1921.

Delaware originally rejected the 19th Amendment on June 2, 1920. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on March 6, 1923.

Maryland originally rejected the 19th Amendment on February 24, 1920. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on March 29, 1941.

Virginia originally rejected the 19th Amendment on February 12, 1920. The state belatedly ratified

the amendment on February 12, 1952.

Alabama originally rejected the 19th Amendment on September 22, 1919. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on September 8, 1953.

Florida belatedly ratified the 19th Amendment on May 13, 1969.

South Carolina originally rejected the 19th Amendment on January 28, 1920. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on July 1, 1969.

Georgia originally rejected the 19th Amendment on July 24, 1919. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on February 20, 1970.

Louisiana rejected the 19th Amendment on July 1, 1920. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on June 11, 1970.

North Carolina belatedly ratified the 19th Amendment on May 6, 1971.

Mississippi rejected the 19th Amendment on March 29, 1920. The state belatedly ratified the amendment on March 22, 1984.

What about U.S. territories and yet-to-be states?

When the 19th Amendment was ratified, Alaska was not yet a state. But (white) women in Alaska were granted suffrage rights in 1913.

When the 19th Amendment was ratified, Hawai'i was not yet a state, yet Hawaiian women were also granted suffrage rights.

The District of Columbia is a federal district, not a state. Up until 1961, residents of DC could not vote in presidential elections.

Women in American Samoa, a territory of the US, were not able to vote even after the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Women in Guam did not have voting rights after the passage of the 19th Amendment because they were not US citizens.

The Northern Mariana Islands became a territory of the United States in 1947 and was not able to vote on the 19th Amendment.

In 1898, the Philippines became a territory of the United States. As a territory and not a state, they did not vote re: the 19th Amendment.

In 1929, in response to pressure from the United States Congress, the Puerto Rico legislature granted literate women the right to vote.

People living in the US Virgin Islands are considered United States citizens, but are ineligible to vote for US President.

Source: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

19th Amendment Centennial: The Susan B. Anthony Trial

United States v. Susan B. Anthony was the criminal trial of Susan B. Anthony in a U.S. federal court in 1873. The defendant was the famous leader of the women's suffrage movement who was arrested for voting in Rochester, NY in the 1872 election in violation of state laws allowing only men to vote. Anthony argued that she had the right to vote because of the recently-adopted Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, part of which reads, *“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.”*

Judge Ward Hunt wouldn't allow jurors to discuss the case but rather instructed them to find Anthony guilty. On the final day of the trial, Hunt asked Anthony if she had anything to say. Anthony, who up until then hadn't been allowed to speak, responded:

“Yes, your honor, I have many things to say; for in your ordered verdict of guilty, you have trampled under foot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored. Robbed of the fundamental privilege of citizenship, I am degraded from the status of a citizen to that of a subject; and not only myself individually, but all of my sex, are, by your honor's verdict, doomed to political subjection under this so-called republican form of government.”

She then repeatedly ignored the judge's order to stop talking and sit down, and protested the injustice of denying women the right to vote. When Justice Hunt sentenced Anthony to pay a fine of \$100, she defiantly told him she would never would. Hunt then announced that Anthony would not be jailed for failure to pay the fine, a move that had the effect of preventing her from taking her case to the Supreme Court.

The suffrage strategy in the federal courts.

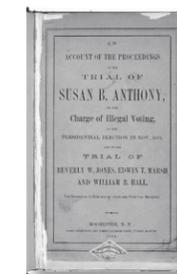
She – and other women in the National Woman Suffrage Association – had been trying to establish, through

“all of my sex, are, by your honor's verdict, doomed to political subjection under this so-called republican form of government.”

-Susan B. Anthony, 1873



Susan B. Anthony



test cases in the federal courts, that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, together with the pending Fifteenth Amendment, had so re-defined citizenship and rights that women were protected by the federal government in their right to vote. These amendments were intended to establish the newly-freed male slaves as citizens with voting rights. In the process, they also defined citizenship in a way that clearly included women, prohibited the states from abridging *“the privileges or immunities of citizens,”* and transferred partial control over voting rights from the state to the federal level.

Across the U.S. hundreds of women attempted to vote. In Washington, D.C., accompanied by Frederick Douglass, former slave, abolitionist leader, and advocate of women's rights, 64 women unsuccessfully tried to register in spring 1871, and more than 70 attempted to vote. In November that year, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia ruled against lawsuits the women brought. It ruled that citizenship did not imply the right to vote.

Why did Anthony alone go on trial?

The reaction of authorities was low-key in those other unsuccessful attempts to vote. Their response was much different when Susan B. Anthony successfully voted in 1872. She was a nationally-known figure; along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton she had founded the Women's Loyal National League – the first national women's political organization in the U.S. – in 1863 during the Civil War. Anthony had helped organize the League's petition against slavery, which collected nearly 400,000 signatures in the largest petition drive in U.S. history up to that point. When she cast her ballot, Anthony was the arguably the nation's best-known advocate of the right of women to vote.

Susan B. Anthony's strategic crime.

On November 5, 1872, in the first district of the Eighth Ward of Rochester, NY, Anthony voted in the U.S. presidential election, which included the election for members



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Susan B. Anthony on trial for voting illegally

Continued from page 15

of Congress. The voting inspectors voted two to one to accept Anthony's vote, and her folded ballot was placed in a ballot box. (She voted for Ulysses S. Grant and other Republicans; the party had promised to give women's rights an open-minded hearing.)



town, asking: "Is it a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?" Anthony's exhausting lecture tour took her to every one of the 29 post office districts in Monroe County.

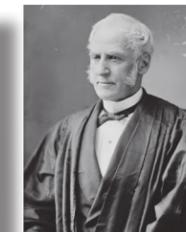
In May 1873 U.S. Attorney Richard Crowley asked for the case to be transferred from the district court in Monroe County to the circuit court in Ontario County.

Fourteen other Rochester women who lived in Anthony's ward also voted in that election and were arrested, but the government never took them to trial. On November 18, a U.S. deputy marshal arrested Anthony in the front parlor of her Madison Street home in Rochester. Anthony's description of what happened that day in her front parlor:

He sat down. He said it was pleasant weather. He hemmed and hawed and finally said Mr. Storrs wanted to see me. . . "What for?" I asked. "To arrest you," said he. "Is that the way you arrest men?" "No." Then I demanded that I should be arrested properly. . . In the [horse-drawn streetcar] car he took out his pocketbook to pay fare. I asked if he did that in his official capacity. He said yes; he was obliged to pay the fare of any criminal he arrested. Well, that was the first cents worth I ever had from Uncle Sam.



Some questioned Crowley's motives: By taking the case to the circuit court, Crowley would try it before an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court assigned to the circuit, giving the verdict greater weight. But moving the trial out of Monroe County also removed the trial from the audience of potential jurors Anthony had addressed on her speaking tours. Any advantage for Crowley quickly dissipated. As a local newspaper noted, Crowley had met his match in Anthony: She scheduled herself to speak in every village in Ontario County.



United States v. Susan B. Anthony.

Anthony's trial began in Canandaigua, NY, on June 17, 1873 before a jury of twelve men. Crowley stated the government's case and called an inspector of election as a witness to establish that Anthony cast a ballot. Henry Selden had himself sworn in as a witness and testified he advised Anthony that the Constitution authorized her to vote.

Legal arguments.

Anthony's lawyer, Selden, said the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment made it clear that women were citizens and that states were prohibited from making laws that abridge "the privileges and immunities of citizens." Therefore, women were entitled to all the rights of citizens, including the right to vote, the right that gives meaning to the other political rights. He said since Anthony voted in sincere belief that she was voting legally she couldn't be accused of knowingly violating a law.

For the prosecution, Crowley argued that the "privi-
Continued on page 18

Pictured, from the top: President Ulysses S. Grant; Anthony's attorney, Henry Rogers Selden; Anthony's Madison Street home in Rochester and the front parlor where she was arrested; U.S. District Courthouse in Canandaigua where the trial was held; Judge Ward Hunt.

“Has the prisoner anything to say why sentence shall not be pronounced?”

leges and immunities” protected by the Fourteenth Amendment applied only to such rights as life, liberty and property, not the right to vote. He said that children were citizens, but no one would claim they had the right to vote.

The judge directs the jury to deliver a guilty verdict.

After both sides had presented their cases on the second day of the trial, Judge Hunt delivered his written opinion. (He’d written it beforehand, he said, so “there would be no misapprehension about my views.”) He said the Constitution allowed states to prohibit women from voting and that Anthony was guilty of violating a New York law to that effect. He also said the right to a trial by jury exists only when there is a disputed fact, not when there is an issue of law. In the most controversial aspect of the trial, Hunt ruled that the defense had conceded the facts of the case, and he directed the jury to deliver a guilty verdict.

In what is ordinarily a routine move, Hunt then asked Anthony if she had anything to say.

Judge Hunt: (Ordering the defendant to stand up) “Has the prisoner anything to say why sentence shall not be pronounced?”

Miss Anthony: “Yes, your honor, I have many things to say; for in your ordered verdict of guilty, you have trampled under foot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored. Robbed of the fundamental privilege of citizenship, I am degraded from the status of a citizen to that of a subject; and not only myself individually, but all of my sex, are, by your honor’s verdict, doomed to political subjection

under this so-called republican form of government.”

Judge Hunt: “The Court cannot listen to a rehearsal of arguments the prisoner’s counsel has already consumed three hours in presenting.”

Miss Anthony: “May it please your honor, I am not arguing the question, but simply stating the reasons why sentence cannot, in justice, be pronounced against me. Your denial of my citizen’s right to vote, is the denial of my right of consent as one of the governed, the denial of my right of representation as one of the taxed, the denial of my right to a trial by a jury of my peers as an offender against law, therefore, the denial of my sacred rights to life, liberty, property and –”

Judge Hunt: “The Court cannot allow the prisoner to go on.”

Miss Anthony: “But your honor will not deny me this one and only poor privilege of protest against this high-handed outrage upon my citizen’s rights. May it please the Court to remember that since the day of my arrest last November, this is the first time that either myself or any person of my disfranchised class has been allowed a word of defense before judge or jury –”

Judge Hunt: “The prisoner must sit down – the Court cannot allow it.”

Miss Anthony: “All of my prosecutors, from the eighth ward corner grocery politician, who entered the compliant, to the United States Marshal, Commissioner, District Attorney, District Judge, your honor on the bench, not one

is my peer, but each and all are my political sovereigns; and had your honor submitted my case to the jury, as was clearly your duty, even then I should have had just cause of protest, for not one of those men was my peer; but, native or foreign born, white or black, rich or poor, educated or ignorant, awake or asleep, sober or drunk, each and every man of them was my political superior; hence, in no sense, my peer. Even, under such circumstances, a commoner of England, tried before a jury of Lords, would have far less cause to complain than should I, a woman, tried before a jury of men. Even my counsel, the Hon. Henry R. Selden, who has argued my cause so ably, so earnestly, so unanswerably before your honor, is my political sovereign. Precisely as no disfranchised person is entitled to sit upon a jury, and no woman is entitled to the franchise, so, none but a regularly admitted lawyer is allowed to practice in the courts, and no woman can gain admission to the bar – hence, jury, judge, counsel, must all be of the superior class.

Judge Hunt: “The Court must insist – the prisoner has been tried according to the established forms of law.”

Miss Anthony: “Yes, your honor, but by forms of law all made by men, interpreted by men, administered by men, in favor of men, and against women; and hence, your honor’s ordered verdict of guilty; against a United States citizen for the exercise of “that citizen’s right to vote,” simply because that citizen was a woman and not a man. But, yesterday, the same man made forms of law, declared it a crime punishable with \$1,000 fine and six months imprisonment, for you, or me, or you of us, to give a cup of cold water, a crust of bread, or a night’s shelter to a panting fugitive as he was tracking his way to Canada. And every man or woman in whose veins coursed a drop of human sympathy violated that wicked law, reckless of consequences, and was justified in so doing. As then, the slaves who got their freedom must take it over, or under, or through the unjust forms of law, precisely so, now, must women, to get their right to a voice in this government, take it; and I have taken mine, and mean to take it at every possible opportunity.”

Judge Hunt: “The Court orders the prisoner to sit down. It will not allow another word.”

Miss Anthony: “When I was brought before your honor for trial, I hoped for a broad and liberal interpreta-



Susan B. Anthony

tion of the Constitution and its recent amendments, that should declare. . . equality of rights the national guarantee to all persons born or naturalized in the United States. But failing to get this justice – failing, even, to get a trial by a jury not of my peers – I ask not leniency at your hands – but rather the full rigors of the law –”

Judge Hunt: “The Court must insist –” (Miss Anthony sat down.) “The prisoner will stand up. (She stood up again.) “The sentence of the Court is that you pay a fine of one hundred dollars and the costs of the prosecution.”

Miss Anthony: “May it please your honor, I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty. All the stock in trade I possess is a \$10,000 debt, incurred by publishing my paper – *The Revolution* – four years ago, the sole object of which was to educate all women to do precisely as I have done, rebel against your man-made, unjust, unconstitutional forms of law, that tax, fine, imprison and hang women, while they deny them the right of representation in the government; and I shall work on with might and main to pay every dollar of that honest debt, but not a penny shall go to this unjust claim. And I shall earnestly and persistently continue to urge all women to the practical recognition of the old revolutionary maxim, that “Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God.”

tently continue to urge all women to the practical recognition of the old revolutionary maxim, that “Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God.”

Judge Hunt then announced that Anthony would not be jailed for failure to pay the fine, a move that had the effect of preventing her from taking her case to the Supreme Court. “Madam, the Court will not order you committed until the fine is paid.”

Precedent-setting ramifications of Anthony’s trial.

The trial, which was covered extensively by the press across the U.S., helped make women’s suffrage a national issue. It also helped transform the women’s rights movement from one that encompassed a number of issues into one that focused primarily on women’s suffrage.

And Judge Hunt’s directed verdict to the jury, to find Susan B. Anthony guilty, created a controversy within the legal community that lasted for years. In 1895, the Supreme Court ruled that a federal judge could not direct a jury to return a guilty verdict in a criminal trial.

Anthony never paid a penny of her fine. 🐰



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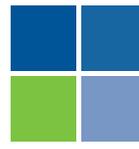
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