



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

EIGHTH PUBLIC MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (Commission or WSCC), with Ms. Susan Combs presiding as the Commission Chairwoman, convened its eighth public meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at the Library of Congress – Jefferson Building Room 119. The meeting was called to order at approximately at 9:30a.m. EST.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide progress updates on the comprehensive list of programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Key Decisions

- The December 3, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

B. Action Items

- The WSCC staff will continue execution of approved commemorative projects.
- The WSCC staff will keep Commissioners updated on the release of new webstore merchandise.
- The WSCC staff will keep Commissioners updated on the U.S. Postal Service centennial stamp.
- The WSCC staff will send staff historian and copy editor resumes to Commissioners.
- The WSCC staff will send medal design unveiling date once confirmed by the U.S. Treasury.
- The WSCC staff will send updated talking points to Commissioners for speaking engagements.
- The WSCC staff will follow up with Commissioner Hill regarding her past speaking engagement at the Woodrow Wilson House.
- The WSCC staff will follow up with Commissioner Hill for her contacts at the Empire State Building for Forward Into Light.
- The WSCC staff will provide Commissioners will details on plus ones for travel engagements.
- The WSCC staff will send more information about the Women's Museum legislation to Commissioners.
- The WSCC staff will send more information about the U.S. Capitol Historical Society Symposium to Commissioners.
- The WSCC staff will gather more information on archiving events and projects.
- The WSCC staff will put together of a list of potential stores to carry WSCC merchandise.

III. PRESENTATIONS, KEY DISCUSSIONS AND COMMISSION VOTES

A. Opening remarks were provided by Dr. Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress

Welcome to the Library of Congress. I'm pleased that the Commission decided to host its spring meeting here at the Library.

As you know, we have housed the commission staff since the very beginning in 2018. It's really quite appropriate for the commission to have such a close relationship with the Library of Congress. After all, the Library curates the papers of Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Church Terrell, and Clara Barton. We also have the records of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman's Party.

My predecessor, Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Spofford, deserves credit for this amazing collection. He convinced his friend, Susan B. Anthony, that the Library of Congress would be the best place for her materials and papers. Other suffragists soon followed, and that's why we have the premiere collection of papers chronicling the longest social movement in American history.

This past year and also this year, we're focused on "change makers" here at the Library of Congress. Certainly, the suffragists are change makers par excellence. Every time I visit the exhibit, I learn something new about the struggle for women to gain the right to vote. I know you're headed over to our exhibit for a tour so I won't spoil any of the surprises. I think you'll agree that our exhibit curators did a fantastic job in chronicling the entire movement – all the way from Seneca Falls to ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920.

Also, don't forget to visit our gift shop at lunch time, because we have some terrific women's suffrage items you might want to buy for yourself or someone else. I'm very excited about the plans the Commission has orchestrated for the upcoming year of celebration. The Library of Congress is proud to participate in "Women's Suffrage Week" in May by hosting a symposium here in conjunction with the United States Capitol Historical Society. That will be part of our new "Thursday nights" at the Library initiative, in which we will keep the Library open late one night a week to host public events and share our treasures.

But I'm also intrigued about some of the other initiatives you will undertake this year. I hear that breaking a world record in skydiving is on the schedule, along with an initiative to light up prominent buildings across the country on August 26. All of your plans, whether educational or entertaining or both, have one mission in mind, which is disseminate and share the impressive story of women's struggle to earn the right to vote. I wish you a productive meeting and thank you for all the work you've done to plan a memorable centennial year.

B. Chairwoman Update – Susan Combs

The Chairwoman shared that both herself and Vice Chairwoman Colleen Shogan have been highly engaged and are very pleased with the work that has taken place since the Commission's December 3rd meeting. The WSCC now has over 50 programs, projects, and events underway. There is a list of these in the meeting materials with a status update on each one. Chairwoman Combs thanked the public for their engagement with the Commission and the centennial for this significant moment in American history.

The Chairwoman congratulated Commissioner Jovita Carranza on her confirmation as the new Administrator at the Small Business Administration. Chairwoman Combs also extended the Commission's thanks to Commissioner Carranza for her help with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Medal Program. The medal's design will be unveiled soon, the Commission is waiting on confirmation from the U.S. Treasury. The WSCC will let Commissioners know when the date is

confirmed by the Treasury. The silver commemorative medal and coin will be sold as a set in 2020, and the bronze version of the medal will be available in 2021.

The Chairwoman congratulated Vice Chairwoman Colleen Shogan on her new position at the White House Historical Association. The Vice Chairwoman is now the Senior Vice President of the White House Historical Association and Director of the David Rubenstein Center for White House History. Under the direction of Librarian of Congress, Dr. Hayden, Vice Chairwoman Shogan will continue her role as the Vice Chairwoman on the Commission and will represent the Library of Congress in that capacity.

Chairwoman Combs thanked Ms. Anna Laymon, whose appointment as the Executive Director became official on December 3, 2019, for serving so diligently and providing the Commission with the vision for the year. The Chairwoman also thanked Ms. Julia Washburn for her assistance in the interim, while Ms. Laymon is on parental leave. Ms. Washburn has experience supporting several national commissions, including the National Park Service Second Century Commission, leading up to the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

The Chairwoman congratulated Ms. Kelsey Millay on her promotion to WSCC Director of Communications, and to Ms. Stephanie Marsellos who has stepped into the role of Communications and Program Specialist. Chairwoman Combs shared that she and the Vice Chairwoman are confident in the new direction of the Commission's communications.

Chairwoman Combs welcomed Ms. Kimberly Wallner to the WSCC staff as the new Director of Programs and Partnerships. Prior to joining the WSCC, Ms. Wallner worked on Capitol Hill and at The Heritage Foundation, where she focused on outreach, building policy coalitions, and event planning.

The Chairwoman called for a motion to pass the December meeting minutes. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Senator Mikulski seconded. No one opposed. The motion carried.

C. Acting Executive Director Update – Julia Washburn

Ms. Julia Washburn shared that it is an honor to serve as the WSCC's Acting Executive Director. She announced that Ms. Laymon is on the phone line and available to answer questions. Ms. Washburn shared that it is a pleasure to work with the WSCC staff on this mission to commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment and the opportunity to educate and inspire. Ms. Washburn shared that this history is personally relevant to her, her Great Aunt Genevieve Washburn was a suffragist.

Ms. Washburn shared recent staff changes. To allow the staff to focus on content development, Dr. Kathleen Grathwol has been contracted as the WSCC Copy Editor. A third historian, Dr. Allison Lange, has also been contracted to assist with fact-checking the growing workload. Dr. Lange will work with the Commission in this capacity until December 2020.

The Sixth Report to Congress and the President has been submitted, which featured a full roadmap of the Commission's upcoming work from January 2020 until August 2020. Ms. Washburn reminded Commissioners that the report is available in the meeting materials. The next report will be submitted in May 2020 and will highlight plans for the busy summer ahead. Ms. Washburn stated that the WSCC

is running a surplus, and she is confident the Commission will end the fiscal year on budget. She reminded Commissioners the budget summary is in the meeting materials.

The Commission's webstore, The Suff Shop, has been up and running for almost four months now. Ms. Washburn shared that The Suff Shop is an important part of the Commission's mission and is proud to be able to offer the "official gear" of the suffrage centennial.

Ms. Washburn encouraged Commissioners to wear their "Votes for Women" buttons. The buttons are replicas of the original buttons worn by the suffragists in 1920. The WSCC is offering a limited amount of these on a first come first serve basis to organizations across the country who are celebrating the centennial.

Ms. Washburn encouraged all Commissioners to attend the remaining Commission meetings. June 3, 2020 will be a telephonic meeting with subcommittee updates from 1-3pm ET. July 16-18, 2020 in Seneca Falls, New York. August 17- 18, 2020 at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, TN. October 8, 2020, this will be a close-out meeting at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The Commissioners will receive updates on the Seneca Falls and Nashville trips, and are encouraged to ask any questions or for assistance in travel arrangements.

Ms. Washburn reminded Commissioners the shared Google folder, accessible only to Commissioners, is available and conveniently contains all WSCC documents together in one place. Ms. Washburn thanked Chairwoman Combs and Vice Chairwoman Shogan for welcoming her to the team. Ms. Washburn stated that she is looking forward to serving the Commission until May when Ms. Laymon returns from parental leave.

Discussion

Commissioner Higgins asked for details about the U.S. Postal Service centennial stamp. The WSCC staff is in regular contact with the postal service and will follow up with the updates on the stamp.

D. Upcoming Commission Meeting and Events

Ms. Kelsey Millay, Director of Communications, and Ms. Kimberly Wallner, Director of Programs and Partnerships, reviewed the details of the Commission's upcoming visits to Seneca Falls, NY and Nashville, TN for summer 2020.

Ms. Millay explained the Commission will be traveling to Seneca Falls, NY in July during the anniversary of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention to honor the place where the organized suffrage movement began in the U.S. The commemorations will culminate in a visit to Nashville, TN in August to honor the anniversary of Tennessee becoming the 36th and final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment.

Ms. Wallner reviewed highlights of the Seneca Falls trip. After arriving in Auburn, NY on Thursday, July 16, the Commission will have a full day of programming on Friday, July 17, beginning with a brief in-person Commission meeting at the hotel that morning. Following the meeting, the WSCC will take a short bus ride to the Harriet Tubman Home where Commissioner Karen Hill, President and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home, will give a tour. Following the Harriet Tubman Home, the WSCC will take a bus to Seneca Falls and spend the next several hours at the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the site of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. While there, the Commission will tour the Chapel, Visitors Center, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton's house. Official programming will end with a public

reception on the lawn at the Stanton house from 3PM-4PM, but there will be optional add-on events that evening and the following day for those who wish to tour Susan B. Anthony's House and take part in the Convention Days Celebration at the Women's Rights National Historical Park on Saturday.

Ms. Millay explained the WSCC's big event in Nashville will be in partnership with The Hermitage Hotel on the evening of August 18. The WSCC has been working with other organizations and institutions in Nashville, such as the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee, the mayor's office, and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, to coordinate efforts. The WSCC will be traveling to Nashville on Sunday, August 16. The in-person public Commission meeting will be on Monday, August 17, from 9AM to 11AM at The Hermitage Hotel, the same hotel where the suffragists and anti-suffragists set up headquarters to campaign for and against ratification of the 19th Amendment when Tennessee was poised to become the 36th state to ratify. There will be suffrage centennial programming and events throughout the day in Nashville, led by some WSCC partners in the city. More details will be available as plans continue to come together. On August 18th, the Commission will be attending the unveiling of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument in Centennial Park from 10:30AM-12PM. And that evening, the WSCC and The Hermitage Hotel will be co-sponsoring a celebratory reception from 6PM-10PM. The reception will be utilizing the entire space of the hotel. There will be no charge for the event, but due to limited space, the event will be invitation only. The event on August 18 will be a reception that flows through the entire space of the hotel, with different displays, reenactments, and performances happening in the various event spaces throughout the hotel. There will be refreshments, suffrage-themed cocktails, a prohibition-style speakeasy, historic reenactors playing the suffragists and the anti-suffragists, a display of rare suffrage artifacts, performances by all-women music groups, and lots of yellow roses for decoration. Some WSCC staff is traveling to Nashville next week to continue firming up logistical details. The WSCC staff is working closely with the hotel's public relations team coordinate the joint promotional and media efforts. Ms. Millay encouraged Commissioners to reach out with any questions as they make travel plans.

Discussion

Commissioner James asked if plus ones are allowed. Ms. Millay responded saying yes and that she would follow up with more information about plus ones.

E. Subcommittee Updates

Communications and Multimedia Subcommittee

Ms. Kelsey Millay and Ms. Stephanie Marsellos shared updates on the WSCC's communications strategy and multimedia subcommittee projects. The updates have been combined because the multimedia projects are intertwined with the Commission's overall communications and media strategy.

Ms. Marsellos reviewed several social media campaigns. The Commission has been highlighting the states' 100-year anniversaries of ratifying the 19th Amendment. "Suffrage Stories" is another campaign that tells the inspiring, extraordinary, and complex stories of the suffrage movement and its people. The graphic used for these social media posts are modeled after the historical suffrage newspaper, *The Suffragist*.

Ms. Marsellos explained in Black History Month the WSCC launched the Trailblazing Book Fairies initiative in partnership with the nonprofits, The Book Fairies and Little Free Library. The WSCC staff placed copies of three books featuring African American suffragists around Washington, D.C. throughout the month of February. Each volume contained a bookmark with text on the back that

explained the significance of this project. Each book also had an official book fairy sticker on the cover encouraging those who discover the book to read it and leave it some place for someone else to enjoy and learn from. The books selected are part of the Commission's Trailblazers Book Club, where suffrage related books are recommended each month. The staff intends to repeat this project in March for Women's History Month with three new books. Also in February, the Live The Legacy campaign was launched, which highlights descendants of suffragists and suffragents, including Ida B. Wells, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass. A new shirt has also been released on the WSCC web store, The Suff Shop. The shirt is grey with white text and reads "Tubman, Wells, Terrell, Truth, and Douglass." These are the last names of some of the black suffragists and a suffragent from the suffrage movement.

Ms. Millay noted several planned efforts for Women's History Month in March. The #WearTheHistory campaign will focus on promoting The Suff Shop. The historian blog series, The Suff Buffs, will begin in March and end on August 26, 2020. Campaigns such as Suffrage Stories, Trailblazing Book Fairies, Live The Legacy, and recognizing the remaining ratification anniversary dates will continue. Some of these campaigns will also continue throughout the summer.

Ms. Millay reviewed the major campaigns schedule and media opportunities available in the meeting materials. The list includes confirmed dates now through August 2020, but new opportunities may arise. In March, there is an important hook for pitching and building relationships with journalists that will be useful for major campaigns over the summer. This commemorative month will serve as a great opportunity for organic engagement on WSCC social media channels and e-newsletter. In April, the Memphis suffrage monument will be unveiled, to which the WSCC has contributed busts of Ida B. Wells and Rep. Joe Hanover. In May, the Lucy Burns Museum will have its grand opening and the WSCC will have National Suffrage Week. For National Suffrage Week, the WSCC staff will begin pitching media and planning ads in March and April to ensure the Commission is ready for its launch date. In June, the WSCC Library Book Donation Program will launch. In July the WSCC will launch the suffrage podcasts, in partnership with PRX and the National Park Service, and travel to Seneca Falls. In August, the Commission will travel to Nashville for the anniversary of Tennessee's ratification of the 19th Amendment. The official suffrage centennial anniversary on August 26 will include the culmination of the Forward Into Light campaign and other partner events. The Library of Congress Book Festival will be on August 29. The WSCC staff will continue to add to this calendar as certain partnerships are finalized, public announcement dates are set, and as speaking engagements are confirmed.

Ms. Millay noted the Commission's e-newsletter, Monthly Suffrage Roundup, which are sent the first Friday of each month. Each newsletter shares history, state activities, web store updates, major WSCC news, and information on what is coming up. The WSCC staff will also be utilizing the listserv for special announcements for projects and partner campaigns.

Ms. Millay briefly reviewed communications collateral, including the Forward Into Light (FIL) one-pager. The FIL one-pager is available in Spanish and English and is being used to recruit states and communities to participate in lighting the country up in purple and gold on August 26. The WSCC's Centennial Planning Guide has also been distributed. There is a tailored version of the guide for each state, as well as a centennial engagement one-page for members of Congress. These are available in the meeting materials. Ms. Millay thanked the many wonderful partners, National Governors Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Women in Government, and more, that have helped

distribute WSCC resources to their networks and provided the WSCC with the opportunity to present at their conferences.

Discussion

Commissioner Dannenfeler asked about the status of potential White House collaborations. The Chairwoman responded that Ms. Laymon and Commissioner Carranza had been in conversations with White House staff for planning. Commissioner Dannenfeler offered her assistance in White House efforts if needed.

Commissioner Dannenfeler asked if Commissioners have been responding to speaking engagement requests. Ms. Millay answered explaining that she will be updating talking points to reflect project developments so Commissioners feel prepared to accept speaking requests. Ms. Millay will share the updated talking points with Commissioners. Commissioner Hill stated that she recently did a speaking engagement at the Woodrow Wilson House about Harriet Tubman and suffrage that was recorded on CSPAN. Ms. Millay and Ms. Marsellos will follow up with Commissioner Hill about distribution of the recording.

Commissioner Higgins asked about the process of vetting materials, such as recommended books and blogs, to ensure it is all historically accurate, mission aligned, and nonpartisan. Ms. Millay explained that all materials and content are closely considered by WSCC staff and reviewed by staff historians for historical accuracy. Commissioner Higgins asked how partnership projects are vetted for historical accuracy and mission alignment, such as the National Endowment for the Arts. Ms. Millay explained that partnership contracts include language that requires the Commission to have approval in content. The Chairwoman commented that the WSCC staff has been careful in ensuring efforts are historically accurate and mission aligned.

Commissioner Higgins suggested telling the stories of anti-suffragists and those who opposed the movement to show how passionately both sides of the argument were held.

Commissioner James said that while she whole heartedly endorses keeping politics out, she hopes that most conventions this summer find time during their schedules to celebrate women's suffrage. Commissioner Dannenfeler suggested that the Republican members of the Commission meet and talk about what to do at convention. Vice Chairwoman Shogan stated that would not be appropriate because this is a nonpartisan commission and that is not the role of this Commission. The Chairwoman agreed with the Vice Chair.

The Chairwoman asked about the status of the Empire State Building for Forward Into Light. Ms. Millay explained that a partner put in a request and the WSCC staff will follow up. The staff has also been in conversations about Forward Into Light with the Bi-Partisan Women's Caucus and members of Congress, who will all be helpful in this initiative. Commissioner Hill offers her contacts for the Empire State Building. Ms. Millay and Ms. Marsellos will follow up with Commissioner Hill for her assistance.

50 States Commemorative Subcommittee

Ms. Millay began by reviewing the suffrage-centennial themed float in the Rose Bowl Parade on January 1. The float was planned by the group, Pasadena Celebrates 2020, an initiative of the National Women's History Alliance. A group of women leaders and descendants of suffragists rode on the float, and 100 people marched behind the float wearing suffrage white. The WSCC provided purple, white, and gold suffrage sashes to the float riders and the 100 outwalkers, as well as purple, white, and gold

“Vote for Women” signs that included the WSCC logo. These signs were carried by the riders and walkers. The suffrage-centennial float, titled “Years of Hope, Years of Courage” won the Theme Award for most outstanding presentation of the Rose Bowl Parade theme, which was “The Power of Hope.” Broadcasts of this annual parade reach over 27 million households, receive tens of thousands of interactions on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The Rose Bowl Parade website receives over 2 million page views.

Ms. Wallner reviewed the suffrage monument being built in Memphis in honor of the centennial and Tennessee’s important role in suffrage history. The WSCC provided two statues that will be on permanent loan to the monument. One of Ida B. Wells and the other is Joe Hanover, the Tennessee legislator who ensured the suffrage amendment came to a vote in the state. The monument is currently being sculpted and the finished product will be part of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Heritage Trail, the Memphis Heritage Trail, and the National Votes for Women Trail. The unveiling is expected to take place in April and the WSCC will have representatives in Memphis to take part in the celebration.

Ms. Gabriela Hernandez, WSCC Program Coordinator, explained the Forward Into Light (FIL) campaign. FIL is a WSCC nationwide campaign with the goal of lighting up the U.S. in the suffrage colors of purple and gold on August 26, 2020, the day the 19th Amendment was adopted into the Constitution. The WSCC staff started to conduct outreach to recruit partners for this initiative and will launch a public educational campaign to ensure that Americans know why the country is lit up on August 26. The WSCC is working with partners such as the National Governors Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Women in Government, and the National Panhellenic Conference to distribute information about the campaign. This information is available on the FIL one-pager in the meeting materials and is also available in English and Spanish.

The National Votes for Women Trail is an initiative led by the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites to place markers at historic sites of the women’s suffrage movement in every state across the country. The WSCC is partnering with the National Collaborative to get the project across the finish line in 2020.

Ms. Millay reviewed the Suffragists Centennial Motorcycle Ride, a coordinated cross-country all-women motorcycle tour. In July 2020, women motorcyclists will leave from 10 different cities across the country. They will gather in Knoxville, TN, and they will then ride as a group from Tennessee to Washington, D.C. towards the end of August, leading up to the big centennial date on August 26. The Commission is working the motorcycle riders to help with their plans in Washington, D.C. The WSCC staff has facilitated introductions between this group and the National Park Service so riders can coordinate stops and photos ops at suffrage and women’s history related sites around the nation’s capital. The WSCC staff is continuing to discuss other potential collaborations with the motorcyclists.

Ms. Wallner explained the PBS special, *One Woman One Vote*, that examines the 72-year struggle for women’s right to vote. The original film aired in the 1990s and it has been updated for the 2020 centennial. The Commission is partnering with the One Woman One Vote Film Festival to hold screenings in five historic theatres across the nation on Monday, May 11, which corresponds with National Suffrage Week. Ms. Wallner also shared the WSCC is in the development phase of a partner project with the Girl Scouts and will share details as soon as they are finalized.

The Women's Skydiving Network is planning all-women skydiving demonstrations across the country throughout 2020. The WSCC has been working with the Women's Skydiving Network to connect them with contacts in the states to help coordinate many of these suffrage centennial skydives.

The WSCC is close to finalizing details with the National Endowments for the Arts that will permanently showcase suffrage history around the country. The MOU is being drafted and the staff hopes to announce this partnership in the coming months.

Ms. Millay shared the Commission is collaborating with the National Archives on an educational initiative to distribute another 2,000 of the pop-up version of their exhibit, Rightfully Hers. The agreement is being finalized and will be publicly announced soon.

Discussion

Vice Chairwoman Shogan asked which theatres will hold the One Woman One Vote film screenings. Ms. Wallner explained the WSCC staff is currently reviewing the list of potential theatres. The staff will inform Commissioners of chosen locations soon.

Library of Congress Book Festival – Colleen Shogan

Vice Chairwoman Shogan explained the WSCC will be partnering with the Library of Congress Book Festival. The festival will be on Saturday, August 29, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. It is the largest most distinguished book festival in country. The convention center says it is their largest event of the year and estimates 200,000 people walk through the doors. The festival has hosted such authors as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Stephen King, John Grisham, James McPherson, Jason Reynolds, and more. The festival has different stages, including a history stage, young adult stage, early readers stage, fiction stage, main stage, and more. This year the festival will have two different trails, the Fearless Women Trail and the Democracy Trail. The WSCC is sponsoring the Fearless Women Trail. The intention is for people to follow along that trail of events throughout the day. This is also the 20th anniversary of the festival, which was started by Laura Bush and Dr. James Billington. The authors for this year's trails will be released soon by the Library of Congress. There are book signing opportunities after almost every event. This festival is free. The Vice Chairwoman encouraged all to attend.

Capital City Commemorative Subcommittee

Ms. Washburn shared the Commission is partnering with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the Kluge Center on their annual symposium, this year's title is One Hundred Years of Women Voting. The symposium will bring in national experts on women's suffrage and will be live streamed. Vice Chairwoman Shogan will be moderating a panel. The symposium will take place during National Suffrage Week.

Ms. Marsellos shared the WSCC is organizing National Suffrage Week (NSW) for May 9-17 of 2020. The period is a little longer than a week to accommodate partners' programming. During NSW partners will convene conversations at museums, institutions, and sites across the country to spark a national dialogue about suffrage history and its legacy through public programming. In addition to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, other partners include the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the National Park Service, the One Woman One Vote film festival, the Library of Congress, the National Portrait Gallery, and the National Archives. Additional partners will be joining as well.

Ms. Washburn explained the WSCC is partnering with the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians for their conference on May 27. The Berkshire Conference was founded in 1930 to promote scholarship and support the activities of women in the historical profession. The Commission is providing a field trip to Washington, D.C. for 100 historians as a part of this year's conference, which is being held in Baltimore. They will visit suffrage exhibits and finish the day at the Belmont Paul Women's Equality National Monument for a panel discussion with suffrage exhibit curators from the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the National Portrait Gallery.

The Lucy Burns Museum at the Occoquan Workhouse will hold its grand opening during National Suffrage Week on May 9, 2020. The Commission provided two statues depicting Lucy Burns and Dora Lewis to the museum. Ms. Washburn also shared the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is planned for August 26, 2020. The Commission is providing three statues for the memorial and all designs have been approved.

The WSCC has made a request to the Department of Defense to provide an all-woman flyover on August 26, 2020 over the National Mall. The WSCC staff is waiting on their response. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Every Word We Utter Monument legislation last week, which would add a women's suffrage memorial in Washington, D.C. The Commission has been supporting this legislation. The House has also recently passed the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, H.R.1980. Senator Collins' office reached out to the WSCC staff last week for support on getting the bill through the Senate. The WSCC staff will assist.

Discussion

Senator Mikulski asked where the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's symposium will be held. The Vice Chairwoman responded saying it will be held at the Library of Congress – Jefferson Building Room 119 from May 14-15. The WSCC staff will share more information about the symposium with Commissioners. Commissioner Dannenfelser asked for more information about the women's museum legislation. The WSCC staff will share more information about the legislation with Commissioners.

F. Guest Presentations

Women's Skydiving Network – Melanie Curtis and Amy Chmelecki

Ms. Melanie Curtis and Ms. Amy Chmelecki thanked the Commission for having them. They shared information about the three parts of their organization, the Women's Skydiving Network, Highlight Professional Team, and Project 19. Ms. Curtis explained the challenge they see is that women are underrepresented. Only 13% of the skydiving population is female. Ms. Curtis explained this type of disparity is seen across many areas, including business, media, government, entertainment, and sports. The Women's Skydiving Network's (WSN) goal is to change that. The WSN's strategy through skydiving is to create educational opportunities, create training opportunities, all female events, and build a worldwide network. Ms. Chmelecki explained in conjunction with the WSCC, the WSN is creating awareness for the public. The WSN's plans for 2020 are to leverage the visibility and opportunity of the 19th Amendment centennial and to fulfill a Guinness world record skydive. The WSN team has been working on this project, Project 19, for a little over a year. Project 19's mission is to honor the women who fought for 72 years and educate women on why they should never take their right to vote for granted. Project 19 wants to inspire young girls and women to live by WSN's motto, to live a bold and brave life of their own design. Project 19 will have 100 women jumping out of five aircrafts at 19,000 feet going about 170mph. The skydivers will fly towards the center of the formation and then clasp hands to make one formation. This record-breaking jump will be attempted at Skydive Chicago in July. Ms. Curtis and Ms. Chmelecki invited all to cheer and watch. Highlight, the

professional team, is a demonstration jump team comprised of eleven elite women skydivers. Among these eleven women, the team has 127,000 combined jumps. In 2020, the WSN is putting all its efforts towards suffrage events. When jumping, the events will be energized with suffrage themed smoke, streamers, and giant flags. Project 19 is also working with a PR team to attract media attention. Ms. Curtis shared their inspiration for the team was just one single jump in Nashville because Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify. Ms. Curtis explained that with the help of the Commission, that one single jump has evolved into a series of jumps around the country. Project 19 has full approval to jump at events across the country, including Sacramento on August 22 for a family suffrage event, August 25 in Valley Forge, PA for the Justice Bell, August 26 in the Bronx at Woodlawn Cemetery in conjunction with Monumental Women, and on October 10 in Boston Commons. The jumps still pending approval are Seneca Falls for convention days, the Chicago Air and Water Show on August 15 and 16, and August 26 in Lorton, VA at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. There will be two jumps on August 26 with two teams at Lorton and the Bronx. Ms. Curtis shared they welcome any introductions or ideas and encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.

National Votes for Women Trail – Lucy Beard

Ms. Lucy Beard thanked the WSCC for having her. Ms. Beard explained the Votes for Women Trail is a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS), which is almost 20 years old. The NCWHS has national memberships from all over the country, including individuals and organizations. The NCWHS provides newsletters, publications, and webinars about incorporating women's history into history sites. Ms. Beard shared the NCWHS has successfully nominated several sites to be added to the National Historic Landmarks list. The NCWHS hosts conferences and regularly participates in conferences, like the Berkshire Conference and others. The NCWHS website shows an interactive map of women's history sites across the country. Users can click and find a particular site or scroll through the list available on the website. Ms. Beard shared the goals of the National Votes for Women Trail, to honor the suffrage movement's many participants and show that push and change occurs through the work of many. Ms. Beard explained the NCWHS does not want to pull out a few individuals but show how big of a story the suffrage movement is and inspire future generations to value the right to vote. Ms. Beard shared the trail is a brainchild of a group of women volunteers. The NCWHS has public and academic historians that identify sites where suffrage stories can be told. At this point, the list on the website has 1,204 sites and is constantly growing. The NCWHS is working to place five roadside markers in each state across the country, which would be 150 markers. Ms. Beard explained the process for getting markers placed. Once the list of potential sites is submitted, it is reviewed by the Pomeroy Foundation board. There are currently 66 markers under review. Ms. Beard shared the NCWHS headquarters, as of this month, have moved back to their founding headquarters at the Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel, NJ. Ms. Beard shared the NCWHS received a grant from the National Trust of Historic Preservation, which has been a major help to the online database. Ms. Beard thanked the Commission for their help in getting the project towards the finish line and announced that all roadside markers will have the WSCC logo.

Discussion

The Chairwoman noted the markers should be photographed and recorded for archiving since it is part of the centennial efforts. Commissioner Dannenfelser agreed and suggested the Commission start thinking about how to archive projects and events now so it does not pile up later. Vice Chairwoman Shogan agreed and suggested the WSCC staff research potential contractors for archiving all projects. The WSCC staff will gather more information about archiving.

At this time, Chairwoman Combs announced that she had to leave for an important Department of the Interior meeting. The Chairwoman thanked the public, Commissioners, and WSCC staff and asked Vice Chairwoman Shogan to continue the meeting. The Vice Chairwoman accepted and invited the next speaker to present.

Chip Forbes, Inc. – Chip Forbes

Mr. Chip Forbes thanked the WSCC for having him. Mr. Forbes explained his company, C. Forbes, Inc., is based out of Richmond, VA and is handling the merchandise for The Suff Shop. Mr. Forbes explained the shop has been active for three months and kicked off on Black Friday. So far the shop has made \$7,600.34. In the last 30 days, The Suff Shop website had 1,034 sessions and users spend an average of two minutes on the site. Mr. Forbes explained two important ways to improve the shop is through exposure and product development. Increasing exposure on social media and other platforms would be beneficial. Mr. Forbes suggested developing more exclusive products, specifically a custom dress, scarf, or wrap made of vintage yellow rose fabric. Mr. Forbes explained other places are selling suffrage merchandise, so it is important to have The Suff Shop be exclusive. For Women's History Month, the shop will be releasing three new products, a 24-pack of notecards with anti-suffrage artwork, "Votes for Women" stickers, and a set of four colorful magnets featuring four suffragists. The most popular item in the shop so far has been the "Votes for Women" pin. C. Forbes, Inc. has also designed packaging to tell the suffrage story and be more than what customers anticipate. Mr. Forbes reminded Commissioners that C. Forbes, Inc. has an in-house art department and welcomes any ideas.

Discussion

Senator Mikulski stated the importance of products being affordable for most Americans and made in America. The senator also suggested working with other institution's gift shops, such as Smithsonian, National Archives, and the Library of Congress. Vice Chairwoman Shogan agreed and suggested that a dress might not work for the shop, and stated that products need to be accessible to anyone that comes online. Commissioner Dannenfelser suggested working with WSCC partners, who do not have their own suffrage merchandise, on marketing to their audiences. Commissioner Dannenfelser asked if the WSCC is spending money on advertising. Ms. Washburn responded saying the WSCC staff is working on an advertising budget and plan for a national campaign. Commissioner Hill suggested inexpensive items with an educational purpose, such as rulers, and postcards for quick notes. Commissioner Wall explained the Commission's goal for the shop is not about profits but about getting the message of the centennial out. The Vice Chairwoman suggested creating a plan for promoting the shop that is distinct from other programming. The Vice Chairwoman suggested this plan include social media campaigns, online ad buys, and leveraging National Suffrage Week in May. Vice Chairwoman Shogan also recommended the WSCC should not advertise anything without a link to the shop to gain more exposure. The Vice Chairwoman also asked the WSCC staff to create a list of potential places, in Washington, D.C. or other locations, that may be interested in WSCC merchandise. The Vice Chairwoman offered her contact at the Library of Congress gift shop and recommended reaching out. Senator Mikulski suggested reaching out to hotel chain and airport gift shops. Ms. Anna Laymon noted that the WSCC staff has been talking with Mr. Forbes about this idea, and they are using the Hermitage Hotel as a test case to see what works and what does not work. Ms. Laymon also informed Commissioners there is a budget set aside just for promoting The Suff Shop and Ms. Millay will be creating an advertising plan for it. Ms. Laymon also noted the anti-suffrage images on the notecards are from Carol Crossed, who presented at the October 3, 2019 Commission meeting. Ms. Laymon added the notecards have historical context written on the back by staff historians so customers can learn about the images.

PRX – Genevieve Sponsler

Ms. Genevieve Sponsler thanked the Commission for having her. Ms. Sponsler explained PRX, Public Radio Exchange, is a nonprofit based out of Boston and founded in 2003. Ms. Sponsler noted several of PRX's most popular podcasts, including The Moth, Criminal, and This American Life. Ms. Sponsler also noted PRX works closely with Smithsonian for their podcast, Sidedoor. Ms. Sponsler stated the goal of the WSCC podcast for both kids and adults is to educate audiences. Producers will be using National Park Service resources and WSCC blogs as source material to write the podcast scripts. All scripts will be reviewed by Ms. Laymon and Ms. Millay before recording. The kid's podcast will be about an 11-year-old girl and boy who travel back in time to learn about the suffrage movement. PRX is currently working on hiring actors for the kid's podcast. The adult podcast will be a narration covering many topics of the suffrage movement. The target launch is July. Like movies, the podcasts will have a trailer come out before the release date. There will be public announcements from PRX's PR team, and promotions on various platforms. Ms. Sponsler shared she and PRX are excited to be working with the WSCC on this project.

American Library Association (ALA) – Gavin Baker

Mr. Gavin Baker thanked the Commission for having him. Mr. Baker shared libraries across the country are gearing up for the centennial and planning programming. The WSCC will be donating books about women's suffrage to libraries across the nation. It will be 3 different books, 2,000 each for a total of 6,000 books, for early, middle, and high school reading levels. ALA is working to identify libraries that would most need these books and might not have been able to purchase them otherwise. The children's book is a special centennial edition with an introduction by Senator Mikulski. Mr. Baker shared the ALA is encouraging libraries to produce public programming around these books, such as story time with elected officials or celebrities. Mr. Baker shared he and ALA are excited to be working with the WSCC.

G. Race and Gender in the Suffrage Movement – Colleen Shogan

Thank you for giving me this time on the agenda and thank you to Kelsey Millay and the staff historians for helping me put this presentation together. I am excited to be having this conversation today about "The Suffrage Era: How Race and Gender Influenced the Fight for the Vote." So, why are we talking about this topic today? Well, as members of the commission that's leading the nationwide commemoration of this historic moment, it's important that we familiarize ourselves with this history – and that's something we've all been doing, since the beginning of our time on the commission or for some of us even before then. But this history is so rich and complex, there's always more information to discover and so many more lessons to learn from the women (and also men) who navigated the complex world of American society and politics while fighting for the right to vote. And, in particular, the impact of racial divides and dynamics had such a huge influence on the suffrage movement, and made the fight for women's right to vote much less straightforward. So, it's impossible to fully understand this history without learning about the types of decisions that white women, black women, Hispanic women, Native women, Asian women, were making because of the unique positions they each found themselves in in American society. This is a big topic, so we're really only scratching the surface today, and we'll be focusing particularly on the push and pull between white women and black women during the movement, but I hope we'll all learn something new that will be helpful in all the conversations we find ourselves having about this history moving forward.

One of the really interesting things about the organized suffrage movement is how it started. And it really originated out of the abolitionist movement. These two movements were very closely linked when American women began fighting for their right to vote. Abolitionism began in free black

communities up North, and with white allies, especially Quakers, these communities formed all-women, racially integrated anti-slavery societies. Women were leaders in this movement. Yet, some men really didn't want women playing such a big role. In 1840, the World Anti-Slavery Convention was held in London. Men and women leaders of the movement gathered at the Freemason's Hall. You had prominent women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott in attendance, and they were looking forward to coming together as a group to find a path forward in ending the abomination of slavery. And when these women who were leaders and organizers arrived, they were asked to sit in a separate section, to listen quietly, and not participate in the proceedings. So, you can imagine, Stanton, Mott and the other women there, were outraged. And some of the men, such as William Lloyd Garrison, were also outraged, and chose to sit with the ladies in solidarity. After this incident, Stanton writes "my experience at the World's Antislavery Convention, all I had read of the legal status of women, and the oppression I saw everywhere, together swept across my soul, intensified now by many personal experiences." Now, these women were busy. Some of them, like Stanton, had families to take care of, and they were activists for various causes. So, it took a few years, but the iconic 1848 Seneca Falls Convention really stemmed from this moment at the Anti-Slavery Convention of 1840. That moment was when many of these abolitionist women said, "wait a minute, we're not going to be able to make the change we want to see if we're not allowed to have a voice."

So, you have the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, the first women's rights convention in U.S. history. It was organized by a group of women leaders, including Stanton and Mott. About 300 people attended, including a couple dozen male allies. Frederick Douglass was there, believed to be the only person of color who was invited. Following the convention, an editorial in Douglass' newspaper *The North Star* stated, "All that distinguishes man as an intelligent and accountable being, is equally true of woman; and if that government is only just which governs by the free consent of the governed, there can be no reason in the world for denying to woman the exercise of the elective franchise, or a hand in making and administering the laws of the land. Our doctrine is, that 'Right is of no sex.'" The Declaration of Sentiments, fashioned after the Declaration of Independence, comes out of this convention. It lists laws that are unjust toward women and makes demands for the rights that women were denied, such as property rights, custody rights, rights within marriage, the right to equal education. And the only item on this list that does not pass unanimously, is women's right to vote. There was a long argument at the convention over whether or not to include this item because it was seen as so controversial and possibly damaging to the other rights women were fighting for.

From this point, women's rights conventions become regular events across the country. At a convention in 1851 in Akron, OH, Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech. We often refer to the speech with that title, but it's actually unlikely Truth ever uttered that phrase. That quote came from a version of the speech that was printed by suffragist and abolitionist Frances Gage 12 years after Truth delivered it. The transcription of the speech that was printed immediately after the convention by journalist Marius Robinson, who'd been in attendance, looked very different from Gage's version. In her version of the speech, Gage gave Truth a stereotypical southern black accent, though Truth, who was born into slavery up North, would have had an upper New York State Dutch accent. During this era of the movement, it's important to note that by the mid-1840s, many states had dropped property qualifications for voting, thereby expanding the right to vote to most white men. Simultaneously, Northern states were also restricting or eliminating the voting rights that propertied free African American men had enjoyed. So that's where men's voting rights stood as women were beginning their movement for their rights.

*Now, in June 1866, Congress passed the 14th Amendment, and it was fully ratified into the Constitution by July 1868. The 14th Amendment states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States...are citizens." The first article also states, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens." However, the second article makes clear that the actual consequences states will face for denying citizens the right to vote will only apply if male citizens of 21 years and older are denied. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting illegally in Rochester, New York and she was put on trial. Her defense was built around the idea that the first article of the 14th Amendment should protect women's right to vote, but the judge ruled that "The Fourteenth Amendment gives no right to a woman to vote, and the voting by Miss Anthony was in violation of the law." A couple years later, in the 1875 case *Minor v. Happersett*, the Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment did not give women the right to vote with the argument that citizenship does not, in fact, guarantee the right to vote. Even before these cases, after the 14th Amendment passed in Congress in 1866, voting rights activists felt that the amendment was not explicit enough in protecting men of colors' right to vote, and that it was almost too explicit in excluding women's right to vote. So, these activists felt that there was still much work to be done.*

*That year, abolition and suffrage leaders such as Douglass, Stanton, and Anthony founded the American Equal Rights Association to seek universal suffrage. The *New York Herald* joked that activists from "All the isms of the age" were gathered for the first meeting of the AERA in New York City. In the following meetings in 1867 and 1868, divisions within the association became clear. One of the divisions had to do with political parties. Black rights activists were aligning more with the Republican party, while white feminists were aligning less and less with either political party, showing a distrust for the political system as a whole. And, members of the association were split over whose right to vote to prioritize. Were they willing to move forward in increments if they could get black men's right to vote before women's, or if they were able to get white women's right to vote before African Americans'? And the moment of truth comes around with the 15th Amendment. The amendment passed in 1870, stating, "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 race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Leading up to passage of the 15th Amendment, activists expressed their positions on the subject: In 1866, Susan B. Anthony said, "I will cut off this right arm of mine before I will ever work or demand the ballot for the Negro and not the woman." Stanton stated that she would not allow "ignorant Negroes and foreigners to make laws" for her to obey. Abolitionist and suffragist Frances Harper said "if the nation could only handle one question, [I] would not have Black women put a single straw in the way, if only men of the race could obtain what they wanted." In 1867, Sojourner Truth said, "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." In 1869, Frederick Douglass said, "When women, because they are women, are dragged from their homes and hung upon lampposts; when their children are torn from their arms and their brains dashed upon the pavement;... then they will have the urgency to obtain the ballot." Due to divisions over the 15th Amendment, suffragists split into two separate leading organizations: the National Woman Suffrage Association led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who opposed the 15th Amendment because of its exclusion of women, and the American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Lucy Stone, who supported the 15th Amendment. These groups would ultimately merge in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (also known as NAWSA).*

By the beginning of the 20th century, NAWSA had become less focused on a federal suffrage amendment to the Constitution, and more on getting suffrage passed state by state. New Jersey

Quaker Alice Paul got her start fighting for the right to vote while studying in England, getting involved in the British suffrage movement. After returning to the states, she got involved with NAWSA in 1912. Paul was passionate about bringing the movement's attention back onto a constitutional amendment, and she planned the March 3, 1913 Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC. It was a march down Pennsylvania Avenue on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's first presidential inauguration, demanding that he throw his support behind an amendment granting women the right to vote while he was in office.

Worried about losing the support of white suffragists in the South, Paul and other organizers of the parade planned to keep the procession racially segregated. There was a lot of fear in the South that granting women the right to vote would threaten white supremacy since it would, in theory, add black women to the voting population. But, white suffragists often made the argument that women's suffrage would actually be good for white supremacy, since it would double the amount of the white voting population, while black women would face the same obstacles such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and violence that black men faced at the polls.

So that's the environment that suffragists were in while planning this 1913 parade, and organizers decided to keep the parade segregated. Some African American women did participate, but they were asked to march in the back of the procession. African American suffragist and activist Ida B. Wells, who at this point had had a long career as a journalist and a leader of the anti-lynching movement, founded the Alpha Suffrage Club with a friend of hers, a white woman, in January 1913, which was the first black women's suffrage club. Wells traveled to Washington, DC with a delegation of Illinois suffragists to march in the 1913 parade, but when she arrives, NAWSA tells her she must march in the back. And, you can imagine, Wells was outraged. She argued against this discrimination, but was unable to get NAWSA to budge on the policy. Wells disappeared, and her delegation thought she had decided to march in the back. Instead, she waited in the crowds until the Illinois delegation marched by, and she stepped right out into their ranks. As you can see from this photo from the Chicago Tribune, Wells made a big statement by doing this. Also marching that day were the 22 founding members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. And in 2013, the Deltas organized the reenactment of the parade for its 100th anniversary. Because of the unique forms of discrimination black women faced in the United States and within the suffrage movement, women such as Ida B. Wells and Mary Church Terrell formed clubs to organize their African American sisters, such as Wells's Alpha Suffrage Club and Terrell's National Association of Colored Women. Terrell was also involved in NAWSA and the National Woman's Party. Terrell spoke at several NAWSA conventions. In her address at the 1900 convention, she stated, "The elective franchise is withheld from one half of its citizens [...] because the word 'people,' by an unparalleled exhibition of lexicographical acrobatics, has been turned and twisted to mean all who were shrewd and wise enough to have themselves born boys instead of girls, or who took the trouble to be born white instead of black." At the 1904 convention, she said "You will never get suffrage until the sense of justice has been so developed in men that they will give fair play to the colored race." And in her 1940 autobiography, Terrell wrote, "Colored women are the only group in this country who have two heavy handicaps to overcome, that of race as well as that of sex."

The NAACP's magazine The Crisis applauded the courage of black women who marched in the 1913 parade, writing, "In spite of the apparent reluctance of the local suffrage committee to encourage colored women to participate, and in spite of the conflicting rumors that were circulated and which disheartened many of the colored women from taking part, they are to be congratulated that so many of them had the courage of their convictions and that they made such an admirable showing in the first great national parade." Black women faced similar obstacles in participating when the suffrage

organization, the National Woman's Party, began picketing outside the White House in 1917, though some black women, like Mary Church Terrell, did picket.

Starting in June 1917, pickets were arrested and sent to prison on charges of "obstructing sidewalk traffic." They faced harsh conditions in prison: filthy jail cells, rotten food, and beatings. When they went on hunger strikes to protest this treatment, they suffered through violent forced feedings. Once released from prison, suffragists who spent time in jail wrote about their experiences to garner sympathy. And one of the ways they gained sympathy, as depicted in this cover of *The Suffragist* newsletter, was to emphasize how shocking it was that "respectable, intelligent, society women" were being thrown into prison with quote unquote "negroes and criminals."

After Congress finally passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919, three-fourths of the states, so at the time 36 states, needed to ratify the amendment for it to officially become part of the Constitution. Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan all ratified quickly on June 10, 1919, and then the race to ratification was on. On March 22, Washington State became the 35th state to ratify, but because some states had already rejected the amendment or were refusing to vote on ratification, everything hung on Tennessee. Race played a huge role in the debates in the states about whether or not to ratify the 19th Amendment. Particularly in Tennessee, one of the leading concerns of anti-suffragists was that ratifying the 19th Amendment would increase the power of African Americans and put the races on more equal footing. It would, theoretically, open up the ballot boxes to African American women. Also, anti-suffragists feared that once suffragists had the vote, they would vote Republican, the party aligned most closely with the fight for racial equality. Carrie Chapman Catt, then president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, a skilled political strategist, and known as having an aura of a general leading her troops into battle, distanced NAWSA's campaign for ratification of the 19th Amendment from the interests of black men and women. During the debate on the floor, Seth Walker, Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, declared "We want this to remain a white man's country!" However, Tennessee would officially ratify the 19th Amendment on August 18, becoming the 36th and final state needed, and the amendment would be signed into law on August 26. Here you see a photo of inside the Tennessee Senate Chamber while the vote on ratification was being counted. This photo comes from an article in the *Nashville Tennessean* on August 29, 1920.

After the 19th Amendment passed, at the National Woman's Party conference in 1921, a delegation of 60 African American women, led by Mary Church Terrell, asked Alice Paul and the NWP to take up as their next cause to "see that no colored women were debarred from voting on account of their race." However, Paul responded that "they wanted to continue to work on discriminations that were common to all women, and not on discriminations that were based on race only, rather than sex." But the fact was, that there were still plenty of American women who would not be able to exercise their right to vote after 1920. Native Americans did not gain citizenship until the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, and still faced obstacles to casting their ballots for decades thereafter. The Chinese Exclusion Act, put in place in 1882, prevented all Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens and voting until 1943. African Americans still faced Jim Crow laws, and it would take the Civil Rights Movement and the 1965 Voting Rights Act before black women could exercise their right to vote nationwide. In conclusion, passage of the 19th Amendment was an incredibly important part of the story, but it was not the end of the story. It was the largest enfranchisement of human beings, of citizens, in the history of the United States at one moment in time. As a political scientist, I must say that it is impossible to tell the story accurately and comprehensively without including the variable and understanding the role race played in the movement.

Discussion

Senator Mikulski thanked and praised the Vice Chairwoman for her presentation and encapsulating the complicated history. Commissioner Hill thanked the Vice Chairwoman for her presentation and suggested it be made available on the website for other organizations to benefit from. Commissioner Higgins noted the history's fascinating difference of opinions in strategy.

H. Commissioner Discussion and Votes

Commissioner Hill shared that people in Auburn and Seneca Falls are very excited for the WSCC's visit. Commissioner Hill also encouraged Commissioners to stay for the Saturday convention day, because the energy is typically tremendous then.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laurie Todd Smith – Women's Bureau, Department of Labor

Hello, I'm Laurie Todd Smith and I'm the Director of the Women's Bureau at the United States Department of Labor. Thank you for meeting today. I hope this is the first of many discussions we have. I wanted to share about the work we are doing at the Women's Bureau. The Women's Bureau is the only federal agency housed in the Department of Labor and we started on June 5 of 1920, so we too are celebrating our centennial year of working women. We accomplish our work at the Women's Bureau's through a combination of research, policy analysis, and granting. Right now, we are prioritizing expanding opportunities for working women, quality and affordable childcare, and advancing paid leave policies. In 1920, women were 20% of the workforce and now we are 50.04% of the workforce, as of December. The Women's Bureau historically focused on helping and supporting legislation like the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Right now, we have a social media campaign called "Our Purpose, Your Work." We are asking women to share stories of how their work has impacted their life, family, and purpose in life. I encourage you to take a look at it. Our website is www.dol.gov/wb100. I just wanted to touch a few events. On June 5 we have our celebratory 100-year hall of honor event at the Department of Labor. On April 1 we have a screening of the Frances Perkins documentary and discussion with the director. We have lots of events to celebrate and look forward to having future conversations with the WSCC on work we can do together.

Pat Wirth – Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Hello, I am Pat Wirth, the Executive Director and CEO of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. I wanted to show the Commission what the statues you all are providing to the memorial will look like. We have selected Mary Church Terrell, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul as the recipients, the statues are in production now. A few other updates, the Women's Skydiving Network will be jumping at the memorial on August 26. We have been contacted by the National Association of Women's Commissions about a time capsule they are doing at their annual meeting. They would like to bury the time capsule at the memorial and open it in 25 years. Thank you very much, I am grateful beyond measure for the Commission's work.

Nancy Tate – Women's Vote Centennial Initiative

Hi, I'm Nancy Tate. I'm Co-Chair of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative and board member of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. I just wanted to commend the Commission and WSCC staff for the remarkable amount of work they are doing. I have been coming to these meeting since the beginning and it's just amazing to see all you have done. Thank you.

Coline Jenkins

Hello, my name is Coline Jenkins and I've appreciated everything that I've heard since you started at 9:30 in the morning. By way of introduction, my great-great grandmother is Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Her daughter Harriot Stanton Blatch was the New York state suffrage organizer and her daughter, Nora Stanton Blatch De Forest Barney, was a suffrage worker. All three generations of my family for 72 years worked on women's suffrage primarily in New York state. I wanted to give you an update on activities in New York state. I want to invite you all to August 26, the unveiling of the Women's Rights Monument in Central Park. This is the first statue of real women in Central Park. We are delighted to have an unveiling, and what's important is we're going to kick it off by having the skydivers land in Woodlawn Cemetery where we have the bodies of the real suffragists of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, Madam C.J. Walker, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. We're going to put "I Voted" stickers on their graves. The skydivers will land, and we will take period subway cars down to Central Park for the unveiling for a formal ceremony, followed by a folk fest. That's not what the statue can do for you, but what you can do for the statue unveiling. So that's on August 26. I understand that all of you will be going up to Seneca Falls in central New York state on July 18, I'll see you there and welcome you. Interestingly too, on August 23 is going to be equality weekend in Seneca Falls if you want to combine both events of the statue and equality weekend, you're most welcome. I appreciate everything that you're doing and just want to finalize by we are coordinating a great deal with New York City entities - the mayor's office, municipal archives, and the President's Bureau of Manhattan and Bronx. We have requested for municipal buildings as well as the Empire State Building to light up. There's just a myriad of things going on. We are backing everything you're doing and just appreciate all the ideas that have flooded out from today's conversation.

Fredie Kay

My name is Fredie Kay and I'm the founder and president of Suffrage 100 Massachusetts. It's wonderful to meet you all even if by phone and thank you so much for letting us call in and listen. I support everything that Coline Jenkins just spoke about and want to thank you for all your fabulous work. I thought you might be interested to know some of the work we've been doing here. We started with the 90th anniversary and have been doing events over the years to celebrate Women's Equality Day and suffrage for all these years. This coming year we are looking to have a major march/parade in Boston. My sense is that there may not be one being planned in Washington and I would just love to know about that. I hope that you will check out our website, www.suffrage100ma.org. We've had a lot going on, we had a kick off event on June 25 of last year at Faneuil Hall, very historic building, with busts in back of Frederick Douglass, Lucy Stone, and other elected officials and wonderful performance as well. We've been lighting buildings for years on Women's Equality Day. We found purple works particularly well with the gold and the white, that's been great on some of bridges and major buildings. So we're working really looking forward to this coming year and wanted you to know were doing things and want to be connected with you as well.

V. WRAP UP/CLOSING

Vice Chairwoman Shogan thanked the public for listening and thanked the Commissioners for their time. The Vice Chairwoman thanked the WSCC staff for all their hard work, as well as the staff of the Smithsonian, National Archives, and the Library of Congress for their support.

The Vice Chairwoman called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Higgins motioned to adjourn, and Commissioner Wall seconded. No one opposed. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:56p.m. EST.

Interested states and organizations who would like to collaborate with the Commission in planning suffrage commemorative events may contact the Staff Director, Candace Samuels at staff@womensvote100.org.

Interested parties with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the content of this meeting summary may contact the Designated Federal Officer, Stephanie Marsellos at (202)-707-0106; email: stephanie@womensvote100.org.

VI. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

Susan Combs (Chairwoman), Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of Interior

Colleen Shogan, Senior Vice President, White House Historical Association and Director of the David Rubenstein Center for White House History

Barbara Mikulski, Former U.S. Senator, State of Maryland

Cleta Mitchell, Partner and Political Law Attorney, Foley & Lardner, LLP

Debra Wall, Deputy Archivist of the U.S., National Archives

Heather Higgins, CEO, Independent Women's Voice

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President, Susan B. Anthony List

On the phone:

Karen Hill, President and CEO, Harriet Tubman Home

Kay Coles James, President, The Heritage Foundation

Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Filmmaker, Actress and Public Speaker

Julissa Marenco, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, Smithsonian Institution

Nicola Miner, Assistant Professor of English, College of San Mateo in California

B. STAFF SUPPORT

Julia Washburn, Acting Executive Director, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Becky Beland McNaught, State of California

Candace Samuels, Staff Director, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Emily Threadgill, Staff, Small Business Administration

Gabriela Hernandez, Program Coordinator, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Kelsey Millay, Director of Communications, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Kim Oliver, Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

Kimberly Wallner, Director of Programs and Partnerships, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

Louise A. Flavahan, John Hopkins University

Margaret Triebisch, Committee Management Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior

Stephanie Marsellos, Communications and Program Specialist and Designated Federal Officer, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

On the phone:

Anna Laymon, Executive Director, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

C. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Amy Chmelcki, Women's Skydiving Network

Robert Compton

Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress
Catherine Forsch, South Dakota Historical Society Foundation
Chip Forbes, C. Forbes, Inc.
Gavin Baker, American Library Association
Genevieve Sponsler, PRX
Jillian Rogers, U.S. Department of Labor
Karin Schierhold, National Capital Planning Commission
Laurie Todd Smith, U.S. Department of Labor
Lucy Beard, Alice Paul Institute and National Votes for Women Trail
Lucy Gettman, Women in Government
Pat Wirth, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association
Peter Hanes, African North American Heritage News
Melanie Curtis, Women's Skydiving Network
Maggie Delahoyde
Nancy Tate, 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative
Shannon Smith, Wyoming Humanities

On the phone:

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APPENDIX A: MEETING MATERIALS