



## **50 States and Partnerships Subcommittee Updates**

*December 3, 2019*

**50 States Subcommittee Mission:** To develop ideas for execution in individual states to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and individual state ratifications of the Amendment. To cultivate concepts for events, legislative and or gubernatorial involvement. To originate templates for a model state celebration and suggest opportunities for WSCC partnership and guidance to states.

**Partnerships Subcommittee Mission:** To identify potential partners for the WSCC in its efforts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment including private sector companies, personalities, government entities, NGOs and individuals. To suggest relationship constructs with partners to benefit the WSCC mission.

**Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Duties:** 1) to encourage, plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment; 2) to encourage private organizations and state and local governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 3) to facilitate and coordinate activities throughout the United States related to the centennial and passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 4) to serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans for the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; 5) to develop recommendations for Congress and the President for commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

- I. **The Forward Into Light Campaign:** The WSCC is building partnerships to ensure that states and communities across the country light their buildings and landmarks up in purple and gold on August 26, 2020. This nationwide celebration of the centennial is named for the historical suffrage slogan, "Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light." Expected partners to-date include the National Panhellenic Council, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Foundation of Women Legislators. In addition, a New York-based organization has put in an application to have the Empire State Building lit in purple and gold on August 26. WSCC staff is finalizing pitch materials for the campaign and will continue to recruit new partners to sign on, starting with governor's offices and the more than 30 state-based suffrage centennial commissions and collaboratives.
- II. **State Centennial Planning Toolkits:** The WSCC has developed a new State Centennial Planning Toolkit, with 56 different versions with content specific to each state, territory, and the District of Columbia. A general version of this toolkit is currently on the WSCC website, and all 56 state-

specific versions will be posted to the website by mid-December. Kelsey Millay, Director of State Programs, presented on the Centennial Planning Toolkit at the Women in Government conference in Washington, DC on November 16, and has begun distributing state-specific toolkits to women legislators across the country at request. WSCC staff will continue distributing the toolkits to governor's offices, partner organizations, and national networks in December and January to provide resources for states' 2020 planning. These toolkits include state-specific suffrage history and contact information to relevant organizations, an event planning guide, a list of recommended events and activities, and recommendations for engaging social media followers with the centennial.

- III. **Votes for Women Pins:** The WSCC has started distributing replica "Votes for Women" pins to states for their events, and will continue to provide this swag for events throughout 2020. These replica pins come from the same company that produced them 100 years ago.

IV. **50 States Partnerships**

- a. **Women's Skydiving Network (WSN) and Project 19:** This organization is planning all-women skydiving demonstrations in celebration of the centennial throughout 2020. The WSCC has partnered with the WSN to coordinate jumps in California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee in 2020, and continues to identify opportunities for skydiving demonstrations across the country. WSN is finalizing dates for its July 2020 100-woman record-breaking skydiving formation, called Project 19, to which the WSCC will be invited to attend and speak.
- b. **Suffragists Centennial Motorcycle Ride:** The WSCC is developing an MOU with this 1,000-woman cross-country motorcycle ride in Summer 2020 to provide replica suffrage sashes to riders and coordinate partner events.
- c. **Votes for Women Trail/National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS):** The WSCC is partnering with the NCWHS to complete the Votes for Women Trail in 2020, which consists of getting at least 5 historic markers placed in each of the 50 states at sites relevant to women's suffrage history. The WSCC will be listed as a partner on all markers.
- d. **Pasadena Celebrates 2020/National Women's History Alliance:** Suffrage-themed float in the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2020. The WSCC is providing replica sashes and suffrage signs for people riding the float (including descendants of suffragists: Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony) and to the 100 individuals walking behind the float dressed in white.
- e. **Hermitage Hotel:** The WSCC will hold a public meeting at the Hermitage Hotel on August 17, 2020, and will host an event in partnership with the Hermitage Hotel in the hotel's lobby on the evening of August 18, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee's ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- f. **Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee:** The WSCC and Tennessee's official centennial committee are discussing opportunities to partner on events on August 18, 2020.

- g. **Tennessee Woman Suffrage Heritage Trail:** The WSCC is developing a contract with this state-based trail to complete a women's suffrage monument in the city of Memphis. The WSCC will be purchasing statues of suffragist Ida B. Wells and Rep. Joe Hanover, who was an important proponent of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the Tennessee legislature, for permanent loan to the Memphis monument. The WSCC will send a speaker to the March 27 unveiling of the monument.
- h. **New York Suffrage Centennial Commission:** The WSCC and New York's official centennial commission are discussing opportunities to partner on events in Seneca Falls in July 2020.
- i. **Women In Government:** Kelsey Millay, WSCC Director of State Programs, presented at the Women in Government conference on November 16 on the importance of the centennial and how the WSCC can support centennial planning. The WSCC is distributing its State Centennial Planning Toolkits through Women In Government's network and through contacts made at the conference.
- j. **U.S. Conference of Mayors:** The WSCC is developing a Suffrage Centennial Cities program with the Conference of Mayors to engage cities across the country in centennial celebrations, with a focus on the Forward into Light campaign.
- k. **Girl Scouts of the USA:** The WSCC is developing a partnership with Girl Scouts USA to provide special suffrage-centennial themed tablecloths to troops across the country for cookie tables and other events throughout 2020.
- l. **National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG):** The WSCC partnered with NAAG to launch the "Flat Susan B" educational initiative on November 18, the anniversary of suffragist Susan B. Anthony's arrest. Using the WSCC's "Flat Susan B" toolkit, Attorneys General offices in Hawaii, Ohio, Montana, Connecticut, Arizona, Tennessee, and Alaska planned events with school groups or Girl Scout troops to talk about the history of the suffrage movement and the courage and innovation of women like Anthony. "Flat Susan B" will be an ongoing initiative throughout 2020.
- m. **The Original Flat Stanley Project:** The "Flat Susan B" project is based on the Flat Stanley project, and this organization is helping to promote "Flat Susan B."
- n. **Justice Bell 2020:** The WSCC is partnering with this group on their events in and around Philadelphia on August 25 and 26, 2020, helping to coordinate an event with the Women's Skydiving Network, providing swag and collateral, and potentially providing a speaker.
- o. **National Panhellenic Council:** WSCC staff met with the leadership of the National Panhellenic Council to discuss partnership possibilities throughout 2020. We expect the details of this partnership to take shape over the next month, but the National Panhellenic Council will likely participate in the WSCC's Forward Into Light Campaign and work with the WSCC to light up the sorority houses of their 26 member sororities on 500 campuses nationwide in purple and gold on August 26, 2020. The WSCC will also be sending a commissioner to the National Panhellenic Council annual conference in January 2020 to launch the partnership.

- p. **National Foundation of Women Legislators:** WSCC staff met with the leadership of the National Federation of Women Legislators in October to discuss partnership possibilities throughout 2020 and we are developing a formal MOU. The NFWL committed to working with the WSCC on our Library Donation program and Forward Into Light campaign. The NFWL has created their own internal caucus on the centennial, which they will be launching at their meeting on November 14, 2020.

**Additional WSCC Partnerships under the Multi-Media or Capital City Subcommittees:**

- American Library Association/Public Library Association
- Berkshire Conference
- Bi-Partisan Women's Caucus
- Capitol Visitor's Center
- Facebook
- Library of Congress
- Lucy Burns Museum
- National Archives
- National Park Service
- National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian
- PBS, One Woman One Vote, and AMC
- Smithsonian Magazine
- Turning Point Suffragist Memorial