



MWPC

September 2020 NO.3
Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

Annual Meeting

Join us on September 20th at 1:30 pm. I look forward to seeing you. It has been a long time since we got together. Check out our website. <https://mendocinowomen.org/endorsements/> There are questionnaires from the Ukiah City Council races.

Candidate nights

We are excited that The Mendocino Voice, local daily online news service, will partner with the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, the American Association of University Women, and the Ukiah Daily Journal to present a Candidate Forum for the candidates for Mendocino County First and Second District Supervisor on MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, at 7 PM.

We will also be having the Ukiah City Council on Thursday, October 8, at 7 PM. Both will be carried on line by the Mendocino Voice and on the radio by KZYX.

Mary Ann Villwock

19th Amendment

Here we are in Mendocino County celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving the women across our nation the vote that they had fought to win, state by state. Women worked for over 40 years before making California the sixth state to allow women to vote by winning a special election, Proposition 8, on Oct. 10, 1911. The states to vote for suffrage before California were: Wyoming, Utah, Washington, Colorado, and Idaho.

The California campaign was unique and particularly memorable. Suffragists consciously and

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Do you have an item to include in the next newsletter?

Call Val Muchowski (895-3543), or e-mail it to vjmuchowski@gmail.com

Calendar

September 20

Annual Meeting

1:30- 3:30 pm

Zoom

October 5

Candidates Forum

7 pm

on line

October 8

Candidate Forum

Ukiah City Council

7 pm

November 3

Election

Vote Early



cleverly used repetitive, attention-getting advertising including electric signs, giant billboards, pennants, campaign buttons, post cards, grocery bags, and hundreds of thousands of leaflets in five different languages. The vitality and excitement of the campaign brought Votes for Women more firmly into the popular culture

and helped ensure victory in an extremely close contest.

The California contest was led by politically skilled women and men who waged a legendary eight-month "whirlwind campaign" to approve Amendment 8 on the ballot that would enfranchise women. The strongest anti-suffragist campaign came from men who feared that women would vote to ban alcohol, prostitution, and gambling. They spent over a quarter of a million dollars in San Francisco and Oakland in their attempt to defeat the vote that would expand voting rights to include women. They argued that if women had the ballot, it would be bad for business, for every brothel-keeper, every owner of a dive and saloon. They concentrated their campaign in slum districts.

The suffragists realized that business and saloon interests were sure to campaign for defeat of women's suffrage in urban areas, and so they tried to make up for this in the rural districts. Though many men were active in the California suffrage campaign, there was a very



large group of neutral men voters who hardly viewed suffrage seriously. Building up solid political strength in the southern parts of California and the rural districts, the suffragists beat back strong opposition in the San Francisco Bay Area, where it was defeated nearly 3 to 1. The women of California appealed to the men of the smaller towns and rural counties.

When the final count was completed, success was declared Woman Suffrage had passed in California! Out of a total of 246,487 votes, the suffrage amendment carried by a mere 3,587. That was an average majority of one vote in every voting precinct in the state of California. Here is how Mendocino County voted: YES: 1,285 and NO: 1,273. Our Mendocino County legacy is that the Vote for Women passed by only 12 votes!

At the southwest corner of Pine and Stephenson Streets in Ukiah is a beautiful Victorian-style house that was known for many years as the Sanford House Bed & Breakfast. This house was built by John Bunyan Sanford, a prominent California state politician at the time of the California Suffrage vote. He also owned and published Ukiah's newspaper, The Dispatch-Democrat. In researching the archives of the Dispatch-Democrat around the time of the California Vote for Women, Mr. Sanford was most prolific on the subject of suffrage.

In 1894 Sanford was elected to the State Assembly, re-elected in 1896 and 1898. In 1902, he was elected to the State Senate, re-elected in 1906 and 1910. He served 18 years in the Legislature of California and became its longest serving member. He was the chairman of the Democratic Legislative Caucus for 14



years. Our local Senator Sanford was appointed to write the argument against woman suffrage.

A few days before the election, Oct. 6, 1911, Senator Sanford wrote in Ukiah's Dispatch-Democrat: "Because man is man and woman is woman, nature has made their duties and functions different and no constitutional amendment can make them the same. Immunity from service in executing the law would make women irresponsible voters. Because the suffrage is not a question of right or of justice but of expediency, and if there is no question of right or of justice, there is no cause for woman suffrage. Because it is a demand of a minority of women and the majority of women protest against it."

Our local Grace Hudson Museum is the base for the National Collaboration for Women's History Sites. The paternal grandmother of Grace Hudson, Clarina Nichols, was a suffragist and friend of Susan B. Anthony. One of Nichols' strongest crusades was her work involving an underground for women to retain their children after divorce. Nichols is buried in Potter Valley, and her legacy continues in the book, "Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and

the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights," by Diane Eickhoff.

We women living here today are the products of the suffragists who fought for us, for our right to vote, and for us to be able to vote to try to shape the way we want to live. Now we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that was ratified on Aug. 26, 1920. The Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) and the City of Ukiah have created two Centennial displays for the community to view beginning Aug. 17 and will continue for two weeks to encourage increased awareness, education, and celebration.

I hope you took note of the banner across State Street at Clay Street and the unique display in the front of the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave., which will have exterior lighting of purple, gold, and white, the colors of the suffragists. Everyone was encouraged to visit the Civic Center including families and children. Comments on the displays are encouraged: katarzyna@pacific.net or mdavison@cityofukiah.com.

Buffy Wicks

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks poses with her newborn baby on the assembly floor on Aug. 31. Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters



It was the image seen round the world (and tweeted to Hillary Clinton's 28.5 million followers): A masked lawmaker holding her crying one-month-old baby as she delivered an impassioned speech on the floor of the California Assembly. Due to strict Assembly rules on voting remotely, Oakland Democrat Buffy Wicks was forced to choose between voting on critical legislation and bringing her baby into the Capitol, where

there had been a coronavirus outbreak just the week before, CalMatters' Laurel Rosenhall reports. She showed up, in part because she wanted to vote on a bill that would allow more Californians to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member.

Legislative Women's Caucus: "We are deeply troubled that a member of our Caucus was required to travel to Sacramento with her newborn baby in the midst of maternity leave during a global pandemic so that she could vote on end-of-session measures."

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, a Lakewood Democrat: "Inclusivity and electing more women into politics are core elements of our Democratic values. Nevertheless, I failed to make sure our process took into account the unique needs of our members. I commit to doing better."



Jane Fonda

At 82, she still has the same intensity that made her a two-time Oscar winner, an antiwar activist and an intergalactic sexpot. And a repeater.

"Do you know what a repeater is?" she said, "Repeaters are the antennae that you see on top of mountains."

She continued: "They don't originate the signals, but the bottom-of-the-valley signals get picked up and then the repeaters take them from the valley and spread them to a much wider audience. That's what ce-

lebrities are."

"I was quivering all over," she writes in her new book, "What Can I Do?"

Inspired by Greta Thunberg and by Naomi Klein's book about the Green New Deal, she decided to dig out her sleeping bag, move

to Washington for a year and camp out in front of the White House to protest climate change.

For four months, she played her role as a repeater, becoming the star of Fire Drill Fridays, a climate protest in front of the Capitol. She got arrested five times, and checked to see whether the black plastic handcuffs used by police were recyclable.

Back in Los Angeles, Ms. Fonda moved the action online, where she has been pleasantly surprised by the reaction. "We keep growing," she said of the number of viewers of the Fire Drill Fridays video series with Greenpeace. "It was 100,000, it was 300,000, 400,000, now 600,000."

LA Times

League of Women Voters

Propositions

YES on PROP 15: SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

YES on PROP 16: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

YES on PROP 17: RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS

YES on PROP 18: VOTING RIGHTS FOR 17-YEAR OLDS



NO on PROP 19: PROPERTY TAX BREAKS

NO on PROP 20: ROLLBACK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

NO on PROP 24: CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY

YES on PROP 25: END CASH MONEY BAIL

Read our entire analysis at League of Women Voters.org

Note: there are no recommendations on these state propositions:

Prop 14, Prop 21, Prop 22, or Prop 23.

Suffragists

The first White House picketers were suffragists. Through a world war and a flu pandemic, they held up signs with slogans like, "Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?"

"They wanted to be the first thing the president saw every morning and the last thing he saw at night," said Veronica Chambers, the lead editor on a Times project commemorating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

A century ago today, the United States ratified the 19th Amendment, enshrining a woman's right to vote in the Constitution. But the decades-long struggle didn't end there. For years after 1920, many women, including Native Americans and Chinese immigrants, were not able to vote. And for many others, especially African-Americans, casting a ballot was extremely difficult.

"Many historians talk about the



suffrage movement continuing at least until 1965," when the Voting Rights Act passed, Veronica said. "The timeline of how long women in the U.S. have had political power and independence is not as long as we tend to think it is."

Today, the fight for voting rights feels as relevant as ever. Winding lines, malfunctioning voting machines and laws disenfranchising former felons bar ballot access for many. Weakened federal protections have allowed states to pass restrictions, like voter ID laws, that inordinately create barriers for Black and Hispanic voters.

Postcards

Hi Val,

I've got the post card initiative happening now and my Mom and I are sending out the first salvo. As I'm temporarily living in Healdsburg for another week as my husband goes through quarantine, I wasn't able to organize an event in my yard.

I can meet up with someone and show them how to do it and provide supplies though. Can you help spread the word to our membership that those interested in post carding to get out the vote can contact me?

Wendy DeWitt
TQOBW@yahoo.com
(510) 847-5847



On July 25, New York Liberty guard Layshia Clarendon and Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart opened the 2020 WNBA season with a speech about the league's season-long commitment to social justice. Besides dedicating the season to Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old emergency technician who was fatally shot in her home on March 13 by Louisville, Kentucky, police officers, the WNBA would be partnering with the "Say Her Name" campaign, an initiative Crenshaw founded in 2014 that is "committed to saying the names and fighting for justice for Black women."

Hearing her campaign's name spoken by some of the WNBA's social justice leaders and seeing "Say Her Name" displayed on the backs of every player that day was a profound moment for Crenshaw.

For years, the campaign has pushed for advocacy and awareness around a simple and painful fact: Black women are killed by police

violence, too.

"This is a time, this is a moment, this is a possibility that Black women can be at the center of the discourse rather than being erased from it," said Crenshaw, the executive director of the African American Policy Forum (AAPF), on a Zoom call on July 30.

As the WNBA season continues, players intend to uphold that commitment, highlighting Black women whose stories never received national headlines or spurred nationwide marches, but whose fates did not differ from those who did.



Healing Open Wounds

The Agony
Of the oppressed
Remains in clear view.

We need to
Feel the pain

Dig deeper
Look for
And find
Untapped empathy and compassion.

See the rupture
The rift
The crevasse.
How wide the gap !

Use the void, the space
To change the story.
Imagine new ways of
Moving towards justice
And equality
To rectify our culture.

Coax and push and swing
Us into balance,
With life on earth.

Pursue ways to heal,
Ways to heal
The open wounds of
Oppression,
Domination,
And all the forms and shapes of Racism.

While the window is open,
Feel the heat, yes, the heat
And the cool breeze
Simultaneously.

Imagine new solutions.
Move with care,
Kindness and grace.
Reach further
Look broader
Make new connections
Listen to the young
Think, allow change.

Thoughtfully and carefully
Use the ointments that
Enhance the enduring healing,
From the inside out.

No band aids needed,
Thank you very much.

Recreate.
Rebuild.
Incorporate resilience.

Dream an evolutionary story
For tomorrow.
Weave the fragments together
With love.

Practice.
Feel, rethink,
Take a step towards renewal.

Practice
Reflect, revise,
Take a step towards healing open wounds.

Carrie Durkee



MWPC
Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

Annual Meeting September 20th

1:30 - 3:30 pm
1:30 - 2:00 Meet and Greet
2:00 - 3:00 Business Meeting
3:00 - 3:30 Goodbyes & Closing Ceremony

We are having a zoom meeting so look for the email invitation with instructions for your connection!

Ukiak




August 26
National Women's Equality Day
1912 - U.S. Congress designated "Women's Equality Day" to commemorate the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment.

August 26, 1920 - 19th Amendment to U.S. Constitution
WOMEN WON THE VOTE!
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS & COUNTING ...

March
Women's History Month
1983 - U.S. Congress declared March as National Women's History Month to honor extraordinary achievements of American Women.

VOTE **VOTE**

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