



**Status Report
February 28, 2019**

Background

The Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative formed in December 2016. Its purpose is to plan for and to coordinate planning and implementation of programs and projects across the state to commemorate the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Tennessee was the “Perfect 36th” state required for passage of the amendment. The Tennessee General Assembly approved ratification on August 18, 1920; it was certified by Governor A.H. Roberts on August 24. It became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920.

The goals of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative are

- Celebrating achievement.
- Experiencing the places.
- Exploring history.
- Documenting the stories.
- Continuing the legacy.

Possible Programs/Projects Identified in 2016

- Historical markers, state and local level.
- Special exhibits/Traveling exhibits.
- 50-page booklet on suffrage in Tennessee.
- Website for Tennessee women’s history.
- Digitization of African American women’s history.
- Symposiums.
- Women’s history track at 2020 Southern Festival of Books.
- Special issue of *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.
- Mutual support for teacher workshops.
- Driving tour(s), local, regional, and state-wide.

- Speakers Roster.
- Publicity support.
- National Register of Historic Places -- multiple property nomination.
- Recreation of August 18, 1920, vote in Tennessee House of Representatives, as done in 1995.

Activities to Date under TWSCC (January 2017-March 2019)

- Creation and adoption of TWSCC logo. (Provided by Tennessee Historical Society.)
- Website for Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative:
<https://www.mtsuhistpres.org/tennessee-woman-suffrage-centennial-collaborative/> .
(Provided by the Center for Historic Preservation.)
- Facebook page for Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative:
<https://www.facebook.com/TWSCC20/>. (Support from TSLA and Center for Historic Preservation.)
- Creation of general clearinghouse.
- Teacher workshops. (Center for Historic Preservation, TSLA, East Tennessee Historical Society, Humanities Tennessee)
- Special issue of *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (in process for Spring 2020, Tennessee Historical Society).
- Special grants category for women's history, Humanities Tennessee (events held across state).
- Digitization of African American women's history. (Chick History, Inc., and partners.)
- "The Work of Tennessee Progressive Era Women," book in progress, Professors Mary Evins and Minoa Uffelman. (MTSU and Austin Peay State University, with University of Tennessee Press)

"The Road to Suffrage" Symposium Programs

The TWSCC has held and/or planned three symposium programs across Tennessee for each of the Grand Divisions. Funding for the symposiums has been provided by the Center for Historic Preservation:

March 17-18, 2018

East Tennessee Historical Society

Knoxville

Teacher workshop, half-day symposium with three speakers, special exhibit.

March 29-30, 2019

Memphis Pink Palace Museum

Memphis

Teacher workshop, half-day symposium with three speakers, special exhibit.

March 2020 (days to be determined)

Tennessee State Museum, Nashville

Teacher workshop, half-day symposium with three speakers.

August 2020
Tennessee State Museum
Celebration of Centennial with National Keynote Speaker (TBD.)

TWSCC-Related Projects Planned for 2019-2020

- Tennessee State Museum special exhibit, March-September 2020.
- Tennessee State Library and Archives exhibit.
- NPT documentary on woman suffrage, to air Spring 2020.
- Photographic exhibit, Frist Art Museum, Nashville.
- Special exhibit and programs, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville.

Other Suffrage-Related Projects in Tennessee

- Sue Shelton White monument, Jackson, dedicated May 2017.
- Suffrage Coalition, Inc. Knoxville: <http://suffragecoalition.org/>. Dedicated Febb and Harry Burn monument, August 2018.
- Tennessee Woman Suffrage Heritage Trail: <https://tnwomansuffrageheritagetrail.com/> .
- “Perfect 36: An American Musical” by Mac Pirkle. First staged in 1996: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/405510296/perfect-36/description>.
- Woman suffrage-themed ballet, Nashville Ballet with League of Women Voters.

Resource Needs for Woman Suffrage Centennial Commemoration

- Inclusion of the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial Collaborative among the membership of any official state task force or commission.
- Publicity support from the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, similar to that provided to the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.
- Funding in support of special exhibits and programs for each grand division, preferably three such programs in each Grand Division so that the citizens of Tennessee may be well served.

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