

NATIONAL COLLEGE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE

AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SUFFRAGE LITERATURE MAY BE ADDRESSED TO
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, EDUCATIONAL BUILDING, ROOM 1214, 70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY
ALL CHEQUES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WHO WILL FORWARD THEM TO THE TREASURER
TELEPHONE, CHELSEA 3316

OFFICERS

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President of Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

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Honorary President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association

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Vice-President, Lois K. Mathews
Dean of Women in the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Vice-President, Eva Johnston
Dean of Women in the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

Vice-President, Florence M. Fitch
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Treasurer, Mrs. Raymond B. Morgan
President, Washington, D. C., Branch, Association of Collegiate Alumnae, 35 B St., Washington, D. C.

Notice to the Leagues and Chapters of the National College Equal Suffrage League.

At the meeting of the Annual Council of the National College Equal Suffrage League, held at the New Ebbitt Hotel in Washington, D. C., on Saturday, December 15th, 1917, it was unanimously voted on recommendation of the President and Executive Secretary of the League to close the work of the League and go out of existence as a national organization.

The delegates present, the officers of the League, and many other suffragists who had been consulted previous to the meeting of the Council, were of the opinion that the objects for which the National College Equal Suffrage League was originally organized had been fully attained, and that there was no reason for it to continue its work as a separate suffrage organization of college women.

The National College Equal Suffrage League was founded in 1908 to put the question of woman suffrage in a dignified and convincing way before college professors, men and women studying in colleges, and women who had graduated from college and were living in their own homes. At the time when it began its work the subject of suffrage could scarcely be mentioned in gatherings of college students and college faculties, and was forbidden even as a topic for discussion in the annual conventions of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the largest and most influential body of women college graduates in the United States. But in the nine years that have elapsed since then an overwhelming change of opinion in regard to woman suffrage has taken place. The officers of the National College Equal Suffrage League at the present time include the women presidents of Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, and Wellesley, the women

deans of Barnard, Missouri, Oberlin, and Wisconsin, and leading women professors of Vassar and Goucher. Many colleges and universities in which it was planned to organize College Chapters have stated that there is no need for suffrage chapters as practically all of the members of their faculties and most of their students are already suffragists. At the last biennial convention of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae held in Washington, D. C., in April, 1917, the Association by a unanimous vote not only reaffirmed its belief in woman suffrage but urged its members to win it for all American women by working for the federal amendment. In bringing about this revolution in educated opinion, we are happy to believe that the National College Equal Suffrage League has played an important part.

Through the large number of voting delegates, specially fitted by their college education to grasp and speak from the floor on important issues, sent year after year to the annual conventions of the National American Woman Suffrage Association by the Leagues and Chapters of the National College Equal Suffrage League, we are also happy to believe that college women have been able to exercise a very powerful influence for good in shaping the suffrage policies of the National Suffrage Association, in electing as suffrage leaders women of high intellectual and political ability, and in securing for them and for their policies loyal and enthusiastic support.

The National College Equal Suffrage League has never been able to be self-supporting. The ten cent membership dues paid into the treasury of the National League by college chapters have always been paid out immediately to secure membership in the National American Woman Suffrage Association for each college student, and the fifteen cents balance of the twenty-five cent membership dues of city Leagues remaining after the ten-cent membership dues have been paid for a similar purpose have proved from the first wholly inadequate to carry on the work of the National College Equal Suffrage League. During the first five years the National League was supported by an annual grant from a fund raised for suffrage largely through the efforts of college women. During the past four years its expenses, averaging between two and three thousand dollars a year, have been met from its tiny dues, special gifts, and loans from various college women who believed in its work. With the exception of \$450. lent by one of its former officers, all the loans and debts of the National College League, amounting to \$6,686.44 were paid off by its President at the last Annual Council meeting in December, 1917. She stated that in thus financing the work of the League during the past few years she believed that she was making the most valuable financial contribution that she could make to the cause of woman suffrage.

The National College Equal Suffrage League before disbanding passed a unanimous resolution urging its Leagues and Chapters not to lessen their suffrage activities because their connection with the National College Equal Suffrage League is severed, but to work for suffrage harder than ever before. There are belonging to the National League over five thousand members enrolled in over fifty

Leagues and Chapters. The League suggests that its College Chapters should become "Federal Amendment Suffrage Clubs", and should arrange for speakers and student debates on the federal amendment, and try first of all to understand the convincing arguments for winning suffrage by means of the federal amendment, and then endeavor to convince the men and women of their respective families of the necessity of enfranchising the women by this method, and persuade the men belonging to them to see to it that their representatives will ratify the woman suffrage federal amendment when it comes before the legislatures of their respective states. The city Leagues are similarly urged to affiliate themselves with their city, county, and state suffrage societies and work for the federal amendment. If they prefer not to disband but to continue to work together as college groups they will find an opportunity for such team work in connection with the Woman Suffrage Federal Amendment Committees which will, we hope, soon be organized in various states by the local Branches of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Our great suffrage leaders, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the first Vice-President of our National League, Honorary President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and Chairman of the Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense, and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, assure us that if every suffragist does her whole duty during the next two years all the women in the United States will be enfranchised in 1920. Within the next few weeks Great Britain will confer full franchise on all its women.

In closing the work of the National College Equal Suffrage League as a separate suffrage organization, its officers wish to make an urgent appeal to all its Leagues and Chapters and to every one of its individual members to put their whole force behind the drive for the federal amendment and determine that American women like British women shall be given the vote NOW at a time when women's votes are so desperately needed in the coming reconstruction of the world after the war is won. In order to be able to serve their country well women must share with men the responsibilities of its government. We can perform no more patriotic service for our country or for the world than to win woman suffrage while we are working with all our might to win the war.

Signed on behalf of the National College Equal Suffrage League

Ethel Puffer Howes,
Executive Secretary.

M. Carey Thomas,
President.