

-0- CALL TO THE SEVENTH CONVENTION -0-

of the

TEXAS EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

To be held in Waco  
May 15, 16, 17,  
1917.

This is the call to the Annual Convention of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

Our times are troubled with wars and rumors of wars!

Our hearts are saddened at the certainty that some of us, nay many of us, must suffer bitter losses before the dove of peace again comes to rest upon the banners of the nations of the world!

The call comes:

To see beyond the present to a future when, before the nations of the world shall again unfurl their battle flags, the voices of the Mothers of the Nations, upon whom falls the ultimate price of war, shall be heard in National Councils;

To let hope lift up our saddened hearts and whisper in our cannon-deafened ears of a time when peace shall reign because we shall have established "Just Governments deriving their power from the consent of the Governed;"

To lay aside for a few days the work of our hands and come together in council, and to again reiterate the undying truth that there is no more important duty before America than the enfranchisement of her women, and particularly now when she goes forth to do battle in the sacred name of Liberty.

President Wilson said in his message to Congress:

"There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful country into war, onto the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance, but the fight is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, - for democracy, for the right of those who submit authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free."

He cannot have penned these words, "for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments," without a thought of the women of America so long seeking for that very right. And when he acclaims it the highest right of all he puts the seal of his approval upon our Cause as he has done so often before!

This call, then is indeed a "Call to the Colors," - a call to the Suffragists of Texas to gather and plan how we can best help our country to live up to the ideals of a government of, for and by the people, so that when we preach Democracy to the rest of the world it will be by practice as well as precept; so that when we proclaim a government by the consent of the people, there will be no mental reservation toward the women people which may cause a smile of derision and make our message of less value to the world.

Russia contemplates Universal Suffrage. France plans to enfranchise her women at an early date. The vote for the English women is sure and is advocated by their erstwhile bitterest enemy, Mr. Asquith. Canada has seen province after province give the women the vote with magical rapidity. Even in Mexico the province of Yucatan has granted the women full suffrage. In America, in the early months of this year, state after state has hastened to enact Suffrage Legislation. North Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, Vermont, Maine, New York, Iowa, Oklahoma and Arkansas have joined the glad procession of Suffrage victories. Shall Texas always lag in this when she leads in so many things? It is our duty as loyal Texans to see that she does not!

From Brownsville to the far Panhandle, from Texarkana to El Paso, the voice of the Suffragist is heard in the land. Come, then, and let us plan together, wisely, the last steps to be taken in our Campaign!

There are many things which we as loyal and patriotic citizens must undertake in the service of our country in this crisis. We have a "Department of Suffrage Agriculture" pledged to increase the nation's food supply, by planting gardens and organizing to get vacant lands planted in food stuffs. We have a "Suffrage Thrift Division" pledged to a campaign for the elimination of waste, both material and human. You are urged, therefore, to come and join in formulating plans for these mighty works, and give, as women have ever given in times of war, our best efforts toward conserving, holding together and building up our resources, to outwit and defeat the tearing down processes of war.

Miss M. Eleanor Brackenridge, Honorary President  
Minnie Fisher Cunningham,  
Mrs. Helen Moore,  
Mrs. Lindley Miller Keasbey,  
Miss Kate Hunter,  
Mrs. Tex E. Armstrong,  
Mrs. John Davis,  
Mrs. Robt. Aeneas Watt,  
Mrs. Anna E. Walker,  
Mrs. Elizabeth Stribling Maury,  
Mrs. Anna B. Cade,

General Officers.