

February 14, 1920 - February 14, 2020

February 12, 1920, Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

The 51st Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) Had a heated discussion: should the education of the soon to be enfranchised women be carried out by the NAWSA or should this suffrage group disband and unite with the National Council of Women Voters to create a new group? The recommendation was to vote to merge and create a new group which was to be called the League of Women Voters.

This new group, LWV, decided to urge women to vote irrespective of party lines and to foster an atmosphere of non-partisanship at the Convention which became a guiding principle of the League.

February 14, 1920, the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, Chicago

Carrie Chapman Catt addressed the 500 delegates at the opening session of the new League of Women Voters on February 14, 1920.

This was her battle cry...

“Demand an equal voice and leadership... Open that tightly locked door that had shut you out and lead a successful drive for what you want...The League is going to educate women for active citizenship. Democrats and Republicans must work together, to be nonpartisan. Keep the flag flying for the principles of the Constitution.” Go to the polls and vote for a ticket that “has been submitted to your intelligence and ratified by your conscience.”

“Arise women voters of East and West, of North and South, in this your union together; strong of faith, fearless of spirit; let the nation hear you pledge all that you have and all that you are to a new crusade - an American crusade, a national crusade; a crusade that shall not end until the electorate of the republic is intelligent, clean, American.”

Happy 100th Birthday League of Women Voters

Convention Songs
To the Political Parties

Tune, "There's a Long, Long Trail A-winding"

There's a long, long trail a-winding into the land of our dreams,
Where human foes are passing and bright justice gleams;
Spare the long, long night of waiting until our dreams all come true,
Till the day when we'll be going down that long, long trail with you.

Give a Cheer for Suffrage

O now give a cheer for suffrage, for suffrage,
For the victory in sight;
We've lifted the banner with courage, with courage,
We have fought with all our might.
Then ring out three cheers for suffrage, for suffrage,
For the victory in sight;
We lifted the banner with courage, with courage,
We have fought the winning fight.

Vive La Suff

Tune, "Vive L'Amour"

Let every good suffragist rise in her seat,
Vive la S-U-F-F;
And joyfully render the homage that's meet
Vive la S-U-F-F.
Vive la, vive la, vive la Suff,
Vive la, vive la, vive la Suff,
Vive la, vive la, vive la Suff,
Vive la S-U-F-F.

By Marge Massarello, League of Women Voters Oak Park and River Forest

Thank you to...

The program of the organizing Congress, National League of Women Voters (1920)

The Chicago Daily Tribune (1920)

The Chicago Historical Society