



## Notice Woman's Rights Convention July 1848

The influences that shaped the League of Women Voters began in the early 1800s. Changes were slowly proceeding to “transform the status and role of women...in society.” Women were working both individually and together to contribute their positions on the political issues of the time. They sought ways to influence public policy through questions and debate.

“A Convention to discuss the social, civic, and religious condition and rights of woman, will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls, N.Y., on Wednesday and Thursday the 19th and 20th concurrent. 1st day women - second day - open to the public”

The Convention was organized by female Quakers, along with Mary Ann McClintock and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The women reviewed positions from previous conventions but found them “too tame.” They decided to base their positions on the 1776 Declaration of Independence with modifications to make it appropriate for a statement by women. The “Declaration of Sentiments” along with eleven resolutions was made ready for presentation.

Although the first day was to be exclusively women in attendance, men were accepted. Sessions included lectures on law, a humorous presentation and several discussions on the role of women in society. The “Declaration of Sentiments” was read several times with discussions and edits. In the evening, Lucretia Mott spoke of the struggle for women’s rights and asked the men to help with these efforts.

On the second day there were further discussions about the “Declaration of Sentiments.” It was adopted unanimously. Each of the eleven Resolutions were discussed and voted on individually. They passed unanimously except for the ninth resolution, demanding woman suffrage. Stanton had added the resolution defended the idea of woman suffrage. Frederick Douglass spoke in favor of the resolution. His powerful speech moved the audience to pass the ninth resolution with a small majority.

At the final meeting of the convention Lucretia Mott introduced a twelfth resolution asking men and women to work together to secure women’s equal participation in trades, professions, and commerce. This final resolution passed.

The convention recognized Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mary Ann McClintock as the “planners and architects” of the Convention. Mary Ann McClintock called upon women “to arouse from her lethargy and be true to herself and God.” 300 men and women in attendance marked the beginning of the campaign to “enhance and protect the status of women in American Society” that continues to this day.

Thank you to Wikipedia; *Rethinking Women’s Suffrage in New Jersey, 1776-1807* by Jan Ellen Lewis; *One Woman, One Vote*, edited by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler; *In the Public Interest* by Louse M. Young; *The Concise History of Woman Suffrage*, edited by Mari Jo Buhle and Paul Buhle.

**Noted July dates -**

July 16 - Ida B. Wells birthday (1862)

July 19-20, Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention (1848)

**BE INFORMED AND VOTE**

**Celebrate the League of Women Voters and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

**1920 - 2020**