

# Louisiana State Suffrage Association

Mrs. Geo. Wesley Smith,  
1st Vice-President, Rayville

Mrs. James C. Wooten,  
2nd Vice-President, Monroe

Mrs. Louis Hackenjos,  
3rd Vice-President, Alexandria

Miss Lois Janvier, Rec. Sec'y  
1445 Webster St., New Orleans

Miss Jean M. Gordon, President  
No. 1800 Poytania St.  
New Orleans

Mrs. R. M. Carruth, Cor. Sec'y  
New Roads

Mrs. Clarence King, Treasurer  
1029 Dalsell St., Shreveport

Mrs. M. H. Lawless, Auditor  
Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough  
Natchitoches

New Orleans, July 31: 1918

My dear Miss Clay:

Your generous contribution of \$200 received and with your previous donation we feel quite comfortable about starting our H'qrs.

We moved in to-day to fine H'qrs given to us rent free. We rise Phoenix like from a former saloon site which was burned out recently and in the precarious condition of that trade has not reopened. I have a secret satisfaction come over me when I see the triumph of a suffrage H'qrs where whiskey flourished, with all it meant to our cause. I hope it is prophetic.

No I cannot get Boyer. The real deterrant is her fathers health who is threatened with uraemic poison and 86 years old. There is nothing for me to do but to plunge in and do my best. Things are shaping nicely and I believe with three months of campaigning we will put over the goods. While we are giving a general outline for each Parish to follow we are not arbitrary. One hopeful indication to me is the willingness of the men to form campaign committees, looking after the registration and following the customs of the men. This is what we are particularly anxious to accomplish the woman's work is camouflage. Read the inclosed you will see the willingness of this Natchitoches crowd to organize other Parishes. Wherever we have a real strong organization in a Parish we are getting them to undertake weaker neighboring Parishes and Godmother them.

I have made up my mind to write a personal letter to Wilson and inclose the resolutions. My idea however is that he is playing politis and if it is humanly possible he is going to get that amendment submitted. Then probably he will try and get enough states to give woman suffrage and defeat the Amendment. If they really only lack one vote if Wadsworth thakes instructions from the Republican N.Y. State Committee, they have it. However if he would give any indorsement to the resolutions it might put them thro. I inclose Guion's letter let me know whether you think it is an indirec hint to submit it to the Senators. He does not advise I note.

With many many thanks and hoping your campaign contribution will bring its reward by Louisiana setting a pace that the rest of the Southern States will follow, I am

Affectionately,

Jean M. Gordon



I will have your letter  
read at the meeting of the  
Club. You see I will not  
have to undertake the  
work you wish me to in  
this parish as it is al-  
ready in the hands of our  
first-men. Write me.

Owing for anything you want.  
Of course I cannot say,  
but I think they will be  
willing to take on the Piner  
Work about Sabine and  
De Solo?

Yours sincerely,  
Roberta Sewell  
Pres. Natchitoches Equal Suffrage Club.

180 Jefferson St.,  
Natchitoches, La.

July 29, 1918.

My dear Miss Jordan:  
Your favor of July 27  
rec'd. today.

A few days after  
the passage of the State  
Amendment by the Senate  
a special meeting of  
the Natchitoches Equal  
Suffrage Club was held  
and resolutions passed, a



copy of which was sent  
you by our Cor. Sec<sup>y</sup>, Mrs.  
J. S. Stephens. The Club  
I also organized the 24  
men of the Club into  
a campaign committee  
with Mr. A. C. Ewing as  
temporary chairman. This  
committee has been at-  
work on registration, etc.  
ever since and has com-  
pleted some splendid  
work. Another meeting  
of the Club will be

held in a few days when a  
permanent chairman will be  
elected. I think you would  
be highly gratified if I  
could write you all that  
our splendid men are doing.  
Mr. M. H. Carter gave a  
splendid talk before the  
normal students, faculty  
and town people last week.  
In all the addresses  
delivered by him <sup>throughout the country</sup> by  
Mr. Scarborough <sup>within the</sup>  
last year, they have both  
pleaded for suffrage.



Richmond, Ky.

July 25th, 1918.

My dear Miss Gordon;-

Your letter and enclosures of July 20th is at hand.

Yes, I would sign a letter from the officers of the South Woman Suffrage Conference to Congress, asking their endorsement of a resolution of the tenor of that which you enclose.

I received a letter from Mrs. Boyer a few days ago, in which she does not give much encouragement to the hope of securing her for the Louisiana campaign. However, she may do so for you.

I am enclosing my check for two hundred dollars, to be used for the campaign according to your judgment. \$5.03 are from the income from the Laura Bruce legacy; the rest from me. I am enclosing a receipt for the Bruce fund, as I keep a careful record of that. Please sign it and return.

Please let me know if you have to pay exchange on individual checks. It is more convenient for me to send my own check, because I so seldom go to town. But I can always get a N.Y. draft without expense.

Give my love to your sisters. Let me hear how you come on. You can depend upon me to do all I can to help.

Very cordially yours,



New Orleans, La. July 24, 1918.

Received from Laura Clay, trustee for L.S. Bruce  
\$35.03 (Thirty-five dollars, three cents) to be applied to  
expenses of campaign for Louisiana Suffrage Constitutional  
Amendment.

*Walter H. Gordon.*



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Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough  
Natchitoches

July 20, 1918

My dear Miss Clay:

I have from day to day wanted to answer your interesting letter and to say while I did not agree with all your conclusions as to why you believe the Federal Amendment is a German menace to say I do not regard your fears chimerical. For the last six or eight months I have been noting carefully the attitude of pro-germans to the Federal Amendment and while indorsement from men and women that had before war been suffragists would not have aroused my suspicions the fact that men who have vioently and intolerantly opposed woman suffrage are now advocating it in this section, do seriously make me believe it is a part of the German Propaganda. Vardaman and his turn about face on the negro question is an example that is impossib to explain on any other score. I have but one explanation for Ransdell and that <sup>is</sup> some jesuitical intrigue the trail of which we may never know. It is said that the Jesuits are an active part of the German spy ssystem and certainly the Pope is pro german.

I had a serious disappointment when yesterday Chief Justice O'Neil who had entered the Primary against Ransdell withdrew on the score of health. I want you to regard what I tell you as confidential but the real reason (and I have it from Gamble and almost from <sup>O'Neil</sup> himself) President Wilson was coming into the campaign with ~~arrangement~~ an indorsement for Ransdell. In short the pressure of the National machine was to be introduced into the campaign. The war situation makes a man helpless but to any thinking person it forebodes a serious outlook for free government. This makes me believe the Federal Amendment will be submitted \_\_\_\_ I earnestly hope the President will use his power to defeat its ratification, for the poor fool niggers are already showing the effect of bad counsel, and feeling the effect of the army allowances.

Well I am going to fight the federal Amendment to the last ditch. I inclose some correspondence which will put you in touch with what i am trying to accomplish. I note your objection to figuring in any way with the Congressional Union. Would you sign with me a letter from the officers of Southern Conference to the members of Congress asking for their indorsement of such a resolution to the States as I inclosed in a tentative way to Senators Guion, Williams and Borah. The letter to Williams is not an exact copy but its tenor is the same as the one sent. Senator Guion is in La. and I had a long distance talk and forwarded the letters. He assured me he would give it his earnest consideration. I will keep you advised.

Keep this Confidential



When you read Mrs. Catt's estimate on Ransdell because he votes as he pleases and contrary to the sentiment of the state, what becomes of all our suffrage standards about the voice of constituency. We have had an interesting case in our legislature this year relative to ratifying the Federal liquor amendment. Schwing an intense prohibitionist himself represented a wet french parish, and while he plead to his representatives to allow him his choice but was refused. He voted to his sorrow against ratification but every prohibitionist respected him.

Our amendment will be voted on in November. The reason I claim Mrs. Boyer is that she solemnly promised me should an amendment be submitted in La. she would come to me. There is no special feature of work in the Michigan campaign that other women could not help in. Certainly Mrs. Upton could handle the situation. But down here our women are so untrained, and the burden has to be borne by Jeannie and me and with the business venture we are in it is an awful sacrifice to demand all my time. Mrs Boyer with her three years experience in the Southern Conference is in touch with the whole situation.

The plan is to allow every Parish to run its own campaign the main point being to reach the registered voters and ask for their support. With some active Press work this will be all we can accomplish. The point is if the Democratic Machine does not support us we cannot win if it does, nothing on earth can make us lose. We have started collecting our campaign funds. Have about \$1000 pledged which will more than pay Boyers expenses I start active begging next week.

The splendid news from the front this morning has somewhat offset the depression I felt when I learned of Wilson a man of his ability coming into a State between candidates and preventing the threshing out of the great issue that was at stake. He is wonderful but ~~has~~ certainly ~~has~~ played politics. I fairly quiver when I think of woman suffrage possibly being the medium of vindicating the monstrous fraud of the 15th Amendment.

Let me know whether I shall send a letter to Congress.

Alice Paul says she would consider the compromise but as Mrs Catt will not co-Operate I can say I think the best results if not a unanimous request would be for the Southern Conference to act alone. There is one thing for Alice Paul she always give you a respectful hearing.

With love from all, I am

Affectionately

Kate M Gordon



Richmond, Kentucky.

July 6th, 1918.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I did not telegraph you, as you suggest, about using my name, because I am not quite clear on some points of your program. and because I think you will weaken your position by telling Mrs. Catt what you hear about Ransdell. She will only bring stronger pressure upon him from her side. Again, I want to tell you of some thoughts which have occurred to me since Sen Overman said there are 4000 000 German spies in this country. I am beginning to believe it would be a step dangerous to our country to enfranchise two thirds of women by Federal Amendment, totally inexperienced in politics and subject to the subtle propaganda of organized and subsidized Germans. I have a long time been convinced that the demand for a Federal Amendment was not a single-hearted desire for woman suffrage. It is obviously not working on the lines of least resistance, especially after the declarations of the dominant parties. I have thought taking it up so strenuously by the N.A.W.S.A. was a contagion from the phenomenal success of the Congressional Union. Then I also believed that Mrs. Catt and others are ardently Federalists or believers in a greater centralization of our government. I also believe there are many who are just Republicans. and know the greater advantage will go to the Republican party; and who would also be glad to see the Fifteenth Amendment vitalized, as you have so forcibly said. Yet all these motives did not wholly explain the tremendous sweep of the demand. Has it occurred to you that there is a coincidence in the Congressional Union taking up militant methods when the English militants, for patriotic reasons, dropped it in England? Has it occurred to you that there seems some connection between Frau Schwimmer's visit to this country even before the entry of the U.S. into the war, now that she is known to have been in collusion with



...some coincidences in their uprising, and their course since.

I do not think these reasons need prevent you individually taking Bernstoff? Is it true, as the Antis say, that you are already taking such counsel with them as you may think advisable? But I do not believe that either they or Mrs. Catt will be deterred from going on in for the Fed. Amend. from states where the people have previously opposed to suffrage? In short, is it possible that the Germans are interested in that Amendment for the purpose of strengthening the

chances of a German peace by the influence of a majority of politically inexperienced women, who have had no political education by a state campaign, who might be influenced by the propaganda of Germans organized for the purpose? Have they overlooked the point I made that the Fed. Amend. would put women in a different political group from white men, and would to that degree take them out of the influence of men who had more political experience than themselves?

Now I am aware that these thoughts may seem chimerical, for I am sure the leaders of the suffragists are truly patriotic. But I do know that most women are ignorant of politics, and the real trend of some political actions; and now that we know the Germans have been working for years on our people and are still doing it, I am influenced by these thoughts, and I am not willing for my name to be connected with the Congressional Unionists in any way; for I think they are the originators of the great impetus which has been given in the last few years to the Amendment, and if there are any doubtful loyalists they are to be found primarily in that group. There are certainly some coincidences in their uprising, and their course since.

I do not think these reasons need prevent you individually taking such counsel with them as you may think advisable. But I do not believe that either they or Mrs. Catt will be deterred from going on with that Amendment. Mrs. Catt may be turned to some other method only when she is convinced this is hopeless.

How could "all states submit state amendments at this year's Congressional elections". Do you mean that they should recommend them? for that. I think. is all that could be done in Ky.

The papers state that Louisiana's amendment is to be submit-



[July 6, 1918]

ted in the fall of this year- 1918. Is that true? If so, how could you get Mrs. Boyer to help. as she is now engaged in Michigan? If, however, your amendment is to be submitted in 1919 I heartily approve of securing Mrs. Boyer for that time. I could not guarantee her salary; but I can promise to help with a substantial contribution.

I cannot accept your invitation to go with you to Georgia. Just now is a very busy time for farmers; and my leaving home would mean a considerable financial loss, while I think the money I could make and give to the cause would be worth more than my presence. You may count upon me to hold up your hands all I can.

Love to your sisters; and with much to yourself, I am

Cordially yours,

Write me particulars of your campaign when you have decided them.



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Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough  
Natchitoches

July 3, 1918

My dear Mrs. Catt:

I received your letter returning the Anti Literature and regret that you have been reported correctly for it is calculated to do great harm in the south and one cannot help but feel that the Anti's are justified in turning it to good account. However if it makes you appreciate that conditions and speeches that are acceptable in New York and other states might be harmful to other sections the loss may yet be our gain. I note that you seem to appreciate that there might be some hazards for the Federal Amendment a fact which last January you did not recognize at all.

When you wrote me as you did at that time the letter that you did I resented so bitterly your unwarranted attack that I determined to never voluntarily initiate any correspondence with you. However I feel if there is anything I know or may do to get the suffrage I am not justified in taking such a position. I therefore am writing to submit two points of business.

in La.

The first is that in the coming campaign the National stay out of the State and contribute no money or literature. I believe we can carry the state and in fact the only thing I believe that could defeat us would be if the idea got abroad that the women would ratify the federal amendment. It is the play of the liquor people and if do come in you will play the roll of ally with the the liquor in the same way that we have charged the women antis.

The second point I want to make is to ask just how essential to submission Ransdell's vote is? whether his withdrawal would jeopardize the situation. I understand some of the biggest men in the state have written him on the moral right of voting to revive the race issue, and feeling is running high and will run higher as the people awaken to the significance of the Federal Amendment. I would not be in the least surprised to see him give you the go by pleading the mandate of his constituency. Of course I do not believe there will ever be another Federal Amendment dealing with the suffrage but I do believe the agitation has been superb in advancing the Cause. I am therefore writing to ask you whether you would join the Southern Conference and with the Woman's Party form a compromise that might achieve the enfranchisement of the women of the United States as effectively as the Federal Amendment if it could be put over. If you are willing to take the proposition under consideration I will be glad to submit it.

Very truly

[Kate M. Gordon]



1800 Prytania St/  
July 2, 1918

My dear Miss Clay:

Thanks for your letter of congratulation and its inclosure. I will wait and see how the money comes in — it may be its best service will be in the Southern Conference.

As I predicted <sup>to</sup> the Amendment was submitted. The group of Federal Amendment suffrage to the contrary notwithstanding. While they pretended to be lobbying for the bill and claim everything in sight I cannot believe that hobnobbing with the liquor representatives, drinking cocktails morning and night, smoking cigarettes were vote getters. The comments upon them were anything but complimentary. The political partisans are making a fight to save Ransdell. The Resolutions altho they had the Governors sanction struck a snag — I am afraid had Powell had a little more ginger my state right resolution would have gone through. The other one that Gamble put in was an attack on the S?B.A. Amendment and some of the men that favored it felt it might be interpreted by the President as discourteous. However that may be I sense one thing and that is that while the President has used his influence to get the Amendment submitted he is pretty sure that there are enough states to prevent ratification.

The latest political gossip I have heard is that tremendous pressure is being brought to bear by political leaders in the state upon Ransdell to vote against the Amendment. I am wondering if that is why they have postponed the vote until August. If the vote was as close as lacking one vote with <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ game then his defection will be serious. He is not to be trusted. Guion telegraphed he would vote against but would support the Amendment in La. This is a concession and I think an indicator of the tide of affairs for a few weeks ago when I was talking to the Governor and asked what would be Guions attitude he said he will vote against any kind of woman suffrage. I cannot help but feel that the south is ~~all~~ going to grant suffrage and then block the amendment.

Now what I want to consult you about is this. I had a letter from Mrs Catt the other day. I told you she had written for the literature I had said was proving such a tid-bit to the Antis in which in order to criticize the Woman's Party she had attacked their kind of democracy because they had objected to being jailed with negroes. I received a letter saying she had been very careful not say a thing that could be misconstrued by the south and asking to see the article upon which I had based my criticism. I fortunately had a copy. Now comes a letter saying that she had <sup>had</sup> Mrs/ Boyd compare Miss Shaw's and her speeches from which the Crisis (the nigger magazine) had made the excerpts and practically they are correct. She then admits that things might be said in New York that would be harmful in La. and said if we were all for a Federal Amendment the Hazards would not be so great. The fact she now admits there is a hazard is significant. Now my idea is to write her what I hear about Ransdell and if his defection ~~creates~~ creates a perilous position to ask her and the Woman's Party to join in the Southern Conference for Congressional recommendation for the Party's to live up to their platform recommendations and have the states all submit ~~the~~ amendments at this years congressional elections. I'll write to Guion and Williams and to Borah and see what can be done as a compromise. Wire me if this meets your approval and whether I can sign your name.

Now again if I can get a hearing before the Georgia Legislature would you join me there. I will get the Governor to use his influence with the Gov/ of Ga. As you see as Caroline Reilley would say "Me" and the Governor are the best of friends. I am very hopeful of La. When the weather is cooler I want you to be with us for the victorious finish.

A  
Another thing I am going to ask Mr/ Catt is not to send any Ntl money to La/ and no speakers. We dont want them and if they defy us on this point it will be done to deliberately defeat us if they can. I will send copies of the letters I write and keep you in touch. If I can get some one to undertake the responsibility of Mrs. Boyers salary I will try and get her.

Affectionately,

Kate M G



Richmond, Ky.  
Aug.30th, 1918.

My dear Miss Gordon,

I appreciated very much your last letters, telling me of the progress of your campaign. I did not answer the first, in which you asked my opinion of a letter you had received from a Congressman, because you did not enclose the letter, as you said you were doing. Also, you did not send the receipt for the trustee money, for which I sent you a form. I take it, therefore, that you now have a stenographer, which I think is very wise on your part.

I am enclosing a N.Y. draft for fifty dollars, to be applied according to your judgment in the campaign. Thirty nine dollars of it is trust money, and I am attaching a form of receipt for it to this letter.

Write to me when you have the time. I am always so glad to hear from you; and I want to do all I can to help you in these strenuous days of campaign.

Give my regards to your sisters, and believe me  
Very cordially yours,

Richmond, Kentucky.  
August 30th, 1918.

Received from Laura Clay, Trustee for L.S. Bruce, Thirty-nine dollars,  
to be applied to expenses of Suffrage Amendment Campaign in Louisiana.

*On book,*



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Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough, Auditor  
Natchitoches

Campaign Headquarters  
428 Camp St.

August 13, 1918

My dear Miss Clay:

I thought our Call and Platform might interest you. I am going to make our platform\_\_ loyalty to the National Platform the theme of our campaign.

I am expecting ~~to~~ the submission of the Federal Amendment as soon as Congress reassembles and I note the Senators are asked to be back for Monday. I cannot believe that Wilson is playing anything else than politics and I deplore the way he has gone and injected himself into state campaigns. He certainly put any other candidate against Ransdell out of the running.

On Sunday down in the Third District the three candidates for the Senatorship meet on a joint platform to discuss their ~~qualifications~~ ~~easy~~ qualifications for the senate. The management with the consent of the Candidates have given us thirty minute of the time and I hope I may put in a good stroke for the men to take no chances for a Federal Amendment.

Very cordially

Kate M Gordon.



[ Aug 13, 1918 ]

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Natchitoches

CALL.

Men of Louisiana our State is on trial before the bar of public opinion and the verdict will be rendered by your vote on November 5. The question at issue will the men of Louisiana vote to remove the opinions ( a vote is an opinion) of their women from being rated with idiots, insane and criminals, who constitute with women the disfranchised classes. Or, will we have to bow our heads in shame while men from other states remove this injustice by a National Woman Suffrage Amendment.

Woman suffrage is no longer a theory to be debated but an issue to be met. Government by Consent is fundamental Democracy and national honor demands when men are dying to establish democracy abroad that women shall not be denied democracy at home. Economic justice also demands that women as wage earners be granted the protection of the ballot.

The ratification of the State Amendment to enable women to vote in Louisiana will vindicate the spirit and sacrifices of the men who in the dark days of Reconstruction fought and died to maintain white supremacy. A vote against the State Amendment Nov. 5 discredits these patriots. Justifies and Vitalizes the 15th Amendment.

We urge on our people a realization of the issue at stake. State Sovereignty the basic principle upon which our government was ratified will be destroyed in the event of a National Woman Suffrage Amendment being submitted and ratified and Centralization in government substituted. The autocratic ideal of Hamilton supplant the democratic ideal of Jefferson.

Women of Louisiana, we call on you whether suffragists or not to recognize woman suffrage as INEVITABLE and the issue now one of methods. We ask all women to join us in our appeal to the men of Louisiana to confer our citizenship upon us by state enactment and not as with the negroes have it come through a national mandate. Let suffragists and Anti-suffragists and the great body of women who have not expressed themselves rally to preserve self-government for the state as we attain self-government for the individual.

## OUR PLATFORM.

AN APPEAL TO THE MEN OF LOUISIANA FOR LOYALTY TO THE PLATFORM OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN 1916, WHICH RECOMMENDED "THE EXTENSION OF SUFFRAGE TO THE WOMEN OF THE COUNTRY BY THE STATES UPON THE SAME TERMS AS MEN".



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Natchitoches

Campaign Headquarters, 428 Camp Street,

New Orleans, Sept. 26, 1918.

Miss Laura Clay,  
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay,

I hope I have not been very slow in answering your letter, but there is so much to be done, and so few to do it, that time passes without a realization of how the days are slipping by. I am glad that you feel that the plan of campaign is a good one. To tell you the truth it was the only thing we could "put over", and of course I make a great bluff that it is the kind of campaign, this poster campaign that the United States is making in its different drives, that the speaking features are largely failures, because even with the most distinguished speakers coming, there has to be a tremendous drumming up and getting out organized channels to work for audiences. People are just sick and tired of speechifying.

I want to thank you for your generous offer to contribute \$500 more to our campaign, but I am declining it with thanks, because I feel that the Louisiana women should and can bear the burden of this campaign. I am watching every penny, and while I have not reached small contributors, have about \$2000 or more pledged, and can not see why I should not raise another \$2000, which will more than pay our expenses, and I hope leave me a little money for the Southern Conference treasury. I expect to tax each of the parishes for at least \$10 and probably \$25.

Yesterday, the Democratic State Central Committee met, but took no action and I am glad they did not. Our communications were not received by them through some miscarriage on the part of the hotel, and I think the excuse is genuine. We had, however, polled the personal opinions of the members, and we have more than a majority in favor of the State adopting the amendment. However, there was a bare majority here, and as the city bunch will not act until they get their instructions from Ewing and the Mayor, I am delighted at the way things



[Sept 26, 1918]

2.

turned out. I have feelers out everywhere, and the consensus of opinion is that the amendment will carry simply out of loyalty to the Democratic Party.

We are preparing to circulate our petition the heading of which I enclose. Before starting this, I got in touch with the Governor, and he will receive a petition, and put it forth as a proclamation to the voters. We are cursed with this Federal Woman Suffrage Party, who have united with us in a joint campaign committee. Their absolute dishonesty in pretending to have organization, which they have not, money which they have not, absolutely no capacity of what to do, astounds me. They are women who have had no campaign experience, and Mrs. Holmes, the leader, is as big a liar as Miss Hay, without Miss Hay's ability.

I see by the morning paper that the woman suffrage amendment is in doubt. It may be treason on my part, but I tell you, Miss Clay, but I have lost a great deal of respect for Mr. Wilson, for the way that he has played politics with so vital an American principle as the sovereignty of the States. Had he come out and made an appeal in the right way, the States would have passed woman suffrage long ago. The same energy that he has used in getting into the States, exercised upon a direct appeal for woman suffrage to vindicate National honor by action of the States, in conformity with the planks of both dominant parties, would have yielded results worthy of his statesmanship.

O, but I am sick of woman suffrage, and almost every other kind of suffrage, and the only thing that supports me is a sense of gratitude to the women that blazed the path for us, and made possible the independence of women to-day. On the other hand, when I see how absolutely ignorant women undertake leadership, and play with the fire that they do, I am positively sick and disgusted with the whole thing.

I did have at one time, some respect for Mrs. Catt's judgment. I always had a contempt for Miss Shaw's knowledge of the American Government, but I have concluded that Mrs. Catt is nothing more nor less than a good Republican politician, ably abetted by her henchman Mary Hay. If they can lose Oklahoma, they are going to do it, and if they can queer our game in Louisiana, they are going to do it. I wish I had about \$50,000, to jump into the South and work up a Southern Conference in every State.

I have rambled along and probably worn you out, but there is nobody else I have to write to understandingly and sympathetically but you. I can't expect Mrs. Boyer to sympathetically get the Southern viewpoint on this momentous question. Her pro-Republicanism will assert itself every now and then, just as it did that time in St.



[Sept 26, 1918]

3.

Louis, when Mrs. Catt talked such colossal nonsense as my imperilling the Democratic Party.

I want to apologize about that receipt. The first one I gave over to Jennie to sign as State President, and in moving back and forth from the office to the headquarters, it was lost, and I thought it was a duplicate of that. I enclose a correct one for your report.

With many thanks for your generous assistance to Louisiana, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Thos. H. Gordon



[Sept 26, 1918]

Whereas, National Honor, the platform of the Democratic Party, and justice to the women of Louisiana, call for the separation of women from the undeserved and ungenerous classification now accorded them by the State Constitution; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of 1918 has submitted to the voters a suffrage amendment granting women full citizenship rights;

We, the undersigned women of Louisiana, do hereby petition His Excellency, the Governor, to urge by proclamation the adoption of this amendment in the best interests of the State and the Nation.

This is our Petition  
top - the Governor will  
receive



# Louisiana State Suffrage Association

Mrs. Geo. Wesley Smith,  
1st Vice-President, Rayville

Mrs. James C. Wooten,  
2nd Vice-President, Monroe

Mrs. Louis Hackenjos,  
3rd Vice-President, Alexandria

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Mrs. M. H. Lawless, Auditor  
Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough, Auditor  
Natchitoches

Campaign Headquarters, 428 Camp Street,

New Orleans, La. Sept. 16, 1918.

Miss Laura Clay,  
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay,

I am anxious to make arrangements for you now should you consent to come into the State and do any suffrage speaking. Should you accept, I would arrange to have you speak in each of the Congressional Districts. As a matter of fact, this is not absolutely necessary, but from the standpoint of the Federal amendment situation, I think it would have a good general effect for Southern publicity.

Indications all continue very favorable for carrying the State, and ~~was~~ I want you here for us to share the victory, particularly as I have not allowed the Nationals to peep in the State.

About the 10th of the month, or even the 15th of October would be ample time for us to start the meetings, although I will be influenced if any large parish fairs should take place before that date. If ever a human being ~~ever~~ bit the dust for the sake of principle, it is when I consented to allow this camouflage Woman Suffrage Party Federal amendment group for the sake of harmony form a joint committee with us. They absolutely have nothing. no money, no organization, no ideas. They have to take States' Rights' suffrage from me, whether they like it or not. Enclosed find the last dose I gave them, and never even pretended to invite them. If they dare to peep, I will come back to say that any invitation to assist at a Federal suffrage rally would be tantamount to an insult to me, so I presume if they have any principle in the matter, they would prefer not to be asked to participate in a purely States' Rights' movement, the intention of which is to honor the men who died to prevent just what they are trying to revive by another Federal suffrage amendment.

Boyer writes me that the Nationals are still short 5 votes for submission, that their saying that they lack only one vote, as she expresses it, is a lie. I think the notice that Mrs. Catt served on the Woman Suffrage Party, and upon which we were anonymously informed, is an invitation for the States to have another drive on Congress. Let me know just as soon as you can whether I can count upon you for our camouflage campaign

Affectionately  
Hattie M. Gordon



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Mrs. D. C. Scarborough, Auditor  
Natchitoches

Campaign Headquarters, 428 Camp Street,

New Orleans, Sept. 6, 1918.

Miss Laura Clay,  
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay,

I have started half a dozen times to express my appreciation of your extra generosity to Louisiana in sending that additional \$50 to Louisiana, and I hope that my very snaguine view of the situation is not based on any false estimate of conditions. However, as I want you to keep in touch with what is going on, I will say that the National Committeeman of Louisiana, Bob Ewing, as they call him, has been bitterly opposed to woman suffrage. In fact, he was one of the few among our Louisiana delegates that voted against the National plank. About five weeks ago, Jean and Mrs. Douglas called upon him to ask what would be the attitude of the paper he controls, and to ask for space. He bellowed like a bull at them, and said the paper had thrown out a hint, when it recommended primary suffrage, and to that he would have given support. He wanted us to go to the special session of the Legislature, called to resubmit the prohibition amendment and have our suffrage amendment reconsidered, and the white primary amendment ~~submitted~~ <sup>submitted</sup>. The Governor advised against this and so nothing was done. You can therefore imagine my surprise, when I was called up by Ewing's sister-in-law, last week, who said the Colonel said I knew more about suffrage than any woman in the South, and that my position on the Federal amendment was superb, etc. etc., and that if the factions of women suffragists would get together in the State, and sink their differences, that he would throw his two papers to the support of the amendment.

Now, of course, this is all poppy-cock. As the National Committeeman, I think he is getting and taking his orders, and the thing for us to do is to let him down easy. The secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee told me when he called at the office the other day that in a very short time he would have something to tell me, and I am interpreting that to mean that the Democratic State Central Committee will go on record for the amendment, and that simply



[ Sept 6, 1918 ]

means a "walk-over".

The factions have gotten together to this extent that I submitted our call and our platform and said we were irretrievably committed to that, and so we are working jointly, at least on the surface.

It developed at the meeting with this Federal amendment group that one of the members gave out Mrs. Catt's attitude towards submission in Louisiana. She tried to prevent submission. And so, when I said to you that the group of Federal amendment suffragists at the Legislature ostensibly worked for submission, but smoking cigarettes and drinking cocktails, and running with liquor representatives were really and truly trying to defeat submission, I was right.

The reason it was submitted was because Governor Pleasants has had his instructions from Washington. ~~Now I am not at liberty.~~ Now I am not at liberty to give my source of information about the following, and keep it confidential. There will be a certain demand made on the President in the very near future, and he will figure either publicly or sub-rosa, in "putting it over".

My regret is that you did not singly petition the <sup>Leg</sup> legislature last year to submit the amendment for it would have carried under National pressure. There is a very hotly-contested three-cornered senatorial fight on, and we have been advised to lay low until after the 10th of September.

Now, what I want to know is, whether you can come into the State the first of October. I would like you here in New Orleans at the end of our campaign. I could meet you and you could go into each <sup>Congressional</sup> district for one meeting, not killing ourselves, for understand, that unless the powers that be will it for us, nothing under heaven can carry the election. We are making no bones about placing the responsibility upon the Democratic Party, but say that if they repudiate us, they repudiate their own Party Platform.

I tell you what, Lady, our platform is having its effect. I have given up business and I am at the headquarters raising money and carrying on the press work. I was staggered when I found I could not get Mrs. Boyer, but the training I got in the Southern Conference under her is having its effect and I am happy to say that the press response from the papers of the State is splendid in editorial support and very effective use of our bulletins..

I enclose some of them for your consideration. Mrs. Boyer sends me from Michigan her weekly bulletins so that I am kept in touch with things on the woman question that she calls and I am adapting them to the Louisiana situation.



[Sept 6, 1918]

Mrs. Boyer has sent us a lot of splendid posters, which I will duplicate in orders from the National Association. Here is the outline of work we are doing: On Tuesday, we will circulate our platform with "The Woman's Reason Because" in various centres and "What People Say and What We Say". The Parishes are placing in every postoffice a map with our call and platform pasted next, and with the poster "100% American", all over the State. You know Louisiana is not closely built up. In the plantation districts, the postoffice and the country store are the assembling places and the only way we can get into these rural districts is in this wise. In the towns, we are asking all of the suffragists to placard their houses with that effective "Votes for Women" suffrage poster, which is blue, white and red, and which you no doubt have seen, and which can be seen almost a mile off. Alongside of it we place our "100% American".

In the month of October, we will try to have every automobile in the State that will carry a suffrage streamer across its back with "Votes for Women". With publicity at the State Fair, and personal correspondence, this will constitute the main features of our campaign. In fact, we have to accommodate ourselves to this line of publicity campaign work, because the women are burdened with war work as it is, and for the first time in the history of Louisiana the servant problem menaces. The negro women are receiving such large sums of money from the Government for the soldiers, and nearly all of these negro women are supporting negro men that have not yet been drafted that the labor situation is appalling. It is just impossible to induce the women to undertake more than ordinary campaign work. Then, too, there is a feeling that we can get it without work, and that even if we did work and the machine decided against us, every effort would be "Love's labor lost"..

This is a long letter, but it will keep you in touch with the situation. Let me know whether I can count on your coming to Louisiana, for I will start at once rousing the different congressional centres to get up meetings for you.

Affectionately.

Nellie M. Gordon

Enclosures.

I've been so rushed with the Primary Election this letter delayed - Every precinct was visited - Some 350 in all + immense yellow posters - pasted around with our

Call - The Mayor had given instructions to see that our requests be granted - The women were out - a lot of - I believe they take every poll

Feeling confident - we are going to be given our vote



Richmond, Kentucky. R.R.#4.  
Oct. 2nd, 1918.

My dear Miss Gordon,

Yours of Sept. 26th with enclosures is received. Do not ever apologize for a long letter; for I am like you, I need some sympathetic person with whom to exchange views.

I have not answered your letter at once, because I determined to wait till the vote in the Senate. But now that the S.B. Anthony amendment has had this decisive setback, I have much to say.

In the first place, please consider that my offer of five hundred dollars for the Louisiana campaign still stands. If you should find that you need it, write or telegraph me, and I will send it promptly.

I am rejoiced that you intend to keep the Southern Conference to the front. If you win in Louisiana the Conference's policy will receive much more respectful attention, especially now that hopes set on the Fed. Amend. are disappointed.

I suppose you studied carefully Pres. Wilson's last appeal to the Senate. I note that he says he needs the counsel of women in the settlement of the final issues of the war. I do not think the argument is good for the Fed. Amend., seeing that we already have twelve states with full suffrage, including the great eastern state of N. York, and the great western state of California. The women of these two states are as capable of representing women's views as any in the country. If Pres. Wilson's argument means anything it means that he intends to utilize women's ~~services~~ services and advice as much as their political status will admit. I believe you could make a point in your campaign by pointing

out that in that case the women of the east and the west will have a voice; but that the south will not have adequate representation unless Louisiana wins suffrage now. With her great representative city, as well as her truly southern state sentiment, it may be of very great importance to have some typical southern state with enfranchised women in this historic period.

Whatever service you want of me to set forward the work of the Southern Conference, please expect I will do as far as I am able.

Again, if Pres. Wilson is consistent in his wish for the enfranchisement of women, as a war measure, all the franchise women need is the Federal Suffrage, as it is only the National Congress and President who have any voice in the questions of peace and war. I want to know what you think of the policy of again bringing up the United States Elections Bill as part of the policy of the Southern Conference. I have not lost any of my faith in that measure; but I know it cannot be pushed further by the action merely of an individual. If that could be passed, you know that presidential suffrage could easily be put through every state legislature before the next presidential election.

I am aware that my enthusiasm for that bill may have blinded my judgment; and that many derogatory comments upon it may never have reached me which might have come to you. Therefore, I want your views of it.

You remember I always told you that I thought some Congressional policy was necessary for the success of the Southern Conference; for the women, and certainly the politicians, will never consent to relinquish the limelight of the National Capital and Congress.

If there is the slightest hope of the U.S. Elections Bill passing the ordeal of its constitutionality, certainly now all the circumstances are favorable for pushing it.

I have never done anything about it since that winter in Washington; but soon after the Woman Suffrage Committee was appointed



[ Oct 2, 1918 ]

in the House, which was considered such a suffrage victory, I observed in the Woman's Citizen that Congressman Raker had insisted that his bill, the Laura Clay U.S. Elections bill, should be transferred from the Judiciary Committee to the new W. Suffrage Committee. By its being called the Laura Clay bill, I judge Rep. Raker had exchanged Mrs. Colby's bill, which he had championed, and taken mine in preference. Mrs. Colby had told me before I left Washington that she had no objection to exchanging her bill for mine. This is all I know of its fate. I never thought it worth while to try to do anything thing ~~xxx~~ more about it till now. But now, under all these new circumstances, I think there is some chance of something being done.

I doubt if any move could be made till after the November elections. If several of the states win out on the state suffrage amendments, possibly the women all over the country will get tired of waiting on the Federal Amend. any longer, and there may be a rich harvest of state amendments. under the pressure Pres. Wilson may put on, if he is in earnest about the need of woman suffrage.

Think of these things, and let me know what you conclude.

I wish you the most glorious success in Louisiana; But in any case, let us not lose heart, now that the vote in the Senate has gone our way.

Please give my regards to your sisters, and believe me  
Very cordially yours,

Laura Clay.

HAMMERMILL  
SUPERFINE



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Miss Jean M. Gordon, President  
No. 1800 Prytania St.  
New Orleans

October 8th, 1918.

Mrs. R. M. Carruth, Cor. Sec'y  
New Roads

Mrs. Clarence King, Treasurer  
1029 Dalzell St., Shreveport

Mrs. M. H. Lawless, Auditor  
Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough, Auditor  
Natchitoches

Miss Laura Clay,  
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:

I had a talk with the Governor Sunday night about a call to the southern governors to take action for a general submission to meet in conference and plan a general submission of the state suffrage amendments, so that the south would go on record in favor of women's suffrage and against the Federal amendment. He seemed to think that that would come better immediately after our state amendment, particularly should we win; and as I have just more than I can live up to and under I feel I better not get any more irons in the fire.

I read with interest the point you made in regard to southern women and the President's address, and I confess that it did not strike me in the way it has you, but it is a good point to make and I will avail myself of it.

Relative to the Laura Clay Bill, I wish to say that the only objections I have heard against the bill was its constitutionality, but that point I feel can only be properly tested by having it passed in Congress and the test made in the courts. I do feel however that should it be seriously considered, the south would make <sup>the</sup> some objection to it as an addition to the Federal Amendment. The Fifteenth Amendment makes Federal interference of any kind a very serious proposition; but, nevertheless, I would be willing to stand behind it. My personal suggestion to you is to write to Senator Owen and ask about the wisdom of introducing the bill. It may be that they all realize that the failure of President Wilson to secure submission kills permanently the scheme of a Federal Amendment submission. There is one thing certain, in the event of a republican congress coming in, and if submission was secured, the south would unquestionably block its *ratification*



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Miss Clay, Page 2  
October 8th, 1918.

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Things are going nicely as far as we are able to judge. Could we get anything like a positive endorsement from the city's political leaders we could be positive of victory November 5th, and I am positive without it.

If I can get time for really serious thought I may conclude to write to the President. I am just a little wary about it because of the attitude taken by Senator Guion. I enclose his maiden speech in the senate. Return it to me. If I conclude to write to the President I would like you to sign the letter with me, and ask his advice on ~~the~~ resolution from congress to the states asking for special legislatures to submit amendments in order that his embarrassment might be relieved without the sacrifice of our state right principle.

In great haste,

Affectionately yours,

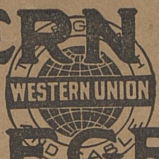
*Jean M. Gordon*



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

RCD. 47 NL

NEW ORLEANS LA NOV 11TH 18

MISS LAURA CLAY

RICHMOND, KYL

WOULD YOU SIGN TELEGRAM FROM SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TO PRESIDENT AND SENATE  
 WOMEN OF  
 ASKING AAS AN ACT OF NATIONAL GRATITUDE COMMON NA NATION BE ENFRANCHISED  
 BY AMENDING SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT BY STRIKING OUT FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT  
 PROVISION THEREBY PRESERVING TO THE STATES THE IMMORTAL PRINCIPLE OF  
 SELF GOVERNING ENTITIES WIRE ANSWER.

KATE M GORDON. 834AM.

*Ans. No.*



[Clay's answer in detail to  
telegram of Nov. 11, 1918]

Mr. Gamble has offered as a compromise to the Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment, that the enforcement provision be left to the state. In this form he believes the woman suffragists could make common cause and the federal amendment advocates, not accepting could be held liable to the charge of political partisanship. As I see it the recommendation sacrifices the great fundamental principle involved---the right of self government for the state-- to one of democratic party expediency.

Granting for the sake of argument that this recommendation removes the racial objection, when federal interference is removed and ~~that~~ state regulation substituted. But does it? The purpose of such recommendation is to defeat the 15th Amendment and while such amendment was passed to protect ~~the~~ negro men in their right of suffrage automatically it applies to women when states adopt woman suffrage. To my lay reasoning its provisions would be equally applicable if by national mandate disfranchisement of sex is forbidden. The 15th Amendment ~~is~~ reads: The right of the citizens of the U.S to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race color or previous condition of servitude.

The sympathy of the whole nation has been extended to the south, in a manner that has allowed substitutes and subterfuges to amend the provisions of the Civil War Amendments, but for the Democratic Party for party advantage to submit and ratify another federal suffrage amendment with the purpose of defying the 15th Amendment would be sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind of a righteous indignation.

1

We have reached that ~~point~~ point in the nation's history where we are confronted with the fact that women are either fit to vote or they are not. The right to determine this point is a state right clearly defined in the first article of the U.S. Constitution. The only violation of this principle was in the adoption of the fraud of the 14th and 15th Amendments.

But no reasoning person would deny to the United States Government the right to have its members chosen in conformity with the fundamental principles of our government, which are Consent and the Right of Representation. When states arbitrarily deny to women just participation in the privileges of government, the remedy is not to be found in forcing thro the action of other states an amendment violative of the great basic principle of self government for the states, but by making the basis of representation in Congress conform to the population in the state which such state honors with representation. To illustrate; any state that places no sex inhibition in the right to vote, the basis of representation should be upon the total population of such state. But any state which places the word male in its constitution as a pre-requisite in the right to vote, its representation should be upon the total male population of such state.

Such an amendment would remove the stigma under which we now stand charged as a nation, of being faithless to our own principles of government. Any state which felt that it was placed at a disadvantage, holds within its own power the remedy to increase its representation by striking out the word "male" in its constitution as a prerequisite to vote. The Southern Conference will to this end ask the ~~united~~ united services of all suffragists for the submission and ratification of the following amendment." The apportionment of representatives, shall be divided among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. But when the right to vote for Presidential Electors, Senators, and Representatives is denied by any state to women, the basis of representation of such state shall be in proportion to the male population of such state."

*ms*



There is conscientious objection by many to amending the Constitution of the United States by any suffrage amendment, as destructive of the whole principle upon which our government is founded and also because reconsideration of such action is practically impossible. But no fair minded person could possibly object to the United States Government demanding that the representation of states in the United States Congress be apportioned in such proportion as the states apply to their population, the principles of the United States.

Attention is particularly directed to the fact that this recommendation is not based upon the vote cast in any state. States where men and women vote, upon the total population. States where only men vote on the total male population. Further attention is directed that this amendment does not dictate to any state who shall or shall not vote, but that in the election of representatives to Congress and Presidential Electors, representation of any state will correspond to the self determination of such state.

BOND

WEBB



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Natchitoches

New Orleans, La. Nov., 2, 1918.

Miss Laura Clay.  
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Miss Clay;-

I am enclosing our letter that we have sent to most of the voters in the state, the situation is this. Mr. Robt. Ewing, National Committee man ~~has published~~ in his two news-papers <sup>has</sup>, come out for the amendment, not that he is favoring suffrage but in order to prevent Federal Amendment if possible. Martin Berhman, the mayor, ~~is~~ supposed to control the city machine is against us. It is reported that the 17<sup>th</sup> ward <sup>S</sup> boses have their instructions.

I have not lost my faith that the amendment will go through on Tuesday. The Flu condition has been terrible. Will telegraph you just as soon as I know whether I am an enfranchised woman or still a disenfranchised woman with the idiots and insane <sup>and</sup> of Louisiana <sup>which will</sup> continue a ~~hypocracy~~ <sup>hypocrisy</sup> instead of a democracy. I am just getting over the grippe, not the Flu

Affectionately,

*Miss H. Gordon*  
This is a stenographer that is  
substituting - deacts to ideas -



For us to be the nation  
that stands behind them, and the  
to maintain the morale, the  
ideals of the whole people.  
Our winning efforts should  
be made in the self-sacrifice  
of those on the battlefield  
and the winning spirit of the  
people should be the underlying  
reason for all the other marks  
of the War.

The American people  
are fighting this war.  
Whatever success is  
won, whatever failure  
— belongs to the  
whole people; for all  
have had some part  
to bear. Not all the  
same, but each  
according to their ability.  
The objects of this war  
are not wholly im-  
material. They include  
the maintenance

and demonstration  
of great ideals.  
It is not to be won  
altogether on the  
field of battle  
with shot and  
shell; it is to be  
won by the people  
at home as well  
as by our brave  
boys abroad.  
They will do their  
best, if it is



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Garden City

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Natchitoches

November Thirteenth,  
Nineteen-Eighteen.

Miss Laura Clay,  
Richmond, Kentucky.

My dear Miss Clay:

This letter should have been written to you long ago, but the uncertainty of conditions and stress of work made it impossible.

That Louisiana lost is perfectly incredible of belief, with the political exigency what it was and the National Committeeman, Bob Ewing, committed to put it over. It is a defy from our contemptible old Mayor who has absolutely gone crazy in the conceit that certain successes, political and financial, have brought him. Had it not been however for the Flu conditions in the country, the state would have carried, and it may be that he counted on giving the women the defy and intended for the state majorities to cover him from the ignominy and indignation that has been aroused. Only five of the parishes failed to give a majority. This morning we hear of one of the parishes that had been counted against us, had called for a re-count and turned in quite a handsome majority in our favor. We are awaiting the return of the Governor to see about having a re-count of the city boxes, although I fear that we can not go behind the returns.

We have called a mass meeting for Sunday the 24th to protest against the women of the state being disfranchised through the power of men who do not vote but are voted. We are going to work in a demonstration that we hope will get into the Moving Pictures and discredit the Mayor in every way that we can. We will concentrate upon some poll-tax activity, for I am very much afraid that the light favorable vote in the city was caused by the fact that so many of the men did not have their 1916 and 1917 poll taxes paid, and we must now prepare for the 1920 election by seeing that the 1918 poll taxes are paid before January 1st.

*I enclose Jean's letter to the Parish leaders yesterday received word that a woman who indicated on a recount. Found no for Plaquemine reported a gain of 64 parishes. This leaves only seven out of 64 parishes as opposed.*



*W. J. Jones*

# Louisiana State Suffrage Association

Mrs. Geo. Wesley Smith,  
1st Vice-President, Bayville

Mrs. James C. Wooten,  
2nd Vice-President, Monroe

Mrs. Louis Hackelton,  
3rd Vice-President, Alexandria

Miss Lois Janbier, Rec. Sec'y  
1445 Webster St., New Orleans

Miss Jean M. Gordon, President  
No. 1800 Prytania St.  
New Orleans

Campaign Headquarters  
428 Camp St., New Orleans

Mrs. R. M. Carruth, Cor. Sec'y  
New Roads

Mrs. Clarence King, Treasurer  
1029 Dulzell St., Shreveport

Mrs. M. H. Lawless, Auditor  
Garden City

Mrs. D. C. Scarborough, Auditor  
Natchitoches

Miss Clay  
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*I have  
Congressional  
see  
I think Jones is  
Chairman*

I did not learn until yesterday of Michigan and South Dakota's victory and the disappointing fate of Oklahoma.

We have been so handicapped by the restrictions on meetings that it has been impossible to get in touch and take advantage of meeting together before the fires of indignation burned out.

I am just getting over my attack which though not Flu was akin to it. Both Jean and myself are worn out with the hard work and the handicapping conditions of this campaign. The story from the women in the country about deaths, sickness and the impassability of roads really make our campaign a remarkable one.

Now in regard to the telegram I sent you, with peace ringing in our ears, I think it worth while to try and get the Federal Amendment submitted if we could pull its teeth out; that is, remove the federal interference with the states, and I have determined to write Senator Thomas and suggest it. We are going to have a hard time to hold our women to the state suffrage idea, even though I feel sure that the ratification of a Federal Amendment will be very difficult. Candidly, I am very much afraid that there is going to be a reaction on all the good war regulations such as liquor and vice, etcetera. I would have liked you to sign the letter, but nevertheless I will send out a feeler in an unofficial letter to Senator Thomas. There is no knowing how a suggestion of this kind may work. Our Era Club has determined to take a very positive stand on the States Right principle and require that all persons who favor a Federal Amendment to join the other body. The Louisiana State Suffrage Association is seriously thinking of withdrawing from the National Association, because that body is really no longer in sympathy with state work and its whole aim and purpose is to force a Federal Amendment, and as such I do not think that we should be a party to it any longer. Unless the ~~amendment is not withdrawn~~ the ~~amendment is not~~ a suffrage



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republicans will block the submission of a suffrage amendment at this time in order that the democratic party not be able to claim woman's suffrage, a change in the senate will no doubt bring about submission. Of course, they will not take their seats until 1919 and in the meantime I think it worth while to at least feel the ground upon amending the present draft of the Susan B. Anthony amendment and work it in <sup>if possible</sup> out of gratitude for peace and the victory of democracy.

Can't you arrange to come south and pay us a visit? I really and truly feel like I am stagnating for ~~one~~ somebody with whom to discuss our questions.

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. M. Gordon



New Orleans, Dec. 31, 1918.

My dear Miss Clay:

I do not wish to let 1918 close without a last word to you and repeated thanks to you for your generous interest in Louisiana. Then too there are some interesting developments that I want you to know about, cautioning secrecy until such time as is no longer necessary.

Only Jean and I know that we are going to have a recount of the New Orleans boxes in certain precincts. We have consulted very eminent counsel and we are to proceed on a mandamus, as the usual procedure thro the Grand Jury is a farce. Don Caffery (son of Senator Caffery I think you will recall Sen C, as the running mate with Buckner of Ky on the Gold Democrat Platform) is one of our greatest lawyers and a terror to the ring with Judge Robert Marr ~~at~~ to conduct the fight. There are several others in consultation but they are not publicly declaring their connection. All advise it however and the service is free. Think of it!!! Now it is barely possible that we may find irregularities sufficient to throw out a number of the precincts sufficient to offset the majority. And the sentiment of indignation against the political machine in N.O is such as would prevent the ring making a fight should we be able to achieve our hearts desire.

Any rate we are going to make a test for the next fight. There is a special session of the Legislature to be held in the spring and the Governor has promised that he will have it again submitted. It could not come to a vote until April 1920 but it would give the proper time for a campaign and make an issue with the ~~same~~ election for Governor and Members of the Legislature.

I inclose a letter I received from Mrs. Harper trying to get me to influence Eddie Gay to vote for the Federal Amendment. He made his campaign against a federal amendment and I believe he will stand on his platform. Evidently suffragists have lost their belief in the right of a constituency. In the meantime the Alice Paul N.A crowd are carrying on some activity in the form of a petition to Gay to vote for submission. The hopeful feature of the situation as I know it, is that a doubt is created in my mind that they only lack one vote else why concentrate on La? You will note in my letter to Mrs. Harper I suggested that they amend the Bill \_\_\_ I thought if I could pull the teeth out of the amendment we could show the real animus of their enthusiasm for woman suffrage.

I am worried about Mrs Boyer. I have not heard a word from her since the Michigan victory. I am wondering if she can be ill or in trouble. We have just finished our Poll Tax activity \_\_\_ we have canvassed and recanvassed the business sections and a very large number of taxes have been paid. In order for men to vote in 1920 they have to have 1918 and 1919 poll taxes paid. A great many men forget or are indifferent and then when the campaign is on and their interest aroused they are helpless. Well here is a very happy Newyear for you and yours and that the Federal Amendment menace may be put to sleep.

Affectionately,  
Kate M. Gordon.



My dear Miss Clay:  
I sent off my letter the  
other day without your  
letter or with another  
gathered up by mistake  
— here is what I  
intended to send you  
H. W. G.

The mandamus is I  
believe to be made  
Monday.