



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

June 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to Thursday, June 25, 2020 CWI Zoom Meeting, Noon-1:30 PM

You must register in advance for this meeting – go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvdeivqTMrHNT09ohZ8iP213gkS1yNvKss>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Annual Elections Meeting Featuring How CWI Member Organizations are Changing with the Covid-19 Pandemic

CWI plays an important role in fostering collaboration among organizations supporting a wide variety of feminist issues. We are finding that we can do this effectively during this Covid 19 pandemic. This June meeting focuses on recruiting new member organizations to join us in making a powerful effective collective impact to obtain increased support for multiple goals such as getting the ERA in the U.S. Constitution and creating a gender equitable U.S. foreign policy. The importance of the November 2020 U.S. elections in accomplishing these goals is vital.

CWI, a 46 year old non profit composed of organizational and individual members, has focused on working with other non profit organizations with a feminist presence in the Washington, DC area but as we are now operating virtually we realize that we can serve all the nation. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain ideas and advice from current and prospective CWI organizational members on how to provide this CWI dissemination and collaborative leadership even more effectively and to address special challenges during the pandemic.

We assume that in this specialized world gender equity advocates and their organizations collaborate in their own silos of expertise. But our issues are overlapping and feminists are willing and interested in supporting multiple issues outside their regular purview. However they often need to learn more about these issues and to use strategies to deliberately provide their organizational and individual support.

CWI often provides an opportunity for our organizational members to describe their focus at the June Meetings. This June 25 we will prioritize this benefit for new CWI organizational members. We will also feature the **We Demand More Coalition** which was formed to monitor and influence how legislation and policies are addressing the needs of women and families related to the Covid -19 Pandemic and beyond.

Advantages of being a CWI individual or organizational member include:

- Opportunities to learn about critical feminist issues in areas outside your expertise via CWI monthly meetings, newsletters, and meeting videos.
- Member organizations can learn about each other's work by CWI facilitated sharing of meeting announcements, resources, presenting at CWI meetings, signing on to each other's letters and more.

Organizational members are also encouraged to share CWI disseminated information with their own members. More specifically, organizational members will have their organization's URL listed on the CWI website, be entitled to have 2 members on the CWI member email list, serve on the all volunteer CWI Board of directors and help plan and sponsor CWI meetings in their focus areas where they can improve feminists' technical and advocacy capacity. See last page for membership information. Multiple year discounts include a three-year organizational membership for only \$100. Gift memberships are also encouraged.

Dear Current and Potential CWI members,

Now is the time for CWI elections, membership renewals and sign ups, and an opportunity to preserve your own contributions to history!

We also want to share our concerns with you about the great needs to improve our government from fighting the Covid -19 pandemic to ending police brutality and discrimination against people of color and other targeted groups. One of the advantages of working in coalition is to sign on to letters of support. CWI was one of the 400 organizations that signed on to the June 1, 2020 [letter](#) on Federal Policing Priorities organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on specific ways to stop police brutality and promote criminal justice reform. Be sure to read this important letter.

Elections

CWI Board Members and Officers serve 2 year terms The slate for the 2020-22 terms is:

TREASURER: Holly Taggart Joseph

SECRETARY: Megan E. Corrado

VICE PRESIDENT MEDIA RELATIONS: Loretto Gubernatis

VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS: Jeanette Lim Esbrook

Continuing Board Members serving terms 2019-21 are:

CO-PRESIDENTS: Connie Cordovilla and Sue Klein

VICE-PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP: Harriett Stonehill

VICE-PRESIDENT DIVERSITY: Alotta Taylor

VICE-PRESIDENT ORGANIZATIONAL MANGEMENT: Anne Martin

VICE PRESIDENT TECHNOLOGY: Sherry Klein

BOARD MEMBER: Linda Fihelly

CWI is looking for additional Board Members so please contact Connie or Sue if you are interested in serving in our wonderful volunteer organization.

CWI Membership

CWI operates as voluntary organization but does have a few expenses. Thus, we need to charge members modest dues. CWI membership year is July 1 to June 30. We need to remind you to renew your membership this July. We encourage you to renew or sign up for multiple year memberships at a discounted rate. See last page of this newsletter for membership information. Multiple year discounts include a three-year organizational membership for only \$100. Gift memberships are also encouraged.

Preserving Your Contributions to History

Take advantage of the stay at home pandemic defense time and record your contributions to feminist history. There are various ways to record your contributions to feminist history. This was the topic of our March 26, 2019 CWI Meeting on "Ways to Share Our Feminist History: Stories, Videos, Artifacts, Documents" available on CWI meeting videos on our web page and summarized in the April 2019 CWI Newsletter.

In addition to these resources, CWI's Vice President Media Relations, Loretto Gubernatis has been doing productions of oral histories through HerStory. They are available on The Maryland Women's Heritage Center website <https://mdwomensheritagecenter.org/her-story/> .

In addition to summaries in [the CWI newsletters](#) videos of most of the meetings are available by going to the [youtube icon](#) at the bottom of most of the CWI <https://womensclearinghouse.org> web pages.

CWI Program Summary, May 26, 2020 Zoom Meeting Getting ERA in the U.S. Constitution

Originally CWI planned to have this meeting on ERA to celebrate Women's History in our March Women's History Meeting. This was also timed to celebrate the January victory of the passage of the ERA in Virginia, making it the 38 and final state needed to ratify the Constitution. However, our March and April 2020 meetings were cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic and we had a much larger ERA meeting over Zoom May 26. Sixty five (65) participants signed in and over 100 registered.



The meeting was organized and moderated by CWI Co-President, **Connie Cordovilla** who also serves as the Virginia NOW President and was instrumental in the election and ERA victories in Virginia.

Connie introduced the Zoom meeting by saying, "The Equal Rights Amendment or ERA has been a movement to insure equal rights for women under the constitution since the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Over the past 172 years, there has been a constant struggle to instill the words that would make women and men equal in the US Constitution. From the state by state struggle to get the required passage through the imposition of deadlines to the final ratification in the VA Assembly in January 2020, there has been a fierce tug of war between those who clearly see the need to raise the legal standard of women to that of men vs the people who believe it is covered under other constitutional areas or actually diminishes rights. Regardless, enshrining what would seem like a very logical piece of civil rights in the constitution is a struggle that we are going to hear about today

Our speakers today come from the ranks of the most active of activists for the ERA. They include:

Bettina Hager who is the DC Director of the ERA Coalition and Fund for Women's Equality. Bettina has conducted focused lobby training workshops on the issue of Constitutional equality and oversaw the creation of a widely used ERA advocacy packet with information on how to contact elected officials, reach out to media and encourage constituency outreach. Bettina previously worked as Programs Director and Interim Executive Director at the National Women's Political Caucus and in various levels of government.



Kim Cummings and **Anna Bradley** are leading members of the **VA Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**. They will speak about the Delta's critical support role in the Virginia ERA passage. The Deltas are an organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community. Deltas played an integral part in the earlier passage of the 19th amendment which gave all women the right to vote. They have thrown their influence and energy in that same characteristic fashion to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Kim Cummings is a retired educator of 36 years. She is a member of the Fredericksburg Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Virginia Social Action Task Force of Delta, the Stafford NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the Senior Vice Chair of the Stafford Committee. Anna Bradley is the Social Action Chair of the Petersburg, VA Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Their passion for social justice is evident, covers a wide range and is unapologetic. Their mission and resolve are simple - to see their community empowered (and) to use its voice to speak truth to power."

The final presenter was **Eleanor Smeal**, one of the major leaders of the modern-day American feminist movement. She is the president and a cofounder of the Feminist Majority Foundation (founded in 1987) and has served as president of the National Organization for Women for three terms where she led the fight for ERA. In addition to her work as an activist, grassroots organizer, lobbyist, and political analyst, she is publisher of Ms. Magazine. She spoke about the steps that need to be covered to get the ERA finally placed in the US Constitution.

Highlights from the presenters:

Bettina Hager started with a review of the Congressional introduction of the ERA by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman in 1923. She described the recent ratification of the 1787 Madison Amendment on Congressional pay which was approved over 100 years later. It has implications for ERA since a key argument that the current Attorney General is using to try to block the Archives certification of VA as the 38 and final state to approve ERA is because of the time limit in the preamble clause. Bettina pointed out that this late approval of the Madison Amendment gave new energy to ERA supporters such as CWI's Holly Joseph who got her Maryland Senator Cardin to sponsor a Resolution to pass the ERA when 3 more states ratified. Nevada ratified in 2017, Illinois in 2018 and Virginia in Jan. 2020. Bettina pointed out that the House of Representatives passed a resolution Feb 13, 2020 to approve the ERA without any deadline limitations. A similar resolution by MD Senator Cardin and Alaska Senator Murkowski is blocked in the Senate by Mitch McConnell.

Kim Cummings (far right of Rep Val Demings) and **Anna Bradley** (far left) are VA Delta Sigma Theta leaders. Kim noted that her Fredericksburg chapter, covering a four county area, was involved from the start with the suffrage centennial work. Joining with the VA Ratify ERA movement was a logical step. Her groups cohosted a showing of "Iron Jawed Angels", brought the ERA bus tour to her hometown and worked at handing out flyers, buttons, and signs to grow support for the ERA passage. Anna noted that unlike the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in the late 1800s and early parts of the 20th century, VA RATIFY ERA was quick to invite diversity into the coalition. By building on having every portion of the citizenry represented, it gave real meaning to the idea of equality. At every VA Assembly vote, there were dozens of proud African American women in their distinctive red suits and dresses, holding up signs and lobbying VA lawmakers to pass the ERA. That is the legacy of equality that the "Deltas" leave in every community. Their current focus is on ensuring a complete and accurate Census and Voter Engagement (education, registration, and mobilization).



Eleanor Smeal provided some important details and pointed to what needs to happen next to get ERA in the Constitution. The ERA has been introduced in all US Congresses after the initial Congressional passage in 1972 where it was supported by 485 groups. The major opponents are Chambers of Commerce and insurance companies who were profiting by paying women less and charging them more than men. Public approval of ERA remains high (80% or 90%). The passage in Nevada was due to elected women's leadership and to the moderate Republicans and Democrats who took over the majority woman state legislature. Illinois experienced similar legislative changes and ERA passage benefitted from the leadership of a pro ERA male republican governor. VA ratification came after the election of democrats who now lead both houses with diverse women in the leadership positions. The U.S. Department of Justice is attempting to block the ERA certification. In response a lawsuit by state Attorney Generals in VA, NV and IL has been brought to push the entry of this 28th amendment into the US Constitution. ERA's 38 state ratification can also be decided by Congress, which makes the Nov. 2020 elections additionally important. It would also help to get more states

to ratify ERA and place it in their own state constitutions. It is well established that states can't rescind their approval of amendments even though some have tried to do this for ERA and even the 14th Equal Protection Amendment. Since provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) prohibit sex discrimination, ERA supporters have another reason to vote for support of ACA. Groups fighting for ERA should work together and amplify each other's messages. ERA would also help with equal pay, with the understanding that equal pay should include equal benefits as well.

To learn much more from this meeting including the Q&As from participants around the US please check our recording at the [youtube icon](#) at the bottom of most CWI <https://womensclearinghouse.org> web pages.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EDT. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

Job Announcement: Director of the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative. Deadline 6-24-20
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/569367200>

Exhibits: Check out Washington.org/suffrage Check to see if these exhibits have reopened after Covid closure. Here are some examples:

Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote" Library of Congress Southwest Gallery, Thomas Jefferson Building. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Handwritten letters, speeches, photographs and scrapbooks, created by American suffragists who persisted for more than 70 years to win voting rights for women, will be featured in a new exhibition at the Library of Congress. loc.gov/suffrage. Through Sept. 2020.

Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote, National Archives to January 3, 2021, 10 AM-5:30 PM. Archives.gov/women. Through Jan. 3, 2021.

Special tour, Votes for Women. The Capitol Visitor Center, visitthecapitol.gov/event-calendar

Programs

Wednesday June 10, 2020 4PM EDT. Women Rule Virtual Interview book on Hillary Rodham. Politico. [Register](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2020. 4PM EDT, Webinar To Fulfill These Rights: A Conversation on Education and Equity with Dr. Amaka Okechukwu. American Association of University Women. [Register](#)

Friday, June 12, 2020, 11 AM EDT , Webinar: Film screening: It's Up to Us, Women's Learning Partnership. [Register](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2020, 11:30 AM -1:30 PM Passing the Torch Passage of the 19th Amendment. Anna Laymon, Exec Director Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. Sponsored by Federally Employed Women. Register at www.FEW.org

CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser

Meeting summary by Sue Klein, Connie Cordovilla and Other Presenters.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla; VP Membership, Harriett Stonehill; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Vacant, VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; Director, Linda Fihelly **DIRECTOR**

EMERITA: Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Co-President, Harriett Stonehill

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

womensclearinghouse.org

Three ways to join or to renew:

1. Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this form to a CWI meeting or
2. Mail form & check to Holly Joseph, CWI Treasurer, 8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434 or
3. Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website's membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by USPS or email to treasurer@womensclearinghouse.org

The CWI membership year is **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in the end year (e.g. 2020-2023 for a 3-yr membership). Payment puts you on the email list to receive CWI newsletters and many feminist announcements during your membership.

Membership Years Covered: 2020 - 202____ **Date of Payment** _____

INDIVIDUAL

NAME _____
EMAIL _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____
PHONE: H/W _____ **CELL** _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - reduced for multiple-year memberships

____\$15/1yr.-for those < 30 yrs. old ____\$25/1yr. ____\$45/2yrs. ____\$65/3yrs.

Virtual membership - only for those outside the metropolitan DC area ____\$20/1yr. ____\$50/3yrs.

ORGANIZATION

NAME _____
NAME & EMAIL of Organization Representative: 1) _____
NAME & EMAIL of Organization Representative: 2) _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____
PHONE _____ **CELL** _____
Organization website address (URL) if to be included on CWI website, pending CWI approval:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - reduced for multiple-year memberships

____\$40/1 year ____\$70/2 yrs. ____\$100/3 yrs. (This covers emails to two reps. listed above.)

\$ _____ Dues (from above)
 \$ _____ Additional tax-deductible contribution
 \$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.