



[Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#) for Tues. Sept. 26th Noon-1:30 PM

“Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls”

Generation Ratify, a youth led group, focusing on getting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) into the US Constitution arranged the 100 year celebration of the first introduction of the ERA at the ERA Centennial Convention in Seneca Falls, NY on Fri July 21-Sat. July 22, 2023. They invited others who had been working decades to get ERA ratified and into the Constitution. ERA has now been ratified by ¾ of the states as required and is the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, but like many other Amendments is facing opposition to its full enshrinement in the Constitution. The Centennial Convention aimed to help accomplish this goal.

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) had three Board members attend the Convention and will use this meeting to report on how it was organized, implemented and its accomplishments. The CWI Board Members who took the ERA bus to Seneca Falls were Connie Cordovilla, Vice President, Membership, Holly Joseph, Treasurer and Loretta Gubernatis Vice-President for Media Outreach who made videos of much of this event.

Connie Cordovilla will Emcee and introduce this meeting. Others, such as **Claudia Nachega**, Deputy Executive Director, Generation Ratify, **Lisa Sales**, Pres. of Va NOW, and **Zakiya Thomas**, CEO of the ERA Coalition will explain the role of their organization and if possible show some key excerpts of speakers from the videos by Loretto Gubernatis. **Holly Joseph** will describe how this convention builds on our June 20th CWI meeting on “When Will Women's Voices Be Heard?” Here is the meeting link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyYqfL8FpC4 . **Loretto Gubernatis** will discuss the value of working with the younger generation.

Lisa Sales organized a bus from Washington, DC to and from Seneca Falls, NY. In addition to carrying about 40 attendees, she arranged for the bus to be wrapped in ERA symbols to publicize this important event. She also helped organize the kickoff rally from the US Capitol which she will explain and show some of the speeches by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Co Chair of the Congressional ERA Caucus and others. Lisa will also comment on the multi racial and intergeneration interaction of participants.

Claudia Nachega, Deputy Executive Director, Generation Ratify will provide a background on its formation and. success and the impetus for the Centennial Convention. She will also discuss the importance of the younger generation's participation and plans for the future.

Zakiya Thomas. President and CEO of the ERA Coalition /Fund for Women's Equality, will describe how the Coalition was one of the many supporters of the Convention and discuss future plans for full recognition of the ERA and how the ERA Coalition operates including it's participation in the 8/26 60th Anniversary March on Washington and President Biden's latest statement supporting ERA.

Holly Joseph and **Loretto Gubernatis** will conclude with key information on what is needed to get Congressional support for approval and implementation of the ERA by pointing out that it is not unusual for an Amendment to the Constitution to have opposition even after it is ratified by the required number of states and the great value in working intergenerationally.

Remember to register to attend this Sept 26 CWI noon Zoom meeting at this [Registration Link](#).

The Oct. 24 CWI Meeting will be on Women's Health Issues.

Summary and Commentary on June 20, 2023 CWI Meeting on "When Will Women's Voices Be Heard? When Will the Equal Rights Amendment Be Implemented?" by Holly Joseph and Nicole Vorrasi Bates.

Here is the meeting recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyYqfL8FpC4>.



Holly Joseph started the program by stating that the initial idea for this program was to analyze why women voices haven't been heard, but the most prominent example of that has become in the passage of the **Equal Rights Amendment** which is the quest for women's equality to be added to the Constitution. ERA states:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The movement for women's rights was organized and advanced at the 1848 Convention at Seneca Falls. While we are focusing on Alice Paul as a powerhouse in the Equal Rights Amendment movement, she wasn't at the 1848 Convention as she wasn't born until 1885. She was born to two Quakers, William Paul and Tacie Parry whose father, Judge William Parry, was one of the founders of Swarthmore College. Tacie might have been one of the first women graduates of the college had she not dropped out of the college, there being no provision for married women to attend Swarthmore. While Alice did attend Swarthmore, graduating in 1905 – at 20 – she then went to England to further her studies. There she joined what was called a militant movement for women's suffrage. She worked with another American, Lucy Burns, as well as Crystal Pankhurst, a leading British advocate. She returned to her native United States bringing with her work for suffrage where she pursued suffrage both alone and with other advocates. She was again called a young militant in leading the National Woman's Party. Suffrage finally passed as the 18th Amendment, and on August 18, 1920, it was ratified. The following November, eight million women voted. In addition to heading the National Woman's Party, she turned her attention to starting a worldwide women's party in Geneva just before World War I began. The World Woman's Party provided sanctuary to many women during the war. Alice tried most diligently to focus on keeping suffrage separate from the war just as she tried against great odds to keep the ERA separate from the war in Vietnam.

The ERA passed in Congress in 1972 and was sent to the states, thirty-eight of them needed for ratification, but with an imposed seven-year deadline. Seven years was extended three more years under the Carter Administration, the last step of getting women's equality established in the Constitution. Alice died in 1977 without seeing the ERA ratified. Noteworthy is the fact that Canada, France, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden all have statements of gender equality in their constitutions. Senator Ben Cardin, D/MD, a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment legislation, said the following, "How our nation treats women is a barometer of success. Equality for women is long overdue." While Alice Paul said "ordinary equality is not complicated", it actually is complicated, as there are numerous approaches and countless impediments to achieving it.



Eleanor (Ellie) Smeal, early NOW president and co-founder and current President of the Feminist Majority, and Feminist Majority Foundation actually met Alice Paul and recounted her first-hand experience and efforts. Ellie began by saying that she met Alice Paul at the National NOW silent vigil at the steps at the U.S. Senate, right before the vote on the ERA. After the vigil, some of the group was to go to the Sewall-Belmont House (now the Belmont-Paul House) where Alice Paul lived and was to host a group of ERA activists from Pittsburgh to eat after the vigil and to stay overnight. Ellie had reservations about bothering the host when the vigil went really late. Nonetheless, the group was welcomed and generously treated to breakfast and housing.

Alice Paul – and those in the National Woman's Party - also promised supporters a party when the ERA passed in Congress, which it did on March 22, 1972. Attendees didn't see Alice Paul, so Phyllis Weathersby searched the house to

find her upstairs crying. Phyllis hoped it was for joy and brought others to join. But Alice's tears were instead out of remorse – on several grounds: she feared that the deadline would prevent the ERA's timely ratification. As it turns out, she was right. Alice left Washington to go to a facility in New Jersey soon. Several ERA supporters visited her. At her death in 1977, the ERA was ratified in 35 states – three short of the required 38.

ERA had been suppressed by the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Emanuel Celler, D/NY. (Martha Griffiths, D/MI, circumvented him by getting a discharge petition to get a favorable vote.) Elizabeth Holtzman, D/NY, defeated Celler and authored the deadline extension which President Carter signed in 1978. She pointed out the polling that reflected ERA support then. Favorable poll results are much higher now – up to 80%. Ellie proffered that Congress at that time was an old men's club with women and people of color mostly excluded. She said that a majority now believes that the ERA has already been ratified, having met the requirement of support of 3/4 of the states (38) and 2/3 of Congress. Since the timeline was in the preamble rather than in what the states voted on, time limits are not binding.

Where we are currently: Ellie explained that from the beginning of our country, the President was given no role in the amendment process – a conscious effort by the Framers of the Constitution to avert a dictatorship. The House voted to remove the deadline, but the Senate never has. In the first time since 1982, there are two strong ERA resolutions in Congress. Carefully drafted by scholars, they assert that the ERA is ratified and valid – and has taken effect. Rep. Ayanna Pressley's D/MA, Resolution, which has 203 House cosponsors, and the companion bill in the Senate, S.J.Res. 4, sponsored by Sen. Cardin, D/MD, had a majority of supporters (53), but not enough to overcome the Senate filibuster requirement of 60 votes. Some supporters wanted the vote to show where members of Congress really stood on the ERA. After that vote in June, 2023, Sen. Schumer, D/NY, Senate Majority Leader, changed his vote to the prevailing side so that, under Senate rules, he could bring it up again during the session. Enabling another vote would make a stronger case, in the opinion of many, for the Court to see support.

Ellie explained that the court will likely be involved – possibly because of challenges from the rescission states, so the strongest case is essential. (She said that while making history, one doesn't know how it will turn out.)

In a rally outside the White House attendees learned that Biden's Office of Legal Counsel has pushed aside the statement of the former Trump opinion. She pointed out that from the founding of the Constitution, the President was given no role in the amending process nor do the governors – to avoid tyrants/dictators. She notes that Biden's support for ERA has been unwavering in his voting. Nevertheless, she is hopeful and feels that we have never been so close to ERA inclusion in the Constitution. She also notes that the ERA's importance has grown. She also noted Alito's interpretation of the 14th's Amendment regarding right to privacy is outrageous. So is Justice Thomas's, and she advises that everyone read them. Insurance companies and the Catholic Church have had undue weight in their opposition. Elizabeth Cady Stanton said until we address the discrimination in religion it will continue in politics. The Carters were strong supporters of the ERA, with Jimmy Carter's books on the subject of women in churches. Discussion followed on the strong arm of Chairman Sam Ervin who put the fear of equality of women as a disaster for the country. The effect of the discrimination wasn't clear at the time; the numbers have come in, and it was staggering. Since then some things have been corrected – like maternity costs. Ellie cited schools that didn't admit women.



Nicole Vorrasi Bates is the Founder and Executive Director of Shattering Glass, a non-profit dedicated to the fight for gender equity and gender equality. She had worked for twenty-two years in the male-dominated field of corporate tax law, doing mergers and acquisitions. Having made partner in a field she found unwelcoming to women, particularly women of color and mothers, she left to do something else. Then the pandemic hit, and she decided to start “Shattering Glass”,

because she saw how much work there was to do. She noticed how easy it was to have rights rolled back – with changes in politicians and the judges they appoint. Recognizing the Equal Rights Amendment is the first critical step towards attaining gender equality, Nicole has been working to ensure the ERA is published as the 28th Amendment to our Constitution.

Having passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and having been ratified by 3/4s of the States, the ERA has satisfied all requirements and is currently the 28th Amendment. There are two parallel strategies: Ellie described the one focused on Congress. And, yes, we agree: the ERA is done. It has been ratified; it was passed. It just needs to be enshrined in the Constitution. One strategy is to go to Congress and remove all doubts that the ERA is actually ratified right now. The other strategy is to get the ERA published in the Constitution – literally published means printed in the Constitution with the Equal Rights Amendment in it because all the requirements have been satisfied. That should have happened on January 27, 2020, when Virginia became the 38th and final state needed for ratification. Nicole wants the US Archivist to perform her ministerial duty of printing a revised Constitution which includes the ERA as the 28th Amendment. When Nevada ratified in 2017, the U.S. Archivist certified it as tasked by federal statute to collect the ratifications and call and print them in the Constitution – that is the Archivist’s job then David Ferriero, now Colleen Shogan. When Illinois ratified in 2018 - again, the Archivist accepted and certified Illinois’s ratification. It was only in 2020 when the Archivist didn’t accept Virginia’s ratification. The reason being is that in 2019, when it was obvious that Virginia was going to ratify, the states of Alabama, North Dakota, and Louisiana initiated a lawsuit against the Archivist saying “the ERA is dead, you cannot accept ratifications.” Publication has not yet happened as it has been blocked by the Executive Branch – first the Trump Administration and now the Biden Administration, although all 27 other Amendments have been published when the required number of certifications were received despite any challenges.

This interference by the Executive Branch shifted the burden of proof from the opponents of equality to the proponents of equality to establish the ERA as valid. And based on numerous lawsuits filed to date and the Biden Administration’s admission, ERA proponents have been unable to overcome the procedural hurdles to do so.

Nicole described why the ERA and its immediate publication are critical to protecting the rights of women, girls and LGBTQIA+ people, as well as how ERAs in state constitutions have been used recently to defeat abortion and gender affirming care restrictions. As a result, the calls for publication of the ERA are growing rapidly. From US Senators and Representatives, to state legislatures and hundreds of democracy and gender justice organizations, unions, professional associations and more passing resolutions.

Take Action: Sign ERA Petition: www.sign4era.org/

[Results of Elections on June 20, 2023 CWI BOARD of Directors](#)

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS. The following CWI board members’ terms ended June 30, 2023 but they were re-elected at the June 20, 2023 CWI meeting to continue to serve as CWI Board Members for July 1, 2023 –June 30, 2025.

Specifically, re-elected Co-President Sue Klein has agreed to continue to serve as Co-President. Connie Cordovilla has agreed to continue as VP Membership. D. Anne Martin will continue as VP Organizational Management. Sherry Klein will continue as VP Technology. Alotta Taylor will continue as VP Diversity. Sheila Wickouski will resume a 2-year board member term as VP, Women in the Arts along with two new Board members: Jan Erickson from NOW, who will also serve as CWI Co-President and Denise Hyater Lindenmuth from the National Women’s Health Network (NWHN), who will serve as VP for Women’s Health.

Additionally, the following CWI Board Members will continue the second year of their terms: Holly Taggart Joseph as Treasurer, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, VP Legal Affairs, and Loretto Gubernatis, VP Media Outreach.

Events of Interest to Feminists (Times are Eastern) Most events are virtual.

Thanks to Montgomery County NOW for sharing information on many of the events.

Mon. Sept. 18, 3:30 PM. This is Climate: Women Leading the Charge. Virtual Washington Post [Register to watch](#)

Mon. Sept. 18, 7-8:30 PM. Harnessing the Power of the Youth Vote. Virtual. League of women Voters of Montgomery County, MD [TO REGISTER](#)

Tues. Sept. 19 , 6-7 PM. Abortion Rights and the Future of State Constitutions, Brennan Center for Justice. Virtual. [RSVP today.](#)

Sat. Sept 23, 11 AM to 8 PM, Washington DC area ERA Centennial Excursions and Reception at 6 PM, Alice Paul Institute. For more information about this event, please contact Heather at hminty@alicepaul.org. [Purchase Tickets](#)

Tue. Sept. 26 Noon-1:30 PM CWI Zoom meeting “Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls”, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues [Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#)

Wed. Sept 27, 11am Safe Abortion Worldwide, Virtual . Catholics for Choice. [TO REGISTER](#)

Wed. Sept. 27 3-4:15 pm “Safe Schools, Thriving Students: School, District, State, and Federal Policy Lessons” Learning Policy Institute. [Register](#)

Thur. Sept 28, 7 PM. Meet Stem Picture Book Author and Founder of Let’s Engineer: Sheryl Haft. National Girls Collaborative Project. [REGISTER](#)

Oct 12-14 Research on Women and Education 50th Annual Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, 3600 Paradise Rd. , Las Vegas, NV Register www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/SIG98ConferenceRegistration **HOTEL RESERVATIONS LINK: Be sure to click "Attendee"** <https://book.passkey.com/event/50638220/owner/4294/home>

Tue. Oct. 17, 3:30 PM, Webinar: Girls STEAM Ahead with NASA Resources in Action. National Girls Collaborative Project. [REGISTER](#)

Tue. Oct. 24, 12 noon to 1:30 PM. Update on Federal Legislation on Women’s Health Issues. Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues and the National Women’s Health Network.

SPECIAL FALL WOMEN IN THE ARTS EVENTS/EXHIBITS IN DC-BALTIMORE AREA TO END OF YEAR BY CWI’s SHEILA WICKOUSKI, VP FOR WOMEN AND THE ARTS

ON STAGE

The Shakespeare Theatre starts the season with *Evita* at the Shakespeare Theatre (Sept. 5 to Oct 15 in Harmon Hall) - Eva Peron is the First Lady of Argentina in this classic musical with a new take.

Arena Stage with a Broadway hit *POTUS Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive...* about how seven women of dramatically different backgrounds minimize the damage done by male arrogance and political posturing, in an endearing homage to the women who keep things running behind the scenes. (Oct. 13-Nov. 13 in the Fichandler Stage)

WOMEN IN THE AIR AND THE OPERA

Washington National Opera's *Grounded* at The Kennedy Center Opera House Oct 28- Nov. 13 is Jeanine Tesori's opera based on the award-winning play by George Brant and co-produced with the Metropolitan Opera. Fighter-pilot Jess is an accomplished F-16 fighter pilot—until pregnancy grounds her to the “chair force” to target enemies via drones from a trailer in Las Vegas. This new arrangement seems ideal at first: by day, Jess uses her elite training to protect and serve America, and by night, she returns to her family. Ultimately, we see that protecting Jess from physical danger does little to shield her from the psychological trauma of war-by-proxy.

NASM LECTURES

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's evening lectures will explore the stories of women and people of color in aviation and spaceflight, from NASA's first female astronauts to the desegregation of commercial aviation. Lectures take place at one of the museum's two locations and will also be streamed online. All lectures are free to the public, but they require advance registration.

This fall's Aviation Adventures lectures will focus on stories from the museum's “America by Air” exhibition, which explores the history of commercial aviation. “Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr. and the Desegregation of Commercial Air Transportation” will take place Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. ET at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Oct. 26: “The Pan Am Stewardess at War and Peace” will take place on Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. ET at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Julia Cooke, author of the book *Come Fly the World: The Jet Age Story of the Women of Pan Am*, will discuss the often-overlooked contributions of Pan American Airways stewardesses to addressing the geopolitical crises of the 1960s and '70s, from escorting dignitaries and refugees to flying into war zones.

ART MUSEUMS

The Baltimore Museum of Art is presenting *Making Her Mark: A History of European Women Artists* (Oct 1 to Jan 7, 2024). Focus is on women artists from the 15th to 18th century.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts reopens on Oct 21 with exhibition *The Sky's The Limit* (to Feb. 25, 2024)

Smithsonian American Art Museum presents *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* (September 15, 2023 – June 2, 2024)

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will present an exhibit by Simon Leigh Nov. 3, 2023 – March 3, 2024

The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit *Work: Women Printmakers of the WPA*, opens on November 5 through June 30, 2024.

EVENTS

The National Gallery of Art will present *Women in Art and Music: an Early Modern Global Conference* on October 20-21 open to the public in the East Building Auditorium

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

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2023– JUNE 2025

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Jan Erickson; Holly Taggart Joseph, Treasurer; Connie Cordovilla, VP Membership; Sheila Wickowski, VP Women and the Arts; Loretto Gubernatis; VP Media Outreach; Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Legal Affairs; Sherry Klein; VP Technology; Anne Martin, VP Organizational Management; Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity, Denise Hyater Lindenmuth, VP Women's Health



Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2022-2025 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

OR

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Organization website address (URL): _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 1) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____

Membership Years Covered: 202_ - 202_ (Check your Membership Type)

	Individual	Organization	Young Adult (< 30 yrs. old)	Virtual (outside DC area)
One-year	\$25	\$40	\$15/yr.	\$20/yr.
Two-year	\$45	\$70	Gift Membership (insert information in individual or organization membership)	
Three-year	\$65	\$100		

Membership Dues Amount: _____
Tax deductible donation: _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____
Date of Payment _____

- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website’s membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)