

Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference

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1520 AUDUBON ST., NEW ORLEANS
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LAURA CLAY, VICE-PRES. AT LARGE
LEXINGTON, KY.

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MISS JENNIE LAUDERDALE, 2ND AUDITOR
DYERSBURG, TENN.
IDA PORTER-BOYER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

HEADQUARTERS
- 332 BARONNE STREET -
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

301 Carondelet St.

TELEPHONE M 187

NEW ORLEANS, LA., September 28, 1914 191

Miss Laura Clay,
Richmond Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:-

Will you kindly mail several photographs of yourself to use in advertising the S.S.W.S.C? I am in receipt of a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Chattanooga Equal Suffrage Ass'n, in which she asks for immediate press material of the speakers to be at Chattanooga, in order that she may run daily items from now until time of the Convention.

There is so much to talk about that I do wish I could take time this morning to gossip by letter. I would like to say how unwise the Congressional Union is, in my opinion, in making the wholesale attack on the Democratic Party, which includes some of our best friends in Congress, and then I should like to emphasize my opinion regarding the great blunder the National made in publishing that black list. How in the world did they expect to defeat Senator Gore, in a State where they have no machinery to use and where Gore's nomination is equivalent to an election, and to include Elihu E. Root, who is not even a candidate! The moral of all this, my dear Kentucky

[Sept 28, 1914]

friend, is, don't go hunting for rabbits with a brass
band, -but we will talk it all over at Chattanooga.

Yours with love,

Ida Porter - Boyer

BS / IPB.

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Auditors:
MRS. C. E. ELLICOTT, Baltimore, Md.
MRS. D. P. MONTAGUE, Chattanooga, Tenn.

December 16, 1914

Miss Laura Clay,
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:-

Excuse my tardiness in acknowledging your letter of December 3, enclosing Mrs. Harrison's acceptance of her election as Vice-President of Kentucky in the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference.

She has been put on our list as a subscriber to the NEW SOUTHERN CITIZEN. This can be adjusted when we get her dollar for membership.

We are having a few NEW SOUTHERN CITIZENS left over this month, and I am going to send them to you to use as sample copies.

I thank you for the suggestion regarding Mrs. Frances W. Munds. I had written a little sketch of her for the January NEW SOUTHERN CITIZEN, but think I shall hold this until I can get some personal expression from Mrs. Munds, and use it in the February number.

What a good time we had in Chattanooga! Miss Gordon goes to Chattanooga tonight, where there is to be some sort of a suffrage meeting on the 18th inst. The letters we have received from Chattanooga say we left a splendid impression, and aroused much enthusiasm.

I suppose you have heard that the Congressional Union is going to open headquarters in New York, and rumor says it will be either in Mrs. Belmont's Political Equality Building or at 505 Fifth Avenue. That means Music!

I expect to leave on Saturday night for a two weeks vacation in Centralia, where we are to have a family reunion.

My heartiest wishes for a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, which will bring to you an overflowing measure of health and suffrage victories,
Cordially yours,

Ida Porter-Boyer

Richmond, Ky.

Dec.3rd, 1914.

My dear Mrs.Boyer,

I enclose Mrs.A.M.Harrison's acceptance of her election as vice-president for Kentucky.

Please send her the New Southern Citizen. When I see her I may collect her dollar; but in any case send the Citizen. If I request more Citizens to be sent than I am entitled to, don't hesitate to send them and charge to me. I expect to use the Citizen for propaganda work agood deal.

Have you put yourself into communication in any way with Mrs.Frances Willard Munds, Prescott, Arizona, the newly elected state senator? She and I worked together in the legislature just before statehood was granted, and I know she is a Democrat. I have written to her to congratulate her on her new honors, and to try to interest her in the Southern Conference.

Hope you are all well and cheerful after the conventions.

Love to all the good people, including yourself.

Cordially yours,

Richmond, Ky.

Jan. 14th, 1915a.

My dear Mrs. Beyer,

A Happy New Year and many returns!

This is a business letter, which you and Miss Gerden can consult about.

(1) Mrs. Upton, who is chairman of its program committee, writes me, who am one of that committee, that the Indianapolis people want the Mississippi Valley Conference to meet there March 7th, 8th and 9th. Now I want to know what the Southern Conference wishes to do there, if anything. It seems to me, now that the U.S. Constitutional Amendment is disposed of in Congress, the S.S.W.S.C. idea of bringing pressure upon the Democratic party may receive careful attention. I wish Miss Gerden would take a place on the platform, and set forth her views. If she will do so, I will ask for what time she would like. Any other suggestions for the S.S.

W.S.C. will be gladly received by me, and promoted as far as I can do so.

(2) I think our system of acknowledging paid-up memberships should be definitely stated. I supposed that membership tickets would be sent by mail; but though I have sent in about a dozen names and dollars, I have not heard of any receipts of any sort being sent, except that the Citizen has been sent. This might be sufficient, if every person sent her own dollar, but when some one else sends it, the sender has no means of knowing that the paper is being sent, or receipt to show to the member that the money has been duly paid over. This might cause such embarrassment that no one will be willing to solicit and send on membership dues. What can we do about it? Would it do to acknowledge membership dues in the

next issue of the Citizen? Ought we not to require a receipt to be sent to each person, as well as to the one who solicits and sends? I think a form of receipt could be printed on a post-card, which would minimize the expense. Of course, sending receipts will increase expenses; but too great particularity can not be exercised about money matters. Nothing will so surely and quickly step out of donations as delay and uncertainty about what comes of them. Particularly, no one will be willing to ask money from other people unless one is assured that due notice of the receipt of the money is sent to the person from whom it is solicited. Please give this your careful thought, and devise some stated means for proper acknowledgment of money sent in membership dues and otherwise.

I think we might gather in quite a harvest at the Miss. Valley Con. if we had a good system; but without it, I for one, will not be willing to solicit.

(3) I think we ought to print cards for the non-dues-paying membership, so that every member so inclined might get names. If this is done, I would like a number sent me at once.

(4) I know that some business people think a check is its own sufficient receipt; but I give my vote that our Treasurer be supplied with printed receipts, either on postal cards or otherwise, and stamps to acknowledge every sum, whether great or small, which is received.

(5) Please send, at my expense, a copy of the Citizen, with a mark, Complimentary, ex-epid-fer-by-a-friend to Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer, Old Capitol,

St. Paul, Minnesota.

She is the Press Sup't of the Minn. S. Assn., and an old friend of mine. I will remit for these Citizens which I order when enough

3.

Jan 14, 1957

have been ordered to make it worth while to send a check.

I see that the S.S.C. Conference news is being printed in the
Lexington (Ky.) Herald . It is fine.

Give my love to all the dear workers, and believe me

Very cordially yours,

Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference

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TELEPHONE M 187

NEW ORLEANS, LA. January 22, 1915

Miss Laura Clay,
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:-

Miss Gordon and myself went over your letter very carefully, and heartily approve of all the suggestions. I will take the subjects up in their numerical order. Miss Gordon will also write you, *and* I will ~~also~~ give you what information I can.

First:- Miss Gordon expects to attend the Mississippi Valley Convention, and will notify you how much time she will want on the program, and the subject on which she means to speak.

Second:- I was quite surprised to learn that any memberships were unacknowledged by receipt from the treasurer. We have a printed form for this purpose. The memberships are entirely in the hands of the treasurer, and do not appear on my books at all save, that as a membership is reported, since we have decided that a membership carries with it a subscription to the NEW SOUTHERN CITIZEN, I enter the name on the subscription book. If subscriptions without membership, I send receipt like the enclosed.

I have asked the treasurer, Mrs. Bartlett, to come to headquarters this morning and she is expected here at 11 o'clock, when we will go over this point as well as some others.

Third:- Your suggestion for a non-dues paying membership is excellent and Miss Gordon immediately drew up a form, which is now in the hands of the printer. As soon as these are delivered, I will mail some to you.

We have sent a copy of the NEW SOUTHERN CITIZEN marked "complimentary" to Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer, Old Capital, St. Paul, Minnesota. I presume you mean the entire year's issue from month to month as we have same published.

[Jan 22, 1915]

Now that I have answered your questions I am going to gossip a little bit. Yesterday, we had quite a thrilling experience. The Janitor telephoned us early in the morning that burglars had entered our headquarters and rifled the desks of Miss Gordon and myself. Upon examination Miss Gordon found that \$41 had been taken out of her desk, belonging to the Anti-Tuberculosis League, but as she had no funds save what is in bank the Conference did not lose anything. About \$3.00 worth of stamps were taken from my desk, and at this point the burglar seems to have been frightened away, for nothing else in the headquarters was touched.

What do you think of the new monthly publication of the N.A.W.S.A? The initial number reached me this morning. I note that every bit of the press material sent out by the National Congressional Committee is filled chiefly with comments on the good work of Mrs. Medill McCormick and Antoinette Funk. In fact, I ought to transpose the order of the names, for Mrs. Antoinette looms up much larger than does Mrs. McCormick.

I made a little trip up home to spend Christmas, and on the way back stopped at Washington, where Mrs. Stoner had arranged a Parlor Meeting for me, and the next morning I attended the National Popular Government League, of which Senator Owen is President or Chairman, and Dr. Cora Smith-Eaton-King's husband is Secretary. I asked Mr. King why the National Popular Government League, which has the initiative and referendum as its corner-stone, did not try to remedy the Oklahoma initiative and referendum law, so as to make it workable instead of the gold-brick it now is. Mr. King answered that the League purposed an initiative petition in Oklahoma for this very thing, and asked me for the addresses of women in that state, whom ~~whom~~ ^{who} ~~thought~~ would co-operate. I gave him all the information I thought would be helpful. If the National Popular Government League will do this there is no reason why Oklahoma cannot be won over to woman suffrage.

Cordially yours,

BS / IPB.

Ida Porter-Bayer.

This ribbon is about "played out",— hope you
can decipher the letters.

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TELEPHONE M 187

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

May 24, 1915.

Dear Editor:

The headquarters of the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference have removed to 336 Camp St. Please make this change of address on your exchange list.

We are revising our list of patrons for Press Bulletins. If you find these bulletins of service we shall be glad to continue sending them as we value space in your columns. We trust the items have been appreciated by your readers. The increased activity for the ballot for women makes our items especially timely.

If you cannot find use for the bulletins kindly advise us by postcard or letter, and we will discontinue mailing to you. Otherwise we shall take pleasure in sending you the bulletins each week, and our official organ, the NEW SOUTHERN CITIZEN, published each month.

Fraternally yours,

Ida Porter-Boyer

SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

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AUDITORS.

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MRS. D. P. MONTAGUE,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

HEADQUARTERS:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

NEW ORLEANS, LA. June 3, 1915.

My dear Miss Clay:

If the National approves and endorses this "Made in a Suffrage State" resolution, will you please have them agree upon a certain date when it should be released to the general press to have it flood the whole United States at one time, instead of filtering slowly, when much of its effect would be lost. If it can appear on the 9th or 10th, we will have our mail ready to go out at that time. In such event, please have a telegram sent to our headquarters. We reach about one-thousand papers weekly.

I think "Made in a Suffrage State" a brilliant idea, and will act acutely on the public pocket-book, which is too often another name for public conscience.

Cordially yours,

Miss Laura Clay,
Chicago, Ill.

c/o La Salle Hotel.

Ida Porter-Boyer

SOUTHERN STATES WOMAN SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE

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MRS. W. M. STONER, 2nd Auditor,
1638 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS:

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 417 Camp St.

August 9, 1916. 191

Miss Laura Clay,
Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay:-

Last evening I took the liberty of giving a card of introduction to a young man who expects to be employed on a stock farm near Lexington. I think it is the Cook County Stock Farm or some such name. The young man's name is Del Valle. He is about twenty-two years of age and brim full of enthusiasm. The world is his oyster, and he is confident that he is going to open aforesaid oyster in a most satisfactory manner. His parents are new-made friends that I met about two months ago. The mother is charming and very ambitious for her children. The family is Spanish. One daughter is engaged in Red Cross work in Switzerland, where Mrs. Del Valle went in order to educate three of her children. She spent some years in Lausanne so as to be near and watch over her daughters and son while they were at the University. This young boy, Francisco, has made a study of scientific farming and stock breeding, and while he knows nothing of the character of the Cook County Farm, it has been recommended to him as a place where he can get much practical knowledge of American methods preliminary to stock raising on his own account. This is practically all I know of my Spanish friends except that I am charmed with the one sister whom I have met as well as with the mother, and I know exactly how she feels when she sends her boy away from home.

It is quite possible that the young man may not present a card to you, which will be after the manner of some young men, but if he should do so, I have given you all the information I possess.

Fannie, Katie and Jean are getting ready to attend the convention at Atlantic City. I shall not attend for two reasons: One because I feel that I should not adequately represent the southern viewpoint, and have been of very little service at the last few conventions. Certainly not enough to make any return for the outlay in finances and in time. Secondly, because the work here needs attention.

I am much exercised over the probability of the discontinuance of the Southern Conference. In my judgment it would be most unwise for Miss Gordon to maintain the work here on the assumption that she can collect funds necessary. I am much afraid that in her devotion and consecration, she will personally assume financial obligations that later must be met by her own efforts. Unless we have money for the running expenses, especially the postage, there is no use in trying to maintain headquarters. Even though we cut down our efforts and our office force, there would still be an amount of money to be raised that I do not think possible. I think, perhaps, Miss Gordon could run the magazine without having headquarters for the purpose. That is a matter for her to determine, however. My sole point being a desire to protect Miss Gordon from assuming a heavy responsibility which I do not think she can carry alone. She will, of course, discuss this when she sees you at Atlantic City.

Some time ago, both Miss Gordon and myself wrote to Senator Owen in reference to the United States Elections Bill, and neither of us has had a reply. This may be because he is away or his secretary may have held our letters until later. I notice in the vote on the Child Labor Bill that Senator Owen is reported as being absent. Mrs. Owen, so he told me, has been quite unwell for some months and it is possible that she requires his personal care.

I am much disappointed over the status of the National Board. I hoped with the election of Mrs. Catt, that there would be some constructive policy that would pull the inharmonious groups together, but I think ^{the} wreckage is floating about in a larger sea of discordance than a year ago. I have no doubt that Mrs. Catt did what she could to further the National, but I have absolutely no confidence in Mrs. Roessing and Miss Patterson. A letter received from a Pennsylvania suffragist within the last day or two, makes the statement that under the regime of Mrs. Roessing and Miss Patterson in Pennsylvania "more was done to injure our cause than years and years can undo". However, as both these will retire from the National Board I trust their successors will look at the suffrage movement from all its standpoints instead of the one little narrow microscopic glass of trying to outdo the Congressional Union. I wish the National, (if in its judgment a federal amendment is the thing to be desired), would let the Congressional Union ^{do the} congressional work in this one respect. There is plenty work at Congress for the National, if it wants to expend its chief energy through its Congressional Committee:

First, The United States Elections Bill, which would give aforesaid Congressional Committee ample scope for all the energy it has in store, both by pressure in Washington and a carefully planned policy of pressure on Congressmen from their respective states and districts.

Secondly, The Philippine Bill needs some watching.

Third, Likewise the Porto Rico situation.

Fourth, The permanent nationality of American women *to be* unaffected by marriage.

Fifth, Hawaii is looming up.

Mrs. Catt assures us that there is no intention of retracting the pan-partisan attitude of the National. I trust this is true. I am wondering who is back of all this emergency election policy; at whose request or upon what pressure it was found necessary to have this Atlantic City convention. If all this "urgent emergency" had manifested itself before the National political conventions assembled, I could understand it, but just what suffragists have to do with presidential candidates in this Year of Grace 1916, when both candidates have endorsed woman suffrage is just a little bit more "urgent emergency" than I can quite understand. The only part that seems at all clear to me is the federal vs states rights endorsement, and since our suffrage constitution endorses both methods there does not seem to be the "urgent emergency" which is floating in the air. The Woman's Party and Congressional Union I think have an "emergency," but it looks to me as though in this crisis, the National is following suit without having been dealt any trumps whatever.

Cordially yours,

Ida Porter Boyer

IPB / BS.