



1899.

*Minutes*

OF THE

*Eleventh Annual Convention*

OF

*The Kentucky  
Equal Rights Association*



"If ye abide in my word, \* \* \* ye shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make you free."

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY of KENTUCKY

*Merrick Lodge, Lexington, Ky.,*

*December 11 and 12.*



71

Minutes

Eleventh Annual Convention

OF

The Kentucky Equal Rights Association,

December Eleventh and Twelfth,

Held at Merrick Lodge,

Lexington, Ky.

194839

LIBRARY  
U OF KY

324.3  
K419  
11th  
1899

WASSEL  
VIA TO U

## GENERAL OFFICERS.

---

PRESIDENT,  
MISS LAURA CLAY,  
78 North Broadway, Lexington.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT,  
MRS. MARY B. CLAY,  
Richmond.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT,  
MRS. MARY C. CRAMER,  
Lexington.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT,  
MRS. W. S. McLAUGHLIN,  
Covington.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
MRS. MARY C. ROARK,  
420 South Limestone, Lexington.

RECORDING SECRETARY,  
MRS. KATE ROSE WIGGINS,  
Richmond.

TREASURER,  
MRS. ISABELLE H. SHEPARD,  
31 E. Twelfth St., Covington.

LIBRARY  
OF  
THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN

## SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

---

### *Bible Study :*

Mrs ELLEN V. GIBSON, Richmond.

### *Press Work :*

Mrs. L. C. OBENCHAIN, Bowling Green.

### *National Enrollment and Petition Work :*

Mrs S. M. HUBBARD, Hickman.

### *Work Among Young People :*

Mrs. IRENE GRINSTEAD, Lexington.

### *Advancement of Woman's Work in the Schools :*

Miss ANNA MORGAN, Newport.

### *Political Study :*

Mrs. IDA WITHERS HARRISON,  
Elm Tree Lane, Lexington.

### *Literature :*

Mrs. FANNIE HAYS, Owensboro.

### *Legislative Work :*

---

### *Educational Opportunities for Women :*

Mrs. CAROLINE A. LEECH, Louisville.

### *Industrial Training for Women :*

---

### *Hygiene and Physical Culture :*

---

### *State Organizer :*

---



# Journal of Proceedings.

---

LEXINGTON, KY., December 11, 1899.

Plan of Work Committee met at 9 o'clock A. M., and agreed to make the following recommendations to the Convention for the ensuing year's work :

1. That we endeavor to secure an appropriation from the General Assembly sufficient for the establishment of a dormitory for the young women of the State College, and a department of Domestic Science in the same Institution.

2. That we continue to press the claims of mothers for an equal co-guardianship with fathers of minor children.

3. That work for school suffrage for all the women of the State be continued.

4. That we continue the Free Lecture Bureau.

5. That the State Association provide programs and leaflets for the local associations, and send them circular letters to be used at their meetings.

---

## FIRST DAY

### MORNING SESSION.

The Convention opened with devotional exercises.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Miss Mary G. Hay were introduced to the Convention, and the courtesies of the floor were extended to them.

The following committees were appointed :

*Finance*—Mrs. Shepard, Mrs. Cramer ; Miss Hay was requested to assist.

*Resolutions*—One member from each auxiliary represented.

*Auditing*—Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Arnspiger.

*Credentials*—Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. Roark.

*Publication*—Mrs. Wiggins and Mrs. Cramer.

*Courtesies*—Mrs. Grinstead and Mrs. Harrison.

On motion the printed program was made the order of business.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of the year were read.

A letter was read from Mrs Elnora Babcock, National Superintendent of Press Work, urging the appointment of a Press Superintendent who should systematically carry out this very important work. She recommended that the expenses of postage be provided for by the State Association.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt gave most valuable suggestions for making our newspapers potent educators for equal rights.

A letter was read from Miss Susan B. Anthony giving a plan for bringing the suffrage work before all State Conventions. This plan was endorsed, and the details left to Executive Committee.

Letters of greeting were read from Mrs. Lucy Hobart Day, President of Maine Association, and from Mrs. Eugenia B. Farmer, our former Corresponding Secretary. The Secretary was instructed to answer these greetings, expressing our appreciation for the interest manifested in us.

The report of the Plan of Work Committee was made and its recommendations (see p. 5) were considered seriatim and adopted. Special interest and enthusiasm were manifested in regard to that recommendation relating to the securing of a woman's dormitory at the State College. It was decided that we use our influence to secure the co-operation of the various organizations of women in the State for this work.

Mrs. Catt told of the offer of Mrs. Wright, of England, to supply free a set of books, relating to the advancement of women, to the libraries of a limited number of State educational institutions in this country. At the recommendation of Mrs. Catt the donation for Kentucky will be placed in the library of the State College.

Mrs Roark was appointed to take the matter in charge.

A telegraphic message of greeting was read from Miss Anna B. Morgan, of Newport, Ky., asking us to read second epistle of John, first five verses.

A letter from Mrs. Adelaide Wilson, of Atlanta, Ga., giving a plan for having the national officers make a lecturing tour through the South and asking Kentucky's co-operation, was presented.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock and was opened by devotional exercises.

Miss Mary S. Hamilton favored the Convention with dialect readings which were greatly enjoyed.

Addresses were given by Miss Mary Hay and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. The Convention appreciated the eloquent and helpful words of these able women.

On motion the Convention adjourned.



## SECOND DAY.

LEXINGTON, KY., December 12, 1899.

Convention met at 10 A. M., the President in the chair.

Devotional exercises conducted by Miss Clay.

Minutes read and approved.

The report of the Treasurer was read and referred to the Auditing Committee.

On request of the Treasurer the time for receiving dues was extended to December 20, in order that all the associations could be heard from.

Mrs. Bennett suggested that the local associations be urged to collect their dues, even if they find it impossible to hold any regular meetings.

A donation of fifteen dollars from Mrs. S. M. Hubbard, of Hickman, on the Kentucky pledge to the National, was reported by Miss Clay, and the amount given to Mrs. Catt.

The Corresponding Secretary read the following reports of local associations :

### ARLINGTON.

Our report will be necessarily brief, and we regret very much not having a delegate to represent us.

Our membership is still limited, only seven answering to the roll call.

Our dues are regularly paid and we have something left in our home treasury.

We have circulated literature; we persecuted our local editor with publications as long as he stayed with us, notwithstanding his objections.

We find many women who profess to believe in equal suffrage, but who cannot be induced to join us because of the opposition they may have in their homes. Very few in this community there are who are not opposed to this cause.

On account of sickness among our members we have not had our meetings regularly of late, but we expect to begin them again with the new year

[Signed]

M. B. McCONNELL,  
Secretary Arlington E. R. A.

### BOWLING GREEN.

We have industriously distributed literature this past year, and our usual amount of dues has been sent to the Treasurer.

We regret to report the loss of one member, due to her removal from town.

Mrs. Obenchain has written a leaflet for Mrs. Avery's "Political Equality" series, and has been a frequent contributor to the *Woman's Journal*. We believe the political conditions now existing in our State are enough to turn every woman into an ardent suffragist.

So many influences outside the suffrage organization are working for our cause, "the very stars in their course are fighting for us to-day."

L. C. OBENCHAIN.

FAYETTE.

The association held its monthly meetings at the home of the President. There has been an increase in membership during the year.

The members heartily concur in the importance of disseminating suffrage literature throughout the State.

The most important item of business recently transacted was the invitation to the State Equal Rights Association to hold its annual convention in Lexington.

IDA M. HARRISON, Sec'y.

HICKMAN.

We have paid up dues for seven members.

Each member is required to distribute one hundred pages of literature. Our association has distributed twelve hundred pages.

We have five honorary members

We have had five lectures: three by S. M. Hubbard, one by B. M. Parum, and one by Lola Burns, all home talent.

S. M. HUBBARD, President.

TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB.

The Twentieth Century Club, of Covington, is too young to send a very extensive report. We have two very capable "mothers," Mrs. Sarah Shrader and Mrs. McClellen Brown, of Cincinnati, one of whom (Mrs. Brown) will be with you. I think we will be wise in having her speak for us.

Our President, Mrs. Ellis, has recently lost a son by death, and I have diphtheria in my family.

We could not call a meeting for this year, or I am confident we would have sent a delegate. We will be a year old by the time the next Convention meets, and will, I hope, be able to report some work.

Our members are full of enthusiasm and ready for any requirements. We will begin by bringing in new members, each member pledging herself to bring one and inviting others to come and listen to good speakers from the Cincinnati associations, who are always ready with their mature experience to assist us.

I hope this Convention will be the most satisfactory of any that has ever convened, and that you will express yourselves in regard to the new foul blot on Kentucky, the recent lynching.

N. S. McLAUGHLIN Sec'y.

The following delegates to the National Convention were then elected:

Mrs. Sallie Bennett.

Mrs. Mary B. Clay.

Mrs. Sallie Wolcott.

Mrs. Carrie Mitchell.

Mrs. Mary Roark.

ALTERNATES.

Mrs. Ellen V. Gibson                      Mrs. Irene Grinstead.  
Mrs. Mary E. Duncan.                      Miss Anna Morgan.  
Mrs. S. Charles.

Mrs. Bennett was chosen as the member of the National Executive Committee.

It was voted that the alternates fill the vacancies in the order they were chosen, and that the delegates in Washington be empowered to fill any vacancies with members of the Kentucky E. R. A. who may be in attendance.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Dr. Louise Bergman, Third Assistant of the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, has demonstrated her superior fitness for her present position by her faithful discharge of every duty; her quick sympathy for the unfortunates under her charge; her enthusiasm and devotion to every detail of her work, and her recognized worth as a physician and surgeon;

*Resolved*, (1) That we respectfully request of Gov. Taylor her reappointment in the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum; and,

(2) That we urge her promotion to the position of Second Assistant, believing her faithful and efficient services to the wards of the State should be thus recognized.

## REPORTS.

### REPORT OF TREASURER OF KENTUCKY EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

1898.		1899	BY DISBURSEMENTS
To bal. Dec. 3 .....	\$ 78.56	Programs.....	\$ 1.25
Bal. Richmond dues .....	1.75	Message to Mrs. Henry.....	.30
Bowling Green (delayed) ..	3.00	Recording Secretary .....	1.00
<i>Annual dues for 1899:</i>		Corresponding Secretary .....	5.00
Arlington .....	2 45	Annual dues to N. A. Ass'n..	12.30
Bowling Green .....	3.50	Printing Minutes .....	30.00
Covington.....	2.45	Trav. Expenses Mrs. Sawyer	3.28
20th Century Club .....	2 10	Paid to Organization Com.	
Hickman .....	2 45	of N. A. Ass'n.....	15.00
Louisville .....	2.05	Corresponding Secretary .....	12.50
Lexington .....	11.55		
Richmond .....	17.50		
Mrs. Patterson .....	1.00		
<i>Donations for salary of</i>			
<i>Cor. Secretary:</i>			
Miss Bennett.....	5 00		
Mrs. Jas. Bennett.....	5.00		
Mrs Mary B Clay .....	2 50		
Mrs. Hubbard on pledge to			
N A. Ass'n for Organiza-			
tion Committee .....	15.00		
Donation of Mrs. Roark on			
salary .....	12.50	Balance .....	75.23
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>...\$155.86</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>...\$155 86</b>

We, your Auditing Committee, beg leave to report that we have examined the books and receipts of the Treasurer and find them correct.

S C BENNETT.

NELLY ARNSPIGER.

December 11.

Mrs. Sarah Bennett read the following:

*Report of the Executive Members of the Equal Rights Association of Kentucky to the Annual Convention of the N. A. W. Suffrage Association, for the year 1899:*

The annual Convention of the N. A. W. Suffrage Association, for the year 1899, met in Grand Rapids, Mich., in April. The different State societies were well represented, and all the delegates were delightfully entertained by the leading citizens of Grand Rapids. The City Council gave the delegates a drive through the city, took them to visit

its important manufactories, and gave each delegate a beautifully bound book containing engravings of its handsomest business houses and private residences. Different florists furnished flowers for the decoration of the Convention hall every evening, and numerous ladies of the highest social position furnished music for the occasion

SARAH C. BENNETT

The Committee on Resolutions made the following report which was unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, (1) That the thanks of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association be extended to the Fayette E. R. A. for their hospitality and entertainment.

(2) That the thanks of this Convention be extended to Mrs. Catt and Miss Hay for their presence and valuable suggestions toward the furtherance of suffrage work in Kentucky.

Mrs. Sarah Bennett made the following report as Superintendent of Federal Suffrage :

A petition was presented to the present Congress from the Equal Rights Association of Kentucky, asking its members to protect white and black women equally with black men against State denial of the right of citizens of the United States to vote for members of Congress and Presidential electors, by a Federal law made in pursuance of that clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Federal Constitution, which says: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." And to do this in accordance with the combined *Minor vs. Happersett* and *Yarborough* decisions of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SARAH C. BENNETT.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention opened with devotional exercises.

Minutes of the morning were read and approved.

Miss Mary Hamilton gave another artistic reading which was greatly enjoyed.

The feature of the afternoon session was a School of Methods conducted by Mrs. Catt, which was of great value to all present.

The Convention adjourned.

---

#### EXECUTIVE AND PLAN OF WORK COMMITTEES.

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 10 A. M.

The Plan of Work and Executive Committee meeting was held at the W. C. T. U. Rooms.

194839



Opened by silent prayer.

It was voted we send a messenger to carry the resolution relating to Dr. Bergman to the Governor, and an appropriation be made to meet the expense.

It was voted that the following amounts must be collected outside of the dues :

Speaker at State Convention.....	\$25
Corresponding Secretary .....	60
Press Work .....	25
Frankfort Committee .....	25

The following appropriations were voted :

Printing minutes .....	\$18 00
Legislative Work ... ..	3 00
Press Work. ....	5 00
Postage for Corresponding Secretary .....	5 00
Recording Secretary .....	1 85
Frankfort Committee (if needed).....	25 00

The Committee arose.

#### NIGHT SESSIONS.

Monday night, at 8 o'clock, in Kimball Hall, Mrs. Catt lectured upon "A Prophecy," and Tuesday night, in the Opera House, upon "A True Democracy." These lectures were pronounced the finest ever given in the city ; and not only charmed with their rhetorical excellence and artistic delivery, but won converts to our cause by their unanswerable logic.

\*  
JK 24.3  
1883  
K4 19  
11th  
1899  
copy 1

