Women’s Suffrage Centennial Celebration Toolkit

The Mission: To give Republican Women’s Clubs across the United States ideas and resources to plan an exciting and informative program which highlights the struggle of suffragists and the instrumental role Republicans played in the ratification of the 19th amendment that finally gave women the right to vote!

PLANNING GUIDELINES

1. Select a committee
   - Have the state federation select a committee to plan events and work with the clubs to do local events
   - If you have clubs that are close together they may be able to work together on one major event

2. Contact your state historical society to learn about how your state ratified the 19th Amendment
   - Find out the date your state ratified the 19th amendment
   - Was your state one of the 26 out of 36 states were led by Republicans at the time of their ratification?
   - Identify any women activists, suffragists, or leaders that took up the cause of voting rights
   - Look for old photographs and pamphlets of suffragists in your state
   - Ask your members if their relatives were involved in the movement and see if they have items to display

3. Select date and location for your event
   - You may be able to use an historic site in your state
   - Could your event date be based off of the date of ratification for the 19th amendment in your state?

4. Decide if the event could be used as a fundraiser
   - If you are planning a fundraiser, set host levels and ask your elected officials to sign up as hosts
   - Plan a live auction, silent auction, or raffle, include items such as a tea with the 1st Lady of your state or a behind the scenes tour of a historic site.

5. Select speakers to discuss the history of women's suffrage and leadership
   - Historians or authors on the suffrage movement
   - Women who were the first elected governor, attorney general, judge, etc.

6. Additional event ideas
   - Design Votes for Women pins to be sold or given as gift to the guests
   - Encourage women to wear period dresses, costumes, sashes - have a contest!
   - Incorporate yellow roses into your designs and decorations
   - Create a "Did You Know?" flyer for the tables about your state’s history
   - Do an announcement press release, invite the local media, write a post event press release

7. Look to the future
   - Have a Women for Trump table or guest speaker
   - Highlight women running for office in 2020
   - Use this event as a recruiting tool for potential members and future candidates
     i. Put membership info on tables or have a sign-up table
     ii. Encourage your elected officials to attend and bring their spouses
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Ongoing activities that can be incorporated into your state celebrations leading up to the 100th Centennial

1. Local Library
   - Ask if your local library is doing anything to celebration the ratification of the 19th Amendment
   - Create a reading list of books and articles about the Suffrage and the 19th Amendment – share with local libraries, schools, and clubs – don’t forget home school organizations and private schools
   - Partner with your local library to create a suffrage scavenger hunt for students and have local merchants donate prizes

2. Resolutions
   - Ask governor and state legislatures to issue a joint resolution making August 26, 2020, Women's Suffrage Day.
   - Resolutions and proclamations could also be issued by your local city council or county commissioners
   - The resolution could also be passed during your state's Republican Womens legislative day
   - Women could be in the gallery wearing white outfits and sashes
   - Provide all legislators with a yellow rose and note explaining its significance

3. Ideas for Social Media and Public Relations
   - Send a list of events to local clubs to be published in their newsletters and shared with members
   - Issue talking points each month that can be posted on websites or Facebook
   - Have club members write letters to the editor explaining what the history of the suffrage movement
   - Have a short list of historic events that can be sent out each month leading up to final ratification in August
   - Work with local GOP to have them include information on suffrage
   - Incorporate suffrage designs and graphics into your website and social media

4. Local Clubs
   - Encourage Republican Women clubs to work with local GOP to include the suffrage theme in parade floats and other community events
   - Create a state or local button with slogans such as “Votes for Women” or “Original Suffragists were Republicans”
   - Invite local candidates to wear your “Votes for Women” button or pins