

Tuesday Topics December 3, 2024

Summary

President Mary Lou Davis opened the meeting and introduced our presenter Jeanne Klein, who spoke about the history of women's suffrage in Kansas and the mural celebrating the lives of the women who spearheaded the efforts and persisted until their goal was accomplished.

Ms. Klein began by recognizing and thanking the women who first supported the Suffragist mural. The women she spoke about are featured in the mural and were active in the women's suffrage movement from 1859 to 1912.

Kansas had 582 suffragists. In 1867, Kansas was the first state to write an amendment to give Black men suffrage.

In 2019, a Votes for Women Trail Marker was erected along the Missouri River to commemorate the work of suffragists. Ms. Klein encouraged our local League to request a marker for local suffragists.

A project of The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, The National Votes for Women Trail is collecting sites from all over our country to allow us to tell the untold story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, that extends well past the passage of the 19th amendment. Learn more at <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>

In 1912, seeking a Constitutional amendment, a suffragist wrote the proposed amendment as: The rights of a citizen of the state of Kansas to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. These words are written at the top of the new mural.

The Kansas Suffragist Memorial Committee was founded in collaboration between [the League of Women Voters of Kansas](#), [the AAUW of KS](#), and [the Kansas Capitol Preservation Committee](#), with the goal of developing an innovative and original work of art to be displayed in the Kansas State Capitol Building.

The Kansas Capitol Preservation Committee has given final approval to artist Phyllis Pease's mural, with a planned dedication on January 29, 2025. Learn more at <https://kssuffragist.org/>

Following questions from the audience, President Davis adjourned the meeting.