

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites

2019 Annual Report

Treasurer's Report - Lucienne Beard

The NCWHS completes fiscal year 2019 meeting its budget projections for income and keeping expenses below budget. Income is derived from membership dues, donations to the general fund and to support the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) project. Our expenses include routine but crucial items such as insurance, licenses, IT support and website and database management. Special projects this fiscal year included redesigning the www.ncwhs.org website. A special crowd sourced GoFundMe campaign for NVWT garnered \$4,051 income.

Thanks to the efforts of board members Joanne Goodwin and former board Treasurer Peg Stroebel, we completed all work with the National Historic Landmark applications (managed through a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service). The board restricted funds related to that work have been released into the general operating accounts.

The business of the Collaborative was made possible with the gratis time and effort of the Frances Willard House Museum staff and NCWHS board members, with part time paid staff support. In fiscal year 2018, NCWHS created the Amy Dykeman Fellowship with donations made in memory of Amy Dykeman, a librarian at the University of North Carolina and lifetime supporter of women's history. In 2019, the Dykeman Fellowship supported National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) work by Ella Wagner in Illinois, Kate Ehle and Lindsay Hinkle in New York. Additionally, Lauren Harris contributed social media content from Washington D.C.

Thank you to those of you who joined for the first time or renewed your membership in NCWHS. A hearty thank you to those who donated to the annual appeal as well. Your support is critical to the organization's success.

The National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT): Nancy Brown, Chair. The NVWT 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. We currently have 47 State Coordinators and over 1,171 sites on our database, which continues to grow at a rapid pace.

Our partner, The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, is complementing our efforts with the donation of more than 250 historic roadside markers nationally, which will designate sites on the Trail. The dedication ceremonies of the first four markers in Kentucky have illustrated the huge impact each marker has on its surrounding community in terms of women's suffrage education, engagement, and pride, so we are deeply grateful for our Pomeroy partnership. Our Advisory Board of noteworthy scholars is meeting monthly to forward more approvals to the Foundation. Pomeroy is also planning on creating a staff position to assist with research for the marker application process. A small "Learn more at NVWT.org" sign has been designed to add to roadside markers, complete with a QR code, to take people directly to our website. (We now own both the NVWT.org and NCWHS.org domain names, and they both take visitors to our

website.) These can be ordered to match existing signs a state may have, or to add to Pomeroy markers.

Our GoFundMe campaign raised approximately \$4,000 which we have been able to leverage into a new website design and an interactive searchable map that makes the sites on our database easy to search for educators, researchers, and heritage tourists. Jo Goodwin and Sehila Mota Casper wrote a grant to the National Trust for Historic Places for the organization of and data cleaning of our NVWT database. The \$5,000 grant was successful and an offer has been made to a database consultant, along with a list of improvements for our map.

We have publicized the NVWT via FaceBook; Twitter; the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in San Francisco; the 24th American Trails International Trails Symposium and Trails Institute in Syracuse NY; Convention Days in Seneca Falls, NY; and Marsha is serving on a panel for the National Trust in October.

Online Communications: Social Media

As of this date, our Facebook page has: 78 organic page views, 16 new page likes, 950 post reaches, and 1588 post engagements. Our Twitter account has 1642 followers, 56 profile visits, 8 tweets, and 22 mentions. Our NVWT map has had 5846 views to date. We hope you have found NCWHS online if you use these social media outlets—and please share our posts with your friends and colleagues. In addition, we love posting news from members: let us know via membership@ncwhs.org if you've got brief news you'd like us to post. The committee also manages our website www.ncwhs.org.

Membership and Development: NCWHS membership stands at 93 active members. We appreciate everyone who has joined or renewed their membership. The annual appeal, which took place in December 2018, generated \$1,300 in donations. Thank you to everyone who gave and please consider making a gift this year.

National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Committee: Jo Goodwin.

The NCWHS completed the work of our NPS Task Agreement (TA P12AC12827) which includes two nominations. First, the Klagetoh Chapter House on the Navajo Reservation in Klagetoh, Arizona recognizes Annie Dodge Wauneka (1910-1997), a major leader in improving public health among the Navajo and the first woman member of the Navajo Tribal Council. Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates, Inc., submitted the final nomination before the December 31, 2018 deadline.

The second NHL nomination for the home of Mary Baker Eddy at 8 Broad Street in Lynn, Massachusetts was completed by year end. Eddy (1821-1910) was the founder of the Church of Christ, a Scientist and the founder of the Christian Science Monitor. The Longyear Museum was the sponsoring agency and the NCWHS was the fiscal agent.

Both nominations are waiting for review from the NHL committee. The National Park Service is overseeing that process.

Nominating Committee: Committee members - Lucienne Beard, Sehlia Mota Casper, Antonia Castaneda

In 2019 we welcomed two new members to the NCWHS Board: Robyn Young and Linda Heidenreich. Nancy Brown and Camesha Scruggs were re-elected for a second three-year term. Currently, the Board is comprised of fourteen members.

The following 2019-2020 State of Officers were elected:

President:	Marsha Weinstein
Vice President:	Judith Wellman
Secretary:	Robyn Young
Treasurer:	Lucienne Beard

Research and Interpretation Committee:

Nancy Hewitt, Heather Huyck, and Lynn Weiner, Co-Chairs

The Research and Interpretation Committee meets telephonically monthly and currently includes members from the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, Molly Brown House Museum, Women's Rights National Historic Park, Atlanta History Center, Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, President Lincoln's Cottage, Keweenaw (MI) Heritage Center, National Park Service and at-large public historians with extensive knowledge of historic sites, as well as university-based members from Huston-Tillotson University (retired), Roosevelt University (retired), Rutgers University (retired), UMass-Amherst and Washington State University.

RIC has once again represented NCWHS in national conferences. A RIC-proposed round table on "Inclusions and Exclusions: Race, Region and Women's Enfranchisement" was part of the 2019 Organization of American Historians in April. Moderated by Nancy Hewitt, participants included scholars of American Indian, African-American, Latina/Hispanic, and Asian American women as well as a curator of the Smithsonian exhibit on women's suffrage. We plan to incorporate ideas from this discussion into the RIC panel that has been accepted for the May 2020 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, which will be held at Johns Hopkins University. The panel on "Feminizing Spaces: Women Shaping/Shaped by Historic Places" will be chaired by Heather Huyck and includes RIC members Diana Pardue, Barbara Lau and Andrea Malcolm. In addition, a second RIC panel has been accepted by the Organization of American Historians for its April 2020 convention in Washington, D.C., entitled "Diversifying Historic Sites." The participants include Diana Pardue, Lesley Barker, Camesha Scruggs, and Jean Ellis of the RIC, and will be chaired by Eola Dance of the National Park Service.

Several RIC meetings included discussion of the challenges posed by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Committee. Nancy Hewitt was asked to be an advisor, and Heather Huyck and Lucy Beard attended meetings, and all came away with questions about the scope and finances of the Congressionally-approved group. The RIC communicated its concerns to the NCWHS Board. Nancy Hewitt wrote to the WSCC and asked to be removed as an advisor since she has never been consulted by the Committee. She is still listed on their website as a resource person for

historic sites, colleges and universities and other institutions seeking speakers or advice about the 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial.

Much of RIC's time this year has been spent developing a Toolkit to aid historic sites and landmarks, historic houses and museums in better recognizing and interpreting the role of girls, women and gender at their sites. We now have some 40 pages drafted with sections on general issues, including how to develop proposals for integrating the research, preservation and interpretation of women and girls into all historic sites, and how to present proposals for such projects to historic site boards, donors, and funding sources. Other sections focus on material/tangible resources, archival sources, quantitative sources, oral history, etc. Finally, we have case studies that highlight how individual sites—the Molly Brown House in Denver CO, the Keweenaw Heritage Center (Copper mining area of Michigan), Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty National Monument and others—have developed new programs, exhibits, and tours that engage issues of women, girls and gender. Most likely, RIC will make the Toolkit available digitally via Amazon's Kindle Direct, and also provide a link for members on the NCWHS website. We have developed a Survey Monkey questionnaire that will allow us to add short entries in the Toolkit about diverse sites that have developed new or special exhibits or interpretations related to women, girls and gender. The information we receive from this survey will also supplement our understanding of the status and needs of sites exploring the history of women. Our goal is publishing the complete Toolkit in early 2020.

Partnerships:

- The Pomeroy Foundation expanded our National Votes for Women Trail by giving the NCWHS over 250 suffrage roadside markers to document where the suffrage movement took place across the U.S.
- National Trust for Historic Preservation – Dr. Judy Wellman and Dr. Jo Goodwin served on the 2018 NTHP convention panel to make a presentation on our National Votes for Women Trail. Marsha Weinstein served on the 2019 NTHP panel to make a presentation on our National Votes for Women Trail. Jo Goodwin and Sehila Mota Casper wrote a grant to the National Trust for Historic Places for the organization of and date cleaning of our NVWT database. The \$5,000 grant was successful and Lauren Harris was selected to be our database consultant.
- American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) - NCWHS is an ongoing partner of the Women's History Affinity Group (WHAG) of AASLH.

Respectfully submitted by the NCWHS Officers and Board:

Marsha Weinstein, President; Judy Wellman, Vice President; Lucy Beard, Treasurer; Robyn Young, Secretary.

Nancy Berlage, Nancy Brown, Sehila Mota Casper, Antonia Castaneda, Joanne Goodwin, Linda Heidenreich, Barbara Lau, Lori Osborne, Camesha Scruggs, Lynn Weiner.

October 22, 2019