

In 2020 we celebrate the centennial year of the founding of the League of Women Voters and ratification of the 19th amendment, ensuring that “the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

From 1868 through 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffragist who led the National American Women’s Suffrage Association, estimated there were “56 campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to urge Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to induce State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into State constitutions; 277 campaigns to persuade State party conventions to include women’s suffrage planks in party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses.” It took a total of 909 campaigns and three generations of women to get the 19th Amendment ratified in 1920. Carrie believed that her group needed to be nonpartisan because men from both parties were needed to get the 19th amendment ratified.

In 1920, just prior to ratification of the 19th amendment, Carrie foresaw when women would get the vote, formed a group, and named it the League of Women Voters. Carrie wanted women to be prepared to vote when that opportunity became reality. The vote was won by those brave and persistent women who fought the battles to attain women’s suffrage.

Now it is our time to remember and celebrate these women at the Lewisburg Campus Theatre, 1pm March 8th. Open to the public and free, the event features refreshments, songs by Kj Reimensnyder-Wagner, presentation by Bruce Teeple of the Union County Historical Society on "Women's History in Union County," recognition of women presently serving in elected offices in Union County, proclamation presentation by Union County Commissioner Preston Boop, and a toast to the tenaciousness of women who battled to win the right to vote by Mifflinburg Mayor David Cooney.