

Suffrage Centennial Vigil by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina and the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2020

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) and the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area (LWVCA) are hosting a Silent Vigil on the north side of the South Carolina Statehouse on August 26, 2020, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The Silent Vigil is being held in honor of the Centennial of the League of Women Voters and the full adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920.

The Silent Vigil will be preceded by the celebration of “She Did Day Livestream,” a Columbia City of Women event sponsored by Historic Columbia and the South Carolina Women’s Empowerment Network (SC WREN). “She Did Day” recognizes local women whose influence has made a difference in our city and state for women’s well-being. “She Did Day Livestream” will take place across the street from the S.C. Statehouse on the corner of Main Street and Gervais Street with a press conference at 10:00 am. A special announcement will be made at this “She Did Day Livestream” event for the public, and the media are invited to attend. The event will be available by livestream on Historic Columbia’s Facebook and online sites.

After the press conference, everyone is invited across the street to participate in and observe the League of Women Voters’ Silent Vigil on the steps of the Capitol. League members, dressed if they choose in suffrage attire, will stand on the steps of the Statehouse, six to nine feet apart (socially distant and wearing masks) in silent vigil, paying homage to the 1910 suffragists who stood in silent protest in front of the White House to pressure President Woodrow Wilson to support votes for women. After the Statehouse steps tribute ends at 12:30 pm, a contingent of vigil keepers will also stand in silence in front of Woodrow Wilson’s boyhood home at 1705 Hampton Street.

Participants are asked to arrive at the Statehouse steps facing Gervais Street between 9:30 and 10:15 a.m. Please RSVP to Rita Paul (ritagpaul@hotmail.com) if you plan to participate in this centennial silent vigil. Rita will keep track of expected numbers of participants. Lady June Cole and Sharon Ayling will set up relay groups of vigil keepers so no one has to stand too long in the heat and sun on the Statehouse steps.

An official photograph time is planned for early in the vigil so that everyone (socially distanced) can be in a group picture. LWV and “Register to Vote” banners and signs will be provided. Other signs, nonpartisan, of course, and within the rules of the Statehouse rally permit, will be allowed. LWV VOTE411.org team members will attend with some signs and information as well, and there will be a scaled down (COVID again) voter registration table.

LINKS to “She Did Day,” “Silent Vigil,” and Trustus play August 26th, 2020, for Centennial of Women’s Suffrage — for streaming

The **press conference for “She Did Day** by City of Women” (Historic Columbia and WREN cosponsors) starts at 10 a.m.:

- Tune in live on Historic Columbia Facebook page; The link to the Historic Columbia Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/HistoricColumbia> or
- At columbiacityofwomen.com/live for the live stream of the Press Conference.

At 10:30 a.m. the **Silent Vigil** by the South Carolina League of Women Voters and the LWV of the Columbia Area will begin across the street on the Capital steps:

- Go to LWVCA facebook page: League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC to view photographs and updates. Link for LWVA on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVColumbiaSC>
- You can also follow the events on our Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/lwvcolasc/>
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The Silent Vigil ends at 12:30 p.m.

In the evening, please enjoy **a suffrage play staged virtually by Trustus Theatre**, “Something to Vote For,” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, begins at 7 p.m. on the Trustus website: Trustus.org

Link to play starting 7 p.m. Wed. August 26th: trustus.org/event/something-to-vote-for/