

KENTUCKY E. R. A. NEWSLETTER.

MAY, 1903.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association has made its watchword for 1903 "Double the membership." The "argument of numbers" is that which makes the strongest, most practical appeal to the general public. As chairman of the committee on Increase of Membership, Miss Clay has sent out a leaflet on increase of Membership, recommending, among other things, that "State officers shall keep in touch with local clubs by quarterly or monthly letters, constantly inculcating that increasing membership is their most indispensable service."

Every intelligent suffragist knows the force of facts. The local clubs should be regularly informed as to happenings of interest and importance to Kentucky Suffragists. With these ends in view, the State officers plan to send out from time to time The Kentucky E. R. A. Newsletter. Brief reports from the locals will aid the State officers in making the monthly Newsletter interesting and informing. The State officers hope through this little sheet to come more closely and more helpfully in touch with the local clubs.

The Kentucky E. R. A. has a paid-up membership of 300. To "double the membership" is our aim and should be easy of accomplishment. No well-informed suffragist doubts that there are in Kentucky many times more than 600 sympathizers with the views, objects and hopes of the N. A. W. S. A.

The Fayette Equal Rights Association reports 11 new members since the first of January. At its annual meeting for the election of officers, February 20th, Mrs. Ida Withers Harrison was elected President, Mrs. H. H. Gratz, Treasurer, Miss Laura S. Bruce, Vice-President, and Miss Laura Clay, Secretary. It has now a paid up membership of ninety.

The Madison E. R. A. reports a paid-up membership of 71.

The Covington Twentieth Century

Club has a paid-up membership of fifty.

The Lancaster E. R. A. has 6 members. The Hickman E. R. A. has 6. The Kenton County Association has 7, and Campbell County 30. Ashland has 12.

Ten members are reported by the Frankfort Association.

Louisville has 18 members to its credit.

At a regular meeting of the stockholders of Hamilton College at Lexington, Mrs. Luella St. Clair was elected President of the College for the year 1903-'04.

The Lexington Chautauqua Association has engaged Rev. Annah Shaw, Vice-President of the N. A. W. S. A. for a platform lecture to be given on July 6th. This is the first time the Lexington Chautauqua has had a distinctively Woman's Suffrage lecturer on its platform.

The State has arranged a Woman's Council for the Chautauqua. It will consist of a series of addresses on subjects interesting to public spirited women. The Committee has already secured the promise of an address from Mrs. Nellie Kelsey Jones, one from Miss Eleanor Tarrant on Child Labor, and one on Women in the Professions by Dr. Sophonisba Breckinridge of Chicago University. Mrs. Sinclair of Hamilton College will also make an address. Other features of the programme will be announced later. This Chautauqua will be a delightful occasion for Suffragists. The State and Fayette E. R. A. combined will have a tent on the grounds as a resting place for members and also for extending hospitality to visitors. It is hoped that members of the local associations will attend the Chautauqua in goodly numbers and it is not doubted that they will be inspired by the Council and also will thoroughly enjoy the summer outing.

In April, Mrs. S. M. Hubbard put into the hands of the President \$25.00 for state expenses to be used as she thinks best. Mrs. Hubbard is President of the Hickman E. R. A. and Superintendent of Enrollment of the Kentucky E. R. A. One dollar of Mrs. Hubbard's gift will be used to pay for this first Newsletter.

KENTUCKY E. R. A. NEWSLETTER.

OCTOBER, 1903.

The fourteenth annual Convention of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association is to be held in Covington on November 11th and 12th. It goes to that city on the invitation of the 20th Century Club of Covington. This club will hospitably entertain all officers and delegates.

Mrs. A. C. Ellis, 21 Martin Street, Covington, is Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and delegates should write to her or to Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin, 1011 Scott Street, on what day and train they expect to arrive so that they may be met at the station and conducted to homes. It is hoped that as many delegates as possible will arrive on the afternoon of the 10th. Railroad rates have not been obtained; but delegates who intend to remain to the National W. C. T. U. Convention at Cincinnati, beginning November 13th, can get reduced rates by buying tickets to Cincinnati and getting certificates issued to visitors to the W. C. T. U., Cincinnati.

The Rev. Anna H. Shaw, Vice-President of the N. A. W. S. A., and perhaps the most distinguished woman lecturer on the American platform will be the principal evening speaker. It is earnestly hoped that every auxiliary will send its full quota of delegates. The basis of representation is one delegate for the first ten members or fraction of ten—and one for each additional ten paid up members.

In 1902, we reached our greatest membership.

In 1903 we ought to show a large increase and can easily do so if each local will make a careful collection of dues and canvass for new members. Let there be a generous rivalry among the Clubs to see which shall show the largest percentage of increase.

The Woman's Council (mentioned in the May Newsletter) arranged by the State and the Fayette E. R. A. for the Lexington Chautauqua was a brilliant success.

The Equal Rights Association Tent was a pleasant resort to all the members and their friends—who not only enjoyed the hospitality—but were also recipients of Suffrage Literature which was distributed freely. Receptions were given to Rev. Anna H. Shaw, who spoke on the Chautauqua platform, and to the ladies who came from a distance and kindly contributed addresses to the Woman's Council.

The program for the Woman's Coun-

cil was successfully carried out as follows:

- JULY 1.—Miss Eleanor Tarrant of Louisville, "Child Labor"
JULY 2.—Miss Sophronisba Breckinridge of Chicago University, "The Old and the New in Woman's Education."
JULY 3.—Miss Mary C. Brehm of Illinois, "A Perilous Limitation."
JULY 4.—Miss Laura Clay, Lexington, "A Better Citizenship."
JULY 5.—Mrs. L. W. St. Claire, Principal of Hamilton College, "The Trend in Education." Reception to Rev. Anna H. Shaw.
JULY 7.—Mrs. Nellie Kedsie Jones, formerly Dean of the Department of Domestic Science at the State Agricultural College of Kansas, "Domestic Science."
JULY 8.—Mrs. J. M. Chatterton of Louisville, "Woman's Clubs as Educational Centers."
JULY 9.—General Discussion—Legislative Work of the Kentucky E. R. A.
JULY 10.—Mrs. Ida W. Harrison and Mrs. M. Breckinridge, "The Woman Who Toils."

The Woman's Council was generally pronounced as one of the most attractive features of the Chautauqua and was appreciated and complimented by the managers.

The Fayette E. R. A. has just held a meeting for the election of delegates to the Convention. It has instructed them to present two resolutions to the State Association, viz. "Recognizing the menace to good government of our present illiterate vote, we recommend to the State Equal Rights Association that it hereafter asks for the suffrage for women with an educational qualification"—and also—"That we recommend to our officers to consider the feasibility of offering prizes in oratorical contests on Woman Suffrage to students in High Schools and Colleges"

Have other Clubs some suggestions to bring before the State Convention?

The State officers are making an effort to get up a club of 25 new subscribers to the Woman's Journal—in order to secure the liberal premium of \$20.

In order to give time for all clubs to send in names, the term of subscription will begin January 1st, 1904. Each Club should make an effort to secure, at least, six subscribers, so as to retain permanently the reduced rates; but if they can not do this, one or more subscriptions sent in to the State President will assist the State in getting up its club.

KENTUCKY E. R. A. NEWSLETTER.

APRIL, 1904.

The Kentucky Equal Right's Association did not succeed in getting any bill passed by the General Assembly. Officers of the Kentucky E. R. A., are its Legislative Committee, and Mrs. Mary C. Cramer and Miss Clay visited Frankfort four times during the session.

Hon. J. A. Averdick, of Covington, introduced the bill for co-guardianship of minor children; and Hon. J. W. Newman, of Woodford, that for School Suffrage for Women who can read and write the English language.

We are also indebted to Hon. R. W. Miller, of Madison county, for his efforts for the Co-guardianship Bill in the Committee on Kentucky Statutes of which he was a member. The School Suffrage Bill was never reported from the Committee. The Co-guardianship Bill was favorably reported, but too late in the session to be put upon its passage. Mrs. Cramer and Miss Clay deemed it best not to introduce bills for women on the Board of Trustees for the State College, and Presidential Suffrage, as they believed that the two bills which had been introduced would have a better chance of passing, if too much was not asked. The final result is only another illustration of how little consideration is given by Legislatures to the wishes and interests of non-voting citizens.

The local Associations in Covington, Newport, Nicholasville, Richmond, Bowling Green, Lexington, and perhaps others, did good work in recommending to their Legislators favorable consideration of the Equal Rights Bills; and thanks are due to them for much of the good educative work which it is hoped was done during the session. An able article on the bills from our accomplished Press Superintendent, Mrs. Oberchain, was published in the Lexington Morning Herald, and the State Association had a copy of it laid on the desk of each member of the Legislature.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association was held in Washington, February 11-17. The National Association greatly regretted that Mrs. C. C. Catt declined a re-election to the Presidency, as the last eight years of severe application to the interests of the Association, first as Chairman of its organization Committee and for

four years as its President, made her feel it a necessity to take some rest. Rev. Anna H. Shaw, the former Vice-President, was elected President, and Mrs. Catt's valuable counsels in the Board were retained by electing her as Vice-President.

A very complimentary invitation to hold the convention of 1905 in Portland, Oregon was received from the Board of Managers of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition. The invitation was unanimously accepted and June 22 to 29 inclusive, are the dates that have been agreed upon. Exceptionally low railroad rates have already been promised. The tickets will extend over three or four months and this will be a remarkably favorable occasion to visit the West. We hope that many members of the Equal Right's Association will plan to take a trip to the Pacific Coast at a time to benefit by the exceptional advantages offered by the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition Managers.

The interesting points of the Convention are too many to be touched upon in this letter, so it is hoped many branches will send fifteen cents in stamps to Mrs. Harriet T. Upton, Warren, Ohio, for a copy of the National minutes. One of the important acts of the Convention was reducing the price of its quarterly publication, "Progress" from twenty-five cents to ten cents, in the hopes of giving this invaluable sheet a wide circulation. Unless a large subscription list is rolled up, the National must lose heavily by this reduction of price. Let every Club make an effort to secure a goodly number of subscribers, remembering with every paid subscription a free copy will be sent to one of the State papers. Subscriptions should be sent to Mrs. Harriet T. Upton, Warren, Ohio.

We wish to remind the local branches again of the State Club for the Woman's Journal. We have been informed by its editor that the Club may be completed any time during the year. We have already secured a number of subscriptions, but not sufficient to get the \$20,00 premium to the State. Can you send a few subscriptions at \$1.50 each? If so, send the names and money to Miss Laura Clay, 191 North Mill St., Lexington, Ky., so that the subscriptions can be credited to the State Club.

The National Convention again calls upon Suffragists everywhere to increase the membership!

hold another Woman's Council under our auspices. The invitation was accepted, and again the Fayette E. R. A. assisted the State Association, and took under its charge the local arrangements and hospitalities. By the able management of Mrs. Roark, speakers were secured to carry out an interesting and instructive program for each day, embracing a wide view of the public interests in which women are now engaged. The subjects and speakers were as follows:

"The Benefits of Domestic Science," Address by Mrs. Katherine Christian, a graduate of Pratt Institute and a practical teacher of the science.

"Is the Child at School? or Compulsory School Attendance," Address by Miss Eleanor Tarrant, of Louisville, who is at the head of the social settlement work of that city.

"Woman's Work in Missions," Address by Miss Sue B. Scott, "Who Owns the Child? A Plea for the Guardianship of Father and Mother of Minor Children," address by Miss Laura Clay.

The Fourth of July meeting was of a patriotic nature, conducted by the Daughters of the American Revolution; addresses by Miss Lucretia Hart Clay, vice-president general of the National D. A. R., and Mrs. William Maxfield, regent of the Lexington Chapter.

"A Better Citizenship," Address by Mrs. A. M. Harrison.

"The Trend of Woman's Clubs," Address by Mrs. J. R. Morton, Mrs. Wilbur R. Smith and Miss Wilhelmine Loos.

"A Plea for the Bible in our Schools," Address by Mrs. Luella W. St. Clair, president of Hamilton College.

"Educational Work in the Mountains of Kentucky," Address by Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp, president of Ky. W. C. T. U.

An afternoon reception was one of the social features of Chautauqua. A number of new members was a pleasant result of our second Woman's Council, which was conceded on all sides to have been again one of the most interesting features of the Chautauqua

At the last state convention it was voted to employ Dr. Frances Woods, National Organizer, for one month in the spring. The unfortunate illness of Dr. Woods prevented her coming in the spring. Her health is now restored, and those who had the pleasure of hearing her a few years ago will be delighted to learn that she is coming to work in the state, the latter part of October and the early part of November. Her services can be secured on the uniform terms of local expenses and entertainment, and her travelling expenses from her last appointment. All clubs desiring to make an appointment are requested to write immediately to Mrs. Roark, so that her route may be laid out to the best advantage.

Several copies of this News letter will be sent to the presidents of the local clubs. Please distribute them promptly around the members.

Remember that our watchword is Increase the Membership!

Kentucky E. R. A. Newsletter

O C T O B E R, 1 9 0 4

The Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association is to be held in Lexington, November 17th. and 18th., 1904.

All its friends are hoping that it will be representative of the growing sentiment for equal rights for women which is observable on every side. It can be made so, by a united effort of all the local clubs. For some years our National officers have expressed the opinion that a larger membership is essential to the speedy success of our cause. Therefore, the officers of each local club should see first that the dues of all members are collected, and the state and national dues (35 cents per capita) sent to the state treasurer, Mrs. Isabella H. Shephard, 31 East 12th street, Covington. A grand educational work has been done through the newspapers, by our able Press Superintendent, Mrs. L. C. Obenchain. Since the last convention, she has increased her list of newspapers to which she sends suffrage articles from 60 to 74, which is about one-fourth of all published in the state. There is a much greater sentiment in favor of women suffrage than there was even a few years ago, and as a consequence many more men and women are willing to unite with our Association than formerly. It is not too late for every member to ask friends to do so now, and so to report to the convention an increased membership over last year. Let us all heartily do our part in this, the most important work of the local clubs.

Next, a written report of the year's work should be prepared to be read at the convention, and afterwards

printed in the minutes. It may be short, simply a statement of the officers last elected, meetings, number of paid up members, literature distributed, etc., and any other items of general interest. Such a report from every club is very necessary to the business-like conduct of the convention. A copy of it should now be sent as soon as possible to the state corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary C. Roark, South Limestone, Lexington.

It is earnestly hoped that every club will be represented by its full number of delegates. Each club is entitled to one delegate-at-large, and one for each ten paid-up members. The Fayette E. R. A., which has invited the convention, will entertain all delegates, and these are requested to send their names, mentioning the day and train on which they will arrive, to Mrs. Roark, or to Mrs. Laura Clay, 191 N. Mill street, Lexington. The delegates are expected to come on the 16th. so as to be ready for the convention early next morning. The day sessions are to be held in the rooms of the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky.

Our National president, Rev. Anna H. Shaw, is to be present both days and to make the evening address. To hear these alone, from the most distinguished woman on the American platform, is worth the trip to Lexington.

Though the National Suffrage Convention is not to be held until June, 1905, in Portland, Oregon, the state delegates are elected at this convention. Clubs are requested to ascertain if any of their members are willing to

go, so that those may be chosen who can attend. As none of the expenses of the National Delegates are paid, no member need feel any delicacy in expressing her willingness to accept the position.

The clubs are reminded again that the State Club for the Woman's Journal may yet be and should be completed at the convention. A little effort from each to obtain one or more subscribers at \$1.50, will entitle the state to a premium of \$20.00. Try to bring some subscriptions to the convention.

Finally, let us all unite in an earnest endeavor to make this the most successful convention we have ever held.

In the death of Miss Laura S. Bruce, of Lexington, on June 22nd, the suffrage cause has lost a devoted and useful friend. For years she had been the vice-president of the Fayette E. R. A. and several times she had been elected as delegate from the state to the N. A. W. S. A. conventions, and in these positions she was always faithful and efficient. She was particularly successful in inducing her friends to join the association; and the increased membership of the Fayette E. R. A. is largely due to her. She was always helpful in whatever the E. R. A. undertook to do, and she will be remembered by many as one of the graceful hostesses at the Woman's Convention of 1903 at the Lexington Chautauqua Assembly, an effort of the E. R. A. in which she took a warm interest. She was liberal in her gifts to the National State and Local Associations, while she lived; and in her will she remembered the cause she

had so loved by a legacy of five thousand dollars to the National Suffrage Association, to be used according to the judgment of Miss Laura Clay, whom she designated as the trustee for the fund.

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees of the State A. and M. College a petition was presented from the Equal Rights Association, the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky, the Bryan Station Chapter and the Lexington Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Chautauqua Circle and the Woman's Christian Tem-

perence Union requesting that a Dean of Women be appointed and a Department of Domestic Science established in the college. The petition had

been previously mailed to each trustee and at the Board meeting was presented personally by a large committee from the organizations which had signed it. Each organization had appointed a spokesman, and an hour was occupied by short addresses from Miss Laura Clay, Mrs. Minor Simpson, Mrs. Shelby Harbison, Mrs. Margaret L. Durham, Miss Nancy Lewis Greene, Mrs. M. W. Moore, and Mrs. Frances E. Beachamp; the speaker from each organization being heard in the same order as the organization she represented has been enumerated above. The city newspapers pronounced the hearing "immensely interesting," and said "it is believed their plea will finally bear good fruit."

Our Association received a very complimentary invitation from the superintendent of the Lexington Chautauqua Assembly, Dr. W. C. Davidson, to

Kentucky Equal Rights Association

*"If Ye Abide in My Word *** Ye Shall Know the Truth,
and the Truth Shall Make You Free."*

President, Miss Laura Clay,
189 N. Mill St., Lexington
First Vice-President, Mrs. Mary B. Clay, Richmond
Second Vice-President, Mrs. Mary C. Cramer, Lexington
Third Vice-President, Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin, Covington



Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary C. Roark, Richmond
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma M. Roebuck,
112 W. Front St., Newport
Treasurer, Mrs. Isabella H. Shepard,
31 E. Twelfth St., Covington

Report of Kentucky Equal Rights Association for year 1911-1912.

The greatest event of our year's history is the success of the bill in the General Assembly of 1912 granting School Suffrage to all women who can read and write. The bill was presented by the Federation of Woman's Clubs, under the leadership of its Chairman of Legislative Committee, Mrs. Desha Breckinridge, who was also the Chairman of the Educational Committee of the Ky. E. R. A. The clause in the Kentucky constitution which made it possible for the General Assembly to extend school suffrage to women was secured from the Constitutional Convention of 1890 by the efforts of the Ky. E. R. A. The first vote of the women under the new law was very satisfactory to its friends, both in the August election, when the women in the rural districts voted, and in the fall elections, when they voted in the cities. Generally throughout the state women took an encouraging interest in the school elections; and in Louisville, Covington, and Lexington the tickets favored by the women were successful!

The membership of the Association has increased from 1160 members last year to While our system of membership is non-dues paying our treasury shows a constant gain by voluntary contributions, the largest single donation ever received by the state having been recently made by Mrs. S. M. Hubbard, who gave one thousand dollars to be used when the suffrage constitutional amendment is submitted to the voters.

The State convention unanimously agreed that the time is now ripe for endeavor to secure the submission of a suffrage Constitutional Amendment; and voted that our efforts should be directed towards asking it from the General Assembly of 1914. Such a step will receive the support

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of many influential associations in the state; among others, we hope, the Federation of Woman's Clubs, as its Board of Directors recently passed a vote recommending that the Federation endorse suffrage for women.

The officers elected by the convention of 1912 for two years' term were: President, Mrs. Desha Breckinridge, Lexington; First Vice-president, Mrs. Mason Maury, Louisville; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Laura Clay, Lexington; Treasurer, Mrs. Warfield C. Bennett, Richmond; State Member of N.W.A.S.A. Executive Committee, Mrs. John Little, Louisville. Those holding over for one year are: Second Vice-president, Mrs. Mary C. Cramer, Lexington; Third Vice-president, Mrs. N. S. McLaughlin, Covington; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma M. Roebuck, Newport; Auditor, Mrs. Lucy A. Nield, Louisville.

----- President Ky.E.R.A.

----- Cor.Sec. Ky.E.R.A.