

National 19th Amendment Society

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A non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of a historical landmark...the girlhood home, circa 1865, of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, located three miles south of Charles City at 2379 Timber Avenue.

Honoring the Dream



President's Message

Greetings from Carrie's Girlhood Home and Interpretive Center! Here in Floyd County we are anxiously awaiting the blooming of flowers, warming temperatures, and friends returning to visit Carrie's home and joining our celebrations being planned for the 2017 season.

Members of the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee have been engaged with details for two main events in April. The first event will be on April 19 when a commemorative collage honoring Carrie will be installed in the Floyd County Courthouse. Susan Jacob and Marilu Wohlers have been collaborating with Gloria Carr, Floyd County Auditor, on this project. The second event April 30 will be the Woman of Influence recognition where elected women to the Charles City School board, Floyd County Courthouse officials, and the Charles City City Council will be honored for their public service. We hope you can join us for these two events!

Inside this issue you will also find information about our new website, upcoming Season Opening date with an invitation to join us for the release of our book telling the story of the National Nineteenth Amendment Society, and updates from your board members.

On July 26 Charles City will serve as an overnight town during RAGB-RAI, the Des Moines Register Annual Great Bike Across Iowa, when our city will host 15,000 bicyclists and their support crew. What an opportunity for us to share our story with guests from around the U.S. and world! Our board will be fine-tuning plans for this visit and we would welcome your assistance if you are able to help!

We invite you to stop and visit Carrie's Girlhood Home and Interpretive Center this summer. Group tours are always welcome – give us a call and we'll work with you to make your visit fit your needs.

Cheryl Erb, president
National 19th Amendment Society



Join us May 27 for Band Festival 2017

Suffrage marchers will return as a participant in North Iowa Band Festival 2017, Mason City on May 27 to promote the 100th anniversary ratification of the 19th Amendment. They will be escorted by the yellow antique automobile, driven by Denny Tynan along with help from students who will distribute fans to parade guests along the route.

We invite anyone and everyone, all ages, who would like to join us on this festive day! If you are interested, please give Joy Frank, coordinator for this parade, a call at 641-330-6472.

This is a re-creation – complete with yellow banners, wide hats, and white skirts – of the marches that were used in the suffrage campaign for woman's right to vote. If you are in need of a white skirt, we do have a limited number of skirts available to borrow for the day; just let Joy know when you call her about marching with the group.

Hope to see you there!



Summer Intern 2017

Caraline Eggena of Rockford has been hired as a summer intern at Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum. She worked with us last year as part of her UNI Public History class. Her project researched the property transfers at the Floyd County courthouse from the time Carrie's father Lucius Lane purchased the original land in December of 1885 until the National 19th Amendment Society bought the property in December of 1991.

Three projects will be the focus of Caraline's internship this summer: 1) research Carrie's career as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in Mason City; 2) update the

educational materials for our teacher packets and prairie day camp; and 3) use social media to encourage visitors during RAGBRAI. Education committee chair Susan Jacob will be her supervisor.

Caraline is a junior at UNI scheduled to graduate in May of 2018. Her majors are history and public administration. Her ultimate goal is to work for the National Park Service.

Celebrating 19th Amendment

The 2nd annual Women of Influence Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 30, at the Youth Enrichment Center on the Floyd County Fairgrounds. We will honor 40 women who have been elected to Floyd County offices, Charles City school board, and the Charles City City Council. Please RSVP to Rosie Pieper at 641-228-4415 or grpiep@gmail.com. Tickets are \$10 and will be held at the door.

This event is part of our 5-year schedule of events leading up to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in the year 2020. Carrie Lane Chapman Catt devoted her life to women's rights and world peace and led the movement for passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, which gave women the vote in 1920.

The women being honored on April 30 date back to public service beginning in 1912 through the present. If they are deceased, a member of the woman's family has been invited to represent her for the honor. The speaker at the luncheon will be Iowa Senator Amanda Ragan.

Season begins May 28

By Rosie Pieper, NNAS Secretary/Docent Helper

The Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Museum will be opening for the 2017 Season on May 28 with Sunday hours from noon until 4:00 pm. We are open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Other tours by appointment.

There are approximately twenty active volunteers every season. We are hoping more guys and gals will join our group for this season. If interested, phone 641-228-3336. Volunteers work three hours at a time. There are many things that can always be done to fill your time while at the museum if no visitors stop by.

Docents will be meeting in mid-May for a review of policies and to hear what's new this year at the Museum.

The Carrie Lane school students will be helping us prepare the museum again this spring for the opening. We are thankful to have these young students move heavy items around, climb ladders to clean ceiling lights, trim shrubs, clean flower beds, and clean the inside of both the House and Interpretive Center.

We look forward to seeing everyone during the summer. It's always a pleasure to meet visitors.

Please look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Above your name is the year through which your dues are paid. Use the enclosed envelope to renew as a Friend of Carrie for \$25. (After the backslash symbol / is your membership number.)

Courthouse recognition for Carrie

Carrie Lane Chapman Catt was honored with recognition at the Floyd County Courthouse on April 19. The idea was proposed by Floyd County Supervisor Mark Kuhn and Floyd County Auditor Gloria Carr after the events a couple of years ago that honored Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln. Plaques honoring King and Lincoln are outside the Floyd County Treasurer's office. Carrie's recognition is across the hall on the second floor of the courthouse outside the Floyd County Auditor's office. It is beside a framed copy of the U.S. Constitution.

Students in school districts within Floyd County were invited to submit essays and artwork based on quotes from Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. On April 19 three of those students read their essays in the third floor courtroom. Linda Hughes portrayed Carrie in a short presentation, and Rude-Rockford-Marble Rock students showed a suffrage video they created.

Then the assembled audience went to the second floor where a collage by Rick McDonald of Jackson Street Press and colorized by Janiece Bergland was hung. In addition, artwork by Charles City High School student Sara Martin honoring Carrie was placed beside the framed copy of the Constitution. Sara also did the artwork depicting Martin Luther King across the hall.

All student essays will be displayed at the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum this summer. A duplicate of the collage colorized by Janiece Bergland will be on display at Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum when it opens for the season on May 28.

Endowment Fund – Help Sustain our Future

Looking for a unique gift? Consider a gift to the National 19th Amendment Endowment Fund to honor or remember a friend or family member on their birthday or holiday. Your gift in their name will help us to keep on sharing Carrie's story and the gift that she gave to all of us.

The interest generated from this fund is used to maintain our museum, Interpretive Center, and grounds, and could also be used as matching funds for grants received, and to help in the purchase of additional exhibits and items to enhance the Museum experience. Your gift is tax-deductible. Gifts may be sent to the National 19th Amendment Society, P.O. Box 33, Charles City, IA 50616.

For more information email us at info@catt.org, call the museum at 641-228-3336, or contact a member of the committee. Endowment Committee members are Marilu Wohlers, Chair (641-228-4217), Jo Herbrechtsmeyer, Phyllis Meyer, and Diane Brandt.



Membership update

At present, fifty-five members have paid their 2017 dues of \$25.00. Please check your address sticker to see if you are one that has paid. We would appreciate if you would forward your dues soon if you have not paid. These dues help to meet our everyday expenses such as electricity, heat, etc.

Telling our Story

The 100th Anniversary Committee is a group of NNAS board members who are planning events leading up to 2020 when we will celebrate 100 years of woman's right to vote. We have commissioned Wendy Johnson to write the story of our first 25 years as the National 19th Amendment Society. It will be a self-published soft cover book available for purchase, hopefully at an event on May 25.

Bricks for Carrie's Lane

By Ivadelle Stevenson

The 13 bricks are on hand that were ordered last fall. These will be placed in Carrie's Lane when the weather gets decent. These bricks are for Marilyn DeBolt Wilcke; Marjorie DeBolt; Karen DeBolt Moutenot; Sue Nartvig Waite; Gloria & Dennis Carr; Patricia Thompson, ADK; Beverly Moss, ADK; Charles City High School, Class of 1949; Susan Jacob, Pres. 2012-13; Matt-Britt Katcher Family; Jim & Betty Rex; Virginia Lane Kneisel; and Linda Lane Steffler.

With these bricks we now have 700 bricks with two new orders to be sent in shortly. If anyone is interested in ordering a brick, please let me know. It would be great to have many more bricks added to Carrie's Lane.

Upcoming Events

Our board and volunteers have been working to bring an exciting variety of events that you are invited to join. Here are upcoming events at a Glance:

April 19 Dedication of collage honoring

Carrie at the Floyd County Courthouse. Program begins with a presentation in the Courtroom followed by placement of collage.

April 30 2nd Annual Woman of Influence

Recognition where women who have served on the Charles City Community School Board, Charles City City Council, and in Floyd County Courthouse elected offices. Reservations can be made by calling Rosie Pieper at 641-330-9453 or e-mailing grpiep@gmail.com.

May 25 Book Release – stop out and meet the author Wendy Johnson and editor Susan Jacob. Time to be determined; date subject to change.

May 27 North Iowa Band Festival parade in Mason City with NNAS suffrage entry – to join, call Joy Frank at 641-330-6472.

May 28 Opening Day for Summer 2017 of Carrie's Girlhood Home and Interpretive Center.

July 4 4th of July Parade at Charles City NNAS suffrage entry – to join, call the Interpretive Center at 641-228-3336.

July 26 RAGBRAI visits Charles City, Support Crew for riders are being invited to stop out that morning for refreshments.

Building & Grounds Report

By Holly Connor

Springtime at Carrie's is a beautiful time of the year. It brings apple blossoms to the Heritage Apple trees and apple orchard; it brings new shoots of grasses and flowers (forbs) to the prairie and the grasses of the grounds turn green and remind us that the long winter is behind and all the activities will be starting. If you like you can visit the site and see and smell spring in the country. Think how happy Carrie and her family were to see spring come. Their winters were hard and long and spring had to bring smiles and relief that chores and travel would soon be much easier.

While fall and winter were passing, the house and center still had visitors.

To get ready for the new season the Carrie Lane school students always come to help with grounds cleaning outside and dusting and mopping and window washing on the inside. We have had this relationship with them for many years and appreciate it every spring. It is a good partnership started long ago by a good friend of the National 19th Amendment Society, Margie Carroll. Even though our regular hours don't start until Memorial Day weekend we welcome you to visit our beautiful grounds for a spring picnic or just a quiet walk in the country.

Website Updated

Working with a local website professional, National 19th Amendment Society (NNAS) board members have been working on updates to the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Museum website. The site has a new look that we hope you will explore. Links that contain a wealth of information about the history of woman suffrage and Carrie's role that resulted in a "Winning Plan" and ratification of the 19th Amendment have been retained from our previous site.

New to the site – and still under development – will be a section where visitors can find information about events sponsored by NNAS.

To visit the site, log onto www.catt.org. Let us know what you think about the site.