



Greater Grand Rapids
Women's History Council

GRAND RAPIDS SUFFRAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Grand Rapids Woman Suffrage Association, founded April 27, 1874

- **1874:** President, Judge Solomon L. Withey; recording secretary, Reverend Richmond Fisk Jr.; corresponding secretary, Arthuretta Fuller; treasurer, Harvey J. Hollister.
 - Source: Albert Baxter, *History of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan*, 197.

Grand Rapids Woman Suffrage Association (GRWSA)

- **1883:** President, Loraine Pratt Immen; first vice president, Mrs. E. L. Briggs (Cordelia); second vice president, Mrs. C. Wheeler; treasurer, Mrs. Lowing; secretary, Mrs. N. Adams.
 - Source: January 27, 1883, *Woman's Journal*.
- **1885:** President, Loraine Pratt Immen; first vice president, Phoebe Whitfield; second vice president, Mrs. Henry Spring; corresponding secretary, Harriet Udell; recording secretary, Emily Burton Ketcham; trustee, Lidia Hodges; first director, Cordelia Briggs; second director, Mrs. Sarah Hayne.
 - Source: December 19, 1885, *Woman's Journal*, 4.
- **By 1887, the Grand Rapids Woman Suffrage Association is referred to as the Equal Suffrage Association of Grand Rapids**

Equal Suffrage Association of Grand Rapids (previously GRWSA)

- **1888:** President, Emily Burton Ketcham; first vice president, Mrs. J.W. Adams; second vice president, Mrs. McNaughton; secretary, Mrs. M. E. Bedell; treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Park; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C.D. Hodges.
 - Source: February 4, 1888, *Woman's Journal*, 1.
- **1892:** President, Mrs. M. E. Bedell; vice president, Harriet Palmer Bush; secretary, Margaret Merrill; treasurer, Mrs. Christopher.
 - Source: January 21, 1892, *Woman's Journal*, 5.
- **1893:** President, Mrs. M. E. Bedell.
 - Source: *Congressional Record: Containing the Proceedings and Debate of the Fifty-Second Congress, Second Session*, 1893, 658.

Equal Suffrage Club

Referred to at founding as the Political Equality Club but soon referred to as Equal Suffrage Club. Not to be confused with Political Equality Club founded in 1892.

- **1891:** President, Elizabeth Eaglesfield; vice president, Mrs. J.W. Adams; recording secretary, Bert Hall; corresponding secretary, Emily Burton Ketcham; treasurer, Miss Lita Davendorf.

- Sources: February 10, 1891, *Grand Rapids Telegram-Herald*, 1; March 5, 1891, *Grand Rapids Democrat*. - references the Equal Suffrage Club headed by Elizabeth Eaglesfield.

Political Equality Club, founded 1892

- **1892:** President, Mary G. Pearsall; secretary, Alice Graham.
 - Source: March 24, 1892, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 7.
- **1893:** President, Mary G. Pearsall; vice president, H. Margaret Downs; treasurer, Helen M. Lobdell.
 - Source: March 23, 1893, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 5.
- **1894:** President, H. Margaret Downs; vice president, Dr. N. Louise Andrus; recording secretary, Jennie F. Patton; treasurer, Mrs. Clara J. Denton; Auditors: Mary G. Pearsall, Emily Burton Ketcham.
 - Source: March 22, 1894, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 1.
- **November 21, 1895:** The Political Equality Club disbands.
 - Mention of new organization to be formed under the auspices of Hannah Wallin, Matilda Hine, EBK, and H. Margaret Downs.
 - Source: November 21, 1895, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 1.

Susan B. Anthony Club, exists as early as 1896

(possible successor to Political Equality Club mentioned in November 1895 article on disbandment).

- **1898:** President, Emily Burton Ketcham; vice president, Dr. Lois Burton Jacques; recording secretary, Genevieve Withey Hain; corresponding secretary, Frances W. Spearman; treasurer, Lucile V. Jacob; auditors: Ella DeKubber, Florence Hampe.
 - Source: January 9, 1898, *Grand Rapids Herald*.
- **1899:** Emily Burton Ketcham likely still president. She had invited NAWSA to Grand Rapids on behalf of the Susan B. Anthony Club for the 1899 convention.

Grand Rapids Woman's Civic League, founded 1901

Not dedicated solely to women's suffrage but the League continually sends delegates to Michigan Equal Suffrage Association conventions.

- **1901:** President, Rachel Aldrich Bailey; vice president, Emily Burton Ketcham; recording secretary, Miss Mabel Brady; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Crayton J. Post; treasurer, H. Margaret Downs; auditors: Mrs. M. Henderson, Mrs. M.J. Clark.
 - Source: November 24, 1901, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 14.
- **1903:** President, Emily Burton Ketcham.
 - Source: December 1, 1903, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 8.
- **1904:** President, Emily Burton Ketcham.
 - Source: October 23, 1904, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 10.
- **1906:** President, H. Margaret Downs.
 - Source: November 11, 1906, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 11.

- **1909:** delegates to MESA, Caroline Wright, H Margaret Downs (alternates: Mrs. L.W. Richardson, Fern Rowe, Bessie Cheney).
 - November 28, 1909, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 5.
- **1910:** President, Bessie Cheney; vice presidents: Fern Richardson Rowe, Caroline Wright; recording and corresponding Secretary, H. Margaret Downs; treasurer, Nellie Post Judd; director, Mrs. Elizabeth Coe; director to City Federation, Mrs. L. W. Richardson, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Judd, Mrs. Coe; delegate to State Federation, Bessie Cheney.
 - May 8, 1910, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 26.

Equal Franchise Club, founded 1910

- **1910:** President, Clara Comstock Russell; first vice president, William H. Eastman; second vice president, Mrs. Robert Shanahan; third vice president, Rev. A. W. Wishart; secretary, Fern Richardson Rowe; treasurer, Mrs. Frank M. Byam.
 - Directors: Mrs. Roy K. Moulton, Rev. Edwin W. Bishop, Mrs. Reuben Maurits, Dr. Collins H. Johnston, Rev. H. B. Bard, Mrs. Alvah W. Brown, Myron H. Walker, Eva McCall Hamilton, Mrs. William F. McKnight, H. Margaret Downs, Etta Comstock Boltwood, Alde Blake, Rachel A. Bailey, Mrs. E. E. Lamoreaux.
 - Source: April 15, 1910, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*.
- **1911:** President, Clara Comstock Russell; first vice president, William H. Eastman; second vice president, Mrs. Robert Shanahan; third vice president, Rev. A. W. Wishart; secretary, Fern Richardson Rowe; treasurer, Katharine Prager.
 - Directors: Rachel Bailey, Rev. H. B. Bard, Rev. E. W. Bishop. Alde Blake, Etta Comstock Boltwood, H. Margaret Downes, Josephine Goss, Eva McCall Hamilton, Mrs. E. E. Lamoreaux, Dr. Collins H. Johnston, Mrs. Roy K. Moulton, Mrs. Reuben Maurits, Mrs. William F. McKnight, and Myron H. Walker.
 - Source: April 7, 1911, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 2.
- **1912:** President, Clara Comstock Russell; first vice president, William H. Eastman; second vice president, Mrs. Robert Shanahan; third vice president, Rev. A. W. Wishart; secretary, Fern Richardson Rowe; treasurer, Katharine Prager.
 - Directors: Rachel Bailey, Rev. H. B. Bard, Rev. E. W. Bishop. Alde Blake, Etta Comstock Boltwood, H. Margaret Downes, Josephine Goss, Eva McCall Hamilton, Mrs. E. E. Lamoreaux, Dr. Collins H. Johnston, Mrs. Roy K. Moulton, Mrs. Reuben Maurits, Mrs. William F. McKnight, and Myron H. Walker.
 - Source: April 17, 1912, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 5.
- **1913:** President, Clara Comstock Russell; first vice president, Mrs. E. D. Conger; second vice president, Mrs. Robert Shanahan; third vice president, Rev. A. W. Wishart; recording secretary, Fern Richardson Rowe; corresponding secretary, Alde Blake; treasurer, Katharine Prager.
 - Directors: Justina M. Hollister, Mrs. Carroll H. Perkins, William H. Anderson, Mrs. H. P. Grover, Mrs. Palmer Jones, Mrs. Reuben Maurits, Agnes F. Chalmers, Mrs. M. J. Clark, Lucy Ball, Helen Studley, Rachael Bailey, Mrs. William F. McKnight,

Eva McCall Hamilton, Alice Luton, Mrs. William H. Anderson, Etta Comstock Boltwood, Mrs. Ben H. Lee.

- Source: May 20, 1913, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 4.
- **1914:** President, Fern Richardson Rowe; first vice president, Ida Panigot; second vice president, Mrs. M. J. Clark; third vice president, Miss Helen Studley; recording secretary, Alice Luton; treasurer, Katherine Prager.
 - Auditors: Mrs. W. K. Morley, Mrs. E. E. Lamoreaux; advisory board: E.D. Conger, Rev. A. W. Wishart, Eva McCall Hamilton, C. B. Hamilton, Huntley Russell, Rev. E. W. Bishop, Clara Comstock Russell, Mrs. William H. Anderson, Justina Hollister, Josephine Goss, Alde Blake, Mrs. E. L. Maddox, Mrs. Claude O. Taylor, Mrs. Palmer Jones, Mrs. Caroline Brink, Mrs. Robert Shanahan, Mrs. H. N. Moore, H. Margaret Downs, Judge Clark E. Higbee, and Justice Harry D. Creswell.
 - Source: April 24, 1914, *Grand Rapids Press*, 25.
- **1915:** President, Fern Richardson Rowe; first vice president, Mrs. William Anderson; second vice president, Mrs. M. J. Clarke; third vice president, Mrs. Palmer Jones; secretary Alice Luton; treasurer, Katherine Prager; corresponding secretary, Jeannette Warner; auditors: Christine Keck, Grace Van Hoesen.
 - Source: April 20, 1915. *Grand Rapids Press*, 15.
- **1916:** President, Mrs. E. H. Williams; first vice president, Mrs. William H. Anderson; second vice president, Mrs. M. J. Clark; third vice president, Mrs. William F. McKnight; recording secretary, Mrs. Charles Foote; treasurer, Mrs. Edwin Owen.
 - Auditors: Alde Blake, Jeannette Warner.
 - Advisory Board: Josephine Goss, Christine Keck, Mrs. Carroll Perkins, Rev. A. W. Wishart, Fern Richardson Rowe, Katherine Prager, Mrs. James P. Brayton, Mrs. Roland Morley, Mrs. Nina Clark, Clara Comstock Russell, Mrs. I. M. Hopkins, Rev. Daniel Roy Freeman, Ida Panigot, Mr. Frank Shaw, Marion L. Jennings, Etta Comstock Boltwood, Eva McCall Hamilton, Grace Van Hoesen, May Conlon, Mrs. Ben Lee, Rachel Bailey.
 - Source: April 16, 1916, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 3.
- **1917:** President, Grace Van Hoesen; second vice president, Mrs. M. J. Clark; third vice president, Mrs. William F. McKnight; recording secretary, Miss Lynette White; corresponding secretary, Jeannette Warner; treasurer, Mrs. Edwin Owen.
 - Board members: Marion Jennings, Mrs. Ernest H. Williams, Fern Richardson Rowe, Mrs. M. L. Fitch, Alde Blake, Mrs. I. B. Hopkins, Josephine Goss, Mrs. S. H. Wilson, Agnes Van Buren, Christine Keck., Cora M. Biggs, William F. Quigley, Franks Stone, Rev. A. W. Wishart, S. Clark Rowson, Frank. E. Shaw, Charles H. Mills, W. K. Morley, and Huntley Russell.
- **1918:** Club existed throughout 1918, but elections may not have taken place with demands of war work and the victorious 1918 women's suffrage referendum. The Equal Franchise Club disbands December 1918, their work winning women's suffrage finished.

Kent County Equal Suffrage Association, founded May 1916

- **1916:** (May-October), Chairman, Grace Van Hoesen.
 - Source: May 7, 1916, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 5.
- **1916:** Chairman, Mrs. Guy Davis, Grand Rapids; vice chairman, Grace Van Hoesen, Grand Rapids; secretary, Mrs. Lena Van Harten Grandville; treasurer, Mrs. L. P. Hodges, Lowell.
 - Source, October 19, 1916, *Grand Rapids Press*, 11.

MICHIGAN STATE SUFFRAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Michigan State Woman Suffrage Association, founded 1870

- **1870-1874**

Michigan Equal Suffrage Association (GR Suffragists in bold), founded 1884

- **1884:** President, Mary L. Doe; vice president, Governor Josiah W. Begole; corresponding secretary, Nellie Walker; recording secretary, Fanny Holden Fowler; **treasurer, Cordelia F. Briggs.**
 - *History of Woman Suffrage*, Volume 4, 755.
- **1887:** President, Mary L. Doe; vice presidents: Mrs. Stebbins, S.V. E. Emery; **Recording Secretary, Estelle Provin**; Corresponding Secretary, Fannie H. Fowler; **Treasurer and chairman of committee on organization, Emily B. Ketcham.**
 - Source: January 24, 1887, *Saginaw News*, 7.
- **1889:** President, Mary L. Doe; corresponding secretary, Mary L. Knaggs; **recording secretary, Mrs. P.B. Wheatfield, Grand Rapids**; treasurer, Sarah W. Ellis
 - Source: March 23, 1889, *Kalamazoo Gazette*, 1.
- **1890:** President, Helen Philleo Jenkins; recording secretary, **Mrs. Wheatfield**; corresponding secretary, May S. Knaggs; treasurer, Sarah W. Ellis; vice president, 10th district, Mrs. Delisle P. Holmes.
 - Source: February 15, 1890, *Bay City Times*, 1.
- **1891:** President, Helen P. Jenkins; recording secretary, Sarah A.C. Plummer; corresponding secretary, Martha E. Root; **Treasurer, Emily Burton Ketcham**; District officers: Eaglesfield 5th district (others directors listed on source); **Ketcham among NAWSA delegates.**
 - Source: February 21, 1891, *Woman's Journal*, 1.
- **1892: President, Emily Burton Ketcham**; vice president at large, Mrs. May S. Knaggs; recording secretary, Marlon W. Upton; corresponding secretary, Martha E. Root; treasurer, Arvilla J. Starr.
 - Elizabeth Eaglesfield elected director for fifth Congressional District.
 - Source: May 6, 1892, *Saginaw News*, 2.
- **1893:** Lansing, **President, Emily Burton Ketcham**; vice president, Mary S. Knaggs; recording secretary, Mrs. E. A. Willard; treasurer, Mrs. Leora Woodhams; corresponding secretary, Miss Olivia J. Carpenter; auditors, Mrs. S.E.V. Emory, **Mrs. G. Pearsall.**

- Source: February 4, 1893, *Bay City Times*, 5.
- **1894: President, Emily Burton Ketcham**; vice president, Martha E. Root; recording secretary, Helen A. Mears; treasurer, Mrs. Leorn Woodhams; auditors, George A. Perry, Mrs. Nettie Lyons.
 - May 11, 1894, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 3.
- **1895: President, May Stocking Knaggs**; vice president, Lila D. Bliss; recording secretary, Melvina Root; corresponding secretary, Helen P. Jenkins; **treasurer, EBK**; auditors, Helen A. Moars, Jane N. Dawson. NAWSA delegates, Emma A. Bower, Elizabeth A. Willard, Helen P. Jenkins Belle M. Perry, Matilda E. English, **Emily Burton Ketcham**.
 - Source: May 9, 1895, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 1.
- **1896: President, May Stocking Knaggs**; vice president, Belle M. Perry; recording secretary, Edith Hall; treasurer, Melvin A. Root; corresponding secretary, Helen P. Jenkins; Emily Burton Ketcham, Michigan member NAWSA Executive Board; delegates to the national convention: Jane N. Dawson, Martha Root, Emma A. Bower.
 - May 22, 1896, *Bay City Times*, 1.
- **1897: President, May Stocking Knaggs**; vice president, Jessie Eastbrook; recording secretary, Edith F. Hall; **corresponding secretary, Emily Burton Ketcham**; treasurer, Melvin A. Root; auditors, Laura H. Ford, Jennie L. Khader.
 - May 14, 1897, *Bay City Times*, 6.
- **1898: President Mrs. Mary S. Knaggs**; vice president, Mrs. Perlina Sizer Davis; recording secretary, Miss Edith F. Hall; **treasurer, Emily Burton Ketcham**; auditors, Mrs. Louis Avery, Lila E. Bliss.
 - **Emily Burton Ketcham elected delegate to NAWSA convention**
 - Lottie Wilson Jackson, Bay City elected to NAWSA convention as well
 - Source: May 6, 1898, *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, 3.
- **1899: President, Mrs. Leonor Starker Bliss**; vice president, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Willard; recording secretary, Miss Edith Frances Hall; **treasurer EBK; auditors, Dr. Lois Burton Jacques, H. Margaret Downs**.
 - June 3, 1899, *Woman's Journal*, 7.
- **1900: President, Emily Burton Ketcham**; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Miss Edith Hall; treasurer, Martha E. Root; auditors Frances Ostrander, Margaret Huckins, Mrs. Lenor Starker Bliss.
 - Source: May 17, 1900, *Grand Rapids Press*, 1.
- **1901: President, Martha Root**; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Edith Frances Hall; **treasurer, Emily Burton Ketcham**; auditors, Cora A. Jeffers, Frances Ostrander.
 - Source: October 26, 1910, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 6.
- **1902: President, Martha Root**; vice president, Mrs. G.H. Barnum; recording secretary, Edith F. Hall; **treasurer, Emily Burton Ketcham; auditors, H. Margaret Downs, Lila E. Bliss**.
 - Delegates national convention, **Mrs. Winifred Harper Cooley, GR**; Edith F. Hall, Mrs. HP Jenkins, **Emily Burton Ketcham**, Clara B. Arthur (**Sarah E. Smith among alternates**).

- Source: November 1, 1902, *Bay City Times*, 1.
- **1903:** President, Mrs. G. H. Barnum; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Edith Hall; corresponding secretary, Miss Georgia Perry; **treasurer, Emily Burton Ketcham**; auditors, Mrs. P. Heald, Helen P. Jenkins.
 - Source: November 14, 1903, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 6.
- **1904:** President, Mrs. G. H. Barnum; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Edith F. Hall; treasurer, May Stocking Knaggs; auditors, Mrs. R.H. Emerson, Kate T. Ward. **elected member executive committee of the National Woman's Suffrage Association, Emily Burton Ketcham.**
 - Delegates to the national convention: Mrs. Helen P Jenkins, Martha Baldwin, **Rev. Jeanette O. Ferris**, Mrs. Belle M. Perry, Laura H. Ford, (**Louise Vanderpool and H. Margaret Downs as alternates**).
 - Source: October 27, 1904, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 1.
- **1905:** President, Mrs. G. H. Barnum; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Clara Corner; treasurer, May S. Knaggs; auditors, Mary F. Tucker, **Emily Burton Ketcham**, Mary L. Doe.
 - Delegates: Josephine Albertson, Martha Baldwin, Laura Reynolds, Mrs. G.H. Barnum.
 - Source: November 3, 1905, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 5.
- **1906:** President, Mrs. Gulielma Barnum; vice president, Clara B. Arthur; recording secretary, Susan Sellers; treasurer, May Stocking Knaggs; auditors, Mrs. Carrie W. Miller, Rev. Olivia J C Woodman. **Member of committee of NAWSA, Emily Burton Ketcham.**
 - Delegates to the national convention: Miss Baldwin, Caroline Bartlett Crane, Jennie Law Hardy, and Helen P Jenkins, **Fern Richardson Rowe**, and Susan M Sellers.
 - Source: October 11, 1906, *Kalamazoo Gazette*, 10.
- **1907:** President, Clara B. Arthur; vice president, Mrs. Maud Thompson; secretary, Gertrude Prindle; treasurer, May Stocking Knaggs; Rev. OJC woodman, George A Perry.
 - Source: September 21, 1907, *Muskegon Chronicle*, 1.
- **1908:** President, Clara B. Arthur; Mae Boutell, secretary; Mary Stocking Knaggs, treasurer; auditors, Rev. Olivia Carpenter Woodman, W.J. Emory, president of the Michigan Federation of Labor.
 - Source: November 7, 1908, *Grand Rapids Evening Press*, 2.
- **1909:** President, Clara B. Arthur; **vice president, Clara Comstock Russell**; Recording Secretary, Clara C. Hickey; treasurer, May Stocking Knaggs; auditors: Mrs. M Phillips, Miss M. Baldwin. Member of the executive committee, rev. Caroline bartlett Crane, national convention delegates, Susan M. Sellers.
 - Source: December 9, 1909, *Grand Rapids Herald*, 12.
- **1910:** (skipped)
- **1911:** President, Clara B. Arthur; **vice president, Clara Comstock Russell**; treasurer, May Stocking Knaggs; recording secretary, **Mrs. Roy K. Moulton, Grand Rapids.**

Auditors: Dr. Anna Starring, Mrs. W.H. Phillips. Caroline Bartlett Crane, elected member of NAWSA Executive Committee.

- Delegates to the national convention: **Huntley Russell**, Clara Dyers, Mrs. N I Sims, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs. Mary B. Folsom, Mrs Lenore S Bliss, (Among alternates: **Clara Russell., Alde Blake**).
- Source: December 23, 1911, *Woman's Journal*, 6.
- **1913:** President, Clara B. Arthur; **vice president, Clara Comstock Russell**; second vice president, Mrs. O. H. Clark; third vice president, Jenny Law Hardy; secretary, Dr. R. Grace Hendrick; **treasurer, Alde Louise Blake**.
 - Auditors: Edna Blair Hillsdale, Mrs. C.G. Parnell Jackson.
 - Source: January 16, 1913, *Kalamazoo Gazette*, 2.
- **1914:** President, Mrs. Orton H. Clark; **first vice president, Russell**; second vice president, Dr. Blanche Haines; third vice president, Mrs. J. G. McPherson; recording secretary, Mrs. John C. Blagdon; **Treasurer, Alde Louise Blake**; Auditors: Mrs. Frederick Holt, Mrs. John R. Santo.
 - Clara Arthur elected member of the executive committee of NAWSA.
 - Source: November 7, 1914, *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, 2.
- **1915:** President, Clark; first vice president, Dr. Blanche Haines; second vice president, Mrs. John Santo; third vice president, Miss Harriet Comstock; **treasurer, Alde Blake**; recording secretary, Mrs. Lucia Grimes; auditors: Mrs. G. B. Jennison, Mrs. T.S. Langford.
 - November 12, 1915, *Muskegon Chronicle*, 7.
- **1916:** President, Clark; first vice president, Mrs. Christopher Parall; second vice president, Mrs. Wilber Brotherton; third vice president, Mrs. AT Roberts; recording secretary, Mrs. J.C. Brander; **treasurer, Alde Blake**.
 - Auditors, Mrs.G V Jennison, Mrs. T. S. Langford. NAWSA exec board member, Mrs. G. Edgar Allan.
 - Source: November 18, 1916, *Muskegon Chronicle*, 1.
- **1918:** President, Percy J. Farrell; first vice president, Myron Be Vorce; second vice president, Mrs. G. W. Patterson; **third vice president, Clara Comstock Russell**; recording secretary, Mrs. A H. Cote; **treasurer, Alde Blake**; auditors: Mrs. Daniel Kirk, Miss Irene Kleinstuck. Blanche M Haines, Executive Committee NAWSA.
 - March 27, 1918, *Grand Rapids Press*, 18.