

AUGUST

August 26: Equality Day

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, N.Y. The celebration of this date also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

What can you do?

Work to get women registered to vote.

Distribute stickers or balloons around the community to raise awareness on the fact that women's right to vote was a struggle to obtain and should be cherished.

Sponsor a "suffragettes" rally, march, or event. Bring back the history of this event in costume and speeches from the era. Suffragettes ate cookies and tea.

Hold a movie night and show a historical film about the struggles to obtain the right to vote for women. Invite a female legislator to speak on the importance of voting.

Visit your legislators and discuss the issues most important to women and their communities. Check the legislators' voting records on Working Family Issues and honor those who have a high voting record on Women's Issues with a dinner or event where others can attend and meet their Representative.

Celebrate at your workplace by honoring women who have made contributions to your company or union or your career field.

Put together a scrapbook or memory book about significant women or events in your workplace and union.

Develop a skit depicting the speeches of the era and present it at your local library or women's committee meeting.