



Based on a photograph of "The Faculty of South Dakota's Suffrage School" in *The Woman Citizen* 3 (July 20, 1918), 148.

In 1918, the South Dakota Universal Franchise League (S.D.U.F.L.) led the campaign for a state amendment to give women the right to vote. Women from other states were sent by the National American Woman Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.) to help the S.D.U.F.L. organize campaign work like forming local clubs, getting petitions signed, making speeches, hanging posters, and more. The 1918 Campaign was unusual because the suffrage amendment had been changed in March 1918 by the state legislature. From territorial days, immigrants were eligible to vote after filing their "first papers" — their intent to become naturalized citizens. Because of the war with Germany, state leaders wanted to change that law so only fully-naturalized citizens could vote. They thought it was important for national security. They merged that change with woman suffrage, so the S.D.U.F.L. found itself campaigning for "Amendment E" and talking about citizenship requirements as well as women's right to vote.

To help train local supporters about the new Amendment E and how to do campaign work, six Schools of Methods were held around the state. They were planned by Mamie Pyle of Huron and May Ghrist of Miller, S.D.U.F.L. president and vice-president, and Maria S. McMahon and Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, N.A.W.S.A. organizers working in South Dakota. They were held in Watertown, Aberdeen, Huron, Pierre, Deadwood, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls. Each two-day School included discussions and training sessions by McMahon, Ghrist, and Nettie Rogers Shuler (an executive officer of N.A.W.S.A.), and a quiz. Afterwards, participants and community leaders were given a "patriotic" banquet that expressed support for the war effort and had a menu that followed wartime food regulations. As they traveled the state, they also went to other towns around their host cities to give speeches for the suffrage campaign. They visited Clear Lake, Gary, Wolsey, Wessington, Ft. Pierre, Rapid City, Hot Springs, Humboldt, and Hartford. The whole trip took two weeks and they visited seventeen towns. Similar campaign schools had been held by suffragists in other states and other political reform organizations, like the Women's Christian Temperance Union.



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