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**League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Presents Rare Occoquan Workhouse
Photograph To Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

On Monday, March 12, 2007, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) presented the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with a framed photograph depicting the original wooden Occoquan Workhouse building. This was done as a commemorative gesture at the Board of Supervisors meeting where March was proclaimed "Women's History Month", marking the significance of the building located in Fairfax County that played a pivotal role in obtaining the right to vote for women in America.

As portrayed in the HBO film, "Iron Jawed Angels", the building is notorious for being the place that held the imprisoned suffragists, labeled the Silent Sentinels, who picketed the White House in 1917 for the right to vote. Alice Paul, the leader of the protest who was not incarcerated at the Workhouse, but in a D.C. prison, was quoted during the movement as saying, "Mr. President, how long must women wait to get their liberty? Let us have the rights we deserve." The suffragists' respectable backgrounds and requests to be treated as political prisoners were ignored and they were treated as ordinary misdemeanants while held at the Workhouse. They were physically abused, denied sanitary living and eating conditions, and force-fed in a torturous fashion when they staged a hunger strike to protest their arrest and incarceration. Eventually, the negative publicity about their treatment generated nationwide concern and helped move Congress and President Wilson to pass legislation granting women the right to vote (the 19th Amendment) in 1920.

An historical marker (photo also included in the framed picture) telling the history of the suffragists has been placed on the property of Fairfax Water's Griffith Water Treatment Plant on Route 123, near the site of the original wooden building shown in the photograph. Upon being asked why the League wanted to give the picture to Fairfax County, LWVFA President Sherry Zachry said: "It seemed fitting that the County should have the picture to display in the Government Center, since it depicts such a vital piece of women's history that occurred in Fairfax County. As far as we know, this photo of the actual wood building where the women were held is the only one in existence in the County." The original photograph is the property of the D.C. Department of Corrections and is kept in their archives.