Dear President:

At the very beginning of our new year of suffrage activity, I wish to tender to you and to your Association, my sincere appreciation and thanks for the co-operation which made the National Convention, just closed, the most successful one in our history, and in the opinion of many, the most remarkable gathering in the history of any reform movement. If you were unable to attend, I hope you secured the press reports and rejoiced with us, notwithstanding the uniform desire of the press to enlarge each discussion into a turmoil, when it was merely the honest and earnest difference of judgment as to the better course to pursue in the interest of the cause.

No newspaper report, however, could give an adequate account of the influence of the convention itself, and of the vast multitudes of earnest listeners who over-crowded the great halls and filled the streets while scores of devoted suffragists, men and women, sacrificed their own comfort and pleasure to address the street crowds who constantly called for more.

The inspiring cause of this enthusiasm was, doubtless, the unprecedented victories which have added four more States to those in which the principle of the right of the people to govern themselves has been incorporated into law. This fact, with the activity of suffragists throughout the whole nation, and the active participation of women in the recent Presidential campaign, has lifted our cause out of the plane of academic discussion and theory into a practical issue. The adoption of a woman suffrage plank in the various party platforms, brings to our aid the strongest political force in the nation. When political parties vie with each other in advocating our measure, how absurd is the question "Is woman suffrage progressing"?
State Presidents.

While we rejoice in the fact that political parties incorporate suffrage into their platforms, we must guard against making our Association a partisan body. Let us keep constantly in mind the position we have always held, and which we reaffirmed at Philadelphia, that our Association is a non-partisan body and as such may not be used to advance the interests of any one political party.

However, the greatest danger which befalls a reform is too great success. It is then that its advocates need to be most watchful, lest the spirit which gave it birth may languish. A reform is valuable only so long as the spirit within it lives and permeates its activities.

To the officers and members of your Association who attended the Convention, I wish to express my sincere thanks for the moral aid and active support, so freely given in a most trying position. Never did we realize the need and importance of loyal and co-operative service more, without which no Association can prosper.

I am sending you this message to assure you that your National President knows no geographical divisions, and as last year I travelled in the service of the Association from Wisconsin to the Gulf States of Florida and Texas, from Massachusetts to Oregon, I am ready this year to do everything in my power in the service of the Association. Were it necessary I would ask your loyal support of the National Association and your sympathetic and helpful co-operation with your officers. The National Association is valuable and successful as it serves its members, and it can do this only when there is a mutual desire for helpful co-operation.

The Official Board invites and welcomes helpful criticism and suggestions. In fact it desires both, but it wishes to have them made directly to the Board. Only as we are trustful and give genuine sympathy and support each to the other, can our great cause prosper.

The past year has been unprecedented in the increase of membership in the National Association. The actual dues-paying membership has nearly doubled and eight times as many auxiliaries have joined this year than joined our Association last year. May we not hope for equal progress in 1913.
State Presidents.

I am enclosing a series of questions, which I would be very grateful to have answered immediately, as the information is needed at your National Headquarters.

With the sincere hope that there may be added a sufficient number of States to our flag this year to round out the original thirteen at least, and that yours may be one, I am, with a great longing to serve you and our Association,

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]
President.