

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Six Black Women Making History



*Top: Deborah Brittain, Dr. Renee White, Angela Dodson  
Bottom: Deborah Harmon-Pugh, Saniah Johnson, Pamela Herndon*

As our nation celebrates Black History Month, Vision 2020 salutes some of the many Black women who provide critically important leadership to our national coalition.

**Deborah Brittain**, a charter member of the Vision 2020 National Leadership Circle, is the former president of the Association of Junior Leagues International, a Vision 2020 Allied Organization. A life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the



Lynn Yeakel,  
president and founder of  
Vision 2020

National Council of Negro Women and the Northern Virginia Urban League, Deborah brings decades of community involvement experience and insight to Vision 2020, spanning the fields of public and special education, child welfare, social justice, women's issues and the arts.

**Renee White, PhD**, also a member of the Vision 2020 National Leadership Circle, is the provost at Wheaton College in Massachusetts. During her time as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Simmons University, Renee co-founded the first Vision 2020 college chapter. Renee is a trusted advisor to Vision 2020 and a key leader collaborating with us on Spring Breakthru, our *Women 100* program in 2020 for undergraduate students to explore issues of intersectional

feminism, civic engagement and social justice work.

**Angela Dodson**, a Vision 2020 Delegate, is the author of *Remember the Ladies: Celebrating Those Who Fought for Freedom at the Ballot Box*. She brings the unique perspective of both historian and women's equality advocate to our coalition. We look forward to hearing her speak at our event on March 26 (more details below!).

**Deborah Harmon-Pugh**, a Vision 2020 Delegate, is devoted to improving the lives of veterans and military families. She wears multiple hats, serving as president and editor in chief of The Healthy Caregiver Community Foundation, as national campaign chair for Women Veterans ROCK! (a Vision 2020 Allied Organization), and as a constitutional law professor at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. Under Deborah's leadership, Women Veterans ROCK! has grown to more than 25,000 supporters nationwide.

**Saniah Johnson**, a Vision 2020 Delegate, is deeply committed to inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold. She serves as board chair and president for Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, as well as director of Girls Inc. at the national level.

**Pamelya Herndon**, a Vision 2020 Delegate, is executive director of the Southwest Women's Law Center in New Mexico. Her comments below about Black History Month mirror my long-held and often-expressed feelings not only about this month but about Women's History Month.

"It is unfortunate that we only seem to recognize the contributions of African Americans once a year in February during Black History Month. With so many decisions being made on the basis of a person's race or the color of their skin and without regard to the content of their character and the importance of their work, Black History Month provides an opportunity to salute the many accomplishments of African Americans that often go unnoticed."

**We thank these leaders and the many others around the U.S. who volunteer their time, energy and expertise to Vision 2020, advancing equality for all women.**

## Vision 2020 News

### Vision 2020 Participates in Young Elected Officials Conference



*Vision 2020 Program Director Joyce Lewandowski (center) with fellow panel speakers at the Young Elected Officials Network's Women's Conference in New York. Photo credit: VoteRunLead.*

Joyce Lewandowski, Vision 2020's program director, recently attended the Young Elected Officials Network's [Women's Conference 2019](#) in New York, participating in a panel discussion on February 2 titled "Agenda 2020 - Ensuring Equity for All Women."

The panel discussed the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, the upcoming centennial of that historic milestone and the ways in which many women -- mostly women of color -- were not able to actualize their vote until many years later. Panelists also discussed the recent "Year of the Woman 2.0" and the ways in which women leaders can advance inclusive strategies to ensure equity for all women.

When asked about the event, Joyce said: "I felt very lucky to be invited to join such an esteemed group of women at this conference. Between the fellow panelists and the conference participants, they're doing important work to ensure that underrepresented voices and stories are being brought to the forefront of the gender equality movement. Many of the elected officials in the space are serving at the local level, which is often the most impactful level when it comes to representing one's constituents. It was very evident that everyone in that space takes their work very seriously. It was a room full of game-changers!"

An added bonus of attending this event was connecting with familiar faces, such as Erin Vilardi and Lea Webb from VoteRunLead, a Vision 2020 Allied Organization.

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## **March 26: Vision 2020 Co-Sponsors "Justice For All" Women's Equality Event**

Vision 2020 will co-sponsor an event about the past, present and future of women's equality at the Free Library of Philadelphia next month.

["Justice For All"](#) will take place on March 26 from 6-8 p.m. ET, in partnership with The Walnut Club, Ellevest, POWER of Professional Women, National Association of Women Business Owners Philadelphia and the Society of Professional Women.

This event, moderated by KYW Newsradio's Cherri Gregg, will feature the following speakers:

- Angela Dodson, a Vision 2020 Delegate and author of "Remember the Ladies"
- Lucy Beard, executive director of the Alice Paul Institute, a Vision 2020 Allied Organization
- Amanda Owen, executive director of the Justice Bell Foundation, a Proud Partner of Vision 2020's *Women 100*
- Tiffany Tavaréz, vice president of community relations at Wells Fargo, the founding supporter of the Vision 2020 Education Initiative
- Jovida Hill, executive director of the Philadelphia Commission for Women
- Melinda Johnson, director of administrative operations at Drexel's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, the home of Vision 2020

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## Calling All Volunteers!

Are you passionate about women's equality and looking for ways to get involved in the cause? Vision 2020 invites volunteers to contribute their time and talent to assist with its ambitious agenda in commemorating the centennial of American women's right to vote in the year 2020.

[Fill out our volunteer application](#) if you are interested in getting involved or helping organize fellow volunteers.

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## Vision 2020 Adds Two *Women 100* Proud Partners

Vision 2020 is expanding its [network of partners for \*Women 100\*](#), a celebration of American women during the year 2020, when we mark the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.



We are pleased to announce the additions of [WHYY](#) and the [Benjamin Franklin Birthday Celebration](#) as our two newest *Women 100* Proud Partners!

We welcome participation from across the nation. [Fill out an application](#) to join the *Women 100* Proud Partner network.

## Delegate & Ally News

### Vision 2020 Welcomes New Delegates and Allies

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new Delegates and four new Allied Organizations to Vision 2020's national coalition.

#### New Delegates

- Rebeca Cruz-Esteves, principal and senior consultant at Populouz, in Pennsylvania
- Hua Wang, FUSE executive advisor to the Office of the

Mayor, in Washington, D.C.

### New Allied Organizations

- [American University Women & Politics Institute](#)
- [Anne Welsh McNulty Institute for Women's Leadership at Villanova University](#)
- [ShowMe50.org](#)
- [WAVE: Women for American Values and Ethics](#)

Interested in becoming a Delegate, or have someone in mind to nominate? Fill out our [Delegate Application](#).

Does your organization share an aligned mission with Vision 2020? Fill out our [Allied Organization Application](#).



*New Vision 2020  
Delegates, Rebeca Cruz-  
Esteves and Hua Wang*

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## Vision 2020 Allied Organization Featured in Super Bowl PSA



*Girls Inc., a Vision 2020 Allied Organization, was highlighted on Super Bowl Sunday.*

"When girls face their challenges, they're stronger. When girls work together, they realize their value. When girls get to play, they learn to win."

That's the message of a public service announcement created by CBS and Girls Inc., a Vision 2020 Allied Organization, that [aired during Super Bowl LIII on February 3](#).

"Too often, girls are told they can't. We all have a role to play in challenging stereotypes and limiting messages. That is why we are deeply grateful to CBS Corporation, CBS Cares, and the New York Giants for their commitment to showing girls that they can in fact achieve at the highest levels," [said](#) Judy Vredenburg, president and CEO of Girls Inc.

Vision 2020 congratulates and thanks Girls Inc. for doing such important work.

## February 23: Allied Organization Hosts Political Training Event

Chatham University's Pennsylvania Center for Women & Politics, a Vision 2020 Allied Organization, will host its next ["Ready to Run" program in Philadelphia](#) on Saturday, February 23.

"Ready to Run" is a political campaign training program that teaches women how to run for office.

U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan, the first woman ever to represent Pennsylvania's 6th District in Congress, will deliver the event's keynote address.



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## March 13: Drexel University's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership Hosts Annual Sex and Gender Research Forum

The Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University, the home of Vision 2020, will host the annual [Sex and Gender Research Forum](#) on March 13.

This program, free to the Drexel community, highlights the university's multidisciplinary research focused on sex and gender in a local, national and global context.

Keynote speakers include Melissa Freeman, MD, a pioneering physician on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, and Lynn Paltrow, JD, founder and executive director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

## What We're Reading

### [What Does Black History Month Mean to You?](#)

We asked members of the Vision 2020 national coalition to weigh in on the importance of Black History Month. Here's what they had to say.

### [When the Suffrage Movement Sold Out to White Supremacy](#)

"African-American women were written out of the history of the woman suffrage movement. As the centennial of the 19th Amendment approaches, it's time for a new look at the past."

### [Do American Women Still Need an Equal Rights Amendment?](#)

"What the E.R.A. would change and what it would not is both bitterly contested and hypothetical. During the 1970s and 80s, a determined corps of lawyers led by Ruth Bader Ginsburg persuaded the Supreme Court to extend the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to cover many forms of sex discrimination. After the E.R.A. stalled, legislators passed a bevy of new laws. Together, these had the effect of opening new doors for women. But advocates point to gaps in existing laws and Supreme Court decisions that have limited enforcement, particularly in the areas of violence against women, sexual harassment and equal pay."

### [Gender Pay Gaps Shrink When Companies Are Required to Disclose Them](#)

Among this study's findings: "The supply pool of female employees increases as gender

pay transparency improves."

### [For Black History Month, Remarkable Women and Men We Overlooked Since 1851](#)

"These remarkable black men and women never received obituaries in The New York Times -- until now."

### [Republican Congresswoman Warns GOP Leaders of Gender 'Crisis'](#)

During Rep. Elise Stefanik's tenure as recruitment chair for the National Republican Congressional Committee, "the number of Republican women congressional candidates spiked. However, many of those women didn't make it past the primaries, helping fuel Stefanik's conviction that promoting women in primaries would boost the party's numbers."

### [Is Organizational Culture Holding Women Back in the Workplace?](#)

"Are you reinforcing the idea that it's just women who need 'fixing'? There is certainly a place for women's leadership programs and training initiatives, but if there is nothing specifically for male leaders, you're giving the impression that men are fine while women need 'extra help'."

### [Why It's Impossible to Be a Likeable Female Politician](#)

"A male candidate's offenses have to be incredibly obvious, and, even then, perhaps they might be forgiven ... That's not to say people who find female politicians especially objectionable don't like women in private life. No doubt they love their moms, their daughters, Betty White. But as a society, we do tend to like women more if they are in spheres where they are nurturing and forgiving men around them."

### [Voters Expect Female Candidates to Be Perfect Mothers Too](#)

"Female candidates have to be superwomen, while male candidates enjoy the luxury of delegating family work to others."

### [What Happens When Men Are Too Afraid to Mentor Women?](#)

"A ripple effect of #MeToo that women did not ask for: fewer champions."

### [Why Aren't More Women Having Kids? Ask Us About Our Student Loans](#)

"Economists have made the connection between delayed childbearing and outsized student loan debt, but there's very little reporting of what it's like to live in that ledger, where the barely diminished debt cancels out your dreams for a family."

### [13 Things Mentally Strong Women Don't Do](#)

"Men and women build mental strength the same way -- gender doesn't matter. But when it comes to counterproductive bad habits that might slow your progress or keep you stuck, gender can play a serious role."

## Empowering Photos of the Month



Photo Credit: Jessica Tezak, *The New York Times*

For the first time in history, the United States Navy conducted a flyover using all female pilots.

The nine women, some pictured above, [participated in a Missing Man Flyover](#) on February 2 over a cemetery in honor of Capt. Rosemary Mariner, a retired Navy pilot who died last month.

According to *The New York Times*, Captain Mariner "[shattered barriers](#) when she became one of the Navy's first female pilots and the first woman to command a naval aviation squadron -- and who later successfully fought for a congressional measure that lifted a ban on women serving in combat."

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Some of the record-setting number of Congresswomen wore their "suffragist white" to the State of the Union on February 5.

Rep. Deb Haaland, one of the first Native American women to be elected to Congress in 2018, shared the above [photo](#) saying the women are "continuing the fight for equality."

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