



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



April 2016

Some Good News:

- Five of the twelve board seats at The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company are filled by women. That's 42 percent and further indication that having a woman as CEO substantially strengthens the promise of reaching the 50-50 Shared Leadership goal set by Vision 2020. Penn Mutual Chairman and CEO **Eileen McDonnell**, a Vision 2020 National Advisor and the leader whose company provided the major financial support for the launching of Vision 2020, has just received the 2016 Business Leader of the Year Award from LeBow College of Business at Drexel University, and Penn Mutual was recognized for its board diversity by Vision 2020 Ally **2020 Women on Boards**.
- Five members of the championship U.S. women's national soccer team filed a formal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, protesting "pay inequity." Their claim stated that women players were paid much less than members of the men's team received. Given that the women won the World Cup and the men finished in the middle of the pack, the filing gained national media attention for the Vision 2020 goal of Economic Parity. The challenge is to keep this issue in the spotlight until it's corrected.

The March 30 announcement of [U.S. Senate Resolution #405](#), sponsored by U.S. Senator Bob Casey, citing Vision 2020 as the host organization for the year 2020 national

centennial commemoration of the 19th Amendment in Philadelphia, was both a proud moment and a four-year challenge for all of us. The announcement was made at the National Constitution Center by Senator Casey. The commitment of so many leaders across the nation has helped bring Vision 2020 this level of recognition and responsibility.

What's ahead of us is the work involved to make this a truly 50-state salute to the amazing contributions of American women. The Centennial Planning Committee, under the guidance of **Dianne Semingson**, welcomes your ideas and your leadership. That committee has seven action teams now working to assemble a guidebook plan for the celebration, and results of their efforts will be distributed by June.

I sent a letter to the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer in late March, urging the inclusion of women's history in the writing and teaching of American history all year round, not just one month a year. They published my letter and that prompts me to encourage all of you to write to the newspaper near you, on issues of importance to women's progress. A lot of voices in a lot of places - that's how change begins.

Raising money, always in season, has taken a new turn as we continue our current Vision 2020 agenda and also prepare for the year 2020 series of events. In February, I challenged some friends and colleagues to match a \$25,000 contribution over 18 months. As of now, six people have accepted the challenge and we have raised over \$200,000 toward the million dollar campaign goal. This will provide the organizational capacity to move Vision 2020's collective impact model forward.

A grant from Wells Fargo was part of the \$200,000 pledged to Vision 2020 so far in 2016. That grant supports the Vision 2020 Youth Education project, and Wells Fargo is the Founding Supporter of the Education Initiative.

More Good News:

- It's always a pleasure to welcome new Vision 2020 Delegates. The latest to join us, from Oregon, is **Jilma Meneses**. Jilma is the executive vice president at Concordia University and has championed and supported groups such as Adelante Mujeres, Latino Network, Partners in Diversity, United Way, I Have a Dream Foundation, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and others.
- Congratulations to Vision 2020 Vice Chair **Bobbi Liebenberg** who is being honored with the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award from the American Bar Association Commission on Women. Former recipients of this award include Vision 2020 National Advisor **Laurel Bellows**, Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** and Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**.
- Congratulations to **PA Delegate Saniah Johnson** who is being honored by **Ally Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey** on May 4th at its annual Strong, Smart & Bold event.

- Vision 2020 Ally the **Center for American Women and Politics** at Rutgers University was recognized in a resolution by the New Jersey Senate for its ground-breaking research and programs.
- **VA Delegate Maria Cristina Caballero** presented a Dialogue on Diversity in Washington, D.C., in March and I was pleased to be the keynote speaker representing Vision 2020.
- Kudos to **NY Delegate Melinda Weisberg** for receiving the Marist College School of Management Faculty of the Year Award.

Finally, I can't end this month's message without quoting two parts of the U.S. Senate Resolution mentioned earlier:

"...the work begun by the suffragists continues to advance the equality of women in all political, social, economic and cultural aspects of life in the United States, including shared leadership..."

and the closing that "...commends the efforts of Vision 2020 to orchestrate, lead and coordinate this momentous occasion... and to continue the fight for equality for women."

The connection between our past, our present and our future is so clear.

Happy April!



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