

VISION2020

EQUALITY IN SIGHT®

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



August 2016



Vision 2020's Dianne Semingson and Lynn Yeakel introduce Women 100, the Vision 2020 19th Amendment centennial celebration, to convention goers.

In late July, Vision 2020 had a presence at both of the political conventions, in Cleveland and Philadelphia. We submitted language on the importance of shared leadership among women and men to both the RNC and DNC platform committees. And we witnessed many important indicators of progress toward that goal as well as toward the goal of women's increased civic engagement.

Keenly aware of the historic nomination of a woman for the presidency, Vision 2020 and many of its Allies; took advantage of the Philadelphia ceremonies, attending forums, luncheons and other special gatherings. We distributed Women 100 literature at every opportunity.

I was interviewed by local and national media about my experience in 1992, in what was then called the "Year of the Woman," and asked how it compared with this year. One major difference is that there are more women in elected office now - in fact, 10 times as many in the U.S. Senate (two in 1992 and 20 in 2016) and many more organizations helping women candidates with training, fundraising and support.

We will have a long way to go to reach the 50-50 shared leadership goal and Vision 2020 is committed to sustaining the momentum.

Several things were clear from our convention experience. One is that every large gathering of people - every conference, every community gathering, every assembly of women (and men) - is an opportunity to share the Vision 2020 message. The second point we learned is that audiences are eagerly receptive to the [Women 100](#) plans. We found nothing but enthusiasm about Vision 2020's year 2020 program, and it's up to all of us to contribute to its success.

Early steps are underway in the development of a one-of-a-kind exhibit that will be a pivotal part of Women 100 in 2020. We've formed an education coalition and begun conversations with interactive media people. The exhibit will open at the National Constitution Center in March of 2020, and the door is wide open now for everyone's ideas.

In recognition of ever-changing communications technology, the exhibit - to be educationally relevant - will be constantly changeable. In many ways, that makes the challenge, and the end product, all the more exciting.

Reminder: Later this month, on Women's Equality Day, August 26, we will hold Vision 2020's annual 30-minute [Toast to Tenacity](#) in Philadelphia. That's when we gather, with paper cups and grape juice, to salute the suffragists of a century ago. I invite you - in groups of two, ten or two hundred - to do the same. It's simple to do. Call Maureen McVail at 215.991.8195, and she'll tell you how. In the year 2020, we hope the entire nation will join us in that toast.

The theme of "tenacity" inspires me to pay tribute to members of our Vision 2020 family who signed on as Delegates in 2010 for three years and are still with us. Our thanks to:

Marilyn Bombac, Nebraska

Kim Olson, Texas

Mildred Edwards, Kansas

Patricia Pierce, Tennessee

Fran Fattah, Pennsylvania

Julie Pogue, Kentucky

Donna Fraiche, Louisiana

Rebecca Richardson, Missouri

Julie Graber, Ohio

Monique Stamps, North Carolina

Danna Grear, Arizona

Stephanie Stilson, District of Columbia

Robin Guadagnini, Arizona
Roberta Harper, North Carolina

Nikki Jackson, Kentucky

Joey Jayne, Montana

Pascale Lane, Oklahoma

Lorelie Masters, District of Columbia

Rebecca Miles, Idaho

Dayna Stock, Missouri

Renee Stromme, North Dakota

Florine Swanson, Iowa

Juancyne Taylor, Mississippi

Teri Tibbet, Alaska

Erin Vilardi, New York

Marla Wood, Colorado

And to my stalwart Leadership Circle colleagues who have been with us from early on:

Subha Barry

Deborah Brittain

Susan Butler

Ruth Ann Gillis

Bill Glick

Rosemarie Greco

Karen Kaplowitz

Bobbi Liebenberg

Connie Lindsey

Barbara Roberts

Lori SchraderBacher

I would also like to thank volunteer leader extraordinaire Nathalie Bartle.

Closing thought: If you have more commitments than you have time for, Vision 2020 is the right place to be.

News of Note:

Some of our Delegates and Allies have special celebrations planned for Women's Equality Day. If you have one, let us know.

- Many of you saw the impressive statues of artist Alan LeQuire at the Fifth National Vision 2020 Congress in Nashville last October. On August 26, our **Tennessee Delegates** will unveil the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument with a big event in Nashville's Centennial Park.
- Vision 2020 Ally, the **Alice Paul Institute** will screen a movie and have viewings of the new exhibit *Alice Paul: In Pursuit of Ordinary Equality* at Paulsdale house in New Jersey.
- North Carolina Ally, **Women's Inter-cultural Exchange** will host a Coffee & Cultural Connections featuring a southern women's show of health and beauty.

Congratulations to Vision 2020 Vice-Chair **Bobbi Liebenberg** who recently [accepted the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award](#).

In other news, kudos to Florida Delegate **Sarah Owen**, CEO of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, for her leadership in establishing a fund for Fort Myers victims of the tragic mass shooting that took place there in July.

Happy August!



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