



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



DECEMBER 2015

Happy Holidays to the Vision 2020 Family and Friends!

One year ends and another begins. We have now passed the midpoint in Vision 2020's decade-long campaign for women's equality, and thanks to the interest and support of so many extraordinary people across the United States, we have much to be proud of.

- The powerful national Vision 2020 coalition has continued to grow, with 91 organizations now on our list of [Allies](#). All are working on some aspect of the Vision 2020 priority areas of shared leadership, economic parity, youth education, and women's civic engagement.



Vision 2020 Leaders at the Fifth National Congress in Nashville, Tenn.

- New [Delegates](#) in 16 states have brought exciting energy and ideas to the campaign. Many have hosted regional Vision 2020 conferences, spreading the equality messages across the United States; some are running for public office; others are advancing women's leadership in a variety of areas.



Lynn Yeakel speaking at the National Constitution Center

- Our Program Partnership with the National Constitution Center produced important programs in 2015 on gender pay equity, shared leadership and civic engagement.



Busra Gungor receiving the Tomorrow Award from Melinda Johnson

- We convened a highly successful Fifth National Vision 2020 Congress in Nashville, Tenn., in October, celebrated the history of that state's role as the 36th and last state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920, and officially launched the Countdown to 2020. At the Congress, we presented the Tomorrow Award to two outstanding college women who are leading in STEM fields.



Leadership Circle members meeting in Tennessee

- We introduced monthly Letters from the Chair in May, available [here](#), and I published four blogs in the Huffington Post, including [one last week](#) that suggests phasing out Women's History Month by 2020 after incorporating women's history into America's year-round history lessons between now and then.
- Teams of members on the National Vision 2020 Leadership Circle have formed to connect and convene Allied Organizations with complementary missions that are working in our four priority areas. **Strategies to reach the goal of 100% of eligible women voting in the November 3, 2020 elections are in the works!**

Related to the voting goal, two days ago I spoke to a chapter of the League of Women Voters and I told the story of Miriam Folline Leslie. A century ago, when Carrie Chapman Catt was a key leader in the final years of the push for the 19th Amendment, Miriam Folline Leslie quietly contributed a million dollars to the suffrage cause in an act that brought clarity to the concept of women helping women.

And that brings me to the challenges ahead for Vision 2020. We are at a critical point in our growth and development. Plans are underway for hosting the important national commemoration of the 19th Amendment centennial in 2020. We need to build the capacity of our "backbone" organization to achieve the collective impact of the coalition we've built. **We need a Miriam Leslie!**

We also need YOU to contribute or renew your support for Vision 2020. You can do that by clicking the button below.

Working together to achieve women's economic, political and social equality is a mission that doesn't offer any days off for this ever-growing team of dedicated individuals and organizations. At this crossroads on the calendar, I invite and encourage you to continue to stand with us.

Have a peaceful and joyful holiday season.



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