



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



February 2016

I often revisit the words of a document we put together in 2010, Vision 2020's [Declaration of Equality](#). Reading that message of purpose continues to remind me of the mission that unites us.

The Declaration is not a speed-reading exercise. Take your time. Linger on the language. Determine what it means to you.

Perhaps because the topic is so timely in relation to the Vision 2020 agenda, my latest reading kept bringing me back to the part that says the Declaration ...

"... advances the belief that a true sharing of leadership and responsibility among women and men will inspire an unprecedented dimension of American excellence."

We just completed a proposal that seeks investment in Vision 2020's "Shared Leadership Campaign." That campaign will have an unrelenting focus on achieving annual, measurable progress toward 50-50 shared leadership among women and men in business and government.

What's the timetable? There are two parts to it- as quickly as possible, and **for a long as it takes**.

That, too, is compatible with the Declaration of Equality, which clearly states: "There is an urgency to this matter because equality delayed is opportunity denied."

If you have not signed the [Declaration](#), I encourage you to do so.

On the subject of Shared Leadership in business, a new study reported in Bloomberg News on February 8, 2016, makes the case- again- for the connection between women in top leadership and companies' profitability. You can read about that [here](#).

And on the subject of Shared Leadership in government, this election cycle marks the first time in U.S. history a woman has been running for President in both major parties' primaries. Leaders of Vision 2020's National Ally, the Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University, describe their leadership experience in Iowa last week [here](#). Vision 2020 is committed to increasing women's civic engagement, by encouraging women to run for public office and to vote in primary elections as well as in November.

You will soon be learning more about the 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Vision 2020 is hosting in the Year 2020. Under the direction of Dianne Semingson, who knows a great deal about staging big celebrations, preparations are moving ahead through a seven-team approach.

Your ideas are always welcome, particularly on ways to involve all 50 states in honoring women leaders of the past and the present, and in paving the way for today's girls to realize their full potential. To share ideas or for more information, contact [Abra Evensky](#).

Vision 2020's own roster of talent just grew as we welcomed new Delegates from Alabama (**Paula Bobrowski**, Associate Dean of Research, Faculty Development, and Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University), California (**Myra Nawabi**, Senior Program Manager, Advanced Technology Center, Lockheed Martin Space Systems), and Idaho (**Sylvia Chariton**, President-elect, American Association of University Women, Boise Area Branch). Remember we are always alert to adding Delegates, and many of the best continue to come to us through the recommendations of current Delegates and Allies.

Finally, Vision 2020 is in the business of building bridges between generations and genders, and many men are involved with Vision 2020, on committees and as contributors. We all benefit from working together, and that sounds a lot like "shared leadership," which gets back to where this letter started.

Happy February!





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