



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



January 2016

I'm not really into New Year's resolutions. Self-promises to have a more disciplined diet, or to spend less time working - these are pledges history suggests I will find less than lasting.

A resolution I might stick to is to read more, to benefit from the wisdom of so many minds I admire. Much of the reading I enjoyed over the holidays provided a bonus, as the messages applied to what I believe is important to Vision 2020's campaign for women's equality. Here are some examples:

*"I believe that we are on Planet Earth to do what we can to make this a better place for all people to enjoy freedom."*

- - - - Rosa Parks

(The Vision 2020 mission is in full harmony with the concept of equal opportunity for everyone.)

*"If we don't have a plan for ourselves, we will probably be part of someone else's"*

plan."

- - - -  
Joan Lunden

(That's why Vision 2020 has goals and a timetable for achieving them.)

*"Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation."*

- - - -  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

(Shared leadership, essential in the workplace, is just as welcome at home.)

*"Helping one another is part of the religion of our sisterhood."*

- - - -  
Louisa May Alcott

(That's why Vision 2020's criteria for Delegates include a demonstrated commitment to helping women and girls.)

*"Once we give up searching for approval, we'll find it easier to earn respect."*

- - - -  
Gloria Steinem

(A fundamental part of Vision 2020's emphasis on educating young people about the history of women is to build mutual respect among girls and boys.)

*"Whatever you want in life, other people are going to want it too. Believe in yourself enough to accept the idea you have an equal right to it."*

- - - -  
Diane Sawyer

(Evening up the numbers in the board room and the legislative halls starts with confidence that we belong there.)

*"If our children are to approve of themselves, they must see that we approve of ourselves."*

- - - -  
Maya Angelou

(Changing the culture requires leadership example, every day, every generation, until that culture no longer needs changing.)

*"I would have girls regard themselves not as adjectives, but as nouns."*

- - - -  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

(This quote is on a T-shirt for sale at the [Women's Rights National Historical Park](#). I bought two for my granddaughters.)

*"I am awed by those who struggle to make one small difference after another."*

- - - - - Ellen Goodman

(In all 50 states, progress every day on projects large and-not-so-large that is the essence of Vision 2020.)

*"Today is the oldest you've ever been and the youngest you will ever be again."*

- - - - - Eleanor Roosevelt

(I think that says our time is now.)

I like these lines. They remind us to keep our Vision 2020 agenda moving.

Happy New Year!



## In the News

Be sure to check out this interview of **Lynn Yeakel** by **Minnesota Delegate Betty Folliard** for her radio program, [A Woman's Place](#), which aired on January 3, 2016.



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