



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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