



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



July 2016

### WHAT'S IMPORTANT THIS SUMMER

With the national political conventions coming up later this month, Vision 2020 has supporters in Cleveland and Philadelphia prepared to spread the "Save the Year" message about 2020 to leaders from across the country. This is an opportunity not to be missed and has underscored for me the urgency of spelling out our priorities for this summer, as we build momentum in the countdown to 2020. So here is what we're working on right now:

- Completing a business plan for the next four years and our year 2020 commemoration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment. We already have a name ("**Women 100**") and a logo. We have a 21-member planning team and an exciting menu of events. Now we need to develop and execute the strategy, fundraising and alliances that will make this an unforgettable national celebration.
- Strengthening, continually, The Vision 2020 family. That means adding to our Delegate base in certain states and welcoming new Allied organizations. The early actions of **Women 100**, particularly the introduction of the U.S. Senate Resolution designating Vision 2020 as the host of this coast-to-coast event, have brought new friends, wider recognition.
- Building the **Shared Leadership** Campaign as a key element of the Vision 2020 mission. That doesn't mean abandoning the activities related to our other goals:

economic parity, youth education and civic engagement. It means recognizing that the sooner 50-50 shared leadership is achieved; the easier it will be to accomplish the other three.

- Enhancing our website. You will see dramatic changes shortly that improve our communications capability. The clarity and currency of this key source of information are essential to our success.
- Creating the concept for an original, interactive visual experience to "Honor the Past" that will open in March of 2020 at the National Constitution Center, launching the **Women 100** celebration.
- Scheduling important National Congress sessions to convene the Vision 2020 family between now and 2020. I believe that in-person exchanges of ideas can't be matched through any other medium. Early probabilities are for a Congress in Salt Lake City in 2017 and in a warm (!) southern state in early 2019. These will lead to a Super Congress in Philadelphia in August of 2020 on the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Expanding the annual Vision 2020 "**Toast to Tenacity**." It's a 30-minute event that we've presented each year for the past three years on August 26, when we toast suffragists of a century ago on the federally designated "Women's Equality Day." We gather all the women - and men - we can attract at mid-day and toast this historic milestone with grape juice, as they did in 1920 when Prohibition was in effect. Imagine with me this "**Toast to Tenacity**" taking place simultaneously, in Detroit and Denver, Pittsburgh and Portland, Boston and Austin. Simple to do and surprising in its return. All it takes is a leader, some grape juice and paper cups.

Other upcoming events include a **lunch event** hosted by The Walnut Club, a young professional women's organization, at The Water Works in Philadelphia on Sunday, July 24. Vision 2020 will be the beneficiary of the event's proceeds and I will receive a "Women Making History" award.

There are many items on our agenda. Probably too many. But if we're going to succeed in accelerating the pace of women's progress, with 2020 clearly in sight, our team - like the Olympic team - must perform each day at a "personal best" level.

Happy July!





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