



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



June 2016

VISION 2020... Dinner with History's Heroes...

With the year 2020 getting closer and centennial planning underway, I am thinking about how closely the women leaders of history are connected to our Vision 2020 goals, and what we can learn from those who pioneered the path to equality that we continue to pursue.

I have imagined a group of five women I'd like to invite to dinner. My guests would be **Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul.** Settling on a list of dinner guests wasn't easy because history harbors so many women with high credentials. I decided on these five for reasons that will become clear in the following paragraphs as I considered the questions I'd like to ask each of them about the unfinished agenda of women's equality.

Because **Lucretia Mott** discovered on her very first job that men teachers were paid twice as much as women, long before she became a national force for women's rights, she became very skilled at standing up for herself. Her experience could have contributed to the panel that Vision 2020 Vice Chair **Bobbi Liebenberg** and I were on recently when we took Vision 2020's [message about economic parity](#) and the importance of negotiating to an audience of college-age women. One question for Lucretia: "How do we convince America to value the work done by women in the home as well as in the workplace?"

Because **Sojourner Truth** spoke so vigorously and brilliantly on issues of anti-

slavery and women's rights, she frequently encountered men who had opposing points of view. She didn't avoid them or regard them as obstacles. She invited them to join her on the platform. She welcomed debate and earned respect. I would ask her: "Since your life demonstrated a model of **shared leadership** among women and men, how do we energize the dialogue about the benefits of 50-50 shared leadership in government and business that will enable our nation to utilize **all** of its brainpower?"

Because **Elizabeth Cady Stanton's** outgoing personality and organizational know-how helped attract so many leaders to the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, she could advise me on Vision 2020's messages to a White House Summit on "[The United State of Women](#)" that I will attend on June 14. My question for her would be: "How can we help women understand that we are the majority, and when we stand together, we can make positive change?"

Because **Susan B. Anthony** became a model of perseverance, repeatedly ridiculed for her outrageous goal of gaining women's voting rights in every state - a commitment on which she never-yielded - I would ask her: "Is the Vision 2020 goal for November 3, 2020, to have 100 percent of eligible women voting, also 'outrageous'? Or is it a great incentive for Vision 2020 to work collaboratively with our allied organizations over the next four years to register, educate and mobilize women to vote?"

Because **Alice Paul** believed that women's suffrage was worth going to jail for, and women's rights were worthy of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I would ask her: "Now that Vision 2020 has been designated as host of the national commemoration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, is it appropriate to remind women from all 50 states that, though denied a seat at the table two centuries ago, this is the time to have our voices of equality heard from coast to coast?"

All five of these uncommon heroes of history were gifted with a half-dozen special character traits: they stepped up, united allies, spoke clearly, defined courage, were faithful to their purpose, and never quit.

Who's on your guest list?

NEWS OF NOTE

From the National Office:

Welcome to new team member **Kim Coulter**, who brings her background in women's history to our Education Initiative.

Vision 2020 is submitting testimony to the 2016 Democratic and Republican national platform committees. It reads:

America will be stronger and fairer when 50-50 shared leadership among women and men is a reality in government and business. In top decision-making roles, where priorities are set and resources allocated that affect all our lives, America can use its best brainpower with women and men equally represented at the table.

Vision 2020, headquartered at Drexel University, will host the Nation's Commemoration of the 19th Amendment centennial in Philadelphia in the year 2020. Vision 2020 is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working together to achieve women's economic, political and social equality in the United States. Its

goals are shared leadership, economic parity, youth education and women's increased civic engagement.

Indiana Delegate **Cindy Felsten** will represent Vision 2020 at the 7th Annual [Integrating Women Leaders Women's Leadership Conference](#) on August 23 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Thank you to Tennessee Delegate **Phyllis Qualls-Brooks**, who served as the executive director of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. The council is dissolving on June 30.

Vision 2020 is proud to partner with New York Delegate **Erin Vilardi** and her organization **VoteRunLead**, a non-partisan organization interested in seeing a hyper-diversity of women exercising power in all levels of government, for their Dare To Lead Conference taking place on Saturday, June 18.

This historic, seven-city and online, conference, is rooted in diversity and driven by technology. As part of our partnership, Vision 2020 gets a full discount to register for the event in all seven cities. To attend the event, you can [chose one of the cities](#), and then use the registration code: **D2LOPDF** to register for free (a \$69 value).

If you cannot attend any of the events, but would still like to be a part of the experience, you can register to [live stream](#) the event online.

Happy June!



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