



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Sometimes people ask me why Vision 2020 selected the four national goals that spearhead our Campaign for Women's Equality. The short-form answer is that if we achieve those four goals, most other barriers to women's equality will fall away.

When we achieve **Shared Leadership**, and women and men are equally represented in senior leadership positions, we will be able to influence positive change through decision-making;

When we achieve **Economic Parity**, with equal pay and benefits, women and families will be more economically secure;

When we increase women's **Civic Engagement** through voting and running for office, we will experience the value of setting priorities that impact the quality of life for our families and communities;

When we enhance **Youth Education**, by educating boys and girls to value gender equality, shared leadership and civic engagement, we will have a more just and humane society.

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My next Huffington Post blog, [Pay Equity Begins at Home](#), has just been posted. Many adults can trace their attitudes about the value of women's work vs. men's work back to their childhoods. Parents need to be aware of the messages they are sending to their children when assigning chores.

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In last month's letter, I mentioned a program Vision 2020 was co-sponsoring with the National Constitution Center on May 19. The speaker was **Caroline Frederickson**, President of the American Constitution Society (ACS) in Washington, D.C., and author of a new book entitled, "Under the Bus: How Working Women Are Being Run Over." Her focus was on the status of women's rights in the workplace, a topic of importance to all of us. The ACS is the nation's leading progressive legal organization, with 40 lawyer chapters and student chapters in nearly every law school in the U.S. We have invited ACS to join the network of Vision 2020 Allied organizations, and Caroline and I discussed the opportunity to work through its chapters to expand Vision 2020 student chapters in high schools, colleges and graduate schools.

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In Nashville...

The title of **Ellen Goodman's** kickoff talk at our October Congress in Nashville is: "Who Will Carry the Baton across the Finish Line?" She will issue the challenge. The relay race to equality, now well over a century long, will require a strong final leg to complete the victory.

Another important message in Nashville will be delivered by Tennessee Supreme Court Justice **Cornelia Clark**. She has an amazing string of "firsts" in a career we will honor with the Vision 2020 Pioneer Award.

We will consider the value and logistics of creating Vision 2020 "regions." Possibly five regions with ten states each. This could be a useful way to share ideas, issues, projects and resources as we begin the Countdown to 2020. During our first five years we have been identifying leaders like you, and crafting the message. During the time between now and 2020 we need to excite the nation about the worth--and fundamental fairness--of equality.

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New faces, familiar places. Take time to welcome new Vision 2020 Delegates:

- From Indiana, **Wanda Gordils**...When she's not at work as a Cardiology Technologist, she is a state and national leader for Latino organizations and a youth mentor.
- From Florida, **Sarah Owen**...President and CEO of Southwest Florida Community Foundation...Chair of the Florida Suncoast Women's Forum...recognized leader.
- From Rhode Island, **Tejal Tarro**... Professional facilitator, coach and leader... member of the Rhode Island Commission on Women and the United Way of Rhode Island's Women's Leadership Council.
- From Washington, D.C., **Dr. Suj Chandrasekhar** (we'll ask you to spell her name in Nashville)... An expert in sales, marketing, product development strategy, author, and public speaker.
- From Utah, **Lindsay Zizumbo**...Now in policy innovation at the University of Utah...background in state and federal government relations.
- Also from Utah, **Asenath Horton**...Entrepreneur and business coach, she runs a public relations firm... Says she fears heights, but also owns a roofing business... She will fit in at Vision 2020.

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Congratulations to:

Vision 2020 **Ally 2020 Women on Boards'** Chicago Committee Chair, Judi Spaletto, who has spearheaded HR 0439 making Illinois the second state to pass a resolution that encourages equitable and diverse gender representation on corporate boards of directors.

**Maryland Delegate Kate Campbell Stevenson** who was celebrated by the Daily Record as one of 2015's top 100 Maryland Women and will be featured in the Maryland Women in the Arts exhibit opening June 11 at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

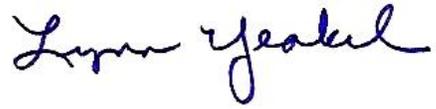
**Missouri Delegate Jan Scott** who was recently selected as the chair of the AAUW St. Louis Inter-branch Council and President-Elect of AAUW MO.

Belated congratulations to **Tennessee Delegate Phyllis Qualls-Brooks** who received the 2014 YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Academy of Women of Achievement award.

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Vision 2020 believes that women need to think and act like the majority we are. As Alice Walker wrote: "The most common way people give up their power is to think they don't have any."

Happy June,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Yeakel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'e'.

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