



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



March 2016

A Century Later...

"We're half the people. We should be half the Congress."

Those words belonged to Jeannette Rankin, who 99 years ago became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was one of the few who voted against U.S. entry into World War I back in 1917. She lost the next election but didn't go away. The people of Montana returned her to Washington, and her commitment to pacifism never wavered. At the age of 87, she led 5,000 women on a march in Washington to protest the Vietnam War. Her vision of women holding half the seats in Congress has yet to be realized. Fifty-fifty shared leadership is a Vision 2020 goal a century later.

The Vision 2020 emphasis on Shared Leadership is focused especially on government and business, where decisions are made and priorities are set that affect all our lives. Women leaders need to be at those tables.

Eleven days ago, on February 28, the [New York Times](#) identified 503 people who have power in America. The purpose was to illustrate how few are minorities. They covered government, education, business, who makes the movies, who publishes the books, who runs pro sports. The number of minority leaders came out to 44.

It's an important, eye-opening piece of work, and we need a parallel review of how many of the 503 are women. We counted 69 women among the 503 photos, less than 15 percent. I have written to the editor of the Times on behalf of Vision 2020 to compliment their work and ask them to finish the job.

On the subject of Shared Leadership, Vision 2020 has launched an investment campaign, seeking a million dollars in funding to build our capacity to manage this collective impact model that will help bring leadership balance all around the nation. We continue to look to the year 2020 as a logical time to measure progress. Our coalition now includes nearly a hundred Allied Organizations, and our Vision 2020 family keeps growing daily through Facebook, Twitter, website-visitors - all with **Equality for Women** on their minds.

News of note:

- New York Delegate Teresa Younger, president of the Ms. Foundation for Women has been highlighted in a multimedia digital campaign called [#31Days of Feminism](#). The Ms. Foundation partnered with NBC to spotlight women of color who are leading the way toward a more equal world.
- Florida Delegate Sarah Owen, president and CEO of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, was named [2015 Person of the Year](#) by the Fort Myers News-Press Media Group.
- Vision 2020 co-sponsored a February 24 discussion titled "Why Young People Pass on Politics and How to Engage Them." The event included [Young Involved Philadelphia](#).
- Vice Chair Bobbi Liebenberg, represented Vision 2020 on March 9 on a panel titled "Disrupting the Patriarchy." She described the California Fair Pay Act, which passed unanimously last fall and is a bipartisan model for states across the country. One of her PowerPoint presentations is available on our [website](#).
- Vice Chair Karen Kaplowitz and a team of Vision 2020 leaders have developed a survey to promote the Vision 2020 voter mobilization goal for 2020. The [survey](#) they prepared will be sent to the heads of Vision 2020 Allied Organizations to collect information on their activities and interests regarding voter registration, education and mobilization. We look forward to hearing from these important national and regional organizations about how we can work together to achieve 100 percent of eligible women voting in the November 3, 2020, elections.

Finally, you may have noticed that this March message has not specifically mentioned Women's History Month. It's never been a favorite-of mine - this assigning of 31 days to single out the achievements of-women - over half the population - while excluding us from the traditional teaching of American history. Last month, Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Harold Jackson wrote about Black History Month. He said: "There's no good reason to exclude black history from traditional American history courses. ...There are still eyes to be opened, but the better way to do that is by incorporating the achievements of black men and women into comprehensive history courses. ...That would be a real history course." He's writing about "inclusion." So is Vision 2020.

Happy March!



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