



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



When I was in Cedar Rapids in April for the Iowa Women's Leadership Conference, someone asked me if I thought Vision 2020's shared leadership goal of "50/50 by 2020" was a bit optimistic. My answer, of course, is "YES!" When you sign on to Vision 2020, you take a vow of optimism. It's in our DNA - Duty, Nerve, Attitude. Optimism beats doubt any day.

It was a delight at the Iowa Conference to see Vision 2020 Delegate **Diane Ramsey** leading the team that brought over a thousand people to the table. Vision 2020 had the opportunity to conduct a shared leadership forum for CEOs, an exchange we expect to repeat elsewhere and often in the next five years.

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The high energy level of Vision 2020 just received a boost with the addition of three new Delegates:

- From Georgia, **Dr. Beth Farokhi**, distinguished educator and consultant on leadership development.
- From Minnesota, **Betty Folliard**, businesswoman, public official, advocate for women- and probably Vision 2020's only former entertainer for a Far East USO tour.
- From Pennsylvania, **Susan Mostek**, leading a fund for women and girls, librarian, former president of a Junior League chapter.

When you get to Nashville for our Oct. 26-28 Congress, introduce yourself to them. The ambitious agenda for Nashville is now in place. And I'm hoping we can shoehorn in enough time to explore the value of some regional structure for Vision 2020, making it easier for all of us to share ideas and resources on a regular basis.

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Applause to **Sheryl Allen**, Utah Delegate, who has been scouting prospects for future Vision 2020 Delegates from her state. We welcome nominations from all of you. Standards are high-- they must be as capable and qualified as you are.

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NAWBO, The National Association of Women Business Owners, a new Vision 2020 Ally, has invited Vision 2020 to make a presentation during a webinar for its members. This will be an opportunity to share our Vision 2020 message and plans with business leaders around the country.

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In partnership with our friends at the National Constitution Center, Vision 2020 is hosting a May 19 forum in Philadelphia about women and the workplace conducted by American Constitution Society President Caroline Fredrickson. I'll report the highlights in next month's letter.

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**Something you know:** Vision 2020 has made public its intent to seek a 100% turnout of eligible women voters in the year 2020 as a tribute to those suffragists of a century ago.

**Something you don't know:** One of those suffragists was Annie Oakley (real name: Phoebe Ann Moses), the world-famous sharpshooter... and at age 57, in 1917, with America in World War I, she offered to organize a regiment of women for combat.

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Just a reminder of how much I appreciate all of you out there who are wearing the Vision 2020 colors and advancing our goals. I'm conscious and grateful every day for what you're doing. By the way, one of those goals-- economic parity-- received an unexpected lift in recent remarks by Pope Francis. He called paying women less than men "scandalous." **Amen.**

