



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



November 2016

### ***Unfinished Business ...***

So close. On Election Day, for the first time in American history, a woman was on the ballot as a major party nominee for President of the United States. She even won the popular vote nationwide and just fell short in the all-important Electoral College.

This is the latest setback in the long struggle to complete the unfinished business of women's equality.

For over two centuries, women have been trying to achieve the tripleheader - to be participants in the three-tiered structure of our democracy - a bicameral legislature, an independent judiciary and a strong executive branch. With three women on the Supreme Court and slowly increasing numbers in the U.S. Congress, the remaining hill to be climbed is the Oval Office. Hillary Clinton brought that element of equality right to the threshold.

I had two reactions to the election. One was a feeling of intense gratitude for all those women who chose to run for office in local, state, and national races. Republican or Democrat, winner or runner-up, the willingness to put yourself out there in the competitive political arena deserves the applause of all women.

There is nothing tranquil about politics. It is not a contact sport. It is a collision sport. I know. I still have scars to prove it.

Which brings me to my second reaction to this election season just completed. It is one of - relief - relief that it's over, that all those dreadful commercials with candidates bashing each other have ended. You see, I still harbor some hope that as more and more women enter the political arena, we might upgrade the civility of campaigns.

Women are a permanent part of the political future of America. That is progress. Such leaders will complete the unfinished business of women's equality to which Vision 2020 is committed. We must keep working towards that equality goal in all aspects of American life, towards a time when the "exceptional" woman leader will be unexceptional.

Speaking of leaders, save the dates of **October 12-13, 2017**. That is when Vision 2020's Delegates and Allies will assemble in Chicago for our Sixth National Congress. Agenda details shortly.

Happy Thanksgiving!



**P.S.**

Maintaining a strong working relationship with the Girl Scouts of the USA is important to Vision 2020. Such a national partnership begins with many local collaborations. This one, involving several of us with the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania, took place at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Called Real Girls: Next Generation Leaders, the session featured speakers and workshops for 120 Scouts, all aimed at prompting girls toward leadership.



Current and future leaders at the National Constitution Center



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