



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



October 2016

Looking Back ...

Vision 2020 was created to address the unfinished business of women's equality.

Seven years ago, I looked at the calendar and considered the approach of the year 2020, a year that should be celebrated for the commitment and the persistence of the suffragists who secured our right to vote, 133 years after the Constitution was signed, through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

What many people forget is that those courageous women knew there was much more to women's equality than access to the ballot box. What about leadership opportunities? Economic security? And inclusion in the nation's history books?

When Vision 2020 set out to accelerate the pace of women's progress with *An American Conversation About Women and Leadership*, we did so with vigor. That conversation is lively now across the nation, and the momentum continues, as does the learning curve of these past seven years.

- **We've learned** that it is possible to rally individuals and organizations across the United States, discovering in the process that Vision 2020's strength is in its role as "convener" - a vehicle through which women from many backgrounds can pool their aspirations and their energy. The **Sixth National Vision 2020 Congress will convene in Chicago in October 2017**. Specific dates and details will follow.

- **We've learned** that many voices united can generate positive change. And when those voices and actions are focused on achieving shared leadership among women and men, economic parity, and women's increased civic engagement, the pace picks up.
- **We've learned** to set our goals high. That's why Vision 2020's [Women 100](#) celebration in the year 2020 will be a tribute the entire nation can welcome. That's why we set the voting goal for eligible women in 2020 at 100 percent. That's why we believe that for one minute on August 26, 2020, America can pause for a Toast to Tenacity to the nation's women, past and present.

Most of all, what we've learned at Vision 2020 in these first seven years is that our guiding principles are valid - Honoring the Past, Enriching the Present, Shaping the Future.

Since My September Letter ...

- I am delighted to announce that **Anne Crowley** is the new project director for Vision 2020!



Anne is passionate about promoting women's leadership and has an extensive professional background in civic organizing, civic leadership and politics. She has served on numerous public and nonprofit boards including the Chester County Board of Health and Tredyffrin-Easttown School Board in Chester County, PA to which she was elected for a four year term. She ran for the Pennsylvania state house on a good government platform. Crowley has masters degrees in psychology (University of Dayton) and political science (University of Virginia) where she studied the role of women in politics. Anne worked as a school

psychologist and a marketing executive for a Fortune 500 corporation before starting her own consulting practice that focused on membership engagement for nonprofits.

- A dynamic group of volunteer communicators was recruited and convened by NBC 10 anchor Tracy Davidson on September 12. A comprehensive long-range communications plan is being finalized and will be shared with all of you next month.
- A Women 100 Action Team met on September 15. Its work for the year 2020 has been broken down into six parts: resources, communications, March events, August events, November events and partnerships. Volunteer managers will lead each team and will meet over the next several months to further develop the plans and budget for the centennial celebration. **You are invited and encouraged to participate!**
- The Women 100 Advisory Committee met on September 22 and discussed plans for the centennial celebration, Women 100. Many excellent ideas and new commitment resulted.
- With the goal of 100 percent voter participation in 2020 in mind, we sent letters to our Delegates and Allies and registered dozens of voters on National Voter Registration Day, September 27, here at our medical school. [Nonprofit VOTE](#), one of our National Allies, provided the posters and we provided the staff and registration information. It was gratifying to see the response as so many students and faculty registered.

Looking Ahead ...

- On October 30, Vision 2020 is partnering with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania to present [Real Girls: Next Generation Leaders](#) at the National Constitution Center. The event is designed to introduce Girl Scouts to civically engaged women and girls. I will be speaking along with my granddaughter, Mae Yeakel, who ran for student office.
- Be sure to visit the redesigned Vision 2020 [website](#) and let us know what's happening in your world so we can include it in our updates. To spread the wealth of great ideas, **we NEED to hear from you!** Please [email](#) and let us know what's going on in your region.

Happy October!



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