



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



OCTOBER 2015

My visit last week to Seneca Falls, NY, site of the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Women's Rights National Historical Park, was educational and rewarding on many levels. The women's rights convention held there in 1848 launched the long struggle for women's equality. Here are three highlights from my visit:



- a) We were greeted in the Park's museum by Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Cady Stanton, a.k.a. Melinda Grube, PhD. I asked her how old she was and she replied instantly "200." Then I asked her how old she was when she helped to organize and lead the women's rights convention and she said "32." She gave us a guided tour of the museum, staying in character throughout.
- b) The life-size bronze sculptures of the convention conveners in the

museum lobby include four men with the five women leaders of the convention. One of the men is abolitionist Frederick Douglass and I was reminded of the importance of coalitions to achieve social justice goals and of the essential support of men in reaching women's equality.

c) Following a Saturday morning discussion by a panel that included New York Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, I spoke about Vision 2020's voter mobilization goal and Rep. Maloney offered to organize a meeting with women in attendance at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in 2016. Vision 2020 will encourage a similar meeting at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next year.

We attended the National Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and induction ceremony, and many important connections were made with potential Vision 2020 collaborators and Allies.

We are at the mid-point in Vision 2020's busy decade-- five years from when we began, five years until the milestone year of 2020. At the Fifth National Congress in Nashville later this month, we will evaluate the progress towards our goals for the decade and map out the agenda for what remains to be done.

From the very beginning of our Delegate recruiting five years ago, I have been elated with the skill, diversity, brainpower and energy of these special women from all over the USA. In preparing for our Nashville Congress I found it fascinating that among the Delegates are:

- Someone who has climbed Mt. Everest.
- A doctor who has delivered 5,000 babies.
- A financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.
- Someone who worked with Mother Teresa in India.
- An author of six books.
- A former USO entertainer.
- The President of the American Medical Women's Association.
- An Army General and Air Force Colonel.
- A vice president of a Federal Reserve Bank.
- The Executive Director of the Nez Perce tribe.

... and preachers, teachers, funders, attorneys, entrepreneurs -- an amazing assembly of leaders. You make me proud.

Speaking of remarkable people, the December 2015 edition of American History

magazine features a wonderful profile of Alice Paul and the suffrage movement by J.D. Zahniser entitled [How Long Must We Wait?](#) I highly recommend that you read this article, which describes in detail the contributions of these courageous women a century ago.

Historical footnote from my Seneca Falls experience: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who, with Lucretia Mott, convened the 1848 convention, was among the first -- in 1840 -- to insist at her marriage to Henry Stanton that the word "obey" be dropped from the "love, honor and..." vow. And Lucretia's husband, James, was persuaded to chair the 1848 convention. "Shared Leadership" goes way back.



Happy October,