



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



September 2016

I have always enjoyed the Olympic Games, and last month's summer games in Rio were no exception. Any other television viewing I might normally do was abandoned so I could watch the incredible feats of these athletes. America's women competitors again outnumbered the men. The individual stories of how those gymnasts, swimmers and runners reached their gold medal glory - those stories of perseverance - never grow old to me. The years of training for a few win-or-go-home minutes of competition on the world's most visible stage send a message for all of us about goals, about commitment, about sacrifice.

It's certainly not a new message to the Vision 2020 family. On Women's Equality Day, August 26, in Philadelphia, we renewed our tribute to the suffragists with our annual Toast to Tenacity™. Next year we plan to send a Toast toolkit to you so you can participate in your community. Our half-hour program was brightened by a visit from Alice Paul. Portrayed by actor and attorney Taylor Williams, in appropriate 1920s attire, Paul reminded us all of what it took a century ago to win the vote. The event received excellent [media coverage](#) on the ABC affiliate in Philadelphia. Part of our Women 100 celebration in 2020 will be a nationwide toast, coordinated for the same hour across the country.



"Alice Paul" inspires the crowd at the Vision 2020 Toast to Tenacity

Also on August 26, our Tennessee Delegates hosted a hugely successful event in Nashville. The [unveiling of the Woman Suffrage Monument](#), created by artist Alan LeQuire, took place at Centennial Park. This historic commemoration honored the suffragists who fought so diligently for Tennessee to become the 36th state - the last state-needed - to ratify the 19th Amendment, which resulted in all American women gaining the right to vote. This event also honored three modern Tennessee Trailblazers, whose careers were made possible by the suffragists' victory. And we know there were many more commemorative events that day across the United States.

After the national elections in November, we will formally announce Vision 2020's goal of achieving 100 percent of eligible women voting in 2020, as a thank-you to the suffragists. Vision 2020 Vice-Chair **Karen Kaplowitz** is chair of the voting goal and has taken the lead in [sending messages](#) to our Delegates and Allied Organizations across the United States about voter registration. September is Voter Registration Month and September 27 is National Voter Registration Day. Vision 2020 is working with Ally **Nonprofit Vote** to register potential voters during this event. Look for more information from Vision 2020. This November 8 election is a good time for the Vision 2020 family members to get into the 100 percent habit!

In other news from the Vision 2020 Leadership Circle, **Bobbi Liebenberg** and **Lisa Passante** will head a National Speakers' Bureau to advance the Vision 2020 goals of Shared Leadership, Economic Parity, Youth Education and women's Civic Engagement. If you're interested in joining the Speaker's Bureau, [contact us](#).

Planning for Women 100 is moving ahead and there are several important meetings coming up this month, including a meeting of the Women 100 National Advisors. Another development is that a comprehensive communications strategy and team are beginning to form, under the leadership of NBC 10 Anchor Tracy Davidson, who has assembled some top talent in the communications field. Watch for details about Tracy's team next month.

Also in an early stage of Women 100 planning is an exciting interactive media installation being developed by Vision 2020 in collaboration with the [National Constitution Center](#). The goal is to unveil the installation in March of 2020 as part of our education initiative. It will be an inter-generational learning experience with a social justice theme.

One communications challenge for all of us is the four-generation reality of today's society. In and out of the workplace we have to become fluent in each other's language. The habits of each generation can create a menu of separation if we're not careful. What we need is to find what unites us. Vision 2020 believes that gender equality is a language we can all understand.

A question for Vision 2020 Delegates: If you had to choose the two women in your state who were/are the greatest game-changers ever in terms of women's equality, who would they be? Please [let me know](#).

Finally, in next month's Letter from the Chair, I expect to provide information about the Sixth National Vision 2020 Congress, which will take place in the fall of 2017.

In the meantime, if you have not had a chance to do so, take a look at our [new website](#). There is information about Vision 2020's other exciting plans as well as resources for our Vision 2020 family.

Enjoy your fall!

Happy September.



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