

2020 SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MEETING 11.13.18

ATTENDEES

Vivienne Adair, retired from retail merchandising, women's history enthusiast, and 75th anniversary organizer
Cynthia "Cyndy" Bittinger, VT Women writer, VPR commentator, Women's History Month collaborator, historian - **SKYPE**

Lyn Blackwell, writer, professor, historian, League member - **SKYPE**

Sandy Dooley, former VCW Commissioner, National Women's History Museum

Bethany Fair, Vermont State Archives & Records Administration

Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society

Sue Racanelli, League of Women Voters

Melinda Moulton, Main Street Landing

Sonja Schuyler, The Johnson Company, League member - **SKYPE**

Yvonne Straus, artist, writer - **SKYPE**

Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women

DERAILED BY WEATHER

Jill McKeon, League of Women Voters of Vermont

Rachael Onuf, Vermont State Archives & Records Administration Historical Records

DROPPED IN

Kate Logan, Rights & Democracy

BRIEF SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING

BROADENING PARTICIPANTS & REACH

Emails were sent to 108 organizations including social justice and educational institutions inviting them to be part of this planning process.

Sue Racanelli asked the group to review our PDF invitee list and suggest additional contacts who should be invited to join this planning group. Organizations should align with our mission and goals and include different viewpoints, different religious affiliations, etc. Discussed ACLU, AVL, Abenaki women leaders, DAR and Congressional delegation and Governor (as honorees), among others. Must not alienate partners, use gender broadly. Invite men. Lyn Blackwell stated we must invite organizations serving conservative, faith-based, and low-income women to the planning group. Sandy Dooley will invite Beth Robinson to the Planning Group.

Youth. Need to engage youth. They think differently than we do. Bring young women into this effort; important to help them understand the fight, not only for voting, but for reproductive rights. College and high school students. U32 student council leaders, guidance counselors. Go to school papers – activists. Cyndy Bittinger teaches students at CCV and will invite them once semester begins January 2019.

Sue will send out an invitation template that can be used to issue an invitation.

MISSION, GOALS & SUB-COMMITTEES

Lin Blackwell met with Sue and developed draft language for Mission and Goals as well as a list of Sub-Committees.

MISSION

To commemorate and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage.

GOALS

- (1) To educate Vermonters about the history and results of woman suffrage
- (2) To engage women in the ongoing quest for equal citizenship

Discussion: Mission is simple and goals are broad. Keep it simple and concise. Discussion of term, *commemoration*, is that not implied? The group proposed language change: (2) To engage women in the ongoing quest for **equal citizenship rights for all**.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Film Screenings & Festivals
Parade
Schools
Social Media

The group added to the list and combined some of the sub-committees.

EVENTS: Film Screenings, any Festivals (books, fairs, food, music, history, etc.) Fairs, Monthly Celebrations, Grand Celebration & Parade, *Vivienne Adair interested*.

HISTORY/RESEARCH: Original research, discovering existing materials, resources and experts, displays, develop a toolkit. *Bethany Fair interested*.

FUNDING: Grants, sponsorships, etc. *Melinda Moulton interested*.

OUTREACH: Schools, colleges, social media & Get Out the Vote, diversity and inclusion, promotion and media. *Lilly interested*.

Melinda suggested forming an Executive Committee, a smaller core group of people with decision-making powers who can be nimble. Committee leaders could belong to the Executive Committee. *Sue will ask what sub-committees people would like to sit on*.

NAME FOR THE PLANNING GROUP

2020 Vermont Suffrage Centennial Celebration? Thoughts welcome and needed. Be aware that Vermont did not ratify the 19th Amendment until February 8, 1921.

KICK-OFF EVENT. Sue proposed a February kick-off event. Valentine's Day 2020 is the League's 100 Anniversary. Melinda suggested a launch in late autumn of 2019, then do an event each month. Have organizations around the state infuse this as a theme, communicate those back to us for promotion.

Members can help by being liaison for different groups of interest. Research and then contact, for example, all Vermont film festival or book fair or lecture series planners to let them know about including suffrage as a theme for 2020. Organizations often plan for the next year in February of the year before. Amanda Gustin will check with Vermont Historical Society regarding History Day. Sandy suggested we ask Senator Leahy's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference to have their 2020 conference include the Centennial Celebration as a theme. Ties in with jobs and economics.

GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND FUNDING

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) released a request for proposals for projects and programs highlighting interpretive themes. *Woman's Suffrage* is a priority. Two-page pre-proposals are due Monday, November 25. Sonya Schuyler will join in by phone this evening, a workshop hosted by the Lake Champlain Basin Program on development of the CVNHP pre-proposals and explore this opportunity with Rachel. The League's Education Fund, a 501c3, is fiduciary agent. Amanda suggests we include mileage reimbursement as a grant expense to help volunteers. Sandy said we need a business plan – prioritize events and projects and attach budget to each.

Other. Go Fund Me and corporate sponsorships. Review deadlines for funding opportunities – Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Humanities Council, etc. Vermont State Library carries the Foundation Directory Online Foundation and Vermont Directory.

LANGUAGE

Suffragist (older more established activists) or Suffragette, diminutive/jibes. <article link here>

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 11th, **NOTE TIME CHANGE: 9:30-11:30**, CAPS, room 219.

POST-MEETING

Following the meeting, Kate Logan from Rights & Democracy came in. Her suggestions on youth groups:

Youth in Rutland

Montpelier – Black Lives Matter

Muslim Girls Making Change