



## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 | 9:30-11:30

Center for Achievement in Public Service, Schulmaier Hall, 32 College Street, Montpelier

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Vivianne Adair	American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Elaine Alfano	
Cynthia Bittinger	VT Women writer, VPR commentator, <b>SKYPE</b>
Lyn Blackwell	League of Women Voters (LWV)
Kellie Campbell	St. Michael's College, <b>SKYPE</b>
Sandy Dooley	former VCW Commissioner, National Women's History Museum, <b>SKYPE</b>
Emme Erdossy	Lost Nation Theater (LNT)
Bethany Fair	Vermont State Archives & Records Administration (VSARA)
Johanna de Graffenreid	Rights & Democracy (R&D)
Amanda Gustin	Vermont Historical Society (VHS)
Karin Hanta	Middlebury College, Feminists' Resource Center
Donna Rae Heath & Alice Kitchel	Business & Professional Women/Vermont (BPW)
Del McDonough	
Jill McKeon	League of Women Voters
Tabitha Pohl-Moore	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rutland, (NAACP) <b>SKYPE</b>
Melinda Moulton	Main Street Landing, <b>SKYPE</b>
Rachel Onuf	Vermont State Archives & Records Administration
Paige Feeser	Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNE), <b>SKYPE</b>
Sue Racanelli	League of Women Voters
Ericka Reil	Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
Lila Richardson	
Sonja Schuyler	The Johnson Company & League of Women Voters
Christine Smith	Spaulding High School Library
Lilly Talbert	Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)
Robin Taylor	<i>Interest since 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</i>
Tess Taylor	Vermont Humanities Council (VHS)
Thea Wurzburg	Office of Congressman Peter Welch

### **REGRETS**

Marguerite Adelman	Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF)
Andrea Brett	Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA)
Beverly Colston	UVM, The Mosaic Center for Students of Color (MCSC)
Karen Madden	Northern Vermont University (NVU)
Kate Logan	Rights and Democracy Vermont
Rachel Siegal	Peace & Justice Center (PJC)
Meg Smith	Vermont Women's Fund (VWF)
Eileen Sullivan	Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Mary Azarian, Jane Robb, Donna Smyers, Yvonne Straus	

## WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

Sue Racanelli welcomed the group and asked each participant to introduce themselves.

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

ACLU, Ethan Allen Homestead Museum (Dan O'Neil), Outright Vermont (Beal St. George), Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (Marguerite Adelman) would like to partner with the Coalition. **Ethan Allen** can provide resources for designing and managing traveling exhibit. Suggested we contact Elise Guyette and Melody Brook.

*Cyndy Bittinger* confirmed VPR interest for a Commentary series.

**Questions from two potential partnering organizations**, Justice for All + VT Interfaith Action: *Additional Information about the Coalition* and *What would joining the Coalition entail ?*

**Discussion:** Bring expertise to table, increase awareness of women's rights, help with publicity and formulate vision for event. BPW brings a historical perspective; started by women suffrage. Faith and disability communities helped women fight for getting more women to vote! Organizations bring expertise and their constituents. Life experiences of Coalition members can help us better formulate different ways suffrage impacted women's progress. Engaging women and bringing a broad perspective to the ongoing quest for rights. A look to the future; incomplete legacy. We need to expand women's social activism.

### Organizations to contact:

- *Department of Libraries*. Amanda Gustin.
- *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) UVM*— each area has a Regional Coordinator. *Cyndy and Dell McDonough*.
- *Vermont Women in Higher Education (VWHE)* has contacts on every VT college campus and may serve as conduit. *Kellie Campbell*.
- *Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association (VMCTA)*. Ask Town Clerks to look into archives – which women took Freeman's Oath in 1920? *Rachel Onuf* and *Bethany Fair* will research.
- Coalition members will contact their Town Clerks to see if 1920 voter records are available. Towns of Jericho and Worcester have records.
- *Daughters of the American Revolution*.
- *Senior Centers*, Council on Aging, Literacy, New Readers.
- *Melinda Moulton* suggested we contact *Vermont Folklife Center* and *Shelburne Museum*.

## INCLUSION/DIVERSITY

**Discussion:** Although the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted women the right to vote, in 1920 this was strictly limited to white women. Historically, African American and Native American women were marginalized, unable to exercise their right to vote until passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1964. As the Coalition proceeds with the Centennial Celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, this is the most crucial issue facing our group. It is vitally important we address it and don't sweep it under the rug. Vermont has a controversial history with racism. Our Coalition must make seek and reach out to organizations representing women of color and others and involve them in our efforts.

### Outcome:

Get in touch with

- African American Heritage Trail, Charlotte, VT.
- Rokeby Museum, Catherine Brooks and Jane Williamson.
- Vermont Human Rights Commission – *Ericka Reil*.
- Kesha Ram - *Melinda Moulton*.
- Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, UVM, Associate Professor of History and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. *Melinda*.
- Tabitha Pohl-Moore, NAACP Rutland.

Also find LatinX and Native Americans community contacts in Vermont.

- *Emme Erdossy* - Lost Nation Theater. Research disenfranchised women and bring to life in theater! Take into schools – a suffragette answers questions. Performance and education.
- *Karin Hanta* – Middlebury students designing panels, *The Women's Question*, for exhibition next fall.

- *Christine Smith* - President of *Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies*. Propose women's history and suffrage as possible theme for Fall Conference.
- *Tess Taylor* - social justice around racism, equality and inclusion, and disability dovetails well with VHC. *Vermont Reads* book selection for 2019 made in March! Send book suggestions (middle/high school/adults) plus *First Wednesdays* (Oct – May), and Speakers Bureau. Contact *The Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS)*. *Ericka Reil* offered to start conversation.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Discussion:** *Paige Feeser*. Still struggling. Perhaps we should bring to light ongoing oppression?  
*Sandy Dooley*. Woman suffrage term – historically accurate. Adjust language – now that we hear it more naturally.  
*Ericka*. Lots of people still can't vote, even with the ADA. *Melinda*. Including neurodiverse women.

### Outcome:

**MISSION:** To commemorate and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage and to acknowledge its incomplete legacy.

## GOALS STATEMENT

**Discussion:** (1) Swap **outcome** for results (2) Add **rights and** citizenship.

### Outcome:

## GOALS

- (1) To educate Vermonters about the history and outcomes of women's suffrage
- (2) To engage women in the ongoing quest for equal rights and citizenship

## GROUP NAME

**Discussion:** In previous meeting we suggested the *2020 Vermont Suffrage Centennial Celebration*.

### Outcome:

Need this ASAP. Christine suggested VT 2020 Suffrage Celebration Alliance, or VSCA. *Sue to collect other suggestions and call for members vote.*

Coalition wants to actively engage women in poverty (VCW Listening Project had 2,000 responses), transgender, and faith communities, as well as organizations with differing viewpoints. Contact Mercy Connections, United Way's Women United, Evangelical Churches, VT Interfaith Action. Send postcard invitation listing goals, partners, shared values.

## REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEES + DETERMINE LEADERSHIP

***Let Sue know your Sub-Committee interest(s) so meetings can be scheduled and discussions begun.***

**EVENTS:** *Vivienne Adair, Ericka Reil* (accessibility)

The Events Sub-Committee needs to meet first to determine events . Other sub-committees will meet following this. Events must be planned in towns around the state. Piggyback as often as possible with other organizational celebrations. Champlain College and Vermont Law School planning events for 2020. We can plan one big statewide kick-off event. End with Parade and/or Rally/Community Picnic/Music Festival in August. August 26, 2020 is Wednesday. Parade can be planned the Saturday before (August 22) or after (August 29).

Film Screenings, Festivals (books, fairs, food, music, history) Fairs, Monthly observances, Grand Celebration Parade & Rally. Tie into national monthly observances. Monthly events could start with Native American Heritage and end with August Celebration. Continue Get Out the Vote in September/October. Something could be planned for February 8, 1921 when Vermont ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (ERA).

January - ACLU centennial

February –African American History Month. League of Women Voters centennial on Valentine's Day.

March. Women's History Month

April. Black Women's History Month

May. Older Americans/Asian Pacific Heritage/Jewish American Heritage

June. LGBTQ Pride Month

July. ADA Passage; Women Rights Convention Seneca Falls 1848  
August. Ratification of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.  
September. Constitution Day; National Voter Registration Day  
Sept 15-Oct 15 – Hispanic Heritage  
November - Native American Heritage

Examples of other events - university-sponsored symposium, mural creation in schools, college and university students research groups marginalized, newspapers pre-coverage and reaction to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920. Get in touch with Women's March regarding 2020. Lightpole banners in downtowns.

In the afternoon of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary there were skits and booths after parade. Idea: *Do you remember the first time you voted?* Interviews of Vermonters by teens and college students. Involve Vermont Folklife Center and Vermont StoryLab.

**Call to Action:** Celebrate the right to vote, talk about voter suppression today- barriers based on class, understand state rights for felons. Ripe for story telling: playwrights + actors - engage Maura Campbell, Katherine Blume in conversation). Make sash for Ceres on the State House to wear that day or all year?

**HISTORY/RESEARCH:** *Bethany Fair interested in leadership*

Original research, discovering existing materials, resources and experts, displays, develop a toolkit. Encourage Vermonters to explore documents or family history.

**FUNDING:** *Melinda Moulton interested in leadership.*

Once name is established, need to develop logo, letterhead, business cards, website, Facebook...etc. LWV has set up bank account at Northfield Savings Bank. Generate corporate sponsorships, grants, etc. Vermont Arts Council and VHC.

**OUTREACH:** *Lilly Talbert interested in leadership.*

Schools, colleges, social media & Get Out the Vote, diversity and inclusion, promotion and media.

## FUNDING

**Discussion:** Submitted two pre-proposals to Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Core Grant and Local Heritage Grant Program requesting \$7,500 each for two traveling exhibits. If accepted, full proposal due January 31. New York State Museum and City of Rochester were exceptionally helpful and willing to share exhibits. Sonja Schuyler, Lyn Blackwell, Rachel Onuf, and Lilly Talbert helped develop and guide the requests.

1) *Because of Women Like Her*...highlights historic success of Vermont women in shaping Vermont's history prior to and following passage of the 19th Amendment. Familiarizes students with story of suffrage through traveling exhibit, readings and discussion series, and student-led ventures.

2) *Votes for Women*. Honors centennial of women's suffrage and raises awareness of struggle for equal rights up to present day. Organized into three areas: "Agitate! Agitate!" (1776–1890); "Winning the Vote" (1890–1920); and "The Continuing Fight for Equal Rights" (1920–Present).

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Approach Sen. Alison Clarkson, Reps. Theresa Wood and Gini Lyons. Line-item in budget towards suffrage celebration.
- Foundation Directory access at State Library ends December 31.
- Website. Register domain name. *2020VT.org*. *#VT2020.org*.
- *Vivienne Adair* - Website cost determined by size/complexity. Professional price for small site between \$3000-8,000. DIY about \$1,000. Takes 40 hours if familiar with technology. Annual fees for updates, maintenance, hosting, licensing.
- *Sandy Dooley* will contact Governor Kunin to speak to Sen. Leahy about having the theme of his September 2020 Women's Economic Conference be a commemoration of the centennial of Woman Suffrage.
- *Johnanna de Graffenreid* suggested we get in touch with Matt at Vermont Youth Lobbying group.
- Establish Google Group.

**NEXT MEETING:** Consider evening meeting for those who can't make day meetings including students. Amanda offered Vermont History Center office in Barre. **PS: 6-8pm Wednesday, January 16, at Vermont History Center Community Room in Barre, with conference call option.**