



MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 | 6-p.m.

Vermont History Center Community Room, 60 Washington Street, Barre

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome new participants: Marguerite Adelman, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Pamela Kraynak (SKYPE), Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries.

Participants

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Marguerite Adelman, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
Cyndy Bittinger, CCV and VPR *
Lyn Blackwell League of Women Voters
Ana Cimino Burke – VT Housing and Conservation Board *
Sandy Dooley *
Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society
Pamela Kraynak *
Dell McDonough
Jill McKeon League of Women Voters
Rachel Onuf, Vermont State Archives & Records Administration
Sue Racanelli League of Women Voters
Lila Richardson *
Christine Smith Spaulding High School Library & League of Women Voters
Eileen Sullivan, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England *
Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women
Tess Taylor, Vermont Humanities Council
Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries

** via conference call*

Regrets

Ann Buermann, Amy Cumming,
Emme Erdossy, Donna Heath, Kathy
Johnson, Tabitha Pohl-Moore, Erica
Reil, Donna Smyers, Yvonne Straus,
Robin Taylor.

NEW PARTICIPANTS + PARTNERSHIPS

Discussion: Email invitation sent to Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Vermont Right to Life Committee, (VRLC) as discussed at last meeting, to join Coalition as well as to Donald Dacey, Reformation Society of Confessing Evangelicals and reach-out to Stephen Witmer of Small Town Summits & The Gospel Connection seeking Vermont liaison – haven't heard back.

Ericka Reil of VCIL contacted The Center for Cartoon Studies who responded positively. We are interested in posing the theme as potential material for a graphic novel. Cartoons were part of the historical record on this issue; perhaps blend old ones with new ones?

Outcome:

Tess works with The Center and Folklife Center and will assist *Ericka* in pulling this together. *Lilly* will connect *Tess* and *Ericka* to work with The Center for Cartoon Studies.

GROUP NAME

Discussion: Sue announced that *Vermont 2020 Suffrage Celebration Alliance* garnered the most votes in email poll. Group deliberation noted: *Centennial* not mentioned in name. Agreed to replace *Celebration* with *Centennial*, as not all women view the 1920 Suffrage Centennial as cause for celebration. 2020 eliminated because it was a tongue-tripper. Sue read message from Rachel Siegel at Peace and Justice Center stating reservations around Coalition name choices. Leaving *women* out of name is wise. The year 2020 can be added to the logo and/or copy. Sue is reading *The Women's Hour*, describing overt racism by suffrage leaders.

Outcome:

- Consensus: ***Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA)***.
- Develop Book List. See National Women's History Alliance book resources – Research/History subcommittee assignment.
- Amanda suggested eventually developing a Style Guide, which would include language on how to describe this project.

SUBCOMMITTEE SIGNUPS

Discussion: The way we plan to accomplish the work of this project is through our subcommittees.

- **Events:** Determine/organize events we will undertake during the year of the centennial celebration - one big event in August – rally/parade/community picnic/music festival etc. or several monthly events tied to monthly observances, culminating in signature event; Poster Contest?
- **Funding:** Raising dollars to support alliance infrastructure, multiple events, and other expenses via sponsorships, grants, etc.
- **Outreach:** Engage schools, colleges, legislators, government, organizations, and festival organizers (books, films, music, poetry, music) in 2020 celebration themes; media/social media messaging, diversity/inclusion; state calendar
- **Research/History:** Original research; explore/celebrate ephemera; develop list of speakers/experts; coordinate displays; make sure information disseminated is historically accurate.

Melinda Moulton will coordinate the Funding Committee; *Lilly*, the Outreach Committee. **Leader(s) needed for Events & Research/History Committees.**

Ana suggested regional listening sessions on barriers to voting impacting Vermonters from both, a current and historical perspective. Lack of resources prevents us from doing this. However, voter suppression/restrictions could be a subject for discussion at schools, libraries, etc.

Outcome:

- *Lyn* and *Rachel* will lead the Research/History Committee
- *Ana* may bring this idea to Vermont Law School staff/faculty.
- **Leader(s) needed for Events subcommittee! Those with event planning experience – please step forward! This is a coordination/delegation/leadership opportunity that could be lead by co-chairs.**

NEXT STEPS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Discussion: We need to get subcommittee tasks outlined and also put infrastructure in place, including logo, website, Facebook page. The group spoke about preferred social media platforms. We could create no-cost ones as placeholders and move to professional when we have funding. Does anyone have the time and experience or know of someone who does, to help?

Sandy – Clarification: A kick-off event in the Fall? *Melinda Moulton* had proposed a Fall kick off. Group discussed “kick off” could mean website is complete and goes live, big announcement (press conference) with press release and fundraising element; or actual event. Group thought about a fundraiser Tea Party event? *Votes for Women* tea sets?

Outcome: Subcommittees need to develop task lists with timelines and be ready to go by Fall of 2019. They decide the scope of work. They consult with Alliance members as needed, and when a member's expertise or connections match, fold that person in to the task. Subcommittee members will provide information about progress to the group at meetings and will ask for “group think” in idea generation and problem-solving.

FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASICS

Discussion: Funding needed for website development, graphic artist/designer for logo, social media platforms. These pieces need to be in place to move ahead with project communications and promotion. Time constraints are involved with making logo development a VCFA student project. *Amanda* and *Tess* worked with graphic designer for podcast project. *Lyn* is familiar with website designer in East Montpelier. Start with a Facebook page. *Christine* - high school students might be able to assist with social media as a community service project. Once we have basics in place, Funding Committee can begin work. LWV committed \$1,000.

Outcome:

- *Lyn* will contact *Jennifer Boyer* regarding website advice/development
- *Tess* will send contact information of graphic designer

Grant Proposals: *Sue* developing grants for two traveling exhibits with assistance from *Lyn* and *Donna Heath of BPW*.
Deadline: January 31st.

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. Target audience: middle and high schools.

2) *Votes for Women*. Honors centennial of women's suffrage and raises awareness of struggle for equal rights up to present day. Target audience: museums, historical societies, municipalities, libraries, public spaces, businesses, etc.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT REVIEW

Discussion: *Lilly* read a draft statement, created for the purpose of group discussion and feedback. Statement below includes edits from *Christine*. Group liked the statement concept, thought it was long and needed editing, but felt it could be used in Alliance materials in entirety or in part.

The 19th Amendment prohibited the US and individual states from denying the right to vote on the basis of sex; a protracted, courageous, and hard-won victory. While many women were afforded access to the vote with its passage, many others still faced insurmountable obstacles, both legal and otherwise. Even without specifically targeting gender, disenfranchising practices were used to block access to the vote for women of color, low-income women, and women with disabilities. These obstacles included poll taxes, literacy tests, stringent voter ID requirements, including those excluding tribal members, polling places inaccessible to those with disabilities, lack of availability of polling locations, intimidation and violence. As such, the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA) welcomes members diverse in background, experience, and perspective to accomplish our mission and goals.

Outcome:

- **Send feedback and edits to Lilly.Talbert@vermont.gov by Wednesday, January 23rd and she will issue another draft by Friday, January 25th**

OTHER

- *Lilly* handed out a preliminary draft of a one-page flyer describing the Alliance and its partners intended to inspire the group to think about overall presentation, promotion, and messaging. It's a work in progress with updates in February.
- *Jill* posed the question, *What obstacles did Vermont women face when they wanted/went to vote immediately after the 19th Amendment?*

Next Meeting: Friday, February 8th 10-noon at CAPS in Montpelier.

Special Note: A portion of our February meeting will be spent in subcommittees. Please be ready to join a committee and offer your skills, time, expertise, and/or leadership.