



MEETING SUMMARY

Friday, February 8, 2019 | 10 a.m.

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

WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome new participants: Becky Cook, Karen Madden-Northern Vermont University, Amy McClellan, Raylon Lissor.

Participants

Vivienne Adair, American Assoc. of University Women
Elaine Alfano
Lyn Blackwell League of Women Voters (LWV)
Becky Cook *
Sandy Dooley
Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society
Alice Kitchel, Business and Professional Women/VT, Inc.
Pamela Kraynak *
Raylene Lissor
Karen Madden, Northern Vermont University *
Amy McClellan

Dell McDonough
Jill McKeon League of Women Voters
Rachel Onuf, Vermont State Archives & Records Admin.
Sue Racanelli League of Women Voters
Ericka Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living
Lila Richardson
Sonja Schuyler, League of Women Voters
Christine Smith, Spaulding High School & LWV
Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women
Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries
Thea Wurzburg, Office of Congressman Peter Welch *

*** via conference call**

Regrets

Marguerite Adelman, Andrea Brett, Yvonne Straus.

▪ MAP OF PARTNER LOCATIONS AND REVIEW COUNTIES NEEDING REPRESENTATION

Sue read list of partner organizations, some of who offer statewide services or have sites or offices located across the state. We want to continue to be intentional about expressly inviting to join this project organizations or individuals in the south and north, Essex, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, and Windsor counties.

Outcome: Members with suggestions can let Sue know. Outreach Subcommittee will continue to reach out to organizations in non-represented counties.

▪ PROGRESS UPDATES

Ericka Reil: The Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS)

CCS very excited to work on a graphic project with us. Choice of 8 or 16-page pamphlet or 140-page graphic novel. Cost: \$800-\$20,000. An eight-page project takes six months. The artist works with our content. Ericka suggests vignettes of six to eight suffragettes. Focus on Vermont history, blending suffragist profiles from Rachel Onuf's national crowdsourcing, *Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement*, input from Research and History subcommittee, and narratives on what was happening at the time for transition and context. Need to fundraise to cover project. Get questions to Ericka by Wednesday February 13. CCS offers a preview to print service, where people can purchase the document for download and print for \$1.99, which could help recoup funds. See a sample of the preview to print service: <https://gumroad.com/l/alifetimeoffirsts>. Additionally, we can co-promote with Department of Libraries. Ericka shared samples of two CCS projects with the VA. Special thanks to her husband who printed them out professionally for the group: <https://www.cartoonstudies.org/cartoonist-veteran-project-whole-lifetime-firsts-anthology/> and <https://www.cartoonstudies.org/cartoonist-veteran-project-release-of-when-i-returned-2/>

Outcome: We'd like to pursue an 8-page project and will need to fundraise for it. Research and History subcommittee will supply the artist with content direction.

Sue Racanelli: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Grant Program

Two proposals were submitted for traveling exhibits (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. (2) *Votes for Women* honors centennial of women's suffrage and raises awareness of struggle for equal rights up to present day. Heartfelt thanks to Lyn Blackwell, Donna Heath, Sonja Schuyler, Rachel Onuf, Christine Smith, and Lilly Talbert for exceptionally helpful input and comments. Will be notified by May. Each request is for \$7,500.

Sandra Dooley: How will the Alliance communicate and educate about racist history of this movement?

The recent article by Brent Staples of the New York Times, *When the Suffrage Movement Sold Out to White Supremacy* <https://nyti.ms/2DPJ2zv> makes a strong statement regarding how white women did not support requests of African-American women to help them gain voting rights following passage of the 19th Amendment. How do we communicate and educate around this? What do we propose to put in place to eliminate access to suffrage? Address head-on.

Discussion:

Lyn. From a Vermont history perspective, it is a challenge for us: as there were few Vermont women suffragettes, 270, and very few, if any, were women of color. Talk about property rights, voting rights? What is our scope?

Amanda. What we find creates the scope. And what we don't find, we acknowledge that gap.

Ericka. We must address what was occurring at the time in Vermont for people with disabilities: the Eugenics project, and forced sterilization. Some very effective suffragists were women with disabilities; they had bombs under their wheelchairs!

Pamela. Work from the facts, but make generalizations about the unknown. Celebrate, but tell the truth about the past. Women who are not celebrating the struggle of suffrage - Native Americans not citizens until 1962. Comment on reality of voting rights today. First, focus on legal access, then barriers - hatred, discrimination, threats of violence. Provide facts for context. Draw a parameter.

Christine. Contact Elise Guyette. Pull voting records of that time.

Rachel. Many women were known only by their husband's name. Can identify women who took the Freeman's Oath, registering them to vote, but it will be difficult to know which women voted. The lack of sources is a story.

Amanda. Records focus on men. We can make educated guesses. This reflects women's history.

Lyn. Inspire Vermonters to look into family records to discover primary material. Use social media and FPF. Sandy knows founder of Front Porch Forum. Perhaps VPR's monthly podcast *Brave Little State*, you ask the question, you decide what VPR investigates, and work with them to find answers. Council on Aging, helpful conduit for senior centers, etc. and aging population.

Lilly Talbert: Review of Inclusion & Diversity Statement.

Reviewed Outreach subcommittee's edits on our project description language. Refinements will likely continue into the future, and we'll add a full participant list to this. Once complete enough, we'll use this text as starter language for our Facebook and website, and develop it into a usable flyer. Ericka agreed that at present the flyer piece doesn't work – type is tiny, language level needs work, it's way too dense for public use and needs to be simplified. We may want to combine our Inclusion & Diversity statement with the description of who we are and our project, placing that first and foremost. Lilly would like assistance and expertise with our Inclusion & Diversity statement and has reached out to several people around the state, no response yet.

Lyn Blackwell: Website.

Jennifer Boyer is no longer doing website development. She suggested using Weebly, a free service to develop site.

Member suggestions: Weebly easy to use. Square Space similar includes more functioning and security certificate for fundraising. Pay for domain name \$69/2-years.

Is there anyone in the Alliance or does anyone know of someone with time and expertise to create and maintain a site for us? This work would need to begin now and would end in late 2020.

Christine Smith: Options for High School student involvement.

Four different options which can begin in the Fall of 2019.

Work Based Learning. Formal agreement between organization and school. Student has to be provided opportunity to learn new skills and be under observation of organization. There would be a site visit, fingerprinting of supervisor, and clear expectations of what the student will learn.

Independent Study. Under Christine's supervision, student can do Independent Study and complete tasks for credit.
Volunteer Service. Next year, school requires students obtain 40 hours of volunteering service outside the normal school day and completed independently.
Volunteer. Student can volunteer on their own, at their own time and discretion. No requirements.
Other school contacts: Jody Emerson at U32. Sarah Loveless at Montpelier High School – Lilly has contacted.

Sue: Logo, Facebook, Google Groups.

Logo. Contacted Mason Singer as suggested by Tess Taylor and Amanda Gustin. His initial bid, which included letterhead and business card development and working with a Committee, was too high as we only have \$2,000 committed total in our fund. Sue reduced the scope of work to only cover logo design and expects a new bid. Ericka said Mason was her uncle and that she'd put in a good word on behalf of the group.

Facebook. Got a bid from the person who handles the League's Facebook who presented two options.

(1) Create page, make posts as directed, respond to comments, grow the page. Requests group coordinates posts via Trello (free). Rate: \$15/hour. Initially 1.5 hours per week, with more time as event approaches.
(2) Set up the page at no charge and volunteer to help setup a workflow for Alliance members to manage social media posts on their own. One month consulting to get Facebook page up and running and ready for group take-over. Ericka volunteered to set up Facebook page for VSCA. Amanda suggested hiring out as it can be a lot of work.

Google Group. A Google service that makes it easy for groups of people to communicate and collaborate. If desired, subcommittees should proceed with setting up Google groups for their work.

▪ OUTLINE OF SUB-COMMITTEE WORK AND DIRECTION

Event Subcommittee: Vivienne Adair & Dell McDonough

Subcommittee will meet for first time following this meeting. Thinking of a parade and picnic on Saturday, August 22, 2020. Will meet with Montpelier Alive! host of July 4th parade in Montpelier for advice. Triathlete Donna Smyers, owner of Fixer-Upper P/T offered to coordinate a 5K run for the centennial. Could be a fundraiser for VSCA.

Outreach Subcommittee: Lilly Talbert

Met on 1/30 and discussed new invitees to the VSCA, notifying state and local event/festival planners and others, and flyer feedback and edits.

Research & History Subcommittee: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf

Asked how subcommittees would function. Do they need to seek approval from an Executive Committee? Do they map out what they propose to work on and present it? What's the best and most efficient way to work in this structure?

Subcommittees might meet in person or work via email and report on progress at our monthly meetings. Check-in with Sue or Lilly when they have questions or need to make big decisions between meetings.

▪ OTHER BUSINESS

Sandy. Diane Derby from Senator Leahy's office will join us in March to discuss the Senator's 2020 Women's Economic Opportunity Conference which would be in September 2020.

▪ VSCA MEETING DATES (MARCH-JUNE 2019)

Tuesday, March 19, 2-4

Tuesday, April 30, 2-4

Friday, May 24, 2-4

Monday, June 17, 10-12