



# VERMONT SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL ALLIANCE

## MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

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

### Welcome + Introductions

**Welcome New Participants:** Tracy Armstrong, Business & Professional Women/VT, Barbara Butler, Friends of the State House, Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution, Susan Dineen, Sandra Ferver, Madeleine Mongan and Madeline Motta, League of Women Voters, Gina Robinson, Vermont Humanities Council, Donna Smyers.

### Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women  
Marguerite Adelman, Women's International League for  
Peace & Freedom

League of Women Voters: Lyn Blackwell, Jill McKeon,  
Madeleine Mongan, Madeline Motta\*, Sonya Schuyler

Barbara Butler Friends of the Vermont State House

Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution

Susan Dineen, Sandra Dooley, Sandra Ferver

Business and Professional Women/VT Inc. (BPW):

Tabitha Armstrong\*, Alice Kitchel

Del McDonough

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration

Erica Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living\*

Lila Richardson

Christine Smith, Spaulding High School

Donna Smyers

Vermont Humanities Council: Gina Robinson\*, Tess Taylor

Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries

Thea Wurzberg, Congressman Peter Welch's office

### \* Conference Call

**Presiding:** Sue Racanelli, League of Women Voters

**Recording:** Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women

**Regrets:** Kellie Campbell, Amanda Gustin, Pamela Kraynak,  
Karen Madden, Amy McClellan, Yvonne Straus, Catherine  
Welch

**New VSCA Partners:** Capstone Community Action\*, Montpelier Alive, Northeast Kingdom Learning Services\*, Vermont Leadership Institute\*, Women's Action Team, Brattleboro. (*Referrals. CCA: Madeleine Mongan; NKLS and VLI: Alice Kitchel*)

### ▪ PROGRESS UPDATES

#### **Ericka Reil: Graphic novel project with Center for Cartoon Studies**

VSCA will produce an eight-page pamphlet in digital format about the suffrage movement in Vermont. History & Research Committee will supply profiles and context. Six month timeline. Cost: \$800. Pamphlet can be printed to order, recouping partial costs. Specific skill employed in distilling key story points and pairing with right images - CCS Director leads this process. *Barbara Butler recommends initial in-person meeting. Ericka in process of nailing down meeting time. Tess Taylor offered to assist.*

#### **Sue Racanelli: Logo, Facebook, Website**

After multiple rounds of drafts and input from the Executive Committee, VSCA's new logo was selected:



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Amber Roberts, the League's web developer, will develop VSCA's website and Facebook page at significantly reduced rates because she supports this project. Lilly and Sue will work with her on preliminary look and feel, content, navigation, and mapping. Hope to premiere both projects in April. Need imagery in high resolution and png or jpg formats. Rachel offered access to Research & History Committee's shared drive holding documents, images, and resources. Tess suggested the UPI photo cache at Vermont Historical Society. *Committees should discuss what they'd like to see and send thoughts to Amber via Executive Committee.*

#### **Sue Racanelli: Vermont State Legislators**

League member Rep. Kimberly Jessup will speak with Rep. Mary Hooper, former Montpelier mayor to present VSCA to the Legislative Women's Caucus with the goal of making them aware of this statewide effort, asking them to spread word among the legislature and elected officials, and explore funding possibilities. *Group suggests April meeting rather than May.*

**VSCA Partners.** Email sent to individuals and organizations active in VSCA confirming they wish to be listed as partner on our website and . Only those who respond are listed. Thus far 12 individuals and 21 organizations have responded.

#### **▪ SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Events: Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough**

Met with Montpelier Alive Director Dan Groberg, host of July 4<sup>th</sup> event in Montpelier. Very informative and willing to share information on logistics and details of organizing a parade - security, barriers, waste management, parking, staging, PA system, etc. *(see attached notes.)*

**Group think on date/timing of parade:** Saturday, August 22 interferes with Farmer's Market on State Street. Alternatives include staging the parade in "The Meadow," moving down Elm Street, with partial street shutdown OR at Montpelier High School OR post-Farmer's Market after 2 OR change the date to Sunday. Invite towns, historical societies, organizations to join. *Group likes Saturday: more folks milling about and more likely to draw those outside of Montpelier. Sunday is "sleepy".*

**Options:** Start parade at 11 or noon into the early evening. Nice time to transition to dinner out in downtown, a boon to restaurants. How much time do we block off for programming? 3-4 hours? Street closures (if Main and State) could be limited to an hour with closure of State Street between Taylor and Bailey longer. Activities on State Lawn include speakers, music, dance, dunking booth, etc. Food trucks could be located on Governor Aiken Avenue, where legislators park. Offer Farmer Market vendors the opportunity to supply food. Figure it out and lobby Montpelier city leadership. Fireworks, \$5,000.

**Next steps:** Talk to Tony Facos, Chief of Police, Public Works Department and Fire Chief.

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

**Marguerite Adelman, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom.** WILPF's Fall 2020 program at two high schools and four universities will focus on suffrage, with poster and essay contest. Speaker: Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner of Matilda Gage Center for Social Justice Dialogue (NY). Recently released her book with Penguin Classics, *The Women's Suffrage Movement* covering major issues and figures with a focus on diversity, race, class, and gender. She can speak to both Native American and African American women in the movement. She also presents a half hour monologue as Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

**Lila Richardson.** Suggests we leverage Constitution Day in September. Federal requirement that educational institutions, schools and colleges, celebrate this nationwide.

##### **Tess Taylor, Vermont Humanities Council.**

Worked with Sen. Alison Clarkson to have a suffrage program on February 5, 2020 Farmer's Night. Meg Mott, Professor of Politics at Marlboro College and expert in Constitutional Law will discuss the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. She is lively and engaging. Also, Neely Bruce, Professor of Music and American Studies at Wesleyan University is a composer, conductor, pianist, and scholar of American music who has set the first 10 amendments to choral music.

VHC Reading & Discussion program hosts statewide book discussions, providing books and facilitators to lead community discussions. Also, opportunity for literacy programs - children, correctional facilities, new Americans,

Humanities camps. Will speak to Alison Palmer, VHC Director of Literacy Programs about 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and suffrage, as a potential focus for 2020.

#### **Donna Smyers.**

**5 K Fun Run(s) to celebrate centennial** with some proceeds going to VSCA. 5Ks are interest-generators, not tremendous profits. Vermont's running calendar slow in August. Could schedule the weekend of 16-17. Need to have date set by November 2019. Races usually held weekends. Weekday and evenings draws up to 50, but not those from afar. Fun theme can include costumes, walk/run. If running clubs host event, insurance covered (cost: \$400 minimum). Strollers necessitate extra insurance. Decision to consider: one event or multiples with clubs across the state. Route could be planned around historical sites. Backroads can limit participation. Although women obtained the right to vote 100 years ago...it's only been 50 years that women have been allowed to run in marathons. Three members said they would help. Thea Wurzburg pointed out schools start end of August.

#### **Outreach: Lilly Talbert**

Working with Pamela Kraynak, Kesha Ram, and Rachel Siegel for suggestions on improving our Diversity & Inclusion statement. Preliminary communication made with those who head up arts organizations, colleges and universities, museums, suggesting they infuse 2020 themes in their planning. Hilary DelRoss, Heritage and Recreation Specialist at Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, will share stories/video/ messaging and pitch VSCA to media.

**Next steps:** Create more engagement and awareness using our Facebook and website. Invite committees to discuss and communicate what they need from the Outreach Committee.

#### **Outreach:**

**Vivienne.** In the 1970s, the Bicentennial Minute was aired as a series over television. We can pitch the Suffrage Minute to radio stations six months ahead, one per week. Podcast.

**Tess.** Literacy – Books committee vetting selections

**Thea.** Other groups - Indivisible. Emerge.

**Donna.** *Girls on the Run* holds a final statewide 5k event in May at Champlain Valley Fair Grounds. We should talk with them about having a Voting/19<sup>th</sup> Amendment theme at event. Lilly will make contact.

**Sandy.** *Muslim Girls Making Change* – now in college. May be not together in 2020.

Will make contact with Girl Scouts.

**Group Discussion:** Involving men. Suffra-GENTS were part of 75<sup>th</sup>. ERA, state inclusive and federal.

#### **Research & History: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf**

Discussed how to scope this project and decided to stick with 1840-1921. Waiting for tasks to be identified. Rachel is gathering primary source materials to share and fed to our website. The committee is using Google Drive to share resources. Can expand viewership to include full VSCA membership. Rachel is making contact with other archivists including Gregory Sanford who has written on Edna Beard (first VT woman elected to both House of Representatives and Senate) and Jack Zalinga – writer about women in the legislature. Lyn is finding and listing sources as is Jill. Committee is focusing on inherent racism in the movement and noting Vermont's movement was white and middle-class, diversity largely absent or unaccounted for in records. Elise Guyette, historian and skilled in this part of Vermont history reported no women of color in Vermont's movement. Professor Melanie Gustofson of UVM will advise. Plan to use national movement and national figures related to how racism was displayed. Developing bibliography.

#### **Fund Raising: Melinda Moulton**

\$7,000 in our account. Main Street Landing donated \$5,000. Melinda looking for fundraisers to assist her!

**Article. Christine Smith.** Article from Elise Guyette [How the Daughters and Granddaughters of Former Slaves Secured the Voting Rights For All](#) to be shared with group.

▪ **Next Meeting: Tuesday, APRIL 30, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Other Dates: Friday, May 24, 2-4 and Monday, June 17, 10-12