



VERMONT SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL ALLIANCE

Meeting Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 2:00- 4:00 pm

Center for Achievement in Public Service (CAPS), Schulmaier Hall
32 College Street, Montpelier, campus of Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA).

▪ Welcome + Self-Introductions

Welcome New Participants: Charity Clark and Molly Gray-Vermont Attorney General's Office, Laura Daudelin, Diane Derby-Senator Leahy's representative, Linda Radtke, Linda Schutz

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women
Elaine Alfano, Cyndi Bittinger* Laura Daudelin, Susan Dineen
Kellie Campbell, Vermont Women in Higher Education*
Office of the Vermont Attorney General: Charity Clark, Molly Gray
League of Women Voters: Lyn Blackwell, Madeleine Mongan, Sonya Schuyler*
Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution
Diane Derby, Senator Leahy representative
Business and Professional Women/VT Inc. (BPW):
Donna Heath, Alice Kitchel
Sandra Dooley, Pamela Kraynik*, Dell McDonough

Karen Madden, Northern Vermont University
Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration
Erica Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living*
Linda Radtke, Lila Richardson, Linda Schütz, Yvonne Strauss*
Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries

* Participating Remotely via Conference Call

Presiding: Sue Racanelli, League of Women Voters
Recording: Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women

Regrets: Becky Cook, Karin Hanta, Kirsten Isgro, Jill McKeon, Madeline Motta, Melinda Moulton, Christine Smith, Donna Smyers

▪ PROGRESS UPDATE

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Grant. Our proposal, *Because of Women Like Her*, was awarded \$7,500 to develop a traveling exhibit for middle and high schools around Lake Champlain. The exhibit will highlight the role women played in shaping Vermont's history prior to and following passage of the 19th Amendment (1852-1920s.)

Tasks: Month One (October 2019): Press release announcing grant award and hiring Project Coordinator and Educator. **First Quarter:** Compile historic information on notable Vermont women and prepare Educator's Guide. **First Two Quarters:** Design exhibit, 3-5 panels, with input from our history and research committee members. **First Three Quarters:** Notify and receive confirmation from a minimum of six Lake Champlain area schools, recruit volunteers to transport and staff exhibit, design student activities to increase awareness of the struggle and politics of suffrage, Vermont women shaping our history, voting and barriers.

Budget: Personnel: 1. Hire (a) Project Coordinator, 40 hours at \$15 per hour to coordinate meetings, tasks, research, volunteer oversight, exhibit rotation, evaluation, and quarterly reports. \$600 (b) Educator, 50 hours @ \$20 per hour to develop curriculum for Educator's Guide. \$1,600. **Travel:** Mileage at \$0.58 per mile. \$1,000. **Supplies:** Retractable banners, hardware, cleaning supplies, signage, props, books. \$900. **Professional Services:** Hire designer/printer to fabricate and print panels. Maja Design VT (Shelburne) recommended by Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. \$4,000.

Questions: Do we own the materials, once project is completed? What is the hiring process? Executive Committee to determine.

Review of Facebook and Website development

Facebook is live. www.facebook.com/VTSuffrage2020. Tabitha Armstrong from BPW was very helpful in pulling this together and is developing material to feed copy. Need to figure out process here. Should Committee feed to Committee Chairs – they vet and send to Tabitha?? Also need to develop Facebook guidelines.

Our website, www.vtsuffrage2020.org, while making progress, is still under development.

Ericka Reil: Center for Cartoon Studies. Took on a project with Disney and unable to do side projects.

Middlebury College Exhibit, Votes.....for women? Grand opening, Friday, September 13th at 4:30 p.m. at [Middlebury College Museum of Art](#).

Description: Should American women vote? Why was this even a question? In the world's most prominent democracy, why haven't women been allowed to participate fully from the start? While a relative few voices publicly questioned the prohibition against women voting in the decades following the country's founding, most Americans did not wholeheartedly consider this question until the last century. The activists who took on the cause of woman suffrage came from all walks of life and all corners of the country. They encountered many obstacles along the way, including plenty of their own making. Ultimately, their work culminated in ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, though that milestone brought not an end, but a shift to the conversation about women, their value to society, and their place in our democracy. This exhibit explores the rhetoric, strategy, tactics, and challenges of the suffrage movement and considers briefly its broader legacy. It also examines the "local scene," comparing the suffrage story here in Vermont to that of neighboring New York.

Featured speaker: Professor Amy Morsman, who teaches American History at Middlebury and a first year seminar, *The Woman Question: Pondering Women's Place in a Changing Society*.

Other Events under Consideration

- In conversation with: (a) Amy Morsman to have a talk on the role of race and class in the suffrage movement in November in Burlington (b) NAACP to have a program in Rutland featuring work of African American suffragists.
- Vermont Humanities Council via Tess Taylor and with support from Senator Alison Clarkson, scheduled a Farmer's Night performance for February 5, 2020.
- 5K Race. Donna Smyers is looking at the *Race to Ratification* put on by the National Parks. Hold race in Waterbury at State Office Complex? Great 5K loop that Leafpeepers does and good outdoor space. Would require approval, but don't expect problems. Could have signs spaced through the race with a little history. Of course the Vermont ratification sign might have to be at the refreshment area after the finish line or have the ratification in August at 3 miles and VT at 3.1. Sandra Ferver will do social media for race; daughter Shams has volunteered to promote and get youth involved: thanks!
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. Suffrage program in the fall of 2020 for four to six high schools and two universities. Speaker, Sally Roesch Wagner (NY), drawing on 40 years research, presents a 35 minute monologue as Elizabeth Stanton. Dr. Wagner is Executive Director of The Matilda Joselyn Gage Foundation.
www.sallyroeschwagner.com
- Daughters of the American Revolution is exploring ideas.
- Women's Law Division of the Vermont Bar Association would like to engage

PLATFORM PROPOSAL

Last week, Lilly and Sue met with Pamela Kraynak who came up with the idea of developing a pledge on the website to make it interactive. The pledge would endorse what Vermont has done to increase access to voting and invite viewers to express that by taking a Voting Pledge. Gives VSCA a vehicle for outreach, the public something concrete to support the commemoration, informs why Vermont is a model in voting rights and what needs to be improved across the country.

Discussion

Linda Radtke. When in schools, VSCA should register students.

Pamela. Three components. Pledge to exercise my vote – yeah, we support this! Encourage more Vermonters to vote; broaden access; educate and makes support known of all citizens access to vote; Include timeline to educate people about groups of women who were denied the right to vote and continue to be denied.

Ericka. Add the rights of people with disabilities to the timeline.

Yvonne Strauss. Don't forget new Americans on our page informing how to vote. Celebrate and honor volunteers who drive people to vote, justice of the peace. Language translation. Get out the vote.

Elaine Alfano. Add good practices, polling places, what can be done to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities? Secretary of State's Elections Division has information and we'll link directly to that. For a limited time project it doesn't make sense to reinvent the wheel. We'll meet with those folks, likely before the next meeting.

Molly Gray. How you frame the pledge: remedy, protect, respect, promote – the right to vote.

Women's Legislative Caucus. Sent email to Chair Rep. Molly Burke but, as of meeting time, had not received response.

Diane Derby: 2020 Senator Leahy Women's Economic Conference. In its 23rd year. Held at Vermont Tech. Keynote and afternoon workshops. Planning starts January for October event. Committee meets monthly. Open to ideas how suffrage could be worked into workshops. Brainstorm how it works into economic development and voting. VSCA can have a table at this year's conference. Lilly will staff it – would anyone like to join her?

▪ Sub-Committee Reports

Events: Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough

- Got in touch with Tony Falco, chief of police, who suggested we reconnect in May. Three possible parade routes with the Montpelier High School being least desirable. Left a message for Farmer's Market to see how we can coexist with them during parade on August 22nd. They have a new manager. Contacted Bread and Puppet Theater to be in parade. Younger kids, Punch and Judy puppet show. Dunking booth of Governor Clements.
- Flag Proposal. Asked the Embroidery Guild of America/Green Mountain Chapter to consider creating a new flag for parade, using the women's suffrage flag and adding Vermont elements to it.
- Voter Registration booth at Parade staffed by League of Women Voters. They'll use stickers, *I'm Registered*.
- Karen Madden. Will propose *Get Out The Vote* campaign at an upcoming Vermont College system meeting and will work with Kellie Campbell
- Sandy Dooley developing Speaker's Bureau list - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Vermont Humanities Council, Historical Societies, Vermont Law School professors.
- Long Trail Beer (Bridgewater Corners) puts out specialty beers. Will contact to see if they can suggest a name for 2020. Same goes for wineries. Ben and Jerry's flavor. Nutty Steps- Joy Worland will contact.

Outreach: Lilly Talbert

- Susan Dineen contacted film festivals, Joy Worland, Bookfest organizers, and Eileen Sullivan, art/theater leadership. We could use Suggestions for Theater Productions.
- Kathryn Blume, (Charlotte) Production and Events Manager for Heady Vermont, performs solo shows. Kim Bent of Lost Nation Theater interested in developing a production. School theater programs always looking for plays.
- One Woman One Vote Festival, Washington D.C. presents films, concerts, exhibitions, and public events leading into the centennial passage of the 19th Amendment. Elaine will call.
- VCW's Foundation is considering changing its Deborah Pickman Clifford Award in 2020 to focus specifically on suffrage in Vermont. Next year's theme for National History Day (Vermont History Day is state affiliate) is "*Breaking Barriers in History*." An award for best project on women's suffrage might inspire students to learn more about the topic and create outstanding entries. 400 high school students participate in this day-long competition.
- VCW's Foundation added functionality to their Events Calendar, linked to our website, making it easy for folks adding their 2020 suffrage-themed events to hit a button which will then add color branding and highlights to that event, distinguishing it, and making it stand out.

Research & History: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf

Supporting Sue in content for website on women suffrage and timeline incorporating national and Vermont dates. Planning to meet May 8th. Setting up work and how to function.

Funding: Melinda Moulton

Need better idea of VSCA project costs. Melinda is requesting that someone else take leadership of this committee and populate it, brainstorm business sponsor list, and engage.

Group Discussion: What are the Benefits of Joining VSCA and expectations of our members?

Start with our Mission as the pitch. Join Us. We are a volunteer group. What do we ask of you? Capacity to spread the word about the anniversary and about VSCA. Consider hosting an event with the theme and post to our events calendar. Share our website. Consider linking to our site. Sign our Voting Pledge. Consider joining a subcommittee of interest or taking on tasks that align with your skills or expertise. Can attend meetings in person or call in. Share your skills and expertise. Help us in any way. Help expand our reach in new and diverse communities. No cost to join.

▪ Other Business

- **Sandy. Girl Scouts Update.** Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, now headquartered in NH, will put out word for a volunteer to coordinate scout efforts in learning about and celebrating the Suffrage Centennial.
- **Donna.** Must watch one-hour documentary by Louise Vance about a teen theater troupe who traveled to Seneca Falls.
- **Inclusivity, diversity and equity language** will be folded into *Who We Are* description of VSCA. **Rachel** requested that upon development of finalized language, create a flyer or similar to physically hand out. **Lyn** suggested two-sided bookmark, a format that is cost effective to print and has a long shelf life.
- **Book List.** Need to develop. Sally Rush Wagner, author reviewed history of suffrage movement.

▪ Next Meeting: Friday, May 24, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.