



VERMONT SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL ALLIANCE

Meeting Summary Notes

Friday, May 24, 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 + INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome New Participants

Jessica Barquist, Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, August Burns, Kirsten Isgro, Heather Katz, Andrea McAuslan.

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women

Jessica Barquist, VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

August Burns, Laura Daudelin, Susan Dineen

League of Women Voters: Lyn Blackwell, Madeleine Mongan, Sonya Schuyler

Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution

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

Donna Rae Heath, Alice Kitchel

Kirsten Isgro*, Heather Katz, Raylene Lissor, Andrea McAuslan*

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration

Linda Radtke, Lila Richardson, Yvonne Straus*

Christine Smith, Spaulding High School

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: Sandra Dooley, Pamela Kraynik, Karen Madden, Jill

McKeon, Donna Smyers, Yvonne Straus, Margaret Tamulonis

▪ PROGRESS UPDATE

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) Grant Update

Sonja Schuyler. Meeting on May 21 to introduce grant participants, foster collaboration, and coordinate activities. Six organizations received seven grants, all related to suffrage (attached). Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (two grants), Shelburne Historical Society, Fort Ticonderoga Association, Friends of Crown Point Historic Site, Chapman Historical Museum, and VSCA. CVNHP is setting up google group and calendar so groups can avoid conflict. We might want to contact some of them. Catherine Turton, Regional Coordinator for the National Park Service's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration wants to establish stronger networks to observe the centennial in Champlain Valley. Although they have no budget, they want to promote events. Vermont's Travel and Tourism Bureau also wants our events on their calendar.

Review of Planned VSCA Hosted or Sponsored Events

September 13, 2019. EXHIBIT: Votes.....for women? Middlebury College Museum of Art. VSCA members will make a lunchtime presentation, tour Middlebury College, and attend the Opening Reception at 5:30 p.m. Exhibit runs through December 8. This exhibit of vintage photographs, banners, and memorabilia explores the rhetoric, strategy, tactics, and challenges of the suffrage movement and considers briefly its broader legacy. Also examines the "local scene," comparing the suffrage story here in Vermont to that of neighboring New York.

November 2019. Talk: Race Relations within the Suffrage Movement, Burlington. Professor Morsman is Interim Dean for Faculty Development & Research and Professor of History at Middlebury College. Her research interests lie in the historical evolution of gender roles, race relations, and regional differences. *Date to be determined.*

December 2019 – June 2020. Exhibit: Because of Women Like Her... Traveling exhibit in six schools in the Lake Champlain area to increase awareness of the struggle and politics of suffrage, Vermont women shaping history, voting and barriers.

February 5, 2020. Farmer's Night, Montpelier Statehouse. Tess Taylor of Vermont Humanities Council contacted Meg Mott, professor of politics at Marlboro College and Putney Town Moderator, to prepare a program around the 19th Amendment. Professor Mott has a series of lecture programs focused on rights and amendments in the constitution. Her program is more than just a lecture as she works with composer Nealy Bruce, Professor of Music and American Studies at Wesleyan University to set the amendment to music.

March 19, 2020. Vermont Historical Society Third Thursday Lunch Series. Noon. Lyn Blackwell and Rachel Onuf, presenting Vermont suffrage.

March 2020. Women's History Month. African American Women and Suffrage. Attempting to coordinate a program in Rutland with Rutland NAACP. *Date and details to follow.*

August 2020. Suffrage Scramble 5K. Waterbury. Donna Smyers, organizer. Aiming for August 15 or 16 if USA Triathlon Nationals are not that weekend. The group preferred a Saturday date. Lyn Blackwell suggested we get in touch with *Girls on the Run* whose season culminates with a 5K run after Memorial Day.

August 22, 2020. Parade and Community Picnic, Montpelier. Andrea McAuslin suggested we have *Get Out The Vote* activities.

Fall 2020. Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner of Matilda Gage Center for Social Justice Dialogue, NY will speak on suffrage will focus on suffrage, with poster and essay contest at two high schools and four universities.

Presence at Public Events

VSCA needs to have a presence at public events so communities can get familiar with our group. We will have a table at Senator Leahy's Economic Conference in Rutland on October 19, 2019. Other events suggested include Farmer's Markets, annual festivals, July 3rd or 4th events, Youth Rally. **Please consider your availability and volunteer to organize a table at an event of your choice!**

Women's Legislative Caucus

Lilly Talbert and Sue Racanelli made a presentation to the Women's Legislative Caucus on May 3rd. Well-received with lots of questions. The Caucus decided to join VSCA.

The League of Women Voters has the card room reserved for February 14, 2020, its one hundredth anniversary. Vermont Commission on Women has the card room reserved in April. As we approach August 2020, we will ask Governor Scott to issue a proclamation.

Schools: Women Leading The Way: Suffragists & Suffragettes

We will be encouraging high school teachers nationwide to join *Women Leading the Way*, a national research, art and storytelling project sponsored by the Lycée Français de New York and artist Mireille Miller. Students, grades 9-12, will explore the fundamental right to vote by connecting their family history to the Suffrage Movement. They will write three short essays and create two portraits that will be featured on a poster designed by their school. The project culminates in an online exhibition of all entries. One hundred entries will be selected to appear in a National Poster Exhibition in New York City in 2020. So far 90 schools across the nation are participating with one, Poultney, from Vermont.

<http://www.suffragettes2020.com/guidelines>. Deadline has been extended to December. Joy Worland suggested getting in touch with school librarians.

Change of June Meeting date and time

June meeting rescheduled to Thursday, June 27th from 10-noon at CAPS.

▪ Sub-Committee Reports

Events: Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough

Del, Sue, and Vivienne met with Police Chief Anthony Falco May 14, and were able to secure the route we wanted - Main Street to the Statehouse. We spoke of incorporating Farmer's Market into the route upwards around the State House and asking if they would participate as food vendors. He asked about anticipated crowd size and felt 3-5,000 was well under control. He advised us to get in touch with him in the spring and, at that point, we'd also talk with the Fire Chief and Planning Department.

Outreach: Lilly Talbert

Outreach committee met briefly and discussed plans to promote website and FB page, an opportunity to again expand outreach and partnerships, but also to launch us into the public eye and draw attention. We can share that press release with all entities VSCA has contacted, in addition to media. We'll develop Front Porch Forum announcements that VSCA members can share with their communities. Lilly will make pitch calls to WCAX and Vermont Public Radio and others. Alice will research VPT shows with Vermont story focus. The committee discussed timing of press release and decided rather than to delay and align with holiday, like July 4th that might boost attention, the priority would be to get this out ASAP!

Research & History: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf

Members of committees should send suggestions for Facebook posts to committee Chairs, and they'll send along to Tabitha. Posting content should relate to suffrage and Vermont. Newton Rose who works with National Park Services and local museum, shared the very helpful American Association of State and Local History 19th Amendment Centennial Value Statement <http://download.aaslh.org/AASLH+19th+Amendment+Centennial+Value+Statement.pdf>. Rachel and Lyn will be presenting at the Vermont Historical Society's Third Thursday Lunch Series. Sandy Dooley is developing a VSCA Speaker List for venues such as Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Humanities Council, libraries, and local historical societies. The committee will need to review curriculum and traveling exhibit requirements for CVNHP grant.

Funding: Melinda Moulton

Melinda Moulton is stepping away from leadership of the Committee due to family commitments. We are seeking leaders with experience in corporate fundraising, grant writing, and those who would like to assist in raising money for our work and events. If anyone has an interest, please contact Lilly or Sue. Tess Taylor of Vermont Humanities Council reminded the group that we could apply for grants up to \$5,000 (average \$2,500). Grant applications must include one humanities discipline. Letters of Intent, July 22 to August 23. Grantees must provide a one-to-one cost share (cash and/or in-kind). Need to review activities, develop a budget, and look at both grants and sponsor opportunities. **Thanks to Sonja, who will develop a budget template. Please consider joining and contributing to this committee work.**

Website Review

With some technical assistance members were treated to a sneak preview of the website, which is close to completion, and will be vtsuffrage2020.org.

Other Business

Facebook. Tabitha Armstrong has been moderating and posting to Facebook for us. At this time we have 36 likes. Please share and like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VTSuffrage2020 and share link on your personal Facebook to get VSCA exposed to a larger audience.

NPR and Story Corps. An opportunity to tell stories.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday JUNE 27 from 10 a.m. to noon.