



Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Thursday, August 8, 2019, 10:00 – noon

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

Gail Carrigan, Friends of the State House, Judith Dillon, Vermont Bar Association, Women's Division

Gail. Friends of the State House and Office of the Curator will be engaging in centennial-related activities, including an art installation. She will check into our Ceres sash idea.

Judith. VBA Women's Division eager to support, supplement, coordinate or add to VSCA events. VBA in idea-generation mode and considering mock debates for/against suffrage which would be instructive to middle and high- schoolers.

Present

American Association of University Women: Vivianne Adair, Raylene Lissor
Business and Professional Women/VT Inc: Donna Rae Heath, Alice Kitchel
Elaine Alfano, Cyndy Bittinger*, Susan Dineen, Sandra Dooley
Becky Cook, Norwich Historical Society
Gail Carrigan, Friends of the State House
Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution
Judith Dillon, Vermont Bar Association, Women's Division
Molly Gray, Office of the Attorney General
Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society
League of Women Voters: Jill McKeon, Madeleine Mongan,
Madeline Motta*
Del McDonough, Lila Richardson

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration
Christine Smith, Spaulding High School/VASS
Ericka Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living*

Presiding: Sue Racanelli, League of Women Voters

Recording: Lilly Talbert, Vermont Commission on Women

Regrets

Marguerite Adelman, Lyn Blackwell, Laura Daudelin,
Karin Hunta, Karen Madden, Sonya Schuyler, Donna
Smyers, Yvonne, Straus Joy Worland

* **Participating Remotely via Conference Call**

▪ Sub-Committee Reports

Events: Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough

August 22, 2020 Parade and State Lawn. Electronically submitted *Request for Use of State Facilities* to Deb Ferrell, Executive Manager of Government Business Services, requesting use of the State House lawn for 2020 parade and activities on the State House lawn, where there will be music /dance performances, speakers, children events, and voter registration. Submitted *Special Event/Street Closure Permit Application* to Jamie Granfield, Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Reviewing insurance and collaboration with Farmers' Market. Contacted Montpelier Alive about insurance for July 3 Parade. Exploring options for dance performances. **Group Suggestion:** Hannah Saterly for central dance contact.

Worcester Historical Society is looking into records of women who voted in 1920. All Vermont Town Clerks have been notified about VSCA and there have been follow up messages about gathering records and items of that time for display.

August 15, 2020 Suffrage Scramble 5K. *Reporting on behalf of Donna Smyers.*

Tentative approval from Vermont State Office Complex for use of "horseshoe" course. Donna made a presentation to Waterbury Select Board August 5; they approved the permit unless the car show held the second weekend of August decides to reschedule to the third weekend. Email sent to the VT Automobile Enthusiasts to verify. VSCA needs to provide traffic control and clean up the course.

Donna is on the agenda of Central Vermont Runners who meet August 12 and should approve the race. She is also on the Duxbury Select Board Agenda for August 26. Two friends (Duxbury residents) plan to attend and will invite the Duxbury Historical Society to join us. With all approvals, hopefully, by the end of this month, we can promote the race.

September 4, 8:30 a.m. Dell and Molly Gray will make a presentation to Montpelier Business Association (MBA)

Action Item: *If you have friends/family who are Duxbury residents, encourage them to attend August 26 meeting and show support for race.*

Outreach: Lilly Talbert

Still seeking a member to take over our meeting minutes.

Marketing & Promotion Volunteer Position. Posted on [Idealist](#) - VSCA seeks a part-time volunteer to create and carry out marketing and promotion. You'll be working with colleagues to spread the word about our events and programs, including grant-funded high school educational programs, symposiums, art exhibits and plays, academic presentations, Fun Runs, and much more, culminating in a parade through Montpelier ending in a celebration on the State House lawn on Saturday, August 22, 2020 with speakers, performances, music and food. Join this collaborative and enthusiastic group of volunteers and creatively contribute to this statewide effort!

Press Release: Sent to media (print and broadcast), people affiliated with VSCA, women organizations, social justice, identity, and advocacy organizations, select museums and historic sites, congressional delegation, state legislature, state government officials, businesses, town clerks, League members, and VIPs.

Sandy Dooley shared the Women's Gazette, newsletter of the National Women's History Alliance. It carried an article on VSCA with our logo https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019_vote_gazette_fnl.pdf (pg 25.)

Tabling. October 17. Women Can Do. 7:30-2:30, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center.

Women Can Do is Vermont's largest one-day career immersion experience for 400-500 high school girls and gender non-conforming youth. Introduces students to high-paying career pathways they may not have considered; features hands-on workshops and action stations highlighting careers in skilled trades and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). **Christine Smith** urges us to use this as an opportunity to cultivate student volunteers.

October 19. Senator Leahy's Women's Economic Conference Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center. Laura Daudelin will be there.

Action Items: *Members, please: 1) send the [Idealist volunteer description](#) to folks you know who might enjoy this work and please spread the word. If you are interested in this opportunity, let Lilly know. 2) share press release if you've not done so already with organizations and individuals who may be interested. Take advantage of this August 22, to add a note about our event being a year away; join us in Montpelier. 3) Everyone please Like and Share our Facebook page! So far, we have 94 likes and 104 follows.*

Research & History: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf

Scanning earliest Annual Reports of Vermont Suffrage Association. This will be available at UVM Center for Digital Initiatives as primary source materials

- Edna Curtin compiling list of people who teach suffrage at Vermont colleges
- Can committee help Tabitha Armstrong with posts for Facebook? Will give you access to shared Google Drive
- Writing Letter of Inquiry to Vermont Humanities Council on behalf of VSCA
- An intern in Peter Welch's office is coordinating an exhibit for unveiling in his Lakeside office
- November 7-9, Rachel is a panelist at the New England Museum Association Conference in Burlington: **How will Your Museum Commemorate the Woman's Suffrage Centennial?** 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. In this information-sharing session you will hear different approaches institutions are taking to commemorate this event and learn about resources you can use to plan your own programming. All welcome, whether you have your Centennial plans all laid out or just starting to think about it.

Fundraising

Still seeking a Chair for this Committee. Need to build up the Committee and begin focusing on raising funds. Our planning budget is minimally set at \$20,655. We have a little more than \$6,000 in funds. Rachel Onuf, Madeline Motta, Sandy Dooley, and Melinda Moulton are on the Committee.

▪ Progress Update

Sue Racanelli: Symposium. Dan O'Neil of Ethan Allen Homestead Museum (EAHM) would like VSCA to collaborate in hosting a symposium on women's suffrage. EAHM plans to have four women speakers representing four perspectives including the Native American and African American experience. The symposium will be two hours with an intermission/reception. EAHM can house up to 150 people; if more, VSCA will have to pay for the cost of renting a tent. We are to help with organizing the symposium as EAHM has only two staff.

Action Item. *Anyone interested in pulling together a team to plan and organize symposium, let Vivienne or Dell know.*

Alice Kitchel, reporting for Joy Worland: Bookmarks & Trifold. Karen Madden recruited Adriana Eldred, student at Northern Vermont University, to design a bookmark and trifold brochure for VSCA. Her first draft was very impressive. Karen, Adriana, Joy, Sue, and Alice held a phone meeting July 25 to offer suggestions on photo replacements and copy. Susan Dineen was unable to participate. We wanted to include Vermont suffragists; however, our ability to secure photographs was limited. New photos and revisions were sent to Adriana by August 1. Karen came up with the idea of a button. Adriana will design a button using *Votes for Women* and VSCA logo.

Alice read text and described graphics for six panels of the trifold. It was decided to use Cary Chapman Catt's photo and quote, "The vote has been costly. Prize it...understand what it means and what it can do for your country." on the bookmark and trifold.

Rachel Onuf reported that Lyn Blackwell was in Grafton trying to get a photo of VT suffragist, Lucy Daniels.

Gail Carrigan suggested getting stickers for the Parade. Sue will check with the Secretary of State's office – they used to have *Your Voice is Your Vote* stickers.

Sandy Dooley: Speakers Bureau. Seven individuals have officially agreed to be speakers. Cyndy Bittinger will be doing nine presentations for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Unfortunately, Vermont Public Radio commentary has been eliminated. Linda Radke will speak at the AAUW in Bennington, www.vermonthumanities.org/linda-radtke. The Speakers Bureau will be active on the website by October 1st with an online form to request speakers.

Complications Company Traveling Suffrage Play. July 29, Sandy and VSCA members Vivienne Adair, Lyn Blackwell, Sue Racanelli, Linda Radke met with Complications Company director Laura Roald and playwright Mary Beth McNulty as well as Jennifer O'Rourke-Lavoie regarding development of a one-woman theatrical presentation relative to the centennial. Rachel Onuf could not attend. The play will be educational with humor, interactive, 40 minutes long and 20 minutes for post-play audience participation. Three performers, 10 performances around the state. Budget of \$5,000 covers research, play development, revisions, directing, costume design and costuming, set and sound design, stage management/production assistance, rehearsal space, and actor honorariums. VSCA will seek free or donated performance spaces and take care of promoting/advertising the event statewide. Preference for theater spaces seating 75-250. Looking to borrow period hats and clothing. Vivienne has sewing skills she is willing to volunteer for this project. Next meeting: September 11, 1:30 p.m., Red Hen Bakery Café, Middlesex to review results regarding potential venues.

Action Item: *Anticipating a need for hats and period clothing.*

Sue Racanelli: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Grant. *Because of Women Like Her...* traveling exhibit in six schools in the Lake Champlain area. **Project Tasks:** Press release must be distributed announcing grant with the objective of notifying schools of the award. Hiring Project Coordinator (40 hours) to contact schools, schedule classroom presentations, prepare quarterly reports, and organize volunteers. Christine Smith, working with History & Research Committee, will be hired (50 hours) to compile digital Educator's Guide which will include information on notable Vermont women, resources, activities, and discussion questions about the suffrage movement and equality, rights, and citizens' responsibilities. Grant begins October 2019 and ends December 2020.

Madeline Mongan will contact Milton High School. Christine will promote project at the Vermont Alliance for Social Services Annual Conference on November 8.

Action Items: *Let Sue know if you know: (1) anyone interested in being Grant Project Coordinator - 40 hours @\$15/hour (2) contacts at middle and high schools in the Lake Champlain region interested in hosting the exhibit.*

Review of Action Items from June meeting

- Share Facebook content with Committee Chairs. **DONE.**

- *Duxbury contacts to speak to Selectboard members in support of Suffrage Scramble 5K Race.* Email request made.
- *Show up July 3 and march with the League in Montpelier's Parade, holding new VSCA banner!* Erica Reil was there.
- *Develop materials (bookmarks, flyers, business cards) for display and distribution.* Karen Madden recruited intern to design. Phone meeting held July 29. Project under progress.
- *Members invited to participate in the VSCA presentation at Middlebury College on September 13.* Molly Gray interested. Lilly to check about rescheduling time.
- *Looking for a leader in marketing and promotion for VSCA.* Lilly developed job description and posted on Idealist.
- *Do you have expertise, skills, experience in fundraising or know someone who does? Anyone interested in putting together a basic fundraising letter?* No response yet.
- *Theater Production Meeting July 29 with Complications Company to flush out concept and characters.* Vivienne, Lyn, Sue, and Linda joined Sandy.

Presentation and Event: Friday September 13, Middlebury College

VSCA lunch presentation to students; 40 minutes, tour followed by **Votes...For Women?** exhibit exploring rhetoric, strategy, tactics, and challenges of the suffrage movement. Professor Amy Morsman will compare the suffrage story in Vermont to New York. Reception, 5:30 pm.

Action Item: *Lilly will inquire about pushing student presentation to early evening. Anyone else interested in attending?*

- **Review of Events & Ideas and Delegation of Tasks.** Sandy went through all our minutes and listed all events and ideas this group has generated; she pulled them into two lists- one, we're acting on, the other, ideas to be considered.

Ideas

- **Sash on Ceres** or retired Ceres at Vermont Historical Society -*Sash on Ceres, expensive. A thought, project colors on State House columns! Sash on retired statue a possibility - Unveiling, Friday October 25.*
- **Light Pole Banners** in downtown streets - *Dell and Molly will suggest this at September MBA meeting and ask if other businesses associations in state could make this happen – package deal with other downtown business organizations*
- **State House art exhibit** – *under development*
- **Oldcastle Theatre Company, Bennington.** Eric Peterson, Producing Artistic Director would like to consider infusing themes of history/outcome of suffrage in 2020 productions - *Ask Complications Company to get in touch with him.*
- **Film & Book Festivals.** Woodstock (July), Burlington (Sep/Oct), Brattleboro (October)- *Susan Dineen contacted all film festivals on list. Received enthusiastic responses from several. Joy Worland working with book festivals. Will follow up.*
- **Local Historical Societies.** Blurb in VHS bi-weekly Local History Enews "Resources & Opportunities" section- *Eileen Cocoran has been listing VSCA and the 2020 in newsletter. Rachel presenting at NEMA*
- **Screening at Savoy ??**
- **Story Lab/Story Corps ??** *Story Lab offers day-long workshop to help people tell stories*
- **Extend Dr. Sally Wagner's October 2020 visit** to speak about Native American women (Matilda Joslyn Gage) and African American women in the suffrage movement - *WILPF has a program in place. No need to repeat.*
- **52 Suffrage Centennial Minutes** to air over radio/television, one per week - *Under consideration*
- **Parade:** Make introduction to afternoon events more reverent, sort of performance - diversity speakers alternating with different types of musical offerings. Some women-performed classical instrumental, cappella, (high school group?), pre-ratification sample or medley, jazz piece to end.
- **Flag Proposal.** Embroidery Guild of America, Green Mountain Chapter - *Will follow up.*
- **Speakers Bureau** - *Under progress.*
- **Girl Scouts** Suffrage Patch program and Junior Activity Suffrage Activity Booklet - *Contact made. No engagement yet.*
- **Debate teams** (colleges and universities) – *Vermont Bar Association considering debates.*
- **The Painting** project for High Schools Grades 9-12 – *Intern Iris Hsiang compiled list of schools with email addresses of principals and history teachers. Email being sent to schools informing them of project. Poultney High School participated.*
- **Opera** - Mathilda Jocelyn Gage - *Contact Opera Houses.*

- **Monthly or weekly articles/super short videos/other media** offerings with historical facts, challenges, concepts, etc. Give media free content to use.
- Ways for everyday people to get involved in local and state governance.
- **Offer community conversations** on specific topics.
- **Video about suffrage in VT** with whiteboard artist. ACLU did one on border surveillance <https://vimeo.com/73921945>
- **Video *Why Vote*** at the Smithsonian American History Museum <https://americanhistory.si.edu/democracy-exhibition/vote-voice>. Similar video in VT, good project for high school or college students – *alternative, “Why Vote” video student project with new Americans. Brave Little State. How did women get the right to vote in Vermont? Podcast episode – 2020. Christine could add podcast element to grant project. Have students interview folks about voting. Interview and post to Instagram, #vtsuffrage2020*
- **New Americans.** Reach out and involve in commemoration via GOTV – *need to follow up*
- **Good Citizen Project.** Collaborating with Seven Days to see if they would be interested in incorporating a "Get Ready to Vote" part of their project – *Pamela Kraynak will contact Seven Days*
 - **Ask Ben & Jerry** to develop ice cream devoted to 100th anniversary of women's suffrage - *Everyone received link to suggest a new flavor to Ben & Jerry. Will resend link and promote. (Suffrage Swirl, blueberry and honeycomb!)*
- **Suffrage Brew** – *Dell to follow up*
- **Silent Auction** – *Too much time involved. Can't be done.*
- **VT All State Music Festival.** Hoping to have all female conductors next year and feature women composers.
- **Musical organizations** about incorporating this into programming. Regional Musical Competitions. *Joy Worland got some interest, no commitments. Vermont Youth Orchestra seemed like it might be a possibility.*
- **Vermont Humanities Council. Community Reading & Discussion Programs:** incorporate books and presenters on suffrage, voting rights, and citizen engagement. The Council looks for books and discussion leaders, so VSCA can recommend readings and discussion leaders - *Under consideration.*
- **Literacy Programs:** Ali Palmer works with literacy programs, day care centers, and the Humanities Camp. VSCA should contact her about including suffrage, voting, and civic involvement in 2020 programing – *Sue will make contact with Ali.*

▪ **Other Business**

Centennial Calendars. Sandy spoke of two calendars available for fundraising, *Hear Us Roar 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial Calendar*, \$15.95 & *Women and the Vote: Centennial Calendar* \$20. www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org.

Outreach Committee members will work on touching base with those invited to VSCA who have yet to respond. Sue will supply list.

Naturalization Ceremony. September 11. The League of Women Voters registers new citizens following the Naturalization Ceremony at the State House. Very moving experience. Training on completing registration form provided before the ceremony. VSCA members warmly welcome. Let Sue know if you would like to help register new citizens.

▪ **Next Meeting: Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 10 a.m.**

Thursday, October 24th | 10 a.m. to noon

Tuesday, November 19th | 10 a.m. to noon

December 2019: No meeting. Happy Holidays!!