



Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Thursday, September 5, 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

Anne Mixer, League of Women Voters, Margaret Tamulonis, Fleming Museum, Natacha Tremblay

Natacha: offered to communicate with several Vermont Law School student groups led by women who would be interested in helping VSCA.

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women
Business and Professional Women/VT Inc: Donna Rae Heath, Alice Kitchel
Elaine Alfano, Cyndy Bittinger*, Laura Daudelin, Susan Dineen, Sandra
Dooley, Pamela Kraynik
Becky Cook, Norwich Historical Society*
Edna Curtin, Daughters of the American Revolution
Office of the Attorney General: Molly Gray, Natacha Tremblay
Karin Hanta, Middlebury College, Feminists' Resource Center
League of Women Voters: Lyn Blackwell, Anne Mixer, Madeleine Mongan,
Sonya Schuyler*
Karen Madden, Northern Vermont University
Dell McDonough, Linda Radtke,* Lila Richardson

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration
Rachel Siegal, Peace & Justice Center
Eileen Sullivan, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England*
Margaret Tamulonis, Fleming Museum
Lisa Townson, Vermont Women in Higher Education*

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

Regrets

Marguerite Adelman, Amanda Gustin, Jill McKeon, Ericka Reil,
Christine Smith, Donna Smyers, Yvonne, Straus, Joy Worland

* *Participating Remotely via Conference Call*

▪ SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events: Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough

Dell: Made a presentation with Molly Gray to Montpelier Business Association on September 4 providing suggestions about suffrage-centennial-oriented items businesses could offer in 2020 and pitched light pole banner sponsorship. Unclear who will pay for banners. Will follow up with letter outlining cost and details • Sent Vermont Public Radio's Brave Little State podcast a note about VSCA • Hanna Satterle of Vermont Dance Alliance is interested in exploring dance performance • Inquiring at Vermont breweries about suffrage centennial beer. Lost Nation, too small. **Suggestions:** Rock Art. Zero Gravity (Elaine Alfano's son-in-law: Griffin Ludwig). Otter Creek (Karin Hanta). Stone Cutter Spirits, women-owned. Caledonia Spirits, woman CEO (Alice Kitchel). Zafa Wines, Krista Scruggs female wine maker wine (Rachel Onuf).

Vivienne: Reporting on behalf of Donna Smyers on 2020 Suffrage Scramble 5K. Donna attended the Duxbury Selectboard meeting on August 26 and was asked to return with a Safety Plan like Leafpeepers (LP). Notified her it was not a permit, rather permission by current Selectboard; next year's Selectboard can change their mind, however, they don't expect this. Cap of 500 runners. Donna wrote LP Race Director for copy of his Safety Plan.

2020 Parade and State Lawn. Ericka Reil and Sue Racanelli attended Montpelier City Council meeting on August 28 who approved VSCA *Special Event/Street Closure Permit Application*. Preliminary reviews - **Police:** Will assist with Traffic Control and Street Closure. Must plan to accommodate future potential conflicts with street use (e.g. Farmer's Market); **Public Works:** Will not manage refuse or clean up; **Fire department:** Must maintain emergency vehicle access; **Montpelier Alive:** Inform merchants. Try to minimize orange area closure time. City's insurance policy covers parade; need to double check insurance for State House lawn. Will work on drafting Online Form for the parade • Antara, a Winooski singer was inquiring if we needed any performers for parade. www.littleweirdgirl.com/home.html.

Action Item: Subcommittee needs to meet. Will email members • Need to develop more detailed line-item budget.

Outreach: Lilly Talbert

Thanks Madeleine Mongan, Lila Richardson, and Elaine Alfano for following up with the list of organizations who had been invited to join VSCA

Thanks Lisa Townson and Catherine Welch of Vermont Women in Higher Education for working with their membership on each campus in Vermont to spread word of VSCA work and make specific asks. Examples:

- enter any campus programs (film screenings, get-out-the-vote drives, discussions, events) on our Public Events Calendar for cross-promotion
- contact VSCA if you want us to co-sponsor a campus event
- refer students interested in research, promotion, archival projects and administrative work to VSCA
- researchers or professors who specialize in suffrage can contact Sandy Dooley to be added to our Speakers Bureau

Thank you Ericka Reil for stepping in to help with Facebook. Tabitha has been very busy with work. Please send posts including books, movies, articles to Ericka and she will add them. Our Facebook page has had a lot more traffic.

Created social media kit with messaging to make it easier for VSCA members to share and spread word. Sue forwarded Front Porch Forum (FPF) and Facebook posts. Thank you to those who posted on FPFs.

The exhibit and reception in Middlebury is Friday September 13. Share and invite those who might attend. Sue sent media alerts and messaging.

Main Street Landing donated space for our November 3rd talk with Professor Amy Morsman of Middlebury College and is co-cosponsor, along with WILPF. Working on developing a public discussion after her presentation. Lyn Blackwell will contact Melanie Gustafson for thoughts on subject and getting in touch with Wanda Heading-Grant, UVM's Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Tabling

September 21. Norwich Lions Club Family Day & Parade sponsored by Women's Club. Becky Cook and Cyndy Bittinger will represent VSCA holding our banner.

October 15. Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, TRIO Conference. East Randolph. Karen Madden, Laura Daudelin.

October 17. Women Can Do. 7:30-2:30, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center. Rachel Onuf, Sue, and Lilly.

October 19. Senator Leahy's Women's Economic Conference, Randolph Center. Laura Daudelin, Karen Madden.

November 8. Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies Burlington. Christine Smith.

November 7-9. New England Museum Association Conference, Burlington. Rachel Onuf.

Action Items: Consider attending Sen. Leahy's conference: www.leahy.senate.gov/issues/weoc2019 • Use social media kit to share our work – spread word about Middlebury and other events • Invite folks to VSCA • Lilly is seeking a volunteer to take leadership in VSCA promotion and marketing efforts, preferably someone with experience.

Research & History: Lyn Blackwell & Rachel Onuf

Lyn met with relatives of Vermont suffragist Lucy Daniels last month and obtained two photographs as well as other information – she was imprisoned three times!

Rachel: submitted Letter of Intent to Vermont Humanities Council requesting funding to supplement the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) grant. Funds would pay for Project Educator and Project Coordinator to develop curriculum, student-led activities (oral histories, podcasts, and projects where students adapt suffragist strategies to issues of today), and make the exhibit, curriculum guide, and activities available to several schools beyond the region supported by CVNHP • Would anyone like to write Vermont Suffragist Biographical sketches? Eight women to be assigned! First few bios online at Alexander Street. More info: www.sec.state.vt.us/archives-records/vhrab/vermont-historical-records-program/volunteer.aspx. Working with Chris Burns at UVM Center for Digital Initiatives

Action Item: Need to develop talking points on Vermont's history for our member's use.

Fundraising

Cabot Cheese (Nick Mangan) responded to press release asking how Cabot can support VSCA initiatives. Believes we are a great fit for Cabot to support as one of their 7 Co-op principles is *Democratic Member Control*. They are sponsoring the Feb 5 Farmers Night performance *Honoring the 19th Amendment through Word and Song* for Vermont Humanities Council. **Discussion:** Suggest sponsoring the parade, given it's our costliest item.

OTHER

Lilly Talbert: Tracking and responding to offers. As news spreads about VSCA, we will be contacted by many individuals interested in participating in activities. **Discussion:** Develop form letter that is sent acknowledging and thanking person/group for interest; it will be referred to appropriate committee. We invite you to save the date, confirm participation, and keep spreading the news. Executive Committee should develop two-tiered guidelines so Committee chairs can have a say. Develop Events Kit to give to people who want to do a performance, support work, fundraise, talk about VSCA.

Action Item: Set up and share Google spreadsheet with column headings with Committees to record details.

Sue Racanelli: Women for Change (Woodstock), The Other Paper (South Burlington), AAUW Bennington

August 26, received an email from Katherine Donahue of Women for Change who are planning events this fall to recognize the importance of voting and a 2020 centennial celebration. Will keep VSCA informed of their plans • Reporter Madeline Clark of The Other Paper interviewed Sandy and Sue, www.otherpapersbvt.com/news/around_town/years-of-the-vote/article_36ec1a0a-d00c-11e9-b16d-ab5f6934a09d.html • Kathy Wagenknecht, AAUW Bennington, will focus events on suffrage. www.bennington-vt.aauw.net. Events at Bennington Free Library include: October 15. 7:00 pm. Cassandra Peltier, Director of Susan B Anthony Birthplace Museum, “80 Years of Voting” and November 2. 1:00-4:00 pm. “By The People Transcribe-A-Thon” of original suffragist papers from the Library of Congress. Workshop with laptops and technical support to transcribe/review original materials written by 19th Century Suffragists using online materials and tools provided by the Library of Congress. February 29, Oldcastle Theater, Linda Radtke is speaker, “From the Parlor to the Polling Place, Stories and Songs from the Suffragists” • Several of you completed the online form at Ben & Jerry’s to Suggest a centennial-themed Flavor. Rachel did a highly original job! Thank you.

Action Item: Suggest a suffrage centennial Ben and Jerry’s flavor. Scroll all the way down to Online, select one of the following forms: www.benjerry.com/about-us/contact-us?selectedForm=suggest#selectForm.

Sue Racanelli & Lilly Talbert: Brochure, Bookmarks, & Buttons. Northern Vermont University student Adriana Eldred and Professor Karen Madden drew applause from the group on the bookmark and brochure. Adriana is having difficulty designing a button using *Votes for Women* and VSCA logo. Lilly suggested the slogan *Hard Won. Not Done*, which resonated with the group. Will try and work that in with the logo.

Rachel Siegal pointed out that activities listed under **We Aren’t Finished Yet** don’t complement verbiage under **Our Mission**, *addressing the history of racism in the suffrage movement, and highlighting work yet to be done*. Highlighting work to be done needs to be reflected in the plans. **Discussion:** reworking language to reflect our work and intentions. *Rachel:* use the word resident, not citizen. *Pamela:* lack of voting rights way past 1919; Native Americans didn’t get the vote until 1962. Voter suppression. *Anne:* use current language that moves us forward. *Alice:* suffrage and the fight for it continuing for all people. Molly: pull verbiage from **Become Part of A Legacy**.

Action Item: Please send Sue text changes, refinements, especially directly addressing racism, moving us forward, and our pledge by Monday. These will be compiled and shared with members before being sent to Adriana for revisions.

Sandy Dooley: Speakers Bureau. The Speaker’s Bureau now has 13 speakers. It should be up and live on the website October 1. Thanks to Edna for her help and Judith Dillon of VT Bar Association for reviewing the disclaimer statement. The page will feature a form for those who present on this to submit for inclusion. That form includes bio, speech title, honorarium, support materials, places speakers willing to present.

Complications Company Traveling Suffrage Play. First draft of the play is ready for a reading in Burlington. Good prospect for a grant. Next meeting to review venues is September 11, 1:30 p.m., Red Hen Bakery Café, Middlesex.

Cindy Bittering: Accepted invitation to speak at CVNHP’s Ninth Annual International Summit on October 7 at the Hotel La Cache du Lac Champlain in Venise-en-Québec, Canada. Topic, suffrage in Vermont, New York, and Quebec starting with the Onondago Nation, 45 mins. Free conference • Public Access Television very active in some parts of Vermont. Vermonters in rural areas rely on it • Vermont Women, monthly newspaper, closing.

Sonja Schuyler: Symposium. Spoke with Dan O'Neil, Executive Director of Ethan Allen Homestead Museum and told him that Joanne Necrason of the League of Women Voters of Champlain Valley will help with organizing the symposium on suffrage in May/June 2020. We will meet with him on September 25th at 11 a.m. to discuss how to help. Three of four speakers have confirmed attendance.

Elaine Alfano. Outreach to social justice organizations. Met with Lila and Madeleine. Cleaning up the list. Will follow up with organizations to see interest. Why should they be interested in joining us? Endorsing what we're doing. Incomplete mission on our charge. Pledge. Help give us direction in our broad focus on equality and 19th Amendment.

Karen Madden: TRIO. VSCA will table at the TRIO Conference, October 15. Cost \$50. 80 people, mostly women, will attend. TRIO, a group of federal programs, support low income first generation students heading for college. Began in 1964 as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty with the program, Upward Bound.

Discussion: Pamela: How aware are young people about their right to vote? *Not very.* Could approach Pamela Polston, co-founder of Seven Days who organizes the Seven Days Good Citizen Challenge initiative with Kids VT.

www.sevendaysvt.com/CompanyNews/archives/2019/04/04/young-vermonters-recognized-at-the-statehouse-for-being-good-citizens.

Anne Mixer, Madeleine, and Lila with Christine, participating in National Voter Registration Day September 24, will register students to vote at Spaulding High School. In preparation, Anne interviewed a young woman to research best approach; many are opting out of getting a license and would not be included in motor voter registration. Also, students who get a Juniors Driver License at age 16 cannot register to vote. What about student voting in home or out-of-state? Does a *Know Your Rights* brochure on voting for students exist? Molly says the VT Bar has one covering legal rights.

Karin Hanta. September 13. Middlebury College, Mahaney Arts Center. Political Science Department event on suffrage. 12:30 p.m. VSCA lunch presentation to students. Free sushi lunch. 4:30 Exhibit, *Votes...for Women?* followed by Professor Amy Morsman talk. Reception 5:30 p.m. • Gensler Family Symposium in April 2020, *Feminism Can Save The World*. May invite Stacy Abrams.

▪ **Progress Update: Review of Action Items from August meeting**

- *Duxbury contacts to speak to Selectboard members in support of Suffrage Scramble 5K Race. Email request made.*
 - *Develop materials (bookmarks, flyers, business cards) for display and distribution. Karen Madden recruited intern to design. Project under progress.*
 - *Anyone interested in pulling together a team to plan and organize symposium? Leadership taken.*
 - *Need for hats and period clothing. LWV has 20 suffrage hats it can loan.*
 - *Anyone interested in being our Grant Project Coordinator - 40 hours @\$15/hour*
 - *Contacts at middle and high schools in the Lake Champlain region interested in hosting the exhibit.*
- Madeline emailed Co-principal Mary Jane Stinson of Milton High School August 19. No response.**

▪ **DISCUSSION: FUNDRAISING**

Need to look at fundraising with help from members. Sandy Dooley will co-chair committee as of January 2020. How much do we need to raise? Probably \$30,000. What type of fundraising do we want to conduct? Sponsorships, service clubs, grants, individuals? What are our projects, project goals and targets? Prepare to make the ask: what is our story? Who are our targets? By the October meeting, let's have project list, Events Committee prepare parade budget, materials ready – letterhead, business cards, brochure. Consider town meeting one-time funding – \$500 ask. Sandy suggests we need to leverage sum of money we have to ask more. Look at organizations that have annual reports – pull donors that would align with this project. Molly has contacts with National Life and will make preliminary inquiries.

Action Item: Sue asks everyone to think of possible donors, be they individuals or businesses. Be ready to provide those contacts to fundraising team.

Future Meetings: Group agreed to an educational segment (10 mins) on various related topics to keep us all informed.

▪ **Next Meeting: Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, November 19th, 10-noon