



Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

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

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women

*Cyndy Bittinger, Susan Dineen, Sandra Dooley, Dell McDonough,

*Linda Radtke, Donna Smyers

*Elisa Nelson, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

League of Women Voters: Lyn Blackwell, *Sonja Schuyler

Rachel Onuf, VT State Archives & Records Administration

*Ericka Reil, Vermont Center for Independent Living

Christine Smith, Spaulding High School

** Participating Remotely via Conference Call*

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

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

Regrets

Marguerite Adelman, Elaine Alfano, Kate Baldwin, Terri

Corsones, Edna Curtin, Laura Daudelin, Susan Dineen, Judith

Dillon, Karin Hanta, Donna Heath, Alice Kitchel, Karen

Madden, Anne Mixer, Madeleine Mongan, Lila Richardson

Sonja Schuyler, Rachel Siegal, Donna Smyers, Yvonne Strauss,

Doris Sumner, Margaret Tamulonis, Joy Worland

THANK YOU.

Terry Corsones, Vermont Bar Association, once again, dropped off chocolate chip cookies, which we enjoyed!

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUNDRAISING: SANDY DOOLEY

Meeting. The subcommittee met February 12. Committee membership expanding. Mary Ann Carlson former VT State Senator (Bennington district) and Vicky Young (Proctor, Rutland County) will help with fundraising.

State Government Funding. January 31, Sandy & Sue had a phone meeting with Senators Jane Kitchel and Tim Ashe of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, seeking a one-time appropriation of \$20,000 in Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Adjustment for the August 22 Parade and SuffrageFest in the form of a grant to LWVVT Education Fund. Both Senators supported the request and suggested we also approach the House of Representatives. Sue spoke with her representative, Kimberly Jessup, who is a new member of House Committee on Appropriations, to have \$20,000 included in FY2021 budget. Representative Jessup graciously agreed to make and advocate for this proposal.

Public Hearings. February 10, 6 p.m. Thank you to those VSCA members who attended and provided testimony on our appropriations request at the statewide House/Senate Committees on Appropriations FY 2021 State Budget community-based public hearings. Members attended seven of nine hearing at Barre, Bennington, Morrisville, St. Albans, Springfield, St. Johnsbury, and Winooski. Not sure if any member attended Rutland and Dorset hearings.

Funding Request Updates. Spoke with board member Liz Bankowski of **Ben and Jerry's Foundation** and submitted an application for \$3,000. Sent request to **Vermont Women's Fund** to submit an out-of-cycle application. Kate Baldwin submitted applications to **UVM** for \$2,500 and **Mascoma Bank** for \$7,500. Met with **People's United Bank** and with **National Life's** Ross Sneyd, Director of Corporate Communications and Community Relations. Arranged meeting with Dan Smith of **Vermont Community Foundation** today. Due to People's United Bank request for sponsor levels, we decided on the following levels: Platinum - \$7,500 or more, Gold - \$5,000 to 7,499, Silver - \$2,000 – 4,999, Bronze - \$500 – 1,999.

Montpelier Alive. Rachel's research confirmed they have a small grant program. Guidelines to be available in March.



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Volunteer Help. One of our greatest needs is for a volunteer with skills and experience in marketing. Approached KSV and CCTV asking if they could assign their marketing staffer to help for about 10 hours per week (pro bono), and if this was not workable, did they know of anyone with marketing skills and experience who might be available?

Dance project. We should definitely have the dance program on the State House Lawn. Will seek funding in support.

Play. Five out of ten venues booked around the state

EVENTS: VIVIENNE ADAIR, DELL MCDONOUGH

Vivienne Adair. The parade route has changed to the Meadow area. We need to talk with the City to get permission to close streets from City Hall. Events on lawn include Poetry Slam, Photo booth for selfies, dunking booth, and Corn hole game using ballot box. High school students can be ambassadors working the crowd. We can also work with the Department of Libraries.

Dell McDonough. Need volunteers and staff for whole event. Must have people with experience to be Coordinators: Parade, Festival, Volunteer, Vendor. These will have to be paid positions. Becky Cook of Norwich Historical Society has agreed to be our Stage Manager. Developed a letter to invite Alliance members and others to participate in parade and have a booth, giving deadline to respond - want at least 35 floats/entrants. The Parade will consist of three sections: historical 1848–1920; 1920–1965, and 1965- present. Who should we invite to the parade and State House lawn activities? VIPs? Re-enactors? We can invite male legislators to march as *Suffragents in* the historical parade. Should contact them before legislative session ends. Would towns be interested in highlighting their own suffragists? Can approach historical societies. Can someone complete the grant application to Montpelier Alive to buy lightpole banners?

Rough Draft of SuffragFest

- Maiden Vermont sings National Anthem.....2 mins
- Dance performance..... 15 mins
- Opening Remarks by Sue or her choice.....5 mins
- Keynote Speech: Annette Gordon-Reed.....20 mins
- (TBA chorus) Black National Anthem.....2 mins
- Maiden Vermont performs.....10 mins, maybe
- (Grace Potter or Tammy Fletcher-TBD)5 mins
- (Carmen Lagala- Comedian)5 mins
- New Americans, young women, and women with disabilities- TBD.....10 mins
- Call to Action: Vote

Discussion: Cyndy Bittinger will look up re-enactors ▪ Ericka Reill reminded us that we need to get the Parade & SuffrageFest on the interpreters schedule. She recommended Sarah Launderville be part of the main program ▪ Members suggested sale of souvenirs - a booth with posters, pins, t-shirts. Add swag to the budget ▪ Contact other towns who hold Fourth of July parades to see if their Parade and Vendor Coordinators might be interested in working our parade.

Suffrage Beer. Zero Gravity has a scheduling conflict - a large event the same weekend as the parade requiring most of their team; they won't have enough staff available to have a presence at the parade. They also cannot get a canned suffrage beer into their summer production schedule. Linda Radtke is now pursuing a beer company in Waitsfield. She will also be going to Montpelier businesses with Dell.

How members can help. Please contact Dell if you know anyone willing to take on a Coordinator role. Does anyone know Olympian Amanda Pelkey, ice hockey player?



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OUTREACH: LILLY TALBERT

Upcoming Events (February & March): See calendar <http://www.vtwomen.org/events/>. Suffrage events in purple!

March 19. *Women's Suffrage in Vermont:* Lyn Blackwell, Rachel Onuf will speak at the Vermont Historical Society's Third Thursdays Lunch Program in Burlington.

April 7. Vermont Commission on Women has the Card Room at the State House for VSCA. State Curator David Schütz may be able to reprise the 19th Amendment performance and has asked Cary Brown to provide the devotional. Can VSCA members cover the display from 8-2:30. We can ask the Legislature for a Resolution about the Centennial. House opens at 10 a.m. Resolution and Devotional between 10 and 11. It is important to have a critical mass of our membership for this session. Should we pair the Resolution with a Proclamation signing by the Governor or wait until August? ***Proclamation in August.***

Outreach. Invitation to join VSCA can be sent to all symposium speakers. Think of your networking circles and connections. We can also touch base with all historical societies.

Media. Sue's Digger commentary postponed until mid-March ▪ Pitched Rachel, Lyn and Sue to VT Edition for March/Women's History Month

RESEARCH & HISTORY: LYN BLACKWELL & RACHEL ONUF

Lyn made contact with Parmelee House and is working on a historic marker for Annette Parmelee in Enosburg Falls ▪ Rachel reported a backlog at UVM Center for Digital Initiatives Online Archive on Vermont suffrage collection. Some biographical sketches still need to be written by July 1st.

Christine Smith. Women's History Month. Spaulding High School will be recognizing Edna Beard, a graduate of Spaulding. Liz LeBrun of Poultney High School and VSCA member participated in the high school Suffragette project, *Leading The Way*.

SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Grant: Sue Racanelli

Agreement signed, insurance paid, and both, Coordinator and Educator hired for traveling exhibit, *Because of Women Like Her...* Heather Kralik, Outreach Coordinator with Kellogg-Hubbard Library will be the Coordinator and Christine Smith of Spaulding High School will compile the digital Educator's Guide. Designer Maja Smith, with help from Lyn, Rachel, and Christine is making progress on the banners. Draft will be ready by early March. Press release has to be issued on grant.

Christine Smith. Doing research for the Educator's Guide which accompanies the exhibit. Requesting permission from Paul Carnahan, librarian at Vermont Historical Society and Mark Bushnell, journalist and historian, to use their materials. Platform to develop template and outline is Book Creator. Information will be student-friendly and easily accessible.

How members can help. If you have sources that could be included in the appendix or bibliography, let Christine know.

Symposium One Event, Many Perspectives: *The Centennial of Women's Suffrage:* Sonja Schuyler

Saturday, May 16, 2020 from 2:00 - 5:30 PM | Ethan Allen Homestead

Huge success. Registrations opened and within two weeks, was full. 100 people. Channel 17 will film and live-stream the event. Suggested donation of \$10 at door.



Suffrage Scramble 5K: Donna Smyers

You can register to walk or run in the scramble online: <http://cvrunners.org/cvr-races/suffrage-scramble> and www.runreg.com/suffrage-scramble-5k. Paper applications can be printed and distributed. Registration is \$20. Considered lowering the price for women to \$16 to show gender pay gap. Now working on a poster and sponsorships. Law firm Langrock, Sperry & Wool is having a yearlong celebration of 60 years of service in Vermont with their 60-for-60th charity benefit. Each month through 2020, they make “donations of 60” to charitable organizations. Thinking of asking for Tshirts. Will approach smaller companies like Title 9, Red Hen, Price Chopper, Shaws, Hunger Mountain Co-op for sponsorships. Could use Thank You Notecards. No word from Girls on the Run. ***Sue to provide Thank You notecards.***

How members can help. Sign up to run or walk. Promote the race on social media. Share registration link, distribute fliers. Suggest sponsors.

Comic Booklet: Ericka Reil.

Initial price quoted was \$800. Went up to \$2000 when artist Andi Santagata, an alum of Center for Cartoon Studies realized there was a lot more work than originally planned. Spoke with Andi and agent Moe Ferrara - the revised quote includes front/back cover + inside front/back cover + 8 pages of art — and includes scripting the comic as well, which means taking the outline and breaking it into panels. Andi emailed an example of a script to comic he worked on. Noone on the VSCA team had the time to do a script. So we decided to let Andi do the script and pay the extra dollars. The comic booklet is an excellent opportunity for a sponsor. Printed product would carry sponsor’s name/logo.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 31 | 10:00-Noon

2020 MEETING DATES

Note: Executive Committee meets one hour prior

Tuesday April 28. 1:30 PM **Venue Change: Vermont Historical Society Community Room/Barre

Thursday May 28. 10:00 AM

Tuesday June 23. 1:30 PM

Tuesday July 28. 10:00 AM

Thursday August 13. 1:30 PM