

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Present

Vivianne Adair, American Association of University Women
Dell McDonough, Linda Radtke
Lila Richardson, League of Women Voters
Christine Smith, Spaulding High School
Teri Corsones, Vermont Bar Association
Rachel Onuf, Vermont State Archives & Records Administration
Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries

Amanda Gustin, Vermont Historical Society

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

Regrets

Marguerite Adelman, Cyndy Bittinger, Judith Dillon, Alice Kitchel,
Yvonne Strauss

▪ WELCOME

▪ BUDGET

Sue Racanelli: As of July 31, 2020, VSCA has a balance of \$18,974.03. Expenses of \$100 (Treasurer stipend). Income \$100 (donation).

▪ FUNDRAISING. Sue Racanelli reporting for Sandy Dooley

Members are not listed alongside their organizations on the VSCA website. Sandy would like to be able to list names as this is very helpful with fund-raising. Sue sent an email to 51 individuals; 32 responded with 23 agreeing to have their name listed and 8 preferring to only have their organizations listed. Sandy will be contacting those who have not responded.

▪ DISCUSSION

Local Recognition of Women's Equality Day: *Vivienne Adair, Dell McDonough, Linda Radtke*

The Events Subcommittee met and decided that the initial proposal to have a car parade was not possible given time constraints. Instead they decided to invite people to congregate in their towns' public places such as the post office, library, town hall on Wednesday, August 26 (11-noon or 1-2pm) to commemorate the centennial. Participants would (optional) wear a sash (Votes for Women) and/or suffragist outfit, complete with hat, carry handmade signs, sing suffrage songs, and engage in dialog about voting, all the while observing protocols of social distancing and face coverings. A permit is not required for peaceful gatherings of ten people or less. Press releases would be sent to local media and VSCA members would inform the public of it by posting an announcement in Front Porch Forum

Discussion brought forth a number of recommended suggestions such as limiting gatherings to larger towns/cities, making suffragist outfits optional, and drawing attention to the Vermont Edition episode.

▪ EVENTS & PROJECTS.

Lilly Talbert is looking for ideas on how to promote three projects on the centennial, August 26.

- 1) **Suffrage Centennial videos from Senator Sander.** The Senator's media staff interviewed VSCA members to produce a four-minute video which will be released on his social media by August 26. How can we best use this video to highlight the commemoration?

Senator Sanders has also submitted a statement to the Congressional Record. Additionally, Congressman Welch will be submitting a statement to the Congressional Record.

- 2) **Governor's Proclamation.** How can we use the proclamation to draw attention to the commemoration? Additionally, the Legislature will be back in virtual session on August 26. Sue contacted Rep. Kimberly Jessup to see if they are planning to recognize the date.
- 3) **VT Edition guest spot.** Have not heard from VT Edition. Rachel, Sue, Tabitha tentatively scheduled.

Rachel Onuf and Lilly are working on a press release that focuses on reflections about the day and the work yet to be done.

Suffrage Scramble 5K Run/Walk. Lilly Talbert reporting for Donna Smyers

The Scramble is a great success with more than 375 participants and media coverage on WCAX, Times Argus, the Other Paper, and other local newspapers. Donna has done a remarkable job – warm, gracious, people-focused. Eva Zaret, our new social media volunteer has helped promote the event.

August 18. VSCA was asked to co-sponsor an event by Next Stage featuring Professor Meg Mott: Patience, Persistence, and the Politics of Morality on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Livestream at 7 p.m. A notice will be sent to all members.

Voter Education. Lila Richardson and Sue Racanelli reporting for Sonja Schuyler

The League is working diligently on voter education in the primary election. Social media messaging and Front Porch Forum have helped us get the word out on mail-in voting. We are attempting to capture voter insight from young voters who voted for the first time. The League is also attempting to organize a gubernatorial candidate forum with partners – Vermont Commission on Women, Disability Rights Vermont, Community of Vermont Elders, and Rutland NAACP. We are waiting to hear back from the Governor.

Seven Days Suffrage Amendment Centennial Focus. Sue Racanelli reporting for Sandy Dooley

Sandy heard from publisher Pamela Polston that a reporter has been assigned to write a story on the centennial. Sandy was hoping for more than one article but is pleased to have coverage for August 26.

• OTHER BUSINESS

Christine Smith. *Because of Women Like Her* Travel Display. Been working the curriculum which is on Google drive. Five modules tied to the five banners. Materials will be

Teri Corsones. Vermont Bar Association Annual Meeting program scheduled for October 1 is *"The 19th Amendment: A Discussion of the History of Women's Suffrage"* and the theme for this year's Constitution Day Panel Program scheduled for September 17 via Zoom at Vermont Law School is *"Your Voice, Your Vote, Our Democracy"*.

Sue Racanelli. As we have so many items in flux, perhaps it would be a good idea to meet again in the following week to review where we're at.