



## VCW VIEW Newsletter – June 28th, 2016



### Recent Events & Resources

- **Commissioner Kerry Secrest and the The Women’s Leadership Circle of Vermont** were featured in an article in the Brattleboro Reformer, [Brattleboro Leadership Circle supports professional women](#). Learn more about the Women’s Leadership Circle of Vermont [online](#) or by contacting [Kerry Secrest](#).
- Yesterday, The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued two important rulings for women:

First, in ***Whole Women’s Health v. Hellerstedt***, SCOTUS struck down Texas abortion restrictions requiring abortion providers to have surgical centers and doctors to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. Justice Breyer wrote in the Court’s [opinion](#) that the restriction “provides few, if any, health benefits for women, poses a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions, and constitutes an “undue burden” on their constitutional right to do so.”

Second, in ***Voisine v. United States***, SCOTUS held that a misdemeanor reckless domestic assault conviction can prohibit gun ownership under 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(9). Learn more by reading the [SCOTUS opinion](#), or this Washington Post [article](#).

- Registered voters in Vermont can now **request a ballot from their town clerk by phone, mail, or online and cast their vote in the August 9th primary election.** Ballots must be completed and returned to the appropriate town clerk by the close of polls on August 9th. There is no political party registration in Vermont: All registered voters can vote in the primary election. Vermonters who've not registered to vote yet can do so online [here](#) up to the evening of August 3<sup>rd</sup> to vote in the primary. Got questions? Visit the [Secretary of State's website](#) and/or their [voter FAQ page](#).
- **Women Helping Battered Women has changed its name to Steps to End Domestic Violence.** The rationale for the change: to be more inclusive and welcoming to those who don't identify as women or as "battered". "Domestic violence impacts those of all gender identities and ages, and can take many forms in addition to physical violence", said Kelly Dougherty, Executive Director. The Burlington area organization's new website is [www.stepsVT.org](http://www.stepsVT.org). Their hotline number remains the same – (802) 658-1996.
- This month, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) released a new report, [Seizing New Policy Opportunities to Help Low-Income Mothers with Depression](#). The authors report that "one study showed that **9 percent of low-income mothers with children birth to age 5 had at least one major depressive episode** within the previous year. While depression is highly treatable, many low-income mothers do not receive treatment—even for very severe levels of depression. Indeed, one-third of mothers with major depressive disorder get no treatment at all."
- **Women's eNews post [Teens Contend With Women's Financial Literacy Gap](#)** cites 2012 research from Girl Scouts of USA indicating that half of girls 11-17 feel uncomfortable making their own financial decisions. **Only 12% of surveyed girls said they would feel very confident making financial decisions as adults.** The post features organizations working to improve financial literacy for girls. Check VCW's Financial Literacy resource guide section, [here](#).
- **Economic Security for Survivors Project and BEST Index founded by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) Transitions to the Institute for Women's Policy Research**, as WOW winds down its operations. The [ESS project](#) seeks to build, protect, and restore the economic security of survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking so that they may be safe and free of abuse.
- **The U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau released a new [Working Mothers Issue Brief](#).** Highlights of the brief include that among families with a working householder and children under age 18, **mother-only families were over five times more likely to be in poverty than married-couple families**, and nearly twice as likely to be in poverty as father-only families, and that only 13% of workers have access to paid family leave.

## Upcoming Events

**Lunch and Learn: Social Media Made Simple & Social Media Clinic**

*Thursday, June 30 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Office Squared, Burlington*

The new Center for Women and Enterprise Vermont hosts a monthly Lunch and Learn on the last Thursday of the month focused on the entrepreneurial skill set. The topic of this month's event is: Social Media Made Simple & Social Media Clinic. Cost: \$5 brown bag, \$35 with lunch.

**Registration required.**

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**Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care Plans Community Forums**

*The week of July 25th in St. Johnsbury, Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, and Brattleboro*

Exact locations, dates and times to be determined. The purpose of these forums is to hear from the public on the following three questions: What would help you the most with respect to accessing high-quality child care? What are the responsibilities of Vermont to help ensure all Vermonters have access to high-quality child care? What should we do to make accessible, high-quality child care more affordable in Vermont? The Commission emphasizes that these forums are for ALL Vermonters, not just parents of young children, but also providers, businesses, community members, and anyone who has an opinion about how we, as a state, should support our children and families. [Click here](#) for more information and updates.

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**Save the Date for the 10th annual Laura's March to end sexual violence!**

*Saturday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m. at Oakledge Park, Burlington*

Established in 2006, Laura's March is a 5K walk/run fundraiser to support organizations that work to help end sexual violence, in remembrance of Laura Kate Winterbottom. This year's primary beneficiaries will be [H.O.P.E. Works](#), [Pride Center of Vermont](#), and [The Safety Team](#).

**Register and raise funds online.**

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**Fall Doe Camp: A Back-country Retreat for Adventurous Women**

*Friday, September 16th at 8:30 a.m. – Sunday, September 18th at Jackson's Lodge, Canaan*

Vermont Outdoors Woman is sponsoring a weekend retreat for adventurous women 18 years and older in Canaan, Vermont on September 16 – 18, 2016. It will be the beginning of fall foliage season as [29 classes](#) are held in the woods and on the lake. This will take place at [Jackson's Lodge & Log Cabins](#), a 57 year family tradition providing heated lakefront cabins on beautiful

Lake Wallace. Discounts are available for daily drive ins, camping, mother/daughter teams and girlfriend groups of three or more. Sponsored in part by Jackson's Lodge, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Vermont Outdoor Guide Association and R & L Archery. For more information, or to inquire about Doe Camp sponsorship, please contact Gray at: [gray@voga.org](mailto:gray@voga.org) or call 802-425-6211.

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