



VCW's Newsletter, February 17th



Save the Date! Vermont Women's Fund Benefit: Together We Can Change the Story for Women in Vermont will be held Tuesday, May 3rd from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the University of Vermont, Davis Center, in Burlington.

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A huge thanks to those of you who shared stories with us for testimony on **H.808 Pregnancy Accommodations bill**. If you've not contacted us already, we're still interested in hearing from women who worked while pregnant in Vermont. Send a note [here](#). To read more about this bill, including testimony from VCW's Executive Director, Cary Brown, please [link here](#).

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Vermont Works for Women

-Is **hiring** with Feb 25. Application deadlines. Learn more [here](#).

-Is **Introducing Step In to Work** (formerly Transitional Jobs), a holistic work-readiness system designed to support women in overcoming employment barriers. To learn more about the deep skill-building program with long-term, post-program support, or to apply, [click here](#).

-Is **accepting catering orders** for lunch or dinner events in Chittenden County, prepared by their **Fresh Food** program.

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VCW Advisory Council member, **League of Women Voters of Vermont** presents two new

segments of their Spotlight on Issues television programs:

-View Your Voting Rights here – Sue Alenick, Burlington Ward Clerk is joined by Sonja Schuyler, League of Women Voters, to share what you need to know to vote this Town Meeting Day, and each election cycle.

-View Ethics Commission here. – The League’s Kate Rader speaks with Sec. of State Jim Condos about a proposed ethics commission for state officials.

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The Kaiser Family Foundation released an interactive map of State Profiles for Women’s Health. Find state-specific data on women’s health, including insurance and Medicaid coverage, poverty, mental health, HIV, cancer, pregnancy, abortions, and use of preventive services

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Funding Opportunity: Supporting Nursing Moms at Work, Vermont Department of Health: The Vermont Department of Health is seeking applications/proposals to provide funding and technical assistance for 15 worksites across the state to ensure **workplace compliance with the federal lactation accommodation law.** The anticipated grant period will be through 6/30/2016, with no option to renew. Application deadline is February 25. More information is available [here](#).

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Watch 3 trailblazing women in STEM fields. This video, courtesy of **Vermont Works for Women**, highlights three young women Vermonters who are working in STEM and trades fields: a computer programmer, a chemist and a welder. They were all instructors at the 2015 **Women Can Do STEM & Trades Conference** last October at Vermont Tech, which drew more than 500 high schoolers from across the state.

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The White House announced President Obama’s new initiative, Computer Science for All, which calls for \$4 billion in funding for states and \$100 million for school districts to expand K-12 computer science by training teachers, expanding access to high-quality materials, and building effective regional partnerships. The White House cited that just a quarter of U.S. K-12 schools offer high-quality computer science education, and in **2015, only 22% of students taking the AP Computer Science exam were girls**, and only 13% were African-American or Latino students. Learn more about the initiative [here](#).

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ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champaign has a new permanent early education exhibit, Champ Lane, now open! **Let's Grow Kids** and **ECHO** partnered to create **Champ Lane**, an exhibit created especially for ages 0-6, engages children in science play, or learning about science using open-ended play scenarios. This means interacting with the world through all five senses, meeting science tools for the first time and becoming comfortable with them, refining balance and developing spatial awareness, and sorting, categorizing, or counting objects to learn the basics of mathematics.

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The **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** says that better data equals greater pay equality, and **proposed to revise the Employer Information Report (EEO-1) to require employers with 100 or more workers to report pay data, and is seeking public comment on its approach.** Learn more [here](#).

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CLASP updated their [chart following private employer Paid Family Leave Policies.](#)

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Check out CLASP Deputy Director Jodie Levin-Epstein's Bloomberg piece, [New Family Leave Policies: Not All Created Equal](#), which explains the necessity of paid leave beyond corporate paid leave policies in a Bloomberg piece, and offers specific suggestions for employers when creating or expanding paid leave policies. **Her piece, [Giving Retail Workers the Gift of Standards for Job Schedules](#), highlights challenges retail workers face from irregular work schedules on short notice**, and how "this stress is fueled by the rolling repercussions a difficult schedule can have on child care, school schedules, and family."

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The United States Department of Labor launched the [Women Build, Protect, & Move America portal](#), providing information and resources for women about accessing higher-paying careers in transportation, construction and protective services.

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Let's Grow Kids is asking for volunteers to work at their local voting poll on **Town Meeting Day**, Tuesday, March 1. More information is available on their [website](#), or by emailing [Ryan Emerson](#).

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New Women Veterans Group in the Keene, NH area. All female veterans of any age and branch welcome. Contact Billie at (603) 903-2168

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7th Annual Women Veterans Ski Appreciation Day

Registration deadline is Monday, February 22nd and event is Tuesday, March 1st, 2016 at Mount Sunapee.

This annual event offers the opportunity for **women Veterans to learn how to ski or snowboard or better their skills**. There will only be female instructors and volunteers available. All Veterans will be provided with equipment (if needed), a lift ticket, lunch, and morning and afternoon lessons. You will be responsible for your own transportation to Mount Sunapee. For more information or to register, contact **Jenny McLaughlin, CTRS** at (774) 826-1955 or **Angela Neilson** at (603) 763-9158

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Film Screening: *The State of Marriage*, Hosted by the Vermont Humanities Council

Tuesday, February 23rd from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, at the Pavilion Auditorium, 109 State St., Montpelier

The State of Marriage is the untold story of how legal pioneer Mary Bonauto partnered with Vermont lawyers, Beth Robinson and Susan Murray, in a two-decade long struggle that built the foundation for the marriage equality movement. Screening to be followed by discussion panel with director Jeff Kaufman, State Rep Bill Lippert and others led by the Vermont Historical Society. [Click here](#) for more information

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Greater Burlington Women's Forum Brown Bag Lunch

March 17 @ 12:00 pm – March 17 @ 1:15 pm at Contois Auditorium in Burlington

Join us for Failing Forward: Finding Success from "Failure" a discussion of experiences with failure and moving forward. Panelists include **Janice Shade**, entrepreneur who founded several businesses including True Soap. Free, but always popular! [Register here](#) to save your seat. For more info, email: btwwomen@gmail.com.

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The Burlington Free Press recently covered the issue of new snowboards featuring sexual imagery [here](#). In 2008, the Vermont Commission on Women engaged in a conversation about snowboard products featuring objectionable sexual imagery. After much discussion, the Commission decided to take positive action, and gather helpful tools for parents to use when confronted with objectionable sexual, sexist or violent language or imagery. Experts suggest that parents "listen, talk, and keep talking" and that's what we called the publication we developed. Read it [here](#).

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Vermont Crime Victim Service Awards 2016 Nomination Information

Nomination deadline is Friday, March 25, 2016 at 4 pm.

Every year the **Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services** solicits nominations for its Crime Victim Service Awards. These **awards recognize individuals or programs that, through activism and advocacy, serve crime victims in extraordinary ways.** The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony held on Friday April 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm at the Stoweflake Resort, in Honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2016. Please consider submitting a nomination. **Click here** for the 2016 Crime Victim Service Awards Nomination Form.

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VT Women in Higher Education 2016 Conference, Register Now!

Thursday, March 31st from 2 pm – 8 pm & Friday, April 1st from 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 pm
at the Killington Grand Resort

Vermont Women in Higher Education welcomes Mary Powell, president and CEO of Green Mountain Power Corporation, as the keynote speaker. With a theme of "Power Up! Harnessing Your Power, Direct Your Energy and Electrify the World," the conference is expected to draw higher education professionals from across the state, as well as business leaders and women working in non-profit and related fields. Day one of the conference features two interactive workshops: Lindsey Godwin and Pru Sullivan host "Recharging Your Battery: Plugging into Your Positive Core to Power Up at Work and Beyond," focusing on boosting women's emotional health and well-being. "Being *That* Person in Your Department: Addressing Social Justice Issues with Fellow Professionals in Student Affairs and Beyond," with Jinai Gordon and Meghan Marino, invites participants to explore different ways to create dialogue around social issues in higher education. The 2016 VWHE conference includes dozens of workshops on topics including networking through social media, reconceptualizing leadership, virtual mentoring, and more. This year, VWHE is once again partnering with Dress for Success Burlington to sponsor a clothes swap to benefit the organization. The non-profit provides professional attire, career development tools, and a network of support to disadvantaged women to help promote their economic independence. The event costs \$160 per person. For information and to register for the conference, visit **vwhe.org**.

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