The Ulster Chamber will devote their next Virtual Breakfast Meeting to the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote. The push for equal voting rights began on July 19, 1848 in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Three, close to 200 women, led by abolitionists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, gathered at the Wesleyan Chapel to “discuss the social, civil and religious condition and rights of women.”

Fast forward to now. The current pandemic has forced the cancellation of many events around the country commemorating the centennial, but the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce has come up with a creative way to highlight it.

On June 16, the Chamber is hosting a Virtual Breakfast Meeting with an all-female panel that will include Hon. Karen Peters, the first woman appointed Chief Justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Judge Peters, who retired in December 2017 after more than three decades on the bench, will be joined by Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack, Ulster County Elections Commissioner Ashley Dittus, and Cynthia Bell and Jennifer Clark of the Ulster County League of Women Voters.

She said she will put on her historian cap at the breakfast and look back at how New York was ahead of the pack when it came to voting rights for women.

“Women have acquired the right to vote and by running for office themselves, the perspective of all citizens must be taken into consideration by our government to fairly serve the needs of all,” she said.

As the first woman Supreme Court Judge in Ulster County, the first women Supreme Court judge in the 28 counties of the Third Department and the first woman Presiding Justice of the Third Department, I have made a difference for justice for all and made sure that the voices of women and people of color have been heard in the highest levels of government.

As it has been said by many before me, if you do not have a seat at the table, you do not get to enjoy the meal.”

Postupack agreed that engagement is crucial.

She plans to take it a step further by looking at what women bring to the voting booth, including “diversity of thought.”

“I think women’s roles, while expanded in the political process in the form of one of our most hallowed rights outlined in the Constitution—the right to vote,” she said.

“As it has been said by many, “Women tend to vote their own values,” she said, “and for candidates who “consider the future.”

“We owe so much to these women, who fought so that we could participate in the political process in the form of one of our most hallowed rights outlined in the Constitution—the right to vote.”

The virtual breakfast can be viewed on Facebook Live from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

For more information go to UlsterChamber.org.