


AGENDA ITEM:5-A**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Ventura County Commission For Women

FROM: Stacey B. MacDonald, Chair 

DATE: November 20, 1991

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Report and Update on Commission Activities

At this meeting we will be half-way through this fiscal year and my term as Chair. I cannot begin to tell you how rewarding and exciting it is to be the Chair of such a vital and energetic group of women doing so much good. I might also mention that it can at times be exhausting; however, its worth it!

Our Commission has seen almost a full turnover in members during the past two years; however, we have managed to maintain consistency while continuing to go forward and explore new territory and options.

New projects undertaken by the Commission include the very successful Women's Political Appointments Coalition. We have started the talent bank and have applications on file and are working on developing a tracking system on the Office computer system to begin our data bank.

As a result of the September workshop and teambuilding we have identified leadership for women as being a real need and in response we have established a committee that is working on planning a Countywide workshop which will hopefully take place sometime next year.

The Commission's continuing health care committee is forging ahead on issues surrounding women's health and wellbeing. They are also gathering information and investigating the possibilities of establishing cooperative efforts to deal with the teenage pregnancy crisis. I might also take this opportunity to mention that in several news articles whenever I mention teenage pregnancy, the office receives telephone calls from numerous individuals offering support and encouragement to the Commission on dealing with this serious issue. On behalf of District 3, I have made personal contact with the schools in my community to try and establish an opportunity to coordinate and implement some type of program to deal with this matter. I sincerely believe that the teenage pregnancy matter needs to become a priority of the Commission and would like to see us work diligently toward developing a tangible program to be implemented in each of the Supervisorial districts within the next year. The Commission donated \$500 to the Hispanic Nurses Association for its pap clinic and several of our nursing professionals also volunteered and donated their time at the clinic.

The public relations committee has been established on an informal basis to take proactive steps toward creating a greater awareness of the Commission and its work. Channel 6 in Ventura broadcast an interview with myself and former Commissioner Long where we were given an opportunity to discuss the Commission and our special efforts surrounding the Women's Political Appointments Coalition. Additionally, we have had profile articles published in the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Daily News and the Ventura County Coast Reporter. All articles generated telephone calls to the Commission Office. Additionally, I am making special efforts to meet and make presentations to various women's organizations throughout the County regarding the Commission's work. I was pleased to be able to make a presentation to a formal women's group at the Naval Weapons System in Port Hueneme. Not surprising they are having difficulty with child care and establishing an on-site day care center. I was pleased to find that they are interested in participating in the Child Care Council in Port Hueneme, an effort supported by the

Base Management. I have contacted local women's organizations in District Three and hope to make many more presentations and hopefully recruit persons to help with many of our special projects and serve on our committees.

Child Care matters continue to be of concern to the Commission and are being monitored by Former Commissioner Kathy Long, District Aide to Supervisor Erickson-Kildee. Anna McVerry is assisting and serves as the alternate when Kathy is unable to attend meetings.

Commissioner Scoville is actively monitoring housing matters by attending meetings of the various groups throughout the County and keeping the Commission informed on these issues.

Commissioner McGrath continues her efforts to monitor and lobby for legislation affecting women, particularly issues surrounding domestic violence and crimes against women. She is also serving as the Commission's liaison with the two battered women's shelters in the County. I was pleased to be able to join her on one of her visits to the east-valley shelter and was very impressed with the accommodations and services provided to these women.

The Commission also took a proactive approach to solving some of its own budget problems by reorganizing the Commission office and reevaluating the services it provides. I believe that the steps we have taken are a vital approach to reaching a more efficient level of service and economizing within the budget constraints placed upon us by the County of Ventura. We have formed a finance committee made of up executive board members to handle financial matters of the Commission, particularly finances surrounding special events that we sponsor. The Agenda process and packets have been revised making it easier to conduct business at our monthly meetings. We have also established a very cooperative relationship with the PSSA staff and I am very pleased that we now have a more open line of communication.

The Program Committee has been charged with the task of organizing our on-going events such as the Salute to Women Awards, Family Law Forum, Survival Skills Day in addition to reassuming the responsibility of sponsoring the Women's History Project in March. This committee has met almost weekly to plan and organize the activities surrounding each of these events. At this point the major focus is on Women's History Project and the full support of the Commission is necessary in order to accomplish the event.

I would like to personally thank each one of you for your commitment, time and support of the Commission For Women. I cannot begin to tell you how important you are as individuals to both me and most importantly to the Women of Ventura County. You are all very successful women and I am so proud to be associated with you. All I can say is thank you! Thank you for giving of your self and your spirit. You are such wonderful mentors and rolemodels and I applaud you. I am looking forward to accomplishing great things with you in the coming year and know that with the wonderful energy of this group of women we will accomplish great things!

Please have a very wonderful holiday season, rest up for next year is only a few days away.

Happy Holidays everyone, my love to you and your families for sharing you with the rest of the world.