

VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT
1987-88

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Presented by

Brook A. Hubbell, Ed.D.
Co-Chair

Sandra S. Ryder
Co-Chair

July 1988

DISTRICT 1 - SUSAN LACEY, SUPERVISOR

Lauren Anderson, Ventura
Karen Flock, Ventura
Teresa Simonson, Oak View

DISTRICT 2 - MADGE SCHAEFER, SUPERVISOR

Miriam Albert, Thousand Oaks
Zora Kirby, Thousand Oaks
Susan Witting, Thousand Oaks

DISTRICT 3 - MAGGIE ERICKSON, SUPERVISOR

Lillian Goldman, Camarillo
Sandra Smith Ryder, Camarillo
Vacancy

DISTRICT 4 - JIM DOUGHERTY, SUPERVISOR

Dorothy J. Engel, Thousand Oaks
Brook A. Hubbell, Ed.D., Simi Valley
Bonnie Warrington, Simi Valley

DISTRICT 5 - JOHN FLYNN, SUPERVISOR

Tila Estrada, Oxnard
Jean Harris, Oxnard
Vacancy

Other members of the Commission who have served during the past year are:

DISTRICT 1

Arleen S. Reetz, Ventura
(Served from October 1985 - November 1987)

DISTRICT 5

Martha Sheffey White, Oxnard
(Served from May 1984 - May 1988)

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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After seven years, the Commission for Women has its roots firmly planted in Ventura County. Its branches reach out to women in different stages and circumstances throughout the county. The sturdy trunk of the Commission is its main body, consisting this year of thirteen women, who supply the vital force necessary to invigorate and to give direction to its parts. This is the fruit of their labors.

Education Task Force

The Education Task Force is a major branch supporting vigorous limbs:

The Women's History Project of Ventura County honored an educator, Wilma Rosenberg and a community activist, Sandy Hindy for promoting women's history in the classroom. The awards, known as the Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Awards, were presented at a luncheon on March 19, 1988. Women's history came alive that day with the enactment of the role of Matilda Joslyn Gage in the women's movement by Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner. This event also provided a vehicle to recognize women's groups throughout the county through their co-sponsorship and display tables.

Members of the Education Task Force and the Legislative Roundtable joined forces to present a workshop on the topic of pay equity as part of the Community Unity and Awareness Day held in November. Information on pay equity on the national, state and local levels was provided. The Pay Equity Project has been established to continue researching the topic.

Although the third annual Women in Agriculture Forum will not be held until October 22, a subcommittee of the Education Task Force has formulated the plans. Workshops will focus on four main areas: Education, Legal Issues, Child Care and Housing.

At the sixth annual "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet held at the Westlake Plaza Hotel, ten women and their achievements were celebrated. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joy Picus acted as mistress of ceremonies. A subcommittee of the Education Task Force is hard at work to produce next fall's banquet scheduled for October 27 at the Doubletree Inn with Madeline Murphy, head of the Murphy Organization in Oxnard, as guest speaker.

Housing Task Force

Since the lack of affordable housing is a critical problem affecting low and moderate income individuals, the Commission has become a member of a coalition, Networking for Housing in Ventura County. The Housing Task Force chairperson represents the Commission on this coalition and at the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation meetings. The task force also monitors the efforts of city councils and planning commissions in the area of housing.

Family Law Task Force

This branch of the Commission has surged forth this year. The Commission's first "Family Law Forum" in February was attended by over 120 women and men who unanimously voted it a success. A by-product of the Forum and a questionnaire on the dissolution process was the development of a consumer education article related to legal counsel and how to seek redress.

Presently, the chair of this task force and the publicity committee are working together with the Camarillo Soroptimists to present a seminar on Sexual Harassment which will be held September 17.

Child Care Task Force

This mainstay branch of the Commission has grown a myriad of limbs that crisscross throughout the County dropping seeds of education on the need for child care on increasingly more fertile soil. The members of this task force have toiled arduously serving on committees, speaking before various groups, putting on a workshop to educate influential business women on the value of employer-assisted child care, collecting data, monitoring legislation and being an informed source for all requesting information.

Counseling Task Force

Members of the Counseling Task Force act as monitors of the Domestic Violence Services contracts by visiting the two centers, Coalition Against Household Violence and Interface, on a periodic basis. The results of these visits are reported to the full Commission and to the Public Social Services Agency's Adult Services Manager.

Communications Committee

The Communication Committee winds its way through all the task forces and committees to spread information about issues facing women and the activities of the Commission and other community

groups which address these issues. This committee published a bi-monthly newsletter which reached 849 groups or individuals, arranged for television coverage of the Salute To Women awards banquet, videotaping and radio announcements of particular events, provided regular press releases and a consumer education feature for a local newspaper.

Legislative Analysis Committee

The Legislative Analysis Committee is an integral part of each task force, too, as it monitors legislation and advises the Commission of appropriate action. A list of the legislation supported by the Commission is included in the body of this report.

Legislative Roundtable

Four meetings of the Legislative Roundtable were held this year enabling representatives of women's organization to gather information on the legislative process and to develop a legislative networking capability. A subcommittee of the Roundtable joined the Education Task Force in presenting a workshop on pay equity.

Friends of the Commission

The Friends of the Commission aided the Commission by arranging the "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet and by contributing \$366.11 towards Commission projects and \$2,250.00 seed money for the 1988 awards banquet.

Commission Members:

For the majority of the 1987-88 year, the Commission has operated with no more than thirteen of its fifteen member complement. Of these thirteen women who have volunteered 2,693 hours, had expenses of \$2,112.46 and driven 10,376 miles on Commission business, seven have full-time occupations, four have business commitments and/or attend college and two are professional volunteers. In addition to the work done on behalf of the Commission, each of the Commissioners is involved in a variety of community activities.

The Commission for Women's efforts have been enhanced by the dedication of its part-time staff, Martha Baskerville, our Administrative Aide until June and Linda Henry, Secretary.

For further insight into the other contributions your Commissioners and staff have made to their communities, please see the appropriate section in this report.

Commission for Women members and staff have worked over 2,693 volunteer hours, driven over 10,376 miles and spent \$2,112.46 of their own money to accomplish Commission goals.

Allowing \$.31 per mile and valuing our time at \$10 per hour (as approved by the Board at the time of the establishment of the Commission), the Commission has donated \$32,259.27 of in-kind support to further its work.

These figures represent in-kind support from Commissioners and staff only and do not include the many hours spent, miles driven and out-of-pocket expenses of the Friends of the Commission or the many other volunteers and supporters throughout the county; nor do the figures include cash contributions to become a sponsor of the newsletter, or contributions of services and money from individuals, large and small firms in the county or community organizations to support the newsletter and other Commission projects.

Karen Flock, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

VCCFW

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IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MILEAGE</u>	<u>MILEAGE COSTS</u>
Miriam Albert	220	\$ 55.00	330	\$102.30
Lauren Anderson	55	65.50	495	153.45
Dot Engel	108	152.98	2058	637.98
Tila Estrada	40	140.00	385	119.35
Karen Flock	60	44.00	300	93.00
Lillian Goldman	93	53.70	306	94.86
Jean Harris	27	29.50	270	83.70
Brook Hubbell	300	270.00	1550	480.50
Zora Kirby	150	600.00	480	148.80
Sandy Ryder	360	245.42	593	183.83
Bonnie Warrington	728	50.00	1482	459.42
Martha White	95	30.00	731	226.61
Susan Witting	164	143.00	699	216.69
<u>STAFF</u>				
Martha Baskerville	209	113.86	572	177.32
Linda Henry	24	44.50	75	23.25
<u>FORMER COMMISSIONERS</u>				
Arleen Reetz	60	75.00	50	15.50
	<u>2693</u>	<u>\$2,112.46</u>	<u>10,376</u>	<u>\$3,216.81</u>

Total In-Kind Contributions:

Time Valued at \$10/hour	\$26,930.00
Out-of-pocket expenses	2,112.46
Mileage cost at \$.31/mile	3,216.81
	<u>\$32,259.27</u>

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The Education Task Force has served as a starting point for projects which have eventually flourished and become separate projects of their own. The annual agricultural forums, the Salute to Women Awards Banquet and the Women in History luncheon all began as tiny limbs upon the tree of the Education Task Force. During this year another limb has also sprouted -- Pay Equity Project.

In the 1985 Five Year Needs Assessment, pay equity was brought to the forefront as an issue requiring our attention:

"Pay equity or comparable worth is a fundamental economic issue which will affect most working women in their careers. For too long, women's labor has been undervalued primarily because it was assumed their pay did not support the family. That is no longer true today and if women are to become economically self-sufficient, they must have the same opportunities as men to earn a decent wage."

This then has been the focus of the Education Task Force this year. The task force, in order to gather more information, met with the legislative roundtable subcommittee on pay equity. This subcommittee consisted of women from a variety of organizations interested in pay equity. At the first meeting of the combined group, it was decided to jointly co-sponsor, along with many other community groups, the Second Annual Ventura County Community Unity and Awareness Day which was scheduled for the Sunday, November 8, 1987, at the Oxnard Civic Auditorium. The Community Unity and Awareness Day consisted of a number of workshops reflecting a variety of topics and the organizations involved.

The combined task force and subcommittee developed a 1 1/2 hour workshop for this one-day event around the topic of pay equity. The workshop was a panel format with individuals who discussed the issue from the perspective of county, city and state agencies; as well as labor unions. We also provided handout materials specifically addressing this topic and also brochures about the activities of the Ventura County Commission for Women. The goal of the workshop was to provide an open forum for the public at an educational level. As the workshop was a part of a larger forum which focused on multi-cultural groups, we projected questions during the workshop which would address this perspective. Questions addressed included: 1) What is pay equity? 2) What is comparable worth? 3) Who will benefit from pay equity? 4) Will local governments have trouble funding moves to pay large numbers of employees in cases of pay equity actions? 5) Where has pay equity succeeded? 6) Will pay equity change the feminization of poverty in its development and results? 7) How can we work for pay equity?

Upon completion of this successful workshop, it was decided that additional research on this issue was needed for many questions remaining. Members of the Education Task Force and members of the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition who were a part of the original legislative subcommittee on pay equity, realizing the importance of this issue, combined efforts to become the Pay Equity Project.

This task force will continue researching the issue of pay equity by listening to employers and employees-both sides-who have been a part of pay equity studies, examining current legislation on the topic of pay equity, and conducting public forums to continue the education process in Ventura County.

Lauren Anderson, Chair

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

1987-88

The Women's History Project of Ventura County, a joint task force of the Ventura County Commission for Women and the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition, is now a financially independent project, thanks to its highly successful celebratory luncheon in March 1988 and thanks to the exceptionally strong support the Project has received from organizations and individuals throughout the County.

The luncheon was held on March 19 at the Holiday Inn Ventura Beach Resort with 225 paid reservations and forty community organizations and agencies as co-sponsors. Co-sponsors aided in publicizing the event within their own groups, provided outlets for ticket sales and were a source for volunteers for pre-event and on-site assistance.

The co-sponsors for the 1988 luncheon were: Soroptimists International of Ventura, SOLO Project, Ventura County Historical Society, Ventura County Community College District, Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, Moorpark Chamber of Commerce, Ventura County Library Services Agency, Baha'is of Santa Paula, American Association of University Women Thousand Oaks Branch (AAUW), Interface, Simi-Conejo National Organization for Women (NOW), AAUW Camarillo Branch, AAUW Ventura County Branch, Channel Islands Business and Professional Women (BPW), Tres Condados Girl Scout Council, Women's American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), West County Alcohol Counseling Center, Clinical del Camino Real, Step Family Association of Ventura County, Ventura-Oxnard NOW, University Center at Ventura, The Links, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta, Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, Commission on Human Concerns, Ventura College Re-Entry Center, Coalition Against Household Violence, Ventura County Society for Cultural Relations USA-USSR, Planned Parenthood, Channel Islands Women in Action, The Population Institute, International Training in Communication, Women's Resource Center at California Lutheran University, Gay and Lesbian Resources of Ventura County, Disabled Rights Union, Delta Kappa Gamma.

Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, noted feminist historian and author, was the guest speaker. Her program focused on the work of American suffragists from 1870-1887 and presented both herself and in costume as Matilda Joslyn Gage, one of the leading but now lesser-known suffragists of the period.

There were additional highlights at the luncheon, including presentations of Women's History Month proclamations by Ventura County Supervisor Susan Lacey and California State Senator Gary Hart.

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The Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Awards were presented at the luncheon for the first time this year. Sandy Hindy, a community activist from Thousand Oaks and Wilma Rosenberg, an educator, also from Thousand Oaks, each received an award for work promoting the inclusion of women's history in the classroom. Nominations for these awards are solicited across the county via press releases and letters to organizations and to each public school in Ventura County. The Women's History Project is very grateful to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum for her assistance in notifying the principal of each school about these awards.

The program of "living portraits" of American women begun in Conejo Valley elementary schools by the Thousand Oaks Branch of AAUW was expanded this year by AAUW members in Camarillo and Simi Valley. Elementary students were introduced to five significant American women, past and present, by volunteers who "became" those women for a day. In addition to the actual presenters, additional AAUW members did research, designed costumes and props and coordinated activities and classroom visits. The goal of this program is to eventually provide these "living portraits" in every elementary school in Ventura County.

Individual organizations again planned special evening programs for their members and for the public and some organized essay contests for high school students. Cash prizes were awarded in some instances, and books on women in history were presented to participating schools.

Community college campuses each hosted women's history events with a special art exhibit at the district office featuring work by women artists.

Martha Baskerville, Chair

Women's History Project

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Committee on Women in Agriculture continued the work identified in the following Mission Statement adopted this year:

The Ventura County Commission for Women's Committee on Women in Agriculture is composed of women with diverse backgrounds in agriculture who have agreed to work together to promote communication, understanding, and education about the issues that affect women in agriculture.

The Committee was initially organized to deal with an accusation of discrimination against women who work in local packing sheds and has since broadened its mission to encompass all issues involving women in agriculture. The members of the Committee have differing points of view, but the Committee's philosophy is that there is a valuable and productive experience of synergy from the expression of different opinions. The Committee believes that women from all aspects of agriculture have important interests in common and that the significant contribution women make to agriculture should be recognized. The Committee believes in looking for the win-win solutions to the problems facing women in agriculture and strives to mediate and to facilitate programs that aim for such solutions. The Committee carries out its work through such means as educational activities, research, and advocacy.

The committee is currently working on two projects:

1. A third forum on Women in Agriculture is scheduled for October 1988. Workshop topics will include Education, Legal Issues, Child Care, and Housing.
2. The Committee is also working on a survey of women working in Ventura agriculture that will help to identify their needs, opportunities, and perceived resources.

Karen Flock, Chair

Women in Agriculture Committee

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

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On Thursday, October 29, 1987, the Ventura County Commission for Women celebrated with more than 400 individuals, the Sixth Annual Salute To Women Awards Banquet at the Westlake Plaza Hotel.

The award recipients chosen, and their respective categories, were as follows:

Education	Madeline Meidema, Oxnard
Law	Superior Court Judge Melinda Johnson, Ventura
	Carmen Ramirez, Executive Director of the Channel Counties Legal Services
Media	Shirley E. Jewett, Simi Valley
Arts	Ingrid H. Ely, Simi Valley
Science/Health	Marion Gordon, Camarillo
Business	Ruth Hogan, Simi Valley
Community Service-Professional	Colleen Louise House, Oxnard
Community Service-Volunteer	Sherry Musgrove, Westlake Village
Community Service-Homemaker	Daryl Reynolds, Thousand Oaks

Each of these women were honored for their contributions to the community. More than 100 applications were received at the Commission office; each woman a true contributor to the betterment of Ventura County.

The selection process was accomplished by a committee of seven commissioners, chaired by Lauren Anderson. The other members of the committee included: Martha White, Lillian Goldman, Tila Estrada, Zora Kirby, Susan Witting and Sandra Ryder. The criteria for choosing the award recipients included rating based on significance of contribution; impact of contribution (number of people affected or extent to which a given need is addressed); degree of commitment (time and effort devoted); community experience (amount and quality); local organization (active membership); leadership qualities and experience; degree of challenge (struggle or risk faced in implementation); extent to which horizons have been extended for women in the community.

Our mistress of ceremonies for the gala evening was Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joy Picus. As a contributor to a number of areas in the Los Angeles community and specifically to women, Picus was an outstanding woman to make the evening an even greater success.

Commissioners served as hostess for an award recipient, or provided information and materials about the Ventura County Commission for Women to our guests. A separate display room was set up to explain the history of the Commission as well as current projects.

The purpose of this awards banquet is to salute the women of Ventura County for their outstanding contributions which they enthusiastically provide to others in their respected fields. The seventh annual Salute To Women Awards Banquet has already been set in motion and will be held at the Doubletree Inn in Ventura on October 27. Once again, we look forward to meeting the women of Ventura County who work to make our community a better one.

Lauren Anderson, Chair

Salute To Women Awards Committee

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Housing Task Force identified its first priority as presentations to the City Councils and Planning Commissions regarding the need for affordable housing. Other Task Force goals were: to facilitate the development of "second stage" housing; to work to establish a countywide Housing Trust Fund through Networking for Housing in Ventura County; to continue to liaison with Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and Networking; to help establish a "blue ribbon" committee to increase resources for affordable housing; to do education on housing discrimination; to assist the Area Housing Authority to obtain ownership of the Meiners Oaks housing project; and to support and encourage options and opportunities for available housing for lower income women and children and families.

The Housing Task Force did the following to carry out its goals:

In November, 1987, the task force initiated a letter to the City of Ventura recommending that the EIR for the City's Comprehensive Plan Amendment devote more attention to means of meeting the need for affordable housing. Karen Flock, Task Force Chair, testified about the need for affordable housing at a February 29, 1988 Ventura City Council Committee on Affordable Housing meeting.

Karen Flock continued to serve as the Commission's representative to Networking for Housing in Ventura County. Networking obtained an increase in the funds committed for capitalization of its Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) from \$88,000 to \$98,000. The RLF loans predevelopment funds for the development of low income housing. Networking also pursued sponsorship of a countywide committee on affordable housing.

The Task Force toured affordable housing sponsored by the Area Housing Authority and Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. It investigated how it might assist the Area Housing Authority to obtain ownership of the 34 unit family project in Meiners Oaks. The Housing Authority sponsored the project, but was delayed in acquiring ownership when the builder did not honor its agreement to sell the development to the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority was eventually able to acquire the project, and Task Force members attended the opening ceremonies on April 29, 1988.

Karen Flock, Chair

HOUSING TASK FORCE

This task force was predominantly occupied with formulating, organizing and carrying out the Commission's first "Family Law Forum" in February 1988 at the Thousand Oaks Library. The forum was attended by over 120 women and men who unanimously reported the forum as a success. The forum consisted of a services of presentations from six Ventura County attorneys and one Ventura County Superior Court Judge who lectured and answered questions on topics related to the dissolution process.

This forum was planned in lieu of publication by the Commission of a brochure concerning divorce. Given the costs involved in the publication of a Commission-sponsored brochure which would be available to all Ventura County residents, it was agreed that the use of forums throughout the county would be a more efficient use of our somewhat limited funds. It is our hope to hold similar such seminars in other parts of the county.

Another related priority area of this task force for 1987-88 was "to support and encourage court policies to provide women better opportunities for fair results in dissolution/custody proceedings." This area was investigated in response to many inquiries by women in the county for help and assistance in their dissolution action.

In response to demand, the Commission requested the public to answer our questionnaire concerning the dissolution process in Ventura County and suggestions for improvement. The results of the survey, while in no way scientific, led to the ultimate conclusion that many residents are in need of basic consumer information on how to use the court system, including how to choose and when to use legal counsel.

Education is the ideal solution, implementation is the challenge. In addition to the use of forums, it is our goal to act as a catalyst in disseminating available written information to the public so it may be adequately informed and thereby decrease the instances of "if I knew then what I know now!"

Susan H. Witting, Chair

FAMILY LAW TASK FORCE

1987-88

During this past year, since the United Way report "Springboard for Action" was distributed, the Commission office has received requests for assistance and invitations to participate in local efforts to address the need for a greater supply of quality child care services. The surge of interest in child care in the media and in political circles has encouraged this growth of interest. Commissioner Engel has been maintaining a collection of printed materials, including news articles, magazine articles, brochures, and other printed materials, to augment the child care library established in 1981-82 in order to provide service to those who call us for advice or information.

In addition, in response to invitations, Commissioners participated in the following:

1. In September 1987, Commissioners Hubbell and Witting participated in a panel on child care sponsored by the Channel Islands Business and Professional Women.
2. In October 1987, Commissioner Engel served on a panel for a forum sponsored by the Employer Task Force formed through the Conejo Future Foundation.
3. In November 1987, the Child Care Task Force sponsored a mini-workshop for seven employer representatives to acquaint them with the options available to them in assisting their employees with child care concerns. Commissioner Hubbell was the presenter with assistance from Marlene Alexander and Dot Engel.
4. Commissioner Engel, as chair of the Commission's Child Care Task Force, has acted as the Commission's liaison with the following:
 - A. In February 1988, the Child Development Resources agency conducted a survey of children's services personnel in which the Commission participated. After tabulating returns, CDR called an organizing meeting which Commissioner Engel attended. As a result of that meeting, several general meetings have been scheduled for those interested in forming a Children's Services Council. Meetings have been held on March 16, April 20, May 18 and June 8. By-laws have been drafted, interim officers elected and working committees have been formed. Commissioner Engel is receiving minutes and meeting notices and is authorized to serve on the Resource Development committee. The purposes of the Children's Services Council are: (1) to promote quality child care and development services and resources for children and their families in Ventura County, and (2) to be involved in assisting individuals, agencies and organizations in planning, development and operation of child care services.

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- B. In March 1988, the City of San Buenaventura established an ad hoc committee, chaired by Carol Green, Assistant to the City Manager, to review existing and future need for child care services in the city and, if there is a lack, to identify and develop ways to increase those services. Commissioner Engel is serving on this committee which has been meeting almost weekly.

The first meetings were held to analyze data and to document the need within the city. The next phase and concluding meetings will identify alternatives (since we have agreed there is a need) and to develop policy options for the city council. The Committee's work is expected to be finished by July 1988.

- C. The Commission has agreed to join the American Association of University Women's California Division Child Care Network, chaired by Louise Boley, and receives regular mailings.
- D. Commissioner Engel, while serving on the Thousand Oaks General Plan Review Committee, chaired the Social Element Sub-committee and drafted child care policy recommendations which were presented to the City Council in May 1988. City staff has been directed to review all of the General Plan recommendations, including above, for implementation.
- E. Commissioner Engel is chairing a two year study for the County League of Women Voters which is participating in the State League study chaired by Connie Haddad of the South Orange County LWV. During the first year, Ms. Engel organized and chaired a general meeting which was open to the public, on "The Child Care Dilemma". Information gathered at this meeting and from other Leagues statewide will be useful to the Commission in its work. During the coming year, the study will focus on financing child care and will produce policy options to be presented to League members at their State Convention for approval. Once approved, the State League will be able to take action on legislation regarding child care.
5. Commissioner Bonnie Warrington served as the Commissioner's liaison to the Solo Project for latch key/child care facilities available through AB 1024.
6. During the past year, child care legislation has been reviewed and referred to the Commission for action. Among those bills supported were, the Federal Act for Better Child Care Services and the State bill AB 4039, the Employer-Employee Child Care Act. Others have been recorded in our minutes. Because there has been a record number of bills to watch, this review has had to be limited in scope.

Finally, because of the Commission's involvement in the County Child Care Survey two years ago, we have been watching with interest, the County's latest proposals for their employees. As one of the largest employers in this area, the County can set the pace and serve as a role model for many others in proving that child care services can be cost effective. The Commission heartily supports these efforts.

Dot Engel, Chair

CHILD CARE TASK FORCE

Domestic Violence Services Monitoring Committee

Interface, Children and Family Services and the Coalition Against Household Violence (CAHV) provided services to victims of domestic violence and their children in Ventura County. Each organization has been awarded a contract by the County of Ventura for the provision of those services in accordance with Chapter 146 of the Statutes of 1980, Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18290 et seq. Funding for the contracts comes through the County Domestic Violence Programs Special Fund. Commonly referred to as the Presley money, or the Presley bill, state legislation was enacted several years ago to encourage counties to establish local programs to provide domestic violence services. Contracts for the services are awarded and monitored by the Public Social Services Agency. Members of the Commission for Women assist in monitoring the contracts through on-site visits to the shelters, review of statistical reports and discussions with the directors of services. They make reports to the full Commission and to PSSA's program manager.

Commissioners Anderson and Goldman have been in contact with Eleanor Evans, PSSA's contract manager. A schedule, dividing the quarterly visits between the county and the Commission has been devised. Ms. Evans provided a copy of the information required for the contract. Commissioners Goldman and Warrington will do the next quarterly review in August.

Brook Hubbell, Ed. D., Chair

COUNSELING TASK FORCE

During the 1987-88 year, the thrust of the Communications Committee was two-fold: the continued dissemination of Commission activities and interests through the newsletter and an increased emphasis in publicity of Commission events.

Through the newsletter, published on a regular basis, the Commission reaches 850 individuals or groups throughout the county. The focus of the newsletter this year was to clearly delineate the issues facing women identified by the needs assessment conducted in 1985. Topics for the newsletter included the following issues: Affordable Housing, Health, Child Abuse, Employer-Assisted Child Care, Sexuality, Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Disease, Education, Re-entry Program for Women in Ventura County, and Hiring and Promotion Practices within the Ventura County Community College District.

The number of newsletter sponsors increased in 1987-88 to 23. Sponsors who made a financial contribution to offset printing costs included such organizations as Zonta Club of the Conejo Valley, Organized Parents Against Latchkey, National Council of Jewish Women and Baha'is of Santa Paula.

Publicity received an enormous boost through the indefatigable efforts of Zora Kirby who helped provide extensive publicity for the "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet, the Family Law Forum, and the Women's History Project luncheon which was video taped. She worked with the Clinicas del Camino Real to publicize the Second Annual Health Conference for Women and the Family.

As a result of the Family Law Task Force questionnaire, a need was identified for information on how to select an attorney and how to seek redress if your attorney has not conducted himself/herself in your best interests. Commissioner Kirby worked with Commissioner Witting, an attorney, to provide this information through a newspaper consumer feature.

Currently, Ms. Kirby is working on an educational video presentation on the Commission for Women and its role in Ventura County.

Sandra Ryder and Zora Kirby, Co-Chairs

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Commission voted to support the following legislation:

State

- AB 48 (O'Connell) School Facilities Bond Issue: Not to exceed \$8 million for school construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of portable classrooms (June 88 ballot)
- AB 2737 (Waters) Youth Center and Youth Shelter Bond Act: \$300 million to finance youth shelters and their programs (Nov. 88 ballot)
- AB 3148 (Cortese) Would require the State Director of Health Services to incorporate into the Adolescent Family Life Program. A pilot effort to link child care and parent education into its current case management. Appropriate \$47.5 million for state preschool and subsidized child care programs (Pending)
- AB 3303 (Campbell) Would appropriate \$25 million to Supt. of Public Instruction for home-to-school transportation services (Pending)
- AB 4628 (Baden) School Bus Safety Bond Act 1988, For \$50 million to provide funds for local educational services for school bus replacement (Nov. 88 ballot)
- SB 2379 (Deddah) Would appropriate \$35 million for Home-to-School Transportation (Pending)
- AB 2708 (Hughes) Would appropriate \$17 million to restore funding for SIP (School Improvement Programs) Funds (Pending)
- AB 4039 (Hayden) Employer-Employee Child Care Act would make space for child care an integral part of the architectural plans for new and renovated large office buildings and would require larger businesses to offer their employees the opportunity to participate in the Dependant/Care Assistance Program (Pending)
- HR 1812 &
HR 1813 (Roybal) 1812: To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act - To waive the continuous residence requirement under the Legalization program for spouses and children
1813: To waive continuous residence requirement for parents of U.S. citizen children born on or after Dec. 31, 1981 and before Nov. 7, 1986

Federal

HR 3660 &

SB 1885

Federal Act for Better Child Care Services.
The ABC legislation calls for state plans for
child care services with federal money to be
matched by state funds. It would create a
national advisory committee to develop child
care standards

SJR 131 (Cranston)

To establish a uniform policy in the U.S. to
preserve the family unity of immigrant families

Support

Proposition 71

Government Spending Limitation and
Accountability Act (June ballot 1988)

Proposition 68

Campaign Spending Limits Act (June ballot 1988)

Miriam Albert, Chair

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Midyear in 1987, the Commission agreed to sponsor a Legislative Roundtable for representatives of women's organizations who might benefit from joining together on common issues, at least meet one another and establish linkage so that they could further their goals more quickly or with more clout. At its first meeting, attended by Supervisor Erickson, there was discussion of possible goals and agreement that the group would meet bi-monthly.

During this fiscal year, four meetings have been held:

July 15, 1987: Further discussion of common goals and future activities.

Sept. 30, 1987: Subject: "Women Running for Office"
Speaker: Ann Rock, Councilwoman for Simi Valley.

Jan. 26, 1988: Subject: "How to be Effective with Your Legislators", Speaker: Jean Harris, Member, Board of Education, Oxnard USD and Commissioner, Ventura County Commission for Women.

March 23, 1988: Subject: "What Does a Lobbyist Do?", Speaker: Penny Bohannon, Manager, County Legislative Affairs.

In September 1987, Chair Dot Engel requested that a survey be conducted of the Roundtable participants in order to determine their needs and interests for program planning and other activities. Fifteen members responded, giving us information on specific issues their groups were working on, methods they used to reach their legislators, resources available to their organizations and their thoughts about most useful topics for future meetings.

At the April 1988 Commission meeting, because of dwindling attendance, Chair Dot Engel requested that Roundtable meetings be suspended until national elections have been completed.

Dot Engel, Chair

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

The Friends of the Commission aided the Commission by facilitating the sixth annual "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet at the Westlake Plaza Hotel. The mistress of ceremonies was Joy Picus, Los Angeles City Councilwoman. The evening was highly successful in achieving its goals. Over 400 people honored ten outstanding women and a substantial amount of money was raised. The treasurer's report indicated that after all the bills were paid, there was a net balance of \$10,222.93.

During the 1987-88 year, the Friends made the following contributions to the Commission:

1. Computer training for Linda Henry, the Commission's Secretary	\$ 150.00
2. Plaque for resigning Co-Chair, Arleen Reetz	16.11
3. Donation towards Family Law Forum expenses	200.00
4. Seed money for the 1988 "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet	<u>2,250.00</u>
	\$2,516.11

The Board of the Friends consisted of:

President:	Lee Anderson
Secretary:	Dixie Adeniran
Treasurer:	Anne Fischer
Directors:	Sarah Pierce
	Leslie Kerr
	Ginny Connell
	Lorraine Pankratz

SPEAKERS AT MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETINGS

VCCFW

1987-88

August 1987	Bonnie Warrington, Member of El Concilio's Immigration Task Force, presented status reports re: paralegal counseling available at El Concilio on <u>non</u> -routine amnesty cases and on the development of a position paper relative to Ventura County immigration issues.
August 1987	Jean Harris, A.A.U.W., Oxnard, spoke about immigration amnesty provisions/effects on women/children (based on A.A.U.W. study).
November 1987	Ruth Irussi, GAIN Program Manager, Ventura County PSSA presented a Ventura County status report on the California Welfare Reform Program (GAIN).
February 1988	Clinicas del Camino Real representative, Bertha Felix-Mata, Health Education Coordinator, spoke to the Commission about the 2nd Annual Women's Health Conference.
February 1988	American Association of Retired Persons representative, Kay Burton, presented information on "Advocacy for the Older Population."
March 1988	Speaker Henrietta Cook, Private Industry Council Recruiter/Job Developer spoke to the Commission about "On-the-Job and Vocational Training Opportunities" available through the Ventura County Private Industry Council.
April 1988	Vickie Bertolussi and Barbara Derryberry made a presentation to the Commission regarding the VCCCD lack of women in top Administrative/Management positions using information from "Ethnic Minorities and Women in Faculty and Administrative Positions within the Community Colleges", annual report on affirmative action-California Community Colleges, February 1988, and a special report from the American Council on Education, "The New Agenda of Women in Higher Education."

1987-88

COMMISSIONERS

Brook Hubbell continued her involvement with American Association of University Women, Simi Valley branch, serving as speaker at the Math-Science Conference for Girls in Simi Valley and served on the scholarship committee for Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary education society. She is co-presiding partner for "\$ and Sense," an educational investment group. Dr. Hubbell serves as Co-Chair of the Commission. She was appointed by Supervisor Dougherty in 1981 when the Commission was formed.

Sandra Smith Ryder, took over as Co-Chair in January, 1988. Commissioner Ryder, appointed by Maggie Erickson, has received many honors this year. She was recognized for her work on behalf of women and was listed in the 1987-88 editions of Who's Who of American Women and World Who's Who of Women. In February she received a "Woman Helping Women" award from the Camarillo Soroptimist. In April she was recognized by 56 clubs across Southern California as the "Women Helping Women" award recipient for the Soroptimist's Camino Real Region at the group's annual conference in Long Beach.

Lauren Anderson, an appointee of Susan Lacey, continues her long-standing involvement in the Business and Professional Women's organization serving as newsletter editor for the Channel Islands chapter, second Vice President at the district level and editor of the statewide publication California Woman. Commissioner Anderson is also a member of the Toastmasters International and the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition.

Dot Engel, appointed by Jim Dougherty when the Commission was formed, is the Secretary of the Ventura County League of Women Voters and serves as county chair of the state sponsored LWV Child Care Study as well as project manager for the League's Know Your Community booklet. Commissioner Engel continues to serve on Councilman Frank Schillo's quarterly Citizen Exchange planning committee and as National Issues Forum Chair for the Thousand Oaks branch of the American Association of University Women. Ms. Engel just completed a term as Chair of the Social Element subcommittee of the Thousand Oaks General Plan Review Committee which drafted a chapter on Child Care for the city council's consideration. Commissioner Engel is on the board of MANNA, an emergency food distribution center for Conejo Valley.

Zora Kirby, appointed to the Commission in 1987 by Supervisor Madge Schaefer, serves as assistant general chairperson for the United Way Cerebral Palsy/Spastic Children's Foundations "Love Match", a celebrity tennis event and does publicity and public relations for the foundation's new facility. Commissioner Kirby is a member of the Thousand Oaks Public Access Committee, Fantastik's, the Los Angeles Theatre Center's support group, the Los Angeles Art Museum and NOW.

1987-88

Martha Sheffey White received her Associate Science Degree in Business Management from Oxnard College in June. She is a recipient of the California Lutheran University Presidential Scholarship and will be attending that university in the fall. Ms. White serves as a director of the Point Mugu Federal Credit Union, president of the 20th Century Oxnard Club and was a member of the Oxnard Women's Day Committee, presenting the program "Changing Careers in Mid-Life." Ms. White, appointed by Supervisor John Flynn, is resigning her Commission appointment to pursue a new career in law.

Jean Harris, appointed by Supervisor John Flynn in 1987, was named "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" in 1978 for her leadership in establishing Oxnard State Beach Park. Commissioner Harris was reelected to her position as trustee of the Oxnard School District Board of Education in 1987 and serves on three state task forces, including the School Readiness Task Force for which she makes presentations on Here They Come, Ready or Not, the task force's report on primary education. Mrs. Harris is a member of the Oxnard General Plan Advisory Committee, Ventura County Parks and Harbor Foundation, League of Women Voters, Environmental Coalition, the Girls' Club, and Oxnard branch of the American Association of University Women for which she chaired a study on immigration. Commissioner Harris is a member of Beyond War and the Ventura County Peace Network and has frequent contact with our state legislators.

Bonnie Warrington was appointed to the Commission for Women by Supervisor Jim Dougherty. During the past year, Commissioner Warrington chaired the CAL-NEVA statewide conference's child care advocacy panel, "Nurturing Tomorrow's Leaders." She made presentations to the civilian work force at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station on latch key "self-care" programs, in conjunction with the EEO office at the Pacific Missile Test Center. She has participated in Community Unity and Awareness Day, the Ventura County Human Services Council, Simi Valley Social Services Council, United Way's task force on Information Resources and a United Way-El Concilio combined task force on Immigration. Bonnie is a member of the Child Abuse Council of Ventura County, the City of San Buenaventura Child Care Council, the Ventura County Volunteer Coordinators Council, Ventura County Professional Women's Network, Simi Valley Women's Information Network and the Simi Valley Unified School District's Family Life Education subcommittee.

Lillian Goldman co-chaired the Current Issues Forum in Leisure Village, Camarillo for 1987-88. She spoke on behalf of the Commission for Women at a meeting of the American Association of Retired Persons. Lillian is an appointee of Supervisor Maggie Erickson.

1987-88

Miriam Albert was appointed to the Commission for Women by Supervisor Madge Schaefer. Commissioner Albert is an elected member and secretary of the Ventura Democratic Central Committee, secretary of the California Democratic Women's Caucus and serves on Developmental and Organizational Committee of the State Democratic Party. She is an elected delegate to the State Democratic Central Committee and secretary of the Democratic 36th Assembly District Committee. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Conejo Valley Democratic Club and the National Women's Political Caucus. Commissioner Albert is past president of the Thousand Oaks Chapter of NOW.

Susan Witting, appointee of Madge Schaefer, has been chairperson of the Open Space subcommittee of the Thousand Oaks General Plan Review Committee for 1987-88. She is the Community Area representative for the Thousand Oaks Branch of the American Association of University Women and president of the Thousand Oaks Republican Women's Club, Federated. Ms. Witting was a workshop presenter at "Creative Options" at California Lutheran University for "Women and the Law".

Karen Flock works as a Project Manager for the non profit Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. She currently has 62 low income mutual self help homes and 27 moderate income homes under construction. Ms. Flock represents the Commission on the Board of Networking for Housing in Ventura County. Commissioner Flock was appointed by Supervisor Susan Lacey in 1985.

Tila Estrada was appointed to the Commission by Supervisor John Flynn, District 5. Commissioner Estrada has been very active on the Board of Directors in the Oxnard College Foundation and in the Oxnard Elementary School Foundation.

Terri Simonson, newly appointed Commissioner to represent District 1, Susan Lacey, is a member of the Business and Professional Women, Ventura County Taxpayers Association Government Affairs Committee and County Hwy. 33 Committee. She was a Young Careerist Speakoff State Finalist and has been involved with Toastmasters for 4 years.

Arleen Reetz served as Co-Chair of the Commission from August 1986 to November 1987 when she resigned. Ms. Reetz continues her involvement in women's issues through the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition and the Ventura County Professional Women's Network. Ms. Reetz, who was an appointee of Maggie Erickson, also is active in projects which benefit her children's school.

STAFF

Martha Baskerville, the Commission's Administrative Aide until her resignation in late June, has contributed many hours beyond her paid position to further the work of the Commission. She was honored as "Employee of the Quarter", by PSSA (quite a feat for a part-time employee). She also received the "Women Helping Women" award from the Soroptimists of Ventura. Ms. Baskerville is active in the Camarillo branch of the American Association of University Women and in the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition.

Linda Henry, the Commission's secretary, came to the Commission for Women office in September 1987 as an extra-help employee. She has since become a permanent, part-time employee. Linda participates in organizations outside the Commission which involve her daughter in various sporting fields.