

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

# county of ventura

Public Social Services Agency  
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Commission members:

DISTRICT I

Judy Bysshe

Mary Jones

Celeste Weingardt

DISTRICT II

Pat Harris-Murray

Jeannette Scovill

June Steffey

DISTRICT III

Lois Harrion

Peggy Jensen

Loma Siegel

DISTRICT IV

Rosemary Boncich

Connie Lawrason

Virginia Rogalsky

DISTRICT V

Aurora de la Selva

Beverlee McGrath

Eliza Thomas

## ANNUAL REPORT

1992 - 1993

### PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE

### VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

### PRESENTED BY:

**CELESTE WEINGARDT, CHAIR**

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# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT

1992/1993

## INTRODUCTION

This has been a challenging year for the Commission; the loss of staff due to budget cuts compounded by a midyear change of chairperson caused our energies to be diverted somewhat from projects and committee work to the daily administrative details necessary to keep the Commission afloat. We have persevered, however, and after several extended strategy/planning sessions in which we addressed team building, committee restructuring and revised division of responsibilities, we have emerged focused and recommitted to our purpose.

Throughout the year we have made a concerted effort to become more visible in the community to increase awareness regarding the issues we address. We have accomplished this by participating in a number of community events, both as a sponsor and participant. These include: The CFW Family Law Forum, the CFW Resource Fair, CFW Salute to Women Awards Luncheon, Women's Political Appointments workshop at Moorpark College, WPAC brown bag speaker meeting at California Lutheran University, WPAC presentation to the National Women's Political Caucus West County Chapter, WPAC workshop at Camarillo Women's Day and CFW Women's History Awards program.

Additionally, we had information tables set up at the Ventura College Resource Fair, Creative Options, The Ventura County Professional Women's Network Open House, and Camarillo Women's Day. We also published two newsletters and were able to get several newspaper articles written about various aspects of the commission, the Salute, WPAC, teen pregnancy, Women's History and Assembly of Representatives. Seven of our commissioners will be attending the Women in Action Lobby Day in Sacramento this June at their own expense.

During the past year, we have had several guest speakers at Commission meetings who have made presentations about their group or agency. We heard from Michael Klee, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer with the County of Ventura on Women's Work Furlough Programs; Dr. Karen Gorback from Simi Valley Adult School; Debra Creadick of the "Women in Action Coalition"; and Jamie Leigh, director of the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Our emphasis during the last year has been with the Teen Pregnancy ad hoc committee, and annual Salute to Women and Women's History events, preparing the Women's Political Appointments Coalition to be a self-managing entity (with continuing Commission support) and the development of the Assembly of Representatives.

The first meeting of the Assembly of Representatives which was held in tandem with our regular monthly meeting in May, laid the groundwork for the structure of the group. The goal of the meeting

Ventura County Commission For Women  
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was to provide an opportunity for the various services, agencies, and organizations addressing women's issues in the county to learn what resources and support are available and develop a plan for coordinating these services. As a result of this meeting, we will be putting together a county directory and an annual events calendar. Our next Assembly meeting is scheduled for September.

Celeste Weingardt  
Chairperson, Ventura County Commission for Women

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There have been a number of individuals outside the Commission membership who, by volunteering their time, resources and expertise, have greatly aided the Commission and deserve our thanks and public mention in this report.

**Bonnie Warrington**, former Commissioner and former Commission staff member, continues to support us by serving on the Women's Political Appointments Coalition, the Women's History, Law Forum and Assembly of Representatives committees and assisting us in innumerable other areas. Fred and Judy Bysshe's secretary, **Mrs. Norma Wall**, has been invaluable to the Commission, spending many hours typing our reports, making phone calls and getting mailings out. **Fred Bysshe** has been extremely accommodating in allowing numerous mailings to go out through his office. **Wahneta Poteet** gave us invaluable suggestions for restructuring. **Jim Compton** of the County School District, continues to sponsor our use of the County School District's conference center for our monthly meetings. R.S.V.P. (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) has enthusiastically taken on the task of preparing bulk mailing for us twice this past year. Former Commissioner **Kathy Long** continues to support us, giving us guidance on form and protocol, serving as a leading force in the Women's Political Appointments Coalition, presenting a workshop for the Coalition and providing a display area for the Commission at Camarillo Women's Day. **Marci Curran** has taken on the task of computerizing the Talent Bank and Appointments Calendar for the Women's Political Appointments Coalition. **Kate McLean** of the Ventura County Community Fund has been most helpful in setting up a vehicle for the Teen Pregnancy Committee to accept donations which can be tax-deductible. Our appreciation also goes to the **Bank of A. Levy** for printing materials for the Teen Pregnancy Committee. P.S.S.A.'s **Jan Butler**, **B.J. Fitzgerald** and **Jo Edna Smith** and their staff have been of considerable assistance during this year of readjustment, and **Terry Lee** of the County's computer department has been a great help as well. We also thank the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and its members' staffs for their assistance and support throughout the year. The Board's public acknowledgement of the Commission for Women with the Women's History Proclamation was greatly appreciated.

Celeste Weingardt, Chair  
January 1993 - June 1993



COMMISSIONER'S IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS/1992-1993

VCCFW

COMMISSIONER	MILES	HOURS	MISC.	ATTENDANCE
<u>District 1</u>				
Bysshe	1250	896	\$400	9/11
Jones	155	85	\$ 0	7/11
Weingardt	1310	1045	\$600	11/11
<u>District 2</u>				
Harris-Murray	622	48	\$ 54	8/11
Scovill	4252	380	\$406.	11/11
Steffey	101½	11	\$ 0	3/4
<u>District 3</u>				
Harrion	100	70	\$ 0	7/11
Siegel	160	29½	\$ 85	3/3
Jensen	90	9	\$ 0	3/4
<u>District 4</u>				
Lawrason	392	33½	\$ 0	7/11
Rogalsky	755	108	\$ 0	10/11
Boncich	190	14½	\$ 6	2/3
<u>District 5</u>				
de la Selva	135	145	\$100	8/11
McGrath	170	44	\$440	8/11
Thomas	112	46	\$ 20	7/11
<hr/>				
TOTAL:	9794½	2964½	*\$2111.00	

\*Figure does not include travel expenses.

The focus of the Health Committee in 1992-1993 has been the Teen Pregnancy Task Force.

GOAL - REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY IN VENTURA COUNTY
--

To that end, a group of some 80 people, broad-based in geographic representation and representing a broad constituency, has been meeting to carry out that charge.

These subcommittees have been formed:

SURVEY COMMITTEE      Headed by: Nikki Steele/Susan Hardy

This group has two functions. First, they are collecting data about the rate of teen pregnancy in Ventura County. Our information and demographics will be correlated with State and National data to determine patterns and needs.

Secondly, with the assistance of a Qualitative Research Specialist who is donating her time and expertise, the committee is developing a series of "Focus Groups" of young people to determine teen attitudes towards sexuality and pregnancy, and work to get at underlying reasons for teen pregnancy choices. Additional in-depth interviews are being done as well. It is important to note that we are working with boys, as well as girls, sexually active as well as not sexually active youth, and teen mothers. There will be several waves of focus groups; all leaders are being trained. Results of this committee's work will form the basis/rationale for whatever comprehensive plan the overall Committee develops to address needs.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE      Headed by: Benita Korda/Diane Kibolus

This group's charge is to assess what teen pregnancy prevention programs currently exist in the County (and which are effective). Additionally, they are researching model programs throughout the state and nationally. This committee will provide the basis for our brainstorming and development of our own County plan. It is already clear that there is no "one reason" for teen pregnancy, that causes are complex and diverse. Any effective "Plan" must be as complex and diverse as the causes, and must address the multi-cultural face of our County.

PR/COMMUNITY SUPPORT COMMITTEE      Headed by Arlene Miro

This group's charge is to "bring the community along" during the study, so that once the study is complete and recommendations made, the community is ready to move with us on the "action." To that end, they have developed a brochure being extensively disseminated and a packet of information to go to organizations, school boards, churches, agencies.

Speakers are also available to talk to groups.

With the assistance of Kate McLean, we have established the Ventura County Community Foundation as the agency to accept tax-exempt donations to support the project. We are working with Heath Agencies to secure grants for the \$4,000.00 - \$6,000.00 needed cover the course of the study to pay printing and postage. The Commission for Women has donated \$1,000.00 from its trust fund while other monies are secured. We are grateful to Bank of A. Levy for printing brochures and printing and collating information packets, both of which we are distributing throughout the community.

AFRICAN PROVERB: IT TAKES AN ENTIRE VILLAGE  
TO RAISE ONE CHILD

Judy Bysshe, Chairperson

Committee Members:

Commissioners

Aurora de la Selva  
Mary Jones  
Beverlee McGrath  
June Steffey  
Eliza Thomas  
Celeste Weingardt

Members other than Commission

Extensive Community involvement  
includes people from:  
County agencies  
Cities  
School Districts  
Private, non-profit  
organizations  
Churches  
Parents  
Young people



The Women's Political Appointments Coalition continued efforts to introduce women to opportunities for community service through appointments to government boards and commissions.

The WPAC Chair, VCCFW Commissioner, Jeannette Scovill spoke before the Oxnard Chapter of Soroptimists International at the September, 1992, meeting. The talk entitled, "Don't Be Late For Your Appointment", led to a feature interview on the WPAC and the Commission in the Oxnard Press Courier. Commissioners Weingardt and Scovill were interviewed.

A workshop with panelists was held in November, 1992, at Moorpark College. The Women's Re-entry Center was the co-sponsor for the event. The speakers included Commissioner Scovill as moderator, Former Chair of the Commission Kathy Long speaking on the formation of the WPAC and reviewing the WPAC Talent Bank Application Process, Thousand Oaks City Clerk Nancy Dillion on the role of City Clerks in the Appointments Process, Moorpark Planning Commissioner Christina Mae, Ventura County Transportation Commissioner Nancy Grasmehr, Thousand Oaks Mayor Judy Lazar and Ventura County Supervisor, Vicki Howard. This comprehensive and inclusive group of speakers was able to explain the appointments process at each level of government and cover what might be expected of an appointee. Some appointments were made as a result of this event. Special thanks to former VCCW staff member Bonnie Warrington for her assistance with the event. Also, special recognition of the efforts of Commissioner Weingardt.

Several colleges held Women's Events: Oxnard College in the fall of 1992; California Lutheran's Creative Options on Saturday, March 6, 1993; and Camarillo Women's Day on April 17, 1993. Former VCCW Chair Kathy Long represented the Commission at each of these events. Current VCCW Chair Celeste Weingardt assisted her at Camarillo Women's Day. Kathy Long assisted the National Women's Political Caucus at Creative Options. An information table about VCCW was also available: Commissioners Rogalsky and Bysshe were on hand to answer questions.

WPAC information and talent bank forms were distributed by The League of Women Voters at KBBY'S Women's Day in October, 1992. Commissioner Weingardt, along with Barbara Kern, Ventura City Clerk, spoke before the West County Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus in February, 1993.

Our first Mentoring event was a presentation by WPAC Chair Jeannette Scovill and Thousand Oaks Mayor Judy Lazar at a California Lutheran College, Women's Re-entry Brown Bag Lunch. We are indebted to Mayor Lazar for her participation in two WPAC events within one working year. The event drew students, instructors and community participants.

Jeannette Scovill, chairperson  
June 1992 - April 1993

The Commission for Women continues to monitor Child Care conditions in Ventura County through periodic attendance of seminars and workshops and active membership in the Ventura County Child Care Network. The Network, headed by Debbie Bergevin, the County Child Care Coordinator, is made up of members of the professional child care community and representatives of the individual city's Child Care Councils.

During the month of April, each of the City Child Care Councils held a "Day in the Park" event to promote community awareness about quality child care and to provide a day of fun and activities for young children and their families. A well-attended Child Care Rally was held at the County Government Center as well.

Other areas of activity in Child Care during the past year include:

- \* Active lobbying by network members for the passage of AB285, (Jack O'Connell) which will allow two additional school-age children in family child care homes. While the bill has already been amended in committee to remain a pilot project for two more years and to be extended only to a couple more counties rather than statewide, the network is still very supportive of this measure.
- \* All of the City Child Care Councils now have current directories except Oxnard, which is in the process of developing one.
- \* The Network is in the process of updating the Child Care Plan for Federal Block Grants.
- \* Hickory-Dickory-Dock, the county's child care center for mildly ill children which is also open to subscribing businesses will remain open, at least for the immediate future. It had been threatened with closure because of proposed budget cuts and a drop in attendance.
- \* Two new head start centers and two new state pre-schools have opened in the county this past year. AMGEN has opened a child care facility for its employees.
- \* Child Care Aware continues their campaign to educate families on quality child care, and Family to Family has had great success with their accreditation courses in Child Development through Oxnard College. (Both programs are part of Child Development Resources, Inc.)
- \* The Simi Valley/Moorpark Child Care Council now offers Infant/Child/Adult CPR and other pertinent child care related classes. The network has been discussing how best to provide

the additional health care training that child care providers will be required to take to meet the conditions of AB962 which becomes effective January 1, 1995.

Through their efforts, the Ventura County Child Care Network and its member City Child Care Councils have substantially improved child care quality, brought in Federal Grant money, and are making Ventura County a model community for child care. The Commission for Women commends them for the positive impact they are making for our area for our children.

Celeste Weingardt, Child Care Liaison



Commissioner Scovill, Committee Chairperson, is actively involved in county housing issues with "Networking", Citizen Planners and the Citizen Planners parent organization, the Tri-Valley Environmental Committee.

A special workshop about Citizen Planners was held for the Commission last August with local architect and founder of Citizen Planners, Joseph Smyth, as a guest speaker, on the "Visions and Principles" portion of their seven-phase planning principles for "...sustainable living in Ventura County". The cornerstone of the plan is the concept of clustered, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented ecological communities.

The Commission for Women is a Member Organization of "Networking," a program that seeks to pool resources to provide funding for the construction of affordable housing or the modification of existing housing. Each city has been invited to contribute to and seek grants from the "Networking" Loan Fund. Six Ventura County Cities currently participate.

Commissioner Scovill is also representing the Commission for Women on the HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Grant Committee which has been organized by the Area Housing Authority. The program is an effort to bring together the various services individuals need to move off government subsidies and become self-supporting.

Additionally, Commissioner Scovill, in response to a request by Ventura County Supervisor John Flynn, helped bring together a taskforce to create a documentary television series examining affordable housing in Ventura County. The taskforce has recommended that a symposium be called in August, 1993, to bring together city housing coordinators, agencies and development corporations. Thousand Oaks has already agreed to participate.

Jeannette Scovill, Chairperson



In July, 1992, The Commission for Women was approached by the Job Training Policy Council (JTPC) of Ventura County to help them develop a training program that would focus on helping women enter "non-traditional jobs" (defined as those jobs where women number less than 20% of the work force). Historically, non-traditional or male-dominated jobs have paid better and offered more security and the possibility of advancement. Women working in female-dominated jobs often work at much lower salaries with little or no possible advancement out of existence-level living conditions.

The Commission, vitally interested in the advancement and psychosocial welfare of women, agreed to form a committee to work along with JTPC and other interested people in the county on this project. We have been joined by representative from: The Women's Professional Group (female building contractors and women in the trades); American Association of University Women; Area Housing Authority; The Commission on Human Concerns; and counselors from Oxnard and Moorpark Colleges. This committee, numbering fifteen members, helped to select the criteria for the training program which will be submitted to the Board of Directors of JTPC for final approval.

An often heard complaint from the male-dominated job fields is that women do not apply for training, nor do they stay on the job after they are hired. Some of the professional women's groups have told us that there are pressures and problems that women face in male-dominated jobs that are often not addressed in the job training. This job training program hopes to address these issues.

One ongoing challenge for this committee is to get the word out to women who seek a way out of subsistence living. Once the training program is under way, we will look for innovative ways to reach out into the county to inform women of this opportunity for retraining in non-traditional jobs.

Pat Harris-Murray, Chairperson

Committee members:

Commissioners

Aurora De La Selva  
Virginia Rogalsky  
Jeannette Scovill  
Eliza Thomas  
Celeste Weingardt

Members other than Commission

Pat Evans  
June Rawson  
Jacquie Richardson  
Lee Riggan  
Rochelle Stephens  
Annette Burrows  
Bonnie Warrington  
Roberto De La Selva

Interface's battered women's shelter, located in Simi Valley, is currently developing a legal advocacy program that will help women with all legal documents and, if necessary, arrange to have someone assist them with court proceedings. Their intention is to help ALL women who call in to the shelter, not just the women who stay at the facility.

The shelter stresses a strong WORK program; a woman will not find herself "watching television" all day to pass the time. She MUST be involved in support groups, parenting classes, and counseling classes. The shelter has a large number of volunteers who work with the children who are staying there.

The Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence shelter, located in Ventura, continues to expand their programs and services. They have a daytime batterer's hotline where counseling on a one-on-one phone call has the potential to curb a potential violent action. They offer "rape survivor" and "incest survivor" group meetings once a week. These groups are free. The "sexual assault" program provides long-term therapy and crisis intervention in child abuse, rape and battered women incidents.

The shelter continues to provide a 24-hour crisis line service. They have expanded to help in situations where women might need help in hospitals, courts and police stations. In 1992, 3,872 hotline calls were received, 82 women stayed at the shelter, 114 children were in the shelter.

Beverlee McGrath, Monitor

The "BIG" news of the 1993 session is the defeat of AB874 authored by Assemblyman 'Pete' Knight (Republican), which would have completely eliminated the California Commission on the Status of Women. However, our concern for the future of the Commission is not relieved, as a 15 - 30 percent cut is expected in the California State Budget for various commissions, and ours is expected to be targeted.

The deadline for bills introduced in the 1993 session for hearing in the policy committee of their house of origin is the week of May 24th.

The year promises to show an increase in legislation that deals with issues relating to women; most are issues relating to health, legal "rights", and abused women. This could be due to the increase in members of the California Legislature that are women. Senator Diane Watson, and Assemblywomen Jackie Spier, Deirdre Alpert, Barbara Lee and Gwen Moore continue to be legislators known for addressing women's issues. Gwen Moore focuses on child care and employment; Diane Watson primarily deals with health issues.

The State of California continues to show an increase in women-related concerns and problems. As the State's overall economic situation worsens and employment possibilities decrease, women find themselves dealing with more and more stress - both in the workplace and at home. It will take MORE than a handful of legislators working on women's issues to resolve the problems facing today's working mother.

Beverlee McGrath, Legislative Liaison



The Ventura County Commission for Women, in cooperation with the management of the Esplanade Mall in Oxnard, sponsored a "Resource Fair" on Saturday, October 3, 1992, with approximately 80 people attending.

Employment, educational, and emotional well being information for women was available throughout the mall from 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.

Participants had tables set up with brochures and information packets on subjects including: how to obtain child support, re-enter college, obtain shared housing, manage your finances, register to vote, secure family counseling and find quality child care. A number of county and community agencies were on hand to answer questions and give out information.

Participants:

Channel Counties Legal Services Association; Rainbow Family Resource Center; El Concilio; Interface Child and Family Services of Ventura County; Job Training Policy Council; Ventura County Commission for Women - Women's Political Appointments Coalition; Area Housing Authority of Ventura County; Ventura County Black Nurses Association; Citizens Planner Project; Department of Motor Vehicles - Employment; California State University, Northridge; Oxnard College Re-Entry Program; Child Development Resources of Ventura County; League of Women Voters; Ventura County District Attorney's Office - Chief Family Support Services; L&M Services and Associates (Legal Services).

Aurora de la Selva, Committee Chairperson

Committee Members:

Eliza Thomas  
Anna McVerry  
Carol Breyman  
Jeannette Scovill  
Celeste Weingardt



This year's annual Law Forum will be held on June 26, 1993, at the Simi Valley Courthouse. We will be following the format of past forums with several attorneys and county officials presenting information on divorce and child custody, visitation and support issues.

This year's forum is being made possible through the support of Supervisor Vicky Howard.

Virginia Rogalsky, Co-chairperson

Committee Members:

Rosemary Boncich  
Aurora de la Selva  
Jeannette Scovill

This year's Women's History Awards Program was held March 27, 1993, at California Lutheran University's Preuss/Brandt Forum with the University's Women's Resource Center assisting as co-sponsor. Four awards were given to individuals who had promoted women's history throughout the year. Carol DiRaimondo, Linda Brug and Marge Misevic received educator's awards; Marilyn Cameron received an award for community activism.

An excellent program about the history of several 19th and 20th Century Ventura County women was ably presented by Alberta Word, a local historian, and a trio of musicians from Moorpark College performed selections by Clara Schumann. Supervisor Susan Lacey as well as a number of local, state and federal elected officials and their representatives presented awards.

Approximately 75 people turned out for the event. Commissioners in attendance were Jeanette Scovill, Eliza Thomas, Judy Bysshe, Beverlee McGrath, Virginia Rogalsky and Celeste Weingardt, who presided over the event.

Virginia Rogalsky, Chairperson

Committee Members:

Commissioners

Judy Bysshe  
Lois Harriion  
Jeannette Scovill  
Eliza Thomas  
Celeste Weingardt

Members other than Commission

Katheryn Swanson - CLU Women's  
Resource Center  
Bonnie Warrington - Past Commissioner

The 10th Annual Salute to Women was held on Sunday, October 18, 1993, at the Oxnard Hilton Hotel. This event was co-sponsored by the Ventura County Professional Women's Network.

The salute is designed to honor women who have made outstanding contributions to our community. In recognizing these individuals, we honored all women who are making a difference.

Recipients of the 1992 Salute to Women Awards were:

Ernestine Hernandez, Business  
Dr. Ruth Hemming, Education  
Dr. Dorothy Elliot Schechter, The Arts  
Bonnie Warrington, Community Service Professional  
Mary Taylor-Parr, Community Service, Volunteer with Career  
C. Virginia Gould, Community Service Volunteer  
Debra Werner Ryono, Media  
Dr. Priscilla Partridge de Garcia, Science/Health  
Marie Poune, Legal/Law Enforcement - co-recipient  
Patricia Ordner, Legal/Law Enforcement - co-recipient  
Rose Banuelos, Outstanding Young Women

Connie Lawrason, Co-Chairperson  
(VCCFW)

Wahneta Poteet, Co-Chairperson  
(VCPWN)

VCCFW Members:

Carol Breyman  
Eliza Thomas  
Jeannette Scovill  
Virginia Rogalsky  
Aurora de la Selva  
Celeste Weingardt  
Judy Bysshe  
Stacey MacDonald  
Lois Harrion

VCPWN Members:

Chessa Roth  
Loma Siegel  
Archie Smith  
Karla Williams  
Kay Foulconer

**JUDY BYSSHE**

Judy Bysshe was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women in January, 1992. She is serving on the Health Care Committee, was a member of the Women's History Program Planning Committee, the Salute to Women Planning Committee and is Chair of the Teen Pregnancy Committee. She also monitors minutes and newsletters from other like Commissions.

Ms. Bysshe is currently on leave from an administrative assignment with the Ventura Unified School District, where she taught 12 years and was an administrator 9 years at Buena High School. She is also the President of the Ojai Film Society.

A 27-year resident of Ventura, Commissioner Bysshe attended U.C. Berkeley as a Russian major. She has spent 23 years in education and has been involved in a variety of community endeavors. She devotes her time to education, the environment, the arts, and equity issues for minorities and women. Because of her close ties with the schools, she is particularly concerned about teen pregnancy, gangs and girl's involvement in gangs, and equal job opportunities for young women. She is also concerned about the pervasive socialization through the media which defines women, and men's and women's relationships with and attitudes towards one another.



**MARY JONES**

Mary Jones has a Masters Degree in Nursing from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She has been a Registered Nurse for twenty-three years and a Nurse Practitioner specializing in Women's Health Care since 1975.

Mary currently has an independent solo practice as a Nurse Practitioner where she specializes in gynecology. She is a part-time instructor for the UCLA School of Nursing and also works part-time for Ventura College in the Student Health Center.

In addition to her busy work schedule, she has produced a video entitled "Menopause 90's Style". Mary also presents seminars throughout the state on issues pertaining to women's health.

Mary is a member of Toastmasters, VCPWN, NAAXOG, and NNBA. Her appointment to the Commission for Women began in November, 1991. She is currently a member of the Teen Pregnancy Committee.

Mary is married and is the mother of two children: Joseph 20 and Michael 12.

**CELESTE WEINGARDT**

As a result of working with the Women's Political Appointments Coalition and serving in a volunteer capacity for the Commission, Celeste Weingardt was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women in April, 1992, by Supervisor Susan Lacey. She is the Current Chair of the Commission and serves on the Women's Political Appointments Coalition, the Executive, Finance, Public Relations, Salute to Women, Women's History and Teen Pregnancy Committees. She is also the Child Care co-liaison and has published two newsletters for the Commission this year.

Ms. Weingardt had the unique opportunity as a young adult to live and work in a number of broadly diverse communities; from metropolitan to rural, cosmopolitan to reclusive. With her move to Ventura in 1987, she switched careers from the insurance industry to graphic arts. She is currently employed by Miller Magazines, a special interest magazine publisher. Her husband, Steve, is Regional Manager for Century Cable. They have two children, David, 12 and Allison, 7.

Celeste feels that the Commission for Women serves a vital role in our community today, addressing the issues of Women's rights, health and self-sufficiency. It is her ultimate hope that one day the need for this Commission becomes obsolete through the efforts of the Commission for Women and improved attitudes and circumstances concerning women.

**PAT HARRIS-MURRAY, MN, RN**

Pat Harris-Murray was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women in May, 1991, by Supervisor Maria VanderKolk. A registered nurse for over 18 years, Pat has been in private practice as a psychiatric nurse therapist for the last six years. Her practice specialties include adults with relationship issues such as adult children of alcoholics, co-dependents and adults with depression. She also teaches stress management and provides psychological support for persons living with chronic illness.

As a community volunteer, Pat has presented various mental health seminars and workshops throughout Ventura County. She has been a workshop Instructor for "Creative Options: A Day for Women" at California Lutheran University every year since 1987.

Before earning her Master's Degree in Community Mental Health from UCLA in 1985, Pat worked as a hospital nurse and supervisor. In 1977, she moved to Ketchikan, Alaska, where she was the hospital's evening supervisor. While in Ketchikan, Pat joined a committee of women which set up a women's resource center and safe house for battered women. In 1980, she returned to Los Angeles to continue her nursing education and worked as a staff nurse in acute care while attending college. In 1982, she was married to, as she states: "my wonderful husband, Richard". They moved to Oak Park in 1986.

"I have been looking for a way to become more involved in my community and to give back some of the gifts and joys I have come to know. I work with women and their challenges on a daily basis. My varied background has given me a keen awareness of the issues facing women in our society, and I look forward to further service on the Commission for Women."

**JEANNETTE SCOVILL**

Jeannette Scovill started her family and planted a backyard garden 28 years ago in Marin County, north of San Francisco. As her garden grew, she began composting. As her family grew, she developed a summer recreation program for the local elementary school and began backpacking in the Sierra Nevada mountains. She became a Training Director for the Camp Fire Girls of America and taught Camp Fire Leaders how to be resourceful in planning programming and in the use of recycled materials for craft projects.

In Gilroy, Jeannette initiated a program to provide a library for the local school and was a Cub Scout Den Leader. Working with the city and developers, she implemented a water conservation program whereby Scouts installed conservation devices throughout the community.

In Salinas, Jeannette developed and implemented a Women's Re-entry Program for Hartnell Community College. She was elected to the California Post Secondary Commission where she represented 103 community colleges comprises of 1.25 million students.

Mrs. Scovill was the Maryland State Chairman of the Arts for Maryland's Women's Club. She also managed a company called "Wrap-Away" which has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. When she and her husband came to Thousand Oaks, she managed a local vitamin store, then a health food store. As President of the American Nutritional Society, she provided the Conejo Valley with four years of nutritional education and taught allergy-free cooking.

She is Chairman of the board of the California Vegetarian Association, a statewide, non-profit organization devoted to improving our environment by promoting the vegetarian lifestyle. Jeannette has planned Public Assess television shows which feature International Vegetarian Cuisine. She also produces, hosts, and edits a weekly show called "Focus on the Environment" which airs Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on Channel 8. In addition, Jeannette is President of the Tri-Valley Environmental Committee which brings Earth Day to our County. She was recently honored by the Department of Conservation as one of three recognized throughout the State of her individual contribution to recycling. In 1992, she was elected Vice President of Networking for Housing and named Program Director for Citizen Planners. In 1993, she has received the Waste Watch Award from the City of Thousand Oaks and a certificate from the Sacramento Chapter of the American Planning Association.



## JUNE STEFFEY

June Steffey was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women on February 16, 1993, by Supervisor Maria VanderKolk. June has been a Registered Nurse since 1969 and is currently the Pediatric Administrative Supervisor at Los Robles Regional Medical Center in Thousand Oaks. June has her certification from the American Nurses Association as a Pediatric Nurse and certification from U.C.L.A. as a Lactation Consultant. She has a private practice counseling breastfeeding mothers in the community.

Parenting, child care, and child health issues are a top priority for June. She heads a parent support group, Positive Parenting, that offers free forums to the community on an on-going basis on child care and parenting related matters. She is also involved with The Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents in Ventura County.

Commissioner Steffey is a 15-year resident of Ventura County. June is looking forward to her work with the Commission, being one of the newest members. She feels the Commission is dedicated to improving and supporting families and family centered programs for the betterment of our community.

June is married and has two sons: Lott, 21, and Matthew, 16. The family resides in Newbury Park.

June is the Child Care Co-liaison and serves on the Health Committee

**LOIS HARRION**

Lois was appointed to the Commission in November 1991. She presently serves on the Women's History Project, Salute to Women, and Executive Committees. She is a Registered Nurse, a Vocational Nurse Program Director, Clinical Instructor, and an independent trainer specializing in human resource management as co-owner of a small, home-based consulting business.

Lois is married and the mother of a daughter, Karma. She and her family are members of St. Anthony's Church in Oxnard, and St. Brigid's Church in Los Angeles. Lois is a member of the California Association of Health Career Educators, California Vocational Nurse Educators, Southern California Vocational Nurse Directors, National Black Nurses Association, and California Council of Adult Education. Lois is listed in the 1992-1993 Edition of "Who's Who is Professional Nursing", and 1992-1993 Edition of "Who's Who in Education".

**PEGGY JENSEN**

Peggy Jensen joined the Commission in February, 1993. She was in the floral business in Ventura from 1984 - 1989 as a partner in "Ashwood on Main", a floral and gift shop. In 1989, she bought "Casa de Flores" in Santa Paula, a floral and gift shop, where she is the present owner.

Ms. Jensen has been active in the community in a number of capacities. She was a member of the Ventura Women's Chamber of Commerce from 1987 - 1989, where she served as 2nd Vice President. From 1989 to 1991, she was a member of the Soroptomists. From 1990 to the present, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Santa Paula Boys and Girls Club, acting as President for the 1992-1993 year. From 1990 - the present, she has served on the board of Directors for the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce where she is scheduled to serve as the 1993-1994 President. She serves on the Main Street Project/City of Santa Paula where she is the chair of a committee to restore economic vitality to Santa Paula's historic Main Street.

Peggy is married to Robert Jensen, and is the mother of two daughters, Stacey, 15 and Amanda, 12.

Peggy is currently serving on the Women's Political Action Coalition, Housing Committee and the New Commissioner Orientation Committee.

**LOMA M. SIEGEL**

Appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Maggie Kildee in February, 1993, Ms. Siegel serves on the Assembly of Representatives, Political Appointments Coalition, Publicity Committees and chairs the 1993 Salute to Women program committee. Ms. Siegel is a second generation Southern Californian who resides in Camarillo with her cat, Circe.

Ms. Siegel has over 20 years of management and marketing experience in the financial industry. She is currently an independent loan agent with Allen, Davis, Green and Cole, A Financial Corporation and the owner of an Aromatherapy consulting business, Soaring Seagull Enterprises. She is also the co-owner of, A Dream Catcher, U.S.A., a healing and practical arts center based in Camarillo. Ms. Siegel holds a Doctorate in Divinity/Metaphysics, a California Real Estate sales license, and a Private Post-Secondary Education Administrator/Instructor Certification.

Loma believes that it is important to "give-back" by participating in the community which she calls home. She has been actively involved in several professional and community service organizations and is a Lifetime Member of Girls Scouts of the U.S.A. Her background and life experiences have given her a first-hand knowledge of the challenges which face women and she believes that serving on the Commission will give her the opportunity to "give-back" to the community and help other women overcome some of those challenges.



**ROSEMARY BONCICH**

Rosemary Boncich was appointed to the Commission for Women by Supervisor Vicki Howard in March, 1993. She is currently a member of the Family Law Forum Committee and is the Chair of the Public Relations Committee.

Ms. Boncich received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in 1985. Since graduating, she has worked in the construction industry selling building material products for United States Gypsum Company. She has had a variety of accounts including commercial and residential and is now the retail account coordinator.

Rosemary would like to see more women become involved in non-traditional jobs. Her goal as a Commissioner is to help motivate women and especially young girls toward math/science education and eventually careers.

She lives in Simi Valley with her husband, Johnny, a mechanical engineer, and their two young children: Katherine, 4, and Matthew, 2.

**CONNIE LAWRASON**

Connie Lawrason was appointed by Supervisor Vicky Howard, Fourth Supervisorial District, to serve on the Ventura County Commission for Women in January 1991.

Ms. Lawrason states that she is really a "domestic Engineer"; however, her activities prove otherwise. She is Moorpark's citizen representative to the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC/SSTAC), is a representative to the Countywide Planning Program Citizen's Advisory Committee (CCP), and CPP's member to the Ventura County Agricultural Land Trust Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lawrason is involved in various other community activities including: Board member of Kiwanis International; Charter member of the Kiwanis International Club; President, Board and life member of Moorpark Historical Society; Board and life member of Moorpark Beautiful Society; Board member and Treasurer of Ventura County Crime Stoppers; member of Moorpark Women's Fortnightly; Treasurer of W.O.M.E.N. of Moorpark Enjoying Networking; served on Moorpark's Disaster Council; served on the Conejo "Y" fund-raising group; and is a Board member of her Homeowner's Association. In 1988-1989, Connie served on the Ventura County Grand Jury.

In her role as Commissioner, she served on the Annual Salute to Women Awards Planning Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and Executive Board.

Connie is married to Paul Lawrason, Teledyne Systems-Contract Management and first elected Mayor of Moorpark. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

## VIRGINIA ROGALSKY

Virginia Reimer Rogalsky is a native Californian, having lived in Simi and Santa Rosa Valleys for the past twenty-eight years. She has attend and received degrees from Moorpark College, California State University, Northridge, and the University of Southern California. After receiving a Master's Degree in Library Science, she worked as a librarian for the Los Virgines School District.

Since being appointed to the Commission in November 1991, she has Chaired the Women's History Project, is co-chairing the Family Law Forum, and is the new Chair of the Women's Political Appointments Coalition. Additionally, she has been helping in the Commission office.

Ms. Rogalsky has had a lifelong commitment to the improvement of opportunities for women in America. Another strong commitment of Virginia's is to the preservation of our natural environment. Membership and editorship of the Audubon newsletter are on-going responsibilities. She organized the club's participation in this year's Earth Day Celebration and Camarillo State Hospital Earth Day.

Ms. Rogalsky has been married for thirty-four years, has three children and one grandchild. Hobbies include gardening, reading biographies and history, bird watching, needlework and quilting.

**AURORA DE LA SELVA**

Aurora de la Selva was appointed by Supervisor John Flynn in March, 1991. She is a Ventura County native, born in Ventura and raised in Oxnard. Commissioner de la Selva is the Chairperson of the Resource and Education Committees, and serves on the New Commissioner Orientation Committee, Law Forum and Salute to Women. Aurora is currently working on a developing a comprehensive referral list for women.

Aurora received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California Lutheran University and a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology from University of California at Santa Barbara. She is a counselor at Oxnard College and previously worked at University of California Los Angeles doing research in the area of Schizophrenia.

Aurora has been involved in many Latino organizations concerned about youth development. She has also served on the Ventura Mental Health Advisory Board.

Her goal is to work toward motivating youth to attend higher education and to assist women to achieve their educational goals.

Aurora lives in Oxnard with her three children, Luis-21, Sergio-16, and Ivan-7.



**BEVERLEE McGRATH**

Beverlee McGrath was appointed by Supervisor John Flynn in January, 1991. She is currently the Commission's Legislative Liaison, the Women's Shelter Monitor, and a member of the Teen Pregnancy Committee.

Beverlee is the lobbying coordinator for California Legislation dealing with animals used in product testing. She is actively involved in her community as a member of the Ventura Humane Society and AIDS Council. She is Membership Chairman for Ventura County Republican Women, Vice President of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, spokesperson for the Right to Life League, a Catholic Charities Board Member, and Peer-Counselor at the Colston Home for Girls. In addition, she spearheaded and implemented a senior citizens' referral program, participated in forming the Cultural Council, and has served as Congressman Bob Lagomarsino's alternate on the Ventura County Central Committee. She has always been interested in community affairs and, in the past, has served as President, Vice President, Program Chairman, and Chaplain, of Oxnard Republican Women.

Beverlee has worked as a featured nightclub entertainer, working nationally as well as internationally. She has appeared in major films, television series, and numerous commercials. She received a decency award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honoring her work.

Beverlee has been married 31 years to Superior Court Judge Charles R. McGrath, has raised four children, and is currently engaged in property management.

**ELIZA THOMAS**

Eliza Williams Thomas was appointed by Supervisor John Flynn in 1989 and Co-Chaired the Commission in 1990-1991. She is currently serving on the Executive Board, Health Care Committee, Program Committee, Treasurer of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Women's Political Appointments Coalition Workshop.

Eliza received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1965 from Florida A & M University, a Masters Degree in Nursing in 1972 and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology in 1986 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California. She has served as Assistant to Director of Health Sciences at Ventura College and has taught in this division since 1971. She has also served on various community advisory committees. Ms. Thomas introduced and was co-founder of Ventura County Adopt-A-Grandparent Program. She is active in the State Department of Education and presently serves as a consultant on recruitment and retention of disadvantaged students.

Eliza is the mother of two adult sons and is a devoted grandmother. She has a special love for all people, a sincere interest in children and the aging population of adults 65 and over. Her major commitment is to help make our community a better place to live.