



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT
1986-87

Presented by

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

Arleen S. Reetz
Co-Chair

July 1987

ANNUAL REPORT
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DISTRICT 1 - SUSAN LACEY, SUPERVISOR

Lauren Anderson, Ventura
Karen Flock, Ventura
Arleen S. Reetz, Ventura

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
Meredith Thomas-Sheehan, Oxnard
Martha Sheffey White, Oxnard

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

DISTRICT 2

Marlene Alexander, Thousand Oaks
Raymond C. Clayton, Thousand Oaks
Virginia M. Connell, Thousand Oaks

DISTRICT 3

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer, Ed.D., Fillmore

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT

1986-87

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This year the Commission for Women's task forces were in high gear resulting in a finely tuned mechanism working for advancement and change. Task forces and committees have operated independently but have coordinated their goals and activities at key junctures.

We would like to focus briefly in this introduction on the different parts of the Commission and the role each one plays.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Education Task Force serves as the mainspring for several different projects and activities.

Women's history came alive in Ventura County through the expanding activities of the Women's History Project, a joint task force of the Commission for Women and the Women's Equity Coalition. The kick-off for Women's History Month was a tri-county meeting with commissioners from Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, followed by a luncheon at the Sheraton Ventura Hotel. The program featured a portrayal by Dr. Gloria R. Lothrop of an early California pioneer woman. The luncheon had strong county-wide support as evidenced by the 28 organizations which were co-sponsors for the event and the nearly 300 people who attended. Many other women's history activities and programs were presented by organizations, schools and colleges to which the Commission had provided information and resources, or with which Commissioners and Friends had worked individually.

The Second Annual Women in Agriculture Forum was held in May. Featuring a panel discussion titled "Farm Families - Women's Strengths", workshop sessions, child care and a potluck dinner, this event also enjoyed wide community support and received in-kind and financial donations from its 12 co-sponsors and from other individual contributors.

The Fifth Annual "Salute To Women" Awards, honoring fifteen outstanding Ventura County women, were presented at the awards banquet on October 29, 1986 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel. Carolyn Leavens acted as mistress of ceremonies. The 1987 banquet will again be held at the Westlake Plaza Hotel on October 29 with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joy Picus acting as mistress of ceremonies.

FAMILY LAW TASK FORCE (formerly known as the Divorced Women/Female Heads of Households task Force)

This task force underwent a name change recently to more accurately reflect its role.

1986-87

The major highlights of this task force have been two:

Commissioner Arleen Reetz provided testimony on spousal support at a joint hearing of the State Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Taskforce on Family Equity; and,

As a direct result of discussions between Commissioner Reetz and members of the District Attorney's office, the Child Support Division extended their client hours one evening a week.

Plans are underway now for a Family Law Forum to be held in September.

CHILD CARE TASK FORCE

The Child Care Task Force joined in United Way's Child Care task force efforts, continuing our special focus on educating employers on the need for child care assistance for employees and the options open to them in addressing that need.

A breakfast for CEO's was held in the early fall followed by a workshop for employers' designated representatives.

A plan for implementing mini-workshops on employer-assisted child care, on a regional basis, has been developed.

Members of this task force have worked with other organizations, communities and individuals by providing information and referral services and through participation in meetings.

HOUSING TASK FORCE

This task force has focused on the need for affordable housing for low and moderate income families. The primary activity has been ongoing participation in "Networking For Housing." Networking has developed a loan fund for pre-construction costs for proposed affordable housing projects. A second focus has been the problem of housing discrimination against single mothers.

COUNSELING TASK FORCE

Members of this task force act as monitors of the Domestic Violence Services contracts for the county, making reports to the full Commission and to the Public Social Services Agency's Adult Services manager.

FRIENDS OF THE COMMISSION

The Friends gear all their efforts toward facilitating a highly successful "Salute To Women" Awards banquet whose profits this year have been donated to the Commission for computer equipment, to aid in the distribution of the newsletter and to ease the costs of participating in the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Region IX Conference.

1986-87

A commissioner is assigned as liaison to the Friends, and Friends members attend Commission meetings, providing the necessary linkage between two independent but interlocking organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Each task force and committee relies on the Communications Committee to publicize their activities. This includes issuing news releases, the mailing of minutes, and commissioner contact with other organizations; however, the newsletter is the primary vehicle. Nine issues were printed this year and distributed throughout the County to organizations, individuals, media and the library services agency.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Analysis Committee monitors the legislation pertaining to each task force, making recommendations for action by the Commission when appropriate. A list of legislation supported by the Commission is included in the body of this report.

BYLAWS

This year a committee reviewed Commission bylaws. The revised version has since been approved by the Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

CONCLUSION

The year has seen the refinement of the Commission as a mechanism to meet identified needs. This required a tremendous amount of energy, skill and coordinated effort to achieve top performance provided by the Commissioners, staff, The Friends and community volunteers.

For a minimal investment, the County has received a great return in achievements by the Commission for Women.

Brook A. Hubbell, Ed.D., Co-Chair
Arleen S. Reetz, Co-Chair

Commission for Women members and staff have worked over 3,049 volunteer hours, driven over 11,500 miles and spent \$1,515.00 of their own money to accomplish Commission goals.

Allowing \$.28 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 \$35,236.20 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 (\$225), or contributions of services and money from individuals, from large and small firms in the county or from community organizations to support the newsletter and other Commission projects.

Martha Baskerville, Administrative Aide

FINANCIAL REPORTVCCFW
1986-87

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>MILEAGE</u>	<u>MILEAGE COSTS</u>
Miriam Albert	58		480	\$134.40
Lauren Anderson	158	\$151	542	\$151.76
Dot Engel	158	\$34	870	\$243.60
Tila Estrada	40	\$140	385	\$107.80
Karen Flock	114		570	\$159.60
Lillian Goldman	73		230	\$64.40
Brook Hubbell	260	\$305	1600	\$448.00
Zora Kirby	45		216	\$60.48
Arleen Reetz	200	\$277	950	\$266.00
Sandra Ryder	230	\$150	100	\$ 28.00
Meredith Sheehan	45	\$ 60	374	\$104.72
Bonnie Warrington	678		1228	\$343.84
Martha White	48		610	\$170.80
Susan Witting	16		155	\$ 43.40
<u>Former Commissioners</u>				
Ginny Connell	315	\$ 70	1390	\$389.20
Ray Clayton	3		30	\$ 8.40
Marlene Alexander	480	\$185	1650	\$462.00
<u>Staff</u>				
Martha Baskerville	<u>128</u>	<u>\$ 83</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>\$44.80</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	3049	\$1515	11,542	\$3231.20

Total In-Kind Contributions:

Time Valued at \$10/hour = \$30,490.00

Out-of-pocket expenses 1,515.00

Mileage cost at \$.28/mile 3,231.20
\$35,236.20

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EMPLOYER-ASSISTED CHILD CARE

During this past year the Child Care Task Force continued its role as an active participant in the United Way Child Care Task Force and Implementation Committee. Commissioners Hubbell, Warrington and Alexander served on the Child Care Coalition and Employer Assisted Child Care Education Committees. A breakfast for CEOs of major corporations was held in the early fall of 1986. Commissioner Hubbell represented the Commission at this event. This was followed by a workshop held in October for representatives of these firms selected by their CEOs. Commissioner Hubbell was a presenter at that workshop. Since United Way has decided to take a less active role in promoting employer-assisted child care, the Commission has developed a plan to implement mini-workshops on a regional basis. Former Commissioner Alexander will be the coordinator of this project. Training for the presenters will be given in July by Commissioner Hubbell. The Commission will continue to be represented on the Child Care Coalition by Commissioner Warrington.

Other communities, organizations and individuals have been studying employer-assisted child care. We have had interaction with them through requests for the KISS brochure, acting as an information and referral service and through representation at their meetings. These meetings include:

1. California State Commission on the Status of Women meeting held in Santa Barbara - Commissioner Hubbell was asked to make a presentation on the Ventura County Commission's Child Care Task Force.
2. SOLO Project, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office - Commissioner Warrington has been our representative at these meetings.
3. Tri-Counties Commission meeting with Santa Barbara County Commission for Women and San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women - Commissioner Hubbell gave an update on the Child Care Task Force.
4. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW), Region IX Conference - Commissioner Hubbell made a presentation for the Child Care Task Force.
5. CAL-NEVA Conference - A panel on child care was arranged by Commissioner Bonnie Warrington. Both she and former Commissioner Marlene Alexander were among the presenters. The entire panel presentation was taped.

Efforts are being made by a private group to begin a day care center in the Thousand Oaks area for mildly ill children.

Brook Hubbell, Chair
Child Care Task Force

1986-87

Recently this task force changed its name from the Divorced Women/Female Heads of Households Task Force to more accurately reflect its focus. Chair of the Family Law Task Force is Commissioner Bonnie Warrington. Other members are Commissioners Arleen (Rosenfield) Reetz, Sandra Smith Ryder, Meredith Thomas-Sheehan and Susan Witting.

There were two major highlights for the task force this year.

Direct discussions were held between task force member Arleen Reetz and C. Stanley Trom, Child Support Division of the District Attorney's Office, regarding ways to assist working single mothers in receiving court ordered child support. As a result, the D.A.'s office extended the client hours of the Child Support Division one evening a week. This enabled parents seeking child support, as well as absent parents, to interface with the Child Support Division without losing time from work.

Also, Commissioner Reetz represented the task force at a hearing in Los Angeles sponsored by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Task Force on Family Equity. Addressing "The Economic Impact of Divorce," Ms. Reetz provided testimony regarding spousal support and spoke in favor of SB 751 (Hart) which was in the legislature at that time. Two hundred groups were initially contacted to submit testimony. Fifteen people were permitted to speak at the hearing. We are very proud to have been given an opportunity to voice our concerns.

In September 1987 the task force will conduct a Family Law Forum. Plans are being formulated for a full day of information and exchange. Specific information will be available later in the summer.

Commissioner Arleen Reetz
Task Force Member

1986-87

During its first year, the Education Task Force developed, coordinated and conducted a public forum on Women in Agriculture. It was a very successful public forum and led to the formation of an on-going committee chaired by a Commission member to plan and develop the second annual forum on Women in Agriculture. (See Women In Agriculture, page 9.)

To continue the development of public forums as addressed in the 1984-85 Needs Assessment Report, the Education Task Force began planning a forum on the availability and projected needs of human services in Ventura County.

This forum would address the information provided in a recent study completed by the United Way of Ventura County entitled: "Springboard for Action; A Summary of Human Services, Resources and Needs in Ventura County." The purpose of the forum would be to provide a better understanding to those individuals who work in the human services sector, both public and private, on what services are available in Ventura County, what services still need to be developed, and how to offer a better, more efficient form of communication between service agencies and the citizens of Ventura County.

Meetings were held monthly and consisted of commission members, United Way members and a representative of the Commission on Human Concerns. As the study was originally accomplished by the United Way, the Commission for Women felt United Way's input was crucial to the success of this forum. Currently, however, the United Way project director's position is vacant, which has brought the further development of this public forum to a standstill. However, we are looking forward to continuing this project in the future.

The Education Task Force also includes the Women's History Project of Ventura County (see page 11 of this report) and the annual "Salute To Women" Awards (see page 13).

Lauren Anderson, Chair
Education Task Force

1986-87

Under the Education Task Force, the subcommittee on Women in Agriculture was established in 1986.

Its main effort was to organize a second forum on Women in Agriculture which was held on May 16, 1987. The theme of the forum was "A Dialogue Among Women in All Aspects of Agriculture." In fact, the participants in, and sponsors of, the forum represented a broad cross-section of Ventura County agriculture. The forum was bilingual in English and Spanish.

Four workshops with an emphasis on discussion were held: Immigration Issues, by Maria Lopez and Alina Lopez Marin; Upgrading Skills in Agriculture, by Sandee Bates and Ellen Brokaw; Child-Raising Issues, by Socorro Flaco and Ginny Connell; and Health and Safety Issues, by Bertha Felix and Karen Flock.

Five women related their personal experiences in agriculture in a panel discussion titled "Farm Families - Women's Strengths." They were Roz McGrath, Carmen Gomez, Socorro Flaco, Racquel Lawson and Florisa Lopez.

Sponsors of the forum, in addition to the Commission for Women, were: The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, California Women for Agriculture, Channel Islands Women in Action, Clinicas del Camino Real, Disabled Rights Union, Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women, LUCHA, the Martin Luther King Campesino Center, The Ventura County Agricultural Association, the Ventura County Farm Bureau, the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The following people and organizations contributed funds (\$255) and supplies necessary to make the forum a success: Bob Jones Ranch, Brokaw Nursery, California Women for Agriculture, Central Market, Channel Islands Women in Action, Do Right's Bedding Plant Growers, Beverly Edmon, Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women, Alina Lopez Marin, the Pleasant Valley Vegetable Cooperative, Sunkist Growers, Inc., Ventura County Agricultural Association, Ventura County Farm Bureau, the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition, and members of the Commission. Gabriel Serrano headed a group of translators and child care was provided by Peter Garcia.

The subcommittee also began work on a survey to find out more about the needs of Ventura County agricultural women, particularly the need for upgrading of skills, and studied the impact on women of the new immigration amnesty program.

The active participants in the subcommittee included Mary Lopez of the Martin Luther King Campesino Center, Ellen Brokaw of

1986-87

Brokaw Nurseries, Alina Lopez Marin, Beverly Edmond of the Disabled Rights Union, Sandee Bates and Mary McCarty of EDD, in addition to Commissioners Karen Flock and Dot Engel and former Commissioner Ginny Connell, now a Director of the Friends of the Commission.

Karen Flock, Chair
Committee on Women in Agriculture

1986-87

Expansion was our theme, our most significant experience in 1987 - expansion from one week of March to the entire month of March; from small local luncheons to a large county-wide luncheon event; from scattered individual efforts in classrooms to coordinated district-wide programs; from instructor-initiated classroom or lunchtime presentations to a week-long series of campus events and a popular public forum with Betty Freidan sponsored by the Community College District.

During December and January, nominations were sought and received for recognition of an educator and a community activist for their support of "Making Women in History Come Alive in the Classroom." This resulted in the presentation of the "Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Award" to Ginny Connell and Deanna Hackman as activists and Jo Ellen Heil as educator before an audience of 600 women gathered for "Creative Options: A Day for Women" at California Lutheran University on March 7th.

A new precedent was set on February 21st with a Women's History Luncheon sponsored by the Commission for Women, the Women's Equity Coalition and women's organizations, service agencies and campus centers throughout Ventura County. Dr. Gloria Ricci Lothrop's presentation of "California Women: A History" was the highlight of a very warm uplifting celebration to open Women's History Month.

Each elementary school of the Conejo Valley Unified School District (a total of 18) had each classroom of grades 1 - 6 visited by five different members of the Thousand Oaks Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) doing "living portraits" of significant women in America, past and present. In addition to these actual presenters, more than fifty members of the branch were involved as researchers, script writers, costume and prop designers. They have developed a model program, very well received in Thousand Oaks, which other branches or other groups throughout the county (and country) can adapt and use. This ongoing project is an outstandingly creative response to the overall goals of the National Women's History Project.

Essay contests in local high schools were sponsored by Camarillo and Ventura Branches of AAUW, as well as evening programs for members and the public.

A large crowd of "more than 500" (by newspaper estimates) attended the culminating event on the evening of March 25th to hear Betty Freidan describe the Women's Movement in its current phase in the context of the past 25 years, and its implications

right now and through the end of the century. The audience response was very enthusiastic. It was a highly successful climax to three weeks of campus events at each of the colleges of the Ventura County Community College District.

After such an exciting month in 1987, our task force can only look forward with great anticipation to 1988.

Ginny Connell, Chair
Women's History Project of Ventura County

1986-87

The fifth annual "Salute To Women" Awards banquet was held on October 29, 1986 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel. It was attended by 441 people and was sponsored by the Friends of the Commission.

The women recognized by the Commission, their categories and hometowns are as follows:

T. "Grandma" Prisbrey	Simi Valley	The Arts
Ellen Brokaw	Saticoy	Business/Labor
Carol Thomas	Camarillo	Business/Management
Carol Keochekian	Thousand Oaks	Community Service/Professional
Betty R. Horner	Westlake Vge	Community Service/Volunteer
Anna Bell Sessler	Moorpark	Community Service/Volunteer
Joyce Kennedy	Ventura	Education
Rita von Hoetendorff	Oxnard	Entrepreneur
Joyce Yoshioka	Ventura	Law/Law Enforcement
Anna L. Poole	Oxnard	Media
Jimmye Hitch	Ventura	Philanthropy
Mary Ellen Myers	Thousand Oaks	Science/Health
Bee Ellisman	Ventura	Senior Citizenship
Tara McLean	Ventura	Sports
Marie-Anne Domingo	Camarillo	Young Woman

The awards selection committee was chaired by Commissioner Martha White and included Commissioners Tila Estrada, Lillian Goldman, Sandra Ryder and Alicia Ramirez-Brewer. The selection process was a long involved grading of 96 nominees and then a pooling of the committee members' decisions. The criteria for rating included:

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 organizations (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.

The mistress of ceremonies and main speaker was Carolyn Leavens of Ventura, 1985 Agriculturist of the Year.

Individual Commissioners hosted each awardee upon their arrival until time to enter the banquet room. Identification posters with the awardee's name and award category were positioned around the lobby, with the award recipients and host commissioners, where guests and media could greet them.

An information room was set up offering informational material provided by the Commission and various other women's organizations in the county.

1986-87

A patron seating was initiated at \$60 per person. General admission was \$25.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joy Picus has been selected as the mistress of ceremonies for the 1987 banquet which will again be held at the Westlake Plaza Hotel on October 29, 1987.

Lillian Goldman
Awards Selection Committee

1986-87

The Housing Task Force continued its efforts to address the housing problem that was identified in the 1985 Needs Assessment as the Commission's number one priority. The problem was emphasized when United Way of Ventura County's 1986 needs assessment identified that: "The shortage of housing that low- and moderate-income people can afford to rent or buy is Ventura County's most widespread serious social problem."

The Task Force met monthly, and its active members included Pam Dunlap, Nancy Grasmehr, Rochelle Stephens and Joan Van Houton as well as Commissioners Karen Flock, Tila Estrada and Ginny Connell.

The Task Force identified as a model program Many Mansions of Thousand Oaks. With active community involvement, Many Mansions makes it possible to house an average of 40 low income families. It does this by making possible the use of Section 8 housing certificates. Such certificates are used by low income families to rent housing at an affordable level, but they can only be used in dwellings renting at or below a Fair Market Rent, which is lower than prevailing market rents in Thousand Oaks and most of Ventura County. Many Mansions rents dwellings at market rents and subleases them to families at Fair Market Rents.

The Task Force also studied the problem of housing discrimination faced by women, particularly discrimination against single mothers.

The Task Force helped to create a new mechanism to facilitate the development of affordable housing through its participation in Networking for Housing in Ventura County. The Commission was a founding member of Networking, a partnership of public and private groups that organized to seek increased availability of affordable housing for residents of Ventura County whose incomes are below 80% of the median (below \$26,700 for a family of four). Networking proposed that Ventura County and all local cities participate in an Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund. The County of Ventura has committed \$50,000 to the Loan Fund and the cities of Camarillo, Port Hueneme and Moorpark have also agreed to participate. The Loan Fund will make startup loans for proposed affordable housing projects, and in this way will facilitate the development of such housing. Networking's philosophy is that people are entitled to decent housing, and that there are untapped resources and creative solutions that can be brought to bear to address housing problems in Ventura County.

Karen Flock, Chair
Housing Task Force

1986-87

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES MONITORING COMMITTEE

Interface, Children and Family Services and the Coalition Against Household Violence (CAHV) provide 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.

In November, 1986, Commissioner Lauren Anderson met with Carol Doty, Executive Director of the CAHV, and Irma Mejia, then PSSA's contract manager. Ms. Mejia reviewed the contract for the coming year and provided a detailed analysis of the information included in the contract. She also provided a report on the personnel working at the shelter. Ms. Doty conducted a tour of the shelter.

Also in November, Commissioner Lillian Goldman met with Ms. Mejia of PSSA and with Sylvia Armita, Program Manager for services to battered women for Interface. Ms. Goldman toured the Interface Shelter and provided a verbal report at the November Commission for Women meeting.

The monitoring process has continued to be a smooth-running procedure.

Lauren Anderson
Monitoring Committee

1986-87

During 1986-87 the Commission continued a trend it had initiated the previous year -- using desk top publishing for its newsletter to women in Ventura County. After exploring alternative ways of producing a publication at the least cost, the Commission focused on using an in-house word processing and desktop publishing system to meet its goal.

In late 1986 the Commission procured a personal computer, printer and software to produce camera ready copy to save the expense of typesetting. Commission staff learned to use the equipment during 1986 and it has already proved useful in improving the quality of Commission publications and other mailings.

The Communications Committee was comprised of Sandy Ryder, Lauren Anderson, Meredith Sheehan, Zora Kirby and Martha Baskerville. Lauren Anderson served as newsletter editor. The publication frequency of the newsletter was changed from every other month to once a month. However, in light of budget reductions, the Communications Committee will reexamine the publication schedule for 87-88. The editorial focus has begun to shift to an in-depth examination of issues affecting women and that trend will continue in 87-88.

During this past year the Commission took steps toward launching a community outreach program to women's groups and civil organizations throughout Ventura County. This will involve Commissioners making a brief presentation to groups in each supervisorial district to explain the purpose and work of the Commission. Toward this end, a brochure describing the Commission was completed in 1986. The brochure was designed and printed courtesy of General Telephone of California.

The Family Law Task Force and the Communications Committee continued preparation of a brochure begun in 1985-86, on divorce for women. At this time, the Commission has decided not to publish the brochure, but instead to sponsor a legal rights forum for women in 1987.

The Commission had earlier reached an agreement with KTIE-TV to co-sponsor a series of public affairs spots with the Commission for Women. The public service announcements featured a colorful VCCW logo and contained information of interest to women and their families.

Sandy Ryder
Communications Committee Chair

1986-87

The Legislative Analysis Committee has had three changes of leadership during this fiscal year. When Commissioner Rosenfield (now Reetz) was elected co-chair of the Commission, the legislative committee passed to Commissioner Alexander who shortly afterward left the Commission when Supervisor Schaefer appointed new commissioners. In the spring of 1987, a new committee was appointed as follows: Chair, Dot Engel; members of the committee, Commissioners Albert and Reetz; community members Ginny Connell, Judy Wong and Laurie Freeman.

At its first meeting, the committee drafted a plan for its work, which calls for review of state and national legislation using priorities outlined in the Commission's five year plan. Each committee member agreed to establish personal contact with one or two local elected representatives so that we may have a working relationship with all of our representatives. And, finally, the committee agreed to reach out to women's organizations in Ventura County with a goal of encouraging them to work together on women's issues for more impact on common objectives when dealing with local decision makers.

Following this plan, letters were sent to local legislators outlining our priorities and asking them for their assistance in identifying issues they are supporting and requesting additional help in obtaining necessary background information on issues of interest to women.

In late March about 60 letters were sent to leaders of women's organizations in Ventura County to determine their interest in establishing a Legislative Roundtable on women's issues. After a positive response, the first meeting of a Legislative Roundtable was held on May 13 at the Government Center. The Roundtable was attended by 14 representatives of women's groups. Attendance was taken and minutes were recorded.

After Supervisor Maggie Erickson's welcoming remarks, the group discussed potential goals and purposes and expressed their main areas of concern. Those mentioned most often were pay equity, education and child related issues.

It was agreed that the Roundtable would meet bi-monthly, the next meeting being scheduled for July 15 in Camarillo. Subcommittees were formed: Pay Equity, convened by Beverly Edmon, and Education, chaired by Leslie Kerr.

The participants at this first Roundtable meeting were pleased with the opportunity to meet one another and to work together on common problems.

The Legislative Analysis Committee will continue to meet as needed to review selected bills and recommend action to the commission at its regular meetings.

1986-87

Other activities of the committee are as follows:

1. Purchase and distribution of the California Journal's 1987 Roster and Government Guide for Commissioners and legislative committee members.
2. Distribution of copies of the Citizen Advocacy packet prepared by Penny Bohannon of the Chief Administrative Office to all commissioners, committee members and those attending the Roundtable.
3. Review of all mailings regarding legislation:
 - a. CAO Manager of Legislative Affairs bulletins
 - b. Legislative alerts from the National Association of Commissions for Women (of which this commission is a member)
 - c. California Commission on the Status of Women quarterly summaries of pending legislation and annual summary of New Laws Affecting Women
 - d. Participation in state survey by the California CSW to determine priorities for watching legislation. Highest priorities were clearly Child Care, Equity in Education and Employment and Economic Rights.

The Commission voted to support the following legislation:

State

- SB 357 (Presley) Foster care funding, to maintain state funding (in suspense file)
- SB 511 (Roberti) to establish a pay equity commission
- SB 722 (Hart), Income Taxation: credits, child care assistance (Pending)
- SB 724 (Greene), Education: credentials, antidiscriminatory laws, (inactive)
- SB 793 (Davis), Sex Equity in Education Act (Pending)
- SB 1071 (Lockyer), Community Property (Passed, 1986)
- SB 1296 (Hart) Spousal Support
- SB 1341 (Hart) Family Law - to allow the deferred sale of a family home
- SB 1529 (Hart), Child Care, tax credits (Vetoed, 1986)
- SB 1751 (Hart), Child Support: mandatory deductions (Passed, 1986)
- AB 285 (Leonard) Child abuse, interviewing children on school grounds
- AB 368 (Moore) Parents Rights Act, child rearing leave, up to 4 months of unpaid leave
- AB 1070 (Hayden), Child Care: school district properties (Pending)
- AB 2628 (Vasconcellos, Roberti) Day care services, renovate public facilities to be used for child care.

Federal

S 3 (Cranston), Social Security Equity Act of 1987
(Pending)

S 4 (Cranston), Child Care Assistance Act of 1987 (Pending)

S 5 (Cranston), Pay Equity Act of 1987 (Pending)

Dot Engel, Chair
Legislative Analysis Committee

1986-87

The Commission appointed four commissioners to a committee to review the commission bylaws in October 1986; Dot Engel, Chair, Karen Flock, Sandy Ryder, and Martha White.

This committee completely reviewed all the bylaws and made recommendations for amendments to reflect changes in our ways of work since the adoption of the Commission's five year plan. The Commission approved the amendments in February 1987. In March 1987 the amended bylaws were sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval, which was granted.

Dot Engel, Chair
Bylaws Revision Committee

1986-87

Lee Anderson, president of the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women describes her board as "a synergistic group that operates out of consensus of opinion and a sense of individual responsibility".

Almost immediately following the election of the Board of Directors of the Friends in November, planning for the next year's annual "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet begins. Each year the banquet is more successful in meeting its goals of: providing an opportunity for the Commission for Women to honor outstanding women of the county; focusing attention on the work of the Commission; the need for funding; and, the opportunities for direct involvement in developing and maintaining women's resources in the county; providing a gala and festive banquet where these accomplishments and future goals for women can be celebrated with the prestige they so richly deserve.

It is the support of both men and women that makes this banquet more successful each year.

In 1986, the "Salute To Women" awards banquet enabled the Friends to meet a number of financial requests from the Commission, one of the most significant being the purchase of computer software for the Commission office.

Those currently serving on the Board of Directors are:

President:	Lee Anderson, Corporate and Personal Insurance
Secretary:	Dixie Adeniran, Head of Library Services, Ventura County
Treasurer:	Anne Fischer, Attorney at Law
Membership:	Sarah Pierce, M.P.A., C.R.C.; Consultant, State of California Department of Industrial Relations
Public Relations:	Leslie Kerr, Owner, Grant Communications Consultants
Women's Concerns and County Involvement:	Virginia Connell, Marriage and Family Counselor
Funding Development:	Lorraine Pankratz, D.C.

The Friends acts as sponsor and provides brochures and other informational materials on the Commission and Friends at California Lutheran University's Creative Options Day and Camarillo Women's Day and other similar events. Long range planning includes the continued support of the Commission's five-year plan and consideration of a Ventura County Women's Center.

The 1987 "Salute To Women" awards banquet will be held at the Westlake Plaza Hotel in Westlake Village on Thursday, October 29. The awards presenter will be Los Angeles City Councilwoman, Joy Picus. Plan to attend along with the many friends we have gathered in support of the event.

Lee Anderson, The Friends

1986-87

Contribution of Time by Board of Directors

President:	8 Hours per week 60 hours the 2 weeks prior to Banquet
Secretary:	10 hours per month
Treasurer:	16 hours per month 40 hours the 2 weeks prior to Banquet
Public Relations:	8 Hours per month 80 hours on Banquet publicity
Membership:	8 hours per month
Women's Concerns:	8 hours per month
Funding Development:	8 hours per month 40 hours on Banquet fund raising

1986-87

October 1986	Virginia Aguirre, Blanchard Community Library, reviewed Project Literacy U.S. (P.L.U.S.), the California Literacy Program and the FLAIR Project.
	Miriam Fraser, Laubach Literacy Volunteers spoke about tutoring services available in Ventura County.
January 1987	Molly King, Baha'is of Santa Paula, spoke on their National Committee on Women.
February 1987	Tri-County Commission meeting. Update reports from Santa Barbara County Commission for Women and San Luis Obispo Commission on the Status of Women.
May 1987	Beverly Fairbairn, Tender Hearts Day Care Center, spoke about efforts to create a day care center for mildly ill children.

1986-87

Miriam Albert, appointed by Supervisor Madge Schaefer, moved to Thousand Oaks from Long Island, New York in 1982. In New York Miriam was active in the National Organization for Women (NOW) and continued that involvement here both locally and on the state level. She is a past president of the Thousand Oaks Chapter. Ms. Albert serves on the Executive Boards of both the Conejo Valley Democratic Club and the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee and is a delegate to the Democratic State Central Committee. Ms. Albert and her husband have been married for thirty three years. She is currently a homemaker.

Karen Flock, Ventura, was appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Susan Lacey in July of 1986. She is a Project Manager with the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, a non profit community economic development corporation serving Ventura County. In that position, she manages the development of four low income housing projects, working with community groups. Ms. Flock has a B.A. in Economics.

Zora Kirby, a Thousand Oaks resident for ten years, is a member of the City of Thousand Oaks Public Access Committee, serves as assistant chair of the United Cerebral Palsy/Spastic Children's Foundation Celebrity Tennis "Love Match", is a member of the "Fantastiks" of the Los Angeles Theatre Center and is an avid tennis player. Ms. Kirby was appointed to the Commission for Women in February, 1987 by Supervisor Madge Schaefer.

Susan H. Witting was appointed by Supervisor Schaefer in March 1987. Ms. Witting has a B.A. in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a J.D. from Pepperdine School of Law in Malibu. She is in private law practice with the firm of Henrichsen and Witting in Thousand Oaks. Ms. Witting is an active member of the Thousand Oaks Republican Women's Club, currently serving as 1st vice president, and of Ventura County Republican Women Federated. She is a member of the General Plan Review Committee for Thousand Oaks, and also is a member of the Board of Directors of AAUW, Thousand Oaks Branch. Ms. Witting is the mother of two young children.

1986-87

Members and staff of the Commission for Women continue to be actively involved in their communities and to be recognized for their contributions. The activities described below are in addition to Commission accomplishments and new commissioner information previously mentioned in this report.

Lauren Anderson, Ventura, has been a full-time student at California State University Northridge during the past year. She recently graduated with a B.A. in journalism and is now employed at Marketing Resources, Ventura, working in marketing and public relations. During her student days, she served as secretary of Sigma Delta Chi, Society of Journalism, and continued her longstanding involvement in Business and Professional Women on the local, district and state level.

Dot Engel, Thousand Oaks, is the city director, Conejo-Simi area, for the Ventura County League of Women Voters and serves as secretary for the county organization. She chairs the League's KNOW YOUR CITY study for Thousand Oaks. Ms. Engel is a member of the planning committee for the mayor's quarterly Citizens' Exchange, an educational series about city government, and is chair of the Social Element subcommittee of the Thousand Oaks General Plan Review Committee. She is also a member of the Thousand Oaks Bicentennial Committee on the Constitution.

Tila Estrada is an alternate member of the Oxnard General Plan Review Committee. She is on the Board of Directors for both the Oxnard Elementary School Foundation and the Oxnard College Foundation. Ms. Estrada chairs the Local Government Affairs Committee for the Oxnard Harbor Board of Realtors.

Lillian Goldman, Camarillo, co-chaired the Current Issues Forum in Leisure Village and is currently a member of the forum's Board of Directors.

Brook Hubbell, Co-Chair of the Commission, received the "Golden Apple" award as the Outstanding Certificated Employee in April from the Simi Valley School Board. She continued her involvement in AAUW and Delta Kappa Gamma and was a member of the CTIIP Grants Committee for the Simi Valley Unified School District which awarded \$64,000 for educational projects. Dr. Hubbell was a delegate to the NACW Region IX Conference in April.

Arleen Reetz, Co-Chair of the Commission, also was a delegate to the NACW Region IX Conference. She was a workshop co-presenter at "Creative Options: A Day for Women" at California Lutheran University in March. Ms. Reetz is a member of the Child Development Resources and Referral Advisory Board and continues her involvement with the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition which she serves as treasurer. She is a member of the Ventura County Professional Women's Network and is active in projects benefiting her children's school.

1986-87

Meredith Thomas-Sheehan, Oxnard, spoke on behalf of the Commission to the Women's Club at the Naval CBC Base in Port Hueneme. She has been appointed to the Ventura County Executive Committee for the United Way Combined Federal Campaign.

Bonnie Warrington served as the 1986-87 president of the Volunteer Coordinators Council and has represented the Commission on the City of San Buenaventura Child Care Council. She is a recent appointee to the Immigration Equity Task Force for Ventura County sponsored by El Concilio. As a member of the Professional Women's Network, Bonnie was featured in their publication, Focal Points/Success 87. She was also featured in the Star Free Press/ Vista Magazine.

Martha Sheffey White, Oxnard, was a member of the 1986-87 Ventura County Grand Jury. At the same time, she served as president of the 20th Century Onyx Club and continues as a member of the Board of Directors of the Point Mugu Federal Credit Union.

The Commission's administrative aide, Martha Baskerville, was the 1986-87 president of the American Association of University Women, Camarillo Branch and was honored by that organization in being selected as a Named Gift Honoree. Ms. Baskerville was named Camarillo Women's Day 1987 Woman of the Year.