

**VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1993 - 1994**

**PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE  
VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**CELESTE WEINGARDT, CHAIR**

**DISTRICT 1**

**SUPERVISOR SUSAN K. LACEY, CHAIR**

Judy Bysshe, Ventura  
Celeste Weingardt, Ventura

**DISTRICT 2**

**SUPERVISOR MARIA E. VANDERKOLK**

Sandra Cherry, Thousand Oaks  
Jeannette Scovill, Thousand Oaks  
June Steffey, Newbury Park

**DISTRICT 3**

**SUPERVISOR MAGGIE KILDEE**

Lois Harrion, Camarillo  
Dana Huffman, Ventura  
Loma Siegel, Camarillo

**DISTRICT 4**

**SUPERVISOR VICKY HOWARD**

Rosemary Boncich, Simi Valley  
Connie Lawrason, Moorpark  
Virginia Rogalsky, Camarillo

**DISTRICT 5**

**SUPERVISOR JOHN K. FLYNN**

Beverlee McGrath, Oxnard  
Eliza Thomas, Oxnard

Mary Jones, Aurora de la Selva and Peggy Jensen served portions of this year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	4
Acknowledgements	5
Report on In-Kind Finance Report	6
Health Committee	7
Teen Pregnancy Ad Hoc Committee	8
Leadership Committee	9
Women's Political Appointments Coalition	10-11
Salute to Women	12
Women's History Program	13
Family Law Forum	14
Assembly of Representatives Committee	15
Legislative Report	16
Battered Women's Shelter Report	17
Housing Report	18
Commissioners' Biographies	19-31



# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT 1993/1994

## Introduction

Our emphasis this year was primarily in the following three areas:

### Community Outreach

We presented three of our traditional community events this year: the Annual Salute to Women Awards Dinner in October, The Women's History Awards Luncheon in March and the Family Law Forum this June.

We also published two newsletters. The fall edition was comprised of committee updates with emphasis on legislation. The spring issue focused on the fundamental need for the existence of the Commission for Women and what our efforts are in the broad perspective.

### Networking with Organizations Involved in Women's Issues

In 1993 the Commission formed an "Assembly of Representatives" to provide an opportunity for the various services, agencies and organizations addressing women's issues in the county to learn what other resources and support are available and develop a plan for coordinating these services. This year we held two sessions of the Assembly, a general organization and networking meeting in September followed by a meeting in January with a Women's History theme exchanging information about the different Women's History efforts that would be presented during Women's History Month.

Commissioners Weingardt, Siegel, Rogalsky, McGrath, Bysshe and Scovill participated in the June 1993 Women in Action Day in Sacramento. Several Commissioners attended a private tour of the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence offices and shelter that was provided by the Coalition Director, Jamie Leigh. Additionally, the Commission was represented in the New Horizons Advisory Committee at Moorpark College, scholarship selection committee for the Ventura County 99 Club (Women Aviators), Ventura County Business/Education Community Coalition, Camarillo Women's Day, was a co-sponsor of the Connecting Work and Family Seminar which was presented by the Alliance For Child Care Solutions, and had an information table at Creative Options.

### Broadening our Information Base

Beginning in 1993, we have added the position of "Monitor of Commission For Women" to our monthly agenda. Commissioner Bysshe has provided "gleanings" from the newsletters and minutes from

other CFW's for the Commission each month. These summaries have brought to our attention issues including: proactive campaigns against businesses which promote perceptions and attitudes that women and girls are sex objects, the raising of (Los Angeles) County marriage license fees by \$4.00 to support Battered Women's Shelters, teen dating violence, garment industry exploitation of women, female genital mutilation, conditions of women in prison and women's self defense issues.

We look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming year. Additionally, we plan to put more emphasis on women's health issues in the months ahead. We are in the process of surveying women around the county regarding their specific health concerns and whether they have an interest attending a free Women's Health Forum if the Commission were to organize one.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 the Assembly of Representatives committees. **Fred and Judy Bysshe** continue to lend the Commission staff support through their office, **Jim Compton** of the County Schools R.O.P. program continues to sponsor our use of the County School District's conference center for our monthly meetings, **Melissa Hall** donated her time and graphic arts expertise to design our Resource Directory, and graphic designer **Janeen Holland** prepared this year's Salute to Women Program. We also thank the County Board of Supervisors and its member's staffs for their assistance and support throughout the year.



**COMMISSIONER'S IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS/1993-94****VCCFW**

<u>COMMISSIONER</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MISC.</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
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**District 1**

Bysshe	585	600	\$ 820	9/11
Weingardt	1,617	755	\$1087	11/11

**District 2**

Cherry	397	64	\$ 99	7/9
Scovill	7,000**	350		9/11
Steffey	450	100	\$ 350	9/11

**District 3**

Harrion	100	100		7/11
Huffman	480	36	\$ 189	4/4
Siegel	1,208	408.5	\$ 800	9/11

**District 4**

Lawrason	100	75		8/11
Rogalsky	1,800	120	\$ 100	9/11
Boncich	700	80	\$ 20	8/11

**District 5**

McGrath	4,820*	88.5	\$ 354	6/12
Thomas				9/12

\*Commissioner McGrath's mileage includes 6 round trips to Sacramento. \*\*Commissioner Scovill's mileage includes round trip to Washington D.C.

Additionally, former Commissioner Bonnie Warrington contributed approximately 180 hours/550miles, and staff in Judy Bysshes' office contributed between 5-25 hours weekly.

**FINANCE REPORT/1993-94**

Women's Activity Fund Balance 5/1/93	\$7,076.15
Balance 5/31/94	\$5,668.71

Figures do not include Teen Pregnancy Task Force grant money which is handled separately. A reserve of \$2,500 is earmarked as seed money for the Salute to Women and Women's History programs annually.

The Health Care Committee has currently been devoting most of its energy to monitoring health care availability to women and children, women's participation in health care research, and health care reform. The committee will present a summary of the Federal Health Care Reform Package at the Commissions' July meeting.

We assisted with distribution of a survey from the American Cancer Society on cancer in families. We have also been active in informing the public on the importance of immunization and well baby follow-up care.

Our ad hoc committee on Teen Pregnancy Prevention is in the process of preparing a comprehensive report for the County Board of Supervisors.

The committee ultimately aspires to reach out to all women and children, providing education and information to empower them to better care for themselves.

Eliza Thomas, Chair

Members: June Steffey and Judy Bysshe

The Teen Pregnancy Task Force is nearing its conclusion of the task assigned to determine underlying causes of teen pregnancy and outline a broad-based plan to address these causes.

Some 140 people of varying backgrounds and with a wide-range of views and interests have been hashing out the data collected from studies, articles, and the focus groups themselves. Working for consensus is time-consuming, but has the potential to develop a wide range of people supporting the conclusions.

When the Task Force's report is concluded in June and presented to the Board of Supervisors and community, it will include profiles both on young people who are postponing their sexual activity and on teen mothers/pregnant teens. Out of these profiles, and using state, federal and county data, we will have made our findings and developed our recommendations to the community: Schools, County, Cities, Churches, Parents, Private-No-For-Profits, the Community as a whole. It would be impossible to list those people who deserve special thanks for their time and dedication. During this past year, many committee members have put in hundreds of hours.

Support has come from the Board of Supervisors, Ventura County Community Foundation and Kaiser Permanente (whose grant of \$4,000.00 has been absolutely essential).

#### **AFRICAN PROVERB**

**IT TAKES AN ENTIRE VILLAGE TO RAISE ONE CHILD**

Judy Bysshe, Chairperson

#### **Commissioners**

Celeste Weingardt  
Virginia Rogalsky

#### **Members other than Commission**

Extensive Community involvement  
includes people from:

County agencies  
Cities  
School Districts  
Private, non-profit organizations  
Churches  
Parents  
Young People



The Leadership Committee is established to encourage women to exercise leadership qualities in the private and public sector. Additionally, it promotes opportunities for women to develop leadership qualities. The Leadership Committee liaisons with the Women's Political Appointments Coalition.

This committee assignment was given late in the year and there has been limited activity. An effort has been made to secure input from the Commission members regarding their preferences for future programs. With the recent assignment of an additional member, this committee will present a mini-workshop to the Commission at its May meeting:

Workshop Title: **"Making It Happen"**

The focus of the workshop presentation will be time management, setting priorities, and stress reduction.

For the coming year, the Leadership Committee plans to seek out the available organizations, associations and events which have similar goals in developing leadership skills for women. The primary purpose is to develop effective liaison with other participants and perhaps combine our efforts to develop and support programs that will promote and enhance our goals and objectives.

Lois Harrion, Chair

Members: Dana Huffman

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

The Coalition met in June, August, September, November, February and May. It was decided that quarterly meetings would be held rather than monthly meetings.

Coalition Representatives were:

Ventura County Commission for Women	Celeste Weingardt
Ventura County Commission for Women	Virginia Rogalsky
League of Women Voters	Roma Armbrust
Natl. Women's Political Caucus-East	Marci Curran
Natl. Women's Political Caucus-West	Roma Armbrust
American Assoc. of University Women	
Supervisor Maggie Kildee	Kathy Long
Area Housing Authority	Bonnie Warrington

Governmental entities were divided up and assigned to coalition members. Each member is to keep up to date on what openings occur in their cities. Contacts were to be made whenever information on board or commission openings become available.

Marci Curran put all the data on her computer and is now able to access by interest category and by city or county district.

Celeste reworked the interest categories to more closely reflect the actual boards and commissions that exist. New forms were printed. NWPC-West reformulated the "talent bank" form for use by their groups. The form is different in that endorsement of the NWPC's bottom line issues is required. The Commission will not use NWPC's forms because of political positions taken. (The VCCFW is essentially a non-political organization.)

Kathy Long and Virginia Rogalsky took part in Oxnard Women's Day, offering a session on "Don't Be Late for Your Appointment".

All "talent bank" members were contacted to see if their interest was still there. A work sheet to keep notes on contacts made was prepared by Bonnie Warrington.

Roma Armbrust organized an empowerment workshop at Rio Mesa High School in October and again in May. Several coalition members participated. This was an effort to encourage young people (young women especially) to become politically active.



An analysis of the current make-up of county boards and commissions indicates that there is gender equity on many boards. However, certain power boards, such as Air Pollution, Water, Harbors, and Fish & Game seem still to be predominately men. Celeste researched this situation and received a letter from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District indicating there were presently no vacancies, but encouraging persons to send in their resumes. This information will be disseminated to our "talent bank" members.

Celeste has obtained a list each month of current openings on board and commissions. This list is sent to each area monitor so that they can alert their candidates. Aram Saroyan of J.T.P.C. has just sent 9 nominations to VCEDA only one of which was a woman. Information on this commission will be sent to Zonta (Martha Desch) and Professional Women's Network (Loma Siegel).

Supervisor Kildee sought to expand the Council on Economic Vitality. Through Roma's efforts Carolyn Means was appointed by Supervisor Lacey. Roma has been instrumental in the appointments of a number of "talent bank" applicants.

In an effort to keep our talent bank vital, we sought ways to get new applicants. Some responses were received from this approach. It was also felt that the Coalition needed to be revitalized. Contacts will be made with each of the coalition organizations to make sure their representatives can devote the time needed.

The Coalition continues to meet quarterly, the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Oxnard Library. The next meeting will be August 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Virginia Rogalsky, Chairperson



The 11th Annual Salute to Women Awards banquet was held on Saturday, October 9, 1993, at the Oxnard Hilton Inn with 186 people in attendance. The banquet - dinner/dance was co-sponsored by the Ventura County Professional Women's Network.

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

Recipients of the 1993 Salute to Women Achievement Awards were:

Mary Michael, The Arts  
Anita Bingham, Business  
Peggy Funk, Community Service  
Jewel Pedi, Community Service  
Linda Plaks, Community Service  
Dr. A. Darlene Pacheco, Education  
Mary Claire Slais, Entrepreneur Professional  
Jean Varden, Health  
Jacqueline Diaz, Law Enforcement  
Karen J. Block, Legal  
Karen Hibdon, Media  
Marianne Jerpe, Outstanding Young Woman

Salute to Women Program Committee members were:

Loma Siegel - Chairperson (VCCFW & VCPWN)

**VCCFW Members:**

Aurora del la Selva  
Celeste Weingardt  
Connie Lawrason  
Eliza Thomas  
Jeannette Scovill  
Lois Harrion  
Judy Bysshe

**VCPWN MEMBERS:**

Archina Scott-Roddick  
Karla Williams  
Louann Davis  
Pamela Lindsey  
Toni Weitzel

The 1994 Women's History Luncheon and Awards Program was held at the Radisson at River Ridge on March 12 immediately following the Commission's regular monthly meeting. The program included a History of Girl Scouting with Period Costumes presented by Tres Condadas Girl Scout Troop #918 and portrayals of Vilma Martinez and Mary Cassatt by AAUW members Barbara Wilson and Candi Hutchison. Musical entertainment was provided by Gaia's Song members Jamie Cox-Nowland, Borgny Broughton, Joanne McCullum and Allyson Wilmoth who presented a capella selection of feminist songs from the past century.

This years' award recipients were:

#### **EDUCATORS**

Valerie Gray, Simi Valley  
Guadalupe Reyes, Port Hueneme  
James Sargent, Ventura

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVIST**

Marlene Alexander, Westlake Village

#### **SPECIAL ORGANIZATION**

Thousand Oaks Chapter  
American Association of University Women

Honorable mention was given to Katie Hutchings of Newbury Park and Mickey VanOrman of Newbury Park. Special presentations were also made by several state and local government officials and representatives.

Virginia Rogalsky  
Committee Chair

CFW Members: Eliza Thomas, Sandra Cherry, Lois Harrion, Loma Siegel, Jeannette Scovill and Celeste Weingardt

Community Members: Geraldine Wilson and Linda Vesper

The Commission held its' sixth annual Family Law Forum on June 4, 1994, at Sheridan Way Elementary School in Ventura. This year's coordinators/co-sponsors were N.O.W. Ventura/Oxnard Chapter, La Familia, former Commissioner Susan Witting, Ventura County Supervisor Susan Lacey and the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. N.O.W., La Familia and Supervisor Lacey's office provided the funding for the event.

Presenters included mediation specialists Dr. Robert Beilin and Marsha Wiley, child and spousal support experts Judge Joe Hadden and Charles Stanley Trom, and family law attorneys Jan Loomis and Salley Dichter.

Attorney Susan Witting arranged the program and presided over the day's presentations providing additional information and clarification throughout.

Pam Klieman from N.O.W. and Yvette Sutton, who represented both La Familia and Supervisor Lacey's office, were especially helpful in making arrangements for the day and assembling information packets. Phillip Navarro of the Commission on Human Concerns video-taped the entire program and will be making both video and audio tapes for use by the co-sponsors.

Celeste Weingardt  
Chair



Periodically the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCW) holds an ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of agencies and organizations in Ventura County which serve women. We are convinced that by bringing together these organizations they can be more efficient and more effective. For over ten years VCCFW has conducted studies and staged educational workshops and other events to encourage cooperative planning between community organizations. The ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES is our latest attempt to find ways of creating public/private partnerships. To create heightened interest we have focused each meeting on a specific concern or issue.

The calendar of topics for 1994 ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES include:

January:

**"WOMEN MAKING HISTORY"**

September:

**"CREATING ALTERNATIVE JOBS"**

Date to be Determined:

**"ELDER CARE"**

At the January ASSEMBLY, Commissioner Virginia Rogalsky, Chair of the Women's History Event, presented the VCCFW Awards program and nomination process and explained how it could be of benefit. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) described its Women in History dramatization program which helps teach Women's history in our schools. Each attending organization had an opportunity to provide their list of activities for the year and these lists were consolidated into a master calendar. The various conflicts identified during this process provided many opportunities for cooperative planning.

Jeannette Scovill  
Chair

Committee Members: Celeste Weingardt, Loma Siegel, Sandra Cherry,  
Bonnie Warrington

There continues to be a focus on domestic violence issues in our California State Legislature with 14 KEY bills relating to domestic violence. Teen pregnancy has also become a high priority issue with 24 bills.

Two of the most important bills are still in the process - SB 1943 (Domestic Court Bill) would establish a separate court for domestic issues. SB 1144 (Homicide: Voluntary Manslaughter/Domestic Violence) would allow someone to use the history of domestic violence in manslaughter proceeding. Currently it is not allowed to use this as a defense. This bill is expected to pass as it has already been through both houses.

Beverlee McGrath, Liaison

Domestic violence and rape are not new phenomena, both have existed as transcultural facts since the dawn of civilization. Women and children shared the same position in society having no legal status and lacking in avenues of pursuit against abuse.

Our two Ventura County shelters continue to operate at full capacity. The Ventura agency's name change to "Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence" reflects the added services they provide to rape and sexual assault victims.

Domestic Violence crises calls	3700
Rape crises calls	800
Medical/Legal exams at VCMC	60
# of students receiving presentations	3000
(presentations are on dating/violence rape)	

The County probation office has been helping develop new guidelines for providing Batterers Diversion services. These changes are in response to the Burton bill-AB 226. A day long skills training on implementation of AB 226 is being hosted by the Ventura Coalition.

Besides the program at the shelter, they are also doing groups for non-residents. They are:

- Women's Support Group for Domestic Violence
- Group for Rape Survivors
- Child Play Therapy
- Groups for Incest Survivors
- Individual Counseling/Couples Counseling
- Batterer's Diversion Groups

Beverlee McGrath, Monitor



Network for Housing: A program that seeks to pool resources to provide funding for the construction of affordable housing or the modification of existing housing to meet pressing needs. This year's main project was the Colina Vista, a 35 unit 3 & 4 bedroom apartment complex in Piru. Funding comes from Community Development Block Grant Funding. Commissioner Scovill served as Vice-President for the Network.

Southern California Council on Environmental & Economic Development:

The council staged a conference to review Southern California Association of Governments Regional draft plan. Commissioner Scovill served as facilitator and facilitation trainer. She was a member of the Advisory Board.

Ventura County Council on Governments: Housing committee recommended need for a Housing Commission. County staffed committee is now outlining how it should be formed/funded. There is possibility that State Legislature will mandate Housing Commissions. Commissioner Scovill participated on committee.

Southern California Edison Customer Technology Application Center: Brings in organizations to familiarize them with energy savings/recycled building materials. This year the center has been redesigned as the result of Environmental Business Symposium in Thousand Oaks. The center, which looks like a home, will now be made from recycled building materials. Commissioner Scovill was one of the coordinators of Symposiums and served on redesign committee. The Symposium informed the public about the opportunities for start up businesses. Ventura County is now one of twelve counties in state designated as a Recycling Market Development Zone. Small businesses can apply for start-up and new products loans.

Focus on the Environment (two shows) and Shelter First, television shows that report on affordable housing and affordable housing construction were produced by Commissioner Scovill and shown on Ventura County Cablevision. (VCC reaches an approximate 250,000 county residents.)

Commissioner Scovill also had speaking engagements this year on: Creating Community Sustainability Across America: educating Americans on systems that are self-sustainable; Alternative Building Construction; and Building for Sustainability. The conference was co-sponsored by H.V.D. (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)

Jeannette Scovill, Chair

**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 also serves on the Coalition for Environmental Education and has been on the planning committee for the VCCF/Children's Services Network/United Way's county-wide Health/Human Services Survey.

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.



## **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, Teen Pregnancy, Assembly of Representatives and Law Forum Committees.

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 Falcon Cable. They have two children, David, 14 and Allison, 8.

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.



### **SANDRA LENORE CHERRY**

Sandra Lenore Cherry was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women by Supervisor Maria VanderKolk in July 1993, for a term ending January 1, 1995. Since being appointed Sandra has assisted the Womens' History Luncheon Committee, the Assembly of Representatives and the Health Committees.

Ms. Cherry is actively involved in the county through the Zonta Club of the Conejo. She has been program chair for 1993-1995, co-chair of the annual Z-Brunch fundraiser for years 1994 and 1995; an active supporter and fundraiser for the Warrior Regiment Booster Club at Westlake High School. Sandra has served on the Board of Directors of Zonta Club of the Conejo, Thousand Oaks Lions Club, The Network, Ali Lassen's Leads Club and Temple Adat Elohim.

Sandra is a single parent of a 16 year old son and is currently in a management development program with a financial services company.

## **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 and Executive Committees.

## JEANNETTE SCOVILL

Mrs. Scovill draws upon her extensive background in community based work in her responsibilities as Program Director for Citizen Planners. She was the elected Community College Representative to the California Post-secondary Education Commission. She created one of the first Women's Re-entry Programs in California at Hartnell College in Salinas. She served as Director of Earth Day activities in Ventura County for four years. Her events included Environmental Business Symposiums, college credit courses for educators, art exhibits, children's contests, participatory art, an Electra-thon (electric car race), environmental music and family oriented festivals with over one hundred exhibits and seventy workshops. Her Earth Day events and her weekly television series, **FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**, have won numerous awards. She is also the producer of two other television series, **SALUTE TO WOMEN** and **ART & CULTURE OF PEOPLE & PLACES**.

1990	Beyond War Award
1992	Waste Watch Gold Award
1992	California Dept. of Conservation, Recycling Award
1992	Rotarian, Environmental Education Award
1993	Waste Watch Gold Award
1994	Waste Watch Gold Award
1994	Special Commendation from the City of Thousand Oaks

In addition to her duties with the Ventura County Citizen Planners, she currently serves as a Ventura County Women's Commissioner, as Chair of the Housing Committee, Chair of the Tri-Valley Environmental Committee, Vice President of the Network for Housing and as an appointee to the Ventura County Waste Commission Citizens Advisory Committee. She is also a non-profit sponsor for the General Telephone Thousand Oaks Business Environmental Center and is a public member of the Countywide Recycling Consortium, the Southern California Council on Environment and Economic Development and of the Ventura County Council on Economic Vitality.



## **DANA HUFFMAN**

Dana Huffman was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women by Supervisor Maggie Kildee in February, 1994. She will lead the Education/Employment Committee, and serve on the Child Care Committee. Dana appreciates the opportunity provided by the VCCW to meet strong and dedicated women who are committed to the well-being of women, children, and families.

Dana received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Master of Science in Education Degree from California Lutheran University. She is a doctoral candidate at UCSB, completing her dissertation on early intervention programs and instructional strategies that contribute to academic success for students at risk of school failure.

Dana is co-incorporator and Administrative Director of *Smart Start Child Development Center*, a non-profit, non-sectarian child care organization. *Smart Start* is ready to begin providing child care services to Ojai Valley children, sponsored by a new Joint Powers Agency formed by the Ojai Unified School District and the City of Ojai.

Dana is currently teaching second grade at Meiners Oaks Elementary School, in Ojai. She has taught regular and special education in the Ojai Unified School District since 1980.

She lives near Lake Casitas, Ojai, and is married with five grown children and two (almost four!) grandchildren.

## LOIS HARRION

Lois Harrion was appointed to the Commission on November 19, 1991. She resides in Camarillo with her husband, Milton, a teacher in the Rio School District. They are the parents of a daughter, Karma, who is attending Eastern Michigan University.

Lois is a Registered Nurse and she is the Director of the Vocational Nursing Program in the Simi Valley Unified School District. As a consultant and independent trainer, specializing in Human Resource Management, she is co-owner of a consultant business, L'MARCA, based in Camarillo. She is a member and past president of the California Association of Health Careers Educators, a member of the National Black Nurses' Association, a past vice-president and current member of the Ventura County Black Nurses' Association, the California Council of Adult Education, and the Channel Islands Chapter of the Links, Inc. She is listed in the 1993-94 Edition of "Who's Who in Professional Nursing." Lois is a member of St. Anthony's Church in Oxnard and St. Brigid's Church of Los Angeles.

Lois is a lecturer, and author of the nursing text, Professional Issues in Practical/Vocational Nursing. She is a student of piano and she enjoys running, reading, and singing.

She is currently the chair of the Leadership Committee and serves on the Education and Salute to Women committees.

**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 1994 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 the full-time Adult Development Director for the Tres Condados Girl Scout Council and is a part-time loan consultant with Allen, Davis, Green & Cole, A Financial Corporation based in Camarillo. She is also the owner of Soaring Seagull Enterprises and A Dream Catcher, U.S.A., a healing and practical arts center in Camarillo. Ms. Siegel holds a 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 is the Charter President of Zonta, International of Ventura County, Director of Public Relations for the Ventura County Professional Women's Network and is a Lifetime member of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Her background and life experiences have given her a firsthand knowledge of the challenges which face women and she believes that serving on the Commission gives her the opportunity to help other women overcome some of those challenges.



## ROSEMARY BONCICH

Rosemary Boncich was appointed to the Commission for Women by Supervisor Vicky Howard in March, 1993. She is currently 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 is now the field sales manager for U.S. Gypsum, responsible for sales from Orange County to San Luis Obispo.

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, 5 and Matthew, 3.

### CONNIE LAWRASON

Mrs. Lawrason states she is really a "domestic engineer"; however, her activities prove otherwise. She is Moorpark's citizen representative to VCTC's Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC/SSTAC) which she chairs. She is a charter board member of the non-profit Ventura County Agriculture Land Trust and Conservancy. Connie served on the Countywide Planning Program Citizens Advisory Committee (CPP) which sunset September, 1993; and served as CPP's representative to Ventura Agricultural Land Trust Advisory Committee which sunset December, 1992.

Commissioner Lawrason is also very active within her community of Moorpark. She is President and life member of Moorpark Historical Society; Board member and Chair of Membership of W.O.M.E.N. (Women of Moorpark Enjoying Networking); a member of Moorpark's DART (Disaster Action Response Team); board and life member Moorpark Beautiful; member of Moorpark's Women's Fortnightly Club.

Commissioner Lawrason, along with her husband, are charter members of Moorpark's Kiwanis Club - a first for Kiwanis International in having a husband/wife as charter members. Mrs. Lawrason served on the board of Ventura County Crimestoppers; Moorpark's Disaster Council, their homeowners association board, and the Conejo Valley's "Y" fund-raising group. Together with her husband she co-chaired Moorpark's 1993-94 United Way campaign and raised 130% of its goal. They will again chair the 1994-95 campaign. She also served on the 1988-1989 Ventura County Grand Jury.

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

Connie is married to Paul Lawrason, Teledyne Electronic Systems-Contract Management and first elected, and re-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 thirty years. She has attended 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 Las Virgenes School District. She presently works for the Ventura County Library Services Agency.

Since being appointed to the Commission in November 1991, she has chaired the Women's History Project, chaired the Family Law Forum, and is the 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 has organized a local community effort to replace trees removed by a road-widening project. She has brought together county officials, local clubs, and many residents in an effort to preserve the beauty of Santa Rosa Valley.

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



### BEVERLEE McGRATH

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

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 1990-91. She is currently serving on the Executive Board, Health Care Committee, Program Committee and is the Treasurer of the Finance Committee.

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.