

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

county of ventura

Public Social Services Agency
505 Poli Street/Mail Code: 4400
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 652-7611 or 529-2060 x7611
FAX: (805) 652-7520

MINUTES

May 8, 1993

CAMARILLO AIRPORT CONFERENCE CENTER

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Celeste Weingardt called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Bysshe, Jones, Boncich, Siegel, Weingardt, Scovill, Harrion, Rogalsky, de la Selva, McGrath, Thomas, Harris-Murray, Jensen and Lawrason

Guests: Bonnie Warrington, Kathryn Swanson, Marissa Pugay, Nancy Lanza, Joan Howard, Deborah Burke, Roz McGrath and Kathy Long

REORDERING: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 1993 meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Chairperson's report - Weingardt

Commissioner's Bysshe and Thomas were thanked for their service as Sergeant at Arms.

It was noted that the Commission had information tables set up at the Ventura County Professional Women's Network April 15th meeting, Camarillo Women's Day and the Ventura College Resource Fair.

A letter of commendation from the CFW was sent to the Ventura County Child Care Network. A similar letter about the Network was sent to the local newspapers, letter's to the editor section, and ran in the Star-Free Press May 8, 1993 edition.

Annual officer elections for the Commission will be held at the June meeting.

The June meeting will be followed by a half-day Strategy Planning Session at McCarthy's Restaurant, 1101 Daily Dr., Camarillo, 11:00 to 2:00.

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Commission members:

DISTRICT I
Judy Bysshe
Mary Jones
Celeste Weingardt

May 11, 1993

DISTRICT II
Pat Harris-Murray
Jeannette Scovill
June Steffey

United Nations
COMMISSION ON WAR CRIMES
United States Plaza
New York, NY 10017

DISTRICT III
Lois Harrion
Peggy Jensen
Loma Siegel

Dear Sirs:

The Ventura County Commission for Women is gravely concerned over the ancient, barbaric and common practice of the rape of women and girls in war and military conflicts.

DISTRICT IV
Rosemary Boncich
Connie Lawrason
Virginia Rogalsky

Women and girls in war areas suffer the same deprivations, transgressions, and terror that all war victims endure. However, they are further violated by the practice and acceptance of rape as a characteristic of war.

DISTRICT V
Aurora de la Selva
Beverlee McGrath
Eliza Thomas

The enemies of rape victims are not only the perpetrators, but the international community which remains silent, invisible, or powerless when confronted with rape. Any valid and legitimate criteria for war crimes must include rape.

The Ventura County Commission for Women respectfully urges you to gather and mobilize support to declare rape in war or military conflicts as a war crime and proclaimed a war crime by the United Nations and the nations of the world. Additionally, we request that you provide us with information on what is currently being done to address this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Celeste Weingardt
Chair

CW/njw

cc: President Bill Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Congressman Elton Gallegly
Congressman Michael Huffington
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein

B. Finance Report - Thomas

Commissioner Thomas reported that all funds in the County Trust fund have been transferred to the Women's Activity fund to provide seed money for the Salute. The trust fund account has been closed out. There is currently 7341.37 in the treasury (prior to any Salute dispersements).

C. Health Committee - Thomas

Committee did not meet in April. Video tape on Drugs and Pregnancy reviewed.

D. Teen Pregnancy - Bysshe

Committee is continuing indepth interviews with girls; is getting a men's group together to do interviews with boys. Focus group training for men is in progress.

The committee has applied for a grant from Kaiser Permanente under the umbrella of the Ventura County Community Foundation.

The committee has offered speakers to other groups and asked for donation to this project to be given via the foundation and earmarked "Teen Pregnancy".

E. Law Forum - Rogalsky

The committee continues to work with Supervisor Howard's office to plan the Law Forum which will be held on June 26, 1993 at the Simi Valley Court House. It will be an all day affair covering all aspects of law of interest to the public. Marge Baxton, of the Ventura County Bar Association is also working on the event. There will be not cost to CFW for this event. It will be publicized throughout the county.

F. Legislative - McGrath

Commissioner McGrath reported that the bill authored by Rep. Pete Knight to remove the State Commission for Women was defeated.

Report on specific legislators: Senator Cathie Wright has not been very supportive of Status of Women. Legislators that have been supportive include: Assemblywomen Jackie Spier, Gwen Moore, Barbara Lee, Roybal-Allard, Delaine Easten and Assemblyman Jack O'Connell.

Motion: We set up group to meet with Cathie Wright to discuss womens' issues moved by Commissioner Lawrason, seconded by Commissioner Bysshe; ammended by Commissioner McGrath who moved we set up a meeting with Senator Wright to discuss specific bills and ask for her support. Seconded by Commissioner Rogalsky. Motion passed.

The Women In Action Lobby Day is scheduled for June 2, 1993, in Sacramento, at the Convention Center. Registration fee is \$35. Commissioner McGrath will collect applications today.

G. Women's Shelters - McGrath

Simi Safe Haven Shelter counseling programs- daytime Batterer's Hotline being offered.

Ventura Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence now has a 24 hour hot line for rape survivors, incest survivors, child abuse and rape.

H. Political Appointments Coalition - Rogalsky

Commissioner Rogalsky reported continuing difficulty with computer, but the problem is being worked on.

An opening on the Thousand Oaks Planning Commission was announced. The coalition continues to monitor the cities and county for openings.

Coalition is working towards community meetings/workshops in Ojai and Oxnard.

Letters are being sent to local city councils informing them of the efforts of the Women's Political Appointments Coalition and asking them to utilize our talent bank.

The coalition is waiting for the results of the county study on boards and commissions which is due out in June.

The Santa Barbara National Women's Political Caucus is running a workshop on how to get women appointed/elected on May 22nd. Fee is \$25.00. Contact Kathy Long for details.

I. Salute to Women - Siegel

The 1993 Salute to Women will be a dinner & dance at the Oxnard Hilton on Saturday, October 9, 1993. Nomination forms are being distributed.

J. Childcare report - Weingardt

The state licensing office is still backed up approximately 3 months.

K. Housing report - Scovill (with supplemental report from Bonnie Warrington, Ventura County Housing Authority)

The Family Self-sufficiency Grant Administration Consortium which is being organized by the Area Housing Authority, is pulling together various county agencies to collate help for people in need of housing, employment, child care, health care and other basic needs in a holistic approach to moving people off public assistance and enabling them to provide for themselves. Literacy is one of the target areas. Commissioner Scovill has agreed to work with one of the consortium sub-committees.

Commissioner Scovill is also working with Countywide Recycling Consortium and other groups which are addressing the issue of using recycled materials for construction in affordable housing and with the Ventura Council of Governments regarding growth management.

L. Other Commission's for Women - Bysshe

In this newly developed monitoring position, Commissioner

Bysshe gave a summary of the actions and direction of Commission's for Women that send information to our office. Based on a copy of the letter to the United Nations from the San Bernardino County Commission for Women sent to us by the San Bernardino Commission, Commissioner Bysshe suggested that we send a similar letter asking the U.N. to declare rape against women during war time a war crime and to send us information on what efforts in this direction are being made. It was so moved by Commissioner de la Selva, with an addition that letters also be sent to State and Federal Legislators as well as President Clinton. Seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by the Commission.

M. Public Relation - Boncich

Press list is now on computer. Requested that anyone who knows a personal contact with media pass that information on to the PR committee. Commissioner de la Selva volunteered to translate all press released for Spanish language newspapers and radio.

Scrapbook on CFW activities is being compiled. Commissioner Jones is taking photos of the commissioners for future newsletters, etc.

Commissioner Boncich reminded other committees to contact PR committee well in advance of events.

N. District Reports

All 5 Board of Supervisors offices' were contacted requesting feedback from the Supervisors concerning CFW direction.

Districts I, II V: Contacted, no new direction suggested.

District III: Concern with priorities, discussed non-profit status option. Willing to help with some photocopying, supplies and secretarial work.

District IV: Pleased with commission efforts; law forum a priority.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Bysshe reminded everyone to supply data for annual report.

Commissioner Rogalsky provided information about a National Women's History project (donation; card sent) as a way to honor mother's on Mothers Day.

Commissioner Thomas suggested that commission members should visit other Commission's for Women.

Commissioner Lawrason announced Moorpark City Council looking at ordinance to forbid smoking in all public areas. Meeting is May 19th, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 and was immediately followed by the first meeting of the Assembly of Represent-

atives.

Pat Harris-Murray
Acting Recorder

Commissioner Bynum gave a summary of the action and discussed the Commission's for Women that sent information to the United States based on a copy of the letter to the United States from the San Bernardino County Commission for Women sent to us by the San Bernardino Commission. Commissioner Bynum suggested that we send a similar letter asking the U.S. to declare wage equality women during war time a war crime and to send us information on what efforts in this direction are being made. It was so moved by Commissioner de la Solva. With an addition that letters also be sent to State and Federal Legislators as well as President Clinton. Seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by the Commission.

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District IV: Pleased with completed effort; law forms a priority.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Bynum reminded everyone to supply data for annual report.

Commissioner Rosales provided information about a National Women's History project (donation card sent) as a way to honor Mother's on Mother's Day.

Commissioner Thomas suggested that commission members should visit other Commission's for Women.

Commissioner Larsson announced Northridge City Council looking at ordinance to forbid smoking in all public areas. Meeting in May 1988, 7 p.m.

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