

Aug deadline for Sept newsletter
30 DEC. 30 deadline

Volume 2006, Issue 1

Spring-2006

VCCW On The Move



Ventura County
Commission for Women

Newsletter

Ventura County Commission for Women

Special Points of Interest

- New members
- Bonnie Warrington-Commissioner Extraordinaire
- Women's History Month
- Community Calendar

New Commission Faces

Two new commissioners have joined the Commission to fill vacancies created by illness and other personal reasons.

The new faces belong to Debbi Steele, appointed by Supervisor Steve Bennett, District I, Lee Riggan and Mary Pallant, appointed by Supervisor Linda Parks, District II,

Continuing to serve on the Commission are: Cecilia Fargo and Diana Goodrow, District I; Janis Gardner, District II; Sharon Hillbrant and Nancy Lee Phillips, District III; Jan Lawrence and Cindy Hollister, District IV; Ina Howard and Ruth Ann McAllister, District V.

Currently there is ~~one~~³ vacancy in District V, Supervisor John Flynn. Anyone interested in being appointed should call his office at (805) 487-6331. More information about the Commission is available by calling (805) 652-7611.

Officers: This year's officers are Diana Goodrow, Chair; Nancy Lee Phillips, Co-Chair; Ruth Ann McAllister, Treasurer; Cynthia Hollister, Recording Secretary; Debbi Steele, Correspondence Secretary.

The Ventura County Commission for Women is interested in all issues affecting the quality of life of women.

If you or your agency would like to make a presentation to the Commission relating to an issue of importance to women, please contact Commission ~~President~~^{Chair} Diana Goodrow at 805-652-7611.

"Here, in the first paragraph of the Declaration [of Independence], is the assertion of the natural right of all to the ballot; for how can "the consent of the governed" be given, if the right to vote be denied?" - Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906

Our Website...

Yes, we have our very own website: www.vchsa.org/cfw/. It contains our meeting minutes, agendas and newsletters, as well as upcoming events in Ventura County. We also try to keep it full of articles of interest to all women, covering county wide as well as national and world issues. We welcome input from our readers. If you have an event that you would like us to mention on the website, please forward it via email to cindyh@vel.net.

What is the Commission for Women?

The Ventura County Commission for Women, established in 1981, encourages, supports and facilitates the empowerment and education of Ventura County women. The Commission serves as advisor to the Board of Supervisors on issues impacting and relating to women, and coordinates efforts with federal, state and local community groups to improve the quality of life for women. In addition, at the request of the Board of Supervisors, the Commission will undertake studies or tasks assigned or approved by the Board of Supervisors, depending on resources being provided.

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BONNIE WARRINGTON: Commissioner Extraordinaire!!

"Women and children are my passions", says Bonnie Warrington. "I know what it's like to be struggling, and to be a woman discriminated against. My professional and volunteer work have all been organized around making things easier for another woman, another child, another family."

Bonnie has been named "Woman of the Year" by several different Ventura County organizations. She was honored by Soroptimist International of the Americas for her work in "Human Rights and Status of Women"; she was recognized as "Networker of the Year" by the Ventura County Professional Women's Network; and chosen as one of 2006's remarkable women by the Ventura National Political Committee for it's 2006 Women's History Calendar.

Service and duty were ingrained in Bonnie from a young age. Her family served our country in the military in World War I, Iraq and in local law enforcement.

Bonnie was hired as the administrative assistant for the Ventura County Commission for Women in 1981. When the budget was cut, she was appointed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as a volunteer in order that the work continue. She was a part-time employee for Conejo Youth Employment Services in Thousand Oaks. She also monitored residential care facilities for the "Long Term Care Ombudsman Service", worked as a Senior Housing Assistant for Ventura County's Housing Authority and was the legislative chair for the Camino Real Region for the past 14 years. "We have to change laws to assist women to parity."

Bonnie's enduring passion is in Soroptimist, an international women's organization. "We train women to be leaders," Bonnie explains, "to speak powerfully, and to be effective in all aspects of their lives."

"My father told me when I was young," Bonnie says, "that community service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy on this earth."

After serving on the Ventura County Commission for Women since it's inception, we regretfully accepted Bonnie's letter of resignation. She is moving to be closer to her family, and will no longer be in Ventura County. She will be greatly missed by all, but "ESPECIALLY by VCCW".

January Visits to the Supervisors

In January, the Commissioners in each district met with their respective Supervisors. The purpose of VCCW is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors. In addition to making recommendations for the Board, it's our job to also keep them informed of activities and needs of women and families in Ventura County. With that in mind, we met to inform, and also to find out from our Supervisors what, if any, specific tasks they had for us. It was a great opportunity to meet, and share strategy on ways to make our Commission more effective on all levels. We plan to meet often to continue to find ways to make VCCW a more viable Commission for the women of Ventura County.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.VCHSA.ORG/CFW/

*"To choose is
also to begin"*
....Starhawk

Good Web Links to Know About:

National Women's History Program: www.nwhp.org/

National Women's Hall of Fame: www.greatwomen.org/

Anthony Center for Women's Leadership: www.rochester.edu/SBA/

National Organization for Women: www.now.org/

Women's Human Rights Int'l Human Rights Concerns:

The Commission holds it's Saturday monthly meetings in the Los Altos School Library at 700 Temple Avenue in Camarillo. The meetings are open to the public.

Women's History Month

On Tuesday, March 7, the Board of Supervisors presented VCCW with a proclamation in honor of Women's History Month. Diana Goodrow, Chairperson from District I, received the proclamation at the event. There were several other Commissioners in attendance, including: Mary Pallant, Lee Riggan and Janis Gardner, District II, Supervisor Parks; Cecilia Fargo, District I, Supervisor Bennett; Nancy Lee Phillips and Sharon Hillbrant, District III, Supervisor Long; Jan Lawrence, District III, Supervisor Mikels; Ina Howard and Ruth Ann McAllister, District V, Supervisor Flynn..

Women's History Month has traditionally been an active month for VCCW Commissioners and this year was no exception. Each Commissioner took information provided by Commissioners Pallant and McAllister and distributed it to schools and libraries in their area. Mary and Ruth Ann put together a quiz on 'women in history'. Do you know about the impact women have made on our country and the world? Go to our website www.vchsa.org/cfw and take the quiz yourself. In addition, the Commissioners handed out "Women Builders of Communities" bookmarks from the

National Women's History Project. For more information on NWHP, go to www.nwhp.org.

Two of the Commissioners, Diana Goodrow, District I and Lee Riggan,, District II, staffed a booth at the first Oxnard College International Women's Day Celebration. It was a huge success and is destined to be an ANNUAL event for us all. (We also were involved with the very successful Women's Economic Justice Project's International Women's Day Conference, with a large network of women's groups at UC Santa Barbara.

Supervisor Recognizes Commissions and Boards

Supervisor Steve Bennett, District I, held a special appreciation day on Wednesday, April 19th at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. Supervisor Bennett took this opportunity to thank his District I (volunteer) appointees for all of their time and contributions to District I. There to receive the appreciation were VCCW Commissioners Cecilia Fargo, Diana Goodrow and Debbi Steele, all appointees by Supervisor Bennett.

*Supervisor Steve Bennett
thanks his District I
volunteer appointees for
all of their time and
contribution to District I.*

Ventura County Commission for Women

505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001 ▪ (805) 652-7611

www.vchsa.org/cfw/

Community Calendar

May 20 Perla Batalla and Mariachi's Aguilars de Mexico. Women's Economic Justice Benefit Concert, 7:00 p.m., Church of Religious Science, Ventura. Tickets available online at www.coastalalliance.com or call the CAUSE office at 805-658-0810.

June ? CalWorks presentation, 9:30 a.m. at the meeting of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, County Government Center, Ventura. For more information, contact VCCW, 805-652-7611 (658-4193)

July 21 Commission to present annual report to the Board of Supervisors, County Government Center, Ventura. For more information, contact VCCW, 805-652-7611 (658-4193)

July 28 Jane Roberts, Nobel Peace prize nominee, will speak at 7:00 p.m. at Cal Lutheran College. Ms. Roberts started the grassroots organization, *34 Million Friends*, to support the United Nations Population Fund. For more information, contact Global Exchange or VCCW.

August 26 Write for Your Rights event sponsored by the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network, 2-4 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura. For more information, contact Monica Welch at 805-777-3841, extension 106.

October 14 (14) Ventura County Women's Economic Justice Forum, Simi Valley. Contact VCCW at 805-652-7611 (658-4193) for more information.

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4225 Savins Rd. - July 8
Open House