

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

3161 Loma Vista Road  
Ventura, California  
Minutes - November 12, 1983

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lauren Anderson  
Mary Baird  
Alicia Ramirez-Brewer  
Ginny Connell  
Dot Engel  
Tila Estrada  
Brook Hubbell  
Mary Jane Johns  
Erin Sheffield

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Lupe Gonsalves  
Ida Richardson  
Sandy Ryder

The meeting was held at the Camarillo Public Library and was called to order by Co-Chair Jo Anne Moore at 9:15 a.m.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Alicia Ramirez-Brewer to the Commission. She is newly appointed by Supervisor Maggie Erickson to represent District III.

I. REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

The minutes were approved as submitted.

II. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. The following items of correspondence were received:

1. A thank-you letter from Carol Haverty, recipient of the 1983 "Salute To Women" Businesswoman award.
2. A letter from Carol Keochekian announcing her resignation from this Commission. The letter was read aloud. All agreed that Carol's presence on the Commission will be missed. She has been appointed to serve on the County Regional Recreation Advisory Commission.
3. A letter from Maria Diaz and a copy of the County Affirmative Action Advisory Committee Report for 1983.
4. A letter from Sandy Tripp, Community College District Office and a copy of the College District Status of Women Advisory Committee Report for 1983.
5. A letter from California Lutheran College requesting the Commission's continued sponsorship of the annual Creative Options for Women for 1984.

Executive Secretary's Report (cont'd)

6. A letter from Supervisor John Flynn requesting the Commission consider changing the meeting date to other than Saturday mornings.
7. A letter to past Co-chair Yvonne Bodle from Senator David Roberti regarding the 1983-84 budget for the State Commission on the Status of Women.
8. A letter from Judge Perrin regretting that he was unable to attend the "Salute To Women" awards banquet.
9. From Byrdenne Johnson, winner of the 1983 "Salute To Women" Homemaker award, each commissioner received a delicious thank-you...a loaf of homemade bread!

B. The following items of correspondence were sent:

1. A letter to Maria Diaz, Affirmative Action Officer, thanking her for her presentation to the Commission at the October meeting.
2. A letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Affirmative Action Office programs and the efforts to provide training to county employees.
3. A letter to the California Commission on the Status of Women informing them of the recommendations sent by this Commission to the National Association of Commissions for Women for the setting of priorities.
4. A letter to Hannah-Beth Jackson inviting her to attend the November 12th meeting of the Commission.
5. A letter to businesswoman Sallyann Beaver regarding the public meeting on November 12th.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Ginny Connell reported that as of Oct. 14, 1983, 31% of the fiscal year has elapsed and 20% of the budget has been spent.
- B. Ginny has written an article to be included in the next issue of the newsletter requesting readers and supporters to become sponsors of the newsletter by sending a donation of \$25 to the Commission.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Child Care Committee

1. Dot Engel and other members of the Committee have requested a meeting of the full committee to bring to a close a number of items dealing with the committee's projects.

The meeting has been set for Wednesday, Dec. 7th, 7:30 p.m., Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Rd.

2. The Committee is still waiting for word from Clint Tatum, CAO's office, regarding the County Employees' Needs Assessment for Child Care.
3. Brook Hubbell announced that the copyright has been received from the Library of Congress for the KISS brochure.
4. Brook Hubbell spoke at CSU Northridge on the work of the Child Care Committee and the Working Parents Symposium, and distributed copies of the KISS brochure.
5. Mary Baird announced that the Private Industry Council is in agreement with the idea of charging for the KISS brochures. Dot Engel has talked with Clint Tatum about it but approval is still needed from his office.
6. Dot Engel has information on requirements for submitting grant proposals for Child Care Committee project funds. John Chase, Private Industry Council, is willing to work with the Committee to write a proposal but the deadline is very close.

B. Communications

Lauren Anderson, new editor of the newsletter, is in the process of gathering information for the next issue and expects it to be ready soon.

C. Banquet Committee

No report.

D. Women's History Week

1. Ginny Connell, Task Force Chair, reported that the Women's Equity Coalition has bought and donated to the County Curriculum Services Department two sets of the following resource materials on women's history:

Women's History Week (cont'd)

Women's History Lesson Plans  
Curriculum Guide  
Recommended Resource Bibliography  
Community Organizing Guide for Women's History Week

One set of the materials is at the Curriculum Office, 535 E. Main St. Ventura; the other set is at the Instructional Materials Display Center, Camarillo Airport.

The Women's Equity Coalition has also purchased a copy of the Women's History Project's tape/slide program, "History Revisited" which will be used by the Task Force for future presentations.

2. Mar Vista High School in Ventura has requested 6 packets of information on NWHW for interested teachers.
3. Letters are being sent to each elementary and secondary school principal requesting the name of a contact teacher to be responsible for organizing Women's History Week activities and programs.
4. Ginny requested volunteers to serve as coordinators for linking Community Resource Women volunteers with the schools which request presentations.

E. Legislative Analysis Committee

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

F. By-laws Review Committee

No meeting of the Committee was held last month. No replacement on the committee was named for Steve Wiman who has resigned. The remaining members hope to have a meeting prior to the next monthly meeting of the Commission.

V. INFORMATION

The Commission welcomed Hannah-Beth Jackson, attorney, who spoke on what many people consider to be a key issue of the 80's, the feminization of poverty.

Ms. Jackson stated that while many individual women are making progress in careers and in improving their financial position, women as a group are not making significant improvement. She identified several areas where women still encounter resistance and by which their progress is limited:

Information (cont'd)

Job Opportunity  
Comparable Worth  
Sexual Harassment  
Job Training  
Lack of Child Care  
Lack of Child Support  
Lack of pension/ income for elderly and handicapped women

Some statistics cited by Ms. Jackson are:

- One in seven American families is headed by a woman.
- One-third of those families live below the poverty level.
- 64% - 65% of people in poverty are women and children.
- When a family breaks up, the usual result is that the man becomes single and the woman becomes a single mother.
- After divorce a man's standard-of-living income increases by 43%; a woman's decreases by over 70%.
- The average child support awarded by courts in California is \$110 a month. Less than half of that support is being paid.
- 80% of the women in the paid labor force are employed in just 20 of the 420 occupational categories listed by the Dept. of Labor and they are the lowest paying categories.
- 75% of elderly people in poverty are women.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Joint Meeting

This Commission has been invited to participate in a joint meeting with the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Commissions for Women on Dec. 3rd. The meeting will be held in Santa Barbara, tentatively scheduled from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

The purpose of the meeting is to share information about successful projects and to discuss plans for future projects of each Commission. Ventura County Commissioners will share information on the Child Care Project (Mary Baird, Dot Engel, Brook Hubbell), Women's History Week activities (Ginny Connell), "Salute To Women" awards and banquet (Erin Sheffield).

Ginny Connell moved, Dot Engel seconded and the motion carried to have the joint meeting serve as the regular December meeting for this Commission. The public is invited to attend.

B. Needs Assessment

Dot Engel moved, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer seconded and the motion carried that the Commission reaffirm its goal of conducting a needs assessment for the women in Ventura County and that we work closely with the Commission on Human Concerns to accomplish this goal.

Lee Riggan, Executive Director of the Commission on Human Concerns, and Bonnie Warrington, Chair of the Commission on Human Concerns, were both present at the meeting and made valuable comments and suggestions concerning the needs assessment. One of the suggested procedures is to hold public hearings/meetings in various communities in the county to get first-hand information about the needs of women in those communities.

C. Coalition Against Household Violence

Jo Anne Moore presented a request from the Coalition Against Household Violence that the Commission for Women become involved in the monitoring process for the Presley funds. Those funds come from marriage license fees and are used to fund programs and services for victims of domestic violence. In Ventura County the Board of Supervisors determines the allocation of the Presley funds.

The Commissioners decided that it would be appropriate at this time to express an interest to the Board of Supervisors in the process of allocating, monitoring and administering the Presley funds and to ask for information from the CAO on that process.

The Executive Secretary was directed to write a letter asking for that information.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. No information from Yvonne Bodle concerning the domestic violence forum had been received; therefore, no discussion was held.
- B. Erin Sheffield suggested the formation of a separate, very active support group to serve as the Friends of the Commission which would assist in the activities of the Commission. She will present a formal proposal in January.
- C. The Commission voted to co-sponsor Camarillo Women's Day which is scheduled for May 12, 1984 and appointed Pat Blair of Camarillo to be the Commission's liaison on the Steering Committee.

The Commission voted to co-sponsor Creative Options Day at California Lutheran College which will be on March 3, 1984.

New Business (cont'd)

D. Public Relations Issues

Erin Sheffield suggested and the Commission agreed to send a letter to the editors of county newspapers which would clarify the purposes of the Commission and tell about the Commission's programs and activities.

E. Meeting Dates

The Commissioners discussed alternative days and/or times for the regular monthly meetings. It was decided to continue meeting on Saturday mornings and to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month whenever possible.

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The December meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, in Santa Barbara, at the Santa Barbara Savings and Loan Bldg., 1704 State Street at Valerio Street, at 9:30 a.m.

The January meeting of the Commission will be on Saturday, January 21, 1984, at the Camarillo Public Library, Don Adolfo room, 3100 Ponderosa Drive, Camarillo, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Baskerville