

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING**

Date: **Saturday, August 3, 2013**

Location: **851 Via Colinas, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 (Near Westlake High School)**

Phone: **805-901-4614**

3:30 P.M.

1. Committee & District Reports, Discussion & Recommendations for Action:
 - a. Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County Community Conversations (Shanté Morgan-Durisseau's Leadership):
 1. Suggested entities
 - Local Organizations we belong to or have a relationship with
 - Business organizations
 - Cities
 - Schools
 2. Suggested Individuals – Commissioners may give the presentations (?)
 3. Support VCCF in their Community Conversations
 - b. NACW Report & Resolutions
 1. Report
 2. Resolutions
 - 1. A resolution Calling for Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
 - 2. A Resolution to Stop Sexual Assault in the Military
 - 3. A Resolution to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of American Women: Report of the President's Commission on the Status of Women
 - 4. A Resolution to Restore the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to the Farm Bill
 - 5. A Resolution Supporting the United Nations Adoption of a 5th World Conference on Women
 - 6. A Resolution to Urge Congress to Update the Voting Rights Act
 - 7. A Resolution Calling for Starting a Conversation on Racial Equality and Injustice
2. Discussion & Action:
 - a. Discussion of Board of Supervisors Dissolution of the Commission for Women

I met with Linda Parks (July 31, 2013 at 2 p.m.). We had a nice long talk. She said that the Commission for Women will be dissolved this coming Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors meeting in Ventura. In its place they are proposing to start the "Women's Economic Roundtable" to address career choices/opportunities and pay inequities. They will not do studies (needs assessments) but rather conferences every two years. They will seek women's groups buy-in through their recommendations for appointments to this new organization. They are proposing a 10 Membership group with 2 appointees from each Supervisor, residency will not matter. Funding may be available through Linda Parks and Kathy Long but this probably hasn't been thought out. They think in may not be needed as they may seek funding through sponsors, etc. like the Senior Conference they hold. Linda attended the National Business Women Owners Conference recently and believes such organizations could support it as well as the Chamber of Commerce, Universities, Workforce Investment Board, and local women's organizations. After the Tuesday event, Linda proposed that a luncheon will be arranged if VCCW Chair Kitty Dill thinks it is appropriate, and certificates of appreciation and expressions of thanks and goodbyes will be the agenda at that time. The Brown Act will not be affecting that meeting Linda said. My thought is this: The Commission for Women was set up to advise the BoS and its advice is no longer of interest to them. If there was a desire to continue the Commission it would have to become a non-profit. This new organization, WER, sounds similar to the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative which is a non-profit. The manner in which this is being undertaken is aggressive to limit the negative impact on the BoS I believe, and to limit any "picketing". Also the BoS has not been happy with VCCW, the study as only "received and files",

and their appointees have all given them negative reports on VCCW so this is one way to address the "problem".

My recommendation is that we have a meeting on Saturday after 3 pm (I have a class 8-3pm on that day) and finish all of our business - final reports and recommendations if possible.

PS. Linda wanted to send Certificates of Appreciation and a letter to all Commissioners but found out the Brown Act prevents her from doing this (she called later and told me this).

Meeting Agenda possibilities: NACW Resolutions to approve and recommend to the BoS; Final Annual Report 2011-13; Plans for following up on the distribution of the study; Final letter to the BoS and any recommendations on the new direction.

These are my thoughts right now:

1. The Board of Supervisors is difficult to work with, and they have not provided directions as to how to improve working with them. Supervisor Zaragoza as Board Chair was the most helpful in 2011 (the agendaing and resultant ratification of the Study and funding). There has been no response to Debra's letter to the BoS explaining problems. The BoS has responded to our current letter by ending VCCW, but without a direct response to the letter. We never had our Study Session.

2. The CEO analysis was to study us, met with us, attended our meetings, but we have not seen her report. It must have been a negative report as it may have justified the dissolution of VCCW.

3. When Commissioners resigned they gave disgruntled reports to their Supervisors. These supervisors never requested a response from us. In fact, we were never notified that these people resigned. (This was to be corrected by proposed Policies & Procedures)

4. The VCCW Commissioners have been working to address the problems that we have identified in hopes of making the Commission better and improving our working relationship with each other. All this we have done without a response or help from the Supervisors (in that process one Supervisor suggested we write our Policies & Procedures, which we did draft), but just the exercise of their power to not appoint any new commissioners, a slow death process (3 vacancies in both Bennett, Long districts; one vacancy in Parks district although I had been told they were appointing someone, but not who; Zaragoza's non attending representative). The message is clear that they do not want to give us more time to straighten this out. Nor do they trust us to do it.

5. Problems or issues I believe are concerns of the BoS: (Details are not described here, but Commissioners know the detail, and the pain all of this has caused us.)

- * Status on Women & Girls - a needs assessment with recommendations that overstepped jurisdictions

- * Negative resignations from appointees

- * Women's Forum Collaborative not becoming part of VCCW - A major problem for VCCW was naming it a "Collaborative" and then trying to claim ownership.

- * The VCCW funding from 3 grants and ticket sales

- * The Petty Cash Bank Account instituted years before any of us were even appointed.

- * No direction from BoS/County on how to approach them to obtain their advice, direction &/or approval for the purposes described in the VCCW bylaws; and no response when we tried.

Example: Last approved bylaws were 1998 according to the CEO analyst.

6. Commissioners have often felt the Commission was at the bottom of the totem pole as far as BoS thoughts are, but it was at the top of Commissioners "totem pole", that is it was high in our priority. We were there because of our belief that a Commission for Women is important to bring to the BoS the issues in the community as seen by the people in it. There are over 300 people the Supervisors appoint to serve in different organizations hoping as we do to make the County a better place, to make a difference. To help the Supervisors to do their job. I thought one person who did that for 17 years deserved a letter/certificate at her retirement from her Supervisor. Perhaps we are waiting for that "Hell Freezes Over" event.

7. The two Supervisors who are proposing to sunset the VCCW and sunrise the WER are willing to give it all the support it needs, and if the women's organizations will support it also then it will be successful for a time and welcomed. But, all Diana's concerns are justified and should be heard by the BoS and community.

Those are my thoughts.

Lee Riggan, Commissioner 2005-2013

b. Approval of Recommendations for VCCW Replacement: Women's Economic Roundtable

- Recommend: A mediation policy for resolving disagreements between members – Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement, a non-profit organization may assist for free. Their usual fee is \$50/person for 3 hours. They are located at 1200 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 170, Camarillo, CA 93010, 805-384-1313; <http://www.vcds.bz/home.html>
- Recommend: Procedures described in writing for the appointees for receiving input and approval from BofS
- Recommend: Ongoing support and participation from BoS

C. Approval of Action for Closing of Office & Return of Badges

- Files Boxed in some order. Boxes may be obtained from the Department. Ask Cat, the Manager for assistance.
- Return of Donated items. If they are not to be returned to Nancy Lee Phillips they can be given to the Department Manager if they could use them or to Commissioners.
- All badges' time terminates at August 31, 2013 unless extensions are requested through Dian Voss at 4651 Telephone Road, #200, Ventura, CA 93003. This is also where we pick up the VCCW mail.
- Return badges to John F. Johnston Drive on the Ventura County property behind the Jail. From the office on Market Street turn left on Telephone Road, left on S. Victoria Ave, and right on John F. Johnston Drive to Parking Lot H Service Building. Give the Clerk inside your badge. It may be best to get a receipt.

d. Approval of Action for Closing Website & Posting of the Study on State Website?

- Post a notice on this website that the VCCW is dissolved as of August 6, 2013 or what ever date it is determined to be.
- Seek permission of the organizations below to carry the Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2012 Study on their websites.

e. Approval of Notifications to CAWA, RRN, ACCW, NACW, CA Commission on the Status of Women & Girls, Camarillo Police Department, & to local women's organizations. In addition, consider becoming a member of these organizations where associate memberships are offered.

- 1) ACCW – Association of California Commissions for Women,
4140 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266;
Phone 408-398-5100 Suzanne Doty Email: suzannedoty@sbcglobal.net
Website: <http://accwomen.org>
Dues: \$50.00

- Mission of ACCW: to promote viability, strength, and effectiveness of member Commissions within the State of California.
- **What are the goals of ACCW?**
- To ensure that Commissions exist in every county or city, and that they are fully funded, permanent, and independent government entities that give California women a voice.
- **What is the objective of the ACCW?**
- To develop a statewide agenda on issues of concern to women within California and to ensure implementation of key policy and legislative changes that address these concerns and give California women the best quality of life possible.

- 2) NACW – National Association of Commissions for Women

3208 Calle de Estella, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104,
Phone: 855-703-6229 (toll free) E-mail: info@nacw.org
<http://nacw.org>
Dues \$50.00

- NACW is the national advocate for government commissions for women which holds a unique and positive position for women's equity and justice and touches millions of women, playing a significant role in national policy and legislative development.
- NACW, the advocate for all women, is the bridge between government and the private sector. Membership reflects all age, economic, ethnic and social groups.

3) VCRRN – Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network,
PO Box 6601, Ventura, CA 93006-6601,
Phone: 805-722-5444,
www.bit.ly/VCRRN
Dues: \$25.00

- The VCRRN is dedicated to protecting and advocating the fundamental human right of women to control their bodies and reproductive lives through reproductive self-determination.
- Reproductive Freedom embraces the right to privacy, the right to education and information that empower individuals to make informed uncoerced decisions about sexuality and reproduction; and the right to nondiscriminatory access to confidential, comprehensive reproductive health care services; and the autonomy to exercise all of these rights..

4) CAWA – California Women's Agenda – Women's Intercultural Network
1950 Hayes Street, Suite Two, San Francisco, CA 94117 USA
Phone 415-221-4841 Fax: 415-373-3932 • Email : win@WINaction.org
<http://WINaction.org>
Dues: \$25.00

- "A Network that organizes, not an organization that networks"
- WIN (Women's Intercultural Network) built the first policy mechanism to implement the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1996.
- CAWA is the grassroots mechanism WIN established for this purpose.
- WIN partners with US Women Connect in the USA and globally through Calling the Circle of Women in Uganda, Afghanistan, Japan, the Philippines and other country 'circles, networks and alliances.
- WIN is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) consultative to the United Nations, is a member of the UN CSW NGO NY and brings delegates to the UN CSW every year. In 2013 the UN CSW Theme was "The Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women." See Tweets and Weblog for current postings and follow the yellow Beijing+ balloon for ongoing reports

5) VCWFC – Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative
PO Box 7003, Ventura, CA 93006
<http://www.vcwf.org/contact.html>
Dues: \$25.00

- The VCWFC hosts forums for Ventura County community to discuss and plan action around the 12 Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) critical areas of concern.

6) California Commission on the Status of Women & Girls –
<http://women.ca.gov/>

- The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, a nonpartisan state agency, was created with a view to developing recommendations which enable women to make the maximum

contribution to society. The Commission provides information on issues that affect the lives of women and girls including the areas of gender equity in the media; educational needs of women and girls; gender in the workplace and employment; health and safety of women and girls; and women in the military, women veterans, and military families. phone: (916) 651-5405 fax: (916) 651-5406 email: info@women.ca.gov

- Executive Director Rebecca Blanton:
- E-mail: Rebecca.Blanton@women.ca.gov
- Commission Headquarters:
900 N Street, Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

7) Camarillo Police Department – 3701 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010 Attn: Dep. Molino, Community Resource Officer, 805-388-5100

- Submit a letter of appreciation for their provision of their Community Room for approximately 4 years - 2010-2013 and information about the action of the BoS.

f. Approval of Closing of Accounts & Distribution of Funds

- Petty Cash Balance is \$343.77 - These funds may be donated to another non-profit (such as WLF) or returned to the contributors. A spread sheet was prepared using percentage of contribution to disburse the balance of the funds in the account.
- VCCF/VCCW – \$1,977.68 - Recommend that these funds be allocated to the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative.
- WLF & VCCF grants - \$500 balance

g. Approval of News Release on Closing

- Other women's organizations have received notice of the dissolution of the VCCW by the BoS on August 6, 2013. Therefore VCCW could release their own message.
- What is the message – it is on our accomplishments and our wish for the future.

h. Approval of Final Annual Report (2011-2013)

i. Approval of Resolutions for Board of Supervisors

20 } Jan
50 }
150 }

220
343.77

563.77