



# COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

505 POLI STREET, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93001  
652-7611 or 529-2060, ext. 7611 fax: 652-7520

FALL 1992

## LEGISLATIVE WATCH

The Commission maintains a watch on Sacramento activity through our Legislative Liaison, Beverlee McGrath, who keeps us apprised of bills affecting women and children. The following is some of the legislation we have been tracking.



### AB1488 (Jackie Speier) CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP COUNCIL

This bill would create within the Department of Commerce the California Women's Business Ownership Council. The bill in general tries to remove barriers in the state in order to help women owning small businesses.

### AB2337 (Mickey Conroy) RESTRAINING ORDERS

This bill would mandate peace officers to make a good faith effort to contact a judge for a restraining order in domestic violence cases (especially during off hours).

### AB962 (Alpert) CHILD CARE HEALTH CARE TRAINING

This bill requires all family child care providers and at least one child care center staff member to have 15 hours of emergency and preventive health care training as a condition of licensure. Training will include a minimum of 4 hours of pediatric CPR, 8 hours of pediatric first aid, and 3 hours of preventive health practices. Requirements become effective January 1, 1995.

## COMMISSION UPDATE

The Commission for Women was established by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 1981 to serve in an advisory capacity to the Supervisors on issues impacting and relating to women. To that end, the Commission for Women has developed several committees to study or monitor specific issues and make recommendations. The Supervisors have also asked the commission to sponsor or coordinate a number of community events. We also keep abreast of the activities of other groups supportive of these interests and work with them on common goals.

The following is a summary of the activities the commission has been involved in in recent months, and a look ahead to coming events.

### WOMEN'S POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS COALITION

The Women's Political Appointments Coalition was established last year at the urging of Supervisor Maggie Erickson-Kildee and with the support of all the County Supervisors as a means of bringing more women into the political process.

The coalition has sponsored two half-day workshops; one in Thousand Oaks which was co-sponsored by the Thousand Oaks branch of A.A.U.W. (American Association of University Women), and one in Ventura which was co-sponsored by the Ventura County League of Women Voters. At each of the workshops guest and local speakers presented information about the appointments process at the city, county and state levels.

The coalition is presently planning a third workshop to be held

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1992 at MOORPARK COLLEGE. This forum will emphasize east county, with Supervisors Vicky Howard and Maria Vanderkolk speaking along with city council members and a city clerk representing the cities of Moorpark, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. Commissioners from several boards and commissions will also be on hand to talk about their commission, their own personal history in the political process, and to give advise to others interested in pursuing a political appointment.

The coalition is open to anyone interested in becoming involved. Please call our office at 652-7611 for information regarding the date and location of the next planning meeting.

## **WOMEN'S HISTORY AWARD LUNCHEON**

The Women's History Award Luncheon is an annual event organized by the Commission for Women at the direction of the Board of Supervisors to recognize educators and community activists who have promoted the history of women during the year. This year's luncheon was held in March at the Radisson Suite Hotel. Awards were presented to educators Diane Dowler and Geraldine Wilson, and to community activist Diane Zeamba.

It is never too early to start planning next years' program, so let us know if you have anyone special in mind that should be considered for this award.

## **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**

The highlight for the Health Care Committee in 1991 was their participation in a Pap Clinic which was sponsored by the Ventura County Hispanic Nurses Association. In addition to financial support contributed by the Commission, several commissioners were actively involved in the day. Over 100 women - primarily low-income, Spanish speaking women - received pap smears and breast exams.

The commission looks forward to working with the Nurses Association again in future clinics.

## **BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

The Commission for Women maintains a connection with the Domestic Violence Shelters through a monitor who reports that both shelters in the county are currently operating at full capacity. These shelters provide supportive programs for women and their children such as counseling, baby sitting and educational assistance in addition to basic services: clothing, food and shelter.

## **FAMILY LAW FORUM**

The Commission for Women hosted a day-long Family Law Forum at Oxnard College this June in cooperation with Susan Whitting, esq. who planned the program. The focus of the day was divorce issues, with speaker topics ranging from Initial Considerations in a Divorce to Community Property to Child Custody and Visitation issues.

The speakers ( who all donated their time to participate) included Judge William Peck - Ventura County Superior Court, Dr. Robert Beilin - Family Relations Mediator with Ventura County Superior Court, Charles Stanley Trom - Assistant District Attorney, Suzanne Retzinger - Ventura County Superior Court Mediation Department, and attorneys Jan Loomis, Christen Henriksen and Susan Whitting.

On the critique forms filled out by the audience, a number of people indicated other topics of interest to them. Some of these suggestions were for Estate Planning, Civil Rights and Senior Rights, and Legal Separations and Other Alternatives to Divorce. The Commission will look into the possibility of addressing some of these issues in future public forums.

## **SALUTE TO WOMEN**

The Commission for Women is planning its 10th Annual SALUTE TO WOMEN AWARDS CEREMONY, an event designed to honor women who have made an outstanding contribution in one of the following categories: the arts, business, community service, education, legal/law enforcement, media, science/health, and outstanding young women.

This year the event is being co-sponsored by The Ventura County Professional Women's Network. The salute will be held on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1992 at the FINANCIAL PLAZA HILTON in Oxnard and will include a reception and brunch in addition to the awards program.

Please call our office for details if you would like to attend and did not receive an invitation.

## **TEEN PREGNANCY**

At the request of Supervisor Lacey and with the support of the board of Supervisors, the Commission for Women will be developing an ad hoc committee to address the issue of teen pregnancy in Ventura County. Focus will be on attitudes and circumstances which create an environment conducive to teen pregnancy, not on the politics of abstinence vs. information. Nor will it be a forum to debate pro-life vs. pro-choice as that is a POST pregnancy issue, and not relevant to the scope of this study.

An invitation has been extended to a large number of community organizations to send representatives to the first planning meeting where we will establish the parameters of this study, the time line and our goals. We will encourage as much community involvement as possible as we view this as an issue that is not exclusively a "school", "family" or "social" one, but one that touches the whole community.

If you have ideas or comments to contribute on this subject, we welcome your calls.

## **RESOURCE FAIR**

The Commissions' planning committee is organizing a RESOURCE FAIR for OCTOBER 3, 1992 at the OXNARD ESPLANADE. The purpose of the fair is to provide information about services that are available to women and children throughout the county in the areas of Education, Employment, and Emotional Support.

Some of the organizations that have participated in past Resource Fairs, and that we hope will attend this years' event, are The Private Industry Council, Ventura County D.A./Child Support, Senior Home Share, Waterson College, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, UCSB Ventura Center, Women's Financial Information Program, Pacific Processing Services/Resumes Etc., Child Development Resources, Ventura County Council Camp Fire, The Money Manager, N Family Services, Federally Employed Women, Inc., State Farm Insurance Co./Personnel, and the California Conservation Corps.

We expect 25 or more community agencies to par-

ticipate in this years' fair.

**HOUSING COMMITTEE**

It has been arranged for the Commission to attend a special CITIZENS PLANNER WORKSHOP to familiarize the Commissioners with the Citizens Planner Project, a seven phase/eight principle plan supporting "Ecological Planning Principles for Sustainable Living in Ventura County". These phases include "initiating and delineating" a set of ecological planning principles through a team of interested citizens and environmental consultants, and involving community leaders and citizens-at-large in 14 specified geographic areas within the county. The refinement and expansion of these plans will serve as the basis of a concept plan in each area of interest within the county, and for the county as a whole.

This workshop is being hosted by Joseph Smyth, founder of the Citizens Planner Project of Ventura County. (509 Marin St., Suite 131, Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91360 805/495-1025.) The Commission is hopeful that our participation will help add to the broad community base the project is trying to involve.

**CHILD CARE COMMITTEE**

The Commission for Women keeps informed on Child Care issues through a commission liaison who attends Ventura County Child Care Network meetings and other pertinent seminars and conferences. Two of our commissioners will be attending a seminar this fall on the subject of Children Prenatally Exposed to Drugs

and Alcohol.

The individual cities' Child Care Councils throughout the county are in the process of compiling resource directories for their areas. Some of the councils have started holding workshops on various child care topics and "rap sessions" or "support group discussions" to give day care providers a chance to exchange information and concerns with their peers.

C.D.R., Child Development Resources, also has an extensive resource guide for the county and has several programs in force like the "Family to Family" program to recruit and train family child care providers, and "Child Care Aware" which provides comprehensive referral information and encourages parents to consider quality issues when selecting child care services.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The newest cooperative venture for the Commission is one that was extended to us by The Job Training Policy Council, a non-profit corporation which specializes in training and job placement services. Currently, their focus is to measure the need and viability of developing non-traditional jobs for women.

Frequently, the Commission for Womens' office receives notices of job and training opportunities. A sampling of recent notices includes Fire Fighter Trainees, Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training, Cable TV Installer, and Millwrights and Machinery Erectors Joint Apprenticeship and Training. We welcome this opportunity to take an active roll introducing more women to these career options.

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THERE ARE SO MANY ISSUES TODAY THAT WOMEN WANT AND NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THAT NO ONE ORGANIZATION COULD POSSIBLY ADDRESS THEM ALL! THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TRIES TO SERVE THE FUNCTION OF AN UMBRELLA AGENCY, BUT WE ALSO SERVE AS A REFERRAL SERVICE, DIRECTING WOMEN TO OTHER GROUPS WHICH HANDLE SPECIFIC CONCERNS. THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS NOT LISTED HERE.



INTERFACE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES OF VENTURA COUNTY HELP-LINE

Provides counseling, education, treatment, and shelter services for abused children, troubled individuals and families in crisis. 1-800-556-6607 or 496-4866 TDD

N.O.W. NAT'L ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN  
P.O. Box 24109, Ventura 655-5751  
P.O. Box 817, Simi Valley 583-1213

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
643-9279

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM  
Oxnard College  
986-5833

WOMEN'S LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC  
Moorpark College  
378-1492

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**DISTRICT I**  
Judy Bysshe  
Mary Jones  
Celeste Weingardt

**DISTRICT II**  
Carol Breyman  
Pat Harris-Murray  
Jeannette Scovill

**DISTRICT III**  
Lois Harrion  
Stacey MacDonald  
Anna McVerry

**DISTRICT IV**  
Connie Lawrason  
Marilyn Mauer  
Virginia Rogalsky

**DISTRICT V**  
Aurora de la Silva  
Beverlee McGrath  
Eliza Thomas

**MARK YOUR CALENDER**

**RESOURCE FAIR** ..... Oct. 3, 1992 ..... Esplanade Mall

**SALUTE TO WOMEN**..... Oct. 18, 1992 ..... Financial Plaza Hilton

**ELECTION DAY**..... Nov. 3, 1992 ..... Your Vote Counts!

**WOMENS ' POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS COALITION**  
..... Nov. 14, 1992 ..... Moorpark College

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- \* Every eight seconds of the school day, an American child drops out.
- \* Every 26 seconds of each day, an American child runs away from home.
- \* Every 47 seconds, an American child is abused or neglected
- \* Every 67 seconds, an American teenager has a baby.
- \* Every 30 minutes, an American child is arrested for drunken driving.
- \* Every 36 minutes, an American child is killed or injured by guns.
- \* Every 53 minutes, an American child dies because of poverty.

**Ventura County  
Commission For Women  
505 Poli Street  
Ventura, CA 93001**