

June 6, 2013

Supervisor Steve Bennett
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Letter of Resignation to be effective June 30, 2013

Honorable Supervisor Steve Bennett:

I have been honored to serve under two Ventura County Supervisors, first under Supervisor Susan Lacey (1997) and then as your representative (beginning in 2000). My attendance at the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing China in 1995 inspired me to focus my energy and passion on women's issues both globally and locally.

The opportunity for me to apply to be a Ventura County Commission for Women member opened after retiring from an Early Childhood Education career during which I had owned and operated my own Early Childhood Pre-School and Child Care Center for 25 years and then served as a Trainer and Supervisor of Head Start teachers. My Master of Art in Human Development gave me the educational background and my experience as a woman, a mother of three children, a wife, a business woman, a teacher, and a lifelong learner has given me the professional and life experience that allowed me to be a valuable volunteer in serving as a member of the Ventura County Commissioner for Women, devoting the last 17 years to this endeavor. It is with some sadness that I resign from this position but with the realization that it is time I focus my life on a new path.

Serving on VCCW Executive Committee:

- Commission Chair for 3 years, 2003-2006
- Corresponding Secretary, 2007-2011
- Vice-Chair, 2011-2012
- Recording Secretary, 2012-2013

Co-Chair, landmark report "Status of Women and Girls in Ventura County" 2012

- Initiated and Co-Chaired Study Planning and Development Committee
- Negotiation Team member for the ratification and approval of the grant to fund Study
- Co-Chaired Committee's work with Study Researchers/Writers
- Co-Chaired the planning of and presentation to the Board of Supervisors
- Presented Study to Board of Supervisors Feb. 26, 2013 to Receive and File.*

VCCW Liaison to:

- Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW)
- National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)
- Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network (VCRRN)
- California Women's Agenda/Women's Intercultural Network (CAWA),
- Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative (VCWFC)

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Served as Ambassador over 10 years to many organizations, locally and at the State and National level:

- ACCW Southern California Representative
- CAWA Regional Coordinator
- Ventura County Social Justice Fund, Founding Member
- VCWFC Founding Member and President

VCCW Empowering Women

- Outreach Locally - Economic Justice in the Changing Global Economy 2006 Forum
- Outreach Globally – Host to women visiting from Uganda and Afghanistan 2004

I am most satisfied with being instrumental in helping form the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative, a 501(c)(3) organization, addressing issues raised in the Beijing Platform for Action, serving as President, conducting forums on Education, Health, Poverty and Economic Injustice, with sponsorship of California Lutheran University and California State University Channel Islands, and many other individuals, groups and organizations.

Editing VCCW Documents

- Reviewed and advised Policies & Procedures document preparatory to upcoming Board of Supervisors study session
- Reviewed and advised components of the VCCW Revitalization Manual based on the "Organizational Handbook for Commissions for Women"
- Reviewed and advised development of the Forum Tool Kit

***Finally, I am very proud to bring to the Board of Supervisors the "Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2012" report.**

- Historic study presents recommendations of over 200 Focus Group participants, women, men, and teen girls, seeking to bring about gender equity, and economic, political, educational equality and healthful and safe life for women and girls.
- Pioneering study points out that although we live in "Paradise," a large segment of our population still lives in poverty, doesn't have equal pay for equal work, lacks access to educational opportunities and are underrepresented at all government levels.

It is vital to see that women and girls in this County are treated with equal respect, and that the study findings continue to receive significant attention and action by individuals and groups.

As I am resigning effective June 30, 2013, please know it has been my profound pleasure to serve you and the women and girls of Ventura County with all the many challenges and opportunities. My commitment to the work of this Commission for Women is my legacy.

Sincerely,

Diana Goodrow

Commissioner, 1st District

Ventura County Commission for Women

(805) 340-3180

Cc: Cindy Cattle, Administrative Assistant, Supervisor Steve Bennett
Lee Riggan, Chair, Ventura County Commission for Women
Ventura County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors