

Ventura County Commission For Women

Annual Convention Report:
Association of California Commissions for Women
August 14-16, 2003 Oakland CA
Submitted by Diana Goodrow

The theme of this years Convention was "Women-Building on the Past Bridging to the Future" and purpose was to conduct the business of the Association as well as provide an opportunity for participants from around the State to network on the many successes of member Commissions and to learn together through the workshops and events that were organized and planned by The Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women. The program provided workshops on women's health issues, women in technology, older women in the workplace as well as strengthening organizations and programs for young woman.

ACCW business meeting chaired by Lorene Irizarry President ACCW.

ACCW is now incorporated as a 501c6 as well forming a 501c3.

Lorene stressed that we are part of government but it is very difficult to be as effective as we would like without funds. It is government work and should be funded by government. There will be a Networking newsletter and a Web site developed. The legislative goal is to have a commission in every county and have them funded.

Different Commissions named various areas of interest: Marin County will work on the following issues 1. Breast Cancer 2. CAWA 3. Domestic Violence 4. Transportation 5. Web Site development by High School Students. Other county have many similar agendas I attended a workshop on Older Women Workers conducted by Mary Wieberg Executive Director of the California Commission on the Status of Women, Jenny Erwin US Department of Labor Women's Bureau. Cathy Liebow Family Care, Inc.

The question of how Commissions for Women can be involved in the working with the community on the issue of the workforce growing older. Older women face many challenges in the workplace including age discrimination, lack of flexible hours and the need for updated technology skills. Older workers are defined by the EDD 45-55 years of age. There is a need to use the self sufficiency standard not the poverty standard. The Workforce Investment Panel was suggested as a group to work with toward self sufficiency standard. 80% of women become impoverished when their husband dies. Other groups to work with are Area Agency on Aging and One Stop Centers and the Women's Bureau. There is no Affirmative Action Plan for Older Workers Suggested that Commission look at county hiring practice if there is one.

Also the issue of Court Judgement in Family Law.

Review who is on the Workforce Board, Are they dealing with older women issues. Work with the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion about Proposition 54 get out the vote to defeat.

Idea! Mentor recognition Affair

"A Woman is like a tea bag you never know how strong she is until she gets into hot water." Eleanor Roosevelt

Make an effort to say to politician "Don't tell me there is no money' There is always something if we really look."

The power of networking, relationship building, implement strategy of Vision Find out what is important to the people we are engaging. Contact network often. Keep a list and check in regularly. Make a genuine connection.. Look for opportunity to give and to collaborate. Review what we have to offer. Who are the key players in area.

Fund raising tips: 1. Private Cooperation (First create relationships) 2. Clear presentation 3. Create value for them, 4. Foundations, 5. Walks. Races.

Development Plan: 1. What is in it for me. 2. What is our track record, 3. What is our expertise, (leadership) 4. Credibility factors. 5. How can we trust this person or

organization. Have confidence in what we are doing, Speak directly to the need. What are the buttons that we can push that can get us funded. We are entitled as much as everyone else.....

There were many other issues discussed at this Convention The following is just a sample

1. Budget Crisis

A. Child Care and the elimination of 13yrol from programs.

B. Medical Funds Cut

C. Domestic Violence Shelter programing Cut

Bills that passed this year included a bill supporting Choice

Planned Parenthood Director San Francisco/ Golden Gate Dian Harrison said this is one of the most difficult periods in PP history. because of the Bush administration policies and the downturn of the economy and the recall and the state budget. California has the most pro-choice elected officials at every level of government. 2/3 of California voters are Pro Choice. SB71 by Senator Sheila Kuehl requires a comprehensive approach to sex education.

2. Issues Women are interested in are Health, Work and Family, Child Care. These are both professional concerns and personal. In order to study the issues of disparity it is important to look at our community in terms difference it is necessary to gather information about race and ethnicity. The Proposition 54 was discussed in terms of its negative affects on studies and there findings.

Nov 7 is planned for the next quarterly meeting in Pasadena. We will get more information soon.

The 2004 ACCW Convention will be held in conjunction with the National Association of Commissions for Women to be held in Pasadena in 2004 Dates to be announce soon.