

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 104, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 104 of the State Capitol Building on February 28, 2007. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morris, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Lee Denney, Sally Frasier, Kathryn Jones, Margaret Swimmer

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Vicki French, Lou Kerr, Pat Martin, Valerie Thompson

Advisory Council Members Present: Fern Bowling, Adeline Yerkes, Deena Fisher, Jean Warner, Donna Lawrence, Latasha Wilson, Marilyn Capps, Jan Peery. Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present: Dorothy Hollander; Regina Goodwin; Elda Walker

Women's History Moment:

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that nineteen (19) Commissioners, eight (8) Advisory Council members, and three (3) guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of January 28, 2007 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended, with Debbe Leftwich moving and second by Katherine Haynes.

Reports

Chair: The Executive Committee met this afternoon. That committee will travel to Tulsa to meet with the Mayor's Commission for the Status of Women there. We want to try and help advance and establish other municipal commissions. Under the aegis of the Leadership Committee we will pursue proposing a study compiling a county-by-county status of Oklahoma women. The Committee proposes putting together parameters, including a timeframe and using the Michigan survey as a model, and sending an RFP out to Oklahoma higher education institutions for a research proposal. At that point this will be brought to a Commission vote, with the understanding that there will be limits on the funding. Commissioners agreed with this course of action, and discussed potential parameters and models.

Vice Chair: The Retreat will be scheduled for Friday, June 27, at the Tulsa Community College. Lou Kohlman moved the meeting date be changed. Bob Darcy seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Secretary: There was no report.

Advisory Council Chair: There was no report.

NACW Representative: The NACW now has a surplus of \$31,000 and the debt is retired. The Board will be having a face-to-face meeting in April in Rockville, Maryland. Jennifer Paustenbaugh moved we allocate up to \$450 for travel expenses for Bernice Mitchell. Patty Bryant seconded. The motion passed with no opposition, Debbe Leftwich and Pam Patterson abstaining. The Chair again urged Commissioners to plan to attend this summer's NACW convention in Albuquerque.

Financial Report: Elda Walker gave the financial report. The Kate Barnard luncheon was under budget. In addition to the \$18,395.20 uncommitted budget balance, we have \$11,871 in the revolving fund.

Nominating Committee: Jennifer Paustenbaugh presented the following slate: Chair, Chris Morriss; Vice Chair, Mary Walker; Secretary, Lou Kohlman; Advisory Council Chair, Jilda Motley; Nominating Committee, Denise Kinzie; Nominating Committee, Kathryn Jones. The Chair called for nominations from the floor for each office. There were no nominations from the floor.

Business – Events

Summit Budget: Co-Chair Deena Fisher submitted a proposed Summit budget, based on a \$25 registration with \$15 for students. Bob Darcy moved that we authorize expenditure up to the maximum amount presented in the Summit budget, \$12,350 at the highest estimate of 500 attendees. Rebecca Kennedy seconded. The motion passed with no opposition, Debbe Leftwich and Pam Peterson abstaining.

Summit: Co-Chair Deena Fisher gave a report on the 2008 Women's Summit progress. The Summit will be held Friday, April 25, at the State Capitol. The artwork them is the scissortail flycatcher, and the artist, Dorothy Hollander, was present at the meeting. A draft agenda was presented. The day will begin in the House Chamber. The day will continue with blocks of time devoted to each Commission topical committee, ending with a session on extraordinary women. The Women Incarcerated session will include Oklahoma County DA David Prater, alternatives to incarceration, and a drug court session and graduation. The Health session will include Wanda Jones, deputy secretary for the National Office of Women's Health, as well as a speaker on adverse childhood events, unintended pregnancy and reproductive issues, and on issues leading up to disability and poor quality of life for older women. This will be followed by a discussion led by facilitators. The Leadership session will include one or two women speakers.

They have considered a combination of past Oklahoma women leaders and young women leaders making a difference in Oklahoma. The Networking with Women lunch will have tables focusing on a career or issue. Commissioners and Advisory Council members will host a table and will either moderate or invite a guest to moderate the table discussion. Lyn Hester reported on publicity. Summit representatives will appear on a Stillwater television show and “The Verdict” in Oklahoma City in April. Other news media will be contacted soon. There will be ads in the Oklahoman and the World as well as other publicity. Rob McLendon of Oklahoma Horizons is putting together a seven-minute video which will be shown throughout the Summit. Clips may also be used in other publicity venues.

Co-Chair Fisher discussed the pre-Summit reception. A proposed budget was presented. Joyce Martin discussed the proposal. The reception can be held at the Pavilion, on the Governor’s Mansion grounds, on the afternoon of April 24, before the Summit. Commissioners and committee members will look for money. The goal is for the event to be paid for completely by donors, who pay vendors directly. Jean Warner will be a clearinghouse for potential donor names. The proposed guest list would be Commissioners and Advisory Council members with one guest each, legislators, the high court members and other elected officials. The decorations will be re-used for the luncheon. The next Summit planning meeting is March 11 at 1:30 at the OPM offices.

New or Unfinished Business:

Initiative Petition: Bob Darcy discussed the circulating petition for a constitutional amendment which would abolish affirmative action programs. He moved the Commission adopt a resolution as follows: “The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women supports Oklahoma’s Affirmative Action programs and opposes changing Oklahoma’s Constitution to prohibit these programs.” Jennifer Paustenbaugh seconded the motion. It passed without opposition. Debbe Leftwich moved for a reconsideration on the proposal. Pam Peterson seconded the motion. That motion passed with opposition, twelve to seven. Discussion of the previous motion was held. Pam Petersen moved to table the original motion. Debbe Leftwich seconded. The motion passes ten to seven. The original motion was tabled.

N.E.W. Leadership: The Chair presented a request from Hannah Brenner, director of the N.E.W. Leadership program, to fund this year’s program. Director Brenner requests the Commission increase its previous \$5000 commitment to \$10,000. The Commission agreed to take this up at the March meeting.

Legislation this Session: Debbe Leftwich discussed the status of her bills of interest to the Commission. SB 14, the colon cancer screening bill, is still alive and in the House. SB 13, the Department of Aging, is not moving in the Senate but she is working with Rep. Kris Steele on a House bill to look at aging services. The victim’s economic safety bill did not get out of committee, but the issue may be raised in another bill. SB 1599, a bill on driver’s license suspension penalties is still alive. SB 114, the bill making domestic violence a felony did not succeed. SB 2104, on the batterer’s program

requirement, and SB 2163, the GPS monitoring device on batterers bill, are still viable. SB 1530, social host drinking graduated penalty bill, adding 3.2 beer to liquor, is viable.

Pam Peterson presented a list of her bills which are in committee in the House.

Business – Topical Committees:

Leadership Committee: There was no report.

Women’s Health Committee: There was no report.

Women Incarcerated Committee: There was no report.

Announcements: Jennifer Paustenbaugh reminded the Commission about last year’s Women’s History Supplement. The Oklahoman has asked for this project again this year. Bob Darcy and Jennifer Paustenbaugh will do the content. Jean Warner asked Commissioners to think of other organizations which might be interested in sponsoring advertising for this.

Special Training on Legislative Tracking: After the meeting, Heidi Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator for the State Senate, presented a brief primer on the LSB Legislative Tracking service.

Next meeting: March 27, 2007, 1:30 p.m., in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Motions Passed:

Lou Kohlman moved the June meeting date for the annual Retreat be changed to Friday, June 27. Bob Darcy seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Jennifer Paustenbaugh moved we allocate up to \$450 for travel expenses for Bernice Mitchell to attend the April NACW meeting in Rockville, Maryland. Patty Bryant seconded. The motion passed with no opposition, Debbe Leftwich and Pam Peterson abstaining.

Bob Darcy moved that we authorize expenditure up to the maximum amount presented in the proposed 2008 Women’s Summit budget, \$12,350 at the highest estimate of 500 attendees. Rebecca Kennedy seconded. The motion passed with no opposition, Debbe Leftwich and Pam Peterson abstaining.