

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2006, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Resonance, 1608 S. Elwood, Tulsa

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met at Resonance in Tulsa on December 14, 2006. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy, Sally Frasier, Kathryn Jones, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Pat Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Rowena Ogden, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Marlene Smith, Margaret Swimmer, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Chris Morriss, Sheila Sheaman, Valerie Thompson, Christie Woodson

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd, Joyce Martin, Janelle Walker.

Advisory Council Members Present: Penny Painter, Jean Warner, Fern Bowling, Helen Jo Hardwick, Greta Shepherd Stewart, Kathy Huston, Latasha Wilson (Staff). Sue Woodward attended the luncheon.

Visitors Present: Ann Metcalf, Leesa Crawford, Dolores Beeler, Debbie Wright-Burns

Women's History Moment: Penny Painter, with Leesa Crawford, Dolores Beeler and Debbie Wright-Burns of Resonance, gave a description of Resonance center for women and a new business venture. Resonance has an active program helping formerly incarcerated women and their families. One difficulty for women recently released from prison is finding employment. Resonance is beginning a business restoring furniture, operating initially as the exclusive franchise in the Tulsa area. The presenters received training in Fargo, North Dakota, are certified as craftsmen, and able to teach others. The craftsmen can do refinishing, as well as caning and rushing. As well as working on furniture refinishing, participants can get experience in administrative work, marketing and customer service. Participants must meet certain criteria, and will receive an hourly salary and health benefits. Each participant will be able to train others. This is the only gender-specific employment program of its kind in the nation.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that eighteen (18) Commissioners, six (6) Advisory Council members, and four guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of November 13, 2006 Meeting: The Minutes were approved. Bob Darcy moved, Mary Walker seconded, passed without opposition.

Reports:

Chair: Chair Paustenbaugh ceded part of her report to Jean Warner, who gave an update on her project to create a Women's Lobby at the State Capitol. The Oklahoma YWCAs received a grant from the Oklahoma Women's Foundation to create this project. The group agreed to focus on women's health issues and other non-partisan issues affective women. The Oklahoma City YWCA will take the lead on lobbying this year, but the YWCA will not formally organize the lobby for this session. Dr. Warner will begin the effort this session, coordinating it through her blog and website.

The Chair noted each Commissioner has a schedule for the 2007 meetings, approved by the Secretary of State. Almanacs and small framed pictures of the cover art are available at today's meeting. The Chair sent around a second sign-up sheet for the Women's Health Advisory Committee, as Dr. Adeline Yerkes described at the November meeting. She also sent around a sheet for the ad hoc committee to determine criteria for pledging Commission funds to outside organizations or projects. The Chair is looking for Commissioners and Advisory Council members interested in helping re-vamp the Commission web site. The Chair also calls for members interested in assisting on an Archive Committee, to locate, collect and decide on preservation of Commission records.

The Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee met last week at the Capitol. There are nine inductees this year, one posthumous. We had 24 outstanding nominations. The names will be announced in January. The event will be at the Capitol 4:00 p.m. on March 28 2007.

The Chair also discussed the current state of Commission appointments.

Vice Chair: The Vice Chair had no report.

Secretary: Secretary Kohlman gave a brief update on the Task Force to Stop Sexual Violence. The Task Force has drafted initial recommendations in three areas: funding for victims of sexual violence, community education, and law enforcement training and coordination. Proposed recommendations include more sexual violence victim advocates in certified provider programs, a statewide SANE nurse coordinator office, and a requirement for schools to provide sexual violence and healthy relationships education and training. Shell bills were held for legislation implementing some recommendations. Ms. Kohlman noted she will bring the completed recommendations to the Commission for discussion. Commissioner Leftwich noted she also has several bills affecting women's health and domestic violence. We will try to provide Commissioners a summary of legislation affecting women's issues at the January meeting.

Advisory Council Chair: Chair Motley presented the nomination of Gloria Birdine, submitted by Bob Darcy. Chair Motley moved Ms. Birdine's nomination, Lou Kohlman seconded; the motion passed without opposition. Chair Motley noted that Leslie Thomas will be Advisory Council co-chair.

Unfinished and Ongoing Business:

Financial Report: The Chair presented a financial report spreadsheet as of December 6, 2006.

Topical Committee Reports:

Women Incarcerated Committee: Patricia Presley reported that the Criminal Justice Working Summit will be in Oklahoma City on January 12, 2007, on alternatives to incarceration. The Oklahoma Commission on Youth & Children will be following up their study with recommendations to the Legislature.

Women's Health Committee: Bernice Mitchell reported that the National Association of Commissions on the Status of Women is following up on our November health forum. John Dorsey, who initiated the Healthy Bones program, will be participating in a follow-up conference call. NACW is doing this nationwide, determining how many Healthy Bones programs have been presented. Coordinating with the other Commissions in the conference call, the Health Committee plans to continue similar programs statewide.

Women In Leadership: Fern Bowling reported that those submitted for the Kate Barnard Award are Congresswoman Mary Fallin and Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins. The Commission agrees on the two nominees, Bernice Mitchell made the motion and Bob Darcy seconded. Two plaques from Dale Rogers will cost \$90.00. The luncheon will be January 25 at the State Capitol. Dr. Anne Morgan will be the speaker, and Kate Barnard (Glenda Carlile) will introduce her.

Projects:

The Hall of Fame working committee will meet in January. The office is preparing the press releases announcing the honorees.

Commissioner Pat Martin reported on the effort to bring SWIPS to Oklahoma. The Steering Committee has not yet successfully completed fundraising. Lou Kohlman distributed a fundraising letter for use for the Oklahoma project. Commissioner Leftwich says the letter has been very helpful in introducing SWIPS to potential donors. We would welcome help with introductions from individual Commissioners.

Other Business: Commissioners discussed possible attendance at the March meeting at the U.N.

Next meeting: January 25, 2007, 1:30 p.m., at Room 412C of the State Capitol. The meeting will be preceded by the Kate Bernard Luncheon from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the same room.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.