

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2006

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in the Oklahoma Supreme Court courtroom in the State Capitol Building on February 23, 2006. Chair Patti Presley called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy; Kathryn Jones; Lou Kerr; Denise Kinzie; Debbe Leftwich; Pat Martin; Bernice Mitchell; Jilda Motley; Anita Norman; Jennifer Paustenbaugh; Patricia Presley; Claudean Reynolds; Ginny Wilson and Christie Woodson.

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Marlene Smith, Mary Walker

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd; Kipp Crutchfield; Marilyn Ehlers; Vicki French; Rebecca Kennedy; Angela Monson; Rita Newton; Rowena Ogden; Sheila Sheaman; Renita Shofner; Margaret Swimmer and, Janelle Walker

Advisory Council Present: Glenda Carlisle, Donna Lawrence, Lou Kohlman, Amy Bahora, Chris Morriss, Fern Bowling, Linda Dodson

Visitors Present: Donna Alex , Carrie Perrier, Leslie Thomas

Women's History Moment: Bernice Mitchell led the group in a moment of silence for Corretta Scott King.

Roll Call: Assistant Secretary Bob Darcy called the roll and noted that fourteen (14) Commissioners, six (6) Advisory Council members, and three (3) guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Presentation: Carrie Perrier, Miss Bricktown, a 2005 graduate of OCU and N.E.W. Leadership graduate working with the United Way, told the Commission about the "Girl Power" campaign. This is a volunteer-based national campaign in its eleventh year, overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It encourages women, particularly 18- and 19- year-olds, to be positive role models for young girls. Ms. Perrier noted, although 8-year-olds typically have a strong self-image, that changes quickly as girls grow older. Polls show 20% of 13 and 14 year old girls have smoked cigarettes, 1/3 of 9th graders are sexually active, and 10% of 9th graders have had more than one sex partner. Ms. Perrier displayed a recent Cosmopolitan magazine cover, noting that it and other

popular magazines made repeated references to sex, sending the wrong message to young girls. "Girl Power" was based on the notion that current school programs were not reaching many young girls. Mr. Perrier offered as an example her own Bible study leader, Marian Henderson, who had made a difference in her life by volunteering her time and showing interest in young women, and encouraging her to have and reach goals. The "Girl Power" program recruits women to be role models in community and school settings. Shawnee has a Girl Power Day for all 5th grade girls, where they meet outstanding people and are encouraged to set goals. The website is www.girlpower.gov. Ms. Perrier challenged the group to make a difference in a girl's life.

Minutes, January 26, 2006: The Minutes were approved as printed.

Reports:

Chair Presley announced that her term on the board of the National Association of Commissions on the Status of Women is ending, and we will need a representative. Any Commissioner interested in serving on the Board or as an officer should email the office, and the matter will be placed on the Commission agenda in March. The deadline for nominations will be at the National convention in July, to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the convention. Last year Claudean Reynolds, the Chair, and Penny Painter attended.

The Chair continued her report later in the meeting. She has extra copies of the Reports on women incarcerated. Susan (Lainey) Hefner moved the OCSW office, at OPM's request, to a different location within OPM. There was a discussion of the website. The Chair will ask Lainey Hefner to follow up with OPM on getting a link to the Commission from the main OPM website.

The Chair made a call for nomination of officers. The Nominating Committee will present information at the March, April and May meetings. The Nominating Committee consists of Vicki French, Mary Walker, and Anita Norman (appointed by the Chair). Open offices will include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Advisory Council, and two members of the Nominating Committee.

The Vice Chair had no report.

The Secretary had no report.

Jilda Motley, the Advisory Council chair, nominated Leslie Thomas to the Advisory Council. Leslie formerly served as Assistant to the Commission,

and is now Executive Assistant at the Oklahoma Democratic Party. Bernice Mitchell seconded the nomination. All voted aye with no abstentions, and the motion passed.

Unfinished Business: The Chair noted the Commission has not yet voted on proposed changes to the Attendance Policy. There was a discussion of the proposed changes. Lou Kerr noted that, as the Commission is controlled by statute, Commissioners may wish to consult with the staff attorney regarding the issue of a Legislative designee. Anita Norman moved that the issue be tabled until the next meeting. Ginny Wilson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Chair provided members with an updated Commission contact list, and asked that any corrections be sent to Lainey Hefner at the office.

The Chair discussed the Global Women Leaders forum, to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 15, 2006. Interested Commissioners may contact the Chair for more information.

Kathy Jones talked about the Southern Women in Public Service convention, sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee on May 7 – May 9. Four representatives from the Commission – the Chair, Pat Martin, Kathy Jones, and Lou Kohlman – attended last year's convention, and there were nine total attendees from Oklahoma at that convention. This year several Oklahoma women will be honored. In the past the Commission paid attendees' registration plus a \$200 travel stipend. Pat Martin noted that Oklahoma is the only state included in the SWIPS area which has not yet hosted a convention, and we are under some pressure to host. Kathy Taylor, former Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, wanted the Commerce Department and OCSW to host a SWIPS convention. Pat Martin pointed out that it helps to have a large delegation, as it gives us and the Stennis Center an idea of our ability to host a convention. The Chair will contact Marilyn Capps regarding possible available Commission money, and encouraged members interested in attending to contact Lainey Hefner at the office.

The Chair noted that last year, the Governor's budget was approximately \$600,000 short for the Oklahoma Historical Society Resource Room. That bill is coming up; any interested Commissioners should call in support of that special appropriation.

The Chair announced that March is National Women's History Month. Congress dedicated this celebration to recognize historic women's achievements and the contributions of women. This year's theme is

“Women, builders of community and dreams”. The website address for the Women’s History Project is www.NWHP.org.

The Chair told Commissioners that David Blatt, head of the Community Action Project in Tulsa, has been invited to speak to the Commission. Mr. Blatt will speak, among other things, about the TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) initiative. The Chair noted that Mr. Blatt’s presentation would express a particular point of view.

The Chair had words of praise for the Commission’s new assistant, Susan (Lainey) Hefner. Ms. Hefner, a student at OU, cannot attend Commission meetings this semester.

The Chair encouraged everyone to distribute Almanac order forms.

The Chair encouraged Commissioners to mark their calendars for the Pipeline Project event on March 25. The Pipeline Project is sponsored by N.E.W. Leadership and the Carl Albert Center, and is a workshop for women beyond college age who are interested in becoming political leaders.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is March 23, 2006 in room 419C at the State Capitol.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.