

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

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in the Oklahoma State Capitol Building, room 419C on March 23, 2006. Chair Patricia Presley called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy; Marilyn Ehlers; Kathryn Jones; Rebecca Kennedy; Debbe Leftwich; Pat Martin; Bernice Mitchell; Jilda Motley; Anita Norman; Patricia Presley; Claudean Reynolds; Marlene Smith; Mary Walker; and Christie Woodson.

Commissioners Excused: Vicki French; Catherine Haynes; Jennifer Paustenbaugh; Margaret Swimmer; and Ginny Wilson.

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd; Kipp Crutchfield; Sally Frasier; Lou Kerr; Denise Kinsey; Angela Monson; Rita Newton; Rowena Ogden; Sheila Sheaman; Renita Shofner; and Janelle Walker.

Advisory Council Members Present: Carolyn Whitener; Linda Dodson; Marilyn Capps; Chris Morriss; and Lou Kohlman.

Visitors Present: Karen Reese and Donna Alexander.

Women's History Moment: Bernice Mitchell cited March as Women's History month and paid tribute to Oprah Winfrey for her remembrance of those in financial need.

Roll Call: Secretary Smith called the roll, and noted 14 commissioners; 5 advisory council members, and 2 guests, in addition to the speaker, were present. A quorum was declared.

Guest Speaker: Rob Gray who is currently working for "Quality of Life in the State" spoke on TABOR, the taxpayer's bill of rights, a probable proposed amendment to the state constitution which may be on the ballot for the November election date. This proposed amendment which is tied to population and inflation, would limit tax revenue and tax spending by the government. Colorado has adopted this amendment and has discovered that the formula is not working in that state. He is concerned that TABOR is not

the answer for Oklahoma. He is available to speak to groups and may be reached at 405 615 2880.

Reports: Marilyn Capps presented the budget and the expenditures for the month. The Commission budget is being routinely reviewed by the legislature. Additional needs that the Commission foresees must be submitted by October 1, 2006 for consideration in the next year.

Chair Presley stated that the Commission will have several openings coming up for new or reappointed commissioners. Any suggestions for replacements should be given to the chair.

Chair Presley tendered her resignation to the National Association of Commissions for the Status of Women. Bernice Mitchell is willing to serve the remainder of Presley's term. The national convention is this summer in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Southern Women in Public Office conference is May 7—9 in Nashville, Tennessee. Two commissioners and one advisory council member have expressed interest in attending. Following discussion, Bernice Mitchell moved with a second by Bob Darcy "The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women will pay the registration and \$200.00 stipend for each commissioner or active advisory council member who attends the Southern Women in Public Service Conference in Nashville, Tenn., May 7 to 9, 2006. These appropriated funds are not to exceed \$2000.00". Motion carried with 1 abstention by Senator Leftwich.

The annual retreat is scheduled for June 22, 2006. Anita Norman moved to book a room at the historical center for the retreat. There being no objection, Chair Presley will reserve the room.

The Vice Chair and the Secretary had no report.

Jilda motley, Advisory Council Chair, reminded committee chairs to use the results of the interest survey and to call upon the expertise and interests of advisory council members when needed.

The attendance policy was discussed and it was determined that a voting designee is illegal. The language of the policy can be changed to state a "non-voting designee" who would replace a legislator at meetings. The

legislator would be counted present, but the designee could not vote in his/her place. Bob Darcy moved with a second by Jilda Motley to accept the amended policy. Motion carried. Senator Leftwich will make to change.

Anita Norman presented the Nominating Committee report for Vicki French who could not be present. The following slate of officers was proposed:

Chair: Jennifer Paustenbaugh

Vice Chair: Catherine Haynes

Secretary: Marlene Smith

Ginny Wilson

Advisory Council Chair: Jilda Motley

Nominating Committee: Mary Walker

Anita Norman

Lou Kohlman reported that everything was falling into place for the Summit. She expressed concern that the commission did not have a reliable WEB site. Several suggestions were offered.

The May meeting time has been changed to allow for NEW Leadership dinner. Bob Darcy moved with a second by Bernice Mitchell to “ Move the May meeting to May 22nd, 2006 @ 3:30 @ OPM.” Motion carried.

Bernice Mitchell announced workshops on women incarcerated.

Carolyn Whitener suggested that Commissioners purchase copies of the almanac for the libraries for the high school from which they graduated. Bob Darcy volunteered to deliver these.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Smith