

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2006, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Office of Personnel Management, Jim Thorpe Building, Room G91**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in the **Office of Personnel Management, Jim Thorpe Building, Room G91** on August 26, 2006. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Denise Kinzie, Pat Martin, Lou Kohlman, Bernice Mitchell, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Ginny Wilson, Latasha Wilson (Staff), Susan Hefner (Staff)

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Sally Frasier, Kathryn Jones, Lou Kerr, Debbe Leftwich, Chris Morriss, Margaret Swimmer

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd, Vicki French, Rebecca Kennedy, Jilda Motley, Rita Newton, Rowena Ogden, Sheila Sheaman, Renita Shofner, Marlene Smith, Janelle Walker, Christie Woodson.

Advisory Council Members Present: Marilyn Capps, Donna Lawrence, Kathy Huston, Glenda Carlile.

Visitors Present: None.

Women's History Moment: Jennifer Paustenbaugh presented information on the women candidates for state and national office in and from Oklahoma.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that eleven (11) Commissioners, three (3) Advisory Council members, and no guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of June 15, 2006 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended, motion by Bob Darcy, second Catherine Haynes.

Reports:

Chair:

1. Lainey's resignation: The Commission intern, Susan (Lainey) Hefner has graduated from college and accepted a position in her field. The Chair reviewed the hiring procedure with Marilyn Capps, and created a position description in consultation with Lainey and Marilyn using the OPM format. The Commission briefly discussed the hiring process; a vote is necessary to change or renew the intern position itself, but not for a change of personnel during the period for which the intern has already been authorized. The Chair interviewed Latasha Wilson,

provided her resume and cover letter to the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Immediate Past Chair, and hired Latasha, who began work August 23. The Chair introduced Latasha, who thanked the Commission for the opportunity. The Chair thanked Lainey for her service, and the Chair and Vice Chair presented Lainey with flowers and a certificate of appreciation from the Commission.

2. The Commission website has been updated as of August 1, 2006. Commissioners Lou Kohlman and Chris Morriss need to submit pictures to the office. The website is found on www.opm.ok.gov. On the right side of the page is a column that says "related topics". The Commission has the first two entries under this. The first link has our webpage and the second link is our calendar at a glance.
3. The Chair, Bernice Mitchell and Kathy Huston attended the Citizen's Health Care Working Group Meeting on "Health Care that Works for All Americans" on August 1st in Oklahoma City. The website with interim recommendations and a comment form is at www.citizenshealthcare.gov. Recommendations included: guaranteeing financial protection against very high health care costs; supporting integrated community health networks; promoting efforts to improve quality of care and efficiency; fundamentally restructuring the way palliative care, hospice care and other end-of-life services are financed and provided; making it public policy that all Americans have affordable health care; and defining a core benefit package for all Americans. The session was hosted by Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland and was co-moderated by Dr. Catherine McLaughlin from Michigan state University who is one of the 14 members of this presidentially appointed commission. She noted that, "We are trying to shuffle the deck chairs on the QE2 not the Titanic!"
4. The Chair, Bernice Mitchell, Anita Norman and Kathy Huston attended the NACW annual meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 19 – 22nd. The Conference theme was "Making it Real". Our Commission was one of the largest groups from out-of-state. The Governor of Nebraska, the executive director of Heinz Family Philanthropies, and a Lincoln city councilwoman provided inspiring addresses. Heinz is working on a financial education program for older women, and hopes that the national and state Commissions will help deliver this. The conference provided valuable training as well as excellent networking opportunities with other city, county, state and regional Commissioners. Training included Project Bones, an osteoporosis program; commission operations sessions, and sessions on women's issues, including financial and health care issues. Bernice Mitchell was elected to the NACW National Board. In addition, the Oklahoma Women's Almanac won the NACW Outstanding Achievement Award. In addition, the Oklahoma Commission's efforts throughout the year, including the gifts of coasters, the Almanac, and the events and

programs which were held, were much admired. Next year's Conference is at Louisville, Kentucky from July 11-15, 2007.

5. Given the information in the Almanac, the Commission and OSU may refine statistics and, using a model from the Lincoln conference, present a breakout of the status of Oklahoma women by county.
6. All the participants thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend. Bernice Mitchell gave a report on her campaign for the NACW Board and Board activities. The Board has four meetings a year, with other business conducted by conference call. She discussed "Project Bones", which provides osteoporosis testing, and Commissioners saw this proposal. Anita Norman described the workshops she attended on women's issues, including financial education, and borrowing money, including credit cards, loans, and purchase documents.. The financial education included a presentation from Citigroup on how women, particularly older women, can handle basic financial decisions, which might be feasible as a Commission project. The Commission will receive the Citigroup resources to use is deciding whether to begin this project. Kathy Huston reviewed the "Project Bones" information. She attended a presentation about an interactive computer program written in New Jersey to help teenage girls – junior high age – pick careers; that commission will share this program with other Commissions. She also attended a session discussing the difference in women's and men's health care needs, and the disparity in research for specific women's health and men's health issues.
7. On behalf of the NACW Board, Bernice Mitchell re-presented the Outstanding Achievement Award to Commission Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Commissioner Bob Darcy, and Staff Member Latasha Wilson, who worked on the Almanac.
8. Bernice Mitchell recommended that the Commission have another Health Forum for our November meeting, focusing on Project Bones and other issues regarding tests for women, particularly non-invasive tests. Commissioners agreed. The Health Topical Committee will be looking at these issues, figuring out viable financial and tactical strategies for providing or facilitating screening. Pat Martin notes that Braums is a regional corporation with dairy focus, which might be a natural partner on a bone-related project

Vice Chair: The Vice Chair will start working on Hall of Fame venue, date and time. The Immediate Past Chair offers her advice, and notes that the previous Hall of Fame material is in the Commission office.

Secretary: The Secretary reported that, in her professional capacity, she has been appointed a member of the Task Force to Stop Sexual Violence, and will provide an unofficial Commission voice on that Task Force.

Advisory Council Chair: No report.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps presented the financial report as of July 31, 2006. This is the first statement for FY2007. We have a total budget of \$42,062 made up of \$30,925 in general revenue and \$11,137 in revolving funds. This amount represents a decrease of \$16,981 compared to last year. The Commission used revolving funds in FY-2006 that had not been previously used and so does not have the carryover that it had in previous years. FY-2006 projects cost included Summit-\$12,478, N.E.W. Leadership-\$5,000, Women's Health Forum-\$470, Kate Bernard Luncheon-\$826, COSW Retreat-\$393, Other Expenses included promotional coasters-\$3,000 and Women's Almanac-\$9,990; Stennis Center Travel-\$1,344, NACW Travel-\$4,881 and Administrative Expenses of \$13,059. A summary of general operating costs include salaries of \$15,481 and travel \$6,225. The Intern's salary for June was paid from FY-2006 funds and are not reflected on this report. The Chair will ask a committee of Commissioners to explore the possibilities of fundraising, including creating a separate "Friends of the Commission" 501(C)(3) to complement Commission activities.

Followup from Planning Retreat: The Chair reviewed notes from planning session on vision statement and made recommended changes. The Chair asks Commissioners to review the corrected Vision for the Future. The Chair will send the revised Strategic Plan out along with the Vision for the Future. In a future meeting Commissioners will discuss whether the strategic plan reflects the vision.

Projects:

A final Summit report will be given at the next meeting.

Pat Martin will report on potential partners for a SWIPS conference in Oklahoma at the next meeting. Lou Kerr has been appointed Chair of Centennial Commission.

There was no report on the Newsletter.

There was no Hall of Fame report.

The Chair had Commissioners review Topical Committee membership. The Chair proposed ending the regular Commission meeting early once or twice a year, or having committee members come early with lunch, so that committees may meet in a way convenient to them. Committees may also use conference calls or videoconferencing.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 26, 2006, 1:30 p.m., at the Office of Personnel Management, Jim Thorpe Building, Room G91.

Bob Darcy moved to adjourn, Lou Kohlman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

