

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2006, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Oklahoma History Center**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in the Oklahoma History Center on November 13, 2006. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jilda Motley, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Claudean Reynolds, Marlene Smith, Margaret Swimmer, Valerie Thompson, Mary Walker

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Sally Frasier, Lyn Hester, Debbe Leftwich, Pat Martin, Anita Norman, Sheila Sheaman, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd, Lou Kerr, Rowena Ogden, Patricia Presley, Janelle Walker, Christie Woodson

Advisory Council Members Present: Fern Bowling, Carol Fincher, Kathy Huston, Marilyn Capps, Jean Warner, Sue Woodward, Deena Fisher, Glenda Carlile, Latasha Wilson (Staff)

Visitors Present: Gloria Birdine, Bonnie Nevilles

Women's History Moment: Jean Warner, Advisory Council, presented some "Oklahoma Firsts" for women in government, including lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer – all three in the 1990s-- and other offices. Many of the offices were not held by women until the 1980s. However, Kate Bernard was elected shortly after statehood, and the first woman was appointed Secretary of State in 1947. Alice Mary Robertson, elected in 1920, was the first woman from Oklahoma to serve in Congress. A Republican, she was an educator, social worker and politician. She was the second woman to serve in Congress. A child of missionaries, she was self-educated but attended two years of college in Elmira, New York. She worked with the BIA and helped found a women's school in Muskogee which ultimately became the University of Tulsa. Ms. Warner also provided other highlights of Congresswoman Robertson's career. Ms. Robertson opposed women's groups such as the League of Women Voters and some bills benefiting women.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that fifteen (15) Commissioners, eight (8) Advisory Council members, and two (2) guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of October 26, 2006 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended. Rebecca Kennedy was marked excused. Bernice Mitchell moved and Marlene Smith seconded the motion.

Reports:

Chair: The Chair has some copies of the Almanac for sale. Latasha Wilson is one of the few OSU seniors selected as Seniors of Significance. Her campus and community involvement, including her work with the Commission, played a part in this. The Chair is asking for expressions of interest in (1) Ms. Yerkes's Advisory Committee on Women's Health, and (2) an ad hoc committee to examine how OCSW allocates funds to external groups and to develop appropriate policy. Four Commissioners and four Advisory Council members attended the Central Oklahoma NAWBO luncheon featuring Deb Sofield.

Vice Chair: There was no report.

Secretary: The Task Force to Stop Sexual Violence is proceeding and will soon formulate recommendations to the Legislature.

Secretary's note: This meeting was preceded by a Women's Health Forum sponsored by the Women's Health Topical Committee. The forum included presentations by Commissioner Bernice Mitchell, Dr. Mary Zoe Baker, and Ms. Adeline Yerkes, and was coordinated by Adeline Yerkes, Chief of the Chronic Disease Services and Women's Health Coordinator, Oklahoma State Department of Health. Ms. Yerkes is coordinating a women's Advisory Council to present a traveling exposition on women's health and osteoporosis, to go throughout Oklahoma next spring. She asked for four Commission volunteers to assist in this effort. Interested Commissioners should contact the Chair.

Advisory Council Chair: There was no report. Commissioners who want to nominate Advisory Council members may get the nomination forms from Latasha at the office. The chair asked Latasha to put the form on the Commission website.

Unfinished and Ongoing Business:

Topical Committee Reports:

Women in Leadership: Plans for the Kate Bernard luncheon are proceeding.

Health Care Committee: Committee Chair Vicki French and the Committee did an excellent job on today's Health Forum. The Chair received a call from John Dorsey of Proctor & Gamble and a key player in the development of the BONES program. He was interested to hear what we are doing with the program and is in the process of organizing a conference call to take place before the end of the year to share information among

commissions that are using the program. The chair will contact a member of the Health Care Committee to participate in that call.

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps presented the financial report as of October 31, 2006. The Commission has \$11,478.08 in encumbrances as of October 31. Ms. Capps reminded Commissioners that all purchases on the Commission's behalf must be made through the OPM purchasing office, and there is no system to reimburse Commissioners for individual purchases.

Projects:

Hall of Fame: Work continues on the venue. We have received 16 nomination packets. Nomination deadline is 3 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15. Nomination packets have been copied and will be distributed to the Committee this week. A letter to nominators will also go out this week. We extended the nominating deadline due to extenuating circumstances for several nominees and/or nominators.

SWIPS conference: The Steering Committee is still soliciting donations.

It was suggested that the Commission consider giving Almanacs to incoming women legislators and other women elected officials. Bob Darcy moved that the Commission authorize the purchase of up to 15 copies of the *Oklahoma Women's Almanac*, at a steeply discounted rate of \$17.45 per copy, to be presented at the Kate Bernard Luncheon to appropriate elected and appointed women officials as determined by the Women in Leadership Committee. Katherine Haynes seconded the motion, which passed with no opposition.

Jean Warner discussed a YWCA-led initiative to create a women's lobby for legislation affecting women and girls. Representatives of the four area Oklahoma YWCAs will meet in Oklahoma City on November 20 to discuss the areas of focus and implementation. One potential focus might be as a central group which advocates for appointment of women to state boards and commissions. The YWCA is thinking of partnering with the Women's Legislative Coalition. Ms. Warner invites Commissioners to come at 1:00, particularly if one represents a women's group or organization, to help with the planning. Ms. Warner also offered to put Commissioners on her "Notable Oklahoma Women" page on her blog. Interested commissioners should send Ms. Warner a biographical sketch.

December meeting: The Commission's meeting will be held at the Resonance offices in Tulsa. Last year the Resonance director provided lunch at her own expense. This year the Commission will provide lunch. The business meeting will begin by 1:00 p.m., after lunch at 11:30. Bob Darcy moved to authorize spending up to \$500 for the December meeting facilities. Mary Walker seconded. The motion passed without dissent. The director of Resonance suggested a money tree in lieu of gifts. Commissioners should RSVP to the office. The chair emphasized that Advisory Council members and regular

guests of the Commission were welcome to attend this meeting. Kathryn Jones offered to invite Rep. Jeannie McDaniel, whose district includes Resonance, to the meeting.

Next meeting: December 14, 2006, 11:30 a.m., at the Resonance offices in Tulsa, 1608 S. Elwood.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.