

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2007, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 108, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 108 of the State Capitol Building on February 22, 2007. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Joyce Martin, Pat Martin, Chris Morriss, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Marlene Smith, Margaret Swimmer, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Denise Kinzie, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Valerie Thompson

Commissioners Absent: Betty Boyd, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Rowena Ogden, Christie Woodson, Janelle Walker

Advisory Council Members Present: Amy Bahora, Gloria Birdine, Fern Bowling, Glenda Carlile, Donna Lawrence, Linda Parker, Jan Peery, Greta Shepherd Stewart, Leslie Thomas, Latasha Wilson (Staff)

Visitors Present: Lindsey Bartgis, Daisy Lawler, Anna M. Sigurdardottir, Adeline Yerkes

Women's History Moment: Advisory Council member Gloria Birdine spoke about Harriet Kennedy, from Guthrie. Ms. Kennedy owned and ran a supper club for many years. The club featured steaks, seafood, and renowned barbecue. She was well-known and relied on in the community. In a segregated era, Ms. Kennedy had customers of all colors and income levels, and her business and good food helped integrate the community. Ms. Birdine read an article by Ruth Swain, professor at Langston, celebrating Ms. Kennedy's life and accomplishments. She also read a proclamation from the city of Guthrie proclaiming February 22, 2007, as Harriet Kennedy Day.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that nineteen (19) Commissioners, ten (9) Advisory Council members, and four guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of January 25, 2007 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended, with Bob Darcy moving and second by Catherine Haynes.

Reports

Chair: The Chair provided information regarding the Commission's budget request to the Legislature. These include a spreadsheet with all Commissioners and Advisory Council members, and the Chair asks listed persons to check this for accuracy. The Chair also provided information about Legislative committees interested in the Commission. Some Commissioners have spoken with their legislators about their Commission work. The Chair has also visited with the Speaker's appointments director and asked that more women legislators be appointed to the Commission. The Speaker will have five vacancies over the course of the next year and the appointments secretary is interested in working with the Commission to help fill those.

The Vice Chair has reserved the Marland Mansion in Ponca City on Thursday, June 14 for the June Retreat. There is a \$100 facility charge and other related expenses, probably no more than \$500. Bob Darcy moves the Commission authorizes up to \$500 for Retreat expenses. Patricia Presley seconds the motion. It passed unopposed, Debbie Leftwich abstaining. The Chair will form an ad hoc committee to work on the Retreat content, and asks interested Commissioners to contact her. The Chair asks for a Commission speakers' bureau list, to fill Commission speaking requests on particular issues. Commissioners should notify the Commission office about expertise, availability, and interest in speaking about the Commission.

Bob Darcy, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, and others have put together a 16-page supplement to be printed in the Oklahoman dealing with women's history in Oklahoma. Commissioners are invited to make suggestions on the draft. The Oklahoman plans on distributing 20,000 extra copies to school children in grades 4 – 8. The Commission will receive copies as well.

Through the OSU Foundation, the Chair submitted an application to an Oklahoma Foundation for an oral history project focusing on the living inductees to the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. The Chair expects notification from the Foundation by the end of April. She will be working with each Hall of Fame inductee to set up an oral history interview before the end of the year and interviews will be placed into the Hall of Fame archives.

Several Commissioners have presented speeches or programs relating to the Commission to community groups this year. The Chair urges any Commissioner who has done so to report to her and the office, so we can begin to track these presentations.

The chair asked Ginny Wilson to report on some recent contact with legislators in regards to the Commission. To facilitate educating them on the work of the Commissions, Ginny Wilson moved to provide all male legislators with a copy of the *Oklahoma Women's Almanac*, contingent on the availability of funds. Marlene Smith seconded the motion. This would cost approximately \$2268. There was discussion of giving the Almanac only to the approximately 30 members of the appropriations subcommittee and leadership. This would be approximately \$525. The Commission has approximately \$8800 in uncommitted funds for this fiscal year. Any gift should be presented in person as soon as possible. Commissioner Wilson's motion failed, eleven to

six with Debbe Leftwich abstaining. Bob Darcy moved that the Commission purchase 30 copies of the *Almanac*, authorizing \$525 for the purchase, to be used for legislative education. Chris Morriss seconded the motion. The motion passed, no opposition, Debbe Leftwich abstaining.

Vice Chair: The Vice Chair asks for volunteers who can be event contact persons/troubleshooters for the color guard, vocalist and Oklahoma Strings at the Hall of Fame event on March 29. The Commission has been asked to provide American and Oklahoma flags for the color guard. Bob Darcy has offered his students as general volunteers. The Vice Chair distributed a draft of the event brochure. The Lieutenant Governor has agreed to be the master of ceremonies for the event.

Secretary: The report for the 2006 Summit was provided to the Chair and is attached to the Minutes.

Advisory Council Chair: There was no report.

Nominating Committee: Mary Walker is withdrawing from the Committee. Anita Norman made the report. The Committee submits: Chris Morriss, Chair; Mary Walker, Vice Chair; Lou Kohlman, Secretary. The Chair called for nominations from the floor three times for each position. None were made. Additional calls for nominations will be made at the March and April meetings.

Financial Report: There was no financial report, but the Chair noted the Commission spent \$10 on postage last month.

Unfinished Business

Topical Committee Reports:

Leadership Committee: Chair Chris Morriss noted that this is deadline week. She has been tracking several bills and will have a fuller report next month. She reminded Commissioners about the money tree for the Oklahoma Women's Foundation, given individually by Commissioners, to thank Anne Morgan for her appearance at the January legislative luncheon.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Chair Patricia Presley reported regarding a program on the prison re-entry process. She will give the Commission updates on the program as it begins.

NACW representative report: The Chair noted that the NACW is holding an in-person meeting in Rockville, Maryland, on April 27th & 28th. Commissioner Bernice Mitchell, our NACW Representative, will pay for her own meals and lodging. She asks the Commission to consider a travel stipend. Marlene Smith moved to authorize up to \$400 for Bernice Mitchell to travel to the NACW meeting on April 27th and 28th in Rockville, Maryland. The motion passed unopposed. Debbe Leftwich was not present for the vote.

Projects

SWIPS conference: This year's meeting is May 20 and 21 in Tampa, Florida, with a Saturday night stay. Early (before April 20, 2007) government nonprofit registration is \$298.00. Bob Darcy moves that the Commission authorize up to \$2000 to go towards registration fees for interested Commissioners and Advisory Council members. Mary Walker seconded the motion. Bob Darcy tabled the motion until the March commission meeting so the Commission could more fully consider all funding needs that will occur prior to the end of the fiscal year. There is still a possibility that Oklahoma will be able to host in 2008.

Funding for External Groups Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

Archive Ad Hoc Committee: The History Center and the Women's Archives at OSU each have capabilities which the Commission may try to use in showcasing the Commission historical documents. The committee continues to receive document contributions for the archives.

Website Ad Hoc Committee: The Chair reported that, after a meeting with Marsha Reeder, the OPM web editor, several changes were made that included deleting material that was outdated and adding agendas and minutes from meetings back to the beginning of the 2006 calendar year.

Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee: The committee has been in communication and will meet briefly this afternoon.

Announcements: Gloria Birdine noted that Rosa Blum, a Holocaust survivor, will be speaking at OSU in the Student Union building on March 27, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Any Commissioner interested in being a personal sponsor for this event should contact her. Gloria Birdine also noted that Commissioner Mitchell will be presenting the Healthy Bones program as part of the OSU Women's Programs speaker series. Pat Martin discussed skipping the May gift of flowers for the legislators, rather than the March gift. Commissioners agreed.

Next meeting: March 29, 2007, 1:30 p.m., at Room 412C of the State Capitol. This meeting will be followed by the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony and reception in the House Chamber and Rotunda beginning at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Report on 2006 Summit

The 2006 Oklahoma Women's Summit, sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Office of the Governor, was held on April 28, 2006 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The Summit's theme was "Women Change Oklahoma". The Summit's goal was to stimulate changes in state policies and create initiatives to benefit women statewide, by bringing together citizens and community and state leaders to address topics and issues relating to women. Formal evaluations and word-of-mouth commentary after the Summit concluded indicate that this goal was met. Summit organizers and Commissioners heard from women statewide who had attended; they reported gaining insights and usable tools from presenters' information and experiences.

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. The program began at 9:00 a.m., with a welcome by the Commission Chair, Patricia Presley, and ended at 4:30 p.m. with a summary of the day by Commission Vice Chair, Pat Martin. The opening Plenary Session featured Secretary of State Susan Savage, who delivered Governor Brad Henry's prepared remarks. Governor Henry was suffering from a broken foot and was unable to attend. The plenary session on Women's Health included an address by former Commissioner Angela Monson, and information from the Insurance Commission, Oklahoma City-County Health Department, and Chickasaw Nation health care system. Nine breakout sessions were held, with three sessions each under the broad topics of women's health, women in leadership, and incarcerated women. Speakers included Cabinet secretaries, state legislators, professors, and other professionals and community leaders. The closing Plenary Session showcased Major General Rita Aragon and Dr. JoAnn Haysbert of Langston University. We had forty-one presenters or speakers, and twelve Commissioners or Advisory Council members acted as session facilitators. In addition to Oklahoma Almanac, OSU and Career Tech exhibits set up on the fourth floor Capitol rotunda, we had over twenty exhibitor booths on the first floor.

Approximately 320 people attended the 2006 Summit. Although most participants came from Oklahoma City, there were large numbers of women from Norman, Stillwater and Tulsa as well as groups from schools such as Caddo Kiowa Tech Center in Ft. Cobb and Francis Tuttle in Oklahoma City. Over thirty students attended the Summit. Women came from Ada, Anadarko, Apache, Arapaho, Ardmore, Binger, Cheyenne, Chickasha, Clinton, Cordell, Duncan, Edmond, El Reno, Elk City, Fairview, Fort Cobb, Guthrie, Hammon, Langston, Lawton, Lookeba, Marlow, McAlester, Midwaest City, Moore, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Piedmont, Purcell, Red Rock, Shawnee, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Tulsa, Tuttle, Weatherford and Yukon.

Comments received by individual Commissioners during and after the Summit were enthusiastic. We received 38 completed evaluations, all uniformly positive. Many women appreciated the panel on Re-entry and Female Incarceration; they had been unaware of this issue, had not previously thought about it, and like the amount of information on Oklahoma's prison system and transition issues. Another very popular panel was the workshop on Oklahoma women based on the *Oklahoma Women's Almanac*

("fun and very informative"). The workshop on positioning women for power was also popular ("the panel was genuine, real, and really connected to the audience"). Many people felt the event's location at the State Capitol was important. One woman noted, "It really emphasizes and reminds people throughout the day what we are really here for, that we are aware of change that needs to be made and to look around, we are at the place to do it!" Other comments included: "Secretary Savage made excellent points on resourced for change that anyone could use." "The networking with women from across the state was very valuable." "The spirit and enthusiasm of all those concerned about these issues is contagious!" "I really appreciated the panel on aging and eldercare because of the situation I find myself in right now – sandwich generation!" "Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon and Dr. JoAnn Haysbert were both very inspiring." "The sign language interpreter was much appreciated!" "This was an excellent Summit – I am overwhelmed with information and filled with a desire to get out there and change Oklahoma's negative numbers regarding women!"

Suggestions for future Commission focuses included (a) information and action on women's health issues; (b) more study and engagement in issues resulting from women's incarceration; and (c) positioning women for power and having more women appointed and elected to office. Very few people had a comment for the "least helpful" portion of the review. One interesting suggestion was to have a women's resource site put on the Governor's web site. Suggestions for future Summit topics not covered in this Summit included women in business and the way women's issues are affected by tribal/state relations. Participants also urge the Commission to hold more action forums statewide. Of the participants who ranked the sessions, the majority of comments were 5s (very helpful or interesting), then 4s.

The Summit was publicized through newspapers and television, email, word of mouth, and presentations by Summit committee members to various statewide organizations. These included Democratic and Republican political party meetings, tribal meetings, and women's civic, community and church organizations and clubs. Several state agencies announced Summit information to their employees. In addition, Commission Chair Patricia Presley appeared on "Flashpoint", and Chair Presley and Summit Co-Chair Lou Kohlman appeared on "The Verdict". Co-Chair Kohlman also appeared on the Oklahoma City Channel 9 morning news show. Legislators and elected officials also received invitations through the Commission office. Participants reported hearing of the Summit through all these media. All air time, news stories and other publicity were donated.

The Commission deliberately chose to keep the admission cost for the Summit low, at \$15 per person (with a student discount, which was not widely used). While we felt it important to charge admission, the Summit goal was best met by keeping the cost low enough to allow as many women as possible the opportunity to attend. The Commission did not expect to make money on the event. Our projected budget estimated registration income of approximately \$7000, printing expenses of \$6000, and total expenses of \$12,724.000, for a net shortage of \$5,000 for the Commission. Actual expenses for the Summit were approximately \$12,478. The bulk of this was for food,

including box lunches for attendees, speakers, and Summit workers, as well as drinks and snacks during the breaks. We had \$4,674.37 in printing costs from Career Tech, which included programs, promotional materials, posters, event signage, labels, and thank-you notes. Artist Dana Tiger and Catherine Darcy very generously allowed the Commission to use at no cost a reproduction of the painting, *Again We Ride*, for the promotional materials, posters, programs, and event materials. We have collected \$4,110 in revenue.