

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2007, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 412C, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 412C of the State Capitol Building on April 26, 2007. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Patty Bryant, Toni Calvey, Bob Darcy, Lyn Hester, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Joyce Martin, Chris Morriss, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Claudean Reynolds, Valerie Thompson, Ginny Wilson, Mary Walker

Commissioners Excused: Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Kathryn Jones, Pat Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley

Commissioners Absent: Marilyn Ehlers, Sally Frasier, Margaret Swimmer, Janelle Walker, Christie Woodson

Advisory Council Members Present: Donna Lawrence, Fern Bowling, Jean Warner, Latasha Wilson (Staff)

Visitors Present: There were no visitors.

Women's History Moment: Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh gave a reprisal of Women's History Month. She described a presentation she gave at a meeting of the Women in Agriculture in Stillwater. She had compiled an oral history project of interviews with women who had lived through the Dust Bowl era in Oklahoma, and shared that with that group. She urged Commissioners to have a strong presence in the community during Women's History Month in 2008. Claudean Reynolds spoke to a group about the story of the Reynolds family, particularly the matriarch, Stella Davidson, who moved from Goodnight to California during the Dust Bowl and returned to Oklahoma. Her return was facilitated by the City of Los Angeles, which bought her bus ticket home.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that seventeen (17) Commissioners, and three (3) Advisory Council members were present. There were no guests. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of March 29, 2007 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended, with Bob Darcy moving and second by Mary Walker.

Reports

Chair: Chair Paustenbaugh discussed the June 14, 2007 retreat, at Lydie's Cottage in the Marland Mansion in Ponca City, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A box lunch will be

provided. The Commission previously approved \$500 for expenses connected with this retreat. The Retreat Committee met earlier today and began planning retreat content. Several Almanacs have been distributed to legislators. The Chair reminded Commissioners that, after making presentations to the Senate and House subcommittees regarding our budget request, we began a series of educational visits to legislators discussing the Commission. As part of this effort we are giving each of these legislators a copy of the Women's Almanac. The Chair read a letter from Latasha Wilson, who will be leaving the Commission at the end of the summer to finish her graduate studies. The Chair noted Ms. Wilson received the prestigious Les Martin fellowship for international studies. The Chair gave an update on the CPC women's economic impact study that the Commission agreed to fund. At their request the Chair has appointed Lou Kohlman as the Commission's representative to that group for the duration of the study.

The Chair noted that our Rules provide for the position of Communications Coordinator. The Chair asked for volunteers to be on a Communications Committee, to communicate both within the Commission and Advisory Council and with the public. The chair of that committee will hold the position of Communications Coordinator. We will continue to rely on our intern to send out notices, but the Committee will actively communicate Commission news and events, and activities of individual Commissioners representing the Commission at events, as well as any policies or positions adopted by the Commission as a whole.

The Chair gave an update on the status of the Nebraska Commission. The Chair had written a letter in support of that Commission as it faced a loss of funding. As members of the NACW the Commission often gets requests for letters of support. There was a brief discussion regarding the circumstances under which it might be appropriate in the future for the Commission to write such letters.

Vice Chair: There was no report.

Secretary: Secretary Kohlman offered to make sure that the new Commissioners have all the Commission governing documents, etc., as well as minutes of previous meetings. If other Commissioners need these documents they are urged to contact the office. Several Commissioners offered to meet with new Commissioners.

Advisory Council Chair: Jennifer Paustenbaugh nominated Dr. Kay Martin, a recent Hall of Fame inductee, to the Advisory Council. Mary Walker moved and Debbe Leftwich seconded the nomination, which passed without opposition.

Unfinished Business

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps was not present, but Commissioners received the April 25, 2007 financial report. In a brief discussion of funding, Commissioners noted that travel, in particular, is a difficult budget item. However, funding registration fees for events is appropriate, particularly when the Commission is a member of a nationwide organization.

In April the Commission voted against authorizing any money to send Commissioners to the SWIPS conference. The Commission tabled until the May meeting

the discussion of authorizing money for Commission attendance at the NACW convention, held in Louisville on July 11-14. One suggestion is to set up a scholarship to fund registration or transportation costs for out-of-state events, available to anyone on the Board. The Commission currently has an available fund which could be used for that purpose, if appropriate procedures were in place. The Commission may explore this mechanism for future expenditures.

Call for Nominations: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Chair put forward the nominations for Chris Morriss, Chair, Mary Walker, Vice Chair, and Lou Kohlman, Secretary. The Chair announced the slate and called for nominations from the floor. Bob Darcy nominated Jilda Motley for Advisory Council Chair. Debbe Leftwich nominated Anita Norman for the Nominating Committee. Bob Darcy nominates Ginny Walker for the Nominating Committee. The Chair noted the elections will be held during the May meeting.

Topical Committee Reports:

Leadership Committee: There was no report.

Women's Health Committee: There was no report.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Lou Kohlman reported an opportunity to partner with the New West Group, led by Bob Hammack, to produce and disseminate video material on the issue of incarcerated women. The Commission discussed the importance of continuing to follow up on the bipartisan recommendations from the Task Force report with the legislature.

NACW representative report: Jennifer Paustenbaugh reported for Bernice Mitchell, reminding Commissioners that individual affiliate membership is available to Commissioners and Advisory Council members, at a cost of \$50.

Projects

Hall of Fame report: Latasha Wilson gave closing comments on the Hall of Fame. The Planning Committee met for a closing session. The Committee suggests we might limit the total number of inductees to six, given the difficulty of communication with them before the event. Thank-you notes have been sent, and thank-you cards from some inductees are at the office. The Commission has received the event pictures, which will be available on the web site. Pictures were sent to inductees, presenters, and dignitaries. Commissioners are encouraged to share comments and suggestions. Close to 400 persons attended. There was press coverage before the event, and some radio coverage from the event. Rebecca Kennedy discussed the categories in a scoring rubric she is preparing for the Hall of Fame event, which will help the nominating committee be consistent in its evaluation of nominees. The Committee suggests we might go to a three-year rotation, with the Hall of Fame, the Summit, and statewide round table discussion in the third year.

Archive Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Website Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Announcements: Denise Kinzie announced the upcoming National Day of Prayer. Jean Warner reminded Commissioners to put their names forward, and to encourage Governor Henry to think in terms of gender, when state appointments arise.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 24, 2007, 1:30 p.m., at Room 412C of the State Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.