

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 24, 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 May 24, 2007. Chair Jennifer Paustenbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kohlman, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jilda Motley, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Marilyn Ehlers, Sally Frasier, Lyn Hester, Lou Kerr, Denise Kinzie, Debbe Leftwich, Pat Martin, Anita Norman, Pam Peterson, Margaret Swimmer

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Vicki French, Valerie Thompson, Janelle Walker, Christie Woodson

Advisory Council Members Present: Fern Bowling, Gloria Birdine, Deena Fisher, Kay Martin, Greta Shepherd Stewart, Jean Warner

Visitors Present: Rita Cooksey, Arnita Sitasari, Gail Strickland, Johnetta Thomas

Women's History Moment: Jennifer Paustenbaugh shared information on the Marland Mansion in Ponca City, the site of next month's Retreat. The information was prepared by Latasha Wilson.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that fifteen (15) Commissioners, six (6) Advisory Council members, and four guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of April 26, 2007 Meeting: The Minutes were approved, with Bob Darcy moving and second by Mary Walker.

Reports

Chair: The Chair first reported on our successful budget negotiations for the year. While we did not receive the additional funds we had requested, our basic funding was approved. The Chair thanked the Commissioners, Advisory Council members, and friends of the Commission who helped in the effort to ensure our funding was secured.

The Chair noted that, according to Marilyn Capps, the bill before the Governor will provide a small (0.9% for OPM overall) pay raise for the Commission intern. This will permit a pay raise from \$10.00 an hour to \$10.50 an hour.

The Chair distributed information, including the conference program, for the NACW conference this summer in Louisville. Information about potential travel costs to individual Commissioners is included. The Chair called for discussion. Bernice Mitchell, our NACW board member, noted that she and Jennifer Paustenbaugh were required to attend, as they would be presenting our program at the convention. She urged Commissioners to consider easing the financial burden on Commission attendees. Mary Walker noted that national officers are often not perceived in the same way, regarding funding, as other Commissioners. She suggests we extend travel funds for national officers. Bob Darcy moved that the Commission fund up to three registration fees for this year's NACW convention, up to \$975. There was no second. Chris Morriss moved that we authorize funds up to three conference registrations, plus airfare for the Commission's NACW Board member. There was no second. Rebecca Kennedy moved that we authorize registration for this year's NACW convention, up to three people, plus up to \$450 for transportation, lodging, and per diem for each of those registrants. Jilda Motley seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Jennifer Paustenbaugh's convention expenses will not be paid by the Commission, and are not included in the funds authorized by the Commission. Rebecca Kennedy moved that distribution of the NACW funds among interested Commissioners be selected in priority order from (a) our NACW Board member, (b) our Commission officers, (c) Commission members as selected by the Chair, and (d) Advisory Council members as selected by the chair. Bob Darcy seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The Chair discussed Commission substantive preparation for our upcoming Retreat. Several documents have been distributed today, and were emailed to Commissioners as well. They include a Vision for the Future. At the 2006 Retreat, we discussed and submitted revisions for an updated Vision, but did not approve that revised document. Commissioners were also given the original Vision and the notes of the 2006 Retreat discussion. Commissioners also received a copy of the revised Strategic Plan, adopted in October of 2005. At next month's Retreat, we want to discuss and adopt the Vision, then look at the Strategic Plan, creating measurable goals and objectives to help us achieve that Vision. We also need to reconcile and align the Vision Statement, Strategic Plan, Rules, and Policies and Guidelines. The Chair urges Commissioners to review this material before the Retreat.

The Chair will also distribute an Annual Report before the Retreat.

Several persons have expressed interest in participating in a Communications Committee. The Chair is sending that list around again. The Chair also welcomes interest in participation in planning the 2008 Women's Summit.

Several Commission terms will expire this year. The Chair will work with Commissioners regarding reappointment, and Advisory Council members who may be interested in pursuing an appointment to the Commission.

The slate of candidates has been called three times according to the Bylaws. The election will be held at the Retreat. The slate includes Chair, Chris Morriss; Vice Chair, Mary Walker; Secretary, Lou Kohlman; Advisory Council Chair, Jilda Motley; Nominating Committee, Anita Norman and Ginny Wilson. This was given in lieu of the Nominating Committee report.

Vice Chair: Catherine Haynes reported on the Retreat plans. Lydie's Cottage, on the Marland Mansion grounds in Ponca City, is a secluded cottage. Directions will be sent to Commissioners and Advisory Council members. Please respond by June 6, as the caterer must have a final count by June 7.

Secretary: There was no report.

Advisory Council Chair: Chair Motley had no new nominations, but she thanked the Advisory council members present and asked them to introduce themselves. Chair Motley described the process for nomination to the Advisory Council.

Financial Report: In Marilyn Capps's absence Chair Paustenbaugh presented the financial report. The major difference in the expenditures report and the April financial statement reflects a \$5000 payment to N.E.W. Leadership, as authorized earlier by the Commission. This was paid in April. We have a balance of \$9408.26. Future pre-authorized deductions will include Retreat expenses and NACW registration, which will be paid during this fiscal year. Any travel reimbursement for the July conference may be reflected in the following fiscal year. We have not yet paid the \$5000 authorized to the Citizen's Policy Center, as they have not yet hired for the position we agreed to fund.

Unfinished Business

Topical Committee Reports:

Leadership Committee: Chair Chris Morriss reported she has tracked about 19 bills of interest to the Commission this session, and most are dormant. One of Senator Leftwich's bills relating to domestic abuse passed. With Jean Warner's help, after Session ends she will provide information on the bills that passed.

Women's Health Committee: Bernice Mitchell reported that the Committee is still working on organizing an osteoporosis workshop.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Chair Patricia Presley reported on further developments from the Task Force on incarcerated women. Currently a bill before the Governor allows the Department of Corrections to contract with jail facilities to assist for reintegration of prisoners. The DOC may pre-release people to county jails for services provided by several state agencies and tribes. Services will include health, mental health, employment, parenting and fatherhood, financial planning and housing information. There will be job fairs, transportation, and clothing provided. The Governor is expected to sign the bill.

NACW representative report: Bernice Mitchell reported on the recent NACW Board meeting. Commissioner Mitchell chairs the audit committee and works on the appropriations committee. She noted that the NACW meetings and convention are working meetings. Through the NACW President and Board members efforts, the organization is now debt-free. Oklahoma will be presenting a project on archival information at the July Convention, and is also under consideration for an award. The 2008 Convention will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Projects

Archives Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Website Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee: There was no report.

Announcements: Bernice Mitchell announced that Gloria Birdine is trying to invite Donna Brazile to speak at OSU in November 2008. The Chair reminds Commissioners and Advisory Council members to let the office know if you have made or facilitated writing, presentations, events, etc., on women's issues. Kathy Jones noted that, during the process of moving, she has discovered her archives on her work on women's issues and the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as articles on women from that time.

Next meeting: The Retreat will be held on Thursday, June 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Lydie's Cottage at the Marland Mansion Grounds, Ponca City.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.