

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Room 104, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 104 of the State Capitol Building on March 27, 2008. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Pat Martin, Joyce Martin, Chris Morris, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds

**Commissioners Excused:** Lee Denney, Debbe Leftwich, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Margaret Swimmer, Mary Walker

**Commissioners Absent:** Toni Calvey, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Valerie Thompson, Ginny Wilson

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Fern Bowling, Marilyn Capps, Deena Fisher, Kathy Huston, Jan Peery, Heather Simon, Gail Stricklin, Caroline Whitener; Tya Smith (Staff)

**Visitors Present:** Brian Bindley, Michelle Crozier (OPM graphic designer).

**Women's History Moment:** Jennifer Paustenbaugh discussed the "Oklahoma Women: Footloose and Fancy-Free" supplement to The Oklahoman. Each Commissioner received a copy. This was put together with the assistance of Commissioners Paustenbaugh and Darcy, and Advisory Council member Jean Warner. Commissioner Lou Kerr and Advisory Council member Carolyn Whitener are among the women featured in the document. The Commission will have enough copies to send one to each member of the Legislature. Lyn Hester also noted that, in honor of Women's History Month, The Oklahoman is running a feature of individual women, taken from the Supplement, for five consecutive days in the paper.

**Roll Call:** Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that sixteen (16) Commissioners, eight (8) Advisory Council members, and two guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

**Minutes** of February 28, 2008 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended.

## **Reports**

**Financial Report:** Marilyn Capps gave the financial report. The document given Commissioners is a supplement to the official financial statement, allowing

Commissioners to plan based on what we have done in the past and what we may do in the future. Marilyn discussed conversations she has had with OPM regarding the Commission website. There is a possibility that the Commission can take advantage of a new format. This would be a simpler process, with several people authorized to make updates, and would allow the Commission flexibility in quickly updating our information to reflect activities. This change will require an investment of approximately \$5000. She has also talked with the Chair regarding financial information for the proposed county-by-county survey. We will have approximately \$15, 634 to use in making decisions on funding, including the upcoming retreat, the request from NEW Leadership, and a possible website change. We have approximately \$11,000 in the revolving fund.

**Chair:** The Chair thanked Patti Presley and Lou Kohlman for appearing on the television shows “The Verdict” and Channel Nine to promote the Summit. Congratulations to Suzanne Edmondson and Donna Lawrence for their recent awards for Women in the News.

**Vice Chair:** There was no report.

**Secretary:** The Secretary asked to hear from Commissioners and Advisory Council members interested in helping write parameters for the projected county-by-county study.

**Advisory Council Chair:** There was no report.

**NACW Representative:** The Chair urges all Commissioners and Advisory Council members to attend the NACW conference in Albuquerque this summer. Jennifer Paustenbaugh asked whether the Commission wanted to consider renting a bus or van, or asking for volunteer drivers to be reimbursed, to enable more people to assist. Tya Smith will ask Marilyn Capps if the Commission might be able to do this.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Jennifer Paustenbaugh read the slate of officers: Chair, Chris Morriss; Vice Chair, Mary Walker; Secretary, Lou Kohlman; Advisory Council Chair, Jilda Motley; Nominating Committee, Denise Walker; Nominating Committee, Kathryn Jones. The Chair called for nominations from the floor three times for each position. There were no nominations from the floor.

## **Business – Events**

**Summit:** Co-Chair Deena Fisher reported on the 2008 Oklahoma Women’s Summit. A video and still camera crew was present at the meeting to record Commissioners and take pictures which will be incorporated into a seven-minute video to be shown during the Summit itself in the exhibit hall. Commissioners had a group picture taken for this purpose, grouped around the Kate Barnard statue. Commissioners were given a copy of the Summit poster, and the Summit flier. Commissioners and Advisory Council members will receive a copy of the flier by email by April 3, and are asked and encouraged to send this to as many of their contacts as possible. The form can also be downloaded from the OSCW website. The registration deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Fisher

urges everyone to get at least ten persons registered. Commissioners were given copies of the agenda. The program goes to press in two days. The program booklet includes the agenda, biographies, a resource page and information on the artist. Participants will also receive a Summit tote bag, with the program booklet, note pads and a copy of The Oklahoman women's history supplement. If Commissioners have other items such as pencils, the Capitol telephone directory, or a legislative directory, they would like to include, please bring them to the OPM conference room by 1:30 p.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to come and help stuff the tote bags at that time. Committee members will be at the Capitol by 5:30 p.m. on April 24 to begin setting up tables for the Summit, and there by 6:30 the next morning.

Fern Bowling reported on the Summit exhibitors, projected to be state agencies and nonprofit groups. There are twenty exhibit tables open, which allows for forty exhibitors. The only fee is the cost of the exhibitors' lunch and breaks. Commissioners and Advisory Council members are encouraged to find exhibitors.

Rebecca Kennedy reported on the luncheon activities. One purpose of the Commission is to gather information from others, so we may learn how to help them, as well as to give others information about the Commission and about specific issues and topics. There are six persons at each lunch table, and we need Commissioners and Advisory Council members to volunteer to be a host, facilitator, or advisor at a table. Either the Commissioner can be an advice person (signing up on the "career" sheet) or be a host and facilitator for a discussion of particular issues (the "issue" sheet).

Patty Bryant showed Commissioners a template of nametags. Fern Bowling will try to provide lanyards. Joyce Martin is in charge of table decorations. Wanda Jones will be given the "Art Treasures of the Capitol" and all other presenters will receive a copy of "Voices From the Heartland".

## **Business – Topical Committees:**

**Leadership Committee:** There was no report.

**Women's Health Committee:** There was no report.

**Women Incarcerated Committee:** There was no report.

## **Other Business Unforeseen**

The Chair brought up the issue of the OCSW webpage. Jennifer Paustenbaugh moved that we allocate \$5000 to create a webpage separate from the OPM site. Joyce Martin seconded the motion. The proposed webpage will be part of the Ok.Gov site, but will stand separately from OPM. It will be easy to find and easy to update. The motion passed without opposition. Commissioner Petersen was not present for the vote.

The Chair announced a request from N.E.W. Leadership for \$10,000 for the 2008 program. Commissioners discussed the request. Lou Kerr moved to allocate \$5000 to N.E.W. Leadership, and Bob Darcy seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Commissioner Petersen was not present for the motion.

The April meeting will be held immediately after the close of the Summit on April 25, in order to call the slate of officers. The meeting will immediately adjourn thereafter. Patti Presley moved to change the date to April 25, and Joyce Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

**Announcements:** Bernice Mitchell is receiving an award today in Tulsa.

**Next meeting:** Friday, April 25, 2008, 4:00 p.m., in the House Chamber at the State Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Votes:**

Jennifer Paustenbaugh moved that we allocate \$5000 to create a webpage separate from the OPM site. Joyce Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Commissioner Petersen was not present for the vote.

Lou Kerr moved to allocate \$5000 to N.E.W. Leadership, and Bob Darcy seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Commissioner Petersen was not present for the motion.