

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 22, 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 May 22, 2008. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Pat Martin, Chris Morris, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Lee Denney, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Debbe Leftwich, Bernice Mitchell, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Margaret Swimmer,

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Claudean Reynolds, Valerie Thompson, Janelle Walker

Advisory Council Members Present: Fern Bowling, Marilyn Capps, Deena Fisher, Heather Simon, Leslie Thomas, Adeline Yerkes. Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present: Brenda Thornton, Katelynn Sanderson, Jake Sanderson, Isaac Sanderson, Alicia Sanderson, Penny Heath

Women's History Moment: Katelynn Sanderson, a student from Canton, portrayed Kate Barnard and discussed her life and accomplishments for Commissioners. Her presentation was entitled "The Voice of Those Who Suffer". She is raising funds to bring this presentation to a national competition. Interested Commissioners or Advisory Council members may contribute by writing Katelynn Sanderson, c/o Canton High School, P.O. Box 369, Canton, Oklahoma 73724.

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

Minutes of the March 27, 2008 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended.

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps presented the financial report. The Commission has about \$8,000 unencumbered to allot to various sources. The Commission has yet to authorize funds for the June Retreat. Summit collections and disbursements are ongoing. Bob Darcy moved to authorize up to \$1000 for the Retreat. Lyn Hester seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Summit Report: Deena Fisher gave an initial assessment of the 2008 Women’s Summit. They estimate 300 people were in attendance. The Summit committee asks Commissioners to help deliver the remaining tote bags to members of the Legislature this afternoon, before Session ends tomorrow. The Summit’s original budget was approved at approximately \$9000, and expenses were approximately \$5000. Adeline Yerkes presented an evaluation report.

Guest Presentation: Brenda Thornton, Director, Equal Opportunity and Workforce Diversity, Office of Personnel Management, spoke about the current Initiative Petition Number 387. This is known as the “Oklahoma Civil Rights Initiative”, and was promoted by Ward Connelly, a national figure. There were significant problems with the petition signatures – number, form, duplicates, and possibly collecting parties – and the Secretary of State review was unfavorable. The Initiative proponents withdrew the petition. However, they announced their intention to return with another petition at a later date. Ms. Thornton also discussed affirmative action more broadly in history and practice. Her annual report is available on the OPM website, at www.opm.gov.

Reports

Chair: Chair Morriss had updated lists of advisory council members and commissioners. Please note any corrections. The Chair announced the Nominating Committee slate of officers for the following year: Chair, Chris Morriss, Vice Chair, Mary Walker, Secretary, Lou Kohlman, Advisory Council Chair, Jilda Motley, Nominating Committee, Denise Kinzie and Kathryn Jones.

Vice Chair: Mary Walker reported about the upcoming Retreat. It will be held Friday June 27, from 9:30 to 3:30, in Tulsa at the Tulsa Community College downtown location. The office will send out a map. Continental breakfast and check-in are available from 9:00 a.m. The Retreat activities will include discussions of the Commission’s plans for the upcoming year, in accordance with our Strategic Plan. This will include events for next year as well as plans for each Topical Committee. We will also hear from the Tulsa Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women. Those members may be invited to the luncheon. There will be a Summit assessment report. We will talk, among other things, about Town Hall meetings and the Hall of Fame. Commissioners and Advisory Council members are asked to please tell the office whether they will be present. Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend.

Secretary: Lou Kohlman noted that Commissioners would receive the Minutes of the very brief April 25 meeting for approval along with the Minutes of this May meeting at the Retreat in June. She announced that a core committee of herself, Bob Darcy and Jennifer Paustenbaugh had met to discuss the county-by-county status review project. This Committee determined that the Institute for Women’s Policy Research manual on conducting county-by-county studies is a valuable guide. Before choosing parameters for the study, the Committee agreed to approach other potential stakeholders who might consider co-sponsoring the study and forming a larger Advisory Council. These include the Oklahoma Women’s Foundation, the Lieutenant Governor, the Commerce and Health

Departments, and Secretary of State Savage and Commissioner of Insurance Holland. The Committee also wants to contact some current data collectors and service providers (some of whom may be connected with potential co-sponsors) regarding formation of the parameters. This work has begun. She invited any interested Commissioners or Advisory Council members to contact a member of the Committee.

Advisory Council Chair: Jilda Motley commended the Advisory Council members for an outstanding job on the Summit. She particularly commended Adeline Yerkes for the summary of evaluation responses, which will be very helpful.

NACW Representative: In Bernice Mitchell's absence the Chair gave a brief report. She distributed information about the NACW convention in Albuquerque in July of this year. Lou Kohlman will attend the Convention in lieu of Chris Morriss, who is unable to attend. Bob Darcy moved that 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. 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. Lou Kerr seconded the motion. It passed without opposition. Jennifer Paustenbaugh submitted the Commission's membership information to NACW, and also submitted the 2008 Women's Supplement to the Oklahoman for a NACW.

Announcements: Leslie Thomas announced that the "Pick-a-Purse" event on Thursday, May 30, will benefit Go Red for Women. Tickets are \$25, and include food and drink.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be our Annual Retreat, in Tulsa on Friday, June 27, 2008. It will be held at the Tulsa Community College downtown location and begin at 9:30 a.m.

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

Motions Passed:

Bob Darcy moved to authorize up to \$1000 for the Retreat. Lyn Hester seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

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