

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Annual Retreat Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2008, 9:30– 3:30 p.m.
Tulsa Community College, Downtown Campus**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met at the Tulsa Community College Downtown Campus on June 27, 2008. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Bob Darcy, Lyn Hester, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morris, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Mary Walker, Ginny Wilson

Commissioners Excused: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Toni Calvey, Lee Denney, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Lou Kerr, Denise Kinzie, Kathryn Jones, Debbe Leftwich, Pat Martin, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Margaret Swimmer, Valerie Thompson

Commissioners Absent: None.

Advisory Council Members Present: Penny Painter, Renita Shofner, Latasha Wilson, Adeline Yerkes; Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present: Juliana Nykolaiszyn, Christopher Storm, Janet Hawkins, Bernadean Lilly

Welcome: Lauren Brookey, Vice President of External Affairs for Tulsa Community College, welcomed Commissioners to the College and to Tulsa.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that thirteen (13) Commissioners and four (4) Advisory Council members were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of May 22, 2008 Meeting and April 25, 2008 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports

Chair: Chair Chris Morriss presented the draft of the 2008 Annual Report. The Chair thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve this year. She looks forward to serving another year and working with Commissioners. She encouraged Topical Committee members to work throughout the months on Commission projects as they occur. She also encourages Commissioners to be as active as possible.

Vice Chair: Mary Walker thanked the Commission for assisting her during the Hall of Fame and for the opportunity to serve the Commission. She notes that all Commissioners

are involved in their communities, and hopes to collect that information so the Commission can showcase its members who are involved in mentoring and working for women, children and families.

Secretary: Lou Kohlman thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Secretary this year. She briefly explained the use of a template to explore Commission issues and recommendations through each Topical Committee, which will be an ongoing project.

Advisory Council Chair: There was no report. Tya Smith noted that work is underway on updating the Advisory Council member list and emphasizing active membership.

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell, NACW Board representative, thanked Deena Fisher and Kathy Huston for their work on the Summit. The Commission has eight affiliate members, making it second in the NACW membership. Commissioner Mitchell encourages all Commissioners to join the NACW individually. She serves on the NACW Nominating and Development Committees. She has put together a NACW Board orientation package and Power Point presentation for new NACW Board members. She will participate in a conference call Board meeting on Saturday, June 28. She thanked the Commission for their assistance in sending her to the yearly National Convention.

Unfinished Business

Financial Report: Tya Smith gave the report for Marilyn Capps. The \$8,370.67 figure was an estimated figure, had the Commission spent all the money it authorized this year. The Summit will break even. We will allocate the \$5000 for the website in FY09 and it does not need re-authorization. We will need to re-authorize the 2008 contribution to N.E.W. Leadership in FY09. We will have approximately \$20,000 in carryover money. Tya reported that the state appropriation for the Commission remained the same.

Public Relations: Lyn Hester talked about effective public relations. She discussed what makes a good story. Of course we want to talk about new Commissioners and events. If the Commission's goal is to educate Oklahoma on the status of women, then there are many available stories. These include anything new: new statistics, new laws which may affect women, new research. Also we can talk about anything out of the ordinary, anything affecting a lot of people, anything of human interest. Other stories include the presence or visits of women of prominence. We can talk about things that could hit close to home, or occasions with reporter involvement. In addition, we want to talk about any timely or seasonal events, as well as considering whether there is anything already planned we can put our name on. For example, INTEGRIS Health has a women's health forum. Should the Commission wish to vote to participate in this next year, we would be included in publicity and be part of an already existing and planned event. If Commissioners or Advisory Council members have activities or projects which could include reporters, we can invite a reporter to turn that occasion into a story.

Also, there are several ways to distribute information. These include press releases to the media and email blasts to legislators. Particularly with media releases, we have to plan in advance. Our Publicity Committee cannot release same-day or next-day notices. Our Publicity Chair also cannot edit and release more than one page releases and documents, and encourages the Commission not to submit lengthy releases. The Chair approves all releases before they are sent. The Publicity Chair sends releases to major media outlets. She encourages Commissioners to send Commission releases and information to their local papers and news outlets.

Hall of Fame: Juliane Nykolaiszyn gave a presentation on the geographical distribution of Hall of Fame honorees. She was assisted by Christopher Storm, from the OSU Department of Geography. In cooperation with the Women's Archives at Oklahoma State University, an oral history project focusing on the 60+ living inductees of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame was continued under her direction with assistance from Dr. Tanya Finchum in the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at OSU. To date, 16 inductees have been interviewed and work is underway on a website through which copies of transcripts and audio and video clips of interviews may be viewed. This project has been ongoing for about a year. In conjunction with this, the Oral History Research Program has an ongoing project interviewing Oklahoma legislators. The presentation included information about and interviews with Hall of Fame members, as well as discussion of their birthplaces and locations of their primary activities. Of 89 inductees, 53 were born in Oklahoma, 24 in other states, two in other countries, and ten inductees' birthplaces were unconfirmed.

Election of Officers:

Chair Morriss asked Commissioner Kennedy to conduct the elections. Elections were conducted according to the Commission Rules: there were calls for nominations in February, March, and April, the slate presented in May, and the vote held in June. The Nominating Committee discharged its duties in good faith and good manner. Commissioner Kennedy announced the nominations and called for other nominations three times. Commissioners voted in each candidate unopposed. For each office, it was moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and the officers be selected by acclamation.

Chair: Chris Morriss

Vice Chair: Mary Walker

Secretary: Lou Kohlman

Advisory Council Chair: Jilda Motley

Nominating Committee: Denise Kinzie

Nominating Committee: Kathryn Jones

The meeting went into recess at noon.

During lunch, the Commission talked with representatives of the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women and heard a brief presentation from Penny Painter, Chair of that Commission and a member of the OCSW Advisory Council.

The meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

Review of Strategic Plan and Goals

Chair Morriss then began a discussion of the Commission's goals for the coming year. Commissioners discussed the issues in Topical Committees. In considering ideas, activities and events the Commissioners were guided by our Strategic Plan. The discussion also focused on issues and recommendations relevant to each Topical Committee subject. After small group discussion the Topical Committees reported their findings and suggestions. The Commission as a whole discussed and prioritized the suggestions. Commissioners generated several action ideas for the coming year.

Announcements:

Next meeting: August 28, 2008, 1:30 p.m. The meeting place will be announced.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Summary of Motions Voted On:

1. Election of officers. Officers for 2008-09 are: Chair: Chris Morriss; Vice Chair: Mary Walker; Secretary: Lou Kohlman; Advisory Council Chair: Jilda Motley; Nominating Committee: Denise Kinzie; Nominating Committee: Kathryn Jones