

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 23, 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 October 23, 2008. Vice Chair Mary Walker called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Fern Bowling, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Claudean Reynolds, Nancy Rothman, Mary Walker

Commissioners Excused: Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Lee Denney, Sally Frasier, Vicki French, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Denise Kinzie, Debbe Leftwich, Valeska Littlefield, Pat Martin, Chris Morriss, Anita Norman, Pam Peterson, Patti Presley

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Catherine Haynes, Valerie Thompson.

Advisory Council Members Present: Glenda Carlile. Tya Smith (Staff).

Visitors Present: Latisha Edwards, OPM.

Women's Leadership Moment: Lou Kohlman gave the Women's Leadership Moment. Maj. General LaRita Aragon was the Journal Record 2008 Woman of the Year. Jan Peery accepted an award on behalf of the YWCA for its contribution to Oklahoma women. Also honored for contributions to Oklahoma women were N.E.W. Leadership, the Oklahoma Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" program, and Dress for Success. Listed among the Journal Record's "50 Women Making a Difference" were Commissioners Rep. Lee Denney and Lou Kerr, and Advisory Council members Laura Boyd, Kay Martin, and Jan Peery. In addition, Lou Kerr received a national award this year.

In Oklahoma election news, according to Jean Warner's Oklahoma Women's Network tally, twenty-two women are on the ballot for races overall. There are two woman candidates, incumbent Mary Fallin, and Georgianna Oliver (challenging Rep. Sullivan) for the U.S. House of Representatives. One woman candidate, Dana Murphy, is running for a Corporation Commission seat. Two women are on the State Senate ballots, while Susan Paddock and Judy Eason MacIntyre had their seats decided before the general election. In the State House, seventeen women are on the ballots, while Skye McNeil, Ann Cody and Rebecca Hamilton had no challengers.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that eleven (11) Commissioners, one Advisory Council member, and one guest were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of the September 25, 2008 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended, with Bernice Mitchell moving.

Adoption of Agenda: Fern Bowling moved and Jennifer Paustenbaugh seconded, the agenda was adopted.

Reports

Chair: There was no report.

Vice Chair: Vice Chair Mary Walker reported on Hall of Fame planning progress. Joyce Martin reported on the morning's planning meeting. Nomination packets have been sent out to Commissioners and the general public. The Commission has received one nomination by email. The planning committee still has positions to be filled and hopes Commissioners will volunteer. Program Layout – Fern Bowling & Rebecca Kennedy; Publicity Lyn Hester; Posters Jennifer Paustenbaugh; Registration Bernice Mitchell; Selection Committee Chris Morriss; Program Joyce Martin; Ceremony Joyce Martin; Logistics Jilda Motley; Awards, Flag Ceremony, Gifts and Musicians are open; Decorations and Flowers Catherine Haynes; Invitations Fern Bowling and Rebecca Kennedy. Event colors are royal blue and yellow. Mary Walker noted that at the last Hall of Fame we had 400 expected guests. While we ask for RSVPs, they are not always timely. This time, with five honorees, we expect not to exceed 400. Each honoree will be given twelve invitations. Including Commissioners and the Advisory Council, legislators and past inductees, the guest list may approach 400. We hope to have an RSVP list within two weeks before the event. Planning Committee meetings will continue to be scheduled at 10:00 a.m. of the day on which the monthly Commission meeting is held. The Planning Committee will usually meet at a room in the OPM offices, located in the Jim Thorpe building. The event co-chairs emphasize that all Commissioners and Advisory Council members are welcome to participate. The planning committee anticipates the selections will be made in December and announced in January.

Secretary: Lou Kohlman asked Tya Smith to update Commissioners on the website. She is working with an OPM staffer to get the site running, and will be working with Chair Chris Morriss as well, for approval of information and data. Information has been collected but is not yet available on the site. There will be the possibility of links available in a resource directory. Commissioners may wish to link to the Oklahoma Women's Network site to take advantage of her list, rather than keep a list current. The current plan is for each Commissioner to have a separate page. Some Commissioners suggested that there should be a simple format for each Commissioner. Several Commissioners have standard short biographies which they can submit to the office. Tya Smith and Chair Morriss can use those as exemplars. The short piece would include appointing information, interests, and a short paragraph with details of that Commissioner's interest in women's issues and perhaps a favorite quote from a woman. Commissioners agreed to send the office any existing short biographies they may have by November 15. Commissioners also requested a password-protected area for Commissioners and Advisory Council members to communicate internally. At this point

the Chair anticipated listing Advisory Council members without biographies. Advisory Council members as well as Commissioners might be listed on a separate page as available to speak on areas of interest. There might also be a directory listing of Advisory Council members with their specialty areas, including the same type of information for each Council member. It was suggested that the Commission should collect and put in as much information as possible for the website, some in password-protected areas, in order to promote institutional efficiency, institutional memory and centralization of information. At the appropriate time, the Commission may wish to hire a person to do data-entry.

Advisory Council Chair: Jilda Motley will meet with Tya Smith to discuss the status of the collection and accumulation of data regarding Advisory Council members.

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell reported. October 14-16 the National Women's Law Center had a Health Initiative. In March 2009 there will be a Women in Media conference and the Law Center is accepting proposals. If anyone has a proposal Commissioner Mitchell can forward it. She also showed Commissioners our Achievement Award from the NACW Convention.

Financial Report: Latisha Edwards of the Office of Personel Management presented the Financial Report. She noted that \$17,730 in carryover money has been added to the budget. Also, Commissioner contact information has been sent to the Ethics Commission for reporting purposes and each Commssioner should receive a reporting form.

Business – Topical Committees:

Leadership Committee: Chair Lou Kohlman reported that the Kate Barnard Luncheon, moved to February, will be on Thursday, February 26, 2009. The committee is soliciting nominees for that award. The award is given to an Oklahoma woman in public service. Past recipients include legislators and judges. The most recent recipient was Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland.

Women's Health Committee: Chair Bernice Mitchell reported. The Committee determined that it was not feasible to host a Health Forum in November at the Francis Tuttle Career Tech center. They have asked the center to hold a date in 2009 for one of these programs. November has traditionally included a health program. The Committee proposes doing a scaled-down version of the Forum during the regular November meeting, concentrating on Project Bones, medications and information. The Commission liked this idea. Lou Kerr noted that OU's School of Nursing is interested in these issues, and has a mobile visiting unit. She is on their board and will be glad to ask the School of Nursing to use their facilities for a winter or spring forum. Bernice Mitchell and the Commission were enthusiastic about this idea. Commissioner Mitchell suggested holding the meeting in April.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Chair Rebecca Kennedy will call a meeting of this committee to move forward with their agenda. Bernice Mitchell noted that Church Women United will have World Community Day on November 7. The theme is ‘Peace and Justice’. The Stillwater program, at Holland United Methodist Church beginning at 1:30 p.m. will be based on women incarcerated in Oklahoma.

Unfinished Business: Resonance has invited the Commission to hold their December meeting and luncheon in Tulsa. There are no meetings scheduled in their facility Tuesday and Friday. There meetings until noon in the facility Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Bernice Mitchell suggested meeting on a Friday. Commissioners agreed that ideally, pending availability and the Chair’s schedule, we will ask whether December 12 or December 5 is available. The Commission also discussed inviting the Tulsa Mayor’s Commission as well. Lou Kohlman moved that the Commission authorize expense of up to \$600 for the Tulsa December Retreat and Fern Bowling seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on November 20, 2008, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m..

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Motion:

Lou Kohlman moved that the Commission authorize expense of up to \$600 for the Tulsa December Retreat and Fern Bowling seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Events:

Hall of Fame nomination packets have been sent out to Commissioners and the general public. The Commission has received one nomination by email. The planning committee still has positions to be filled and hopes Commissioners will volunteer. Planning Committee meetings will continue to be scheduled at 10:00 a.m. of the day on which the monthly Commission meeting is held. The Planning Committee will usually meet at a room in the OPM offices, located in the Jim Thorpe building.

The Kate Barnard Luncheon will be February 26, 2009. The Leadership Committee welcomes nominations for this award.

The Health Committee will present a small Health Forum at the November meeting, focusing on Project Bones, medications and information.