

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 512A, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 512A of the State Capitol Building on February 26, 2009. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Pat Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Nancy Rothman, Mary Walker

Commissioners Excused: Lee Denney, Lou Kerr, Debbe Leftwich, Valerie Thompson.

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Sally Frasier, Vicki French.

Advisory Council Members Present: Rita Aragon, Marilyn Capps, Glenda Carlile, Deena Fisher, Heather Simon, Gail Stricklin, Leslie Thomas. Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present:

Women's History Moment: The meeting was immediately preceded by the Kate Barnard Award Ceremony and Luncheon, featuring the OSU Oklahoma Oral History Research Program's presentation of its project interviewing past women Oklahoma legislators. Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins and Secretary of State Susan Savage attended the program and luncheon, along with many current women legislators and elected officials, and a number of former women legislators.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that twenty-two (22) Commissioners, seven (7) Advisory Council members, and x guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of the January 22, 2009 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps gave the financial report. The document includes an outstanding proposed authorization for funds to N.E.W. Leadership. The Commission total commitments so far are \$30,000. NACW national membership fees were paid, as were the costs for the December luncheon.

Reports

Chair: Chair Chris Morriss thanked everyone for helping to make the Kate Barnard luncheon a success.

Vice Chair: Vice Chair Mary Walker reported on the Hall of Fame planning. The committee will continue to meet in preparation for the event. The reception and award orders are placed. The Commission is using email addresses for RSVPs. Commissioners should direct any questions about the event to Mary Walker, Joyce Martin, or host Commissioners. Patricia Presley will host Rita Aragon; Nancy Rothman will host Susan Savage; Bob Darcy will host Caroline Whitener; Patty Bryant will host Suzanne Edmondson; Anita Norman will host **NAME** Hennessey; Jennifer Paustenbaugh will host the family of Mirabeau Lamar Looney; Debbe Leftwich will host Kim Henry.

Secretary: There was no report.

Advisory Council Chair: Letters and interest surveys have gone out to advisory council members, with six responses to date. The Advisory Council Co-Chairs will make personal phone calls to nonresponding members regarding the survey information.

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell provided a printed and oral report; a copy of the printed report is attached. In their most recent telephone conference, the NACW Board discussed the economic situation. In view of the straightened circumstances of governments and Commissions across the country, the NACW determined that the responsible course was to cancel the 2008 NACW Conference scheduled for July in Washington, D.C. In lieu of that event, the NACW will explore the possibilities of holding a national teleconference and/or Webinar. Commissioner Mitchell is on the planning committee discussing those options. The NACW does have one yearly in-person Board meeting in April, in Rockville, Maryland. Lou Kohlman moved that the Commission authorize up to \$600 for travel expense for Bernice Mitchell to attend that meeting. Anita Norman seconded the motion, which passed without opposition. Pam Peterson was not present for the vote.

Nominating Committee: Jennifer Paustenbaugh reported the Nominating Committee slate. Chair: Mary Walker, Lou Kohlman (two candidates); Vice Chair, Lyn Hester; Secretary, Kathy Jones; Advisory Council Chair, Joyce Martin; Nominating Committee, Denise Kinzie; Nominating Committee, Rebecca Kennedy. Chair Chris Morriss called for nominations from the floor three times for each office. There were no nominations from the floor.

Business – Events

County by County Study: Bob Darcy reported. Data are coming in from the various categories for each county. He has requested and expects the voting registration data soon. All the data collection and analysis being done through OSU is free to the Commission. The initial final product will be in the form of a spreadsheet with seventy or eighty tables containing data by category. He outlined several options for a final product the Commission may wish to develop from this data. (1) Is a trifold brochure with data and brief statements, similar to the one developed by the Michigan Commission. This full-color brochure can be given to elected and appointed officials, civic, business and

community leaders, libraries etc. statewide, alerting them to the data regarding Oklahoma women and the Commission's role in preparing the information. (2) An interactive Web site. Visitors could view data overall or by county, with per-county and overall tables, color gradations to assist with context, information on and sources for the data available through links. All the information would be downloadable and without copyright, so it can be easily disseminated. The Web site would be hosted by the OSU Women's Archive server, which is permanently linked to the OSU server. With this arrangement the site can be more easily and reliably maintained, and data changes can be more easily updated through the OSU Women's Archives resources. (3) A PowerPoint presentation. This would be a simple PowerPoint with tabs and links allowing the user to open information from data sources (such as the Health Department) or information resources (such as the OSU Women's Archives historical data). These products would be finished and delivered by the end of this fiscal year; the data collection and analysis will be finished before the school year is out.

Commissioner Darcy presented the Commission with a proposed written budget for all three products. A copy of the budget is attached. Lyn Hester moved the Commission accept the project as outlined, and Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Bob Darcy abstaining. Patti Presley moved that the Commission order up to 5000 printed trifold brochures for statewide dissemination to elected and appointed officials, civic, business and community leadership, and libraries and similar community outlets. Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Bob Darcy abstaining. Nancy Rothman moved the Commission authorize no more than \$14,000 for development and purchase of all three county-by-county study products as included in the budget proposal. Bernice Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Bob Darcy abstaining.

N.E.W. Leadership: N.E.W. Leadership submitted a funding request and proposal to the Commission, asking for \$10,000 for its 2009 session. Commissioners agreed that N.E.W. Leadership needs to complete a form outlining how the OCSW money would be used. The issue was tabled until the March meeting.

Business – Topical Committees:

Leadership Committee: Chair Lou Kohlman thanked everyone for helping make the Kate Barnard luncheon a success.

Women's Health Committee: Co-Chair Adeline Yerkes thanked Commissioners for allowing nursing students take a leadership role in presenting Legislators, on the Commission's behalf, with information on women's heart disease. She announced the Commission is projected to receive a grant of \$1000 this spring for a bone health program.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Chair Rebecca Kennedy asked Commissioners to consider a Resolution in support of SB 448, introduced by Commissioners Senator Debbe Leftwich and Representative Lee Denney. This bill affects the placement of children whose single-custodian parents are imprisoned. Bob Darcy noted the Commission needs

to track the bill as legislative language can change, and the Resolution should issue to the media. Bernice Mitchell voted to approve such a Resolution, with language to be crafted by Commissioners. Jennifer Paustenbaugh seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Announcements: Chris Morriss will ask Sheila Kennison, of OSU, to email the OSCW office about a grant which could benefit the Commission.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on March 26, 2009, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m, in the State Capitol. The room will be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Motions:

Lou Kohlman moved that the Commission authorize up to \$600 for travel expense for Bernice Mitchell to attend the NACW Board meeting at Rockville, Maryland in April. Anita Norman seconded the motion, which passed without opposition. Pam Peterson was not present for the vote.

Bernice Mitchell voted to approve a Resolution in support of SB 488, with language to be crafted by Commissioners. Jennifer Paustenbaugh seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

County by County Project:

Lyn Hester moved the Commission accept the project as outlined, and Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Bob Darcy abstaining.

Patti Presley moved that the Commission order up to 5000 printed trifold brochures for statewide dissemination to elected and appointed officials, civic, business and community leadership, and libraries and similar community outlets. Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Bob Darcy abstaining.

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