

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2009, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
OPM Room G-91, Jim Thorpe Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in OPM Room G-91 of the Jim Thorpe Building on March 26, 2009. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at noon.

Commissioners Present: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds, Mary Walker.

Commissioners Excused: Bob Darcy, Lee Denney, Debbe Leftwich, Pat Martin, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Nancy Rothman, Valerie Thompson.

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

Advisory Council Members Present: Marilyn Capps, Heather Simon, Latasha Wilson, Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present: Christopher Bates.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that eighteen (18) Commissioners, three (3) Advisory Council members, and one (1) guest. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of the February 26, 2009 Meeting: The Minutes were approved as amended.

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps gave the financial report. The County-by-County study approval for the \$14,000 for the final products, including brochures, etc., is included in “other disbursements”. The Commission voted a certain amount in December as computer expenditure. The estimate came out at \$4200, greater than the authorized amount. Ms. Capps suggests we either lower our specifications or increase the amount authorized. This will leave the Commission with about \$13,000. Ms. Capps notified the Commission that there were discrepancies in the purchase order for the Kate Barnard Luncheon food order. We are working with OPM to untangle this situation. There may have been a misunderstanding in billing caused in part by the combination of meal payment by the OSU Foundation and the Commission. Lou Kerr moved to increase the authorization for computer expenses and office equipment, including software, hardware, a printer and scanner, to \$4200. Mary Walker seconded the motion. It passed without opposition, Pam Petersen abstaining. Last year the Commission carried over \$17,000 in general revenue last year. The Commission is encouraged to spend general revenue money on worthy and appropriate projects rather than carry over large sums.

Business

N.E.W. Leadership: The N.E.W. Leadership will have to present a contract before any purchase order may be issued. No contract is necessary before we vote on the proposal. N.E.W. Leadership has asked for \$10,000, as it usually does. In the past the Commission has authorized \$5000 or less. However, the N.E.W. Leadership program did not ask for funds in writing last year, and the Commission did not authorize any funding for last year's program. Commissioners agreed that the program is important, but discussed whether, after several years as a viable program, it should receive Commission funds. Lou Kerr moved to table the vote until the April meeting. Patti Presley seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Pam Peterson abstaining.

The Commission agreed to establish a volunteer subcommittee to review issues such as regularizing the application process for N.E.W. Leadership and other requests for funding, possible 501(c)(3) status, and financial contribution issues, as well as staffing needs and funding. Volunteers from the meeting included Kathy Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Mary Walker.

OSU Foundation Proposed Partnership: The OSU Library Oklahoma Oral History Research Program and the Women's Archives have a Legislature Poster Project. This poster includes all women Oklahoma legislators. The project is designed to provide a poster to every public library in the state. Other options include distribution to Oklahoma public schools, private school, colleges and universities, women legislators, and the OCSW appointing authorities. The current poster would be revised to a slightly larger (and cheaper) format, and to include the Commission's logo and participation. The project includes materials and mailing costs. The Foundation and Archives are looking for partners for this project, and believed that the Commission might be an appropriate partner. Marilyn Capps suggested that, should the Commission vote to enter into this partnership, we might consider paying, for instance, the mailing tubes and postage costs in their entirety for ease of accounting. Commissioners discussed the possibility of funding an internet or interactive technology presence for the poster material, in lieu of a physical poster. At the suggestion of the Chair and with the agreement of all members the discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chair Chris Morris noted 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.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on April 23, 2009, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m, in a room to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Motions: Lou Kerr moved to increase the authorization for computer expenses and office equipment, including software, hardware, a printer and scanner, to \$4200. Mary Walker seconded the motion. It passed without opposition, Pam Petersen abstaining.

Lou Kerr moved to table the vote on the N.E.W. Leadership request until the April meeting. Patti Presley seconded the motion, which passed without opposition, Pam Peterson abstaining.

Subcommittee on Financial and Funding Authorization Issues

The Commission agreed to establish a volunteer subcommittee to review issues such as N.E.W. Leadership funding, 501(c)(3) status, and financial contribution issues, as well as the possibility of hiring more than one temporary employee. Volunteers from the meeting included Kathy Jones, Rebecca Kennedy, Lou Kerr, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Mary Walker.