

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Feb. 4, 2010 - Regular Meeting – Rescheduled from 1/28/2010
Fifth Floor Conference Room – Jim Thorpe Building – State Capitol Complex

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, and ATTENDANCE

Call to Order: Mary Walker, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance to the Feb. 4, 2010, meeting of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women.

Roll Call: Kathryn Jones, Secretary, called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioners Present: Rita Aragon, Fern Bowling, Bob Darcy, Lee Denney, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Ashley Kehl, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbie Leftwich, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Joyce Horton-Sanders, Nancy Smith, Peggy Thompson, Mary Walker, and Adeline Yerkes.

Commissioners Excused: Patty Bryant, Deena Fisher, Marilyn Harmon, Valeska Littlefield, Carolyn McLarty, Chris Morriss, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, and Nancy Rothman.

Commissioners Absent: Valerie Thompson

Advisory Council Members Present: Kitty Asberry, Heather Simon, Laura Pitman, Debbie Boyer, Leslie Thomas, Marilyn Capps

MINUTES, FINANCIAL REPORT, and WOMEN'S HISTORY MOMENT

Minutes: The minutes of the December 10, 2009, meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and also distributed at the meeting (Bob Darcy, motion; Bernice Mitchell, second).

Financial Report (presented by Marilyn Capps and combined w/ a report by Debbe Leftwich, Chair, Personnel and Finance Committee):

Marilyn Capps reported that as of December 31, 2009, the Commission had had a reduction of \$242; a 5% reduction for December 2009 is still pending; the total reduction for the fiscal year will probably be \$1,100; and that for any Commission project, we will spend carryover funds rather than new money. In response to an inquiry re/ expenditures for the County-by-County study, the money will be spent by the end of the fiscal year and the study can be rolled out at the Summit.

Toward a definitive answer re/ what the Commission can and cannot do w/ re to raising money (e.g., at events), Debbe Leftwich and Lou Kohlman will ask for an Attorney General's opinion re/ this issue.

Debbe Leftwich: An extensive discussion was held re/ the Commission paying its own way and paying monthly for "Services Rendered." Comments included a historical perspective of the Commission's relationship with OPM; steps the Commission can take toward becoming an independent commission; and that General Revenue monies should be used for day-to-day expenses rather than projects. A motion was made that the Commission will pay its on way on a monthly basis beginning January 2010 (motion, Adeline Yerkes; second, Denise Kinzie). An amendment was made stating that at the end of the fiscal year, a review will be made and payment of monies prior to January 2010 will be made if monies are available. Following discussion, Adeline Yerkes called the question. The motion passed (No, Bob Darcy; abstain, Commission/Senator Debbie Leftwich, and Commission/Representative Lee Denney).

Leftwich also noted that Tya Smith has completed a "How to" Job Description for her position. She commented that this will hopefully help the Commission next financial year toward moving to a fulltime OCSW employee.

Women's Leadership Moment: Kitti Asberry, a member of the Advisory Council and the Women in Leadership Committee, presented information about incarcerated women who are pregnant.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS and NACW REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman: The Chairman asked Commissioners and Advisory Council members to note any changes on the current, distributed rosters.

Vice-Chairman: The Vice Chairman noted that the website continues to be a “work in progress” She also suggested that, to facilitate the preparation and distribution of a media release, new commissioners submit a bio and picture upon their appointment.

Secretary: The Secretary, in her role as Chairman of the Kate Barnard Luncheon, announced that State Supt. of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett has been selected as the recipient of the Kate Barnard Award. A motion was passed to approve \$1200 for the budget for the event (Rebecca Kennedy, motion; Catherine Haynes, second; Senator/Commissioner Debbe Leftwich and Representative/Commissioner Pam Peterson, abstained). The Secretary introduced Peggy Thompson, a new commissioner.

Advisory Council: The Chairman of the Council proposed Pamela Richardson, the new Executive Director of Resonance in Tulsa, for membership on the Advisory Council. She was approved (Debbe Leftwich, motion; Lou Kohlman, second).

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell noted that 10 individual memberships to the NACW have been received. The NACW Board met in conference call, January 17th, and continued discussion on the annual conference, to be held in July in Rockville, MD. She noted that she is in charge of elections and board development.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Review of Policies and Procedures: Lou Kohlman, Chairman, noted that revisions are almost complete and will be submitted to commissioners for review prior to the Feb. 25, 2010 meeting. The OCSW Chairman reminded Commissioners that a 2/3 vote of the body is necessary to adopt the rules.

Health Committee: Adeline Yerkes distributed a handout re/ “Red Dress Day, Feb. 5, 2010” and noted that Rep. Pam Peterson had read a proclamation re/ Red Dress Day that morning in the House of Representatives. She noted that a program on osteoporosis will be held this spring in Stillwater.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Summary of comments by Rebecca Kennedy and Commission discussion:

1. The SIS committee met this morning and will meet again following the Commission meeting.
2. The committee approved the draft letter to partners, reviewed the website, and approved the deliverables which committee members wish to come out of the Summit.
3. The Summit differs from the Complex Dialogue held the previous week at Oklahoma Christian University in that the Dialogue was organized in a fairly traditional manner by subject matter and groups met prior to the Dialogue to identify strategies they wanted to report out. At the end of the Dialogue, an announcement was made that the SIS is the next step.
4. Key participants from the Dialogue will be invited to the Summit.
5. What role – if any – should gubernatorial candidates play w/re to the Summit? Ashley Kehl will check on restrictions re/ candidates appearing at the Summit.

OTHER BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, and ADJOURNMENT

Other Business Unforeseen at Time of Posting: None

Announcements: Joyce Martin, Chair of the Advisory Council, noted that she’d been contacted by a former Commissioner in Tulsa who is now on the Advisory Council. Several other Commissioners who are also now on the Advisory Council but are unable to attend Commission meetings would like to meet. Commissioners enthusiastically expressed their support for this concept.

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