



Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women Regular Meeting

Date: September 23, 2010

Commission Members Present: Rita Aragon, Bob Darcy, Deena Fisher, Catherine Haynes, Joyce Horton- Sanders, Ashley Kehl, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Patricia Presley, Nancy Smith, Peggy Thompson, Mary Walker

Commissioner Members Excused: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Lee Denney, Rebecca Kennedy, Debbe Leftwich, Carol McLarty, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Nancy Rothman, Devon Shannon, Adeline Yerkes

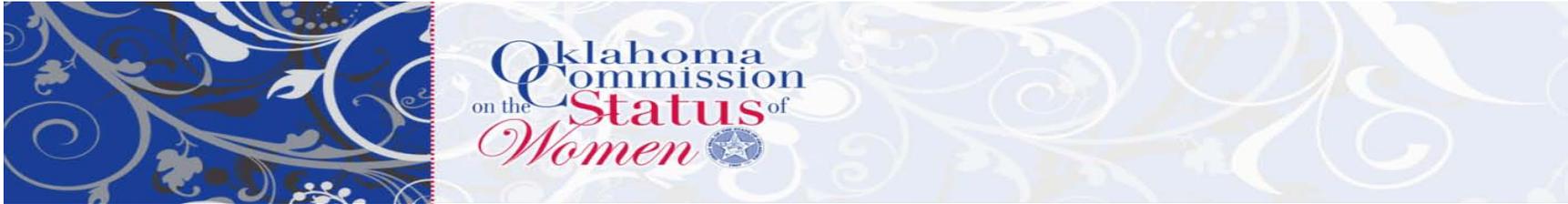
Commissioner Members Absent: Lyn Hester, Katherine Jones, Chris Morriss, Valerie Thompson

Advisory Committee Members present: Marilyn Capps, Claudean Reynolds

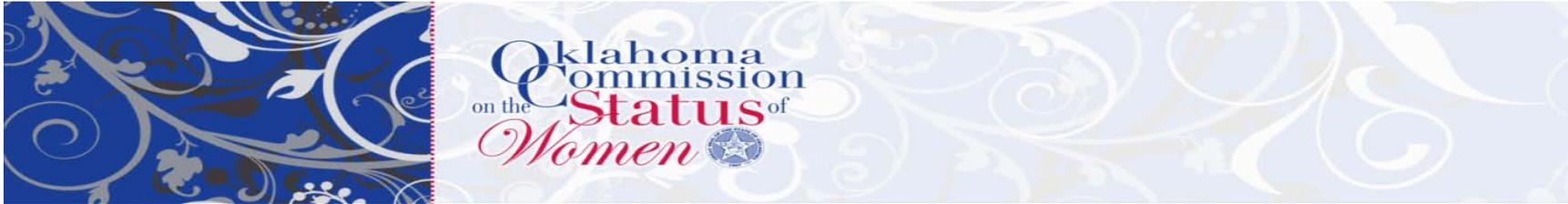
Guests: None

Staff: Misty Peters

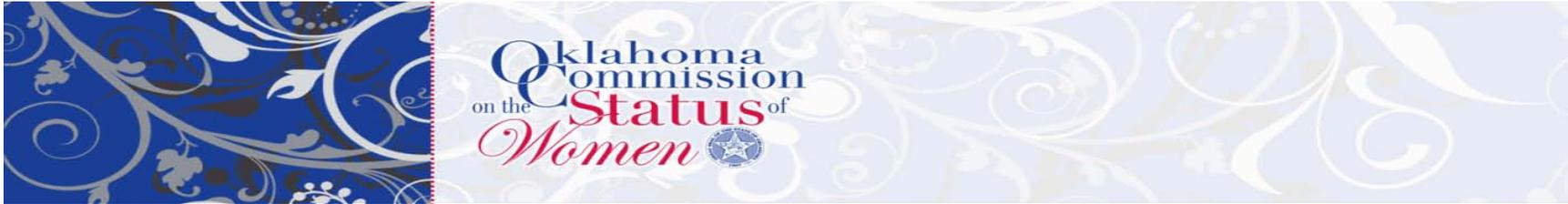
Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action Taken
Roll Call and Minutes of August 26, 2010	Roll call conducted with a quorum present. Call to review and approve the minutes of the August 26, 2010 Commission General Meeting.	Rita Aragon moved approval of minutes. Motion seconded by Denise Kinzie. Minutes approved by Commission Members.
Financial Report	Marilyn Capps reported on August. The only expenses were for Bernice Mitchell's pre-approved travel to the NACW conference. The Chair noted that the Commission had previously discussed paying our way with OPM for office space, etc. She noted that review of this is ongoing, and will eventually be included in the financial report. The Commission had some items lost or damaged in the flood. Commissioners and staff are reviewing options for collecting and housing the Commission archival documents and other items.	
Reports	Mary Walker, Chair – The Chair regretfully announced Lyn Hester's resignation from the Commission. This left the Communications position unfilled. The	



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	<p>Commission has had difficulty in effectively using publicity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair has asked Ashley Kehl and Devon Shannon to co-chair this area. Misty Peters will be able to post all publicity items to the Commission Web site in a timely manner. • The Chair appoints Valeska Littlefield to the Nominating Commission. • She has asked Lou Kohlman to serve as Parliamentarian for the Commission. • As Vice-Chair, Joyce Martin chairs the annual Commission retreat. Over the years it has been difficult to ensure a quorum for a retreat held in June. The Chair has asked Commissioner Martin to review other times of year in which a retreat might be better attended, and urges Commissioners to offer suggestions. Joyce Martin also chairs the Hall of Fame. • Jennifer Paustenbaugh will serve as Chair of the Kate Barnard luncheon. • Peggy Thompson will work as an additional chair with Adeline Yerkes and Rebecca Kennedy on the Women Incarcerated committee. • Regarding the Health Committee, the Chair asks for a volunteer to chair the Health Committee. Adeline Yerkes and Bernice Mitchell, who have co-chaired the Committee for some time, will work as resource people and possible co-chairs. • Our November meeting will be at the State Capitol on the third Thursday, November 18. <p>Vice-Chair: Joyce Martin discussed the Hall of Fame. She is working on the nomination form, but needs a date. The event is usually held in late March, after spring break. It is often held on a Friday, in order to avoid potential room conflicts with the Legislature. The Commission suggested that Commissioner Martin check for availability of the House Chamber on Friday March 25th. She anticipates a nomination deadline of December 3.</p> <p>Secretary: No report Advisory Council: No report NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell reported on NACW. She noted that</p>	



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	<p>NACW conference calls usually occur the week after the Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting. However, she will be able to give Commissioners an Executive Committee report, and Commissioner Paustenbaugh will report on the conference calls. Commissioner Mitchell noted that, of the cities considering hosting the national conference for this coming year, only California and Minnesota are possibilities; the other groups deferred to the following year. The NACW will have a better idea of where a conference may be held after next week’s conference call.</p>	
<p>Unfinished/Ongoing Business</p>	<p>Final Report from Incarceration Summit: Peggy Thompson discussed the ongoing progress of the OklahomaSIS conference. The final draft of the Report is being printed. The Steering Committee may need to meet to determine who receives the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernice Mitchell reported on a conversation with Dr. Laura Pittman, in which she suggested looking ahead to focusing on health and particularly mental health as a topic for any future Summit or for Steering Committee action consideration. • Lou Kohlman reported that the Oklahoma Academy is continuing their efforts in partnership with the OklahomaSIS implementation committee. • Mary Walker noted that the University of Tulsa has a series this year on women and incarceration. The next event will be a film festival, screening seven films throughout October 5-7. The Chair provided an informational flyer to Commissioners. 	
<p>Retreat/Workshop Summary</p>	<p>The Chair provided Commissioners with the draft summary from the June 24, 2010 Planning Retreat. There was a discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Smith and Mary Walker discussed the recommendation for using the Commission for Resource Development. The idea was to have a central resource or clearinghouse where persons working on various kinds of women’s issues, or who have or could use various kinds of programs, as well as the providers of those programs, could go to a central place. Several Commissioners wondered whether the Commission has the staffing resources to do this, and whether the Oklahoma Women’s Coalition has already begun 	



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	<p>doing this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deena Fisher had a question about the reference to an annual summit on incarceration. Other Commissioners agreed that an annual Summit would be difficult given the Commission’s resources and activities. • Deena Fisher wondered about having the Retreat as our first or last meeting, rather than having it during midsummer. The Chair noted that Retreat times are under review. • Lou Kohlman asked about the recommendation to focus on tweens as our Health Committee focus. Bernice Mitchell clarified that the intent was to continue our health focus generally, but acknowledge that tweens will be a part of anything we focus on. • Mary Walker noted that the Leadership committee will be incorporated into the other two committees. • Denise Kinzie and Valeska Littlefield will serve as a liaison to the Women’s Coalition to use their legislative tracking service. • Lou Kohlman noted that Sheryl Lovelady, at the Carl Albert Center, has begun a nonpartisan organization for the specific purpose of compiling resumes, etc., to give to the new Governor to facilitate and encourage the appointment of women to boards, commissions, etc. Rita Aragon will work with Sheryl Lovelady to ensure Commission involvement in this project. • At the next meeting, the Chair will include meetings of the Incarceration and Health committees, and see how best to incorporate leadership committee interests in both areas. 	
Committee Reports	No reports	
Other Business	<p>Mary Walker passed on to the Commission a message from Lou Kerr. The State Capitol will be lit in purple on October 6 for commemoration of domestic violence month. There is also a ceremony on the south steps of the Capitol at 6 p.m. on the 6th. Women are encouraged to wear purple on that day. The Chair asked Commissioners to pass this word to other people and organizations, and to wear purple on that day. Valeska Littlefield shared a personal experience describing the</p>	



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	<p>importance of this event and commemoration.</p> <p>Mary Walker asked Rita Aragon to describe her appointment to a White House commission on military leadership diversity. The commission has three women and 27 men; it was originally established to determine why so many high-ranked military officers were white men. With the Rand Corporation's help it was determined that these officers are primarily drawn from persons who go into Combat Arms. Legislation excluding women from combat also excludes them from the experiences which would put them on these career paths. This commission will recommend looking at who has the opportunity for these experiences. She described lively discussions regarding the importance of women in combat, and the many reasons against the exclusion of women in combat. As a result of those discussions she will be presenting that information to the Armed Services Committee. She described physiological studies showing that, using the current forms of warfare, size and strength differences are not as important. Also, an interesting historical fact is that, before the advent of germ theory and hygiene, more women died in childbirth annually than men died at war. One good reason for women to avoid combat was that, before advances in medical care during pregnancy and childbirth, they already had a higher death rate than the male population. That is not the case now.</p>	
Announcements	<p>Stillwater Public Library will dedicate a statue of Angie Debo on November 18 in the afternoon. The Honorable Robert Henry will make a short speech, and a reception will follow. The Commission discussed moving the Commission meeting scheduled for that date to Stillwater.</p>	<p>Rita Aragon moved that we move the meeting to Stillwater if the Angie Debo statue is dedicated that day, and Bernice Mitchell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
Adjournment and Next Meeting	<p>Next meeting is October 28, 2010.</p>	<p>Bob Darcy moved that meeting be adjourned.</p>