

**Oklahoma
Commission
on the
Status of Women**



**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2003**

Dear Governor Henry:

It is our great pleasure to present for your review the 2003 audited annual report of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women.

At the inception of the Commission on the Status of Women, a small group of caring and dedicated individuals began the task of making life better for vulnerable women, children and families in Oklahoma. This commission and its advisory council, with their vast range of expertise and experiences, spend many hours planning and implementing recommendations and actions to meet the discovered challenges in order to make a difference.

In the past year, we have been able to embrace new technology through our website in order to increase community and statewide outreach. We completed the Task Force of Women Incarcerated in our state and have since requested a study of what's happening to the children of these women. We helped launch and continue to support the first of its kind N.E.W. Leadership program which encourages and promotes young women in our state to become involved in public policy. We continue our annual summits which are designed to stimulate changes in state policies and create initiatives to benefit women statewide and continue presenting and celebrating the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

It is our hope that the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women will be known for the unified voice for the women, children and families throughout our great state. That is our mission and this annual report will provide an overview of a variety of programs previously designed and delivered.

As we develop new priorities for the coming year, we will continue to search for new opportunities to explore methods to be of assistance. We will encourage an environment where equity and balance can ultimately lead to a better life for all. Our challenge is to continue to serve Oklahoma in a coordinated and bipartisan approach. As we strive to meet the needs that we have identified, we will be ever mindful of the reason we began this organization and continue to serve to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

Debbe Leftwich, Chair
Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

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Vision

The Vision for the Future

As Approved June 22, 1996

In the year 2006, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a strong, recognized and respected voice for the women of Oklahoma.

1. The Commission works closely with the Oklahoma Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches (OLEJ) to:
 - educate OLEJ branches on the importance of supporting programs to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma;
 - request Interim Studies to research possible legislative action, build consensus and public support on issues;
 - formulate, support, and/or endorse certain legislation which would benefit women and families;
 - receive adequate funding from the State to support the work of the Commission;
 - ensure inappropriate gender bias is not written into the laws of Oklahoma and when there are revisions to existing law, any gender bias is eliminated;
 - ensure issues of inequality do not impede individuals from reaching their full potential
2. The Commission provides leadership and direction for actions to support Oklahoma women by:
 - acting as a focal point for other agencies and communities to provide resource information, expertise and input on issues;
 - routinely communicating with all relevant constituencies on key issues for women;
 - participating with other groups and in coalitions to support educating the public on issues of importance to women and families;
3. The Commission acts as a voice for the women of Oklahoma by:
 - maintaining a strong, viable Advisory Council of up to 300 community leaders across the state;
 - coordinating an Oklahoma Women's Summit every two years to develop recommendations on specific actions;
 - providing expertise in areas of concern to women and families;
 - annually recognizing OLEJ individuals who have made significant contributions to women and families;
 - coordinating the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame activities.

History

Oklahoma Commission
On the
Status of Women

HISTORY

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy created the President's Council on The Status of Women with Eleanor Roosevelt as its first Chairman. The report issued by that Council encouraged each state to create a similar organization to look at current legal status, potential problems of gender bias and key quality of life issues facing women and families.

Governor Henry Bellmon established the first Governor's Commission on the Status of Women during his first term as Governor in 1965. Each Governor thereafter established either a Committee or a Commission by Executive Order and appointed a group of individuals to serve. By choice of each Governor, the Commission ranged from 20 to 90 members.

Several problems were associated with not having a permanent Commission in place. Each Commission started anew with apparently little continuity of programming or issue concentration; it took several months before the Commissions were able to start developing a plan for action; there was no transfer of documentation between Commissions; and no long range plans were developed to address the problems facing Oklahoma women and families. In addition, those Commissions were never funded by the State of Oklahoma. Any support for their activities was provided by the Governor's office and on a limited basis.

The new permanent Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women was created by SB1147 in 1994 to replace the Governor's Commission and establish permanent status. With the help of Governor David Walters, Speaker Glen Johnson, Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Cullison, Senator Angela Monson, and Representative Laura Boyd were able to establish the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women by state statute. The appointments are now made by the Governor, Senate President Pro Tempore, and Speaker of the House and consist of 30 members appointed for five-year terms. The initial appointment terms were staggered. By statute, the terms will end on June 30th of each year.

Mission and Purpose

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

MISSION:

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women's mission is "To improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma."

PURPOSE:

The Commission was created by Section 665 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Declaration of Legislative Intent in the Act states "... *any inhibiting conditions caused by any factors which impede the ability of an individual to reach the full potential of that individual are matters of public concern.*" Such Intent covers a broad range of issues and potential actions to be addressed by the Commission.

In addition, the Act specifically outlines the power and duty of the Commission to:

- 1. Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but also to communities, organizations, and businesses of this state, which desire the services of the Commission;*
- 2. Act as a monitor on legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other, or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;*
- 3. Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;*
- 4. Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and*
- 5. Make an annual report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its activities under this act. Such recommendations may include concern for needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to equity and gender bias.*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council serves as a vehicle to help the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women meet its requirements to act as an outreach to the women of the state, to be a resource and clearinghouse for research and information on issues related to women and gender bias, to act as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations, and businesses of the state and to establish recommendations for action to improve quality of life for Oklahoma women.

**The Act- SB 1147, 1994 and Subsequent
Legislation**

SB 810, 2003; HB 1556, 2003

Guidelines

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

Operating Guidelines

The Commission shall establish such operating guidelines as necessary and/or appropriate to fulfill the purpose and mission and meet the powers and duties of the Commission. Such Operating Guidelines document shall be given to all new members and a current copy shall be maintained in the Office of Personnel Management's office for public view.

Such Operating Guidelines shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The Mission Statement
2. The Vision Statement
3. Officers' Responsibilities
4. The Committee Structure and Guidelines
5. The Advisory Council Guidelines
6. Attendance Policy
7. Internship Guidelines (pending)

Officers

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fiscal Year 2003 OFFICERS**

DEBBE LEFTWICH	CHAIR
BERNICE MITCHELL	VICE CHAIR
MARLENE SMITH	SECRETARY
BOB DARCY	ASST. SECRETARY
SALLIE HENDERSON	ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR

RITA NEWTON	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
HELLEN JO HARDWICK	APPOINTMENTS
REP. BARBARA STAGGS	LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
KATHRYN JONES	COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Committees

Oklahoma Commission the Status of Women

TOPICAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FY'03

1. Oklahoma Women Incarcerated

Debbe Leftwich
Patricia Presley
Marlene Smith
Rep. Barbara Staggs

2. Domestic Violence

Carolyn Gang
Mary Walker
Vicki French

3. Elder Care

Bob Darcy
Cathrine Haynes

4. Women in Leadership/Legal Status

Renita Shofner
Kathryn Jones
Pat Martin
Margaret Swimmer
Helen Jo Hardwick
Lou Kerr
Jilda Motley
Rebecca Kennedy

5. Women's Physical & Mental Health

Bernice Mitchell
Sally Shreck
Jilda Motley

6. Cultural Oppression

Rebecca Kennedy
Claudean Reynolds

7. Women in Poverty

Rita Newton
Marilyn Ehlers
Rowena Ogden

Members

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
APPOINTMENTS
As of August 7, 2002**

COMMISSIONER	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	FY TERM ENDS
Claudean Adams	Governor	2005
Betty Boyd	Speaker	2006
Kristi Crutchfield	Pro Tempore	2005
Bob Darcy	Pro Tempore	2006
Mary Easley	Speaker	2003
Marilyn Ehlers	Speaker	2003
Vickie French	Governor	2006
Catherine Haynes	Governor	2005
Helen Jo Hardwick	Speaker	2004
Kathryn Jones	Speaker	2005
Rebecca Kennedy	Speaker	2006
Lou Kerr	Pro Tempore	2004
Debbe Leftwich	Pro Tempore	2006
Bernice Mitchell	Pro Tempore	2003
Angela Monson	Pro Tempore	2005
Jilda Motley	Governor	2003
Rita Newton	Pro Tempore	2006
Rowena Ogden	Speaker	2006
Jennifer Paustenbaugh	Governor	2005
Dara D. Prentice	Pro Tempore	2006
Patricia Presley	Governor	2006
Renita Shofner	Governor	2006
Sallie Henderson	Speaker	2004
Sheila Sheaman	Governor	2004
Marlene Smith	Speaker	2005
Barbara Staggs	Speaker	2003
Margaret Swimmer	Governor	2006
Mary Walker	Governor	2006

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

CLAUDEAN ADAMS	BETTY BOYD	KRISTI CRUTCHFIELD
BOB DARCY	DARA DERRYBERRY-PRENTICE	MARILYN EHLERS
VICKI FRENCH	HELEN JO HARDWICK	CATHRINE L HAYNES
SALLIE HENDERSON	KATHRYN JONES	REBECCA KENNEDY
LOU KERR	DEBBE LEFTWICH	PAT MARTIN
BERNICE MITCHELL	THE HONORABLE ANGELA MONSON	JILDA MOTLEY, Ed.D
RITA NEWTON	ROWENA OGDEN	JENNIFER PAUSTENBAUGH
PATRICIA PRESLEY	SHEILA SHEAMAN	RENITA SHOFNER
MARLENE SMITH	THE HONORABLE BARBARA STAGGS	MARGARET SWIMMER
MARY WALKER		

Advisory Council

Advisory Council Guidelines

Purpose: The Advisory Council Serves as a vehicle to help the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women meet its requirement to act as an outreach to the women of the state, to be a resource and clearinghouse for research and information on issues related to women and gender bias, to act as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations and businesses of the state and to establish recommendations for action to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma women.

Categories of Prospective Members: {as approved on January 26, 1995}

The Advisory Council includes four categories of prospective members, both men and women:

1. High visibility community leaders who have shown significant support for women and women's issues,
2. Resource people who have or could provide significant information and resources to support the activities and duties of the Commission,
3. Representatives from the various women's groups and organizations across the state who work to support women's issues.
4. Any member of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women who wishes to serve on the Advisory Council after his/her term on the commission

Officers and Members:

The Advisory Council is chaired by the immediate past chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women. Each year the Advisory Council Coordinating Team under the leadership of the Advisory Council Chair will determine the plan of action for the year and present it to the Commission for approval. The Team is made up of the Commission Chair, Commission Vice-Chair, Advisory Council Chair and Advisory Council Co-Chairs.

The Full Commission will approve the members of the Advisory Council.

Responsibilities of the Advisory Council Coordinating Team and the Members:

- Identify topics and set up roundtable discussion of the key issues facing Oklahoma women,
- Have the members participate and support the annual conference and other events,
- Establish other activities as appropriate to create more visibility and bring input from women across the state,
- Look at the diversity if the state when making appointments to the Advisory Council including ethnic background, geographical area and socio-economic structure.

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Advisory Council Members**

ACEBO, PATRICIA	ALLEN, MARION	ANDERSON, THERESA
ARAGON, RITA	ASKINS REP., JARI	AXLEY, CAROL
BAER, ANN	BAILEY, DEBORAH	BAKER, ISABEL
BLACKBURN REP, DEBBIE	BOYD, LAURA	BROWN, DANA
BUTLER, CYNTHIA	CARTER, JANE	DOERFEL, KEN SUE
EAGLETON, NORMA	EARLS, LYNDA	EDMONDSON, LINDA
FINCHER, REV. CAROL	FOREMAN, JADELL	FRASIER, SALLY
FREEDMAN, MIRIAM	GALLAGER, SHARON	GANG, CAROLYN
GARRETT, SANDY	GEIS, SHARON	GOEBEL, KATHI
HAAS, CLARA	HALL, INEZ	HARDMAN, RUTH
HILL, SIDNEY	HENSLEY, DOROTHY	HOPPER, GENE
HORSE, BEVERLY	INGRAHAM, SANDY	JAKSON, LETITIA
JONES, LYNN	KAUGER, JUSTICE YVONNE	KENNISON, SHELIA
KOHLMAN, LOU	LAFORTUNE, KATHY	LEWIS, MARY ANNE
LITTLEFIELD, ALICIA	MALES, LORENA	MARCUS-MENDOZA, SUSAN
MARTIN, ELIZABETH	MARTIN, KATY	MAXEY, LINDA
MCELDERLY, BETTY	MCFARLAND, CONNIE	MCGLASLIN, MARIA
MCGUIRE, DIANA	MCKERSON, MAZOLA	MONTANA, JO
MOSES-DEWITTY, DOROTHY	NICKLAS, JANICE	PAINTER, PENNY
PARKER, LINDA	PITT-HELM, MAGGIE	ROGERS, DONNA
ROSS, JUNE	SAUNDERS, LYNNE	SERAN, MARY
SISMORE, DIANE JOY	SKEETER, CARMELITA	SMITH, MARCIA
SMITHTON, LINDA	THOMPSON-TAYLOR, CAROLYN	TIGER, DANA
TULLIS, PENNY	TYE, SHARRAL	VANCE, COURTNEY
WARREN, PAM	WEBB, JEANIE	WEBB, MARIE

WEDDINGTON, STACEY	WENDLING, GINA	WHITENER, CAROLYN
WILSON, CORRENA	WILSON-NEAL, KARA	WINTERFELDT, DR. ESTER
WOODRUM, PAT	WOODWARD, SUE	ZINK-TARBEL, JILL

List of Meetings

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

2003 Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 23	1:30 p.m.	State Capitol, Room 419C 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.-OKC
February 27	1:30 p.m.	State Capitol, Room 419C 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.-OKC
March 27	1:30 p.m.	State Capitol, Room 419C 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.-OKC
April 24	1:30 p.m.	State Capitol, Room 419C 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.-OKC
May 19	1:30 p.m.	State Capitol, Room 419C 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.-OKC
June 26	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC
July 24	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC
August 28	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC
September 25	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC
October 23	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC
November 20	1:30 p.m.	Jim Thorpe Building, Room G-91 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.- OKC

Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OKLAHOMA WOMEN RECOGNIZED AS "PACESETTERS"

Among four women receiving special recognition this year as a "Pacesetter" at the Southern Women in Public Service Conference in Little Rock, Ark., April 27-29 is the Chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women Debbe Leftwich. Pacesetters are proven leaders from each of the 13 Southern states who serve as examples to others who aspire to public service careers.

"I'm deeply honored to be included with this group of distinguished women and represent Oklahoma at this conference," replied Commission Chair Debbe Leftwich, "There have been only two women honored from Oklahoma at earlier conferences, Rep. Laura Boyd and Sen. Angela Monson. The others being recognized from Oklahoma this year are Kathryn Taylor, Brenda Winn and Susan Savage."

This year's conference "Coming together to make a difference" brings together women from different backgrounds - Democrats and Republicans, stay-at-home mothers and business executives, community leaders, political novices and veterans - to promote women in public service leadership in the South.

The conference goal is to improve the quality and character of government by tapping the talents of women currently serving in leadership positions and by opening doors for others interested in making a difference through public service. It is sponsored by The Stennis Center for Public Service, a federal agency created by Congress in 1988 to promote and strengthen public service leadership in America. Headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi, and adjacent to MSU, their programs are funded through an endowment plus private contributions from foundations and corporations.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 12, 2002

Contact Information: Kathryn Jones, Secretary
(405) 942-1086

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women elected officers for FY-2003 at its June 27 regular meeting at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Outgoing Chair Rebecca Kennedy (Ada) handed the gavel over to newly elected Chair Debbe Leftwich (Oklahoma City). The election was held just in time for this year's annual retreat. Other officers elected are Vice-Chair Patricia Presley (Oklahoma City), Secretary Kathryn Jones (Oklahoma City), and Advisory Council Chair Sallie Shreck (Tulsa). Also elected were two members of next year's nominating committee, Helen Jo Hardwick (Tulsa) and Vickie French (Foss).

The new Chair stated, "With our new fiscal year just beginning, I can't think of a better time for our retreat. The purpose of the retreat is for the commissioners to meet, get better acquainted, and determine the activities for the Commission to carry out its mission for the next 12 months."

The mission of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is *to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma*. A number of ways the commissioners accomplished this in the past few years was through public hearings, proposing and/or support of legislation, and education. Projects this past year included "Take Our Daughters to Work" Day and a reception at which Awards of Excellence were presented in an elected position, an appointed position, and for public service. The Commission also developed "talking points" on crucial issues, including domestic violence and women's physical and mental health, which were shared with legislators and other community leaders. Under the leadership of Vice-Chair Patricia Presley, the Commission has begun planning the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame that will be held March 27, 2003, at 4 p.m. in the House Chamber at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The new Chair says she hopes to build on her predecessor's success and expand in areas such as electing more women to public office, appointing more women to boards and commissions, and additional issues that are to be discussed at the retreat.

"This is a great bunch of women that I'm very proud to be associated with. They are truly committed to this Commission and take this work very seriously. I'm looking forward to the retreat and planning our work activities for 2003," states Chair Leftwich.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

Oklahoma City, April 1, 2003 – Oklahomans are encouraged to participate in “Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day,” Thursday, April 24, Debbe Leftwich, Chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, announced today. (“Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” was formerly called “Take Your Daughters to Work Day.”) Leftwich noted that the experience can be valuable and an excellent way to communicate the important roles of women in the workplace.

Business leaders and supervisors can take a leadership role by asking employees to bring daughters and sons to work. A planning committee composed of a diverse group of employees can develop work-related experiences which will be worthwhile for all participants.

In addition, many teachers and principals who are contacted in advance of “Take Your Daughter and Sons to Work Day” will authorize the absence as excused to allow girls and boys to have this unique educational opportunity.

Vicki French, Co-chair of “Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day,” noted that the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women supports the opportunity this special day gives girls and boys to explore careers and to be mentored by adults serving as important role models. She further stated that this real world experience coupled with classroom lessons helps girls and boys think about their goals and the options available to them.

Patricia Presley, Vice-Chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and Co-Chair of “Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day”, added that the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a National Sponsor of “Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” and would encourage Oklahomans to take their daughters, sons, nieces, nephews to work on April 24.

For additional information, contact:

*Debbe Leftwich, Chair, Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and Chair “Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” at 405-685-2104 or 405-239-7141

Or; d_leftwich@ocmemeokc.state.ok.us

*Vicki French, Co-Chair, “Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day” at 580-472-3261 or 580-592-4749

Or; p73626@email.usps.gov

*Or www.daughtersandsonstowork.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Claudia Tarrington Leadership Fund

At the request of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, the OU Foundation has established a "Claudia Tarrington Leadership Fund". Donations to this fund will be directed for scholarships for young women in the N.E.W. Leadership Program.

"As founder and someone who spent her entire lifetime working on women's issues and particularly in the area of women in leadership positions, we felt this was a very appropriate way to honor her memory," says Commission Chair Debbe Leftwich.

The N.E.W. Leadership is a five-day institute designed to inform and empower undergraduate women to pursue careers in politics and public service. Approximately 35 women, from colleges and universities across Oklahoma, representing a variety of majors, class years, and economic and personal backgrounds are selected to participate. N.E.W. Leadership brings in Oklahoma women office holders, public administrators, advocates and activists as keynote speakers and panelists.

The Commission hosted a reception for the Inaugural Class of 2002 and has sponsored the program this year as a major contributor. This year's reception will be May 19, 2003 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on the Second Floor Rotunda at the State Capitol Building. The Commission will be in attendance and will say a few words about this fund and their founder.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September, 2002

NOMINATIONS FOR OKLAHOMA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME REQUESTED

Nominations for women to be considered for induction into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, according to Debbe Leftwich, Chair of the Commission. Guidelines for establishing eligibility and determining inductees include:

Only Oklahoma women are eligible:

- Women who have lived in Oklahoma for a major portion of their lives.
- Women who are easily identified or have identified themselves publicly as Oklahomans.

Eligible women shall include:

- Women who are pioneers in their field or in a project that benefits Oklahoma.
- Women who have made a significant contribution to the State of Oklahoma.
- Women who serve or have served as role models to other Oklahoma women.
- Women who may be "unsung heroes" but have made a difference in the lives of Oklahomans or Americans because of their actions.
- Women who have championed other women, women's issues, or served as public policy advocates for the issues important to women.
- Women who exemplify the Oklahoma spirit.

Nomination forms may be obtained by calling Event Chair Patricia Presley at (405) 524-0554. The deadline for the nomination for and supporting materials to be received is November 1, 2002. Inductees will be honored at an induction ceremony on March 27, 2003 in the House Chambers at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame is one of several events sponsored by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women to support its mission, "*To improve the quality of life for women, children and families in Oklahoma.*"

Enclosures: Nomination Form & List of Previous Inductees

Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame

Guidelines

The following policies and procedures are provided to ensure consistent high quality inductions are made to the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

1. Guidelines for Establishing Eligibility:

1.1 Only Oklahoma *women* are eligible.

- *Women* who have lived in Oklahoma for a major portion of their lives.
- *Women* who are easily identified or have identified themselves publicly as Oklahomans.

1.2 Eligible women shall include:

- *Women* who are pioneers in their field or in a project that benefits Oklahoma.
- *Women* who have made a significant contribution to the State of Oklahoma.
- *Women* who serve or have served as role models to other Oklahoma women.
- *Women* who may be "unsung heroes", but have made a difference in the lives of Oklahomans or Americans because of their actions.
- *Women* who have championed other women, women's issues, or served as public policy advocates for issues important to women.
- *Women* who exemplify the Oklahoma Spirit.

1.3 Current members of the Commission are ineligible for induction.

2. Limitations on Nominations:

2.1 No one serving as a judge will be permitted to neither nominate nor send a letter of endorsement for a nominee to the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

2.2 No more than three nominations per person will be accepted.

2.3 Organizations can nominate an individual, but they must name a single contact.

3. Selection Process:

3.1 Commission Chair, Senior Vice Chair, and Advisory Council Chair serve as the Commission representatives to the selection panel. The Senior Executive Committee shall choose at least two other members of the panel from previous inductees or previous Commission Chairmen.

3.2 Members of the selection panel shall meet as a panel and select the new inductees.

3.3 The Commission Chair shall notify inductees.

4. Nominating Procedure:

4.1 The Event Chair will present the location, date, and time of the event to the Commission no less than ten months prior to the event.

4.2 Once the Commission approves the location, date, and time of the event, a nomination form shall be developed. The next step will be distribution to the Commission, Advisory Council, legislators and agency administrators. A

media release, which includes the nomination form, should be sent to newspapers, radio and television stations.

- 4.3 Inductees, if living, are required to attend the event. If an inductee cannot attend, her nomination can be carried over for a period of one year or until the following recognition event.
- 4.4 The individual who nominates the inductee is responsible for assuring the inductee is escorted to the recognition event.
- 4.5 The permanent home of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame memorabilia is the University of Central Oklahoma.

5. Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame Location:

- 5.1 The permanent home of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame memorabilia is the University of Central Oklahoma

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame
Inductees 1982 - 2003**

1982: Hannah Diggs Atkins, Kate Barnard, June Brooks, Gloria Stewart Farley, Aloysius Larch-Miller, Susie Peters, Christine Salmon, Edyth Thomas Wallace

1983: Zelia N. Breaux, Kate Frank, Leona Mitchell, Jean Pitts, Juanita Kidd Stout, Alma Wilson

1984: Angie Debo, Jeane Duane Kirkpatrick, Jewell Russell Mann, Zella J. Patterson

1985: Mae Boren Axton, June Tompkins Benson, Pam Olson, Betty Durham Price, Bertha Frank Teague

1986: Sara Ruth Cohen, Vinita Cravens, Rubye Hibler Hall, Elizabeth Ann McCurdy Holmes, Grace Elizabeth Hudlin, Wilma P. Mankiller, Edna Mae Phelps, Evelyn La Rue Pittman

1993: Marie Cox, Anita Faye Hill, Moscelyne Larkin, Jackie Longacre, Shannon Lucid, Clara Luper, Opaline Deveraux Wadkins, Pat Woodrum

1995: Nancy Goodman Feldman, Barbara J. Gardner, Ruth Blalock Jones, Mona Salyer Lambird, Gloria Grace Langdon, Bernice Compton Mitchell, Donna Nigh

1996: Betty Boyd, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, Lela Foreman, Sandy Ingraham, Lorena Males, Bernice Shedrick, Valree Fletcher Wynn

1997: Isabel Keith Baker, Jessie Thatcher Bost, Norma Eagleton, Kay Goebel, Ruth Hardman, Beverly Horse, Mazola McKerson, Penny Baldwin Williams

2001: Jari Askins, Shirley Bellmon, Dorothy Moses DeWitty, Sandy Garrett, Lynn Jones, Yvonne Kauger, Jill Zink Tarbel, Dana Tiger.

2003: Esther Houser, Judge Vicki Miles-LeGrange, Judge Linda G. Morrissey, Donna Shirley, Lynn Schusterman

Talking Points

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

Women in Leadership – Talking Points

Worldwide:

- ❖ Women are half of the world's population, but women make up 70% of the world's poor, 2/3 of the world's illiterates, and over 50% of the world's refugees.
- ❖ Women have less than 10% of the world's income.
- ❖ 70% of the 130 million children who do not have access to education are girls. Twice as many boys as girls in developing countries receive a higher education.
- ❖ In 1998 only 7% of the world's cabinet ministers were women. In the same year, women held fewer than 5% of ministerial-level positions in Asia and Northern Africa. Without equal representation, it is difficult for women to directly influence decisions affecting them and their communities. **Source for all points:** WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, 2/02)

United States:

- ❖ “Even as the economy continues to stagnate, women in corporate America are experiencing upward movement...women currently represent 15.7% of corporate officers in America's largest 500 companies – up from 12.5% in 2000 and 8.7% in 1995.”
- ❖ “Although women are moving up, men still dominate the earnings race. Almost 95% or 2,141 of the top earning corporate officers are men compared to only 118 or 5.2% of women top earners in the Fortune 500. This represents an increase from 1996 when 1.9% of the top corporate earners were women.” **Source for both points:** Catalyst (“Catalyst Census Marks Gains in Numbers of Women Corporate Officers in America's Largest 500 Companies,” 11/19/02)
- ❖ Although a record number of women are serving as governors in j2003, the numbers of women serving in other statewide offices and in state legislatures actually fell in the 2000 elections. Women will serve as **governors** in six states, with four newly elected women joining two holdovers. In the **U.S. Senate** there will be 14 women, and the **U.S. House of Representatives** will have 59 women members (as well as 3 delegates). In **statewide elected executive positions** overall, 79 women will serve, compared with 89 in 2002. A **total** of 1,642 women will hold 22.2% of state legislative seats, compared with 1,680 (22.6%) at the end of 2002. Source: Center for American Women and Politics (3/03)

Oklahoma:

- ❖ Four women hold statewide elective positions. Oklahoma ranks 47th in the number of women elected to the state legislature – six (of 48) senators and 11 (of 101) representatives. The state ranked 49th in 2002. **Source:** Center for American Women and Politics (3/03).
- ❖ Two women hold cabinet positions.

Domestic Violence

- Oklahoma currently ranks 8th nationally in the number of females murdered by men. *Source: Violence Policy Center, 1999*
- 21,211 domestic violence cases were reported to Oklahoma law enforcement agencies in 1999, resulting in:
 - 64 homicides
 - 5,398 felony assaults
 - 322 violent sex crimes
 - 15,427 felony assault and battery(Only 50% of intimate violence incidents are reported to law enforcement.)
Source: OSBI, UCR 1998
- In Oklahoma domestic abuse reports increased 41.3% between 1990 and 1999. *Source: OSBI UCR 1999*
- In Oklahoma domestic violence homicides increased from 55 in 1998 to 64 in 1999 (16.4%). *Source: OSBI UCR 1999*
- 13,368 Oklahomans received domestic violence services in FY '00. *Source: DMHSAS Data Collection*
- Every year, there are more women beaten by a spouse or intimate partner than are injured in auto accidents, rapes, and muggings combined. *
- Nationally over one-fourth of all homicides of women are domestic violence related.
- 85% of batterers watched domestic violence occurs in their own home and/or experiences child physical or sexual abuse. *
- Children raised in violent homes are *
 - 6 times as likely to commit suicide
 - 26 times as likely to commit sexual assault
 - 57 times as likely to abuse drugs
 - 74 times as likely to commit other crimes against persons
- The March of Dimes reports that more babies are now born with birth defects as a result of their mothers being battered during pregnancy than from the combination of all the diseases and illnesses against which we immunize pregnant women. *
- Children witness 87% of the domestic violence assaults in this country. *
- Boys who witness their father's abuse of their mothers are more likely to inflict severe violence as adults. Data suggests that girls who witness maternal abuse may tolerate abuse as adults more than girls who do not. *

- Children in violent homes are the targets of abuse at 1500% higher rate than the national average. *
- 62% of sons injured over the age of 14 are injured attempting to protect their mother. *
- Of all boys aged 11-20 who are arrested for murder, 63% have killed the man who was assaulting their mother. *
- *Source: "Domestic Violence Awareness Institution," The Public Training Institute, 2000.*

Women in Leadership

- Supported N.E.W. Leadership Program
- League of Women Voters
- Carl Albert Center
- Met with Governor's Appointment Secretary

Women's Health

INDICATOR	OKLAHOMA WOMEN	US WOMEN
% Of women who have high blood pressure	24.1%	24.7%
% Of women who have high blood cholesterol	22.3%	21.2%
% Of women who have diabetes	5.5%	5.5%
% Of women having had a sigmoidoscopy for finding colorectal cancer	28.8%	32.6%
% Of women 18 years of age and older who have had a mammogram	83.1%	86.2%
% Of women 18 years of age and older who have had a Pap smear within the last 3 years	83.8%	85.4%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to smoking	23.8%	20.8%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to lack of exercise	85.2%	79.7%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to being overweight	34.4%	33.2%
% Of women who lack health care coverage	17.3%	10.8%

Legislation that was passed in 2001 to assist women with their health concerns:

SB711 Provides for mammograms for women with all types of health care coverage including Medicaid

SB741 Provides for breast and cervical cancer treatment for women who are served under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and its partners.

SB738 Provides that insurance will cover sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy screening for adults 50 years of age and older.

Incarceration Task Force

- There was about a 14 percent growth rate in arrests for females between 1996 and 1998, while this was almost 11 percent for males.
- Both males and females experienced growth rates in new DOC admissions, at 14 and 26 percent, respectively.
- There is an increase between female felony arrest rates and female felony convictions were among African Americans in which there is an increase between the percentage with felony arrests and the percentage of felony convictions while the opposite pattern was found for Caucasians.
- Drug offenses are the most prevalent offense for incarcerated men and women, accounting for 32 and 45 percent, respectively.
- Among drug offenses, possession was the highest specific offense.
- For women, fraud and larceny offenses follow drug offenses, while for men larceny and DUI offenses follow drug offenses.
- There is a consistent finding of increases between the percentage of females being arrested for drug offenses and the percentage convicted for drug offenses, while the opposite is true for males.
- Since 1993 Oklahoma's rate for incarcerating women has been among the highest among the nation. Oklahoma's rate for 1998 was the third highest at 622 per 100,000, while the nation's rate was 461 per 100,000 (that is nearly 2 ½ times that of the national rate. This is an increase from 1991 when Oklahoma's female incarceration rate was 39.15 per 100,000, which was 2 times that of the national rate of 18.91.
- A study of drug offenders in Oklahoma found that black women were more likely than white women to receive sentences of five or more years, regardless of the offense or prior legal history. On the other hand, white women were more likely to receive deferred sentences.

Source

***s: Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, Oklahoma City
"Mothers in prison"; Susan F. Sharp, Ph. D., University of Oklahoma***

Table
(Legislative & Topical Committees)