

**St. Mary's County  
Commission for Women Meeting  
April 20, 2009**

Katie Werner called the meeting to order at 5:38. The following members were present: Juanita Nether, Norma Pipkin, Pat Friend, Katie Werner, Marta Kelsey. Cynthia Brown, Commission Liaison was also present. Susan Gough, Darlene Johnson, Maureen Johnson, and Rose Ann Everett were absent.

**Minutes** for the January meeting could not be approved since Rose Ann was absent. Cynthia Brown will contact Rose Ann for the January minutes and will compile February minutes from her notes. Norma moved that the March minutes be approved; Pat seconded the motion. March minutes were approved.

**Budget Update:** We have approximately \$200 remaining. Cynthia felt this was enough for a planning retreat before the end of the fiscal year. Any balance can be spent on domestic violence brochures for distribution next year.

**Membership Update:** Delores Lacey has advised Katie that a number of members' terms are expiring on June 30. Katie is not able to be reappointed since this is her second term. Marta and Juanita both have agreed to a second term. Rose Ann has declined. Darlene will let Katie know soon. Eleven names are on the list of applicants received by Delores Lacey. We will review the applications at our May meeting and make recommendations to the Commissioners.

The Family Violence Coordinating Council has also advised Ms. Lacey that a new representative from the Women's Commission needs to be made since Andree Wells has resigned.

Cynthia will write a memo to the Commissioners advising them of our intention to review the applications and asking for action before our retreat in June. We agreed to move our May meeting up one week to allow more time for this to take place. We would like to include new members in this annual event.

Katie will come up with a slate of officers for election at the June meeting. All positions will be open due to term expirations and resignations.

**Woman of the Year Banquet Update:** All agreed that the banquet went very well. We are continuing to ask for permission to raise funds for a returning woman's scholarship through the College of Southern Maryland

**County WebSite Update:** Cynthia is working to get the Commission for Women's site updated. Minutes have not been posted since June 08 and the membership as listed is not correct. Cynthia reported that information has been forwarded to the Public Information office.

**State Commission for Women Update:** Lynn Fitrell, state Commission for Women representative, was not able to attend the meeting. She reported to Katie that she didn't have much additional information since they had not had a meeting since she last reported to us. She did advise us that a presentation by the Equal Rights Center is being sponsored by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on Thursday, May 14, 2009 in Bowie. She also reported that the state is having a "Woman of Tomorrow" recognition on May 13 from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Miller Office Building in Annapolis. We are welcome to attend these events.

**Retreat:** It was agreed that we should have a retreat in June. The focus of the retreat will be an orientation for new members and a chance for everyone to get to know each other. This seems particularly important since we will have so many new members all at one time. June 7<sup>th</sup>, a Sunday, from 12:30 to 4:00 pm was determined to be the best time for the most members.

Marta will contact the Tea Room for an estimate and get back to Katie and Cynthia.

**Next Meeting: May 11, 2009**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Kelsey