

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
September, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Marta Kelsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the Carter Building. The following members were present Juanita Nether, Pat Friend, Andree Wells, Katie Werner, Rose Ann Everett and Norma Pipkin. Cynthia Brown our Community Services liaison also joined the meeting. Maureen Johnson was excused. No other members indicated they would not be able to attend.

Announcements - Next meeting has been changed from October 16 to October 23, 2006. Dr. Kathy O'Brien has been invited to speak to the Commission. Dr. O' Brian is the Director of Walden-Sierra and the Chair of Family Violence Task Force.

Minutes - There were no minutes from the retreat.

Unfinished Business - We will discuss the list of items that were proposed at the retreat. With limited resources and limited number of volunteers we will have choose where we can focus our energy for the biggest impact.

Women's Equality Day Proclamation Several members were present to accept the Proclamation from the Commissioners on August 22, 2006.

Community Business and Internship - This project did not go as planned. There problems with communication. Members were not as informed as they needed to be. Apparently Shane Mattingly had two interns and he would be willing to participate again in a similar program. More than one member said they thought one intern was at the hospital but there was not other information available. Although the membership felt this was a worthwhile project no one volunteered to chair it next year.

CFW Website - Cynthia will see that the website is updated with the new members.

Women's Fair - Marta said she has received a Directory of Services Providers; however she is interested in developing a resource list of volunteer organizations that promote women's issues, such as the BPW. Cynthia said she would see what she could find and send those resources to Marta. If anyone knows of additional organizations, please e-mail contact information to Marta.

Domestic Violence Task Force - In response to the most recent letter to the Commissioners requesting an appointment to the Task Force, Cynthia stated that a member of the Commission for Women would be appointed. At this time it is unknown, which member will be appointed but this is a major milestone in our role of representing St. Mary's County Women. Cynthia indicated the group has not yet convened at this time.

Bylaws: It was suggested that the new members, Juanita and Rose review the bylaws to see if they had any recommendations for changes. Cynthia will send the proposed by laws to them.

Maryland Women's Commission - Frances Eagan the Maryland Commission for Women Representative could not attend our meeting tonight but she will be attending whenever she is in town and will keep us posted on State issues. She would also like to receive our minutes so Marta will send the contact information to Norma.

New Business - NACW Marta shared some information regarding the National Association of Commissions for Women. There is a membership fee of \$100 annually. Marta suggested members go on line and explore the benefits of becoming members.

Attendance Policy the issue of the attendance policy was raised again. Members feel that in order that the Commission fulfills our responsibilities to the citizens we need members that are

fully engaged in the purpose. Members are encouraged to follow the attendance guideline and contact Community Services if they are unable to attend a meeting.

The bylaws currently state, Article III Section 6. Removal: Members may be removed from the Commission by the Board of County Commissioners if a) Any member is not in attendance for three (3) consecutive meetings without official notification to the Commission through the Office of Community Services.

There are some changes in the normal meeting schedule - The meeting schedule will be as follows: October 23, 2006 November 20, 2006 December 18, 2006 January 22, 2007 February 26, 2007 March 19, 2007 April 16, 2007 May 21, 2007 June 18, 2007

Special Acknowledgements - It was decided we would request a proclamation on domestic Violence prevention for the first Tuesday in October. At that time we will present the brochure holders to the Sheriff's Department and ask service providers to join in the presentation.

Other areas that should be addressed are - October is Breast Cancer awareness month. November Veteran's Day Celebration it was determined small corsages will be purchased for the female veterans at the Charlotte Veterans Home. February is Women's Heart Awareness month. March Women's History Month April: Young Child July: Lead Poisoning Andree will contact the Health department to see about statistics in the area regarding

Housing - It was determined that the group wanted more information about housing and available resources for female head of households. A possible project for the spring would be a forum on the issue of housing.

The commissioners have requested input for legislation for the upcoming General Assembly. Members were asked to think of things that should be submitted.

Cynthia distributed an invitation from the Montgomery County Commission for Women to a meeting on September 26, 2006 the topic will be Commission for Women Useful Today? It will be held at the American Council on Education One DuPont Circle.
12 noon -1:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Minutes prepared and submitted by Norma J. Pipkin