

Commission for Women
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2007

Marta Kelsey called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. The following members were present: Rose Ann Everett, Maureen Johnson, Marta Kelsey, Juanita Nether, Norma Pipkin, Eve Taylor, Andree Wells and Katie Werner. Darlene Johnson and Cynthia Brown arrived late. Pat Friend and Jennifer Roby were excused. Susan Gough was not present.

Announcement: Next meeting will be November 19, 2007. The December meeting will be on the 17th.

Minutes: Andree Wells read the minutes. Maureen Johnson, Jennifer Roby and Eve Taylor were excused from the September meeting and this should be reflected in amended minutes. Marta Kelsey will check with Pat Friend regarding the e-mail vote. Maureen Johnson moved and Juanita Nether seconded that the September minutes be approved as amended. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

By-Laws: Marta Kelsey will request that Jennifer Roby send out the By-Laws so members can review and refresh. Juanita Nether volunteered to meet with Jennifer Roby to get the By-Laws finalized and present the members with a clean copy and an annotated copy.

New Business

Women's History Banquet: Norma Pipkin has volunteered to chair the event again this year. We will need committees. Spring break for the school system is in March and that will eliminate 10 available days as the schools will be closed. Norma Pipkin will check the availability of the Tech Center and let the members know the available days.

League of Women Voters: Kate Ufford the Vice-President from the St. Mary's County League of Women Voters addressed the members. They are a non-partisan, party neutral organization. They do not endorse candidates or political parties. Their past activities have included Domestic Violence Panel, Understanding the Patriot Act, Local Homeland Security issues, Living Wage panel, and Candidate forums. There is a Lifelong Learning in the Community Program scheduled next Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lexington Park Library. The Superintendent of Schools and Kathleen Reif will moderate. On November 10th there will be a forum on an Immigration Study at the College of Southern Maryland. On November 17th there will be a panel on Immigration. They do an Online Voter's Guide. They register voters. They provide information on the County Government. There are 65 paid members with 20 active members. Anyone can be a member, there are dues. You will need to be over the age of 18 and a registered voter. A lot of their activities come from their members; they also focus on State and National issues approximately once a year. From September through May they meet once a month. More information can be found at www.lwv.md.org/stmarys. There is also a 211 initiative, similar to 911 but for non-urgent emergencies. The biggest obstacle at this time is funding. The League of Women Voters also provides a scholarship to each high school for Model Congress.

Veteran's Day: Veteran's Day is November 11th, Monday. November 12th is the "official" holiday. Those who wish to participate at the Veteran's Home will need names of veterans, and the time they'd like us there. Flowers and certificates will also need to be provided. Rose Ann Everett, Susan Gough, Juanita Nether, Eve Taylor and Andree Wells have indicated that they are interested in presenting flowers and certificates to the female veteran's at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. Marta Kelsey will get the information. In the past we have used David's flowers –

carnations with red, white and blue ribbon. We will need to know when to get the flowers. Cynthia Brown will look at other florists we can use, possibly one closer to the Veteran's Home. She will let Marta know where she can get them from. Juanita Nether indicated that she will bring her camera and take pictures.

Women's History Month: Things to consider; Judging, categories, decorations and food, entertainment, guest speaker, publicity. Marta will check to see if they have been announced.

Any press release should go out within 60 Days of the event.

The Health Fair will be on February 23, 2008, the location is to be announced at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.