

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
*December 18, 2006 * Meeting Minutes*

Marta Kelsey, Chair of the Commission called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM in the home of Maureen Johnson. The following members were present Norma Pipkin, Katie Werner, Rose Everett, Andree Wells, Juanita Nether, Darlene Johnson, and Pat Friend.

Announcements - The next meeting will be on January 22, 2007 due to the holiday.

There will a legislative briefing in Montgomery County on January 28, 2007. Darlene Johnson, Maureen Johnson and Andree Wells expressed interest in attending.

Marta shared a letter from Governor Erlich.

Maureen Johnson moved to approve the November minutes as written.

Reports

Family Violence Coordinating Council – Maureen reported that she was not apprised of the first meeting of the coordinated council. She has requested and reviewed the minutes. It was noted that the State's Attorney Office will adopt a no tolerance for family violence and will press charges on assault. The next meeting will be the end of January.

Health Fair will be held on February 24, 2007 at St. Paul's United Methodist church in Leonardtown, MD. Marta asked about the status of the display. Marta has ordered 50 copies of pertinent items from the Maryland Network on Domestic Violence. She also ordered 10 copies of the same information in Spanish. It was suggested that the display committee go to the Community Service Office and take inventory of the supplies, tablecloth and tri-fold displays, pens, and pencils etc that can be used for this event. Pat Friend, Andree Wells and Darlene Johnson will work together to develop the display.

Marta suggested we all help distribute fliers and promote the health fair.

Maureen Johnson moved to purchase a gift certificate in the amount of \$100.00 at one of the local businesses where the winner could get a massage, manicure or pedicure. The motion was second and carried. Cynthia will be asked to take care of this task and have it available for a door prize at the Health Fair.

Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform...The general consensus was that this was a very interesting topic and a significant concern to families in St. Mary's. Members think this will be addressed at the Legislative Briefing. It was further determined this would be a good topic for a forum hosted by the Commission for Women.

Forums

Maureen Johnson agreed to serve as the point person for planning forums for the New Year. Recommendations included, Dave Thomas to give an overview of Domestic Violence and Michael McCauley Chairperson for the Three Oaks Board of Directors and Marguerite. Morris from Leah's House. Maureen will follow-up on the first person and Darlene will contact the housing persons.

CFW Scrapbook - Juanita Nether agreed to begin a scrapbook for the Commission.

Statistics: Juanita shared some statistics she researched for the group. It was noted there was a significant number of women that were head of households with children under the age of 18 years. She also had some stats on poverty. During this discussion the topic of affordable housing and childcare was raised as a concern for the Women of St. Mary's.

New Business - Marta reviewed the accomplishments of the Commission for Women thus far this year. Commission Members are to be applauded for their efforts at meeting the goals that were identified at the retreat in June. Marta pointed out the following: Family Violence Coordinated Council representative and the proclamation for Domestic Violence awareness, invitation to Frances Eagan to attend our meetings and receive our minutes, presentation of the Iron Jaw videos to the library for Equality Day, the recognition of women veterans at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, the table at the Health Fair with the Delicados and the list of grant opportunities that have been developed.

Women's History Month - Norma Pipkin reported the Forrest Technology Center has been reserved for March 29, 2007 for recognition of Women of the Year. The nomination forms are being revised and she hopes will go out the first of the year. Stephanie will provide us with a list of previous Women of Year winners. The categories and criteria were discussed briefly. No member of the commission can be nominated. No previous woman of the year can be nominated. There will be two categories, Community Service and entrepreneur. We will be highlighting organizations comprised of women members that contribute to the community.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes prepared and submitted by Norma J. Pipkin