



St. Mary's County Commission for Women
Minutes January 10, 2011
Our History is Our Strength

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. after watching the video, *Amy's Story*, an account of a domestic violence case which Lynn Fitrell brought. Very powerful.

Commission members present were: Norma Pipkin, Krisanne Bentley, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Juanita Nether, and Marta Kelsey. Lynn Fitrell, representing the Maryland Commission for Women, and Stephanie Figeroux, county liaison, were also present. Not present were Pat Friend, Denise Krumenacker, Gretchen Hardman, Jamilliah Thomas, and Connie Clausen. Norma asked if anyone knew the status of Connie's membership; Connie announced at the December meeting that she was being transferred to Japan and would be resigning as a member of the Commission. We need a letter of resignation from Connie before a new member can be appointed.

Minutes from the November and December meetings were approved as corrected.

Stephanie submitted a Budget Summary. So far this year we have spent \$78 for flowers presented at the Veterans Home in November. A purchase order for \$1,100 has been drawn for the Tech Center for the banquet food in March. This leaves a balance \$822. Much of this will be needed for other expenditures associated with the banquet.

Marta reported that she has requested an up to date report on the scholarship fund, but has not received one as yet. As last reported, a scholarship was awarded for the fall 2010 semester, leaving a balance of over \$2000. Marta will contact the college again for more up to date information, including whether or not a scholarship has been awarded for the spring 2011 semester.

Norma distributed a letter that is going to be sent to Dr. Martriano, requesting that developing healthy relationships be given the same focus next year that bullying has been given this year and offering the support of the CFW in reaching that end. Krisanne will take a copy of the letter to the next Family Violence Coordinating Council meeting.

Norma reported that she had received a letter from the County Commissioners, announcing a move to standardize all county commission by-laws. This will include having elections in January (ours are currently held at our annual retreat in July or August) and standardizing by-laws. Norma will check into what, if anything, we need to do.

Since Pat Friend was not present, there was no report on the Oral History Committee.

Stephanie reported that 580 letters were sent out announcing the Banquet and requesting nominations for Woman of the Year and Woman of Tomorrow. She has added the high schools to the mailing list including copies to both the principals and the guidance councilors.

Norma is working on setting up the panel of judges which will hopefully include the CFW chairs from Charles and Calvert counties as well as the women who won last year.

A letter has been sent to Rear Admiral Michelle Howard asking that she be our guest speaker at the banquet. Norma will follow up with her if we don't hear back from her in the next two weeks.

A Banquet committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, January 24th at 5:30**. Norma will check with Denise to make sure she can make the meeting.

Lynn Fitrell reported that the Legislative Agenda for 2011 will be presented on January 18th. The Agenda includes:

- Strangulation will be a 1st degree assault – not part of the DV code or a separate crime
- Enhanced penalty for a child witnessing DV after a conviction for DV
- Confidentiality for advocates of DV programs
- Dating abuse added to DV code
- O'Malley might enhance fire arms restrictions as related to DV
- Peace Order Amendment to allow extension of peace order in ongoing violence
- Graduated penalties

On February 14 there will be a memorial service in Annapolis for those who died as a result of domestic violence in the year 2010

March 29 will be the Maryland Commission for Women Hall of Fame, at 5:00 pm in the President's Wing with a reception following in the Governor's Mansion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marta Kelsey, Acting Secretary