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**St. Mary's County Commission for Women**  
**Minutes November 15, 2010**  
***Our History is our strength***

The meeting was called to order at 5:40.

Present were Norma Pipkin, Juanita Nether, Krisanne Bentley, Pat Friend, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Denise Krumenacker, and Marta Kelsey. Gretchen Hardman and Connie Clausen were unable to attend due to schedule conflicts. Stephanie Figeroux, St. Mary's County liaison, and Lynn Fitrell, Maryland Commission for Women representative, were also present.

Motion to accept the **October minutes** was made, seconded, and approved.

**Family Violence Coordinating Council:** Krisanne reported on the October Family Violence Coordinating Council meeting. There was no quorum so no business could be conducted, but they did watch a video, *Amy's Story*, which reviewed a case where there were multiple signs that indicated an abusive relationship which were not acted upon and which resulted in the death of Amy. Amy was a Verizon employee and Verizon sponsored the production of the video which is available for public viewing. The video's goal is to increase awareness of domestic violence in order to prevent relationships reaching a fatal result.

It was decided that we should view the video and to help us decide how we can help. Lynn has the video and will make it available for us to view at our January meeting. Stephanie will arrange for video equipment to be available.

It was also suggested at the FVCC, that more education be incorporated in the public school curriculum. Apparently there have been numerous suggestions made that this was important and it is hoped that if both the Council and the Commission for Women urge this jointly, that this issue will be addressed.

Another suggestion was to print flyers regarding Domestic Violence and where help can be obtained which could be inserted into grocery bags to get that information out in a reasonable way.

The next FVCC meeting will be in January.

**Veterans Day:** Denise, Pat, Krisanne, Gretchen, and Lynn visited the Veteran's Home on Veteran's Day and recognized 29 women with corsages and certificates. Some of the women were in Assisted Living while the others were in the hospital side of the Home. There was a disconnect in that they expected to honor 28 women but they had extra flowers and certificates to cover the extra woman. They did report one interesting story regarding a female Marine veteran who is the oldest Marine in the home. On the "birthday" of the Marine Corps they traditionally have a cake which is cut by the oldest veteran who gives the first piece to the youngest veteran in the home. There apparently was a great deal of controversy over the fact that "a woman cut the cake" even though she was the oldest veteran at the home. In the past it would seem that the oldest Marine veteran was male so there was no issue. (Obviously we still have a way to go with awareness that women have, indeed, contributed to the military efforts of this country.)

**December Meeting:** Meredith pointed out that our December meeting is scheduled for the same night as the swearing in of newly elected officials and might represent a conflict for some. Other dates were discussed but we will have to wait to finalize plans until Connie can check with DB McMillan's. Whenever the meeting is, please remember to bring donations for the Veterans Home.

**Oral History Project:** Pat Friend reported that two interviews have been completed. She interviewed Eleanor Ripple and Susan Gough (former CFW member now working with the Historical Society) interviewed Patsy Bowles. Pat felt the interviews went well and was very pleased with the technical support she and Sue received from Amy Ripple from the county government. Transcribing will be an issue.

**Banquet Update:** Denise has completed the Announcement Packet. She has asked that these be reviewed with comments e-mailed to her by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Membership Applications:** Resumes and applications for Commission membership were reviewed with recommendations to be forwarded to the County Commissioners.

**Fundraising:** Marta attended a workshop held by the library on the new database on Foundations and will be researching possible funding sources for the CFW in the future. Before we can even begin to ask for funds, we need to reach consensus on what projects we want to pursue. For example, with regard to Domestic Violence/Healthy Relationships, do we want to target kids or parents? Which would be more effective? Before our January meeting, Marta will look at what types of DV projects various foundations have funded to help us focus our efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

**Remember:**

1. Exact date of December Meeting at DB McMillans TBA. Watch for e-mail.
2. Comments on the Banquet Announcement Packet to Denise by November 22.
3. Our regular meetings are now in the Patuxent Building, Room 14 (old Commissioners Meeting Room). Cell phones are allowed.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Marta Kelsey, Acting Secretary*