

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

James Hanley, Chair  
Cynthia A. Brown, *Commission Liaison*



Francis Jack Russell, President  
Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner  
Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner  
Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner  
Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

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**St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission**  
**September 9, 2009**  
**Minutes**

Attendees: Jim Hanley, Leisha Wood, Kimberly Beachy, Theo Cramer and Cynthia Brown – Staff Liaison

Absent: Robert Cryer, Craig Buist

The meeting was convened at 5:10 pm by Chairperson Jim Hanley. Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

The membership discussed who is willing to volunteer to work on issues/projects to increase the community's awareness of the HRC's contributions. The HRC Community Recognition and Awards Breakfast is one way the commission educates the community about its mission, while also acknowledging worthy individuals. The criteria for the award and selection process needs to be reviewed and made more specific. Other details need to be addressed like location, the theme and guest speaker. It was suggested at a previous meeting to inquire if the event could be held at the new conference center at the Pax River Naval Base. Leisha Wood suggested honoring pioneers or historical firsts in the community at the 2010 Breakfast. She and Kimberly Beachy volunteered to work on coordinating this event.

Leisha also suggested the HRC consider hosting a Cultural Fair to showcase the diversity in the county with representatives from different ethnicities having a booth to heighten awareness in the community.

Each year the HRC has a member attend the planning meetings at St. Mary's College for the Martin Luther King, Jr Prayer Breakfast. Leisha and Kimberly volunteered to attend these meetings.

Theo Cramer suggested the HRC become more visible as the County Commission's advisory council on diversity issues by having a presence at activities and events hosted by other organizations. The HRC could bring greetings from the County Commissioners to those events when the Commissioner's schedules do not permit them to attend. Kimberly volunteered to devise a list of community events where HRC members can show support through attendance.

Jim has drafted a letter inviting other organizations with similar missions regarding civil and human rights to attend the HRC Symposium. This is a meeting where the chairs of these organizations can meet, network, educate one another about their mission and activities and explore possible collaborative efforts. Cynthia Brown has the letter and will send it to organizations. The symposium will be held in November. The specific date is to be determined but the membership requested it not be held on a Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown