

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
Minutes March 22, 2010
Writing Women Back into History

The meeting was called to order by Norma at 5:35. Members present were Krisanne Bentley, Denise Krumenacker, Gretchen Hardman, Sue Gough, Pat Friend, Norma Pipkin, Juanita Nether, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Candace Butler, and Marta Kelsey. Also present were Cynthia Brown, county liaison, and guest Margo Shelton, from Home Helpers. Connie Clausen was unable to attend.

A motion was made to approve the February minutes by Denise and seconded by Krisanne. The minutes were approved as written.

First order of business was a **Congratulations to All** on the successful Women's History Month Banquet held March 18 at the James Forrest Tech Center. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful event and a very powerful and moving evening. Norma has sent a thank you note to our vocalist, Janna Bruno, and will send a note to the Tech Center.

Introductions were made. Our guest, Margo Shelton, operates Home Helpers, a non-medical aide group that will help out new moms, disabled individuals, newly released hospital patients, etc., with short or long term care. Duties include shopping, errand running, housework, and companionship. Krisanne suggested she contact the service learning program at CSM for possible helpers.

We do not have an accounting of the **budget** post-dinner but Stephanie will e-mail it to Norma soon. Norma reported that Stephanie has all the invoices and Juanita and Stephanie have discussed getting together to reconcile everything. We are hoping there will be funds for the scholarship.

Juanita reported that the **Wellness Day** February 27 went well. Over 150 women attended, including 16 walk-ins. The speakers were excellent and covered women's health issues "from head to toe."

The Banquet – things to keep in mind for next year. Marta circulated a draft checklist, asking for suggestions of things to add. Issues that came out were:

- Need to address the scholarship and making it easier for attendees to donate
- Will write a letter to the editor thanking all who helped and making it clear that donations to CSM are welcome.
- Will put something on the website about the scholarship and how to donate.
- Need to be more specific about facts in nominations being the responsibility of the nominator – put something into the judges' checklist about the fact that the information comes from nominators not the nominees.
- Need to include something in the program about how the winner is chosen, in particular that the judges made their decisions independently.

- One nomination got lost in the shuffle. Norma will write to the nominator to apologize and let them know that the nomination will be included next year. We need to address that issue so this doesn't happen in the future.
- We should put a sign for CFW on the podium.

Marta will add suggestions to the checklist and e-mail it to everyone.

The Jane Hale Sypher Scholarship: Marta reported that to date they have received \$150 from four individuals. Norma reported that she has been invited to attend the Lexington Park Rotary Club to discuss the scholarship on May 10th.

Norma reported that the **Family Violence Coordinating Council** meeting for 3/24 has been canceled. At the last meeting two women came and discussed their experiences with “the system” – what worked and what didn't work. There was also a discussion of what was currently in the public school curriculum addressing domestic violence prevention including dating violence and recognition of unhealthy relationships. Norma felt it was very informative. Norma will not be able to attend the next meeting; Meredith will check her schedule to see if she can cover the meeting. Krisanne said that after May 14, she will be free to attend these meetings.

Norma reported that she is retiring in April and asked that all e-mails be sent to her home e-mail address in the future.

Sue and Pat reported that the **Oral History Project** is ready to get back on track. Sue has been out of town and Pat has been reluctant to schedule interviews until the weather calmed down. She will contact the Tech Center and check on dates that they will be available to record the interviews and then she and Sue will begin. Candace reported that her employer is willing to copy the interviews and just needs to know approximately when they will be done.

Cynthia reported that this is her last meeting as liaison to the Commission for Women due to her recent promotion as interim director of Human Services. Stephanie will start in April. Cynthia asked that we still keep her in the loop and said she will be meeting regularly with Stephanie to discuss what the commission is doing and what support we need.

The **Annual Report** is due April 30th.

Miscellaneous: Posting of the minutes on the website was discussed. Karen Everett has volunteered to put them up. Denise will forward them to her. Denise will also contact Sarah Cannavo and ask her to update our roster with our two newest members. Meredith asked if she could get a name tag.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Kelsey