

St. Mary's County Commission for Women  
Minutes October 19, 2009  
*Writing Women Back into History*

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair Norma Pipkin. Present were members Juanita Nether, Pat Friend, Sue Gough, Denise Krumenacker, Gretchen Hardman, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Krisanne Bentley, Norma Pipkin, and Marta Kelsey. Also present was Cynthia Brown, commission liaison.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. A proclamation to that effect was made by the County Commissioners on October 6. Norma Pipkin and Krisanne Bentley represented the Commission at the proclamation. Juanita will contact Connie Gordon in the Public Information Office to obtain photos of the proclamation for our records and scrapbook.

Marta has written a draft of a letter to the editor regarding Domestic Violence Awareness. She has finally been given approval for sending the letter to the Enterprise from the Public Information Office.

Norma announced that she attended the Lighting the Way Candle Light Vigil on Friday, October 9 which recognized victims of Domestic Violence. She said the ceremony was very nice but very poorly attended. She feels we should get more folks involved next year as this sends a very strong message that domestic violence is still an important issue which takes lives and the public in general needs to be aware of this.

The next Family Violence Coordinating Council meeting is Wednesday, October 21, at 5pm in room 14 of the Potomac Building. Heather Hunter Herod has volunteered to be our representative on the Council but was not able to attend the last meeting. Norma will let her know about the 10/21 meeting.

*Announcements:* Friday, October 23 is the MNADV Annual meeting at the Sheraton Columbia Hotel for anyone interested in attending. Tuesday, October 27 is the Young Voices Better Choices training.

*Oral History Report:* A special meeting of those interested in pursuing The Oral History Project with the Historical Society was held October 5. Minutes of this meeting are attached. The next special meeting will be held November 2.

*Veterans Day Status Report:* Denise reported that she had interviewed a female veteran of the Korean War and a member of the Women's Army Medical Corps (WAMC). She said that the interview, while very interesting, was full of "unquotable" experiences and opinions. She is following up with research into the WAMC, which she has found is very sketchy. Her intent is to develop an article for submission to the paper.

A discussion followed regarding flowers. First whether or not the flowers should be corsages or bud vases. It was decided that bud vases were more appropriate since some of the women were confined to their beds and corsages were awkward. Secondly, it was decided that both certificates and flowers would be awarded to both women veterans and women spouses of veterans for a total of 33 women. Cynthia reported that Dave's Flowers could provide corsages for \$3.50 each. Norma reported that the Tech Center could provide flowers at \$3.00 each. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$99 on flowers (33 women x \$3). This was approved unanimously.

Denise, Gretchen, Krisanne, Sue and Pat will present flowers to the women veterans and the spouses of veterans at the Veterans Home on November 3. They will divide into two groups to visit the women. Norma asked that if anyone couldn't make it, to let her know.

*December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:* The question was raised as to whether we have a regular meeting or a celebration or a little of both. It was decided that we should do the latter. Susan will check on the Tea Room for availability. We agreed to have a gift exchange, with a \$10 limit on the cost of the gift.

*Women's Wellness Day:* Juanita reported that the date for this event had been set for February 27. She said that flyers will be available for us to distribute.

*Budget:* Cynthia reported that our budget for the year held at \$2000. The scholarship is still viable after we raise \$2000 to be returned to the general fund. Any excess over the \$2000, up to a maximum of \$1500, can be used for a scholarship. Excess over the \$1500 will also revert to the general fund.

Discussion followed regarding finding sponsors or other fund raising for the scholarship – this question is currently in the attorney's office but Cynthia has had no response to date. It was decided to try to find another organization to partner with.

A subcommittee was formed to consider the Banquet and the funding arrangements for the scholarship. Krisanne, Denise, Gretchen, and Meredith agreed to meet on October 26<sup>th</sup> to explore options. Marta agreed to see who at CSM would be our point of contact for a MOU since our previous contact is no longer at the college. Cynthia wants to be included in the discussions regarding the scholarship and banquet.

*The Banquet:* Norma reported that the date has been set for March 18, 2010, and that date is reserved at the Tech Center.

*Old Business: Minutes:* The county website has minutes posted for January through May. Minutes are still missing for June through December 2008. Marta agreed to send Cynthia minutes for June, August, and September 2009. Cynthia will check to see what minutes she has for the missing period in 2008 and will let Marta know. Marta will then check to see if she has hard copies for that period.

*Membership Roster:* Members reported that they had not received the roster. Marta agreed to send out the current roster to all members.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Kelsey, Secretary