

**Minutes from the
St. Mary's County Commission for Women Meeting
September 12, 2011**

Juanita Nether called the meeting to order. Members present were: Juanita Nether (Chair), Marta Kelsey (Vice-Chair), Katie Werner (Secretary), Krisanne Bentley, Kyle Bishop, Gretchen Hardman, Sharisse Swales and Meredith Wilkins-Arnold. Members absent were Terry Hall, Denise Krumenacker and Jamilliah Thomas. Stephanie Figeroux, Commission Liaison, was unable to attend. Also present was Tamara Cherry-Clarke.

A discussion of the minutes from the July 23, 2011 retreat followed. Gretchen Hardman should be listed as not in attendance and Krisanne Bentley's name is misspelled on Page Two. Meredith Wilkins-Arnold moved to accept the minutes from the July 23, 2011 retreat; Krisanne Bentley seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all members voting in favor of same with the exception of Katie Werner and Gretchen Hardman, who abstained from the vote.

Our budget is \$1,500.00

Marta Kelsey provided an update on the status of the grant with the Kristin Mitchell Foundation. The grant had originally been submitted to Stephanie Figeroux, however since the Commission for Women is not a 501(c)(3) or educational institution it could not be processed. We were given additional time to locate a 501(c)(3) partner. The College of Southern Maryland was in the process of opening for the semester and suggested we work with the public schools. Mr. Wyatt with the Board of Education okayed and we will be providing a letter of support. The St. Mary's County Board of Education had the grant as of last week.

Our annual report has been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners.

Retreat Overview. Meredith Wilkins-Arnold thought the best thing was meeting two new Commission members - Kyle Bishop and Terry Hall.

Family Violence Coordinating Council. Krisanne Bentley reported that there has been no meeting for the past two months and that she is unable to attend the meeting on the 21st (at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14). Sharisse Swales indicated that she might be able to attend; Kyle Bishop indicated that she could be a back-up to Sharisse. Former Assistant State's Attorney Christina Taylor was the prosecutor of domestic violence cases. Mediation was reviewed. Judge Abram will be bringing information. Krisanne will notify FVCC that a substitute will be attending the meeting.

Banquet. The theme for this year's banquet is "Women's Education - Women's Empowerment." A deposit of 50% will be due to the Tech Center on January 23, 2012. If we cancel, it must be done by March 8, 2012; after this date our deposit will be forfeited. A guaranteed number of attendees must be provided by March 8, 2012. A final headcount will need to be provided. Ideas for a speaker were discussed. Possibilities include Tina Chen (Michelle Obama's Chief-of-Staff) and Nancy Grasmick. The discussion on the status of the speaker can be continued via e-mail.

Applications should be returned by January 15, 2012; therefore they need to be out by October 30, 2011. The Woman of Tomorrow Application needs to be reviewed.

Timeline: October 30, 2011 - Applications in the mail
 January 15, 2012 - Deadline for nominations (include picture)
 January 23, 2012 - Deadline for deposit
 February 1, 2012 - Applications to judges by this date
 February 15, 2012 - Responses due from judges
 March 1, 2012 - Deadline to RSVP; Deadline for payment
 March 8, 2012 - Headcount Due
 March 22, 2012 - BANQUET

Possible judges - Sue Smith (last year's winner), Norma Pipkin. Juanita Nether will check for the list of judges from last year.

Krisanne Bentley volunteered to work on the nominee write-ups.

Think about entertainment. Possibly some youth entertainment as people are arriving.

Due to the success of last year's banquet the venue has initiated new guidelines. Cost \$20.00?
Will Denise Krumenacker be chair of the banquet committee?

Three awards.

Centerpieces

Marta Kelsey will send out the check-list from last year. She will put the deadlines in the checklist.

Possibilities for the Lifetime Achievement Award were discussed. Juanita Nether will send information on possible Lifetime Achievement nominees. If we have someone in mind send the information to Juanita as soon as possible.

Everyone will review the application from last year to see if any changes are needed.

Marta Kelsey will check with Stephanie Figeroux about the website. The minutes are not up-to-date, Marta is listed as the Chair and it still indicates that the meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Werner, Secretary

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 10TH
5:30 P.M., CONFERENCE CENTER AT THE DORSEY LAW FIRM
22835 WASHINGTON STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD
SEE YOU THEN ☺**