



P.O. Box 6695 ❖ Concord, CA 94520

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Hazel L. Wetherford
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Joan Conley

Sean Duckworth

Phyllis Gordon

Tique Le Caul

Terri Lieder

Marie McDonald

Sara Mendoza

Karen Peterson

Cecilia Valdez

Hazel L. Wetherford

***The Contra Costa
Commission for Women's
mission is to improve the
economic status, social
welfare and overall quality
of life of women in
Contra Costa County.***

Meeting Time: Third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: 2151 Salvio Street, Suite R Concord, CA 94520

Co-Chairs: Carlyn Obringer and Hazel L. Wetherford

Staff Person:

Reporting Period: 12/21/2009 – 12/21/2010

The activities for the Commission over the past year include:

1. 10th Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner

This established event recognizes women who have made a difference towards equality, innovation, service and achievement in commerce, the environment, health, and community outreach throughout Contra Costa County. Over 250 attendees honored the following four inductees at the dinner held on March 18, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza, in Concord, CA:

* Women Demonstrating Leadership: The Honorable Nancy Parent - Councilmember, City of Pittsburg

* Women Creating Community: Rona Renner, R.N. - Founder of Interactive Parenting Media and Host of Childhood Matters

* Women Preserving the Environment: Ruth Bancroft - Founder, The Ruth Bancroft Garden

* Women Contributing to the Arts: Claudia Nemir - civic arts leader, activist, and philanthropist

2. Girl-on-Girl Violence Study

Raised awareness concerning the proliferation of girl-on-girl violence within Contra Costa schools by:

- a. Creating and distributing a survey to every middle school (Phase II) and elementary school (Phase III) principal in the County.
- b. Continuously monitoring the online blog for posting.
- c. Drafting a report summarizing the findings of all three Phases.

This report has been completed, and the Commission is scheduled to present a summary of our findings from Phases I, II, and III to the BOS, on January 25, 2011. The Commission's ultimate goal is to help develop a program that addresses bullying and violence in schools such as one created in Pennsylvania, which has had an 80% success rate with reports of bullying decreasing at the 700 schools participating in their program.

3. NACW

Commissioner Gordon represented the Commission at the Conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) in Washington D.C. in July 2010. Commissioner Gordon attended at her own expense.

4. ACCW

Commissioners Gordon and McDonald represented the Commission at the Conference of the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) in Asilomar, in November 2010. The Commissioners attended at their own expense.

5. Census 2010 Outreach

Partnered with Census 2010 to conduct English and Spanish language outreach to women throughout the County to alleviate concerns related to completing the U.S. Census and encourage Census participation.

6. American Association of University Women (AAUW) Speakers Series

Co-Chair Obringer presented on "How Different Generations are Making an Impact on Public Policy" on January 28, 2010 as part of the AAUW Concord Speakers Series. Topics covered included:

- a. Work of the Contra Costa Commission for Women
- b. Women Impacting Public Policy
- c. Different Generations of Women Impacting Public Policy
- d. Preparing for the Future

7. Proclamations

The Commission drafted two proclamations which were presented by the BOS:

- a. March 2010 was proclaimed "Women's History Month."
- b. October 2010 was proclaimed as "Anti-Bullying Month."

8. Web site Update

The Commission created an ad hoc Web site Subcommittee to update its Web site. The updates are nearly complete, with the new Web site anticipated to come online in January 2011. The new format will make it easier for the Commission to make regular updates to the site, and enable the public to stay better informed about the Commission's work throughout the County.

9. Fascinating Women Pioneering Contra Costa County

Partnered with the Contra Costa County Interbranch Council of AAUW and the Contra Costa League of Women Voters to put on this February 21st, 2010 event at the Lafayette Library. Catherine Accardi, Beverly Lane, Karen Terhune and Traci Parent spoke about what risks these pioneering women took and how they met the challenges.

10. Women in Solidarity

Co-sponsored this City of Richmond event in honor of Women's Day 2010.

Attendance/Representation

As of December 21, 2010, the Commission has fourteen out of a potential twenty-five member board, with 10 at-large vacancies and one district representative vacancy. There is a quorum at each meeting. The Commission is currently awaiting the appointment of one new member, and has one applicant that will be joining the January 2011 meeting to be interviewed by the commissioners. This past year, the Commission added three at-large members and one district

representative. The Commission expects to continue strong recruiting efforts next year, and to add more members to reach the maximum of twenty-five commission members.

The Contra Costa Commission for Women is committed to working with the Board of Supervisors in 2011 for the betterment of women and girls in Contra Costa County.

Training/Certification

We have not received any training or certification. We have been given a DVD for the commissioners to view to meet the required training, and also a copy of the County Advisory Board Handbook. In the past, when we had a budget from the County, we attended Women's conferences sponsored by other commissions and the State. New Commissioners have been strongly encouraged to attend the January 2011 training offered by the County.

Goals 2011

❖ Continuing to raise awareness concerning the proliferation of girl-on-girl violence within Contra Costa schools by:

- a. Presenting a final report of our findings and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Holding summits across the County to address this growing problem and promote available resources.

❖ Denim Day

Promote countywide participation in this annual event to help change people's perceptions about sexual violence against women:

- a. Wearing denim on April 20, 2011.
- b. Co-sponsoring Denim Day events with Community Violence Solutions and cities throughout the County.
- c. Sharing information about the Italian Supreme Court case that sparked Denim Day, and other harmful myths that exist about sexual assault.

❖ Get Real Academy

Co-sponsor this life skills day for senior girls to be held on February 28, 2011, at Boundary Oaks in Walnut Creek. This will be done in conjunction with several local Soroptimist groups and approximately 15 local schools within Contra Costa County. Workshops on budgeting and money, health and nutrition, dating and teen violence are offered. Every girl will also have the opportunity to experience a mock job interview.

❖ Continuing to draw attention to health disparities between women and men in the county by:

- a. Co-sponsoring and tabling at Women's Forums and Health Fairs throughout the County (i.e. California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier's Annual Women's Health Forum).
- b. Contacting Legislators and monitoring legislation.

❖ Continuing to monitor and support legislation that will improve the socio and economic status of women.

❖ Strategic planning for the 2011/2012 year

❖ Bone Health Workshops

Holding workshops across the County to educate women and girls as to how to take care of their bones at any age to avoid bone loss in the future.

Challenges 2011

No County support person - The Commission's assigned support person, has provided the Commission with no support at all, including forcing us to find our own storage space for our awards, banners, etc. that belong to the Commission.

Communication from the BOS to the Commission - The Commission desires to have open dialogue through our district representatives to each member of the BOS to know when there are questions or issues. Furthermore, when a member of the BOS makes an appointment or a change to the Commission, we would like to be notified prior to it being implemented.

Note: Despite these challenges, the Women's Commission continues to be a functioning and productive body.

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www.womenscommission.com