

Report to the I O Committee

The Contra Costa Women's Commission met on May 17 for their regularly scheduled meeting. We discussed the proposal that Supervisor Gioia has recommended in changing the membership of the Commission to two appointed members for each BOS (totaling ten) and ten at large members and one alternate.

It was a unanimous recommendation from the Commission that first of all we are thrilled that any of our BOS would like their District to have more representation! It was also noted that in the last year and a half we have made a concerted effort to hold Commission meetings in each District in order to garner more interest and recruit from certain Districts that have been challenging over the years. West County has always been the most challenging and for some time had no one represented from that area despite our efforts.

Not only have we had meetings in each District this past year but as Membership Chair I have attended on a monthly basis the Elected Women's Luncheons in East, Central and South parts of the County which also draws a few women from West County. Getting the word out whenever we can that we are looking for new Commissioners.

We also have had Seminars and Webinars and have a quarterly Newsletter, a Facebook page and a Website and the Hall of Fame which had 349 in attendance this past March and recently I was interviewed by KCBS and in the East County Times about our Women's Equality Day and Cookie Project. Last year we had a wonderful article written about the Commission in the Times and how we are looking for new Commissioners. The point we're trying to make is that we are definitely out there and have a significant presence in the County.

We would like our Commission configuration to remain as it is or if the BOS insists on increasing their representation then we would recommend that you consider bringing the total membership back up to 25. We would also like to meet with our Supervisors whose Districts are not as heavily represented and try to come up with some solutions for a more successful recruitment process. They know their constituents the best and we can only gain from their contacts.

Just as an update...we have a new Appointee from Supervisor Piepho's office and two potential at large members at our meeting last night (one from Lafayette and one from Brentwood) . If approved going forward that would put our numbers at full representation of appointees from the BOS and three more openings from the at large membership.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Petrillo Gordon

Membership Chair

Contra Costa Women's Commission