



Contra Costa
County
Commission for
Women

Advisory Body Annual Report

Advisory Body Name:	Contra Costa County Commission for Women
Meeting Time/ Location:	Third Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. County Connection, Gayle B. Uilkema Memorial Board Room 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord CA
Chair:	Iris Wong
Staff person:	None
Reporting period:	January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

I. COMMISSION SPONSERED ACTIVITIES

- a. *Teleseminar on Time Management:* On January 28, 2016, the Commission hosted a teleseminar featuring Rosie Aiello, award winning entrepreneur, bestselling author, and founder of ClearVista Consulting International. Ms. Aiello spoke to twenty-four (24) participants about organizing and prioritizing their time to lessen stress for a fulfilling and meaningful life.
- b. *13th Biennial Women's Hall of Fame:* On March 24, 2016, the Commission honored 12 women in the following categories as part of the 13th Biennial Women's Hall of Fame:
 - i. Women Creating Community – Donna Kerger, Lill Pierce, Mary Rocha, Qwivander Smith, Synitha Walker
 - ii. Women Improving Health – Lucinda Bazile, Dr. Barbara Bunn McCullough
 - iii. Women Demonstrating Leadership – Menbere Aklilu, Elena Sfreddo Bicker, Joan Buchanan
 - iv. Women Improving the Environment – Diane Burgis
 - v. Women Contributing to the Arts – Diane Gilfether

The event was hosted at Crowne Plaza in Concord. It was sold out with more than six hundred (600) attendees, and featured keynote speaker Fiona Ma, Member of the Board of Equalization. Supervisors John Gioia, Candace Anderson, Karen Mitchoff, and Federal Glover were present. The event was covered by CCTV, and can be viewed [here](#).

- c. *Pittsburg High School Outreach:* In April, Commissioner Phyllis Gordon lead the annual Cookie Project curriculum at the high school, engaging over 650 female junior students about pay inequity. Then, on May 2, 2016, the Commission participated in the inaugural Women's Equality Day event at Pittsburg High School, titled "*Bite of Reality*." The event featured keynote speaker Betty Dukes, who spoke about her experiences in fighting pay inequity and gender discrimination in *Walmart v. Dukes*. Due to the success of these events, the Commission has been invited to return in 2017, and Antioch High School has expressed interest in implementing the Cookie Project in their school as well.
- d. *Women and Entrepreneurship Panel:* On May 18, 2016, the Commission partnered with the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center to host a panel on "Becoming an Entrepreneur." Over twenty (20) participants attended the event to network and learn from panelists: Dr. Julianna Hynes, Julianna Hynes & Associates, Executive Coaching and Leadership Development; Michele Long, MA, Bloom Retreat, Wholeness

Center for Women; Vanity Vale-Ayala, Ayala Property Maintenance, Skilled Home Repair Service; Angela De La Housaye, Esq., De La Housaye & Associates, ALC., Law Firm.

- e. *Equal Means Equal Screening and Panel*: On August 26, 2016, the Commission partnered with Supervisor Federal Glover to screen “*Equal Means Equal*,” a powerful award winning documentary about the status of women in the United States and efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. This event was attended by more than thirty (30) people, and was one of only fourteen (14) that took place nationwide on August 26 to bring awareness to these issues, where in the movie producers provided the movie at no cost. After the screening, a panel of experts discussed their insights in achieving women’s equality in the community and workplace: Gina Del Carlo, Work Force Development Board Specialist; Beth Mora, Esq. of Mora Employment Law; and Cynthia Peterson, Executive Director of Community Violence Solutions.
- f. *Money Matters Panel*: On October 26, 2016, the Commission partnered with the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center to discuss how to start and build a sustainable small business. The panel experts include: Shey Lungner, Lungner Electric; Sylvia Melendez, Tierra Mia Organics; Lisa Murphy, Sосу Sauces; Kim Nelson, Raina's Textile House.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Commission was successful in achieving its objectives and work plan for 2016:

- a. *Increase visibility*: Commissioner Stacey Howard modernized the Commission’s logo to showcase its focus on Contra Costa County; it is shown at the top of this report. Through quarterly newsletters, Facebook posts, and tweets, the Commission has been building its visibility to the public. Commissioners frequently attend community events, especially those hosted by Supervisors, so that they can build relationship with other community leaders and raise awareness about the Commission’s work.
- b. *Collaborate with organizations in Contra Costa County*: The Commission hosted several panels with the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center to teach women how to manage time, become an entrepreneur, and build a sustainable small business.
- c. *Meet the needs of the community*: The Commission compiled a countywide survey to better understand women’s needs, and began collecting responses. In addition, the Commission is looking into partnering with local universities to conduct data analysis.

III. ATTENDANCE & REPRESENTATION

A quorum was achieved at all 12 monthly Commission meetings. In 2016, the Commission welcomed eight new Commissioners, and now has a total of 16 Commissioners out of 21 possible seats. Of those, 5 are representatives from the Board of Supervisors, 15 are members-at-large, and 1 is a member-at-large-alternate. There are 5 vacancies. Three potential members are currently in the appointment process. The Commission is proud to be represented by a diverse group of members, including African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Caucasian. All Commissioners are women.

IV. TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

The following members of the Commission for Women who began their term in 2016 and/or 2017 have completed the Brown Act Training in a timely fashion: Jennifer DeLano Cohen, Angela Herron, Liliana Gonzalez, Lanita Mims, Bonnie McCreary, Beth W. Mora, Patricia Ramirez, and Natalie Oleas. Commission members who were appointed prior did not have to re-certify and thus are current.

V. PROPOSED WORK PLACE & TWO YEAR OBJECTIVES

The Contra Costa County Commission for Women's mission is to improve the economic status, social welfare and overall quality of life of women in Contra Costa County. In 2017, the Commission decided to focus its work on the theme of "Implicit Gender Bias." To that end, a special committee has been formed to educate the Commission about the subject.

- a. *Executive Committee*
 - Revise bylaws
- b. *Implicit Gender Bias Education Committee - Two (2) Year Agenda*
 - Educate the Commission at each meeting about implicit gender bias in different industries
 - Work with the Commission to plan events that educate the public on the topics
- c. *Goal Advancement Committee*
 - Ensure the goals set by each Committee reflect the overall goals of Education, Collaboration, Advocacy, and Empowerment
- d. *Legislative Committee*
 - Be aware of and monitor the State and Federal Legislative platform for the Board of Supervisors
 - Monitor State and Federal legislation that are relevant to the goals of the Commission
- e. *Membership Committee*
 - Grow the Commission to its maximum of 21 members, including an alternate member
- f. *Public Relations Committee*
 - Redesign Commission's website
 - Develop internal protocol for Commissioners to post on social media accounts
 - Send out newsletter each quarter
 - Post on Facebook and Twitter three times per month
 - Take and post pictures at each public Commission event
- g. *Events Committee*
 - Work with Committee members to support any events as necessary.