

**St. Mary's County Commission for Women**  
**Minutes February 7, 2011**  
***Our History is Our Strength***

The meeting was called to order by Norma Pipkin at 5:30p.m. Members present were: Juanita Nether, Krisanne Bentley, Denise Krumenacker, Gretchen Hardman, Norma Pipkin, and Marta Kelsey. County Liaison Stephanie Figeroux was unable to attend, Pat Friend was out of town, and Meredith Wilkins-Arnold was unable to attend.

Gretchen moved that the January 2011 minutes be approved; Krisanne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

**By-Laws:** Norma checked with the county administrator's office regarding the new guidelines for By-Laws. Election of officers must take place in January or July. A lengthy discussion of the By-Laws ensued, including member attendance and whether it would be in our best interest to have our election of officers at the same time of year as our Annual planning meeting which has traditionally been near the beginning of the fiscal year.

With regard to membership, according to the new By-Law template, a member will be asked to leave if they miss three consecutive meetings without cause or 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings.

The suggested template also requires that we decide how many regularly scheduled meetings we will have and how many members will be required to ask for a special meeting. Another change is that the secretary is asked to send copies of approved minutes to the County Administrator's office; our county liaison currently receives them. (It was noted that minutes posted on the web site are only current through October 2010.)

After much discussion the following decisions were made and approved:

- We will hold our election of officers in July.
- We will hold 10 regularly scheduled meetings a year, the dates of which will be forwarded to the County Administrator's office for inclusion in the calendar prior to January 1.
- Three members can ask for a special meeting to be scheduled.

We also will ask that we have the right to make decisions via e-mail voting.

**Secretary:** Since Connie has moved out of the area, we need a new secretary. Marta agreed that she would fill in until elections in July, unless someone else would like to fill that position.

**Scholarship:** Marta reported that CSM has agreed to have someone attend the banquet to help with collecting funds for the scholarship. She also has spoken with the current recipient who has agreed to attend the banquet as well. Norma suggested that we meet with the recipient, perhaps for lunch, prior to the banquet. Marta will make arrangements.

**Family Violence Coordinating Council:** Krisanne reported that the fatality review went very well; due to privacy considerations she could not share details with us. The regular meeting was cancelled. She did say that Sheriff Cameron is pushing to set up a DV unit which would be housed under one roof. DV numbers are apparently steadily increasing as are cases of child abuse. Krisanne mentioned to the group that the CFW had sent a letter to the Superintendent asking that the development of healthy relationships be addressed next year by the school system. She said that there was surprise and interest in our action and she has been asked to bring a copy of the letter to the next FVCC meeting, which she has agreed to do.

**Oral History:** No report due to Pat Friend's absence.

## **Banquet:**

- To date, we have no **speaker**. Stephanie will follow up on our invitation. If that individual can't do it, we will need to find someone else.
- **Entertainment:** Denise reported that the student from Ryken she suggested is willing to help us out with entertainment. Denise will follow-up with him.
- The Tech Center reported that they still do not have a **Building Use Form** from Stephanie.
- We believe we have 8 or 9 **nominees** coming in. Christmas in April is not submitting a nomination this year due to a date conflict.
- Questions were raised about the **mailing list**. Apparently some people who have gotten the packets of information in the past did not get them this year. Copies are being forwarded to them.

A Banquet Committee meeting has been set for **February 16 at 5:30**.

**Women's Wellness Day**, February 26 at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Mechanicsville: Juanita asked if we were still planning to have a table at the event. Marta said she had been in contact with Health Connects and had signed us up. Now we need volunteers to help "woman" the table. We need folks to cover the table from 8:30 to 2:30 and help with set up and take down.

Gretchen agreed to cover from 8-10.

Denise will cover from 10-12.

Norma and Marta will fill in as needed.

Marta agreed to send out an e-mail requesting volunteers to help with the event. Marta will pick up the display and materials from Stephanie on February 23 and bring it to Mt. Zion on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

We decided that we would like to have a drawing. Anyone who has an appropriate item to donate is asked to bring it to the Committee meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Kelsey, Acting Secretary