

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
Minutes April 18, 2011
Our History is our Strength

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Vice-Chair Juanita. Members present were: Krisanne Bentley, Gretchen Hardman, Marta Kelsey, Denise Krumenacker, Juanita Nether, Jamilliah Thomas, and Meredith Wilkins-Arnold. Also present were Stephanie Figeroux, county liaison, and Lynn Fitrell, member of the Maryland State Commission for Women. Norma Pipkin and Pat Friend were unable to attend.

The **March minutes** were approved.

Stephanie submitted a **Budget Summary** and reported that we currently have \$1821.61 of un-budgeted and un-spent money in the budget. We need to decide how we want to spend that money as soon as possible because the end of the fiscal year is looming. We do need to go to the Commissioners and request permission to spend the monies we earned from the Banquet. We hope to be on the 4/26 agenda, but it may be moved to the 5/3 agenda. Stephanie will let us know.

Norma has done a tremendous amount of research into possible spokespersons/keynote speakers to address the **Healthy Relationships Initiative** with the public schools. She will present these possibilities to the schools. If possible, she would like to use some of the monies we have left to help fund this but the logistics of achieving this before the end of the fiscal year is daunting.

Norma, Juanita, and Marta attended the CSM production "**Don't u luv me?**" which deals specifically with abusive dating relationships in high school. They all agreed it was a very powerful program and would be very appropriate and valuable if it could be presented to all the high school students in an assembly. To be effective, the presentation would have to be followed with small group discussions. Again, this presents a logistical problem.

Krisanne said that she would again bring up the issue of writing a letter to the public schools regarding our proposed Healthy Relationship Initiative at the next meeting of the **Family Violence Coordinating Council**. She will keep us posted.

Gretchen and Juanita attended a volunteer recognition at the **Veterans Home**. They were presented with a certificate of appreciation for the efforts of the Commission and reported that it was very nice occasion. Some 50 organizations were recognized. They also reported that someone from the CFW may be asked to sit on the State Commission for Veterans in the future.

July is our **Annual Meeting** where we will have elections and our planning retreat. Meredith and Juanita have agreed to be coordinators. July 23rd, from 9:00-2:30 or 3:00 is the date decided upon. Denise agreed to locate a place and will try either the Library in Lexington Park or the Methodist Church in Solomons first. Meredith, Gretchen, and Juanita will work on putting together a program. Gretchen will put together a slate of officers. If anyone is interested in being Chair, Vice-Chair, or Recording Secretary, please let her know. Norma's term is up as of June so will no longer be on the Commission and therefore can't be chair. Pat's term is also up.

Since new appointees to the Commission probably won't be on board until August, it may be better to have a brief meeting in July to hold elections and hold our planning retreat in August. Stephanie will check on whether or not we can do elections via e-mail.

New Business: Montgomery County Commission for Women may be de-funded in the 2011-2012 budget. The MCCFW has a suite of offices in Rockville and has a paid staff of about five. The Commission is very active and holds several very highly thought of workshops every year. They also serve as headquarters for the National Commission of Women. Their disappearance would have a negative effect on CFWs across the state and, if no new headquarters for the national CFW can be found, nationally. Individuals are urged to call the Montgomery County Executive's office urging the continuation of funding for the CFW. Marta will draft a letter of support from our CFW.

We will need to have a meeting after the Commissioners decide the fate of our **funds**. We need to have a shopping list ready. Stephanie informed us that we can only spend \$499 with any one vendor with out getting special approval. One suggestion was to talk to Dave Thomas (former police officer and dv trainer at Johns Hopkins and one of the people Norma found in researching resources) and ask him to recommend materials we could purchase for the school system.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is **May 16** but stay alert for e-mails regarding a special meeting before then.

Respectfully submitted by Marta Kelsey, Secretary