

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
Minutes July 10, 2010
Annual Planning Retreat
Lexington Park Library
Our History is Our Strength

After breakfast (Thanks, Stephanie) and a chance to talk, Norma called the meeting to order at 9:35. Those in attendance were: Norma Pipkin, Juanita Nether, Marta Kelsey, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Krisanne Bentley, Candace Butler, Connie Clausen, Pat Friend, Denise Krumenacker, and Stephanie Figeroux, Department of Human Services liaison. Gretchen Hardman and Jamilliah Thomas were unable to attend.

Stephanie got us off to a good start with a Women's History Quiz. While there were some questions we didn't know the answers to, between us we did get a number of them right.

Juanita reviewed the **Annual Report** which is being submitted to the County Commissioners. We had a busy year!

Meredith then asked us to consider the Women's History theme for this year, **Our History is Our Strength**, and think about a time in our lives when we were at our strongest. While one of the purposes of the annual retreat is to develop a plan of action for the coming year, another purpose is for us to get to know each other better so we can work more effectively together. Sharing these times helped achieve that goal.

Election of Officers: Marta presented a slate of officers:

Norma Pipkin, Chair
Juanita Nether, Vice Chair
Connie Clausen, Secretary

The floor was opened for other nominations. Since no new nominations were forthcoming, we voted on the proposed slate which was unanimously approved. Congratulations, ladies!

Meredith then introduced the **SWOT** technique, asking us to consider Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to the various activities we accomplished last year with an eye to planning for next year. The activities we considered were: Domestic Violence, Women's Wellness Day, Women's History Month Banquet, Oral History Project, Annual Retreat, Equality Day, Veterans Day, and the Scholarship. The results of this SWOT activity are reported in a separate document and will form the basis of planning for the August meeting. The activity produced much discussion and good ideas and will be very helpful in the year to come.

The August meeting will also include an explanation of the county's **budget** process by Stephanie so that we can avoid surprises as the year progresses.

Lunch from Panera was enjoyed by all. As usual, there was plenty of food! Thanks to Stephanie and Meredith for making arrangements.

Since **Equality Day** is August 26, we decided to go ahead with scheduling a request for a proclamation. Marta has received stickers proclaiming the day which will be presented to the Commissioners. She will forward a draft proclamation to Stephanie. She will also contact the League of Women Voters to ask them to participate in the event as well.

Before we adjourned, Juanita presented Norma and Krisanne a congratulatory cake for their retirement and graduation, respectively. Congratulations, ladies! And thanks to Juanita for a delicious end to the day.

Respectfully submitted by Marta Kelsey

Next meeting: August 23, Carter Building, at 5:30 pm.

Addendum: We neglected to consider the June minutes. They were re-circulated via e-mail, asking for corrections and a "yea" or "nea" vote. They were approved via e-mail vote by a majority of members with one minor correction.