

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Dr. Rebecca B. Bridgett, County Administrator



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

DATE: November 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Room 14, Potomac Building

PRESENT: Norma Pipkin, Chair, Erin Walker, Vice Chair, Katie Werner, Secretary, Jennifer Brown, Joanna Colvin, Marta Kelsey, Mary Ludwig, Juanita Nether, and Debra Kane. Also present were County Commissioner Elect Eric Colvin, Buffy Giddens, Talor Spencer, and Catherine Stewart.

ABSENT Brenda Scheufele and Beth Knisley

Item # 1

Motion: A motion was made to accept the October 15, 2018 meeting, minutes and notes (notes provided by CFW Secretary).

By: Joanna Colvin

Second: Marta Kelsey

For: All

Against: None

Item # 2

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

By: Mary Ludwig

Second: Joanna Colvin

For: All

Against: None

Notes from the
St. Mary's County Commission for Women Meeting
November 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Members present were: Norma Pipkin (Chair), Erin Walker (Vice-Chair), Katie Werner (Secretary), Jennifer Brown, Joanna Colvin, Marta Kelsey, Mary Ludwig and Juanita Nether. Also present were Cynthia Brown and Debra Kane. Beth Knisley and Brenda Scheufele were unable to attend the meeting. County Commission Elect Eric Colvin, Taylor Spencer Davis, Buffy Giddens and Catherine Stewart were also present during all or part of the meeting.

Guest Commissioner Elect Eric Colvin gave a welcome speech and encouraged us to advise. He loves our annual dinner. He sees the Commission for Women as an umbrella organization unifying different groups. He is interested in seeing a women's shelter progress and is interested in wage equality; he would like to see information and statistics. Marta Kelsey will get him the information she had gathered two years ago. Taylor Spencer Davis spoke of the Family Violence Coordinating Council and who generally comes to the meetings. Norma Pipkin will send him a copy of the written report we recently sent to the Board of County Commissioners.

Larissa Chobany, the Trauma Program Manager at Walden Sierra was scheduled to be our guest speaker; she was not able to attend the meeting.

Minutes and Notes - Joanna Colvin moved and Marta Kelsey seconded that the Minutes/Notes from our October 15, 2018 meeting be approved as submitted. All voted in favor of the motion.

Budget - \$131.00 was spent on the save the date postcards; it came from the printing and binding portion of our budget.

Banquet - Marta Kelsey thinks everything is in good shape. Marta Kelsey and Mary Ludwig met with C.J. Jaynes. The nomination forms are on the website. Debra Kane will have the 2018 forms removed, if we receive any with the 2018 date they will be accepted. Sponsorship forms - Katie Werner is working on. January 7, 2019 committee meeting at 5:30 - need to publicize. February 4, 2019 committee meeting at 5:30 - will need to publicize. Everyone is encouraged to distribute the save the date cards as much as we can. Norma Pipkin is working on the press release for Judge Abrams.

League of Women Voters Debates - Katie Werner reported that they were held on October 2, 2018 and October 16, 2018 and all candidates with the exception of two participated. They were very well attended by public and were also broadcast live on the County's website, the BayNet.com and Southern Maryland NewsNet; they were also available for viewing on the County's You Tube page.

Visit Harford County Family Justice Center - A contingent from the Commission for Women toured the Harford County Family Justice Center on October 22, 2018. Mary Ludwig noted that it was all encompassing, including counseling, support, police, 73 employees. It is partially funded by the county government and partially funded by grants. It would be nice to have a similar facility in Leonardtown. Perhaps one to two days per week being dedicated to domestic violence.

Everyone was on the same page and worked together. Mary Ludwig has information on the grants; they also have classes at the College of Southern Maryland for grant writing. They are members of the National Family Justice Alliance. The more organizations that get involve, the more likely to get funding. Also consider elder abuse.

Buffy Giddens noted that in 2011 there was a spot for a center and they visited Montgomery County. The challenge was they didn't have the staff to pull someone and put them in a different place. Perhaps have a facility with specific hours of operation.

Our form of government makes it more difficult. Things are changing - we'll stay informed and keep moving forward. Stephanie Bates is the Sheriff's Department's grant writer.

We have the MOU and brochure. Kelsey Bush will be sending the grant information once he receives it.

Family Violence Coordinating Council - Mary Ludwig advised that Taylor Spencer Davis will be the new Chair at the next meeting. Updates for the shoe cards are needed; Mary thinks they will need to be reprinted. Also suggested having a watermark - "For immediate help call 911." Debra Kane will look for an electronic version of the current cards so corrections, additions and deletions can be made.

Trauma Recovery - Norma Pipkin and Taylor Spencer Davis were there on October 28, 2018 at the Lexington Park Library. There were more vendors in attendance than participants. It was good to speak with vendors and participate in yoga. There were about 6-7 people in attendance but a lot of interaction between the vendors.

College of Southern Maryland Scholarship Luncheon - This was on November 9, 2018 at the La Plata Campus. Norma Pipkin indicated that it was a nice event and they met two scholarship recipients, one of whom will be graduating in December. Both are interested in coming to the banquet.

Veteran's Day - Beth Knisley, Mary & Larry Ludwig arrived early and had to get the event set-up after a mix-up with the date of the event (we had it scheduled for November 10, 2018 and Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home had it on the books for November 9, 2018). Erin Walker and her family, Catherine Stewart and Norma Pipkin also attended. It turned out to be a wonderful event and the ladies loved it. Cards and flags were distributed to the ladies. It was nice to focus on the women.

Healthy Relationships - The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2018 from 11 - 12. Marta Kelsey won't be able to attend. Melissa Willey was able to finally get a date on the books.

Catherine Stewart will work with Katie Werner for banquet sponsors.

Gifts for Guardians - Traditionally we have provided gifts for individuals who are under public guardianship either through the Department of Social Services or the Department of Aging and we have decided to do the same this year. We reviewed the list and the following have volunteered to provided gifts: Josh - Juanita Nether; Charlie - Mary Ludwig; Charles - Norma Pipkin; William -

Erin Walker; Ira - Marta Kelsey; Felix - Buffy Giddens; James - Joanna Colvin; Virginia - Catherine Stewart; Francis - Katie Werner; Dorothy - Taylor Spencer Davis; Additional Ideas for Gentlemen - Beth Knisley; Additional Ideas for Ladies - Jennifer Brown.

Gift bags work best. Gifts should be brought to the Holiday Celebration.

Holiday Celebration - Will be on December 10th at the Leonardtown Grill at 5:30.

On November 14, 2018 there was a No Hate in St. Mary's Unity Vigil on the Square in Leonardtown and the Commission for Women was well represented - Marta Kelsey, Mary Ludwig, Joanna Colvin, Cynthia Brown and Norma Pipkin were all in attendance. Kelsey Bush organized the event.

Upcoming Events:

December 6, 2018 - Healthy Relationships Meeting

December 10, 2018 - Commission for Women Meeting/Holiday Gathering (see above).

January 7, 2019 - Banquet Committee Meeting.

January 14, 2019 - Commission for Women Meeting.

February 4, 2019 - Banquet Committee Meeting.

February 11, 2019 - Commission for Women Meeting.

February 23, 2019 - Women's Wellness Day (Hospital Atrium)

March 14 2019 - Woman of the Year Banquet

Mary Ludwig moved and Joanna Colvin seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Werner, Secretary

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS December 10, 2018
5:30 P.M., LEONARDTOWN GRILLE (HOLIDAY MEETING CELEBRATION)**

SEE YOU THEN ☺