

**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: September 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Room 14, Potomac Building

PRESENT: Norma Pipkin, Chair, Erin Walker (Vice-Chair), Katie Werner (Secretary), Marta Kelsey, Beth Knisley, Mary Ludwig, Joanna Colvin, Juanita Nether, Cynthia Brown (Division Manager), Melanie Colvin, Guest, Catherine Stewart, Guest, Jaxon O'Mara, Students Demand Action Guest, Grant O'Mara, and Debra Kane.

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown, Diane Danaher, and Brenda Scheufele

Item # 1

Motion: A motion was made to accept the August 20, 2018 meeting minutes and notes to accept as amended. (notes provided by CFW Secretary).

By: Mary Ludwig

Second: Beth Knisley

For: All

Against: None

Item # 2

Motion: A motion was made to spend \$35-\$40 for ice cream & toppings and \$25 for cards to take to the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home on November 10th.

By: Marta Kelsey

Second: Juanita Nether

For: All

Against: None

Item # 3

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

By: Marta Kelsey

Second: Joanna Colvin

For: All

Against: None

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Notes from the
St. Mary's County Commission for Women Meeting
September 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Members present were: Norma Pipkin (Chair), Erin Walker (Vice-Chair), Katie Werner (Secretary), Joanna Colvin, Marta Kelsey, Beth Knisley, Mary Ludwig and Juanita Nether. Also present were Cynthia Brown and Debra Kane. Jennifer Brown, Diane Danaher and Brenda Scheufele were unable to attend the meeting. Melanie Colvin (Mary Ludwig's daughter) was also present during the first part of the meeting; Jaxon O'Mara, with Students Demand Action (and her younger brother) arrived late and stayed for the remainder of the meeting. Catherine Stewart, our 2018 Woman of the Year, also attended part of the meeting and will be trying to attend more meetings in the future (schedule permitting).

Minutes and Notes - Mary Ludwig moved and Beth Knisley seconded that the minutes and notes from the August 20, 2018, meeting be accepted as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Budget - We have spent approximately \$530.00, including \$335.00 for the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center for the Banquet. The Higher Ed Center wants to send the payment back and have us pay after the event.

Family Violence Coordinating Council - Mary Ludwig noted that there has been no meeting since July.

Healthy Relationships - The meeting was cancelled due to the weather. There was an assembly at Leonardtown Middle School this morning for Healthy Relationship presentation put on by The Cause Theater (College of Southern Maryland). Yvonne Dawkins was there with Norma Pipkin and Marta Kelsey. There was no sound system; the presenters were on stage so it was very hard to hear. Norma sent a text to Mr. Wyant after the presentation and they will work for continuity in future presentations. The rest of the middle school will receive presentations as follows: September 18th - Esperanza Middle School, September 19th - Margaret Brent Middle School (Juanita Nether will cover), and September 20th - Spring Ridge Middle School (Norma Pipkin will cover).

Veteran's Day - Mary Ludwig and Beth Knisley proposed November 10th (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m. to have an ice cream social with approximately 35 to 40 residents of the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. They would also like to give cards of thanks. It should take approximately one hour. We can go to the rooms of the residents who aren't able to make to social. The approximate cost would be approximately \$60.00 (for ice cream, toppings and cards). Marta Kelsey moved and Juanita Nether seconded that we spend \$35-\$40 for the ice cream and toppings and \$25 for the cards. All voted in favor of the motion.

Guest Speaker - Jaxon O'Mara talked about what she's been doing vis-à-vis gun violence prevention, with Students Demand Action, including a meeting with Governor Hogan (it took her four months to get a meeting). They are working with Moms Demand Action. They will be scheduling a Town Hall for school and fire arm safety, will have regular meetings. There are 6-7 people interested and it is not a school sponsored organization. There will be outreach to other schools. Her meeting with the Governor was about 40 minutes long and she felt it was very productive. Ms. O'Mara and her brother stayed for the remainder of our meeting.

Banquet - Norma Pipkin has met with Judge Abrams and she is very honored to be named our Lifetime Achievement Award winner. CJ Jaynes, Rear Admiral, Retired will be our guest speaker (thanks to Melanie Colvin). Marta will follow-up with Jen Brown about the post cards.

Old Business

Equality Day Proclamation, August 28th - Norma Pipkin, Mary Ludwig & Juanita Nether were able to attend.

Listening Tour Follow-Up Meeting - Norma Pipkin, Cynthia Brown, Jen Brown, Marta Kelsey & Yvonne Dawkins met and discussed the content and approach that would be taken in follow up. Marta agreed to prepare the draft report. A draft was distributed and Mary Ludwig has noted changes. Marta and Norma will continue to edit the report for submission to the Commissioners. Jen Brown agreed to put the bullets on a power point for submission to the County Commissioners. Joanna Colvin moved and Beth Knisley seconded to move forward with the draft report pending grammatical corrections. All present voted in favor of the motion.

A large portion of Walden Sierra has been privatized - alcohol and drug addiction/counseling. We are unsure of how the changes will impact Domestic Violence victims. We have heard Walden has formed a foundation that will allow them to continue the hot line and will have limited counseling opportunities.

Family Violence Coordinating Council chair - Yvonne Dawkins - the hospital has not applied for the grant to fund her position.

Cynthia Brown has reached out to the Chief Medical Officer of the hospital about the SAFE Program - indicated that it was fully staffed and will continue to be fully staffed and there two other nurses willing to be pediatric SAFE nurses. Services continue to be distributed among others in the department. Would like to be a part of the proclamation. Would like to speak with us about the services MedStar offers. Would like to meet before anything is submitted to the Commissioners. Cynthia will reach out to invite to our next meeting. We will move forward in presenting our report to the Commissioners. (SAFE = Sexual Assault Forensic Examination.)

New Business

Cards for announcing call for nominations - see above (Banquet).

Upcoming Events:

September 18, 2018 - Healthy Relationship Presentation at Esperanza Middle School

September 19, 2018 - Healthy Relationship Presentation at Margaret Brent Middle School

September 20, 2018 - Healthy Relationship Presentation at Spring Ridge Middle School

October 2, 2018 - League of Women Voter's Candidate Forum.

October 15, 2018 - Commission for Women Meeting.

October 16, 2018 - Domestic Violence Proclamation (Family Violence Coordinating Council, Walden, Family Advocacy Center, other related agencies)

October 16, 2018 - League of Women Voter's Candidate Forum.

October 25, 2018 - Interfaith Domestic Violence Conference (8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. in Annapolis)

November 19, 2018 - Commission for Women Meeting.

December 10, 2018 - Commission for Women Meeting/Holiday Gathering.

January 14, 2019 - Commission for Women Meeting.

February 11, 2019 - Commission for Women Meeting.

Marta Kelsey moved and Joanna Colvin seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Werner, Secretary

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS October 15, 2018
5:30 P.M., POTOMAC BUILDING, ROOM 14**

SEE YOU THEN ☺