

St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission
February 13, 2008
Minutes

Attendees: Barbara Hendricks, Joseph Bush, Theo Cramer, Jim Hanley, Rose Ann Everett and Mac McClintock.

Staff Liaison: Cynthia Brown

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Joseph Bush; at 5:20 pm. January minutes were accepted with one correction to the spelling of Barbara Hendricks' last name.

Finance Statement: Cynthia Brown gave a budget report of \$2,750. The majority of these funds are allocated for the Awards Breakfast in April.

Study Circles: Jim Hanley reported he and Dena Mingo (St. Mary's Public Schools) are currently conducting a Study Circle with 18 participants consisting of faculty, staff and students from St. Mary's College. There are plans underway to conduct a Study Circle within the Sheriff's Office, a middle school and the general community.

Big Read: Theo Cramer reported 160 books have been issued to St. Mary's County Schools and select classes are reading *A Lesson Before Dying*. Administrators and teachers are also reading it and have had one discussion so far. Another is being planned. There have been positive responses to conduct book club discussions more often.

Strategic Planning Session: It was agreed to wait until after the Awards Breakfast to have this activity. The monthly meeting on May 7th will be used for discussion of future plans.

Job Fair: Barbara Hendricks reported Pax River Naval Base is already planning a job fair in the spring. The membership asked Barbara to research what other job fairs may already be in the planning stages with hopes the HRC can collaborate. Mac McClintock stated there is a need for job fairs that do not focus on engineers and high tech positions specifically and include summer positions for youth.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Swynice Hawkins, President, Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc joined the meeting to discuss the Maryland Energy Assistance Program. She outlined how families qualify for this type of assistance and what documentation is required from them. Anyone interested in learning more about the program can call Energy Assistance at 1-800-352-1446.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Brown