

**St. Mary's County Commission for Women**  
**Minutes January 11, 2010**  
***Writing Women Back into History***

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Norma Pipkin. Members Krisanne Bentley, Denise Krumenacker, Gretchen Hardman, Marta Kelsey, Norma Pipkin, Meredith Wilkins-Arnold, Juanita Nether, Pat Friend, and Susan Gough were present. Also present was Lynn Fitrell, member of the Maryland Commission for Women. Cynthia Brown, Commission Liaison, was late due to another meeting.

The minutes for December were approved.

Denise reported on her trip to the Veterans Home with the donations collected at our December meeting. Lynn had made a request to Belk for donations for women and had collected a big bag full of goodies. We decided that we should start early next year, asking additional stores for assistance. We also decided that we will try to make a similar collection for Mother's Day.

Lynn reported that the Symposium on Empowering Women in This Economy in December was quite well attended despite bad weather. The Commission received good feedback on the symposium as a whole as well as the break out sessions.

Denise gave a brief rundown on where we stand as far as the banquet is concerned. The committee met prior to this meeting.

- Cynthia had reported to Norma that she was trying to get in touch with the Lifetime Achievement Award winner and would continue to do so to get her acceptance.
- The committee decided that, to be sure to cover all expenses, that we should charge \$15 for the dinner; we will ask for donations to the scholarship fund in addition.
- Marta reported that the legal department had approved the MOU with one addition and that the revised MOU is at CSM. The official name of the scholarship is the *Jane Hale Sypher Scholarship*.
- It was further decided that each nominee will have a special name tag, perhaps with ribbons on it to identify them.
- Entertainment for the banquet was discussed and suggestions made. Gretchen will follow up with a woman she knows who does historic women impersonations which would fit with this year's theme. Meredith will check with the Ladies Fair at Leonardtown High School. Our main concern is that we have no budget for entertainment and thus have to locate individuals who will donate their time.

Pat and Susan reported on progress made on the Oral History Project. They have made contact with Eric at the Tech Center and he has agreed to assist with taping the interviews. Pat is ready to go with Eleanor Ripple; Susan will interview Elsie Bowles in March. Lynn suggested that we should consider interviewing founding members of the Commission for Women.

The March meeting is scheduled for 3/22. Norma asked if we wanted to move it up to before the banquet, but it was decided to leave it as it is. The committee will be meeting before the banquet and we will use the regular meeting as a debriefing session.

Cynthia reported that she had been told that we will have to replenish our entire budget (\$2000) before donations can be made to the CSM scholarship. This is not what we were told before. Juanita is going to get a list of all the miscellaneous expenses to Cynthia.

Marta will check on whom checks should be made out to for donations.

Cynthia announced that we have two new members for the commission. Norma will contact Candace Butler and Connie Clausen to welcome them and let them know that the February meeting will be on February 8 because of the conflict with President's Day.

Juanita reported that the Wellness Day (scheduled for 2/27 at Mt. Zion Church in Laurel Grove) flyers will be ready this week. Because folks didn't have their calendars with them, Marta will e-mail everyone with the date and ask if they will be able to attend and when they would be available to "work" the table. Cynthia will reserve the display board and check on supplies and brochures, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm.