



Ventura County Commission for Women

AUGUST 1987

VCCW Issues

SALUTE TO WOMEN SET FOR OCTOBER

The "Salute To Women" Awards celebrate the vitality and energy of Ventura County women. Eight special women will be honored this year by the Commission for Women at the Sixth Annual "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet on Thursday, October 29 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel in Westlake Village. There will be a reception at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 and the program at 7:45 p.m.

The recipients of the awards will be recognized for their personal achievements and contributions in the following categories: Arts, Business, Community Service, Education, Law, Media, Science/Health, Outstanding Young Woman.

The presenter of the awards will be Joy Picus, Councilwoman, City of Los Angeles.

This annual event is facilitated by the Friends of the Commission for Women and provides funds for Commission projects that would not be possible without your support.

The Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission invite you to join in supporting the "Salute To Women" Awards Banquet.

The purchase of a table for ten (\$600) entitles you to an introduction as a patron at the banquet, special listing in the banquet program, "Gold Circle" seating, table recognition using your company's name, certificate suitable for framing, and your company name included in all pre-banquet publicity if your reservations are made prior to August 15, 1987.

A patron ticket (\$60) will bring you an introduction as a patron at the banquet, special listing in the banquet program, and "Gold Circle" seating. The reservation deadline is October 10, 1987.

Regular tickets are available at \$30 and a limited number of tickets at \$21.50 are available for young students (21 and under).

For reservation information call Lee Anderson, President of the Friends of the Commission, at (805) 496-8470 or (818) 704-0828.

1986-87 ANNUAL REPORT: SUMMARY

This year the Commission for Women's task forces were in high gear resulting in a finely tuned mechanism working for advancement and change. Task forces and committees have operated independently but have coordinated their goals and activities at key junctures.

We would like to focus briefly on the different parts of the Commission and the role each one plays.

Education Task Force

The Education Task Force serves as the mainspring for several different projects and activities.

Women's history came alive in Ventura County through the expanding activities of the Women's History Project, a joint task force of the Commission for Women and the Women's Equity Coalition. The kick-off for Women's History Month was a tri-county meeting with commissioners from Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, followed by a luncheon at the Sheraton Ventura Hotel. The program featured a portrayal by Dr. Gloria R. Lothrop of an early California pioneer woman. The luncheon had strong county-wide support as evidenced by the 28 organizations which were co-sponsors for the event and the nearly 300 people who attended. Many other women's history activities and programs were presented by organizations, schools and colleges to which the Commission had provided information and resources, or with which Commissioners and Friends had worked individually.

The Second Annual Women in Agriculture Forum was held in May. Featuring a panel discussion titled "Farm Families - Women's Strengths", workshop sessions, child care and a potluck dinner, this event also enjoyed wide community support and received in-kind and financial donations from its 12 co-sponsors and from other individual contributors.

The Fifth Annual "Salute To Women" Awards, honoring fifteen outstanding Ventura County women, were presented at the awards banquet on October 29, 1986 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel. Carolyn Leavens acted as mistress of ceremonies. The 1987 banquet will again be held at the Westlake Plaza Hotel on October 29 with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joy Picus acting as mistress of ceremonies.

Family Law Task Force (formerly known as the Divorced Women/Female Heads of Households Task Force)

This task force underwent a name change recently to more accurately reflect its role.

The major highlights of this task force have been two:

Commissioner Arleen Reetz provided testimony on spousal support at a joint hearing of the State Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Taskforce on Family Equity; and,

As a direct result of discussions between Commissioner Reetz and members of the District Attorney's office, the Child Support Division extended their client hours one evening a week.

Plans are underway now for a Family Law Forum to be held in September.

Child Care Task Force

The Child Care Task Force joined in United Way's Child Care task force efforts, continuing our special focus on educating employers on the need for child care assistance for employees and the options open to them in addressing that need.

A breakfast for CEO's was held in the early fall followed by a workshop for employers' designated representatives.

A plan for implementing mini-workshops on employer-assisted child care, on a regional basis, has been developed.

Members of this task force have worked with other organizations, communities and individuals by providing information and referral services and through participation in meetings.

Housing Task Force

This task force has focused on the need for affordable housing for low and moderate income families. The primary activity has been ongoing participation in "Networking For Housing." Networking has developed a loan fund for pre-construction costs for proposed affordable housing projects. A second focus has been the problem of housing discrimination against single mothers.

Counseling Task Force

Members of this task force act as monitors of the Domestic Violence Services contracts for the county, making reports to the full Commission and to the Public Social Services Agency's Adult Services manager.

Friends of the Commission

The Friends gear all their efforts toward facilitating a highly successful "Salute To Women" Awards banquet whose profits this year have been donated to the Commission for computer equipment, to aid in the distribution of the newsletter and to ease the costs of participating in the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Region IX Conference.

A commissioner is assigned as liaison to the Friends, and Friends members attend Commission meetings, providing the necessary linkage between two independent but interlocking organizations.

Communications

Each task force and committee relies on the Communications Committee to publicize their activities. This includes issuing news releases, the mailing of minutes, and commissioner contact with other organizations; however, the newsletter is the primary vehicle. Nine issues were printed this year and distributed throughout the County to organizations, individuals, media and the library services agency.

Legislative Analysis Committee

The Legislative Analysis Committee monitors the legislation pertaining to each task force, making

recommendations for action by the Commission when appropriate. A list of legislation supported by the Commission is included in the body of the annual report.

Conclusion

The year has seen the refinement of the Commission as a mechanism to meet identified needs. This required a tremendous amount of energy, skill and coordinated effort to achieve top performance provided by the Commissioners, staff, The Friends and community volunteers.

For a minimal investment, the County has received a great return in achievements by the Commission for Women.

Brook A. Hubbell
Arleen S. Reetz, Co-Chairs

ART AUCTION TO BENEFIT MANY MANSIONS

An art exhibit and auction will be hosted by Many Mansions on Saturday, August 22 at GTE's facilities, One GTE Place, Westlake Village. The preview begins at 6:30 p.m., the auction at 7:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks will be provided throughout the evening. A donation of \$5 per person is requested. Two framed art works will be presented as door prizes.

Many Mansions is a non-profit corporation that makes it possible to house an average of 40 low income families in the Thousand Oaks area. It does this by making possible the use of Section 8 housing certificates. Many Mansions rents dwellings at market rents and subleases them to families at Fair Market Rents.

Proceeds from the art auction will be used to provide rent subsidies in Many Mansions' Adopt-A-Family program.

For more information call Ed Nelson or Lois Jackson at 497-0344.

MONEY SENSE

The University of California Cooperative Extension is offering the "Money Sense" program in Ventura County. "Money Sense" is an eight week course designed to provide professionals and volunteers who work with limited income clients with a resource, information and skills to help consumers gain confidence in controlling their resources by:

- sharpening budget and record keeping abilities;
- developing workable spending plans;
- establishing realistic savings habits;
- understanding credit and evaluating consumer choices;
- learning the ways through the electronic banking maze;
- selecting nutritious low-cost food and planning healthy meals

While participants will be able to apply information presented in this program to the management of their own resources, workshop exercises will be conducted to familiarize participants with exercises to use with clients.

Registration is limited. Call Shirley Peterson, 654-2922 for more information.

Copies of the Commission for Women's 1986-87 Annual Report are available. Please send \$2.00 to cover the cost of copying and postage to: Commission for Women, 505 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

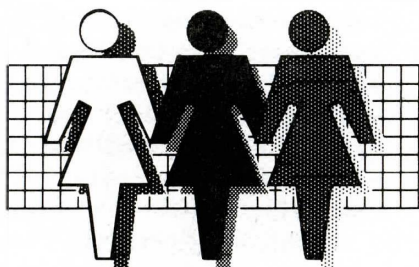
The Commission for Women will meet on Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m. in Camarillo. Call the Commission office for directions. A short business meeting will be followed by a session to assess progress on the 5 year plan and to plan projects for the coming year. All Commission meetings are open to the public. (805) 652-7611.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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To become a newsletter sponsor, please send a minimum contribution of \$25 to the Commission office at 505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001.



Ventura County
Commission for Women

VOL. 5, No. 6

Ventura County Commission for
Women - Officers 1986-87

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AUGUST 1987

Friends of the Commission

Lee Anderson, President
(805) 496-8470

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505 Poli Street
Ventura, California 93001

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