

County Supervisors Launch Commission for Women

It's official.

Ventura County supervisors have set their seal of approval on the establishment of a commission for women in Ventura County.

A representative sampling of 14 women - and one man - from across the county have been selected to serve on the new Commission for Women. They reflect a divergence of ages, experiences and views but are all united by a common bond - of helping women.

The creation of the Ventura County Commission for Women brings the total number of such commissions in California to 34.

The Commission came upon the heels of a historic development in the local political arena.

Two women supervisors - Maggie Erickson of Camarillo and Susan Lacey of Ventura - took office for the first time last year.

It was an even more historic occasion when Maggie Erickson was named chair for county supervisors in 1982 - the first time a woman has been head of county supervisors in the county's entire 87-year history.

The Ventura County Commission for Women will serve as a means by which individuals and women's organizations can report to supervisors on conditions affecting their lives.

The Commission will review, analyze and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to women.

The Commission will serve the Board in an advisory capacity, studying conditions affecting women's lives, and provide a coordinating function with the many community groups working to improve the quality of life for women in Ventura County.

There's a lot to be done.

County supervisors handed the new Commission a hefty task for starters: to identify existing child care resources and develop a countywide child care resource network.

From a field of 116 applicants, county supervisors appointed three individuals to represent their respective supervisorial districts.

The broad sampling includes directors, medical assistants, a marriage and family therapist, a management consultant, a

college dean, a homemaker, a student, a pharmacist, a secretary and an administrator.

The Commission meets monthly on a rotational basis around the county. All meetings are open to the public.

The total Commission budget for 1981-82 of \$8,245 includes a part-time secretary, supplies and postage, printing, and membership dues for the National Association of Commissions for Women.

Jean Getchell, administrative analyst for the county, estimates that in-kind support offered by women's organizations across the county and by fund-raising will amount to an estimated \$13,060.

Substantial efforts in information gathering and legislative analysis have been offered to the Commission by major women's groups in the county.

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MAGGIE ERICKSON - MADAME CHAIRMAN
Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Continued from P. 1

Supervisors adopted the name on July 14, 1981. The Commission met for the first time on Sept. 26, 1981 and bylaws were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 5, 1981.

Co-chairs of the Commission are Yvonne Bodle and Virginia Connell. Executive Secretary is Sandra Smith Ryder. The finance officer is Erin Sheffield.

Each commissioner serves at the discretion of the supervisor for the term established by each supervisor. Commissioners are, to the extent possible, reflective of the diversity of life styles in the county and committed to the goal of equal rights and opportunities for women.

Standing committees include child care, communications, resources development and legislative analysis.

The Commission follows parliamentary procedure and adheres to provisions of the Brown Act (relating to open meet-

ings). Minutes of monthly meetings are mailed out to the Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Office, Public Social Services Agency, cities, women's organizations, public libraries, the news media and other interested groups.

The Commission will prepare an annual report to the Board of Supervisors detailing its program accomplishments and accounting for funds.

County supervisors are enthusiastic about the caliber of their appointees and their commitment to hard work.

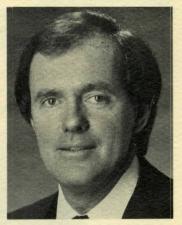
"I look forward to working with you and receiving your advice on the many complex issues which face women today," 4th District Supervisor James Dougherty (former Board chairman) said in welcoming Commissioners.

"I feel confident that with the quality of people appointed to the Commission, any project you undertake will result in positive and creative action and information."

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Ventura County Commission for Women... Multi-Purpose

The Ventura County Commission for Women, established July 14, 1981, by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, serves a multitude of purposes which were enumerated in the bylaws adopted and approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on January 5, 1982.

The purposes of the Commission for Women, which serves

the Board of Supervisors in a supervisory capacity, are stated as, but not limited to, the following:

- Clause A. Review, analyze and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to women.
- Clause B. Provide a coordinating function with respect to the many community groups working to improve the quality of life for women.
- Clause C. Study any conditions demonstrating discriminations due to sex or marital or parental status.
- Clause D. Perform work assigned by the Board of Supervisors.

Ventura County Commission for Women Introduces Co-Chairs



YVONNE BODLE Ventura College Associate Dean

(Helping to lead the first Commission for Women of Ventura County is Yvonne Gallegos Bodle, Associate Dean of Instruction for Ventura College, a United Way Volunteer Account Executive, a Ph.D. student at UCSB and the mother of two children.)

Think of the Commission for Women as a forum for women's concerns. The women and one man appointed to this newly established county commission were appointed to represent you! If there are issues of concern that you feel the Commission should hear about and pass on for review, contact the Commissioner representing your area or call the Commission secretary at 654-5396 to receive agenda consideration at their next monthly meeting. The Commission can then be in a position to forward these concerns with all sides represented, to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, which is the policy making group for Ventura County.

Information is power. And only when the Ventura County Commission for Women is informed of any abridgements or infringements to the rights of women can the Commission bring these issues to the attention of our elected officials. They want to know, and the Commission for Women has the responsibility of conveying this information. Then, and only then, can something be done about it. So consider yourself or your organization a vital link for making the Commission for Women a resounding success and a responsible organization on behalf of all women. Its success is your success! Also feel welcome to either come yourself or send an observer from your organization to the Commission meetings. Make your concerns known!

The Board of Supervisors dared to risk the establishment of such a commission on behalf of all women. Let your Supervisor know that you support the Commission. We are indebted to them for their support. Send them a letter or give their office a call thanking them.

I am very proud to be Co-Chair of the Commission for Women with Virginia Connell. Ginny has been one of the foremost advocates of women's rights for many years in Ventura County and her selection not only as a Commissioner but as Co-Chair was an excellent one. Your Commissioners are dedicated workers with extremely bright minds. Ginny and I look to them to be the Chair or Co-Chairs of the future. You are in good hands.

Bodle and Connell Foresee Great Future for County's Women

The women of Ventura County, spanning a broad spectrum of diverse lifestyles and talents and needs, have probably not lacked for things to do, organizations to belong to, ways to involve themselves in their communities. But, until July 1981, they lacked a commission within county government to deal specifically with issues and concerns of women.

Now, the Ventura County Commission for Women is joined with city and county Commissions throughout California and the other states of our nation in informing and advising local governing bodies of issues and problems and legislation (or the lack of it) relating to women. Our Commission receives input from the State of California Commission on the Status of Women, and the National Association of Commissions for Women informing us of programs that work as well as problems that women are confronting.

On the local level, we are working to build an effective communications network throughout Ventura County, so that women know about their Commission, and we know about them. This newsletter is one aspect of that networking and I am very pleased and excited to have the first issue being distributed.



VIRGINIA CONNELL, THERAPIST The Alive Place, Thousand Oaks, CA

As Co-Chair of the Commission, I invite you to participate—in our child care project, our newsletter, our committees, our monthly meetings—with the fifteen of us who are current appointees

to the Commission in the ongoing effort to bring women to full equality in this county, this state, and the nation as a whole.

In-Kind Support Offers Value for County Tax Dollars Spent

The donation of hours of unpaid volunteer effort is an added benefit to the Ventura County Commission for Women's efforts.

The 15 Commission members who investigate women's issues at the direction of county supervisors are backed up by a network of women's organizations across the county.

Legislative analysis is being provided by the Ventura County Women's Lawyers Association, the National Women's Political Caucus, the American Association of University Women and the Federally Employed Women of Ventura County.

Coordination of women's activities for information presented to supervisors (information gathering) is the responsibility of the American Association of University Women, Federally Employed Women, County League of Women Voters, Ventura/Oxnard Chapter of National Organization for Women, Simi/Conejo Chapter of NOW and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Attending meetings are representatives

of the following groups: Child Care Resource and Referral Center; Coalition Against Household Violence; Ventura County Rape Crisis Center; Conejo Community Services; Interface Community; Operation Breakthrough; National Women's Employment and Education; Child Abuse and Neglect and the Domestic Violence Advisory Group.

Also included are voluntary health organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and the March of Dimes.

Commission Office to Serve as Resource Center for Women

Have a question relating to women or women's issues?

The office of the Ventura County Commission for Women may be just the place to visit.

Commission Secretary Beverly French staffs the office at the Public Social Services Agency, 3482 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. five days a week.

On hand is an extensive compilation of resources relative to the Commission's child care project, plus directories of women's network organizations, informa-

tion packets for classroom programs, women's rights handbooks, and other relevant material.

The public is invited to visit the Commission office or call 654-5396 to examine or request information on women's issues.

Commission Bylaws Adopted by County Supervisors

The new year proved to be off to a good start for the newly formed Ventura County Commission for Women with the adoption of the official Bylaws of the Commission by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, January 5, 1982.

One of the very first goals of the newly formed commission was to set up working bylaws for the current commission members as well as the commissioners in the years ahead.

At the onset of this commission a bylaws committee was formed to put together a rough draft of the bylaws. The rough draft being completed, the bylaws committee brought the bylaws draft to the commission as a whole for discussion and recommendation. After many hours and discussions and further drafting, the bylaws were approved by the commission for adoption by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

The bylaws were written to encompass

a large framework for the commissioners to function. The bylaws are clear and spellout a framework which includes the commission name, purpose, membership, officers and responsibilities, duties and responsibilities of standing committees, organizational and bylaws.

Copies of the bylaws are available to the public by contacting the Commission for Women office, 654-5396.

Commission for Women Committee Breakdown Listed

The Ventura County Commission for Women has formed the following committees to pursue objectives related to the accomplishment of major goals:

Child Care: Dorothy Engels, Chair, Brook Hubbell, Ida Richardson, Steve Wiman, Lupe Gonsalves, Mary Baird, Yvonne Bodle, Mary Jane Johns, and Carol Keochekian. Non-Commission members are: Susan Minich, Jarryl Larsen, Pam Waldron, Bonnie Warrington, Michele Feldman, and Cheryl Bohley.

Resource Development: Erin Sheffield, Chair, Ida Richardson, and Jo Anne Moore. Non-Commission member, Erica Neville.

Communications: Sandy Smith Ryder, Chair, Erin Sheffield, and Lauren Anderson.

Legislative Analysis: Virginia Connell, Steve Wiman, and Lupe Gonsalves. Non-Commission member, Bonnie Warrington.



COMMISSIONERS...

From a field of 116 applicants, County Supervisors appointed the following individuals to represent their respective Supervisorial Districts:

Appointed by Susan K. Lacey to represent District 1:

Lauren Anderson, Ventura, Executive Secretary, Star Free Press. Mrs. Anderson has been involved in the Ventura Chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Ventura County District Attorney's Victim Witness Unit, the Ventura Hot Line, and the Ojai Junior Women's Club.

Lupe Gonsalves, Ventura, Medical Assistant. Ms. Gonsalves has been involved with the American Association of Medical Assistants and is a member of the Ventura County Chapter of Medical Secretaries and Assistants.

JoAnne Le Fills-Moore, Ventura, Programs Administrator, Human Resources Department, City of Simi Valley. Ms. Moore has been active in the Ventura Chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club, the National Women's Political Caucus, American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, Parent-Teacher's Association, and the Girls' Club.

Appointed by Edwin A. Jones to represent District 2:

Virginia Connell, Thousand Oaks, a Marriage and Family Therapist. Ms. Connell has been involved in the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition, the National Organization for Women, the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Conejo Valley Women in Business, and the National Women's Political Caucus.

Carol Keochekian, Thousand Oaks, Director of Women's Programs at California Lutheran College. Ms. Keochekian has been active in the Conejo Future Foundation; Humanities for Conejo Youth, AAUW, Thousand Oaks Branch; Ventura County Coalition for Women; Citizens Advisory Committee to Supervisor Ed Jones; Conejo Valley Historical Society; Community Leaders Club at Cal. Lutheran College; and C.A.R.E. (College Alliance for Re-entry Education).

Stephen P. Wiman, Thousand Oaks, Attorney. Mr. Wiman is active in the Ventura County Bar Association and in the California Chapter for Neurologically Handicapped Children.

Appointed by Maggie Erickson to represent District 3:

Yvonne Gallegos Bodle, North Coast, Associate Dean of Instruction at Ventura College. Ms. Bodle has been active in the United Way of Ventura County, the Ventura County Master Chorale, the Ventura County Historical Society and Museum, and the San Buenaventura Old Mission Parish.

Sandra Smith Ryder, Camarillo. Public Information Officer at Oxnard Union High School District. Ms. Ryder has been active in the Society of Professional Journalists, Women in Communication, the Women's Division of the Greater Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and the Association of California School Administrators.

Erin Healy Sheffield, Camarillo, a homemaker and volunteer. Mrs. Sheffield has been active in the Camarillo Junior Women's Club, the American Association of University Women, the Friends of the Camarillo Library, the United Methodist Nursery School Board, and the Assistance League of Ventura County.

Appointed by James R. Dougherty to represent District 4:

Mary Baird, Simi Valley, a student. Mrs. Baird has been active in the National Organization for Women, the California Women's Health Network, and the Hospice of Conejo.

Dorothy J. Engel, Thousand Oaks, a homemaker. Mrs. Engel has been active in the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, Manna, the Friends of the Conejo Library, and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Brook Hubbell, Simi Valley, a Resource Specialist with the Simi Valley Unified School District. Ms. Hubbell has been active in the American Association of University Women, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Simi Valley.

Appointed by John Flynn to represent District 5:

Mary Jane Johns, Oxnard, a retired Registered Nurse, genealogist and homemaker. Mrs. Johns is active in the Ventura County Genealogical Society, is a volunteer at the E.P. Foster Library, and has been active in the Oxnard Monday Club, Retired Officers Wives, American Association of Retired Persons and the PTA.

Ida Richardson, Oxnard, a pharmacist. Ms. Richardson has been active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Oxnard Christian Center, the Soroptimist Club, and the Ventura County Pharmaceutical Association.

Tila Estrada, Oxnard, is the owner of Tila Estrada & Associates. Ms. Estrada is very active in the Oxnard area, including the development of the Angel Hotel Residence, the Child Day Care facility, the re-development of the downtown area, and the Oxnard-Ocotlan Sister City program in the obtaining of their first fire engine. She has been a member of the Ventura County Criminal Justice Planning Board, Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, Oxnard Harbor Board of Realtors, Local Government Committee, Greater Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Clara Parish.

Child Care-Filling a Crying Need in Ventura County



DOROTHY ENGEL Child Care Committee Chair

If you're a working parent, you're probably all too familiar with the situation.

Although there are 47,000 children in Ventura County who need child care services, there are enough licensed facilities in the county to hold only 10,500 of them, according to James E. Isom, director of the county's Public Social Services Agency.

It was to meet this desperate need for adequate child care resources that the county Board of Supervisors asked the newly-created Commission for Women to study the issue and present a report to supervisors.

The Commission has undertaken to identify existing child care facilities and to develop a countywide child care resource network. A subcommittee of the Commission, the Child Care Project Committee, is tackling the subject under direction of Dorothy Engel of Thousand Oaks, committee chair.

The chief tasks of the committee, in addition to identifying existing child care centers, will be to identify industries employing large numbers of people, especially women requiring child care, and find possible sites for child care centers.

It will also be necessary for the committee to analyze the cost effectiveness and cost benefits of employer-provided child care, to examine the cost benefits to employees for full or shared-cost care, and to examine existing regulations.

Recently the Commission held a volunteer orientation meeting at the Thousand Oaks Library to recruit volunteers for the various stages of the project. Called "Operation Search," the orientation session was successful in recruiting men and women from across the county who are interested in aiding the Commission in its goal of improving the child care situation in Ventura County.

Isom, guest speaker at the orientation meeting, addressed himself mainly to the shortage of licensed day care facilities and to the lack of one central place that provides day care information.

He stressed the difficulty that child care facilities have in meeting state requirements and said the shortage of licensed facilities can be attributed to these requirements.

Requirements include 35 square feet of indoor floor space and 75 square feet of outdoor play area per child; and one toilet and one handwashing facility for the first 14 children and an additional toilet and handwashing facility for every additional 10 children.

In addition there is a requirement for licensed and accredited teachers - an overall ratio of not less than one teacher for each 12 enrolled children.

"Although we want our children to be cared for properly and to be safe, it has reached the point where these requirements discourage day care facilities. I think there could be more flexibility," Isom told the audience at "Operation Search."

The Child Care Project Committee is meeting with school district officials in looking at schools which have been closed for use as possible day care centers. Volunteers throughout the community are knocking on unused buildings to see if they can be used for day care sites.

The Commission hopes to encourage employers to furnish on-site day care facilities or any range of existing options to assist with child care needs.

Many believe the recent change in the tax law that frees employees from paying income tax on child-care benefits will encourage the idea that providing child care is a corporate responsibility. A recent Harris poll indicated that a majority of the human-resources executives queried believe child care at the workplace will be a company benefit within the next five years.

Encouraging employers along these lines will preserve and promote family stability by having the child in close proximity to the parent during the working day, reducing child neglect and

employee absenteeism, and resulting in less turnover and higher productivity.

Hospitals in the county have taken the lead in this area. The Simi Valley Adventist Hospital, for example, has developed an on-site child care program which can serve as a model to demonstrate that such programs can work.

"We need a wider range of affordable child care, and in our search we hope to bring together the private and public facilities," Engel said.

Volunteers have agreed to aid the Child Care Project Committee on the following task forces:

Site search, led by Sue Minnich; data search, under direction of Steve Wiman; special programs; Bonnie Warrington; special needs, Carol Keochekian and employment packet, Brook Hubbell.

Anyone wishing additional information on the Child Care Project or wishing to volunteer their assistance may contact the Commission office at 654-5396.



Input and Sponsors Sought for VC Commission Newsletter

Is there something your organization would like to share with the women of Ventura County?

The Ventura County Commission for Women is publishing a bi-monthly newsletter to be distributed to interested women's groups and individuals across the county.

Please send your information/input in writing at least a month in advance in care of Ventura County Commission for Women Newsletter, 3161 Loma Vista Drive, Ventura, CA 93003. Sponsorships are also needed.

If you are interested in being included on our mailing list, please call the Commission office at 654-5396.

Major Conference for Business Women Slated in June

Managerial, entrepreneurial and professional women will gather together in Ventura County, from June 3-5 for "Business Women in the West," a western regional conference offering opportunities in recruitment, purchasing and networking. Over 700 women are expected to attend.

Sponsored by USC College of Continuing Education and the Defense Contract Administration Services Region, Los Angeles (DCASR), the conference features a purchasing fair with representatives of government and private industry and

several corporate hospitality suites for recruitment purposes.

The Buenaventura Holiday Inn in Ventura County is the site of the conference. Fee for attendance and all materials is \$95. Hotel and meals are extra.

For further information, call USC at (213) 743-4343, ext. 603.

Maureen Reagan, Chief Executive Officer of Sell Overseas America and Paula Nelson, author of "Joy of Money" are the featured speakers at the event.

The conference is designed in part to improve the number of women-owned

business products and services sold to the Department of Defense and other government and private industry agents. In addition, the program creates opportunities in networking and career advancement for upwardly mobile women.

A total of twenty-eight workshops are scheduled, each of them around four concurrent tracks: management, entrepreneurs, finance, and self-development. Workshop facilitators are all successful women business owners and corporate leaders in the Western United States.

Camarillo Women's Day Scheduled Saturday, April 24

Camarillo will be holding its third annual Camarillo Women's Day, Saturday, April 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Monte Vista Junior High School.

This one-day non-profit activity is being sponsored by many organizations throughout the county including, Oxnard College, Camarillo American Association of University Women, Camarillo Junior Women's Club, Camarillo Newcomer's Club, Meadowlarks Service League, Soroptimist International of Camarillo, and the Ventura County Commission for Women.

The day's agenda will begin with the

keynote speaker Sheila Cluff, owner of the Oaks at Ojai and The Palms in Palm Springs. Her topic, "Fitness, Its Impact On Your Bottom Line," will focus on how to elevate your energy level, tap your potential, reach your goals and look fantastic!

The keynote address will be followed by four workshops. In each workshop time frame there are more than 10 different areas to choose from; one just right for you!

The close of this one-day activity will be a multi-media program, "Women In

Today's World," presented by Woodfield Productions.

As stated, this is a non-profit activity, and any monies exceeding expenses will be donated to charitable causes or given in scholarships to the Oxnard College Re-Entry students.

Registration for this worthwhile program is \$7, with the deadline for registration April 16, 1982. Checks may be made payable to Camarillo Women's Day and mailed to Oxnard College, 350 North Lantana, Suite No. 224, Camarillo, California 93010.

Applications Accepted for College Advisory Committees

The Ventura County Community College District has been accepting applications for the District Citizens Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs and the District Citizens Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

The primary function of the two committees will be to advise the Board on

ways the college district can best meet the needs of the community and on how district programs can further serve the community. The committees will be appointed for the purpose of finding facts, making recommendations and evaluating outcomes for referral to the Board, via the Superintendent. The Affirmative Action office, under the direction of Ruth McPherson, has had a strong response to these two committees, receiving far more applicants than positions available. The applicants will be referred to the Board, who will select the applicants to be appointed to the two committees.



Commission Members Offer Thanks to County Analyst

The item received a single sentence in the minutes describing the Ventura County Commission for Women's Dec. 5 meeting with county supervisors.

But the Commission wholeheartedly meant its thanks to county Administrative Analyst Jean Getchell in helping to establish the Commission.

She is credited for the organizational development of the Commission, establishing guidelines for adoption of bylaws and developing staffing and budget needs.

Legislative analysis and related efforts for women's issues also fell her way.

"The Commission sincerely appreciates the efforts extended by Administrative Analyst Jean Getchell in helping to launch us on a successful beginning," said Co-Chair Yvonne Bodle.

Workshop Conference at Oxnard College Offered in March

The Oxnard College Women's Program presented the second annual 40-workshop conference on Saturday, March 27.

Keynote speakers included Margaret McKean, feature reporter for KVEN, Los Angeles Times, and formerly the Star Free Press; Elaine K. Garber, board of trustees, Hueneme Elementary School District; and Rose Castanon, deputy E.E.O. Officer, Naval Construction Batallion Center. Their opening theme was "Express, Explore, Experience."

Two one-hour workshops completed the morning agenda with two more in the afternoon. Each workshop period offered ten choices with topics ranging from "If we all believe in equality, why isn't it happening?" to "Express success through colors," from "Make a difference in your community" to "Staying fit; looking good, feeling great."

Other workshops focused on time management, conflict resolution, building children's self esteem, women entrepreneurs, self-assessment, your image, decision-making, local resources, loneliness, relationship skills, anger, singles, teens, bilingual, stress, and assertiveness.

Other community groups who participated with Oxnard College included the Federal Women's Program, Naval Ship Weapons, Systems Engineering, Port Hueneme; Federal Women's Program, Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu;

Ventura County Women's Employment and Education, Inc.; the Terrena Corp., Inc., and Campfire Council, Inc., Ventura.

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VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 3161 Loma Vista Road Ventura, California 93003

The Commission hopes this newsletter will be self-supporting by and for the women of the county. Please send minimum contributions of \$25 to the Commission office to be a sponsor.

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