

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3482 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California
February 20, 1982

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Lauren Anderson
Mary Baird
Yvonne Bodle
Virginia Connell
Dorothy Engel
Tila Estrada
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Carol Keochekian
JoAnne Le Fils-Moore
Sandra Smith Ryder
Erin Healy Sheffield

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Lupe Gonsalves
Ida Richardson
Stephen Wiman

STAFF

Beverly French

GUESTS

Bonnie Kaplan
Anita Andrade
Pat Erseff
Deanna Hackman
Alice Herbruck
Dene Dunn
Lynne Alfasso
Jarryl Larson
Jean Taylor
Betty Withers
(Buena BPW)
Sandra Sanders
(Buena BPW)
Jim DeMaegt (NWPC)
Erica Neville (VCWEC)
Jean Getchell
(Chief Admin. Office)
Lillian Vieth
(Vta/Oxnard NOW)
Joe Pellini
(Vta/Oxnard NOW)
Marilyn Havill
(Vta/Oxnard NOW)
Berenice Ostergren
(Occ. Health Nurse)
Lee Anderson
(Conejo Women in Bus.)

CALL TO ORDER

The February meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Virginia Connell, Co-Chair for the Commission. The meeting was held in Camarillo at the Famarillo Public Library, 3100 Ponderosa Drive.

Ms. Connell asked that the guests introduce themselves to the Commission and tell what organization or group they represented. Also, the Commissioners introduced themselves to the guests. Tila Estrada, the new Commission appointee from Supervisor Flynn's district, was also introduced to the guests, and was formally seated at the meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The corrections in the January Minutes were as follows:

1. Ida Richardson was not listed as being present at the last meeting, but she did attend that meeting and was seated with the Commissioners.
2. Page 3, under heading Child Care Committee, item 1: Mary Jane Johns said that there is a Foster Grandparent Program in operation at Camarillo State Hospital, not St. Johns Hospital, as shown in the January Minutes.
3. Page 3, under heading Child Care Committee, item 4: The name of Bonita Wallace was spelled incorrectly. It should have been Bonita Wallich.

Tila Estrada moved to accept the Minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Erin Sheffield reported that there has been a 15% cut in the Commission's budget. This decrease shows up mostly in the area of services and supplies. The budget is still in good shape, but it has been cut back.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary Sandra Ryder reported on outgoing correspondence to Principal Paul Woodard on the child care issue, to Congressmen Lagomarsino and Goldwater, asking them to keep abreast of the grant application the Commission submitted, and to Tila Estrada, welcoming her to the Commission.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Chair Dorothy Engel reported on the meeting of the Child Care Committee on February 6. She also passed out invitations and programs for the February 27 Orientation Meeting of the Committee. Ms. Engel discussed the purpose of the Orientation Meeting and asked for volunteer help in performing necessary duties at that meeting. Ms. Engel indicated that anyone who volunteers at the meeting to help on the Child Care Project can expect at least two months of work. James Isom, Director of PSSA, will be the principal speaker at the Orientation Meeting.

Mary Jane Johns said there are openings at the Port Hueneme Naval Base Child Care Center for some civil service families.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Lauren Anderson reported on the progress of the Commission's newsletter. The Committee has been trying to find sources to print the newsletter at a good price, if not gratuitously. Also, the Committee is seeking advertising from outside private sources. The estimate received from Ventura College (8 pages, 1100 copies) was approximately \$350. This does not include the mailing cost. Erin Sheffield suggested that it would save money to produce the newsletter only quarterly, instead of every other month. Tila Estrada suggested contacting Marcella Franco of Franco Associates to help with the printing of the newsletter.

Yvonne Bodle suggested soliciting newsletter sponsors from women's organizations, individuals and business groups. Individuals and organizations present responded in the affirmative and pledged \$200 from the floor:

1. Sandra Sanders, Buena Center BPW Club -- \$25
2. Lynne Alfasso -- \$25
3. Ventura-Oxnard NOW -- \$25
4. Ventura BPW Club -- \$25
5. Ventura College Staff, through Yvonne Bodle -- \$25
6. National Women's Political Caucus -- \$25
7. Simi-Conejo NOW -- \$25
8. Lee Anderson -- \$25

JoAnne Moore suggested looking into help from the Bank of A. Levy for the printing of the newsletter, as they print the Ventura County Historical Society newsletter free of charge.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Erin Sheffield reported on financial assistance letters sent to the Achille Levy Foundation and to California Community Foundation to support the Commission for Women.

Steve Wiman received a phone call stating the \$300,000 federal grant applied for was received. He will continue to follow its progress.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Virginia Connell reported that Mary Mason and Lila Stern have volunteered their time to serve on this Committee. Also, Bonnie Warrington has been working along with the Legislative Analysis Committee. The following bills were discussed:

1. The Commission requested that the Board of Supervisors support SB1330, increasing marriage license fees. The Commission wrote a letter of support, and the Board of Supervisors agreed to support this bill, as well.
2. The Commission requested that the Board of Supervisors declare March 7-13, 1982, as Women's History Week. The Board agreed to do so, and the proclamation will be forthcoming. Erica Neville has posters for libraries and she displayed a T-shirt and an apron advertising National Women's History Week. Carol Keochekian moved that the Commission write to cities to support Women's History Week. Motion seconded and passed.
3. A letter of support was sent to Assemblyman Filante regarding AJR62, support of military spouses. Virginia Connell notified the Commission that the procedure which will be followed will be to recommend to Legislative Analyst Blake Boyle that the Commission supports a particular bill, and it will then be passed along to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Carol Keochekian made the recommendation to the Legislative Analysis Committee that at future meetings the bills to be considered be given to the Commissioners so that they can look them over and be familiar with the material prior to the meeting. There was concensus on the matter.

ERA SUPPORT MOTION

The meeting was turned over to Co-Chair Yvonne Bodle to conduct the discussion of the above motion that was made at the January 30 meeting and postponed until February 20. The motion, made by Virginia Connell, stated that the Commission for Women go publicly on record supporting the ERA; and secondly, that the Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they go on record supporting ratification of the ERA.

After a restating of the motion, Virginia Connell spoke about all the many organizations and groups who have come out in favor of the ERA. Ms. Connell said there is no question as to the appropriateness of the Ventura

County Commission for Women taking a stand to support the ERA. Ms. Connell also said the Commission wants to give the public an opportunity to voice their response to this question.

Ms. Bodle outlined the way in which the discussion would proceed: Each member of the public present would be given three minutes to state their opinion, after which time each Commissioner would be able to state their view. Also, Jean Getchell from the County's Chief Administrative Office would be given time to speak.

The guests who spoke were the following:

1. Sandra Sanders - BPW Club - She supports the ERA and wants to see the Commission come out in public support of it.
2. Jean Taylor - She asked if Board of Supervisors are in support of ERA. Ms. Connell said she had not personally polled them.
3. Jean Getchell - She presented the Board of Supervisor's position: Each Board member has a personal opinion, but the ERA was not to be an issue presented by the Commission for Women to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.
4. Deanna Hackman - She said many counties have come out in favor of the ERA. It is not a divisive issue. She is disappointed in the Board of Supervisors.
5. Joe Pellini - Ventura-Oxnard NOW - She is disappointed in the Board, also. She would like to see the Commission come out in favor of the ERA, even if the Board of Supervisors does not. The ERA is supported by the majority of Americans and Ventura County residents, she indicated.
6. Jim DeMaegt - He disagrees with the position of the Board of Supervisors. This is a very crucial issue and the Commission must take a position for the women of Ventura County. If the Commission does not take a stand on this really important issue, it isn't really representing women or men.
7. Jarryl Larson- Women are not defined in the 14th amendment of the Constitution, therefore are not given equal rights. Different states have different laws, and women are not treated equally everywhere in the U.S. Only the word "men" appears in the 14th amendment.

8. Lynee Alfasso - Are the Commission members too afraid to stand up for the status of women?
9. Dorothy Beahrs- The Commission has limited authority to come out in favor of this issue above the task given them by the Board of Supervisors. Does not support the Commission taking a stand on the ERA issue.
10. Lee Anderson - Business women - Supports the ERA. Why doesn't the Board of Supervisors allow this issue to come before them? The Board can't possibly avoid this issue. The Commission is only a hollow instrument if they can't support this issue.
11. Louise Grethow - American Association of University Women - She took a role in supporting the formation of the Commission and she wants to see the Commission come to grips with the really important issues, like the ERA.
12. Berdine Johnson - She is concerned about the ERA taking away any special privileges women now have. Women don't need the ERA. Against the Commission supporting it.

The Commissioners now had a chance to express their feelings:

1. Erin Sheffield - Finance Officer - The members of the Child Care Committee do not consider child care a frivolous issue, as one guest intimated. The Commission serves at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors, and it can only do what they ask. It is important that the Commission not get sidetracked by political opinions. Ms. Sheffield moved that we table the motion. Sandra Ryder seconded the motion.

Yvonne Bodle asked if there were any objections to this action. Dorothy Engel, JoAnne Moore and Virginia Connell objected to this action as premature as the Commissioners had not had a chance to voice their views. Ms. Sheffield withdrew the motion, and Ms. Ryder withdrew the second.

2. Dorothy Engel - Chair, Child Care Committee - She said she is personally in favor of the ERA. She thinks the Commission should come out in favor of the ERA, but should not ask the Board of Supervisors to support it, as that would be cutting our own throats. If the Commission displeases the Board, it will not be able to continue the Child Care Project. Ms. Engel suggested a compromise: the Commission come out in favor of the ERA, but leave the Board of Supervisors out of it.
3. Carol Keochekian - She agrees with Dorothy Engel's proposal.

Yvonne Bodle said that amendments to the motion were in order.

4. JoAnne Le Fils-Moore - She supports the ERA, and her job as Commissioner conflicts with her personal feelings. She, too, agrees with Dorothy Engel's amendment to the motion, as a compromise.
5. Mary Baird - She thinks the Commission has to address this issue because it does concern the child care issue. The Commission can't be afraid to stand up for women, they must support this issue.
6. Mary Jane Johns - She talked to Supervisor Flynn, who said the Commission for Women was not formed to support the ERA. Also, the Commission will probably not be funded next year if that is the main issue to be addressed. Ms. Johns said she has taken a poll of her own regarding the ERA, and she finds that most people do not support the ERA, but feel there are other ways to get equal rights. She does not want the Commission to support the ERA.
7. Tila Estrada - When she applied for the Commission, she asked about the ERA and was told the Commission was not to consider the ERA. If the Board of Supervisors does not want this issue brought up, then she feels the Commissioners are under obligation to do as they ask. Should table the motion.
8. Sandra Ryder - Executive Secretary - She agrees with tabling the motion at the present time.

Ms. Ryder moved to table the motion, and Ms. Estrada seconded it. In favor of the motion - 4; Against the motion - 7. Motion denied.

Carol Keochekian suggested amending the original motion. Virginia Connell suggested removing the second part of the motion, leaving the first part, wherein the Commission would come out publicly in support of the ERA, but not asking the Board of Supervisors to face this issue. JoAnne Moore agreed as the seconder of the original motion. The motion now read: The Ventura County Commission for Women go on public record as supporting the ratification of the ERA in this time of crisis. Motion carried with abstentions and was not unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Jarryl Larson reported on a conference sponsored by USC for Businesswomen in the West. There is an invitation for people who want to participate in the conference, June 3-5, 1982, at the Holiday Inn, Ventura.

Sandra Sanders brought up ACA59 (Floyd) which has been withdrawn until after federal process. It will be brought up again.

Erin Sheffield said that Camarillo Women's Day is April 24, 1982. There will be a special meeting of the Commission for Women on that day at Monte Vista School from 11:15 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. It will be a public meeting in honor of Women's Day.

The March meeting of the Commission will be on March 20. The place has not yet been determined, but Dorothy Engel will arrange. The April meeting will be on April 24 (as part of Women's Day) and the details will be worked out later. The May meeting will be on May 22 at the Camarillo Library and the June meeting will be on June 19 at the Camarillo Library.

Virginia Connell reported on Creative Options Day on March 6 (CLU).

Ventura-Oxnard NOW is sponsoring an art show during Women's History Week, on Sunday, March 7, 932 Main Street, Ventura.

The Paper-Aluminum Drive for the ERA is February 27, Saturday.

Erica Neville thanked Mrs. Bairs for donation of books on women's history to place in the libraries.

Yvonne Bodle reported that the Ventura County Community College District has established a Committee on the Status of Women to advise the Board of Trustees on the issues relating to women. The Committee wants to accept an appointment from the Commission for Women to serve on this newly formed Committee. JoAnne Moore moved that Lauren Anderson represent the Commission. Seconded and passed. Further information can be obtained from Ruth PmPherson, Affirmative Action Officer for the VCCCD, 71 Day Road, Ventura, CA, 93003.

Jarryl Larson asked that a message be passed to the Board of Supervisors through Administrative Analyst Jean Getchell to judge the effectiveness of the Commission on their productivity and not on only one issue.

Virginia Connell said the Commission appreciates the public support. It was a good meeting because women can talk to each other and work together even if they don't agree on all matters.

Jarryl Larson donated the refreshments for this meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly French, Secretary