



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency
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VENTURA COUNTY SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT I

Steve Bennett

DISTRICT II

Linda Parks

DISTRICT III

Kathy Long

DISTRICT IV

Peter C. Foy

DISTRICT V

John C.

Zaragoza

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

DISTRICT I

Diana Goodrow

Vacancy

Vacancy

DISTRICT II

Lee Riggan

Suzi Caron

Amy Walker-

Davis

DISTRICT III

Nancy Lee

Phillips

Elvia Guizar

Ruth Funk

DISTRICT IV

Jan Lawrence

Shanté Morgan-

Durisseau

Debra Bagley

DISTRICT V

Ina Howard

Vacancy

Carmen Hurd

June 25, 2011

Dear Honorable Members of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors;

As you know, the Ventura County Commission for Women was established 20 years ago, to encourage, support and facilitate the empowerment and education of Ventura County women. The commission serves as advisers to the Board of Supervisors on issues impacting and relating to women, and coordinates efforts with federal, state and local community groups to improve the quality of life for women.

The commission has fulfilled its mission despite having no funding or staff to support its efforts. However, we are at a crossroads. We need committed and qualified women to serve on the commission.

We have three vacancies (two in District I and one in District V), one commissioner (from District III) who has not attended a meeting in more than a year and does not respond to emails or correspondence and several other commissioners who are unavailable to attend regularly scheduled meetings. We struggle to conduct meetings because of a lack of a quorum.

There is a core group of women on the commission committed to public service and improving conditions for women; however, there are others who do not quite understand the importance of what we do and we would like the members of the Board of Supervisors to consider some qualities when making future appointments:

- ↓ Computer literate/access to a computer/email
- ↓ Commitment to regularly attend meetings
- ↓ Previous Leadership Experience
- ↓ Interest/Commitment to Working with Women

We also would like the board to clarify the process for applying for an appointment to the commission. We have had several interested women report that their applications did not receive a response or the response was delayed.

We have achieved so much but we have so much more work to do to assist women and girls in Ventura County but we need qualified and committed commissioners to achieve our goals. Please consider our recommendations. In addition, I have attached a list of our recent accomplishments including the soon-to-be released, first ever, report on women and girls in Ventura County.

I also have attached our bylaws, including attendance requirements and the VCCW attendance records for 2010-11.

If the supervisors as a whole or any individual members of the board are interested in more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. We would like to schedule a presentation, before the board highlighting our successes and the soon-to-be released study of women and girls in Ventura County.

Also, attached is a "Welcome to VCCW" sheet developed for new Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Bagley

Chair 2010-2011

Ventura County Commission for Women

Attachments

List of VCCW Accomplishments 2010-11

In the last year we have been involved in some outstanding projects that have increased our outreach and visibility in Ventura County:

- 2010 California Shared Prosperity Forum- CAUSE
- Submitted a grant proposal to the Ventura County Women's Legacy Fund to support domestic violence awareness and education
- "Write for your Rights" Reproductive Rights Network
- California Women's State Appointments Project
- Support of Establishing an American Women's History Museum in Our Nation's Capitol
- Commissioner Lee Riggan Honored by Ventura County Community Action
- Proclamation from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in honor of California Woman's Suffrage Centennial
- AAUW's "Rally for the Vote" In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the California Woman Suffrage Amendment.- T.O. Library
- Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network- 38th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade
- 100TH Anniversary of International Women's Day – womensdaylive.com Rally at Plaza Park Oxnard
- Secretary of Labor's "National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility"-Pasadena
- Proclamation from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on Women's History Month
- Commissioner Shanté Morgan Durisseau and VCCW honored at CSUCI Women's Recognition Luncheon
- Participation in the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative "Organizing for Empowerment"
- Collaborated with California Lutheran University Multicultural Office and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to screen the "Black Sorority Project-the Exodus," a film about black women's participation in the suffrage movement
- Summer 2011. Release of first comprehensive study of the **Status of Women and Girls in Ventura County**. The research for the study, which is being conducted through a partnership with California State University, Channel Islands in Camarillo, will examine the status of women politically, economically, health and welfare.

VCCW Bylaws

Section 4.2 Attendance

- A. Commissioners must be willing to attend regular meetings and serve on committees of, or on behalf of, the Commission.
- B. Notice of absence must be given to the Chair at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Section 4.3 Recommendation for Removal

- A. Recommendation for removal may be made when the bylaws have been knowingly violated or as a result of three (3) absences from regular monthly meetings during each year, beginning on July 1.
- B. Recommendation for removal must be approved by a majority vote of the Commissioners in attendance at the meeting during which the removal is recommended.
- C. Upon Commission approval, a written recommendation will be submitted to the appointing Supervisor, with a copy to the Commissioner recommended for removal.
- D. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in a timely manner by the Supervisor of the district in which the vacancy occurred.



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN Candidate Information Sheet

Welcome wonderful and passionate person interested in advancing the concerns of women. Below are some of the requirements and expectation of a VCCW candidate.

1. Must be a resident of Ventura County;
2. Must be appointed by the Supervisor and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (They may ask for a letter of interest);
3. Concerned with developing recommendations which will enable women to make the maximum contribution to society;
4. As a member of the Commission we will advise the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as follows:
 - A. Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues impacting and/or relating to women and families.
 - B. Coordinate efforts with federal, state, and local community groups to improve the quality of life for women and families.
 - C. Conduct additional studies or tasks assigned or approved by the Board of Supervisors.
5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
 - A. Ventura County Board of Supervisors appoints three Commissioners from with their District; there are a total of fifteen members who serve at the pleasure of the appointing Supervisor.
 - B. You must be willing to attend regular (monthly) meetings which currently are held on the 4th Monday of each month, and may serve on committees of or on behalf of the VCCW. If you are to be absent you are to notify the VCCW chair 24 hours prior to the meeting.
 - C. All meetings are open to the public and under the rule of the Brown Act and its Bylaws. Also guiding its operation are its Standing Rules.
 - D. The VCCW is a Commission of the Board of Supervisors and is not a private non-profit organization.
 - E. The VCCW is not funded and commissioners serve as volunteers often donating their own funds to serve.
 - F. VCCW Commissioners maintain a web site which is www.vccw.net .