

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 4, 2009**

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. The meeting was held at the Women's Club in Solvang and was wheel chair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

First District: (No Vacancies)

Monique Limon

Second District: (One Vacancy)

Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky

Third District: (Two Vacancies)

Marell Brooks

Fourth District: (One Vacancy)

Jennifer Dolan

Fifth District: (No Vacancies)

Theresa Fritz Sleight

Harriet Tower

Lisa Walters

Staff:

Amber Lloyd, EEO Assistant

Shen Rajan, EEO Staff

Guests:

Karen Quimby, Supervisor Wolf's Office

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Brandy Armenta (excused)

Marybeth Carty (excused)

Carol Fujimura (excused)

Rose Gabaldon (excused)

B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Guests

Chair Brooks welcomed everyone present which was followed by a brief introduction by all.

- C. **Public Comment**
There was no public comment.

II. **Regular Business**

A. **Approve: January 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Rotnofsky made the motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Walters. Commissioner Dolan abstained. Commissioner Fritz Sleight suggested the minutes be amended. Motion was carried. Staff will amend the minutes and send out the amended copy.

B. **Announcements:**

1. Chair Brooks informed the commission that the AAUW Girls Conference will be held in Lompoc on March 14th.
2. Chair Brooks informed the commission of the Women's Economic Justice Conference which will be taking place on March 7th in Oxnard.
3. Commissioner Rotnofsky stated that she would not be able to attend the CFW meeting in March, but she would be attending her last meeting in April.

C. **Accept Oral Report: Chair Brooks**

Chair Brooks reminded the commissioners that the deadline for quorum has been changed to noon on Fridays before the meeting and commissioners needed to contact the EEO Office if they will or will not be attending the meeting.

D. **Review, Discuss & Act: Set Agenda for Forum –All**

The forum has been scheduled for April 30th. Chair Brooks has contacted Angel Cottrell from WEV to speak at the event. She will discuss pertinent issues relating to women and tools to help women advance in their careers.

Commissioner Tower suggested the title for the forum be “Women, Work and Wages.” Commissioners agreed that they liked the title of the forum.

The motion was made to accept the title for the forum as “Women, Work and Wages” by Commissioner Dolan. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rotnofsky. Motion was passed with no abstentions.

EEO staff Lloyd informed the commissioners that the County IT person may not be the best choice as a speaker for the forum as their focus is more on programming needs versus online sites on wage information. She suggested that perhaps the commissioners could invite a career technician from a career center. Commissioner Dolan stated that she could contact someone from the school district to address that topic.

Commissioner Limon suggested that a speaker from the career center at Alan Hancock College may be another good option as it was closer to the forum site. She also offered to get materials from the career center at UCSB.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight stated that it was important to get a speaker to address the topic of maximizing career earnings.

Commissioner Rotnofsky said earnings should not be the only emphasis as the issues were broader than that and should deal with the spectrum of opportunities available. Commissioner Dolan agreed and said that speakers should talk about maximizing one's career opportunities.

Commissioner Walters discussed the layoffs taking place in the educational field right now and felt that the forum should give people hope in today's dismal economic market.

Chair Brooks stated that the AAUW was trying to get a speaker for the CFW forum from Sacramento or the Department of Labor. Commissioner Tower said that the AAUW would cover her travel expenses. They were not sure yet on the topic that the speaker would address.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight felt that interviewing and wage negotiation should be addressed.

Commissioner Tower suggested a speaker address life/work planning issues for older adults re-entering the marketplace.

Commissioners felt that having four speakers would be adequate and ten minutes allocated per speaker to allow time for questions and answers. Commissioners decided that they preferred to call the event a "panel" rather than a "forum".

Commissioner Dolan stated that she has access to a template that may be modified for the speakers at the forum, which will inform them of their time allocation, the others on the panel and other pertinent information.

Commissioner Dolan suggested that commissioners forward her the information regarding speaker names and biographies, contact information and topics covered by February 20th and she will gather and organize the information to send to the EEO staff.

Action Item: Chair Brooks will contact Angel Cottrell from WEV and send information into Commissioner Dolan by February 20th.

Action Item: Commissioner Tower will contact AAUW and send information to Commissioner Dolan by February 20th.

Action Item: Commissioner Fritz Sleight will contact Nasra and send information to Commissioner Dolan by February 20th.

Action Item: Commissioners Dolan and Walters will contact Alan Hancock College and gather pertinent information by February 20th.

Action Item: Commissioner Dolan will send all information regarding speakers and topics to the EEO Office by February 27th.

E. Review, Discuss & Act: Service Awards-All

Commissioner Rotnofsky stated that with her resignation from the CFW that it would be appropriate for someone else to take over her position and chair the Public Relations Committee. Commissioner Limon said that she would be Chair of Public Relations. She wanted staff to send her a press release template.

Action Item: EEO Staff will change the Chair of Public Relations to Commissioner Limon.

Action Item: EEO Staff Lloyd will send Commissioner Limon a copy of the latest press release sent out on behalf of the CFW.

Commissioner Rotnofsky mentioned that 2nd District service award recipient Glendon Association should be The Glendon Association.

Service awards are scheduled for March 17th and resolutions will be presented at 9.15 a.m. Commissioners that are able to be present will be there by 9.00 a.m.

Action Item: Commissioner Rotnofsky will present the award for the 2nd District.

Action Item: Commissioner Limon will present the 1st District award.

Action Item: Commissioner Tower will present the 5th District award and the 4th District award if Commissioner Dolan is not present.

Action Item: Chair Brooks will present the award for the 3rd District.

Action Item: Staff will make the necessary changes to the title of The Glendon Association.

Action Item: Staff will send letters to organizations informing them of the CFW awards.

Action Item: All CFW presenters will contact organizations after letters are sent and reconfirm the invite following the letters.

Commissioner Limon mentioned that presenting the recipients with a glass trophy which was presented in previous years was more substantial than a framed resolution. She felt that it made for better presentation and is something that displays well.

Motion to purchase glass trophies not to exceed \$350 to present to the award recipients was made by Commissioner Limon. Commissioner Rotnofsky seconded the motion. Motion was passed with no abstentions.

Chair Brooks stated that Friends of the Commission for Women has hosted a reception for this event in the past. She said she would contact Stacy Shepard regarding hosting the reception.

In the event that Friends is unable to host the reception, Commissioners will provide baked goods for the reception. EEO staff will provide paper goods and decorations for the event.

Commissioner Dolan made the motion to approve the service award nominees as presented. Commissioner Limon seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

F. Review, Discuss & Act: Focus Group Updates- All

1. Violence against Women and Children: Armenta, Carty, Dolan, Fujimura, Rotnofsky, Walters.

Commissioner Rotnofsky stated that she was interviewed yesterday on the radio regarding suicide and finances. L.A. County hotline is receiving 60% more calls as people are losing jobs or are anxious about losing their jobs in today's economic market. She mentioned that it is important to be aware and mindful of the stress caused by the down economy. She stated that the county has a hotline, but people get the answering machine so it is better to refer people to call 211. One actively psychotic woman had to wait for two months to see a psychiatrist.

Commissioner Walters stated that the nurse at her school is seeing more child service referrals due to parents losing their jobs and abuse increasing as a result of stress. North County services are limited and overcrowded.

Commissioner Rotnofsky suggested that perhaps the CFW can call private organizations to donate their services since resources are short, even if it is only an hour each week.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight stated that it was important to keep the focus on women's issues and not address general issues. Commissioner Rotnofsky said that it was abuse against women and children with a lot of the violence pertaining towards them. Chair Brooks felt that perhaps it could be highlighted during the service awards.

2. Economic Justice and Pay Parity: Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Gabaldon, Limon
Chair Brooks talked about the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Act which passed unanimously last Thursday.

3. Women and Aging: Tower

Commissioner Walters talked about a phone scam in Santa Maria that was targeting the elderly due to the economic downturn. She stated that there were news articles about this recently. Commissioner Rotnofsky felt that we should inform Joyce Lippman as she works directly with the elderly and abused. Commissioner Fritz Sleight said that it was a generational thing with the elderly being easy prey, and women being more prone to being victimized.

Commissioner Rotnofsky said that she had a handout on a support network which could be a resource as a call in center.

G. Review, Discuss & Act: Committee Updates-All

1. Legislation- Armenta, Dolan, Fujimura, Gabaldon, Walters
Commissioners had nothing to report.
2. Public Relations- Carty, Dolan, Limon, Rotnofsky
Commissioner Limon will chair the Public Relations Committee. She will work on the upcoming panel.
3. Events-Carty, Gabaldon, Rotnofsky
Chair Brooks said that the planning for the panel was coming along as was the reception for the service awards.
4. Nominations-Armenta, Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Tower
Ms. Quimby stated that Supervisor Wolf has appointed Gwendolyn Hampton, a new Commissioner for the 2nd District. She will be attending the meeting next month as her appointment was being confirmed later in February. She will be replacing Commissioner Torres.

Chair Brooks stated that Supervisor Farr is considering two nominations for the CFW.
5. By-Laws-Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Fujimura, Limon, Tower
Commissioner Tower stated that the bylaws have been reviewed and nothing needed to be changed at this time.

H. Meeting with Supervisor-All

Commissioner Rotnofsky will be meeting with Supervisor Wolf at the end of the month. Commissioner Dolan spoke with Supervisor Gray about the open position on the commission.

I. Other Business- All

Motion was made to put The Women's Economic Justice on the agenda for discussion by Commissioner Rotnofsky. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dolan. Motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Brooks stated that CAUSE has put this event on for many years and they provide workshops on various topics pertaining to families. The location of the workshop rotated between Santa Barbara and Oxnard. A couple of years ago the event took place at UCSB and the event was supposed to be held at UCSB this year but due to logistic reasons it is being held in Oxnard again. It is a non profit event and the CFW has supported it in past years with a donation to provide buses to help transport women from Santa Barbara County to the event.

Chair Brooks stated that all workshop and keynote speaker talks are given in Spanish with English translations. Dolores Huerta spoke one year. Hilda Solis was invited to be the keynote speaker this year but has now been appointed to head the Dept. of Labor. Commissioner Brooks said that she would like the CFW to donate \$100.00 to help with transportation.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight said she has heard of the event and the flyer talked about lobbying on immigration issues and getting the public involved on immigration reform. She thought public funds should not be used to promote agenda items on legislation issues. Commissioner Limon said she did not see it as a lobbying event but more as a public information and educational system. Commissioner Dolan mentioned that other than the fact that it was bilingual, immigration was just listed as a topic of discussion. Commissioner Walters said that explaining a process on how to do something was different than advocating something. Commissioner Limon said that other topics are also addressed at the event, similar to the CFW issues. Commissioner Fritz Sleight said that she did not interpret it as pro/con discussion but an open invitation for elected officials.

Action Item: Staff will review flyer to determine if CAUSE or any session in CAUSE would be considered a lobbying event.

- J. Agenda Items-All**
- i. Upcoming panel in April
 - ii. Service Awards
 - iii. WEJ Conference

- III. Adjourn**
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Rotnofsky. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 4, 2009 at the Women's Club of Solvang.

Respectfully submitted,
Shen Rajan
EEO Staff