

Events of Commission 2013

30th Anniversary of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame

History Committee in collaboration with the Communications Committee and Oklahoma State University Women's Archives develop a 30th Anniversary poster depicting a pictorial display of all past inductees of the Women's Hall of Fame. The poster was sent to all state libraries, school libraries and tribal libraries. Along with the poster, the Women's Archive Department developed a curriculum on the Hall of Fame for use in schools. This curriculum accompanied the poster. The poster was disseminated to members of the Hall of



2013 Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon

The Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon were held February 28, 2013. The purpose of this award is to recognize women who have made a difference in Oklahoma through outstanding service as public servants. In 2013, the OCSW presented the award to State Representative Pam Peterson for her work on improving human services and reducing human trafficking.

"Kate Barnard - A Legacy of Courage" was portrayed by Deena Fisher, Ph.D., Advisory Council member and Dean of Northwestern State University in Woodward.



In 1907, Kate Barnard, a native of Oklahoma, became the first woman to win a statewide

elect office in the United States. At the time she was elected, she was the only woman on the state ballot, and only men had the vote. She held the office of Commissioner of Charities and Corrections for two terms. She was a key figure in the enactment of a compulsory education law providing for state payments to widows dependent on their children's earnings, of legislation implementing the constitutional ban on child labor, and of laws aimed at unsafe working conditions and the "blacklisting" of union men.



The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, April 11, 2013 bestows the highest honor of outstanding service benefiting the lives of women and families in Oklahoma, the nation, or elsewhere in the world. The six women inducted in the 2013 Hall of Fame were nominated and chosen based on nomination criterion.

The 2013 Women's Hall of Fame marks the 30th event and one hundred-eleven women have been inducted.



The six inductees are: Ida Blackburn, S. Elaine Dodd, Linda Haneborg, Lou Kerr, Nancy Miller, and Terri Watkins.

National Association of Commissions for Women Representative

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is represented by Bernice Mitchell. The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women has been a member of the NACW since 2003 and has had representation on its Board of Directors since 2006 and on the Executive Team since 2010. OCSW, through its representative, continues to play a prominent role in the make-up of the NACW Board and Committees. At the present time, work is being done in the areas of Nominations, Recruitment, Elections, Board Development training and By-Laws review.

For the last 5 years, OCSW has won an Achievement Award for the outstanding mission related programs it has produced. Serving as your Representative to the NACW is an honor and a pleasure. Having a connection with hundreds of women from many states all working with the same mission: "to enhance the lives of women, children and families" is most rewarding.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is chaired by Fern Bowling. The Advisory Council was created and approved by the Commission as a body January 26, 1995. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to serve as a vehicle to help the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women meet its requirements; to act as an outreach to the women of the state; to be a resource and clearinghouse for research and information on issues related to women and gender bias; to act as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations and businesses of the state, and to establish recommendations for action to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma women, children and families.

The active advisory council members participated as contributing members for all of the commission meetings and special events this year. The Council ended the year with sixty-nine members which included these eight new members:

2012-2013 Commission Membership

The Commission consists of 30 commissioners appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Officers

Chair: Adeline Yerkes, Edmond
Vice Chair: Malaka Elyazgi, Norman
Secretary: Nancy Smith, Chickasaw
Financial Officer: Karla Wallace, Oklahoma City
Advisory Council Chair: Fern Bowling, Stillwater
Nominating Committee Members: Patty Bryant, Tulsa, Fern Bowling, Stillwater and Joyce Sanders Horton, Chickasaw

Commissioners

Rita Aragon, Cabinet Secretary, Hall of Fame, Selection Committee Chair
Brenda Barwick, Edmond, Communications Committee Chair
Theresa Baxter, Lawton, Hall of Fame, Event Committee Chair
Mary Louise Binning, Oklahoma City, Physical/Mental Health Com Chair
Representative Lee Denney, Cushing
Malaka Elyazgi, Norman
Senator AJ Griffin, Guthrie
Catherine Haynes, Ponca City
Joyce Horton Sanders, Chickasha, Legislative & Policy Committee Chair
Ashley Kehl, Oklahoma City
Denise Kinzie, Cushing
Lou Kohlman, Oklahoma City, Hall of Fame, Incarceration Com Chair
Valaska Littlefield, Tulsa, Family Issues Committee Chair
Amy McCord, Oklahoma City, NACW Women Representative
Bernice Mitchell, Stillwater
Chris Morriss, Oklahoma City, History Committee Chair,
Representative Jadine Nollan, Sapulpa
Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Stillwater
Nancy Rothman, Tulsa
Devon Shannon, Lawton
Holly Shelton, Oklahoma City
Karen Sneary, Alva
Peggy Thompson, Edmond
Valerie Thompson, Oklahoma City
Nikki Watters, Shawnee



Annual Report
2012-2013



Annual Report 2012-2013

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1994 as a result of Enrolled Senate Bill 1147, Second Session of the 44th Legislature of Oklahoma. The measure, which added several new sections to title 74 O. S., defined the legislative intent and the basis of the Commission's charge: "In furtherance of its obligation to advance the general welfare of the state, the Legislature is cognizant of its duty to give all citizens their opportunities to reach their full potential. Therefore, the Legislature declares its intent that any inhibiting conditions caused by any factors which impede the ability of an individual to reach the full potential of that individual are matters of public concern." Such intent covers a broad range of issues and potential actions to be addressed by the Commission.

Mission

The Mission of the Commission is to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma.

Vision

The Vision of the Commission is to advocate social justice, gender equity, and equal opportunity through effective leadership.

Duties

- Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission;
- Act as a monitor of legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;
- Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;
- Conduct meetings and seminar within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and
- Report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its activities under this act such recommendations may include concern for needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to equity and gender bias.

Commission Accomplishments 2012-2013

The Commission conducted the following activities in support of its legislated duties: "Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission."

- Partnered with Young Leadership Initiative, on "The Appointments Project (TAP)". The Appointments Project is an effort to identify qualified women to serve in elected or appointed positions. Commissioners served as advisors by assisting the Project with dissemination of the project's materials and with identifying qualified women to seek appointments.
- Assisted Representative Pam Peterson in preparing materials for the September 2012 Interim Legislative Study on Human Trafficking. Commissioners served on the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Committee.
- Contracted with Oklahoma State University Library System to archive the records of the Commission and to assist the Commission with developing an approved Records Schedule.
- Hired an Executive Director to assist the Commission with its activities.
- Published the 2013 Biographical Information for Women Legislators, State-wide Elected and Appointed Officials.
- Continued the work of the Budget and Restructuring Committee by revising Commission procedures.
- Conducted the annual Kate Barnard Award Ceremony and Luncheon which recognizes elected and salaried officials supporting Commission issues.
- Conducted the 30th Women's Hall of Fame event by inducting six members.
- Celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame by developing and disseminating a commentary poster.
- Honored Representative Dan Kirby with the Guardian Award. The Guardian Award is presented to elected officials who have made significant governmental contributions to guarding, protecting and preserving the rights of women and families.



"Act as a monitor of legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation."

Legislative Committee tracked

HB 1023 - Labor: modifying sections of the Employment Security Act of 1980

HB 1058- Human Trafficking, providing for the expungement of certain records under certain circumstances

HB 1067 - Criminal and punishments: directing peace officers to provide notice to human trafficking victims

HB1130 - Food Stamps: requiring certain individuals to be engaged in work activities to be eligible for food stamps.

"Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias."

- The Communications Committee of the Commission maintains a Commission website resource page of state and national website links
- The Commission's website contains a page listing Commission Projects and Partnerships plus products; and archives the annual reports, regular meeting agendas and minutes <http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/Resources/index.html>
- The Commission's History Committee completed the archiving of materials, products and proceedings of the Commission since inception to provide an archived history of the Commission for the public

"Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission."

- The Commission conducted eleven regular meetings plus committee activities. The Commission celebrated Women's History Month with a presentation by Cabinet Secretary Ret. General Rita Aragon on the history of women in the armed forces.



FY13 Committee Activities and Accomplishments

Budget and Restructuring Committee

Committee reviews, revises and disseminates current and contemporary Rules, Policies and Procedures and assists the Financial Officer in preparing a line item budget.

Actions and Activities:

- produced a line item budget for the Commission's approval.
- finished procedures section of the "Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual"

Communications Committee

Communications Committee promotes the activities of the Commission statewide to create awareness.

Actions and Activities:

OCSW gained \$16,000 in earned media value through placement of stories in newspapers, magazines, online news sites and television. This media coverage reached a potential statewide audience of 1.8 million media impressions.

- Hall of Fame Nominee Release (6 news paper articles and 1 television coverage)
- Call for Hall of Fame Nominees (11 news paper articles)
- Kate Barnard Award (3 newspaper articles)
- The Commission Chair was interviewed for an article "The State of Women" published by *Oklahoma Magazine* May 2013, pgs 76-77 - Women Commissioned which discusses the role of the Commission.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee strives to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma through coordinating activities of the Commission, convening ad hoc committees, and coordinating with Office of Management and Enterprise Services to oversee efficient financial management, the website and administrative office of the Commission.

Actions and Activities:

The Executive Committee and Senior Executive Committee met three times to discuss involvement of the membership, financial status and Hall of Fame eligibility.

Family Issues Committee

The Family Issues Committee is focused on improving the quality of life for women and families. The Commission and Committee voted to take a stand against Human Trafficking and chose this topic for Summit 2014

Actions and activities:

- Assisted Representative Pam Peterson in preparing materials for the September 2012 Interim Legislative Study on Human Trafficking.
- Represented the Commission on the Attorney General's Task Force Committee.
- The Family Issues Committee held three meetings: Two Conference calls and one meeting in OKC. The Committee shared and attended Human Trafficking workshops and awareness events during the year.
- Committee began studying potential agenda topics for the 2014 Summit; drafted a plan for the summit with goals and objectives, outcome and potential partners.

Incarceration Committee

Committee partners to reduce the incarceration rate of Oklahoma women.

Action and Activities:

- Attended Women in Recovery graduation ceremonies
- Consulted with Youssef Khanfar on his photography project, "All About Eve", depicting women incarcerated in Oklahoma prisons. Attended the opening of the photography exhibit and its program at the Gaylord-Pickens Heritage museum.

Physical and Mental Health Committee

Physical and Mental Health Committee strives to improve the health status, quality of life and reduce disparities of women and families through communicating health messages, conducting seminars and health events.

Actions and activities:

- Health messages were communicated about heart health, osteoporosis prevention, and mental health. May, Women's Health Month, committee distributed materials on wellness, preventive screenings and fact sheets.
- Participated and collaborated with the Oklahoma Women's Coalition in Women's Health Education Forum.