*February 2, 2021*

**Meeting Minutes of the Commission on the Status of Women Meeting held on Zoom.**



Note: Please bring copies of Agenda and Minutes to meetings

1. **Call to Order**

Paulla Ufferheide called the meeting to order.

1. **Roll Call**



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commissioner (Initials)** | District | Present | Excused | Absent |
| Nancy Fiske (NF) | 1 | X |  |  |
| Meghan Madsen (MM) | 1 | X |  |  |
| Maria Escobedo (ME) | 1 |  | X | X |
| Paulla Ufferheide, (PU) | 2 | X |  |  |
| Dixie Walker (DW) | 2 | X |  |  |
| Paula McCambridge (PM) | 2 |  | X | X |
| Beverly Abrah Younger (AY) | 3 | X |  |  |
| Kathy Veder (KV) | 4 |  |  | X |
| Stacy Meko (SM) | 4 | X |  |  |
| Deb Geaslen (DG) | 4 |  |  | X |
| Shirley Summers (SS) | 5 | X |  |  |

1. **Guests/Introductions/Announcements**

The following guests were present, some of whom has expressed interest in possibly serving as a Commissioner for SLO COSW.

Fanny Arenas (Email address: [fannyarenas25@gmail.com](mailto:fannyarenas25@gmail.com)): Fanny lives in San Luis Obispo (SLO), within District 5. She has lived in SLO for 3 years, and in SLO County for 20 years. She was born in Mexico and has lived in Los Angeles as well. She works at Pacific AG Research. She noted that the main reason she is interested in serving as a Commissioner is that currently no Latina women are represented. She also noted her son’s school had no presentations on Mexico, and she provided a presentation to his school. She would like to encourage diversity.

Rebecca Lilley (Email address: [rebecca@axisparalegal.com](mailto:rebecca@axisparalegal.com)): Rebecca is a 5th generation Central Coast resident. She came across the opportunity to serve in SLO COSW through AAUW, which she joined a year and half ago. She is a licensed fiduciary in California, working in her business, Axis Fiduciary, a professional fiduciary service, and acts as a conservator for people, managing the estate or individuals associated with the estate. She also responds to concerns of elder abuse. Rebecca is a mother of two teenage children. As her mother is turning 75, and as she is 47, she has women friends in all different stages. Axis Fiduciary is her business. She has hope for our county, and has worked with many women locally and nationally, through an organization called Elevate, within which she can contribute to her community. It is part of her family history to give back to her community.

**Guests/Introductions/Announcements Continued**

Andrea Chmelik (Email address: [andrea.chmelikova@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.chmelikova@gmail.com)): Andrea lives in District 3, and has lived in Pismo beach for 10 years. Her country of origin is the Czech Republic (Czechia). She is the

Co-founder of Women’s March in San Luis Obispo. She has two kids, now age 7 and age 10. Andrea noted that she has been aware of SLO COSW and the community overall through the Womens’ March for many years now. She is submitting an application to our Commission through Dawn Ortiz Legg.

Teresa Coelho (Email: [tcoelho@kingsmortgage.com](mailto:tcoelho@kingsmortgage.com), and Teresa Halvorson (Email: [halvster33@icloud.com](mailto:halvster33@icloud.com)) have expressed interest in our Commission but were not able to attend the current meeting.



1. **Public Comment Period**

No comments were made.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for January, 2021**

Motion to approve meeting minutes for January, 2021 was made by Dixie Walker (DW), and seconded by Nancy Fiske (NF*)*. All were in favor; none opposed. Move to file.

Regarding the Minutes, Paulla noted that Abrah Younger informed her that she needs to give up the role of Secretary, and she has offered to mentor whoever volunteers. Paulla is going to reach out to Deb Giesland.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** (*SS*)

Shirley Summers provided the Treasurer’s Report. A vote was made within the Friends organization to disband the Friends organization. This concurred with the Friends’ motion to combine the holdings of the Friends’ account with the SLO Commission on the Status of Women account. The two bank accounts were combined during the month of January, 2021.

The SLO COSW January Account Balance ($2793.84) had a Survey Monkey expense of $384, leading to an account balance at the end of January of $2409.84.

The Friends Account January balance of $2233.41 was then combined with the above SLO COSW current balance, for a combined total balance within the SLO COSW account of $4643.25.

The Secretary will provide a quarterly expenditure report. She did send a proposal to the Board of Supervisors to cover the costs of our operating funds, but she has not heard back from Crystal nor from the Board of Supervisors. It has not apparently been on their agenda.

Shirley noted that part of the delay in closing the two accounts was because she wanted Chris’ approval (bank account manager), and she heard from her on 02/01/21. Chris noted that she is also very much interested in being part of the Friend’s group in the future.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report was made by Dixie Walker (DW), and seconded by (Stacy Meko (SM). Move to file.

1. **Commissioner Vacancies** (*PU*)
2. District 1 – John Peschong – 0 Commissioners
3. District 2 – Bruce Gibson – 1 Commissioner needed - Paulla McCambridge had to resign, due to her job and the meeting time.
4. District 3 – Dawn Ortiz-Legg – 2 Commissioners needed (1 possible new member)
5. District 4 – Lynn Compton – 0 Commissioners needed
6. District 5 – Debbie Arnold – 2 Commissioners needed (1 possible new member)
7. **Social Media and Other Communications** (*SM*)

Stacy Meko noted that there is a Resources tab carried over from our old website, with a lot of resources available. Paulla noted that, in the past, the Commission did publish a resource pamphlet for women. This requires significant time and energy to keep updated. Some items are general and not relating directly to women. With the 211 SLO organization, the resources are comprehensive. And SLO COSW lists them at the top of our Resources page.

During discussion, it was noted that it may not be necessary to keep our own Resources list. A small group of members could look at this and create a goal as to what we should do with the Resources page. Should we continue with women-specific resources? Or should we rely on other directories?

Comments: Abrah noted that it may be useful to specifically highlight unique sources relevant to women in our County, yet to not try to make it a comprehensive directory. Another point made was that when speakers are present, we could add their resources and highlight them. Andrea Chmelik recommended keeping a variety of resources that may be helpful and keeping the Resources tab on the website would also be helpful.

Paulla asked for a couple of volunteers to take a look at it, and comment at our next meeting as to what they think is pertinent or what should be removed. Paulla also noted that after we have finished our contacts project, we should send them to Paulla and copy Shirley. Shirley noted that unless the organizations are rather large organizations, their content may change annually. Dixie noted that approximately 11 of the organizations on her list were no longer a functioning organization.

Volunteers are needed to go through the list and see what may be pertinent. Dixie volunteered to do some of this work, and Meghan volunteered to do so as well.

Fanny is a certified digital website developer and is willing to lend her expertise to the website. Stacy is also a website developer. Stacy noted that there is no email marketing program currently available yet developing one would be helpful. Stacy and Fanny agreed to work together. This would be helpful when the Wall of Fame process resumes. Paulla noted it would also be helpful to manage our LinkedIn account. Stacy reminded those present to continue to “Like” our work and comments on Facebook, and to share the SLO COSW Facebook posts to our own pages.

1. **Committee Updates/Reports**

No other Committee Reports were made.

1. **Women’s Issues Survey Update**

Paulla described the survey for the visitors, and noted we decided at our last meeting to do our survey every other year, to focus on the causes that arise from the survey to reach out to resources or develop solutions on our own.

Regarding the 2020 Survey, during 2020 a total of 251 surveys were completed. Meghan will send the 2019 results and we can look at themes and compare across the results from these two years.

Stacy has a copy of the 2019 Annual Report, and Paulla encouraged our new members to look at the 2019 report, which was more effective a process than the 2020 survey. Stacy reached out to Dr. Garcia at CalPoly, who works with the Women’s Studies department at CalPoly, but has not heard back from them.

Stacy also sent 3 emails to CA Commission general email but has not had a reply. There is difficulty now in getting a response. Stacy proposed that if they do not reply by next Monday the 8th, and we do have responses for a speaker on Childcare, to go forward with the topic of childcare. This would be done instead of a speaker from the CA Commission with a focus on equal pay. Paulla will investigate reaching out to others at the CA Commission to see if we can get an effective response. Shirley noted that AAUW is also a potential resource, and there are five geographically based offices.

Paulla noted that she and Shirley can discuss how to reach out to AAUW to effectively gain information, and Shirley agreed.

**Board of Supervisors Report– (Dixie Walker)**

Dixie noted that the Board of Supervisors Report indicated that they focused on COVID concerns. In addition, February is Children’s dental health month. Business is as usual, for the last three weeks, and minimal activity for the last week.

**Women’s Wall of Fame**

Meghan agreed to be the Chair for the 2021 Wal of Fame.

Meghan noted that she would like to start the planning next month, which will be one year out. Shirley and Nancy were involved in planning this year, and she asked if these two and/or others could meet. Paulla noted that all that is needed are taking minutes, and these are then incorporated in the monthly minutes. Paulla will send out the prior timeline that was used, and then the committee can decide how to organize the work. Paulla shared that the Women’s Wall of Fame includes reaching out to organizations all over the county, to send in applications for women who volunteer or do service that is outstanding, and votes are taken to highlight three women. Information is shared on all applicants but the three women are highlighted in the County building wall, visible to all.

Meghan would like to resign from the Survey process, and we need someone to take this on. Given we decided to do the survey process every other year, and we want to update our survey, a group of 3 Commissioners is needed to go over our survey, and identify what type of information we want, or what methods of accessing women are best..

Paulla asked for names of those who would agree to review and revise. Abrah also volunteered to serve on the Committee. Paulla offered to chair this committee. The survey has been the same for many years. Stacy offered to serve on this committee as well. Maria Escobedo may want to be involved in some capacity. We need to work together to make it more valid and more statistically sound. We may also want to get a CalPoly student involved. And, we have tried to reach out to women as survey participants as well.

1. **Additional Current Agenda Items**

None noted.