



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

695 SUMMER STREET, NE, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE (503) 378-2780

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Please accept this Year End Report of the Commission for Women.

As you can see, we have had a busy year travelling through the state, investigating the causes of women's still unresolved inequality.

The report contains some of the concerns we found and some suggestions for solutions.

Thank you for your support of the Women's Commission during your administration. Good luck in the future.

Cordially

Jean Tate
Jean Tate, Chair *ej*
Commission for Women

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

HB 2354 (1983 Session)
 11 members
 3 year termsn, initial terms staggered
 Senate confirmed

<u>Member</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Jean B. Tate Jean Tate Real Estate, Inc. 1756 Willamette St. Eugene, OR 97401	687-1457 (h) 484-2022 (w)	7/1/85-6/30/88
Kay S. Durtschi 2230 SW Caldeu Street Portland, OR 97219	244-9467 (h)	7/1/86-6/30/89
Alice Faust 5429 SW Burlingame Place Portland, OR 97201	244-4792	7/1/86-6/30-89
Maria Chen Fulkerson US Bank International Banking, Bldg.-10 P.O. Box 4412 Portland, OR 97208	649-3693 (h) 225-5048 (w)	7/1/85-6/30-88
Patricia S. Giardina 1122 Erickson Street Lake Oswego, OR 97034	636-8344 (h)	7/1/86-6/30/89
Ada Hector 202 NE Independence Hwy. Corvallis, OR 97330	928-9331	7/1/84-6/30/87
Mary Bartle Pearmine 2251 Matheny Road NE Gervais, OR 97026	393-1474 (h) 581-9922 (w)	7/1/84-6/30/87
Mary Steinbock 920 Ridge Dr. Astoria, OR 97103	325-1837	7/1/85-6/30/88
Lucy Z. Martin 1881 SW Edgewood Drive Portland, OR 97201	298-8387 (h) 227-1568 (w)	7/1/84-6/30/87
<u>Senate Appointee</u>		
Senator Jane Cease 2625 NE Hancock St. Portland, OR 97212	282-7931	7/1/85-6/30/87
<u>House Appointee</u>		
Rep. Shirley Gold H295, State Capitol 4828 SE 35th Ave. Portland, OR 97202	378-8540 775-9612	7/1/85-6/30/87

OUTREACH PROGRAM 1986
"SPEAKERS FORUM"

The Commission for Women undertook a year-long outreach program, holding forums in Astoria, Portland, Salem, Eugene, LaGrande, Bend and Medford. Because the Commission lacks geographic and economic diversity, we thought it especially important that we meet with women who are not represented.

The following is a summary of concerns aired at the outreach meetings. The "experts" are our testifiers...the women of Oregon. The suggested remedies are often theirs, in some cases augmented by Commission research.

An * means the subject was of concern in almost all the outreach areas.

SANDY in LAGRANDE told us of the isolation in rural areas. "Women don't know that there is help or where to go for it". Some don't drive or have telephones. One woman is taken to town in the trunk of her husband's car because he doesn't want her to know the route to town.

JANE in MEDFORD spoke of the difficulties for displaced homemakers. Newly single women, if they are untrained, have a hard time getting jobs.

DEBRA in ASTORIA needs a flexible child care provider as she often works nights. She can't afford anyone to care for her two preschool children at night.

CINDY in LAGRANDE said "Women don't know how to use the system. Many are trusting, helpless...Offer help! Make it visible!"

DR. ANN GOLDEEN in ASTORIA suggests the formation of a taskforce of and for women to explore health issues and seek solutions on a local, state and national basis.

SANDRA from SALEM told us that "...education and training are critical incentives for the economically disadvantaged single mother who finds her family dependant on the state for survival."

* Divorce and Dissolution

1. Still unfair compensation for years of lost opportunity in marriage
2. Difficult to train for jobs after years out of the job market

1. Educate lawyers and judges about the economic realities of the divorced women who has been out of the labor market raising families
2. Mediation in child support dispute cases
3. More regulation in child support payments
4. Fairer distribution of assets for older divorced women

* Domestic Violence

1. Need more shelters for abused women
2. Confidentiality must be maintained
3. Police/emergency people have little or no training in dealing with psychological problems

1. Better funding and publicity for shelters and programs
2. Guarantee confidentiality
3. Special psychological training for police

Child Abuse

1. Children often don't reveal the abuse until years after the incident(s)

1. Better funding for mental health centers
2. Extend statute of limitations for child abuse

* Job Training

- "Present system doesn't work"
1. Need more time for training less money for staff
 2. Welfare women go back to school, find their allotments cut off

1. Validate and recommend low cost education programs, especially to welfare mothers
2. Changes in welfare regulations to allow flexibility in wage-related cutbacks to welfare benefits

Employment

1. Traditional female jobs pay less than traditional male jobs

1. Comparable worth system for state employees to serve as model for others

Job Discrimination

"Department of Labor can't help you unless you have knowledge and are clever, have documentation and are convincing."

1. Increase women's awareness of Dept. of Labor and Industries assistance
2. Educate

* Child Care

1. Hard to find, especially nights or odd hours
2. Need after-school care
3. Difficulty opening a child care center. Home providers want education, training
4. Cost of care is prohibitive

1. More Information and Referral systems
2. Legislation to encourage latch-key
3. Communities offer help for new child care providers
4. Child care subsidies, especially for women in training and entry level jobs

Health Care

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| 1. There is less research on female illnesses | 1. Ask that Oregon pioneer research on cures for those diseases which strike primarily women |
| 2. Unnecessary surgery, especially hysterectomy | 2. Educate women on their ability to get second opinions |
| 3. Assaults on abortion clinics scare people away | 3. Advocate better police protection |

Elderly

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| 1. Help needed for elderly going home from the hospital | 1. Boost appropriate community programs |
| 2. Women are 71% of the poor | 2. Better educational programs, more job opportunities, fairer divorce settlements |

Insurance Discrimination

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| 1. After age 25, women's auto rates are same as men's but their records are better | 1. Changes in insurance regulations |
| 2. Higher disability insurance | 2. Changes in the state insurance commissioners role |

It is our hope that the time invested in these hearings will not have been wasted...that the women who came after work, tired, anxious about extending her child care that evening, but hopeful that her story might help bring understanding and changes...that her effort, and ours, will make a difference.

CHILD CARE

Outreach meetings verified that child care continues to be a most significant concern for women. The "traditional" two-parent family with a wife who remains at home while the husband goes to work is now a reality for only a small portion of the population. Women bear the burden of this change. Working mothers, whether single parents or wives, need good, affordable child care in order to be part of the work force. Child care is one of the most important ingredients in getting women off welfare to become financially self-sufficient. The Commission believes the state should be concerned that our future citizens receive the best care we can provide.

The Women's Commission was involved in the creation of the state Child Care Commission during the last legislative session. The Child Care Commission has prepared a report and ours will not duplicate their recommendations. Our efforts in child care legislation in the last session were partially successful and we will draw on the experience we gained. We have worked during the interim with key people who will be involved in making changes in child care. We expect to continue to advocate for child care in the 1987 legislative session. We are optimistic that child care will be noted as the significant issue that it is and that the legislature and Governor will work together to help solve the problems.

We know thousands of Oregon women and their children will benefit.

submitted by Alice Faust, member
Commission for Women
Oregon Commission on Child Care

WOMEN'S HISTORY

The Women's Commission received a small grant from the U S Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau to fund the third annual Women's History Project.

A project manager was hired to coordinate Women's History activities around the state and to develop and publicize Women's History events at the Capitol.

The entire month of March is devoted to Women's History in 1987. "State events" at the Capitol will celebrate Women In The Arts. The Governor will sign a proclamation honoring Oregon women and declaring March Oregon Women's History Month. Writers, photographers, craft makers from foreign countries, poets and artists from other mediums will participate by showing their art and discussing its history.

The Commission has developed a resource brochure which can be used by schools and community groups to assist in studying and celebrating women's history.

FUNDRAISING

The Commissions General Funded budget must be supplemented by other revenue gained through fundraising efforts.

The Women's Commission receives revenue from the sale of two publications: Women & The Law: Laws of Special Interest to Women, and the Orientation Handbook to Oregon Boards and Commissions.

The Commission wrote two grants in 1986. The federal grant to fund Women's History was approved. The request to Fred Meyer foundation was turned down which resulted in a curtailed Women's History project.

The Commission plans to continue to try to raise outside revenue by devising projects that meet statutory and community requirements as well as continue with sales of publications.

HONORING WOMEN ROLE MODELS
"Women of Achievement"

In keeping with the Commissions statutory requirements to "encourage women to pursue a variety of roles in life" and to "promote full recognition of the contributions of women..." the Women's Commission has held an annual dinner honoring women of achievement.

The 1986 Women of Achievement are Norma Paulus and Secretary of State Barbara Roberts. Each presents a positive image for women and their ability to move up in the power structure and influence decisions.

This dinner also serves as a fundraiser for the Women's Commission. Revenue from this event is used to supplement the Commissions operating expenses.

Special Projects

The Women's Commission has worked with a number of state agencies, community organizations, schools, unions, women's groups and individuals on projects of special concern to women.

The Commission established a SPEAKERS BUREAU in 1986. Three conferences were held in conjunction with the Salem YWCA on women's legal issues.

Commission members participated in SATURDAY ACADEMY in Portland in an effort to get young girls interested in math and science.

The Commission director helped evaluate grant proposals for DISPLACED HOMEMAKER programs and participated in the DISPLACED HOMEMAKER CONFERENCE for Region X.

The Commission director or members are liaison members on other boards or commissions. We actively work with WOMEN'S RIGHTS COALITION, OREGON COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE, OREGON CHILD CARE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT, MID-VALLEY CHILD CARE COMMISSION, OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE and OREGON HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION.

THE COMMISSION AS A RESOURCE

In many ways, the Commission acts as a resource for women to access state government, community service organizations, other referral agencies and business.

The Commission has been working with the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT to assist women in applying for the Oregon Business Development fund, OBDF.

We have also assisted the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Civil Rights Division with information, referrals and suggestions on the WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

In 1986, we began to collect data for a joint project with the OREGON EDUCATION DEPARTMENT on Oregon women role models. This book will be used by schools and women's training and counselling programs.