



# MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017



Monterey County  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**Aranyani Azevedo, Chair**  
**Lauren Da Silva, Vice Chair**  
**Erika Trejo, Secretary**  
**Karen Araujo, Treasurer**

Audra Strickland, Commissioner  
Carmelita Garcia, Commissioner  
Kalinda Panholzer, Commissioner  
Molly Doty, Commissioner

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Dear Monterey County Board of Supervisors and Community Members,

I consider it an honor to serve as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women of Monterey County, and I am pleased to stand before you all today, to share about our accomplishments and challenges as highlighted in our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. This report highlights the goals and purpose of our Commission which are aimed at promoting equality and improving the quality of life for the women of Monterey County. During the past year, the Commission has focused on setting new priorities surrounding issues that have continued to affect women in our communities, as well as the progressive development of our Commission's internal structure. This Annual Report reflects the outcome of our efforts and highlights the strategies for addressing some of these critical issues. We invite you to share our vision on improving the way women live, work, and contribute to building healthy communities.

Respectfully,

Aranyani Azevedo, Chair  
Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women

## Mission and Purpose

The Monterey Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1974 by Resolution of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. The Resolution charged the Commission to assume a leadership role in promoting a community free of discrimination and prejudice on account of sex, age, parental status or marital status; and where the critical role women play in strengthening our community's economy, educational system, community services, and overall quality of life is celebrated. We are a voice for women in our County, advocating and promoting equal opportunities and prosperity for its residents thereby building a stronger and more vibrant community.

To this end, the Commission exists to advise the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County, and serve as an advocate for equal rights and protections for County women. The Commission represents the women of Monterey County by:

- Informing and advising supervisors of the needs and problems of women in Monterey County.
- Investigating problems and conditions which adversely affect women.
- Recommending programs which offer women greater opportunities and choices.
- Proposing methods for alleviating inequities in pay and job opportunities.
- Providing information to the public about the accomplishments, problems and concerns of women in our county.
- Maintaining an active liaison with community groups concerned with identifying and removing obstacles to women.
- Working to raise awareness of the importance of using nonsexist language.
- Coordinating annual events that highlight the accomplishments of women in the five districts.
- Reviewing/tracking legislation affecting women in Monterey County

The Commission strives to fulfill its mission through a variety of planning, organizing and advocacy methods. The Commission strives to facilitate communication among women's organizations throughout the County, capitalizing upon diversity of backgrounds, knowledge, and experiences. The Commission maintains a working relationship with other commissions in California through membership in the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW).

## Accomplishments:

**Attendance:** At the beginning of last fiscal year (2015-2016) there were three sitting Commissioners. At the end of FY 2016-2017, there were 9 appointed commissioners. Attendance has been increasing steadily, and active commissioners are consistently seeking and inviting new members to take part in Commission activities. Currently, there is representation of all five districts on the Commission.

**New Leadership:** In July of 2016, the Commission elected a new Chair, Aranyani Azevedo who is currently representing District 1. Mrs. Azevedo replaced Yolanda Cervantes, who was Chair in

previous years. Mrs. Azevedo brings over five years of nonprofit management experience and has been an active Commissioner since December of 2015. In addition, Lauren Da Silva was named a Vice Chair in January of 2017, Mrs. Da Silva, currently representing District 4, brings with her four years of nonprofit management experience and a host of knowledge around women's issues due to her leadership at the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center. Together, they plan to steward the Commission toward more active community engagement, and create structure around yearly activities for the Commission in years to come.

**Subcommittees:** In 2016-2017 the Commission divided into three subcommittees focusing on the topics of legislation, outreach, and information.

It is the Commission's intent, through its *Legislative and Advocacy Committee*, to follow legislation that has passed at the state and county levels that are relevant to the Commission's mission. The Commission will report back to the Board of Supervisors on the legislation, how it is being implemented, and if not being implemented, to offer recommendations for the Supervisors to encourage implementation. The Commission's *Community Outreach Committee* is working to develop marketing materials that it will provide to interested members of the public at events. The Commission's *Information Committee* in the past has had representation at various community events, generally those focusing on issues important to women. We are working to re-establish that connection and have presence at local events and forums. The Commission has increased community engagement by using several forms of outreach including social media networks. What began as a strategy to create more opportunities for visibility for the Commission, became a greater focus on increasing genuine engagement with the community at large and increase awareness about the Commission, its purpose and activities. All meetings and events are regularly posted on Facebook for constituents to attend and engage with the Commission.

**Strategic Planning:** In December 2016, The Commission held annual Strategic Planning Sessions to better develop direction for the future. This session was attended by a full complement at the commissioners. A Strategic Plan was developed, and is continually worked on by Commissioners to better establish roles, responsibilities, activities, and focus. In June 2017, the Commission also held a facilitated strategic planning session for added direction in the new fiscal year.

**Annual Focus Topic:** In March of 2017, The Commission voted to focus efforts of subcommittees and events on a yearly theme that would provide impetus and direction to the Commission. For 2017-2018, the Commission will focus on addressing the issue of Human Trafficking in Monterey County. In June of 2017, the Commission discussed and devised plans on what specific activity the Commission would take in addressing this issue. More information on this can be found on our website starting in the new fiscal year. The Commission continues to build partnerships by appointing commissioners to serve on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission, the Restorative Justice Commission (attends as a member of the public).

**Outstanding Women of Monterey County Event:**

The Commission is extremely proud of its Outstanding Women’s Event, held in March of each year. The 2017 event was the Commission’s 30<sup>th</sup> event; the first occurred in 1987. Ten women were honored for their outstanding service to their communities. These women are the unsung heroines of our time. They do not ask for recognition and often shy away from it. The Commission feels that the more people who see that women are key members of society and help their communities unselfishly, the closer society comes to recognizing women as equal partners.

Many community members helped identify and recognize these unsung heroines who have made a difference in their community via submitting nominations. A Selection Committee composed of Commissioners, community members and past honorees reviewed nominations and selected the ten Outstanding Women based on the criteria of commitment, excellence and degree of community impact.

<b>2017 Outstanding Women Honorees:</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>Aidee Aldaco</b>	3
<b>Ann Todd Jealous</b>	5
<b>Barbara Babcock</b>	5
<b>Diana Jimenez</b>	2
<b>Donna Brandt</b>	5
<b>Joy Gonzales-Anderson</b>	4
<b>Nadereh Liaghati</b>	5
<b>Elsa Rivera</b>	5
<b>Clare Munteer</b>	5
<b>Patty Fernandez-Torres</b>	1

**Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women Roster (as of June 2, 2017):**

**District 1 Representatives:**

Aranyani Azevedo- Chair  
Audra Strickland  
(1 vacant seat)

**District 2 Representatives:**

Erika Trejo- Treasurer  
(2 vacant seats)

### **District 3 Representatives:**

Molly Doty  
(2 vacant seats)

### **District 4 Representatives:**

Lauren DaSilva- Vice Chair  
Karen Araujo- Treasurer  
(1 seat pending)

### **District 5 Representatives:**

Kalinda Panholzer  
Carmelita Garcia  
(1 vacant seat)

### **Plans for 2018-2019:**

**Subcommittees:** The Commission would like to see more activities around the subcommittees in the coming fiscal year. To that end, Commissioners have signed on to add one half hour to each meeting once a month to leave time for subcommittee meetings. The Legislation subcommittee will begin the process of watching and advising the Supervisors beginning in July 2017. The Commission requests that the BOS provide training on how to make referrals.

**Human Trafficking Focus:** The Commission plans to work with local Monterey County public agencies and the Board of Supervisors to address human trafficking in Monterey County. Starting with promoting and encouraging the use of Prop 35 trainings, leading up to assisting in the creating of a human trafficking taskforce. In the coming year, the Commission will be evaluating and promoting education and justice for human trafficking prevention and prosecution.

**Annual Theme:** The Commission will select a new yearly theme in the March 2018 meeting, to be announced after the 2018 Outstanding Women Event. The public and the Board of Supervisors are welcome to attend, and have a voice at this meeting.

**Budget:** Each year, the Commissioners fundraise from local funders and private donors to offset the cost of OWE. In the coming year, the Commission will plan to formalize the budgeting process and formulate a realistic budget for OWE, and other Commission activities.