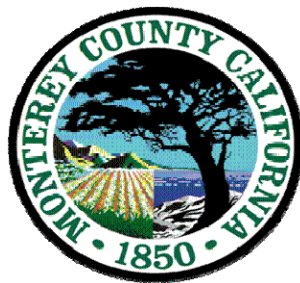


MONTEREY COUNTY
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011-2012





Monterey County
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Rosemary Soto, Chair
Alison Shelling, Vice Chair
Debra Bayard, Secretary
Louann Raras, Treasurer

Amy Sands, Commissioner
Heather Marquard, Commissioner
Genie Jimenez, Commissioner
Sara Rubin, Commissioner

Annalisa Mitchell, Commissioner
Roxana Alcantar, Commissioner
Yolanda Teneyuque, Commissioner
Juanita Perea, Commissioner
Gwen Foote, Commissioner

Commission on the Status of Women Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Message from the Chair:

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 share about our accomplishments and challenges as highlighted in our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. 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. The 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,

Rosemary Soto, 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.

In this fiscal year the Commission reviewed and updated the standing bylaws (pending approval by County Counsel) to update and revise our mission statement as follows:

The Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, appointed by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, is a group of volunteers committed to achieving gender equity in areas such as: educational opportunities, health benefits, and economic resources. The Commission channels information from women's organizations and the grassroots efforts, acting as a liaison to the Board of Supervisors. 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 serves to advise the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County, and serves as an advocate for equal rights and protections for County women. Issues of particular study by the Commission include affordable and quality childcare, education, housing, health, workplace issues, equal pay, sexual harassment and crimes against women.

The Commission fulfills 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), and also nationally with the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW). The Commission promotes awareness through a County hosted informative website with strategic data and resource information.

Accomplishments:

Commission Membership

The Commission faced challenges in membership when the majority of the commissioners' appointed terms reached their expiration. In January of 2011, the Commission stood with only 4 commissioners and currently has 14. All County Districts are fully represented with the exception of District 2, which currently has 2 vacancies. It remains a challenge to build community relations with the communities within District 2 however, the Commission is committed to overcome these challenges by taking steps to be a more present and visible entity in the district. One example of the effort is holding the May 2012 meeting at the Castro Plaza Family Resource Center in Castroville.

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 Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women hosted the annual Outstanding Women Event on Saturday March 31, 2012 at the Monterey County Free Libraries, Marina Branch. The Commission’s goal is to highlight the wonderful diversity of women in Monterey County, and to honor their work and the contribution they make throughout our county. This event honored women who have significantly improved the quality of life for others.

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 five Outstanding Women based on the criteria of commitment, excellence and degree of community impact. This year the following five women were recipients of the recognition:

- Debbie Aguilar (District 1 – Supervisor Fernando Armenta)
- Dr. Jeannette Kern (District 5 – Supervisor Dave Potter)
- Konny Murray (District 5 – Supervisor Dave Potter)
- Lupe Galaviz (District 3 – Supervisor Simón Salinas)
- Carla Lee Mullanix-Ackerman (District 3 – Supervisor Simón Salinas)



The 2012 event was fully funded by private donations and sponsorships.

Community Engagement

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.

The Commission has now attended several community events as a resource information provider, such as the Women's International Perspective and the Annual Health Conference sponsored by the Delta Sorority of Seaside. The Commission also welcomes organizations on the monthly agenda for further partnership development and to obtain information about ways in which the Commission can support their efforts to meet community needs. The Commission has welcomed the Boys and Girls Club, Rancho Cielo and the Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission during this fiscal year.

We launched a Facebook page which is regularly updated with valuable information about our activities as well information pertinent to the interest of women in Monterey County.

An online survey has been developed and launched in a bilingual format, to help further develop areas of focus for the Commission. The survey will ask participants to identify and prioritize specific areas that create the most challenges and barriers for women in Monterey County.

In its efforts to fulfill the purpose of representing the women and children of Monterey County, the Commission is working to increase community accessibility by hosting a regular meeting in each region of the County. The May, 2012 meeting was held at the Castro Plaza Family Resource Center in Castroville, the September meeting was held at the Greenfield City Hall, Council Chambers in Greenfield, and the December meeting will be held at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey.

Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women Roster:

- District 1: Roxana Alcantar
- District 1: Debra Bayard, Secretary
- District 1: Gwen Foote
- District 2: Juanita Perea
- District 3: Genie Jimenez
- District 3: Louann Raras, Treasurer
- District 3: Yolanda Teneyuque
- District 4: Heather Marquard
- District 4: Annalisa Mitchell
- District 4: Alison Shelling, Vice-Chair
- District 5: Sara Rubin
- District 5: Amy Sands
- District 5: Rosemary Soto, Chair