

**AGENDA
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Thursday

June 13, 2024

6:00PM

First District: Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian, Haunani Pakaki

Second District: Katie Gordon (On Leave of Absence), Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

Third District: Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair), Letitia Hanke

Fifth District: Jessica Wood, Angie Dillon-Shore, Zobida McCorquodale

The June 13, 2024, Commission on the Status of Women Meeting will be facilitated in person only.

JOIN IN PERSON:

Museum of Sonoma County

425 7th St, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Limited seating is available for public participants.

Instructions for the Public:

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on the Status of Women meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation available through Zoom and in person.

Agendas and Materials:

Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-Status-of-Women/Calendar/>

Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **NOTE:** Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at sococsw@sonoma-county.org.

Disabled Accommodation:

If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

Approval of the Consent Calendar:

The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items

prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

Public Comment:

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting in person or via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Speakers will be limited to three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At the beginning of each Commission meeting, any member of the public may address the Commission concerning any item not on the Commission's agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes unless otherwise specified by the Chair or the Presiding Officer. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each business item at the time it is called. The Commission may discuss and/or take action regarding any or all of the items listed below.

3. 2024 SPIRIT AWARD CEREMONY

Presenting the award to five outstanding leaders that improve the lives of women and girls in Sonoma County.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

Items that are considered routine in nature that require no further discussion from the commission.

- a. **Approval of the May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Legislative Action Item Letter Approval-** Review and approve a letter for senators and presidents to support on behalf of the equal rights amendment.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. **Election-** Take nominations and vote for Officers.

6. REMINDER ITEMS

- a. **CSW Special Breakfast Event on June 19th at Sally Tomatoes-** Please RSVP and arrive at 8:30am to help out.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 11, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING

Proposal, discussion, and possible action items for next Commission meeting. (No action required by commissioners for this section).

8. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT-MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Thursday, May 11, 2024

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present:

First District: Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

Second District: Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

Third District: Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)*

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair), Letitia Hanke

Fifth District: Jessica Wood**, Angie Dillon-Shore, Zobida McCorquodale

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Haunani Pakaki

Second District: Katie Gordon (Leave of absence), Julie Shulman

***Vice-Chair Jones-Carter attended via Zoom (AB 2449 Excuse)**

**** Commissioner Wood arrived late at approximately 6:05pm**

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting, and in-person.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:01 p.m. Roll call taken by Staff.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner McCorquodale read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No Public Comment.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY CARLA RODRIGUEZ PRESENTATION

D.A. Carla Rodriguez has been a member of the Sonoma County Women in Law for 20 years and President for 2 years, supporting and promoting women in all areas of the legal field which includes lawyers, paralegals, and others in the legal profession. D.A. Rodriguez explained what the duties of her office. The District Attorney Office has over 140 employees and approximately 50 attorneys. They Office consists of multiple divisions: the Criminal Division which includes the Elder Protection Unit, Environmental Consumer Law Division, and Victim Services Division and the Family Justice Center. She provided examples of the cases that each Division handles and discussed in detail the work of the Domestic Violence Unit, Sex Assault Unit, and Environmental Consumer Fraud Unit.

5. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Isler

Absent: 4

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Pakaki and Shulman were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Commissioner Wood arrived late. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a. Officers are in the process of formalizing the onboarding process for new Commissioners.
- b. Chair Fortino Dickson announced that the Community Engagement Working Group is splitting into two groups due to the numbers of members: marketing and community engagement group.

7. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Commissioners Diaz-Garcia and Wood tabled at the Cinco de Mayo Event and shared that the table with the new features was very popular including the wheel. More giveaway material will be ordered.

8. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson shared that Commissioner Shulman will not be seeking reappointment and this was her final meeting.
- b. Commissioner Dillon-Shore announced that she will not be asking for reappointment due to her commitment to First 5 Sonoma County to implement the \$33 million of funding they are hoping to get from the passage of the Child Care tax .
- c. Commissioner Pakaki was unable to attend, but she has taken her oath of office.
- d. June meeting will be in-person only at the Museum of Sonoma County at 425 7th St., Santa Rosa, 95401 from 6pm-8pm. The Spirit Award Event will go at 6pm and the meeting will start at 7pm.
- e. Chair Fortino Dickson announced one vacancy for Commissioner in the Fourth District.

9. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES

- a. The Women’s Recovery Response Ad Hoc scheduled all their Facebook posts and indicated that they will not be boosting their post. The 2023 Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County report will be shared on June 19 at a lunch or breakfast event at Sally Tomatoes, where we will invite local womens groups and

individuals who can use the information collected in the report. The report will be distributed to those attending through flash drives.

- b. The Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc is sending out requests for contacts from organizations working with farm workers in order to explore reproductive health needs of women farm workers.
- c. The Junior Commission Educational Project's annual career panel was on Saturday, April 13th and had a great turn out. The new cohort 2024-2025 will have about 22 participants. Graduation is on Saturday, May 18th in person at 2pm and Supervisor Susan Gorin will be the speaker and will handout certificates. Commissioners Padian, Diaz-Garcia, and McCorquodale volunteered to join the Junior Commission Project for 2024-2025. The Junior Commission will be reaching out to previous Junior Commissioners to establish a support network.
- d. The Legislative Advisory Group has connected with the Women's Legislative Women's Committee which provided more information about bills which will be proposed effecting women. Currently the Advisory Group is tracking AB 2740: Protections for Incarcerated persons: prenatal and postpartum care.
- e. Community Engagement Working Group met with last year's SPIRITawardees and all 5 will be judging. They will select the 5 candidates for the Spirit Award. The Spirit Award Ceremony will be during the Commission's June 13th meeting at the Museum of Sonoma County.

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Staff provided an overview of the budget. Women's Recovery Response Ad Hoc should have about \$1,600 unused funds. The Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc will be returning \$2,500 to the general fund. The rest of the ad hocs will spend all their allocated funds. Motion to move the unused funds from the ad hocs for a total of \$4,100 be returned to the general fund.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Wood

Absent: 4

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Pakaki and Shulman were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Commissioner Diaz Garcia left the room. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

- b. Chair Fortino Dickson pointed out the Brown Act follow-up email from County Counsel and suggested Commissioners to read it.
- c. Chair Fortino Dickson led the nominations of officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025. She went over the requirements and descriptions of each officer role. Nominations were taken.

Chair: Commissioner Jones-Carter nominated Commissioner Fortino Dickson for Chair; Fortino Dickson accepted.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Brown nominated Commissioner Jones-Carter; Jones-Carter accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Padian nominated Commissioner Brown; Brown accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Wood nominated Commissioner Kaykas-Wolff; Kaykas-Wolff accepted.

No action was taken. More nominations and the elections will take place on June 13, 2024.

- d. Chair Fortino Dickson led date discussion of the July strategic planning meeting. The Commission needed more options to pick from because Saturday, July 13th and Saturday July 20th didn't work for some. A Doodle poll will be going out to better determine the date.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JUNE 13, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING

No additional items were provided.

12. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



June 13, 2024

Congressman Mike Thompson
CA - 4
2300 County Center Drive
Ste A100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Congressman Thompson:

We are writing to you as the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of individual commissioners and collectively on behalf of women of all races, creeds and economic status throughout our county, state of California, and the nation. The ERA equal right amendment is a critical component of what has been missing from our constitution, and now that it has been ratified, it must be published to provide women with equal rights and protections under the law. The ERA was introduced in 1923. It was ratified by many states and finally the 38th state did so in January 2020 and as a result, the ERA became the 28th amendment of the United States Constitution. Immediately after Virginia became the final state to ratify the ERA, then President Trump blocked it by having his attorney general send an illegal memo to the US archivist ordering them not to publish it. The role of the archivist is to publish the amendment when it reaches the 3/4 ratification of states. It is a mandatory and not discretionary duty. Never in the history of the United States has a fully, ratified Amendment been blocked from publication until now.

This is the time to rectify this illegal act. We are asking you to urge President Biden to direct the archives to publish the ERA. Both the president and Archivist have stated that if the president asked them to publish the ERA they would do so immediately. The ERA must be immediately published for the nation to be put on notice that it is the 28th amendment of the constitution and is now federal law. We respectfully request that you urge the president to direct the archivist to publish the ERA now. As representatives of American women, we are counting on you to carry out the will of the people and hear our collective voice according to law.

We thank you in advance for discussing this urgent matter with the President.

Gina Fortino- Dickson, President,
Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women

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