



2018 Annual Report

History of the Commission

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy created the President's Council on the Status of Women with Eleanor Roosevelt as its first chairman. The report issued by that council encouraged each state to create a similar organization to look at current legal status, potential problems of gender bias and key quality of life issues facing women and families. Governor Henry Bellmon established the first Governor's Commission on the Status of Women during his first term as governor in 1965. Each governor thereafter established either a committee or a commission by Executive Order and appointed a group of individuals to serve. Governor George Nigh established the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 1982, as part of the responsibilities of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. In 1994, through the efforts of Speaker of the House Glen Johnson, Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Cullison, Senator Angela Monson, Representative Laura Boyd and a dedicated group of women, legislation creating the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OCSW) passed and was signed by Governor David Walters.

Duties of the Commission

The OCSW offers advice on equity issues relating to gender bias, state agencies and employees, communities, organizations and businesses of this state which desire the services of the commission. Duties of the commission include, but are not limited to, monitoring legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation, acting as a resource on issues related to women and gender bias, and conducting meetings and seminars within the State of Oklahoma as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the OCSW. In addition, the commission shall report to the governor, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of its activities.

§ 74-666

Commissioners

The commission shall consist of 30 members. The members shall be appointed as follows: 10 members appointed by the governor, 10 members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and 10 members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives. All members shall be appointed by the appropriate appointing authority for a term of five years commencing with the date that the previous appointee's term expired. In making such appointments to the commission, consideration shall be given to making the membership broadly representative of the geographic areas of the state and the several racial, religious and ethnic groups residing in the state. Each member shall hold office until the successor of the member is appointed and has qualified. A member of the commission may be removed by the appropriate appointing authority for cause. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term of a member separated from the commission for any cause shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the member whose office has been so vacated.

Advisory Council

The commission is assisted by an advisory council whose main function is supporting the commission in meeting the requirements of the Oklahoma Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches (OLEJ.) The council acts as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations and businesses of the state; and to establish recommendations for action to strengthen, empower and improve the quality of life for Oklahoma women.

Committees

The OCSW accomplishes its mission and vision through the works and goals of its administrative, standing and event committees. Each committee is comprised of members from the commission and the advisory council.

Administrative Committees

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets on a regular basis to handle issues related to administrative functions of the commission, and reviewing and revising the current strategic plan for a dynamic and contemporary commission.

Actions and Activities:

- Convening standing and event committees.
- Coordinating with OMES, who oversees the efficient management of the finances of the commission, the website, personnel and administrative office of the commission.
- Assisting the financial officer with developing a budget and monitoring commission finances.
- Designing a budget template which accounts for the state budgeting and accounting system but is flexible to account for and monitor the various committees and projects of the commission.
- Defining a developed process for budgeting, grant or project applications, and ordering and purchasing the monitored expenditures of the commission against the current budget.
- Proposing a tentative budget for each fiscal year to review and revise the rules, operating guidelines and procedures, and to monitor the revised rules, policies and procedures of commission for feasibility, workability and acceptability.

Standing Committees

Communications/Public Relations

The purpose of the Communications Committee is to promote the activities of the commission throughout the State of Oklahoma, and to develop and disseminate press releases, articles, announcements and other items relevant to events, issues, community conversations and/or programs and projects, including updating and maintaining commission social media outlets.

History and Archiving of Records

Purpose of committee: The History and Archiving of Records Committee strives to improve the quality of life of women, girls and families in Oklahoma by creating a history of the commission and its activities. Activities for the committee are to develop a dynamic history of the commission, create a virtual and printed archival record system and identify a site for a permanent Women's Hall of Fame location.

Nominating Committee

The purpose of the nominating committee is to receive annually the nominees for the slate of officers. The chair of the commission is responsible for designating one member to the Nominating Committee. The slate of officers is presented at least two months in advance of the election.

Event Committees

Annual Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women established the Kate Barnard Award in 1998 to honor the ranks of women that have made a difference in Oklahoma by becoming public servants. Nominees are from the ranks of elected or appointed salaried public officials in Oklahoma.

Guardian Award Committee

The Guardian Award is presented to an elected official who has made significant governmental contributions to guarding, protecting and preserving the rights of women and families.

Annual Retreat

Annual retreats are conducted so that the commission can develop a plan of action and long-range strategy for effective functioning.

Community Conversations (ongoing)

Community Conversations is a statewide initiative with a goal of providing Oklahoma women with an opportunity to discuss issues which directly and indirectly affect the communities they live in. As a result of the conversations, we believe women will become more reflective of and connected to their communities, and build stronger partnerships with local agencies and businesses in their areas, plus recommend or implement actionable changes to address issues discussed.

Community Conversations serve five important purposes:

- They are a way to authentically engage members of the community
- They address concerns of the community
- They generate public knowledge that can be used to inform decision-making of all kinds
- They uncover a sense of common purpose
- They provide a venue to make community change

Women's Hall of Fame

In 2018, the commission vote to host The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame (WHOF) annually. The purpose of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame shall be to provide the highest honor to women who reside in Oklahoma or were former residents of the state, and who provided outstanding service benefiting the lives of women and families in Oklahoma, the nation or elsewhere in the world. To date, the commission has inducted over 100 women into the Hall of Fame, acknowledging their contributions in various categories of disciplines, professions or fields.

2018 Kate Barnard Recipient

The Kate Barnard Award is presented to an elected official who have made significant governmental contributions to guarding, protecting and preserving the rights of women and families. This year's award was presented to the Honorable Melissa McLawhorn Houston, Commissioner of Labor. Melissa McLawhorn Houston serves the State of Oklahoma as Commissioner of Labor. Houston is an experienced administrator with extensive knowledge of state government and considerable experience in state agency operational management, public policy, legislative process, and budgeting. The Commissioner of Labor shares the responsibility of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Labor enforces statutes relating to wage and hour; child labor; asbestos; licensing; alternative fuels; amusement rides; boilers; welders; alarm and locksmith; elevator inspections; and safety and health in the workplace (OSHA/PEOSH). She was appointed to office by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin on November 20th, 2015.

Annual Activities and Accomplishments



Advisory member Nyla Khan discussing doing a lecture on equity issues and social and political policies at Full Circle Book Store .

During 2018, OCSW along with the NACW presented a Facebook Live Virtual Community Conversation : The Incarceration of Women in Oklahoma.

In line with our mission of improving opportunities for women and girls, The Canadian Valley National Honor Society received nationwide recognition for their participation in the Women's Hall of Fame.

The Commission introduced a progressive marketing plan to raise awareness of OCSW's work on societal and economic issues impacting women in Oklahoma.

Our Social media growth reached thousands on FB , and hundreds on Twitter, allowing the Commission to be the resource for women to bring issues impacting their lives to the Governor and legislature.

Co-Chaired the National Conversation on Board Diversity for Oklahoma.

Facilitated presentations and/or sat on panel discussions concerning empowering women . Events were held at City Chambers, Colleges, Universities, groups, clubs and businesses around the state.

Worked with the Oklahoma Women's Coalition monitoring legislation issues related to women and gender bias.



Kate Barnard recipient, the Honorable Melissa McLawthorn Houston, center. Left to right, Executive Director, Kitti Asberry, Commissioner, Denise Castelli, Chairman, Maria Trapp-Braly, and Commissioner Linda Haneborg .



Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame Inductees from left to right : Dr. Susan Chambers, Jane Jayroe Gamble, Joan Gilmore, Oklahoma County, District One Commissioner, Willa Johnson and Principal Chief Kay Rhoads, Sac and Fox Nation.

National Association of Commissions for Women Representative

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is represented by Kitti Asberry, Executive Director . The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women has been a member of the NACW since 2003 and has had representation on its Board of Directors since 2006 . OCSW continues to play a prominent role in the makeup of the NACW board and committees. Over the years the OCSW has won numerous NACW Achievement Awards for its work on Solutions Initiatives Strategies Summits (SIS) for topics such as the incarceration rate of women in Oklahoma, the growing epidemic of human trafficking in the United States, and domestic violence to name a few. Oklahoma has won in the category for commissions with budgets of \$10,001-\$100,000. Over the last five years, OCSW has won an achievement award for the outstanding mission-related programs it has produced. Asberry just completed her two-year term as national secretary.

2018 Commission Membership

Executive Officers

Chair:
Vice Chair:
Secretary:
Finance:
Advisory Council Chair:
Executive Director

Dr. Maria Trapp-Braly
Riki Snyder
Karen Sneary
Brenda Jones Barwick
Adeline Yerkes
Kitti Asberry

Commissioners

Representative Rhonda Baker
Cathy Banks Monroe
Jan Barrick
Sarah Brown
Representative Carol Bush
Denise Castelli
Lee Denney
Senator AJ Griffin
Representative Elise Hall
Linda Haneborg
Denise Kinzie
Lou Kohlman
Mary Larson
Jean S. Lehr
Shondra McCage
Bernice Mitchell
Representative Cyndi Munson
Pam Pollard
Gloria Torres
Representative Tammy West

Appointing Authorities

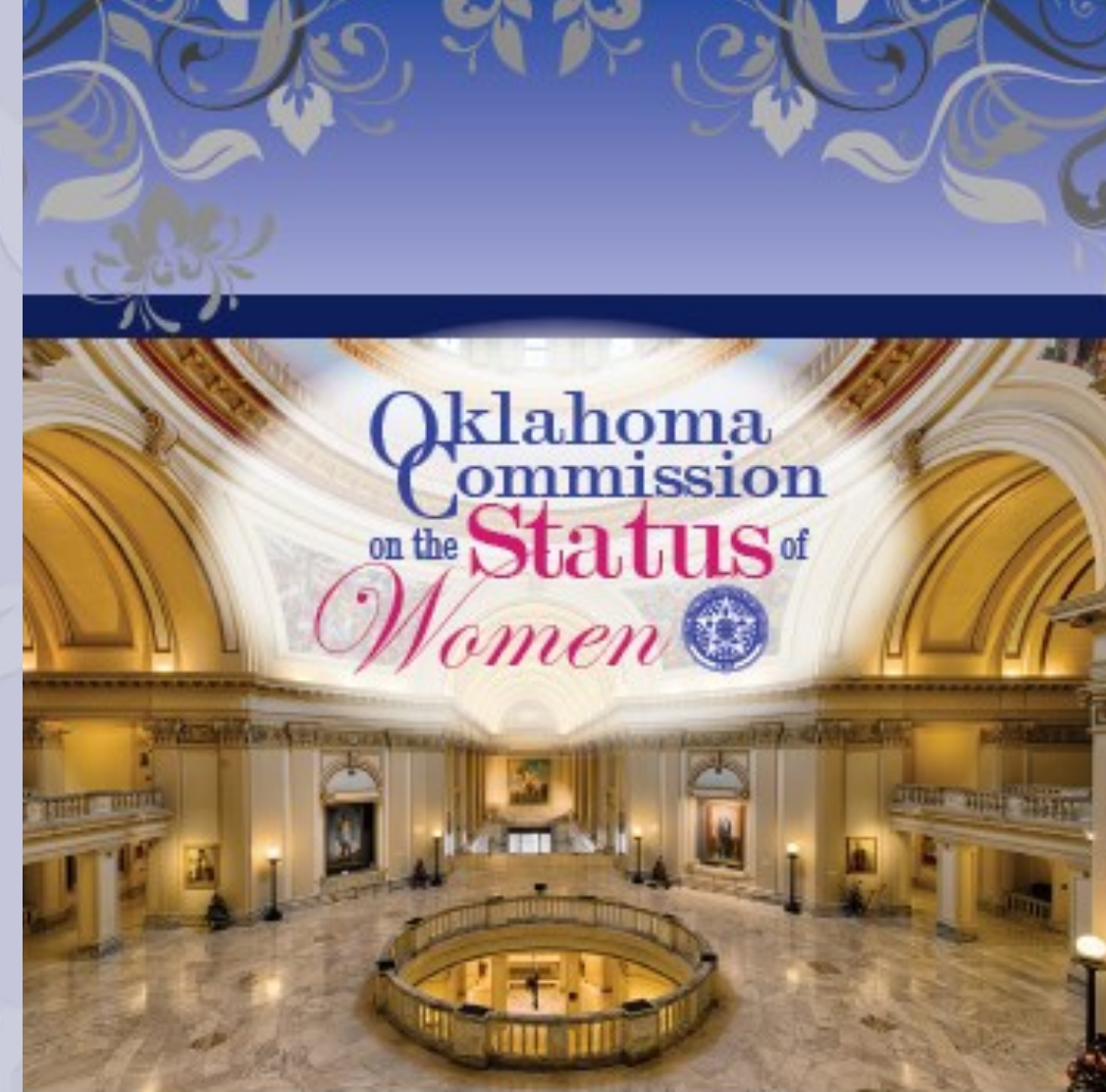
The Honorable Mary Fallin,
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

The Honorable Mike Schultz
President Pro Tempore of the State Senate

The Honorable Charles McCall
Speaker of the House of Representatives

General Information

OCSW is located inside the Will Rogers Building, 2401 N. Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73105.
Office: 405-522-6897, Cell: 405-401-6970.
Email: ocswadmin@omes.ok.gov
Website: <https://www.ok.gov/ocsw/>



Our Mission

The Mission of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is to strengthen and empower women in Oklahoma by improving their opportunities and quality of life.

Our Vision

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a strong, recognized, and respected voice for women in Oklahoma.