



## 2016 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 includes but is 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, 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 thirty (30) members. The members shall be appointed as follows: ten members appointed by the Governor, ten members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and ten 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 (5) 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, Topical, 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
  - Design 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
  - Define and developed process for budgeting, grant or project applications, and ordering and purchasing monitored the expenditures of the Commission against the current budget
  - Proposed a tentative budget for each fiscal year to review and revise the rules, operating guidelines and procedures of the Commission
- 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. 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 is 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 2 months in ad-

### Event Committees

#### Kate Barnard

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 have 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 (on-going)

Community Conversations is a joint collaboration between the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, the Oklahoma Women's Coalition, and Women Lead Oklahoma. This multi-organizational initiative will provide 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.

#### Women's Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame (WHOF) is held every other year during odd numbered years. The purpose of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame shall be to provide highest honor to Oklahoma 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.

### 2016 Kate Barnard Recipients

The Annual Kate Barnard Award Ceremony and Luncheon was held at the Oklahoma Judicial Center on Thursday, February 25, 2016. The Honorable Glenna J. Wallace, Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Chief Glenna J. Wallace was elected to the office of the Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma in 2006. She is the first woman ever elected to this office. Chief Wallace has been active in numerous organizations and boards in the community and for the tribe. The Honorable Cindy Rosenthal, Mayor of Norman. Mayor Rosenthal is serving in her third three-year term as Norman's mayor. During her tenure, Mayor Rosenthal has championed revitalization of core Norman, environmental initiatives, healthy life styles, and energy efficiency making Norman a state leader.

### 2016 Guardian Award Recipients

Representatives Jason Nelson (HD 87) was awarded the Annual Guardian Award for HB 2964, which will allow minors who are victims of sexual assault to consent to a forensic medical examination. In addition, HB 2965 will enhance child abuse reporting by permitting recovery of damages, costs and fees by specified parties. Both bills are major improvements for minors in Oklahoma. Representative Jason Dunnington (HD 88) has been a champion for women and families by working on HB 2929, the discriminatory wages bill, better known as equal pay for equal work.

## Annual Activities and Accomplishments



Mayor Cindy Rosenthal and Chief Glenna Wallace receiving the Kate Barnard Award



Girl Scout Day at State Capitol, pinning of Honorary Troop 1921



Representatives Jason Dunnington and Jason Nelson receiving Guardian Award



Leslie March, Maria Trapp-Braly, General Pruitt, Gloria Torres, and Kitti Asberry Domestic Violence Summit



Commissioners attending 2020 Women on Boards event



Chairman Kohlman doing live interview



Domestic Violence Awareness Day



Commissioners and Advisory members attending monthly business meeting

## National Association of Commissions for Women Representative

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is represented by Commissioner Bernice Mitchell, and 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 and on the Executive Team since 2010. OCSW, through its representative, continues to play a prominent role in the make-up of the NACW Board and Committees. In July, the OCSW was presented with the NACW Achievement Award for their work on the 2014 Solutions Initiatives Strategies Summit (SIS) which focused on the growing epidemic of human trafficking in the United States. Oklahoma won in the category for commissions with budgets of \$10,001 - \$100,000. Over the last 5 years, OCSW has won an Achievement Award for the outstanding mission related programs it has produced. Currently Mitchell is serving as an Associate Director. Asberry was reelected to serve a 2 year term as Director, after completing a 2 year term as National Secretary.

## 2016 Commission Membership

Chair:	Lou Kohlman, Oklahoma City
Vice Chair:	Dr. Maria Trapp—Braly, Edmond
Secretary:	Karen Sneary, Alva
Finance:	Victoria Woods, Edmond
Advisory Council Chair:	Adeline Yerkes, Edmond
Executive Director:	Kitti Asberry, Oklahoma City

## Commissioners

Valeska Barr, Tulsa  
 Brenda Barwick, Edmond  
 Karen Beighle, Edmond  
 Beverly Binkowski, Oklahoma City  
 Sarah Brown, Sapulpa  
 Representative Lee Denney, Cushing  
 Senator AJ Griffin, Guthrie  
 Lydia Gonzalez—D’Ross, Tulsa  
 Linda Haneborg, Oklahoma City  
 Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City  
 Denise Kinzie, Cushing  
 Sandra Kunz, Fort Sill  
 Mary Larson, Stillwater  
 Jean Lehr, Edmond  
 Shondra McCage, Ada  
 Amy McCord, Oklahoma City  
 Bernice Mitchell, Stillwater  
 Chris Morris, Oklahoma City  
 Terry Neese, Oklahoma City  
 Representative Jadine Nolan, Sand Springs  
 Pam Pollard, Oklahoma City  
 Riki Snyder, Oklahoma City  
 Gloria Torres, Oklahoma City

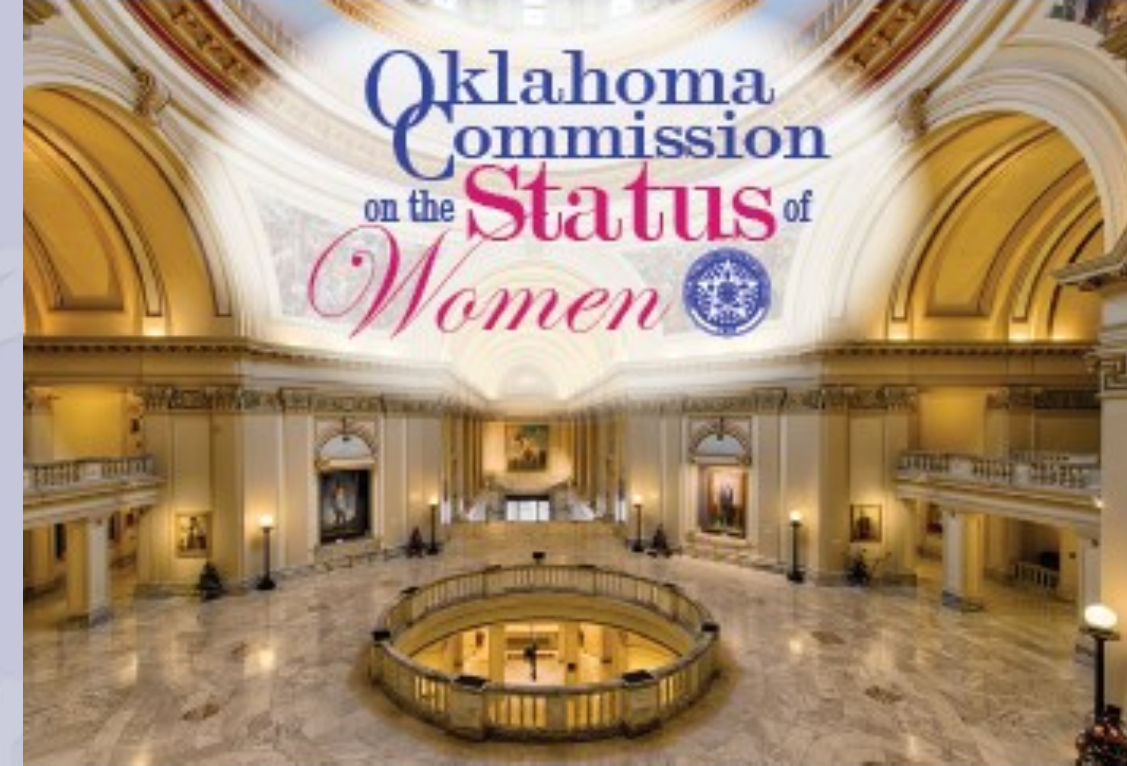
## General Information

OCSW is located inside the Will Rogers Building, 2401 N. Lincoln Boulevard, E-1, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

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Email: [ocswadmin@omes.ok.gov](mailto: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.

