

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “9/12/75 - National Association of Commissions for Women” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

I AM SO HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU AND TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I
SUPPORT THE THINGS YOU ARE DOING. BY NOW, I GUESS NO ONE
WONDERS WHERE I STAND ON WOMEN'S ISSUES -- AT LEAST NO ONE'S
COMPLAINED LATELY ABOUT MY BEING SHY ON THE SUBJECT!

-2-



THE SHORT TERM EFFECT OF WHAT YOU DO MAY BE HARD
TO MEASURE, BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE LONG TERM.
YOU ARE HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON LEGISLATION AND HOW IT IS
ADMINISTERED IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES. EVENTUALLY
THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO WHAT WOMEN ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE --
INTO WHAT THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES -- AND IN WHAT THEY
ARE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND THIS COUNTRY.

AND EACH OF YOU, IN THE PROCESS, ARE GAINING EXPERTISE
IN MANY AREAS I'M SURE YOU NEVER EXPECTED. YOU'RE BECOMING
PLATFORM SPEAKERS, IN STUMPING FOR A CAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN,
EDUCATORS, IN GETTING MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES THINKING
IN A NEW DIRECTION ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT WOMEN. YOU'RE
GAINING LEGAL AND POLITICAL EXPERTISE AND A GREAT DEAL MORE
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORKS.



I SUSPECT YOU'RE BECOMING VERY IMAGINATIVE IN THINKING OF NEW
WAYS TO GET FUNDING FOR YOUR PROGRAMS! AND ... I SUSPECT YOU
ARE GAINING GREAT EXPERTISE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COUNSELLING
AS WELL!

I ALSO WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE
DOING FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

YOU'VE MADE IT YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, AND THAT'S IMPORTANT.
IT SHOULD BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ANY YEAR, BUT IT'S
ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL. THE PURPOSE
OF EACH OF YOUR COMMISSIONS REVOLVES AROUND THAT PHRASE
"EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW." THE ERA IS THE FOUNDATION FOR
EVERYTHING YOU ARE TRYING TO DO, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD
TO WORKING WITH YOU TO HELP MAKE IT A REALITY NEXT YEAR.

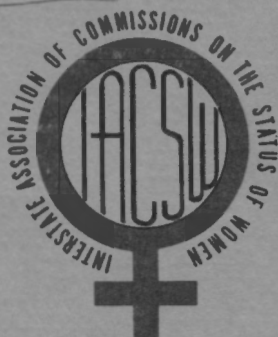


MEANWHILE, LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING.
YOUR WORK BUILDS ON ITSELF AND IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF
LEGACY I KNOW EACH OF US WOULD WANT TO LEAVE FOR THOSE
WHO WILL FOLLOW US.



INTERSTATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMISSIONS ON THE
STATUS OF
WOMEN

NOW: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN



2000 P St. NW

~~NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.~~

SUITE ~~1249~~ 508

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20045³⁶

(202) ~~347-8726~~

223-2010

NATIONAL
~~INTERSTATE~~ ASSOCIATION OF
FOR
COMMISSIONS ~~ON THE STATUS OF~~ WOMEN

is the national federation of official government Commissions and equivalent agencies created to enhance the status of women. It is not an individual membership organization, but is the national unifying body of these state and local public agencies.

Founded in 1970 by 30 state Commissions, IACSW has grown by 1975 to over 60 state, county and city member Commissions.

Although Association actions are not binding on members, all member Commissions subscribe to the purposes which are stated in the Bylaws:

"IACSW shall seek:

- To *foster* a closer relationship and a fuller exchange of ideas among members;
- To *further* the equal legal, social, political, economic and educational opportunity and advancement of all women and men;
- To *eliminate* discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, national origin, or marital status in all phases of American society;
- To *promote* the dissemination of information and provide counsel on opportunities for the effective participation of women in private and public sectors;
- To *encourage* women to assume initiative and accept their responsibility in the removal of legal and other barriers to the realization of their basic human rights."

WHO RUNS THE INTERSTATE ASSOCIATION?

The Annual Conference is the governing body of the Association with voting by member Commissions. Five national officers are elected at large, ten regional directors, ten alternates, and a nominating committee are elected from five regions. These constitute the Board of Directors, which meets four times a year.

WHAT DOES IACSW DO?

At Annual Conferences, which combine stimulating workshops, programs with national experts and business sessions, resolutions are adopted which set the policy framework for the Association.

Implementing these policies, IACSW takes legislative action, gives testimony at public hearings, serves on national advisory committees, acts in concert with other feminist organizations, and provides information to Commissions on the Status of Women concerning opportunities for action.

BREAKTHROUGH, the Association newsletter which is distributed to each Commission member, is the channel of communication through which commission activities are shared. It provides a connecting link and sense of unity to the work of the autonomous Commissions throughout the country.

HOW IS INTERSTATE SUPPORTED?

It is funded solely by modest dues (currently \$150 for states, \$75 for local Commissions) which are set by the membership at the Annual Conference. While an increasing number of Commissions now receive public funds, some without budgets have nevertheless found it worthwhile to join IACSW.

In 1974, IACSW established the tax-deductible Status of Women Research and Education Fund to seek support for projects to further Commissions' goals for women.

WHERE IS THE IACSW HEADQUARTERED?

Since late 1973, the Association has had a small office in the National Press Building, Washington, D.C. It is staffed by a part-time assistant.

Both Board of Directors meetings and Annual Conferences are varied geographically, the latter having been held in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Boulder, Colorado. The 1975 Conference is to be held in Honolulu June 9-13 on the theme, The Strength of Women Is Their Unity, in keeping with International Women's Year.

WHOM DOES INTERSTATE SERVE?

All women regardless of age or economic, political or ethnic background. IACSW urges member Commissions to take steps to assure the broadest possible composition within their communities. The Annual Conferences are open to all and its resolutions address the needs of all segments of society.

WHICH ISSUES ARE IACSW PRIORITIES?

The Equal Rights Amendment has been the top priority item, first in Congress and now in the states.

Passage and enforcement of legislation to combat sex discrimination in employment, education, credit, legal rights; extension of equal pay and minimum wage laws; support for quality child care services; efforts to provide counselling and training to assist girls and women to enter non-traditional occupations; appointment of more women to significant positions in the mainstream of government at all levels; affirmative action to overcome past discrimination in the world of work and in education -- these are major areas of work for both Interstate and the Commissions.

WHY SHOULD COMMISSIONS JOIN IACSW?

Affiliation with a national organization gives a national voice and perspective to state and local agencies. Many of the needs and concerns faced by Commissions must be dealt with at the level of the federal government; common information and joint or parallel action can be more effective.

Communication, through regional and national conferences and through the newsletter and correspondence, stimulates thinking, shares know-how, provides broader information.

As government bodies with the charge to improve the lives of women, Commissions on the Status of Women occupy a unique position in the women's movement. Through their own national federation, they can play a significant role in developments on the national scene--a bridge between government and the private sector, an advocate for all women.



IACSW OFFICERS, 1974-75

President: *Joy R. Simonson*
District of Columbia

1st Vice President: *Mildred Norris*
Mississippi

2nd Vice President: *Emily Taylor*
Kansas

Secretary: *Marcia Donnan*
South Dakota

Treasurer: *Alberta J. Meyer*
Missouri

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

EVENT: Welcome National Association of Commissions
for Women

DATE: Friday, September 12, 1975

TIME: 1:50 p.m.

PLACE: E.O.B. Conference Room

SEQUENCE:

1:50 p.m.

-Leave Residence for E.O.B.

-Arrive E.O.B.

-Participants include:

-Pat Lindh

-Dr. Theodore Marrs

-Gwen Gregory (Director, Office of Policy Communication,
Office for Civil Rights, HEW)

-Dr. Mary Jane Smolley (Associate Director of External
Affairs, Office of Education, HEW)

-Abner W. Sibal (General Counsel, Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission)

-Jeffrey W. Miller (Assistant Staff Director for Federal
Evaluation, U.S. Comm. on Civil Rights)

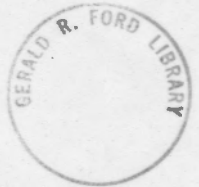
2:00 p.m.

After your introduction, make brief remarks of welcome
at podium.

At conclusion, depart. Return to White House.

NOTE:

-Patti has prepared remarks and background material.
-Open press coverage.



September 12, 1975

I AM SO HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU AND TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I
SUPPORT THE THINGS YOU ARE DOING. BY NOW, I GUESS NO ONE
WONDERS WHERE I STAND ON WOMEN'S ISSUES -- AT LEAST NO ONE'S
COMPLAINED LATELY ABOUT MY BEING SHY ON THE SUBJECT!



-2-

THE SHORT TERM EFFECT OF WHAT YOU DO MAY BE HARD
TO MEASURE, BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE LONG TERM.
YOU ARE HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON LEGISLATION AND HOW IT IS
ADMINISTERED IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES. EVENTUALLY
THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO WHAT WOMEN ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE --
INTO WHAT THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES -- AND IN WHAT THEY
ARE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND THIS COUNTRY.

AND EACH OF YOU, IN THE PROCESS, ARE GAINING EXPERTISE
IN MANY AREAS I'M SURE YOU NEVER EXPECTED. YOU'RE BECOMING
PLATFORM SPEAKERS, IN STUMPING FOR A CAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN,
EDUCATORS, IN GETTING MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES THINKING
IN A NEW DIRECTION ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT WOMEN. YOU'RE
GAINING LEGAL AND POLITICAL EXPERTISE AND A GREAT DEAL MORE
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORKS.



I SUSPECT YOU'RE BECOMING VERY IMAGINATIVE IN THINKING OF NEW
WAYS TO GET FUNDING FOR YOUR PROGRAMS! AND ... I SUSPECT YOU
ARE GAINING GREAT EXPERTISE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COUNSELLING
AS WELL!

I ALSO WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE
DOING FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

YOU'VE MADE IT YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY, AND THAT'S IMPORTANT.
IT SHOULD BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR ANY YEAR, BUT IT'S
ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL, THE PURPOSE
OF EACH OF YOUR COMMISSIONS REVOLVES AROUND THAT PHRASE
"EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW." THE ERA IS THE FOUNDATION FOR
EVERYTHING YOU ARE TRYING TO DO, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD
TO WORKING WITH YOU TO HELP MAKE IT A REALITY NEXT YEAR.



MEANWHILE, LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING.
YOUR WORK BUILDS ON ITSELF AND IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF
LEGACY I KNOW EACH OF US WOULD WANT TO LEAVE FOR THOSE
WHO WILL FOLLOW US.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

EVENT: Welcome National Association of Commissions
for Women

DATE: Friday, September 12, 1975

TIME: 1:50 p.m.

PLACE: E.O.B. Conference Room

SEQUENCE:

3:30
~~1:50~~ p.m.

-Leave Residence for E.O.B.

-Arrive E.O.B.

-Participants include:

-Pat Lindh

-Dr. Theodore Marrs

-Gwen Gregory (Director, Office of Policy Communication,
Office for Civil Rights, HEW)

-Dr. Mary Jane Smolley (Associate Director of External
Affairs, Office of Education, HEW)

-Abner W. Sibal (General Counsel, Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission)

-Jeffrey W. Miller (Assistant Staff Director for Federal
Evaluation, U.S. Comm. on Civil Rights)

2:00 p.m.

After your introduction, make brief remarks of welcome
at podium.

At conclusion, depart. Return to White House.

NOTE: -Patti has prepared remarks and background material.
-Open press coverage.

susan porter
September 12, 1975



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN MEETING
AGENDA

September 12, 1975
Room 450, OEOB



2:00	-----	Introductory Remarks Dr. Theodore Marrs Special Assistant to the President
		Moderator Patricia Lindh Special Assistant to the President
		Mrs. Betty Ford
2:15	-----	Dr. Mary Jane Smolley Associate Director of External Affairs, Office of Education, HEW
2:40	-----	Gwen Gregory Director, Office of Policy Communi- cation, Office for Civil Rights, HEW
3:00	-----	Abner W. Sibal General Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
3:30	-----	Jeffrey W. Miller Assistant Staff Director for Federal Evaluation, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
4:00	-----	White House Tour

The 90 (approx) women you'll be speaking to are the key people here in town for a meeting of the National Association of Commissions for women. The people invited are the chairperson (volunteer) and executive director (paid staff person) in each city or state that's represented at the national meeting.

The National group is an association of all of the city and state Commissions on the Status of Women (i. e., the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women in many major cities, the Governor's Commission etc. in most states).

The volunteer chairperson is in charge of the state or city's commission -- usually a group of maybe 15 or 30 people who've been appointed, like the chairperson, by the Governor or Mayor. These people meet throughout the year and have task forces that study different issues -- like a particular piece of legislation in the state legislature that will affect women; or discrimination in a certain area of government; or how they can get more women interested in such -and-such etc. etc.

The executive director (staff person) is also a political appointment by the Mayor or Governor. Her salary is usually low, because she's funded out of the city or state budget. She usually has no staff or next to no staff and almost no budget. She becomes THE person everybody can dump any problem involving a woman onto. So she spends her day doing everything from her official functions, like making sure city or state laws aren't discriminatory and being a watchdog to make sure nondiscriminatory laws are being complied with -- to speaking to any group that needs a 'womens' speech -- to being a counsellor or handholder to women who call in their problems. Many are becoming much more knowledgeable on the subject of 'grantsmanship' and how to get more money for their problems. They're setting up things like rape crisis lines for people to call into, getting grants to permit college interns to help them with their programs, etc.

Joy Simonson is the group's President. She worked on the staff (she was detailed) of the Internatl Womens ^{League} Commission earlier this summer and is back working at Civil Service Commission now.

These women love you. You could probably say "Welcome to the EOB Auditorium" and get a standing ovation! So it should be fun for you.

