

Commission on the Status of Women 2004 Work Plan

Introduction:

In 2004, the Commission will continue to lead the effort on the Women's History Month Essay Contest and the Marcile N. Wood Award. We will begin looking for another community group to take on these projects for 2005, so that we can focus on our main mission: to inform and advise the City Council on issues affecting the women of Fort Collins.

The Commission will continue to research the City's Policy Agenda in order to prepare a report for the City Council. This research and report will form the foundation of future Commission work.

Annual Commission Activities:

Women's History Month Essay Contest

The Commission will sponsor this essay contest in 2004 for the Poudre School District. A committee will work with Cindy Ronan with the Poudre School District to coordinate the contest packets and pick up the completed essays. Student entries will be judged in March and winners will be selected. The winners will be honored at a special event on March 24, 2004 at the Harmony Library Community Room with Mayor Ray Martinez presenting the awards. The *Coloradoan* will be notified of the winning essays and encouraged to publish the winners' names in recognition and support of Women's History Month.

Marcile N. Wood Award

The Commission will sponsor the 2004 Marcile N. Wood Award recognizing an outstanding citizen in the Fort Collins community who has made a significant contribution to the status of women. In January the Commission will send out applications for this award and the winner being chosen in February. The winner will be publicly announced and celebrated during the 5th Annual Women's Awards Night event at the Sunset Events Center on March 4, 2004. Members of the Commission will serve on the Women's Awards Night committee to ensure this event is a success and to network with local non-profit groups.

Commission Liaisons

Relationship with City Council

The Commission looks forward to developing a stronger relationship with our City Council liaison, Karen Weitkunat, and the rest of City Council. The Commission plans to review the new 2003-2005 Policy Agenda to research topics that affect the women of Fort Collins and to complete a thorough report for the Council by the end of the year.

The relationship between City Council and the Commission on the Status of Women has suffered over the past two years. However, the current Commission is committed that these issues get resolved so that women in the community are served and have a voice.

Relationship with the Human Rights Resources and Education Office

The Commission will continue to work with Barbara Catbagan regarding our mission and future activities. The Commission looks forward to continuing the partnership with the City's Human Rights Office and interfacing on projects concerning the city and the community.

General Timeline

January

- Complete Annual Report
- Discuss Women's History Month Essay Contest
 - Assign tasks to members for location of the event, prizes, refreshments, location and scheduling Mayor to attend.
 - Determine schedule for reading of the essays
 - Contact the *Coloradoan* to cover the event
- Discuss Marcile N. Wood Award Contest
 - Complete mailing list.
 - Determine schedule for printing and mailing applications.
 - Work with city to have information posted on fcgov.com.

February

- Welcome new members and elect officers
- Review applications for Marcile N. Wood Award and choose a winner
 - Plan Women's Awards Night presentation
- Collect essays from Cindy Ronan at Poudre School District
 - Finish planning Women's History Month event

March

- Present Marcile N. Wood Award at Women's Awards Night
- Present Women's History Month Essay Contest Awards at Harmony Library Event
- Begin looking for community group to take over these annual events for 2005
- Begin looking at City's Policy Agenda

April - October

- Continue or complete looking for community group to take over annual events, including training.
- Interview local groups working on women's issues to gain a greater understanding of most pressing issues as they relate to the City Policy Agenda.

November – December

- Complete report and present to Karen Weitkunat.