

**Agenda
County of Sonoma
Commission on the Status of Women**

Meeting held through publicly available link via zoom as well as in person at 575 Administration Drive, Ste 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thursday

February 13, 2025

6:00PM

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

Second District: Katie Gordon, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

Third District: Ofra Isler, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair), Katarina Giudice

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

Fifth District: Zobida McCorquodale (Leave of absence), Elizabeth Beaty

The February 13, 2025, Commission on the Status of Women Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

1. Join in person:

Human Resources Large Training Room

575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Limited seating is available for public participants.

2. Join virtually via Zoom:

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94202019002?pwd=V3JCazd0MFcvR2Q3c0FYK2x3ZjRpQT09>

Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002

Passcode: 252743

3. Join in Zoom by telephone:

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002

Passcode: 252743

Instructions for the Public:

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:** 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 and Roll Call**2. Land Acknowledgement**

The Commission on the Status of Women of Sonoma County recognizes that we are on the ancestral lands of the Pomo, Wappo, and Coast Miwok, who are the original stewards of this land. We further acknowledge that the office of the Commission on the Status of Women resides on Southern Pomo land in Santa Rosa. We respect and honor the past, present, and future generations, and are grateful for the opportunity to give our respect to the first inhabitants.

3. Open Time for 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.

4. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of the January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- b. Commission on the Status of Women Biennial Work Plan Report
Review and approve fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Commission on the Status of Women Work Plan Report

5. Officer Reports, Commissioner Announcements, Administrative Updates

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination. Commissioners to provide any commission-related announcements, report on communications with supervisors, and announce any tabling opportunities.

- a. Seeking a new Youth Commission Project Program Manager
- b. Proclaiming Women's History Month at all City Councils
- c. The Board of Supervisor will adopt Women's History Month Gold resolution on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 1:30pm
- d. SSU eliminating Women's and Gender Studies

6. Strategic Planning

Goal: The Commission redesigns its project focus to better meet our Mission under the Ordinance which established the Commission on the Status of Women, including outreach and advocacy at the state and local level.

7. Agenda Items for March 13, 2025 Commission Meeting

Commissioners to provide any agenda items for future meetings.

8. Adjournment

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

Thursday, January 9, 2025

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present:

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

Second District: Katie Gordon, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

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

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

Fifth District: Elizabeth Beaty

Commissioners Absent:

Third District: Katarina Giudice-White

Fourth District: Izzy Arreguin

Fifth District: Zobida McCorquodale (Leave of absence)

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

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Roll call taken by Staff.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Padian read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

No Public Comment.

4. Acknowledge Jessica Wood

Chair Fortino Dickson presented a gold resolution to Jessica Wood that the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors passed in honor of her years of service on the Commission on the Status of Women.

5. Molly Dickens Presentation

Molly Dickens presented on The Maternal Stress Project which explores the stress of modern American motherhood. The presentation went over different life stressors that causes health issues on women The project centers around understanding and mapping the stress related to parenting, motherhood, caregiving, simply being a woman in moder America, with the goal of examining the complex interconnections at all stages of life.

6. Consent Calendar

Approval of the November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Beaty	Ayes: 8	Noes: 0
Second: Vice-Chair Jones-Carter	Absent: 3	Abstained: 2

Commissioners Giudice-White and Arreguin were absent. Commissioner McCorquodale is on leave of absence. Commissioners Pakaki abstained. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

7. Officer Reports and Administrative Updates

- a. Staff announced that the Women's History Month Gold Resolution will be presented on March 11, 2025 at either 1:30pm or 10am at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

8. Redesign Meeting

- a. The Officers led the discussion of redesigning the meetings to have a purpose of advisory to political boards and councils. They proposed to design each meeting to include a mini hearing on topics that will come forward to the board of supervisors and create white papers on the effects on women in Sonoma County. They will invite service providers and women with lived experience of the topic to speak to the Commission at the meetings. The goal is to create white papers or some such outcome that can be communicated to the Supervisors in advance of their meetings to advise them on certain topics. Commissioners agreed to dedicate February's regular meeting to plan out future meetings and select the topics. No action was taken at this meeting.

9. Commissioner Announcements and Agenda Items for February 13, 2025 Commission Meeting

- a. February 13, 2025 will be a strategic planning meeting
- b. Vice Chair Jones- Carter announced that tabling is very limited this year. Pride, Juneteenth, and Spirit Award Ceremony will be the only events the Commission will participate in 2025, but perhaps they will be doing something for Women's History Month and Black History Month. Vice-Chair Jones- Carter and Commissioner Padian are conversing about the details.

10. Openings and Appointments

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson announced one vacancy in the 2nd district and in the 5th district.

11. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES

- a. Junior Commission Educational Project will be having their Career Panel in March. Date will be determined later. Recruitment for next cohort is on hold due to Commissioner Isler's departure. Commissioners didn't show interest in taking over the project.
- b. Reproductive Equity is recreating focus groups of know your rights in 3 different high schools with the help of 3 students.
- c. Biz Entrepreneurship will be having their first workshop on January 21, 2025 at 9am. This workshop will teach individuals about their communication style using the DISC assessment. They reminded everyone to register.
- d. Legislative Advisory Group is waiting to see what the Women's Legislative Caucus will be bringing forth this year.
- e. Communications Teams interviewed social media consultants and they are in the middle of contracting an individual.
- f. Community Engagement is working on the 2025 Spirit Award, and they invited Commissioners to help with the process.
- g. Bylaws have the edits ready for review and will bring them forward to be voted on by the whole Commission.

12. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. The Commission voted to adopt a gold resolution in honor of Women's History Month. No discussion. Motion to approve the Women's History Month Gold Resolution.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown
Second: Commissioner Gordon

Ayes: 9 Noes: 0
Absent: 3 Abstained: 1

Commissioners Giudice-White and Arreguin were absent. Commissioner McCorquodale is on leave of absence. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
Commission on the Status of Women Work
Plan Report



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The Commission on the Status of Women 2023-2025 Work Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has provided to the County for the fiscal years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Mission and Vision Statement

The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women is to promote equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls, and to address issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County.

We use our collective voice to influence decision-makers and empower the community to eliminate systemic barriers to full equity. We work to ensure women have social mobility, economic autonomy, reproductive freedom, and equitable representation in leadership roles.

We are advisors to the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors and work to ensure that the issues impacting women and girls are given the necessary visibility to affect positive changes in public policy.

The Commission on the Status of Women meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at 575 Administration Dr, Ste 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Land Acknowledgement

The Commission on the Status of Women start their meetings with a land acknowledgement: *The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes that we are on the ancestral lands of the Pomo, Wappo, and Coast Miwok, who are the original stewards of this land. We further acknowledge that the office of the Commission on the Status of Women resides on Southern Pomo land in Santa Rosa. We respect and honor*

the past, present, and future generations, and are grateful for the opportunity to give our respect to the first inhabitants.

Ad Hocs and Projects

Report on the Status of Women and Girls Ad Hoc, 2023/2024

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the **Women's Recovery Response ad hoc** received a \$25,000 grant from the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) to identify and support the needs of women in California who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We then partnered with the Center for the Advancement of Women at Mount Saint Mary's University to produce the intersectional, advocacy-focused, 2023 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Sonoma County. The Report draws on data from the Voices of Sonoma County Women 2021 research project and the September 2022 release of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to paint a comprehensive picture of the post-pandemic experiences of women in our county.

Our report was released in September 2023. Since then, we have undertaken several community-focused initiatives to share its findings and amplify its impact.

- With financial support from Sonoma County Community Grant funding, we translated the report into Spanish. This translation ensures that Spanish-speaking community members can access data-driven insights that spotlight challenges facing women in Sonoma County. By removing language barriers, we aim to build awareness and encourage engagement with the findings while directing attention to the organizations working to address these issues.
- Our work was featured in a podcast episode produced by the Sonoma County Administrator's Office. The podcast allowed us to share key findings with a broader audience and highlight the challenges identified in our research.
- We collaborated with community organizations on a social media campaign featuring data-driven insights that highlight challenges facing women in our County. The

campaign aimed to build awareness of key findings and amplify the work of local organizations addressing these issues and supporting women.

- On Juneteenth 2024, the Commission on the Status of Women hosted a breakfast to present the findings of the 2023 Report. The launch event brought together local organizations, community members, and elected officials to support effective policymaking and strategic planning. Former Chair Janice Blalock and Commissioner Ofra Isler led the presentation and provided a detailed overview of the report's key findings and contextual background. Attendees received flash drives with presentation slides in both English and Spanish. Hard copies of the full report were also made available. We had more than 30 organizations attend the event.

The 2023 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Sonoma County is the culmination of three years of dedicated research, collaboration, and advocacy to uplift the voices of women and girls in Sonoma County. Through this work, we have provided a clear, data-driven understanding of the challenges women face, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts to amplify these findings, including translating the report, engaging local media, collaborating with community organizations, and hosting events, reflect our commitment to ensuring that this work reaches diverse audiences and drives meaningful change.

Contributing Commissioners: Katie Gordon, Jan Blalock, Ofra Isler, Julie Shulman
Special thanks: Meira Bowcut and Victoria Willard

Reproductive Health

The Reproductive Health Ad Hoc in 2023-2024 was a follow up from the first year of this ad hoc. The year involved disseminating the information obtained during the pilot in Sonoma Valley, the findings from the pharmacy survey, and responding to requests for participation in community meetings related to the health and wellbeing of women and girls in Sonoma County. We were unable to transfer the pilot to other high schools in the county during this period but have composed a protocol for a second pilot in a Santa Rosa high school, with the participation of a college intern. We are translating the focus

group feedback into a survey format while adding more questions which will allow us to reach more young people. In addition, we are writing “targeted white papers” based on the feedback we collected in the first year and the recent Gender Policy Institute research on Access to Reproductive Health in Northern California. We will distribute these through social media and in our collaboration with community partners.

Contributing Commissioners: Joanne Brown and Nancy Padian

Reproductive Equity

The Reproductive Equity derives from the Reproductive Health Ad hoc 2023-2024 and independent research from other sources on access to reproductive health. Specific Goals will derive from the Bay Area Access to Reproductive health research project (Gender Policy Institute) being published this fall and advocacy and outreach strategies around their findings, a revised high school survey built on what we learned two years ago in Sonoma HS, and updated pharmacy survey based on the OPILL and mifepristone.

Contributing Commissioners: Joanne Brown and Nancy Padian

The Junior Commission Educational Project

The Junior Commission on the Status of Women is a program designed to provide mentorship to high school youth, preparing them for future leadership roles within our community. Students from across the county are invited to apply, with 15 - 30 selected each term to connect with mentors. In 2024 we had 30 students, which is double what we had the year previous.

Throughout the year, Junior Commissioners engage in a variety of activities, including roundtable discussions, career panels, community-based projects, and volunteer work. Participants are also introduced to important issues impacting women and girls through their ad hocs, such as healthy body and mind, menstrual poverty, lack of education, relationship violence, reproductive health and politics, and the complexities of hormones

and the female body. Recent career panelists have included professionals from a diverse range of fields, including lawyers, chemists, realtors, reproductive health epidemiologists, union leaders, apprenticeship coordinators, council members, and film actor/producers.

Additionally, in 2024 we had more in person meetings, as well as field trips and volunteer days (such as the Girls on the Run 5k). We have also begun teaming up with the Human Rights Youth Commission and combining our events. For example, in 2024 we joined their Unhouse Resource Learning Day, and they attended our Voting and Election Speaker Panel as well. These experiences help broaden the participants' understanding of various career paths and social issues, while fostering a commitment to leadership and advocacy.

Contributing Commissioners: Ofra Isler is the current Project Manager, along with Nancy Padian. Mentors include Katie Gordon, Ana Diaz, and Caitlin Quinn.

Sonoma County Spirit Award 2023

The Third annual Spirit Award theme was Building Bridges, Forging Unity. The winners displayed qualities of building bridges across divides of race, gender, class and politics to deepen empathy; has catalyzed and inspired collective action to make concrete changes in community and/or workplace conditions, policies, culture that resulted in greater equity and inclusion; Leverage their own power, privilege, influence and/or position to lift and amplify the voices of those in our community who are marginalized; and Inspire others and sets a clear example of cultural humility and respect.

The winners for the 2024 Sonoma County Spirit Award are:

District 1: Maite Iturri, for her career as an educator and for the creation of Food For All/Comida Para Todos which provided nutritious and culturally relevant food to disenfranchised families and farmworkers in Sonoma Valley reaching into the county.

District 2: Dra. Mariana G. Martinez, for her leadership as an SRJC Trustee, as a

researcher, consultant around increasing access to education and as a personal mentor to many first-generation Latina college students in our community.

District 3: Alegria De La Cruz, for her meaningful work at the Office of Equity Department and her involvement in the County's American Rescue Plan Act Program: that is creating change from within our local government and the community at large.

District 4: Letitia Hanke, for her dedication in expanding horizons for youths, especially female youth of color, access to traditionally male dominated careers.

District 5: MaDonna Feather-Cruz, her advocacy for communities of color and for women. Her involvement in many Boards have helped articulate voices for the needs and history of Indigenous Californians and to help create a clear path to healing.

The award ceremony took place on March 9, 2023, during the Commission on the Status of Women regularly meeting location and time.

Sonoma County Spirit Award 2024

The fourth annual award had all 5 of last year's recipients participate in the process of selecting the awardees for 2024. The 2024 theme was "Sonoma County Women & Girls Fighting for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The women selected demonstrated skills of working hard to better our community, even if they are not explicitly focusing on women and girls, because we know that racial justice work, work to protect labor rights, work to empower immigrants, work to improve accessibility, and all other social justice efforts benefit women and girls of all backgrounds.

The winners for the 2024 Sonoma County Spirit Award are:

District 1. Phyllis Rosenfield – Her life work shows her commitment and contribution to the mission of Listening for a Change: to promote understanding and acceptance of human diversity through education, oral history, and the arts.

District 2. Hanan Huneidi – She is a fierce advocate for the LGBTQIA2S+ community here in Sonoma County. She founded Petaluma Pride and made its work possible.

District 3. Belen Lopez- Grady - embodies the values of the Sonoma County Spirit Award. Belen is a strong woman of color who is currently the Executive Director of North Bay Organizing Project which advocates for the rights of tenants, immigrants, and promotes language justice.

District 4. Marcy Flores- Her commitment to community change is evident in every area of her life, professional and personal. As executive director of Corazón Healdsburg, a mission-driven human-rights organization, Marcy leads the agency's multiple programs including a bilingual resource center deeply trusted by the Latino community that offers family-centered case management and takes a cradle-to-career approach to education for all ages.

District 5. Lupe Catalan - is a Bilingual Field Representative for District 5. Prior to working for the district. Lupe worked as a Promotora, connecting West County residents to critical medical resources and services. She worked with both WCHC and Cafecitos to empower Latina mothers to engage in and advocate for their child's education.

Contributing Commissioners: Melanie Jones-Carter, Angie Dillion-shore, Jessica Woods, Zobida McCorquodale, and Rebecca Wolf.

The award ceremony was held on June 13, 2024 at the Museum of Sonoma County and all Supervisors and awardee families were invited.

Biz Entrepreneurship

The Biz Entrepreneurship Ad Hoc has a focus of encouraging more women to take the entrepreneurial leap, supporting their ventures, and celebrating their successes, society can benefit from the rich diversity of ideas and leadership styles they bring to the table.

Together, we can build a more inclusive, innovative, and prosperous future. On January 21, 2025, the group hosted their first event Room Full of Referrals at 9am-1pm at 3033 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa. Room Full of Referrals workshop taught individuals to communicate effectively with clients, coworkers, and loved ones through the DISC technique.

Ad Hoc committee members: Letitia Hanke, Zobida McCorquodale, Melanie Jones-Carter

Liaising, Partnering, Collaborating

Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force (SCHTTF)

The Commission on the Status of Women appointed former Chair Janice Blalock to continue serving as our liaison to the SCHTTF as she has for the past 9 years.

Meetings take place at the Family Justice Center. The Task Force includes partners from Law Enforcement, the D.A's office, Sonoma County Department of Human Services, service providers such as Verity, Polly Klass Foundation and Redemption House of the Bay Area and Community organizations such as Soroptimist's, Jr League, CSW and CHR. The mission of the task force is to collaborate on eradicating Human Trafficking in Sonoma County and to educate the community on what trafficking is and how to recognize it.

CSW Legislative Committee

Each member of this committee monitors the legislative program/agenda of groups with a similar focus, i.e., issues confronting women and girls, protection of women's rights, and women's wellbeing. Members monitor bills introduced in the state legislature, assess, and report back to the Commission. The Commission discusses and authorizes writing letters, communicating with local legislators, or partnering with groups in advocacy in support or opposition to the legislation.

League of Women Voters Sonoma/Marin

On October 10, 2024 The Commission on the Status of Women collaborated with League of Women Voters Sonoma/Marin and the Commission on Human Rights to provide a presentations on a non-partisan and unbiased look at the Pros & Cons of the ten state ballot propositions and three Sonoma County-wide measures that will appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The presentation helped demystify the ballot and explain what a “yes” vote means and what a “no” vote means.

4 C’s

The Commission is a strong supportive of 4C’s mission and they have continued their partnership. On August 26th, the commission attended their 50th Anniversary Event “Champions for Children” to show support. CSW paid \$1,000.00 as sponsorship to attend.

Verity

CSW works with Verity on education and outreach, fundraisers, and numerous occasions.

Other Partnerships

- Association of California Commissions for Women and Girls
- California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
- National Association of Commissions for Women and Girls
- National Women’s History Alliance
- Impact 100 Redwood Circle
- First Five Sonoma County

CSW Participation

Projects/events we have sponsored or participated in:

- **Sonoma County Pride**

CSW paid for the Champion Sponsorship Package for their participation at Sonoma County Pride both fiscal years.

- **Women in Conversation: The Gemma Project Inc Book Event**
CSW sponsored the Gemma Project Book Event: The Many Lives of Mama Love, on April 24, 2024, at Sonoma State University for \$500 and \$300 for marketing.
- **Los Cien**
CSW attend their event February 2024 event and they sponsored \$1,000 for the event.
- **YMCA I Run**
CSW Participated in the 3rd Annual “Y I Run” and donated \$1,000 to support women to stay safe.
- **Translife**
CSW donated \$250 to support LGBTQIA+ women.
- **Positive Images**
CSW donated \$250 to support LGBTQIA+ women.
- **Landpath**
CSW donated \$250 to support LGBTQIA+ women.
- **LGBTQ Connection**
CSW donated \$250 to support LGBTQIA+ women.
- **Cinco De Maya Festival**
CSW tabled at Roseland Cinco de Mayo Festival, and it was \$100 tabling fee.

CSW received Proclamations from each City Council celebrating Women's History Month and Women's Equity Day.

Conclusion

During 2023-2025, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) continued to expand our mission as established by Ordinance in 1975. Priorities depend on how much we know and can share about the wellbeing of women in Sonoma County. The CSW has regularly supplemented its data base of information regarding the economic status of women and obstacles to their empowerment. In 2023, the Women’s Recovery Response ad hoc received a \$25,000 grant from the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) to identify and assess the needs of women in Sonoma County who have been disproportionately impacted by the Pandemic. This information was incorporated into a statewide report. The report was translated into

Spanish and disseminated broadly including through podcasts, a social media campaign, and a Juneteenth 2024 Community breakfast in which community representatives were invited to review and discuss the findings. Each participant received an electronic copy of the report to share.

Data was gathered about obstacles faced by women and girls in specific priority areas such as the Reproductive Health including findings from interviews with pharmacist's county wide about access to OTC contraceptives.

The Junior Commission on the Status of Women is designed to provide mentorship to high school youth, preparing them for future leadership roles within our community. Students from across the county are invited to apply and in 2024, 30 students were selected, which doubled the number of participants in prior years. The Junior Commission mirrors the adult Commission with monthly meetings and ad hocs, but Junior Commissioners select projects of most interest to them and completed projects are presented to the Board of Supervisors at graduation. The Commission began collaborating on community events with the Human Rights Youth Commission, e.g., the Unhouse Resource Learning Day, the County Voting and Election Panel. These experiences help broaden the participants' understanding of career paths and social issues, while fostering a commitment to leadership and advocacy.

The theme for the Third Annual Spirit Award was Building Bridges, Forging Unity. The winners (one from each District) were selected through recommendations from friends, neighbors, coworkers. The nominees were screened by prior award winners based on displaying qualities of building bridges across divides of race, gender, class and politics to deepen empathy. Recipients included educators, community organization leaders, farm worker activists, business leaders working in nontraditional employment, and elected officials in higher education.

Collaborating with community organizations and county wide initiatives has been a core function of the Commission. In 2023-20245 these partnerships continued and expanded. CSW has been represented on the Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force since its formation. Partners included Verity, League of Women Voters, 4 C's

Annual Champions for Children, Sonoma County Pride, Women in Conversation, Los Cien, YMCA Run, Translife, Positive Images, LGBTQ Connection, Landpath, Cinco De Mayo Festivals. In addition, the Commission annually reaches out to local government and the County to secure Proclamations from each celebrating Women's History Month and Women's Equality Day.

At the CSW biannual strategic planning meeting, projects for the next two years will be discussed and prioritized, and budget allocated. The Commissioners look forward to being even more visible in Sonoma County, collaborating with other Commissions on shared issues, and increasing our capacity to identify the everyday issues of greatest concern to women and girls in our County. As we all know, the concerns, needs, challenges which effect women have a broad impact on the wellbeing of the entire family, and consequently, the wellbeing of the entire County. We thank you for your continuing support of the Commission on the Status of Women.