

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes, April 18 2016

Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Attendance

Chair Chris Etienne, Commissioner Joanne Dawley, Commissioner Meg Derrer, Commissioner Renee Haley, Commissioner Bobbie Gaunt, Commissioner Cathleen Knauf, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Darlene Lee, Commissioner Alyssa Martina, Commissioner Janice Nearon, Commissioner Sara Schroeder, Commissioner Beverly Wall. Executive Director Susy Avery, Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson.

Commissioners Krista Haroutunian and Kathleen Vogelsang were excused.

Ex Officios and Liaisons attending included Kristina Leonardi, MVAA; Wendy Fitzner, MDEQ; Ruthanne Okun, LARA; Marchan Darby, MDTMB; Tammy Flynn, Workforce Development; Michelle Riddering, MDFIS;

Guests included Jim Spaulding, LARA; Wanda Stokes, LARA; Lori Shemka, Michigan Supreme Court; Cheryl Zorn, Michigan Court of Appeals; Michelle Massey

The speaker phone system did not work.

Minutes

1. Chair Etienne called the meeting to order at 2: 03 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. Vice Chair Kathleen Vogelsang, Commissioner Bobbie Gaunt, and Commissioner Krista Haroutunian were excused.
2. Chair Etienne introduced our new Commissioners.
Sara Schroeder is a registered nurse and an Army veteran, serving in Desert Storm. She works for the Veterans Administration and is the Women Veterans Program Manager for thirty five counties in Michigan, from Saginaw to the Mackinac Bridge.
Beverly Wall owns her own company, Languages International, based in Grand Rapids. She has won numerous awards and served on numerous boards. She has been named one of West Michigan's Most Influential Women by the Grand Rapids Business Journal. She was recently appointed, unanimously, to the Grand Rapids Township Boards. But, she claims her passion is to help the next generation of women entrepreneurs.
Dr. Darlene Lee holds a Ph.D. from Wayne State University. She is CEO of Darling Communication, and is known as a leadership strategist and coach who works to bridge gender, diversity and equity gaps in the workplace. She serves on numerous boards, including being Director of Communications for the American Association of University Women in Detroit.

In addition, she introduced Agustin V. Arbulu, the Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, who welcomed the Commission, and extended greetings on behalf of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

3. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
4. Chair Etienne introduced our speakers, Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and Justice Joan L. Larsen, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. They held a lively informal conversation with the commissioners and audience. They mentioned that women of the generation entering the workforce want work-life balance, a balance that earlier generations of women didn't think they were entitled to. Younger women are more creative about how to craft their lives. They spoke about the high costs of law school, but stressed that lawyers in public-service careers can have student loans forgiven after a period of public service employment. They spoke about the Court, and noted how collegial it was. The Court receives about 3,000 requests to hear cases each year. Oral arguments can now be seen on YouTube. The Court is emphasizing increased use of technology in Michigan's court system, but the justices acknowledged that the co-ordination of 83 county systems is challenging. When asked about dealing with sexism in their careers, both justices acknowledged that sexism still exists in the career of law. But, Justice Larsen commented that she had two choices – to get angry at a sexist comment or to laugh at it, and she chose to laugh.
5. Chair Etienne called for Advisory and Special Committee Reports.
6. Commissioners Haley and Gaunt reported on the work of the Women Veterans committee. Their activities include working with Grand Valley State University to conduct another women veterans survey, targeting the "everyday" veteran, rather than focusing on the disabled veterans or women who have experienced military sexual trauma. Women veterans do not want to be labelled. Committee members continue to work with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency with the goal of creating a statewide Women Veterans Advisory group. Commission Haley spoke on the Veterans Freedom Park opening on May 25.
7. Commissioner Knauf reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking committee. The Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association conference will be holding a training on recognizing human trafficking in the hospitality industry with Samantha Sanders, of the SAFE Action Project, who will be doing additional trainings in Southwest Michigan. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds reported working with Southfield Schools to explore development of peer-to-peer outreach for at-risk students. Much work continues with commissioner's involvement with regional task forces. It was reported that Kent County's task force held a train-the-trainer training, targeting health care, education and the hospitality industry, and has developed a resource guide. The Oakland/Macomb County task force held a March conference, and has developed informational posters. The Southwest Michigan task force held a law enforcement training for Buchanan.

The committee stressed the importance of careful use of language when speaking about human trafficking. Recent examples include the use in the media of the term “child prostitute” rather than “trafficking victim”. Part of raising awareness about human trafficking is to object when terms such as “child prostitute” are used.

8. Chair Etienne reported on the committee’s progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards. Dean Lawson and faculty of the College of Business of Grand Valley State University are conducting research on women’s participation on corporate boards. The committee has been working with Crain’s Detroit Business and their development of a directory of women who are qualified to serve on corporate boards. The advisory board for this project includes Mary Kramer, of Crain’s, and representatives from Deloitte. The advisory board is exploring the possibility of bringing a program to Michigan to help women become board-ready. Commissioners are also exploring the possibility of establishing a chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors to Michigan, and working with Davenport University on networking opportunities.
9. Executive Director Susy Avery told the commissioners that both she and Chair Chris Etienne will be attending the Mackinac Policy Conference.
10. Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson reported that the Michigan Women’s Commission will be co-hosting a webinar with the United States Department of Labor Women’s Bureau on Women and Apprenticeship in Michigan and Indiana on April 27, 2016. The webinar will explain apprenticeship as a workforce development asset for women, and is especially important as it offers the opportunity to earn a salary while learning the skills necessary to succeed in a well-paying occupation. She also discussed the women’s Bureau’s new web portal, Women Build, Protect, and Move America, that gives information and resources about women accessing higher-paying careers in transportation, construction and protective services.
11. The minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting were submitted for approval. Approved.
12. The next commission meeting will be on Friday, August 12, 2016, at the Seidman Center, Grand Valley State University Downtown Campus, 50 Front Street SW, Grand Rapids.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Chair Chris Etienne

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes, August 12 2016

Seidman Center, Grand Valley State University Pew Campus, Grand Rapids, Michigan 48824

Attendance

Chair Chris Etienne, Vice Chair Kathleen Vogelsang, Commissioner Joanne Dawley, Commissioner Bobbie Gaunt, Commissioner Krista Haroutunian, Commissioner Cathleen Knauf, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Alyssa Martina, Commissioner Janice Nearon, Commissioner Jan Peabody, Commissioner Sara Schroeder, Commissioner Beverly Wall, Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson.

Commissioners Meg Derrer and Renee Haley were excused.

Commissioner Darlene Lee was not present.

Ex Officios and Liaisons attending included Kristina Leonardi, MVAA; Melisa Bernum-Schaub, MSP, for Capt. Monica Yesh; Destinie Shipman, MDOC.

Guests included Leah Nixon, Grand Rapids Community College; Martha Gonzales-Cortes, MDCR; John Golaszewski, MDCR; Dean Diana Lawson, GVSU; Sonia Dalmia, Ph.D., GVSU; Claudia Smith Kelly, Ph. D., GVSU; Kasey Setlock, GVSU; Lucy Benz-Rogers, Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan.

Minutes

1. Chair Etienne called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. Commissioners Meg Derrer and Renee Haley were excused.
2. Chair Etienne introduced our new Commissioner. Jan Peabody is a supervisor of medical management for McLaren Health Plan in Flint, and previously served as a field nurse case manager for GENEX Services. She is a fellow of the 2010 Michigan Political Leadership Program, and serves as a board member of the Greater Lapeer Transportation Authority. She holds a bachelor's degree in health studies from Western Michigan University.
3. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
4. Commissioner Alyssa Martina introduced our speaker, Cailin Crockett, Special Assistant for Gender Policy and Elder Rights, Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services. She serves as international coordinator for the Administration on Community Living's global engagement on the human rights of older people.
Cailin Crockett spoke on her work on gender issues and older women. She stated that older women are often rendered invisible, in life and in public policy. The Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living is encouraging a life course approach to women's issues, including women's

health, domestic violence and economic security. Gender disparities exist throughout a woman's life course and have a greater impact as women age. Pay disparities, for example, compound over time, leading to a greater risk of poverty for women. Older women fare worse, when compared to men, on many key indicators. Women experience more violence, less income, less access to health care and unequal expectations for caregiving leading to underemployment. Finally, women live longer than men. This cumulative impact of gender disparities throughout a woman's life course mean elder women are particularly vulnerable to abuse. Elder women are not included in the discussion of gender-based violence, which hurts women's health and rights.

Based on research done by the Institute of Women's Policy Research, women in Michigan who are 60 plus are more likely to be poor and disabled than men. Globally, twenty-four percent of women are age fifty or above. By 2030, there will be 1.375 billion people over the age of 60, mostly living in developing countries. One in five women experience some type of abuse or exploitation.

Unfortunately, we do not have adequate health data to include older women in programming and policy, because of the way data is gathered. The United States Agency for International Development conducts health surveys that are used internationally. The survey began as a survey on maternal and child health, so data is gathered for women of reproductive age, between 15 and 49. Older women have been left out of the data collection. So, for example, data on intimate partner and sexual violence has not measured for women who are older. The United Nation's Sustainability Goal is to gather data for women past the age of 49. The United Nation's new strategy statements include a revised definition of gender-based violence to include women across the age span.

When asked what actions she recommends at the state level, Cailin Crockett stressed the importance of publicizing the National Domestic Violence Hotline. She mentioned that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. She stressed the importance of making sure that women of all ages are visible when we depict women. We need to always make sure we are including older women when discussing issues of importance to women and girls.

5. Diana R. Lawson, Ph.D., Dean of the Seidman College of Business, Grand Valley State University, introduced Professors Sonia Dalmia and Claudia Smith Kelly, who are researching women's participation on corporate boards, especially boards of Fortune 500 companies. Their intern, Kasey Setlock, presented a summary of their research to date. Key points include that 22.3 percent of the board members of Michigan companies on the Fortune 500 list are female, in comparison to 20 percent nationally. Of the seventeen Michigan companies listed on the Fortune 500, only one, General Motors, has a female CEO. Thus, Michigan only comparisons are difficult. Nationally,

companies with female CEOs have greater diversity on their boards, and more women on their boards, compared to companies with male CEOs. There is a positive and significant correlation between the gender of the CEO and profitability of the company. On average, companies led by female CEOs are more profitable compared to those led by male CEOs.

6. Chair Etienne reported on her attendance at the Mackinac Policy Conference. She recommend that the Executive Director and the Chair attend the 2017 conference, if possible.
7. Chair Etienne called for Advisory and Special Committee Reports.
8. Vice Chair Vogelsang reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards. Crain's Detroit Business has partnered with the Commission to develop an invitation only directory of Michigan women who are eligible to serve on corporate boards, in response to the statement of companies that "we don't know where to find the women". Crain's is working with a corporate recruiter to vet applicants and match applicants with corporations who are seeking board members. As part of the partnership, Deloitte is bringing a program to Michigan to help women become board ready. The program is invitation only, and thirty women will participate per cohort.
Commissioner Wall reported that Dean Lawson and faculty of the Seidman College of Business of Grand Valley State University are continuing their research on the representation of women and racial minorities on Fortune 500 boards. The most striking data from the research shows, in an objective and quantifiable manner, that companies with diverse boards are more profitable. The faculty will present their research at the Michigan Women's Commission legislative reception after our January meeting.
Commissioner Dawley reported that the committee will be working closely with the MI ACE Women's Network and Grand Rapids Community College to present a "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference in March, 2017.
9. Commissioner Gaunt reported on the work of the Women Veterans committee. The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has created a statewide Women Veterans Advisory Board. The Michigan Women's Commission serves on the advisory board in an ex officio capacity. Commissioner Renee Haley will represent the Michigan Women's Commission as the ex officio member. Professor Claudia Smith Kelly, of Grand Valley State University, is conducting another women veterans survey, targeting women veterans in college. Data shows that women veterans enroll in college at a higher rate than male veterans, but women veterans' completion rate is lower than that of male veterans. The survey research hopes to determine possible barriers to women veterans' degree completion.
10. Commissioner Knauf reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking committee. Members spoke this morning with Lucy Benz-Rogers, an attorney from Farmworkers Legal Services, to learn more about labor trafficking and issues facing migrant workers. Commissioner Knauf met with

a focus group, convened by Senator Emmons, on possible future legislation related to human trafficking. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds continues working with Southfield Schools to explore development of peer-to-peer outreach for at-risk students.

11. Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson reported that the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education is generously providing funding for the "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference.

The Honorable Daisy Elliott was selected as a 2016 Inductee into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Representative Elliott was co nominated by the Michigan Women's Commission and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. The ceremony is October 19, 2016. The Commission is purchasing a table for the event. Commissioners are asked to let Elizabeth know as soon as possible if they plan to attend.

Elizabeth indicated that the summary of the 2016 report of the Senior Advisory Council for the Commission on Aging, dealing with issues related to the direct care workforce in Michigan, was distributed to the Commissioners. The full report is available online.

Ruth Okun, the liaison from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, had provided material for the commission on the implementation of Public Act 62, which requires posting of information about human trafficking, including the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline number, in welcome centers, rest areas, bus stations, airports, adult entertainment establishments and other locations. The Wage and Hour Division furnishes downloadable posters in several languages on their website, www.michigan.gov/wagehour .

12. The minutes of the April 16, 2016 meeting were submitted for approval.

Approved.

13. The next commission meeting will be on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at the Great Wolf Lodge and Conference Center, 3575 U.S. Highway 31 S, Traverse City, MI 49684.

14. There was no public comment.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Chair Chris Etienne

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2016

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan, 48933

Attendance

Vice Chair Chris Etienne, Commissioner Kathleen Vogelsang, Commissioner Joanne Dawley, Commissioner Meg Derrer, Commissioner Bobbie Gaunt, Commissioner Renee Haley, Commissioner Krista Haroutunian, Commissioner Jay Kommareddi, Commissioner Cathleen Knauf, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Janice Nearon, Commissioner Mary Whiteford.

Executive Director Susy Avery, Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson.

Ex Officios and Liaisons attending included Destinie Shipman, MDOC; Kristina Leonardi, MVAA; Wendy Fitzner, MDEQ; Marchan Darby, MDTMB; Tammy Newcomb, MDNR; Ron Robinson, Attorney General; Lieutenant Julie Busch, MSP; Tammy Flynn, Workforce Development; Melissa Castro, Treasury; Denise Stokes-Phillips, MDHHS; Donna Wilson, MCSC.

Commissioner Alyssa Martina and Liaison Ruthanne Okun, LARA, did not attend but participated by phone.

Minutes

1. Vice Chair Etienne called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.
2. Vice Chair Etienne introduced Agustin V. Arbulu, the Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, who welcomed the Commission, and extended greetings on behalf of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.
3. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
4. Commissioner Kommareddi introduced our speaker, the Honorable David J. Newblatt, Presiding Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court and Genesee County's Infant Toddler Treatment Court and Girls Court. He spoke about the Girl's Court, which serves girls ages fourteen to seventeen. Its purpose is to give opportunities to at risk girls in the juvenile justice system. Girls who have been trafficked, or who are at risk, have experienced forced violence, separation from families, and drug abuse. They are runaways or "throwaways". A history of trauma places girls at risk of trafficking. Long term effects of trauma on brain development include trouble controlling emotions, leading to increased vulnerability to exploitation, and increased risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. We must understand that traffickers meet girls' needs: understanding; food, clothing and shelter; attention. Traffickers pick up the pieces of society's failures. A real emotional connection forms, a trauma bond, a combination of sex, love and violence. "Rescue" from the pimp just takes a girl back to a life that wasn't working before involvement with the trafficker.

Judge Newblatt described the “sexual abuse to prison pipeline”. The traditional approach in the juvenile justice system was to hold the individual girl “accountable” through probation. But the trauma of abuse means the girl can’t control emotions, doesn’t have healthy relationships, can’t concentrate and is failing at school. The girl can’t comply with the judge’s orders and, eventually, winds up in prison. Probation must change, if we are to interrupt this pipeline.

Genesee County now screens all cases for risk, and girls may be referred to Girls Court. Girls Court offers gender specific individualized services and therapy, using a trauma based protocol, plus mental health and substance abuse services. Services are also provided to the girl’s family. Mentoring and tutoring services (provided by volunteers from University of Michigan’s Women’s Education Center, and others) give support to stay in school and make school a positive experience. There is a judicial review of each case every month, designed to be therapeutic. Everyone reports strengths. It’s key that professionals, family, and the girl herself understand behaviors, and don’t interpret such behaviors as failures and “disrespect”. The emphasis is on helping the girl feel safe, empowered and connected.

Girls Court has been in operation for all of 2015. Now, the focus is on improving assessment and measurement tools. The goal is to create a model that can be used statewide. Currently, 12 girls are receiving services in Judge Newblatt’s court.

5. Vice Chair Etienne reported on her humanitarian mission to Nicaragua.
6. Vice Chair Etienne reported that Commissioner Carol Zimmer has resigned and expressed the Commission’s appreciation of her service.
7. Vice Chair Etienne called for Advisory and Special Committee Reports.
8. Commissioner Kommareddi reported on the many activities of the Human Trafficking committee, including the Ottawa Allegan Human Trafficking Community Conference on January 30. Commissioner Knauf reported on the Safe Action Project training for the hospitality industry, and the upcoming training to be provided at the 2016 Pure Michigan travel and tourism conference, and the “Blue the Town” human trafficking awareness day in southwest Michigan, as well as development of information sheets for area educators and health care providers. Commissioner Derrer reported on the December “train the trainer” training conference in Kent County, which included development of a PowerPoint with a consistent message that can be used in the future. Commissioner Kommareddi reported on her presentation to Beaumont Health System. Their management has agreed to training for all nine emergency rooms, and several system hospitals. The Genesee County ISD superintendent’s retreat devoted two hours to training on human trafficking. Seven area radio stations will be using public service announcements from January through March to raise awareness of human trafficking.

9. Commission Gaunt reported on the goal of the Women Veterans committee, to accelerate the effort to enable veterans, especially women, to self identify as veterans. A meeting is scheduled with Grand Valley State University and another research organization to develop a follow-up survey that may provide more information on sexual assault, homelessness, and need for medical services among women veterans. Commissioners also met with Kristina Leonardi of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency about the possibility of a future statewide Women Veterans Advisory Committee.
10. Commissioner Vogelsang reported on the committee's progress on initiatives to help increase the representation of women on corporate boards. She reported on the prospective partnership with Crain's Detroit Business to compile a list of one hundred of the most influential women from around the state – proven leaders who are driving key decisions in industries, companies, academia and in civic and policy organizations. The report will serve as a resource for non profit and for profit boards looking for board leadership. In addition, a new board database, to help match Michigan women leaders to open positions on corporate boards, will be developed. Crain's is developing the mechanics. It is expected that the database will be on going.

The committee is working with Dean Lawson, of the Seidman College of Business, Grand Valley State University, whose faculty member are developing a study of Fortune 100 companies to identify barriers for women who wish to serve on corporate boards.
11. Executive Director Susy Avery told the commissioners that new goals for a revised strategic plan would be discussed at the April meeting.
12. Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson reported on the Michigan Women's Commission sponsorship of the new exhibit at the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, entitled "Great Girls in Michigan History" and our sponsorship of the March 1 reception celebrating both Women's History Month and the opening of the new exhibit.
13. The minutes of the October 16, 2015 were submitted for approval.

Approved.
14. The 2015 Annual Report to the Governor was submitted for approval.

Approved.
15. The next commission on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 2 p.m., at the Kellogg Center Hotel and Conference Center on the Michigan State University campus, 219 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824.
16. Commissioners and guests were invited to attend the reception honoring the Michigan Women's Commission liaisons, immediately following the meeting's adjournment.
17. The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Vice Chair Chris Etienne

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2016

Great Wolf Lodge and Conference Center, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684

Attendance

Chair Chris Etienne, Vice Chair Kathleen Vogelsang, Commissioner Joanne Dawley, Commissioner Meg Derrer, Commissioner Bobbie Gaunt, Commissioner Renee Haley, Commissioner Krista Haroutunian, Commissioner Cathy Knauf, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Jan Peabody, Commissioner Sara Schroeder, Commissioner Mary Templeton, Commissioner Beverly Wall, and Director of Program Elizabeth Thompson were in attendance.

Commissioner Darlene Lee and Commissioner Janice Nearon were excused.

Ex Officios and Liaisons attending included Destinie Shipman of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Emily Rissman of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Lieutenant Julie Busch of the Michigan State Police, and Marchan Darby of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Guests included Katherine Bounds and Patricia Kennedy-Scott.

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.
2. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Commissioner Darlene Lee and Commissioner Janice Nearon were excused.
3. Chair Etienne introduce our new commissioner, Mary Templeton. Mary Templeton is the executive director of Michigan Saves, a multimillion dollar nonprofit organization that provides financing solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Previously, she was the program manager for Better Buildings for Michigan, a statewide multimillion dollar grant program managed by Michigan Saves. Ms. Templeton's career has spanned more than twenty years in several industries. In 2008 and 2009, she served as the vice chair for the Wind Energy Resource Zoning Board. She holds a bachelor's degree in business from Wayne State University and a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University
4. It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
5. Chair Etienne introduced our speaker, Marilyn Fitzgerald, Ph.D., who is the founder of Common Ground Solutions, dedicated to research and the endorsement of proven business models that provide opportunity for the poor to determine their own path leading to financial independence. She is the author of the book titled "If I had a Water Buffalo: Microfinance as a Means to Sustainability" and she discussed the lessons learned from her involvement in more than twenty years of conducting and evaluating humanitarian projects in developing countries with Rotary International. She spoke about the need to offer assistance by providing opportunity to the

economically disadvantaged, by collaborating with them in determining their own sustainable solutions to poverty. Her message was that individuals and communities know best what assistance they need in becoming self-sufficient.

6. Special Committee working on women in business and participation on corporate boards:

Commissioner Dawley reported on the Young Women, Strong Leaders conference that will be held on March 24, 2017 in Grand Rapids, on the campus of Grand Rapids Community College. The workshops and panels will feature a younger, more diverse group of speakers. Commissioners with suggestions for workshop presenters can contact Elizabeth Thompson. Commission Vogelsang reported that the Michigan Women's Directory, which matches women applicants with corporate entities that are searching for a more diverse board makeup, is up and running. Any woman can submit her name for consideration. An assessment tool that identifies levels of expertise determines eligibility for the directory. An executive recruiter also vets applicants. There are links on the Crain's Detroit Business website for women to begin an initial application.

Commissioner Vogelsang also reported that the Jan. 24, 2017 reception will be used to showcase the GVSU research conducted on women on boards, as well as the need for mechanisms such as the Women's Business Directory to increase women's representation on corporate boards.

7. Special Committee working on women veterans issues:

Commissioner Renee Haley reported that the committee has been working with Grand Valley State University professors on a draft survey of student veterans to determine barriers to degree completion. She also reported that a Women Veterans Advisory Board has been created within the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. This board was one of the major recommendations of the MWC Special Committee. The board will advise the agency on matters relating to women veterans such as economic opportunity and career advancement, as well as help expand awareness of available resources and services to the state's female veteran population. A Michigan Women's Commission member serves as an ex-officio member. Currently, Commissioner Haley is representing our Commission.

Commissioner Schroeder reported that she will try to facilitate a tour of the Aleda Lutz VA Facility, when the Commission meets in Saginaw in August.

8. Special Committee working on raising awareness of human trafficking:

Commissioner Knauf reported that the Special Committee plans to branch out into other areas, such as labor trafficking and specialized courts for victims. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds reported working with the Southfield Public Schools, with the assistance of her daughter, on prevention and awareness programming. Commissioner Derrer has been working with health care entities with the regional taskforce in her area. Commissioner Knauf reported on the awareness materials produced by her regional taskforce.

9. Elizabeth Thompson reported that a new Executive Director has not been named.
10. The minutes of the August 2016 meeting of the Michigan Women's Commission were submitted for approval. Approved.
11. A proposal for commission participation in a project on women and war, conducted by Professor Stefka Hristova and Professor Sue Collins, who are faculty at Michigan Technical University faculty was approved, subject to grant funding being obtained from the National Endowment for the Humanities. If the grant is approved, Elizabeth Thompson will help facilitate discussions by women veterans on their own experiences as female veterans within a larger historical context.
12. There was no public comment.
13. Chair Etienne reminded commissioners that a major subject of the next meeting will be discussion of possible new initiatives.
14. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in Lansing, at the Radisson Hotel Downtown Lansing. There will be a reception immediately after the meeting, to honor newly-elected and current women legislators and to showcase the Commission partnership with Crain Communications.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Chair Chris Etienne