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THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
STATE OF TEXAS

1985—1987

BIENNIAL REPORT

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

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MARK WHITE, Governor

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Governor Mark White

**Chair
Betty Anderson**

**Vice-Chair
Mae Jackson**

**Director of Office of Community Leadership
Gay Erwin**

**Executive Director Commission for Women
Carol Nasworthy**

**Administrative Assistants
Carol McDaniel, Dorris Sheppard**

**108 Sam Houston Building
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711**

BIENNIAL REPORT
of
THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
STATE OF TEXAS
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**MEMBERSHIP OF
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 1985-87**

Betty Anderson
5017 15th Street
Lubbock, TX 79416

Candy Hein
2822 N. New York
Laredo, TX 78040

Christine Pacheco
2004 Oceanside
El Paso, TX 79936

Pat Bailey
3128 Trevolle Place
Dallas, TX 75204

Christine Hernandez
822 Hoover Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78225

Karen Perkins
4905 Boulder Lake Road
Fort Worth, TX 76103

Ollie Besteiro
554 Calle Retama
Brownsville, TX 78520

Annie R. Hill
5324 Calhoun Road
Houston, TX 77021

Melinda Hill Perrin
3746 Del Monte
Houston, TX 77019

Lillian Dunlap
135 Brettonwood Drive
San Antonio, TX 78218

Narita Holmes
1517 Sandalwood⁹
Odessa, TX 79761

Pam Reznick
8600 Silver Ridge
Austin, TX 78759

Diane Dwight
3701 Proctor Street
Port Arthur, TX 77642

Mae Jackson
Route 8, Box 179
Waco, TX 76705

Sheila Simmons
12220 Oberlin Drive
Dallas, TX 75243

Maydelle Fason
1607 Poquonock Road
Austin, TX 78703

Suzanne Larsen
3112 Furneaux Lane
Carrollton, TX 75007

Lynnette Solomon
1729 Queens Row
Nacogdoches, TX 75961

Nancy Garms
3905 Danbury Drive
Amarillo, TX 79109

Judi Margolin
10815 Chevy Chase
Houston, TX 77042

Ceole Speight
2609 Burke
Pasadena, TX 77502

Mary Alice Gonzales
602 Texas Avenue
Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Anne Mauzy
5000 Crestway
Austin, TX 78731

Myrtle Tarver
2175 Hebert Street
Beaumont, TX 77705

Lyn Noble Hawthorne
One Brierwood East
Conroe, TX 77301

Susan Neighbours
600 South Walker
Angleton, TX 77515

Judy Tycher
5215 DeLoache
Dallas, TX 75220

Charles Wilson
706 Whetstone
Marshall, TX 75670

FOREWORD

On behalf of the 1985-1987 Governor's Commission for Women, I have the honor to present the following report which outlines the principal activities, accomplishments and recommendations of our commission.

We have made significant strides in identifying and addressing the major concerns of women in Texas through the Sesquicentennial Report on the Status of Women, in recognition of women of achievement through the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, in active collaboration with other women's groups and networks, and in encouraging action on women's issues through the Legislative Agenda.

Our special thanks go to Executive Director Carol Nasworthy, Director of the Office of Community Leadership Gay Erwin, and Administrative Assistants Carol McDaniel and Dorris Sheppard. We are pleased to to acknowledge our contributors. The generous financial support of business firms, foundations, and individuals who share the Commission's concern for women has been essential to fund the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, the Sesquicentennial Report on the Status of Women, and the Citizen Handbook on How the Texas Legislature Works.

Additional information about the work of the Commission is available at the Texas Woman's University Library, Box 23715, Denton, Texas 76204.



Betty Price Anderson, Chair
1985-1987 Governor's Commission for Women

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION

Governor Mark White appointed 28 members to the fifth Governor's Commission for Women. The commissioners were appointed in May 1985 and served until January 1987. The members represented a variety of groups, vocations, and geographical areas of the state. The Commission met seven times over the 20 month period. An Executive Committee, composed of the chair, vice-chair, committee chairs and vice-chairs and executive director, met between Commission meetings.

The Commission continued the legacy established by the 1983-1985 White Commission. The work of the Commission was conducted through four committees: Issues, Information and Publications, Program Development, and Public Relations.

Major accomplishments of the Commission were:

- . Sesquicentennial Report on the Status of Women in Texas
- . Texas Women's Hall of Fame
- . Developing networks among women's groups
- . 1987 Legislative Agenda

The executive order to create and establish the Governor's Commission for Women states, "the goal of equal legal, social, political, economic, and educational opportunity and advancement of all women and men is critical to the future of our state."

In pursuit of this goal, the Commission

secured recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to Texas

- . 1985 Texas Women's Hall of Fame
- . Local celebrations of Women in Texas Week
- . 1986 Texas Women's Hall of Fame
- . Poster of women in history celebrated 1986 Hall of Fame

provided information on issues affecting women and assessed the status of women

- . Analysis of over 14,000 Women's Issues in Texas surveys
- . Regional forums on "Writing an Agenda that Works" attended by over 1600 women in 17 locations:

Amarillo	225	Houston	
Austin	45	Clear Lake	35
Beaumont	125	Central City	36
Brazosport	70	South--CLUW	50
Corpus Christi	100	West Harris	68
Dallas	200	Woodlands	90
Denton	30	Lubbock	135
El Paso	65	Odessa	105
		Rio Grande area	150
		Tyler	120

SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Public/Private Policy Initiatives for Women in Texas

The Sesquicentennial Report on the Status of Women was the culmination of the work of the 1985-87 Commission. The project was a joint effort with the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin.

The project has several components:

Known Statistics: Statistics about issues covered in the project are scattered widely throughout Texas. Graduate students contacted agencies, libraries, and individual researchers in an effort to gather all possible statistics on the issues of concern.

Issues Survey: Commission members designed an issues survey that asked the respondent to identify the five most important issues from a list of 25. These 25 were the most important identified from a list of 80 in a survey conducted by the 1983-85 Governor's Commission for Women. Commission members circulated the surveys throughout the state between November 1985 and November 1986. Sharon A. Scott of the Psychology Department of West Texas State University and Commission member Nancy Garms analyzed over 14,000 responses.

The rankings below show the number of people who rated an issue in the top five. The issues identified as most serious by women of Texas were:

1) Child Abuse	5261	6) Child Support	3855
2) Teenage Pregnancy	4824	7) Child Care	3799
3) Comparable Worth	4587	8) Unemployment	3686
4) Stress	4207	9) Rape	3672
5) Poverty	3982	10) Equal Jobs	3405

Forums: The Commission sponsored 17 regional forums between February and November 1986. Over 1600 women attended the meetings. The "Can We Talk" forums identified issues of importance to Texas women and gathered ideas for public/private sector programs that could be implemented around the state. Participants attended one of three concurrent workshops to "Write an Agenda that Works".

- . Women in the Workplace: Writing the Economic Agenda
- . Women in the Community: Writing the Public Agenda
- . Women in the Home: Writing the Family Agenda

Telephone Survey A telephone survey was conducted between October 10 and 19 by members of the University of Texas at Austin project team. The random sample included 673 Texans. The survey included questions on the attitudes of Texans toward policies with an impact on women's lives. The results, "Texans and Government: What Citizens Want," were released December 15, 1986. Project directors were Susan G. Hadden, Laura Lein, and Martha Williams.

Legislation: The project team made an analysis of all legislation proposed in the 69th Legislature for potential effects on women. Components of the project contributed to the formulation of a Legislative Agenda by the Commission.

- . Over 13,000 persons heard presentations by the Commissioners Speakers Bureau at conferences, meetings of organizations, classes, and workshops in urban and rural areas
- . Television and radio programs, newspaper articles
- . Information and guidance through publications, such as the legislative handbook and hotline cards

increased the number of women in decision-making positions

- . Recruitment and recommendation of qualified women for appointive office
- . Over 500 appointments to state boards and commissions by Governor White
- . Talent file bank compiled to assist in gubernatorial appointments printed

served in an advisory capacity to the state government to promote state policies to provide equal opportunities for the advancement of women

- . 1987 Legislative Agenda
- . State Agency Liaison Group

co-sponsored conferences

- . 5 conferences on employment and economic status of women
- . 2 conferences on family issues and child abuse
- . 1 regional conference for state and local commissions

developed networks among women's groups

- . State Agency Liaison Group
- . The Texas Women's Commission Foundation
- . Local women's commissions
- . Women's Legislative Days Steering Committee

TEXAS WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

	November 14, 1985	September 18, 1986
AGRICULTURE AND RANCHING	Grace Woodruff Cartwright Weatherford	Mary Lavinia Griffith Paige
PERFORMING ARTS	Lydia Mendoza Houston	
LITERARY ARTS	Jenny Lind Porter Austin	Margaret Cousins San Antonio
ATHLETICS		Jody Conradt Austin
BUSINESS AND FINANCE	Edna Gardner Whyte Roanoke	Mary Kay Ash Dallas
CIVIC LEADERSHIP	Willie Lee Glass Tyler	Ada Simond Austin
COMMUNICATIONS	Liz Carpenter Austin	Caro Crawford Brown Corpus Christi
EDUCATION	Maria Elena Flood El Paso	Wilhelmina Ruth Fitzgerald Delco Austin
HEALTH PROFESSIONS	Benjy Frances Brooks Houston	May Owen Fort Worth
LEGAL	Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Dallas	Hermine Dalkowitz Tobolowsky Dallas
PUBLIC SERVICE	Ann Richards Austin	Anne Legendre Armstrong Armstrong
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	Patricia Happ Buffler Houston	Sally Kirsten Ride Clear Lake
VOLUNTEERISM	Helen Farabee Wichita Falls	Alicia R. Chacon El Paso and Frances E. Goff Houston

At the 1985 Texas Women Hall of Fame, Governor White honored women from all branches of the armed forces who served with distinction in World War II.

As a part of Texas' Sesquicentennial observances, the Governor's Commission for Women appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to select for special recognition 150 women who had made particularly notable contributions to the history of Texas. Brief sketches about the women were included in the program of the 1986 Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

DEVELOPING NETWORKS AMONG WOMEN'S GROUPS

Women have advanced in Texas through the efforts of many groups. The active collaboration among an increasing number of women in organizations and networks maximizes the energy of women. The networks include:

STATE AGENCY LIAISON GROUP

Liaisons represent state agencies, and they provide support and encourage programs for women in the public sector. Fran Herrington-Borre chaired the 1985 Group; Helen George chaired the 1986 Group; and Lillie Gilligan chairs the 1987 Group. Over 1000 attended the second Women in the Public Sector Conference, January 1986. Awards were given to the state agencies that make innovative efforts to promote women to executive levels and aid in the advancement of women. The 1986 winners were the Office of Secretary of State, the Department of Human Resources, and the Texas Employment Commission. The conference and awards program was selected as a regional finalist in a competition to identify innovative personnel programs in state government by the Council of State Governments.

THE TEXAS WOMEN'S COMMISSION FOUNDATION

The Foundation was incorporated in the spring of 1985. The Foundation is a non-profit organization which assists the Governor's Commission for Women by raising funds for research and educational programs. The Foundation has assisted with the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, the Sesquicentennial Research Project, the Texas Athletic Equity Project, and Envision's video of the 1985 and the 1986 Texas Women's Hall of Fame. The 1986-87 Board of Directors is composed of Chair Lunelle Anderson, Secretary Gay Erwin, Treasurer Pam Reznick, Pat Bailey, Anne Dickson, Sharon Lovick, Aurora Sanchez, Lynn Searcy, Carol Whitcraft, and Martha Whitehead. Other members who served on the 1985-86 Board included Helen Farabee, Jo Floyd, Mary Hardesty, Ann Simmons, and Martha Williams.

LOCAL WOMEN'S COMMISSIONS

Tyler, Cameron County, and Galveston formed women's commissions during the 1985-1987 biennium. One commission is organized on a regional basis--Southeast Texas Commission for Women includes Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties. Women's groups in Amarillo, El Paso, and Temple organized outside city government. Other local women's commissions are in Austin, Fort Worth, Longview, Lubbock, San Antonio, Temple, and Wichita Falls. In 1985, over 6,000 persons in 22 communities celebrated Women in Texas Week with local celebrations. Local commissions also assisted in sponsoring regional forums for the Sesquicentennial Research Project.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE DAYS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee for Women's Legislative Days strongly supported the Commission during the biennium. Women's Legislative Days, February 16 & 17, 1987 is co-sponsored by 37 organizations. Peggy Romberg chaired the Steering Committee.

1987 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

At its July 1985 meeting, the Commission set as one of its five goals: "To encourage action on women's issues and concerns, with priority given to economic issues, family-related issues, and violence against women and children." After listening to women throughout the state speak out on a women's agenda and analyzing the issues surveys, the Commission adopted the following legislative agenda at its November 1986 meeting. Advocacy groups were identified as leadership organizations for each issue.

Family Policies

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

- . Expanded crisis services, hot lines, shelter and counseling for victims
- . Improved access to Protective Orders
- . Prevention programs in schools to educate children and parents about sexual abuse
- . Legislation to remove the marital exclusion in Texas rape law

TEEN PREGNANCY LEGISLATION

- . Expanded family planning services
- . Family life education mandated
- . Community-based education and service programs designed to prevent adolescent pregnancies

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE

- . Initiatives proposed by the Child Care Working Group

SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE LEGISLATION

Employment Policies

PAY EQUITY LEGISLATION

QUALITY JOB TRAINING

- . Job training and retraining programs oriented to the needs of displaced homemakers and older women

Social Policies

FUNDING SERVICES FOR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

- . Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- . Programs for older persons

HEALTH CARE

- . Access to health care for persons who are medically indigent
- . Inclusion of mammography screening in health plan coverage

ISSUES COMMITTEE

Nancy Garms, Chair
Ann Hill, Vice-chair
Lillian Dunlap
Judi Margolin
Christine Pacheco
Lynn Solomon

The Issues Committee provided leadership for a landmark Project on the Status of Women in Texas. A survey instrument was designed, circulated and tabulated, and 17 regional forums were held to further develop survey results. The LBJ School of Public Affairs and the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin were enlisted to co-sponsor a Policy Research Project to identify and refine issues of concern of Texans. As a result of the Project, a legislative agenda was developed and presented to the 70th Session of the Texas Legislature.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Sheila Simmons, 1985 Chair
Mary Alice Gonzales, 1986 Chair
Pam Reznick, Vice-chair
Ollie Bestiero
Narita Holmes
Ann Mauzy

An appointments flyer, "I would have appointed a woman, but...." was prepared, and 20,000 were printed. The Information and Publications Committee updated and reprinted Statewide Hotline Numbers card; 15,000 were distributed. How the Legislature Works, A Citizen Handbook, was reprinted, and 5,000 copies were distributed. Six editions of Texas Women, a newsletter of the Governor's Commission for Women were produced. The Committee disseminated information about the Commission and prepared a resource information packet for Commissioners.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Christine Hernandez, Chair
Karen Perkins, Vice-chair
Maydelle Fason
Susan Neighbours
Ceole Speight
Charles Wilson

The committee served as a clearinghouse and encouraged replication of model programs found throughout the state. The development of new programs, such as Broader Perspectives, Inc. in Houston, ABC Any Baby Can Project in San Antonio, and WEN--Workers' Equity Network in Austin, were encouraged. Three local commissions, Tyler, Galveston and Cameron County were organized during the biennium. Support and materials were supplied to local commissions throughout the state.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pat Bailey, 1985 Chair
Suzanne Larsen, 1986 Chair
Diane Dwight, Vice-chair
Lyn Noble Hawthorne
Candy Hein
Melinda Perrin
Myrtle Tarver
Judy Tycher

The Public Relations Committee secured recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to Texas through the 1985 and the 1986 Women's Hall of Fame. Additional details of the two events are found in this report. The committee was responsible for raising the funds to stage the events. Women's visibility was also enhanced by the extra attractions each year: recognition of World War II Women Veterans and the Sesquicentennial Tribute to Women of Texas History.

CONTRIBUTORS
1985-1986

American Airlines
Arlington Financial Corporation
Atlantic Richfield Company
AT&T
Benckenstein, Oxford, Radford & Johnson--Beaumont
Bickerstaff, Heath & Smiley
Bowers Foundation
Brown & Root, Inc. and Associated Companies
Central & Southwest Services, Inc.
Adolph Coors Company
Cox-Pippin Communications
Dow Chemical U.S.A.--Texas Operations
Lillian Dunlap, Brigadier General, U.S.A., Retired
Dupont/Conoco
M. Diane Dwight
Edco Air, Inc.--Houston
Englander and Keesee
ENRON Corp.
Erwin and Associates
First Texas Savings Association
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin, and Lewis
Gulf States Utilities
Hart Graphics
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Lincoln Property Company
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National Gypsum Co.
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Melinda and Mike Perrin
Professional Food Management, Inc.--San Marcos
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Charlotte Smith Reporting, Inc.
Southwest Airlines
Southwestern Bell Telephone
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Tenneco
Texas Automobile Dealers Association
Texas Association of Realtors
Texas Commerce Bank--Regan
Texas Foundation for Women's Resources
Texas Restaurant Association
Texas Trial Lawyers Association
Texas Woman's University
Texas Women's Commission Foundation
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Contributions funded Texas Women's Hall of Fame, Sesquicentennial Report on the Status of Women, and the legislative handbook.

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT INTERNS WHO SUPPORTED THE WORK
OF THE COMMISSION

From the LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at
Austin:

Elizabeth Contreras	Victoria Lugo
Laurie Crumpton	Edith Meacham
Anne Dunkelberg	Anthony Nichols
Elvia Garcia	Heather Parnell
Kevin Gutzman	Amy Peck
Sidney Hacker	Parisrice Robinson
Susan Jacobs	Suzanne Smith

From the School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin:

Mary Ellen Burns	Carol Kirchem
Tonya Edmond	Kate Nauman
Kelley Jones	Nancy Smith

From the Department of Psychology, West Texas State University:

Louis Fairchild
Sharon Scott

