



Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women

Biennial Report

**Presented by Chair Jan Blalock
March 14, 2023**



**Sonoma County Commission on the
Status of Women
4th Street , March 1978**

Agenda

- Mission Statement
- Land Acknowledgement
- Projects
 - Voices of Sonoma County Women
 - Women's Recovery Response
 - COVID-19: Women and Families
 - Gender Equity
 - Spirit Awards
 - Radio Project: Women in the Situation Room
 - Reproductive Rights and Health
 - Junior Commission
- Partnerships

Mission Statement and Purpose

- Promote equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls
- Address issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County
- Advise County Board of Supervisors
- Meet monthly:
Second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm
575 Administration Dr, Ste 117C
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



Land Acknowledgment

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.

Voices of Sonoma County Women: 2019 - 2020

- Purpose: Gain a deeper understanding of the status of women in Sonoma County
- Collected Data:
 - Live “Listening Sessions”
 - In- person and online surveys (413 participants)
- Published report and distributed:
 - Board of Supervisors
 - Local elected officials
 - Sonoma County Office of Equity
 - Community organizations



Voices of Sonoma County Women: 2021 - 2022

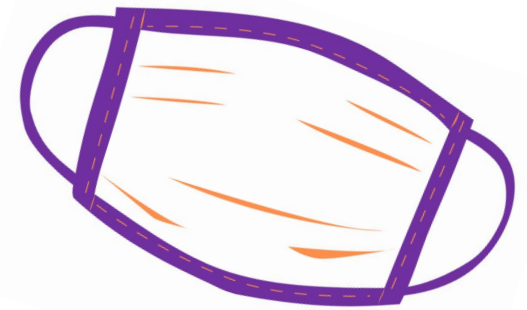
- Record and measure the pandemic's impact
- New survey focused on COVID-19 impact on Sonoma County women and girls
- We did not hold live Listening Sessions this year, but expanded our outreach and marketing, collecting over 800 survey responses through the end of 2021

Women's Recovery Response

- January 2022: Voices committee awarded grant through the Women's Economic Recovery Response, managed by the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
- Collaborating with Mount Saint Mary's Center for the Advancement of Women on **Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Sonoma County**
- Publish Date: March 2023
- Actively seeking funds to translate report to Spanish

COVID-19: Women and Families

- 2020 - 2021 Ad Hoc: 2 Teams
- Impact relating to childcare and structural food insecurity
- Team 1: Food Insecurity
 - Designed interview tool to survey the scope and breadth of structural food insecurity
 - Implemented in first supervisorial district
- Team 2: Affordable Childcare
 - Partnered with local organizations focused on this topic (e.g., First Five, 4 C's and Parent Voices)
 - Brought awareness, collaborated on panel discussions and sponsored events



Gender* Equity

- 2020 - 2021 Ad Hoc
- Issues of inequity and discrimination from 2020 Voices data
- Project Components:
 - Women & Family Resource Guide for Vital Services (website and handout)
 - Sonoma County Spirit Award
 - CEDAW resolution - UN treaty on gender equity for local governments



*** We include women, transgender, non-binary, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming persons in our understanding of *gender***

CSW Spirit Award 2022

- Launched 2021
- 2022 Theme: **A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats**
- 2022 5 Judges:
 - 2021 winners
 - Larkin O'Leary
 - Petaluma City Councilmember Dennis Pocekay
 - Alma Bowen
 - Liz Quiroz
 - Sebastopol Councilmember Neysa Hinton
- 5 winners chosen from over 25 nominees:
 - Dr Roam Romagnoli
 - Lisa Diaz McQuaid
 - Jasmine Palmer
 - Brigitte Mansell
 - Nadia Leal



CSW Spirit Award 2023

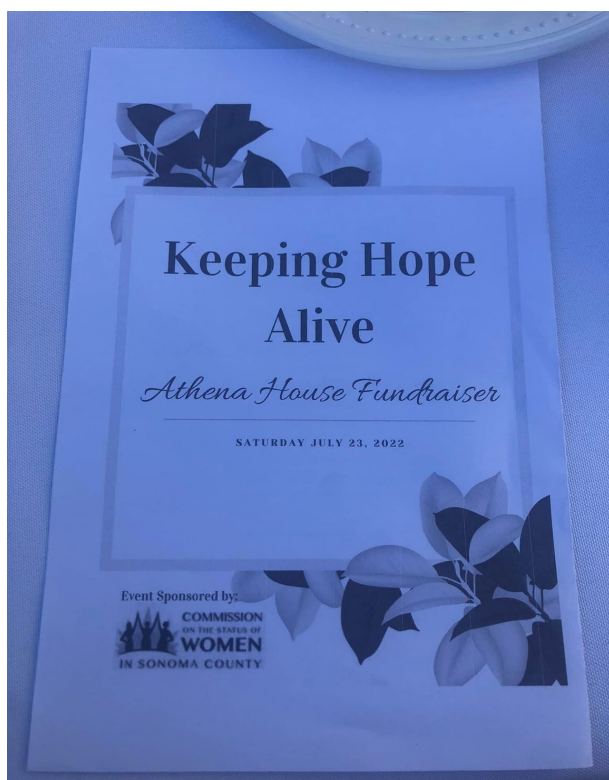
This year's Spirit Award theme is **Building Bridges, Forging Unity**

We are asking the community to nominate someone who :

- Actively builds bridges across divides of race, gender, class and politics to deepen empathy and understanding.
- 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.
- Leverages their own power, privilege, influence and/or position to lift up and amplify the voices of those in our community who are marginalized.
- Inspires others and sets a clear example of cultural humility and respect.

Radio Project: Women in the Situation Room

- For 2020 to 2021 the **CSW Radio Project**, “Women in the Situation Room,” hosted ten one-hour conversations with individuals and organizations, covering :
 - Voter registration and rights
 - Female veterans
 - Sexual abuse and assault
 - IPV and human trafficking
 - Mental health
 - Challenges faced by BIPOC women
 - Homelessness
 - Female elected officials in Sonoma County
 - Women’s History
- Conversations were held via Zoom and recordings were edited for radio
- Recordings were broadcast via KPCA streaming and on KPCA.fm



WOMEN IN THE SITUATION ROOM

"A Conversation on Human Trafficking"



Monday, January 18, 1:00pm
on the radio at 103.3 FM
or streaming at KPCA.fm



Women & Girls Reproductive Rights and Health

- The purpose of this 2022/23 ad hoc is to create a model to use in order to determine what information and services are available regarding their reproductive rights and health in Sonoma County.
- We are developing a survey instrument to be used with focus groups (e.g. schools, peers, family, clinics etc).
- We are collaborating with a Junior Commission ad hoc as focus group participants.
- In addition, we are preparing a summary of current laws that directly affects access to sex education, contraception and reproductive health services in schools and in the community.

Junior Commission on the Status of Women

- Mentorship to high school youth for future leadership roles in our community
- Term activities
 - Junior led round table discussions
 - Career panel
 - Previous panelists: diplomat, judge, journalist, marketing specialist, STEM engineer, activist, workers' compensation lawyer, vice mayor, and professor of geography
 - Community-based projects
 - Previous topics: include empowering women, human trafficking, relationship violence, and healthy mind and body
 - Volunteer activities
 - Mentor-led field trips





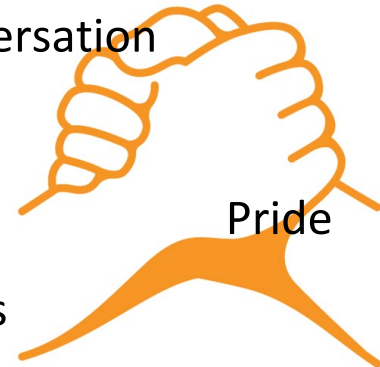
Liaising, Partnering, Collaborating

Organizations we Liaise with

- Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force
- CSW Legislative Committee
- Verity
- YWCA
- Association of California Commissions
- National Association of Commissions for Women and Girls
- Sonoma Impact 100
- National Women's History Alliance

Projects/events we have sponsored

- Athena House Fundraiser
- Verity Documentary "Survivors: Living Beyond Sexual Assault"
- League of Women Voters "Pro & Cons"
- Women in Conversation
- Parent Voices
- Sonoma County
- 4 C's Fundraisers





Thank you!

**We welcome your
questions and/or
comments!**

