

Women's Voices

Newsletter of the Stanislaus County Commission for Women Winter 2019

Message from our President

Dear Members and Friends of SCCW,

The Winter issue of our newsletter is always a pleasure as it announces the group of remarkable women who have made contributions to Stanislaus County. We had many extraordinary nominees making the final choices difficult. I want to thank all of our nominators for their submissions and the selection committee for their commitment in compiling this year's list of honorees. I look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, March 9th as we honor these exceptional women.

Each year the SCCW event honoring Outstanding Women is held in March, Women's History month. This year's event also marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Stanislaus County Commission for Women. I would like to invite all of the outstanding women of Stanislaus County to join us in celebrating this milestone.

Reflecting on our anniversary, I considered how much life has changed, or perhaps not changed, since 1979. As a high school graduate in 1979, I had few women in political positions as role models. In 1979 the 95th Congress included 20 women. Today we applaud the 127 women elected to the 116th Congress. Likewise, the first woman, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1981 and today three women grace the bench.

My mother, a single parent in 1979 joined other females who comprised 41% percent of the labor force but only earned 59% percent of a man's salary. Today as a working female I help to make up 57% percent of the workforce, yet on average women earn 82% of men's wages. Discrimination in the workplace has been significantly decreased through numerous acts of Congress and Supreme Court decisions, yet we all know too well the reality of the #MeToo movement. Five million families were headed by women in 1979 making up 40% percent of the families living in poverty. Today there are 8 million households headed by women, still comprising 40% percent of families living in poverty. "We've come a long way, baby", nevertheless we persist in claiming what is justly ours to have.

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Mission Statement:

Stanislaus County Commission for Women is committed to supporting a coordinated effort by concerned groups and individuals in Stanislaus County to more develop fully the potential of all women.

We support:

- Pro-Choice and reproductive Rights
- Gender pay equity
- Adequate funding for women and children's health issues and research
- Ending violence against women
- Adequate, safe and affordable child care and other child care issues
- Anti-discrimination based on sexual orientation

www.stanislauswomen.net

**Note our new e-mail address:
sccforwomen@gmail.com**

OUR GOALS:

- To promote an awareness of issues that concern women of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, economic backgrounds and beliefs.
- To promote knowledge of individual women's strengths and resources and to support women in the pursuit of their individual choices and goals.
- To validate and celebrate the achievements of women collectively and individually throughout Stanislaus County.
- To support legislation and programs that address the needs of all women and children in Stanislaus County.

Stanislaus County Commission for Women History

Were you in Modesto in 1979? If so, you may remember the founding of our organization. Among our "Founding Mothers" were Nina Zagaris, Georgia Anderson, Beverly Beavers, Adele Heyman, Susan Diamond, Ruth Simon, Virginia Bruch, and Yvonne Allen. These women recognized that only collective action could work to alleviate existing inequities for women in the workplace and at home.

One of their first decisions was to structure the SCCW as an independent entity and NOT seek recognition or funding from the Board of Supervisors, as many California women's commissions had done. In this way, we were established with complete independence and political freedom. Our Independence Day was July 1, 1979!

Over the years, the SCCW has supported numerous causes and events to support women. Here's a partial list:

- Equal Rights Amendment
- Suffragette Parade
- Family Planning
- City of Modesto Task Force on Childcare
- Take Back the Night
- Esto Broughton Events
- Women in Action Lobby Days

Beginning in 1980, Women's History Week has been celebrated by sponsoring the Outstanding Women recognition. Since that date, the recognition is held annually each March, with community members nominating women who have advanced women's issues in our county. In 1986, a recognition category for young women was added.

In 40 years, the SCCW has recognized:

- 394 Outstanding Women
- 55 Women of History
- 27 Living Pioneer Women
- 106 Outstanding Young Women

As we begin our next 40 years, join us and look forward to celebrating many more!

Message from Our President, continued:

There has been much progress over the past 40 years for women to celebrate, and with the growing presence of women in policy making positions, improvements of the economic and social status of women and their families continues to be promising. You can be sure that your membership and participation in organizations, like SCCW, who are advocating for women and children, has furthered these advances and will guarantee that women's voices continue to be heard.

See you March 9th!

Respectfully,
Jennie Sweeney
2018-20 President, Stanislaus County Commission for Women

***The Stanislaus County Commission for Women
announces the Outstanding Women for 2019***

Outstanding Women

Lindsey Bird
Karlha D. Davies
Patty Castillo Davis
Leng Power
Vielka Solano
Lise Talbott
Janice Vella

Outstanding Young Women

Carma Mize
Gabrielle Sotomayor

Woman of History

Alberta Martone

Woman Living Pioneer

Hanna Renning

Bette Belle Smith Award

Ann Veneman