

# Women's Voices

## Newsletter of the Stanislaus County Commission for Women Summer 2019

### *Message from our President*

Dear Members and Friends of SCCW,

Years ago I had the honor of dining with Christine King Farris, the sister of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She had recently written a children's book, *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* As a history teacher, I was understandably ecstatic about the opportunity to spend time with this great lady. I asked her what message I could bring to my students about her brother and her life's experiences. She told me to tell my students that her brother was a normal boy who came from a normal family. He wasn't a superhero or someone with unusual gifts. She wanted my students to know they could bring about change just as her brother did; through the passion to stand up against inequity and the courage to be heard when it seems everyone is against you. She wanted my students to know they are powerful.

I think her message is especially pertinent in today's political climate. It is easy to succumb to feeling powerless in the face of the Trump administration's attacks on the freedoms of so many people in our country. The list is long.

The latest attack on liberty is evidenced by recent legislation proposed and passed by states that target women's reproductive rights. Alabama, Georgia, Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, South Carolina, West Virginia, Florida and Texas have either passed or proposed laws in direct opposition to Roe v. Wade. Although many of the laws have been stalled in the courts these vicious attacks on women's reproductive rights have not lost momentum.

While reproductive rights hold high visibility at the present time, there are many other urgent issues important to empowering the lives of women and children. Please join us on July 25<sup>th</sup> to hear from our congressional representatives Cathleen Galgiani and Anna Caballero, both members of the Legislative Women's Caucus, and Kendra Harris the Executive Director of the California Commission for Women as they share current legislative priorities for women and children in California. In coming together, we intensify our power.

Warmly,  
Jennie

*2018-20 President, Stanislaus County Commission for Women*

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality... Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.* Dr. Martin Luther King



### 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](http://www.stanislauswomen.net)

**Open to the Public**  
**Please join us on our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**Stanislaus County Commission for Women's  
2019 Annual Elections & Special Presentation**

**Panel Discussion - Status of Women and Children**

**Invited:**  
**Cathleen Galgiani and Anna Caballero,**  
**local California State Senators**  
**Kendra Harris, Executive Director of California**  
**Commission on the Status of Women**  
***Topic: Legislation impacting women and children***

**When: Thursday, July 25, 2019, 5:30 p.m.**  
5:30 - Social  
6:00 - Short Business Meeting  
6:15 - Program

**Where: Mistlin Gallery, 1015 J Street, Modesto**  
Light refreshments will be served  
Drinks will be available

The event is open to all who are interested – women, men, members  
and non-members alike. There is no cost to attend this event.

RSVP to [sccforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:sccforwomen@gmail.com)

The SCCW is an independent, non-governmental organization  
that promotes within the community an awareness of issues  
that concern women and children. For more information, contact  
Jennie Sweeney, President, 209-404-4414 or [sccforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:sccforwomen@gmail.com)

**Nominations for 2019-21 SCCW Board Positions**  
**(to be voted on at Annual Meeting)**

**Secretary – Nancy Fisher**  
**Newsletter Editor – Jane Manley**  
**At large – Amanda Hughes, Theresa Spezzano**

**Ongoing Board Positions through 2020**

**President – Jennie Sweeney**  
**Vice President Membership – Ruhi Sheikh**  
**Vice President Community Relations – Gillian Wegener**  
**Vice President Program – Olga Castañeda**  
**Treasurer – Narinder Bahia**  
**Immediate Past President – Belinda Rolichcheck**  
**At large – Marian Martino, Laura Tarlo**  
**Ad Hoc Political Action – Jessica Self**

**Memberships – We Have News!**

**According to SCCW by-laws, dues are to be set and collected at the beginning of each fiscal year. 2019-20 dues are now set:**

**ZERO – yes, that's \$0.00!**

**In order to continue to support other women's groups in our county and provide scholarships, we will be asking for contributions to the SCCW on a quarterly basis, via our newsletter, Facebook page, and website. The SCCW is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization, ID #77-0097101. Your contributions are deductible as allowed by law.**

**Use the following form and please contribute TODAY!**



***Consider me a supporter of the SCCW!***

*Complete the information below and send to: SCCW, PO Box 4254, Modesto, CA 95352*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone to best reach you** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my contribution (circle one):**

**\$25**

**\$50**

**\$75**

**\$100**

**\$200**

☐ **My check is enclosed**

☐ **Charge my credit card**

☐ **VISA**

☐ **MasterCard**

☐ **American Express**

**Card number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Security code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Poet and SCCW Board Member Gillian Wegener wrote the following in response to the attacks on reproductive rights in states around the country.

**Response to those who think they have a say**

This body, my body,  
Is not your body  
Is not her body  
Is not their body  
Is not a body of facts  
You need to concern  
Yourself with, is not  
A body up for discussion,  
Up for dissection. This body,  
My body, her body, the body  
Even of your beloved belongs  
Not to you. Not to you does  
This body, does any body,  
Owe anything, not  
An explanation, not  
A justification, not  
A body of evidence  
For you to interrogate,  
To judge, not a body that needs  
The gavel of your opinion  
Bearing down on it. This body,  
My body, her body, our bodies,  
Belong to the hearts and souls  
And the thinking minds  
That walk individually  
In each body. And every  
Body gets to decide  
What she needs,  
What is right for her.  
Put that gavel away.  
We don't need your opinions,  
Your conniving legalities.  
You do not live in my body,  
Or her body, or any body  
Besides the one you inhabit,  
Besides the one for which  
You make your own decisions,  
As I will, as she will, as we will  
Make our own decisions,  
With no interference from you.

## **MEET OUR INVITED PANEL GUESTS FOR JULY 25<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Kendra Harris, Executive Director, California Commission on the Status of Women***

Kendra Harris has worked for over 15 years in government relations and public policy; with experience in both the government and non-profit sectors. A deep passion for helping those in need led to her serving as Public Affairs Officer for Child Action Inc., a non-profit organization focused on supporting children and their families by providing affordable child care and early education services. Here she managed public policy, communications and community relations activities. She delivered presentations and provided expert testimony on childcare issues to a variety of stakeholders in addition to representing Child Action before decision making bodies.

Kendra began her career as a Senate Fellow and served as a legislative consultant to members of the Senate and Assembly. The majority of her time was spent working on policy for a host of social justice centered non-profit organizations; most notably, as the policy manager for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV). Kendra spearheaded efforts to reinstate funding for domestic violence shelters after the Governor vetoed funding in 2009. Through a combination of media advocacy, grassroots organizing and political strategy, she successfully led a campaign that resulted in the restoration of \$16.3 million for shelters through special session legislation. Additionally, in 2010, she contributed to the full reinstatement of \$20.4 million to shelters through budget strategy, advocacy and negotiations.

Kendra is especially dedicated to policy, systems change and programmatic efforts involving educational equity, health and human services, the welfare of women and girls and social justice movements. She has lead teams, developed and executed fundraising strategies, supported executive board members and designed and implemented strategic advocacy plans. In addition, she has represented organizations to the media, government officials, coalition partners and the public.

Kendra is a native to southern California and studied at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She resides in Sacramento with her dog Bailey, whom she rescued almost 15 years ago.

### ***Senator Anna M. Caballero***

Senator Caballero was elected in November 2018 to the California State Senate to represent the 12th Senate District, which includes the Salinas Valley, San Benito County, Merced County and portions of Stanislaus, Madera and Fresno Counties.

Anna has a 30-year legacy of public service in her community. She received her undergraduate degree from UC San Diego, and her law degree from UCLA. After graduating law school she moved to Salinas to provide legal services to farmworkers. Anna then ran for Salinas City Council and served for seven years; where she focused on affordable housing, strengthening the business and commercial opportunities for growth, the redevelopment of downtown, and provided more parks and recreational space for families. Anna later became the first female Mayor of Salinas in 1998, as Mayor she raised private

funds for city libraries, along with putting a measure on the ballot to raise money for essential services during a state budget crisis.

Anna was first elected to the State Assembly in 2006, where she continued to focus on meeting the needs of local residents. She made it easier for farmers to utilize their land to build farmworker housing, while also facilitating funds to make sure her community had clean drinking water. She was also able to access much needed gang intervention funds to help reduce gang violence in the region, creating a partnership with the Highway Patrol and the Department of Justice. An advocate for education, she also voted to extend state student aid to undocumented students applying for citizenship.

From 2010 to 2016, Anna joined Governor Edmund G. Brown's cabinet as Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. Under Anna's leadership, 65 million dollars were allocated to build housing and provide services for homeless veterans and rural communities, while providing struggling families access to home refinancing assistance. During her time working with Governor Brown, Anna was the highest-ranking Latina in state government.

Anna's leadership has inspired generations of young leaders to work hard, and help build a strong community for the future. She has been a tireless advocate for families, farmers, veterans, workers, the disabled, seniors, and teachers. She is honored to serve as your state Senator.

### ***Senator Cathleen Galgiani***

Senator Cathleen Galgiani has served the people of California for over 13 years in elective office. Currently in her second term in the State Senate, she is one of only thirteen elected female Senators in the state. Elected to the California State Senate in 2012 and re-elected in 2016, she has also served in the State Assembly for 6 years.

Senator Galgiani currently chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee. She has been recognized as a leader in growing California's world-renown agricultural economy. Other committees she is a member of include the Senate committees on: Insurance, Business, Professions and Economic Development; Transportation and, Governmental Organization. In the Assembly, she also chaired the Agriculture Committee and served on the Committee on Higher Education, and the Select Committee on Biotech.

A member of the Delta Protection Commission appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Senator Galgiani has worked to protect and restore the overall environment and wildlife habitat of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta.

Prior to holding elective office, Senator Galgiani was a member of former First Lady Sharon Davis's staff, and she served on the staffs of Congressman John Garamendi during his tenure as Insurance Commissioner, former State Senator Patrick Johnston, and former Assemblymember Barbara Matthews as her Chief of Staff. Senator Galgiani is a trained physical therapy aide. Prior to her work in state government, she worked for eight years at San Joaquin General Hospital and Dameron Hospital in San Joaquin County helping patients recover from strokes, and other debilitating injuries and diseases.

## Legislative Updates

**Legislators are working hard to pass bills that enhance the lives of women and children. Below are a few coming up this year.**

- ***AB 378 (Limón)*** – Gives childcare providers the right to collectively bargain with the State of California and to advocate for the children and families they serve.
- ***SB 135 (Jackson)*** – Ensures that nearly all Californians who pay into the state's Paid Family Leave (PFL) program can use it without fear of job loss; that more newborns can receive individual at-home care for their first six months of life; and ensure that California's leave laws reflect the state's diverse, intergenerational family, and caregiving needs.
- ***AB 24 (Burke)*** – Enacts the Targeted Child Tax Credit, which would provide increased support for California families living in poverty.
- ***AB 196 (Gonzalez)*** – Ensures workers utilizing the state's Paid Family Leave (PFL) program can receive 100 percent wage replacement during the period of their leave.
- ***SB 174 (Leyva)*** – Addresses ongoing problems with the bifurcated rates within the Early Care and Education (ECE) system by establishing a single regionalized reimbursement rate system for child care, preschool, and early learning services.
- ***SB 321 (Mitchell)*** – Aligns CalWORKs Stage 1 childcare rules with all other subsidized child care programs in California, including Stage 2 and 3.
- ***AB 324 (Aguilar-Curry)*** – Creates guidelines for an Early Care and Education (ECE) professional development and retention system to strengthen, recruit, and retain the ECE workforce.
- ***SB 464 (Mitchell)*** – Recognizes and addresses clear inequities in pregnancy and birth outcomes for black women and children by requiring implicit bias training for all perinatal providers in hospitals and birthing clinics; also requires data collection by the Department of Public Health.
- ***AB 31 (Garcia)*** – Repeals the sales tax on menstrual products.
- ***AB 577 (Eggman)*** – Extends Medi-Cal postpartum care from 60 days to one year for women diagnosed with a maternal mental health disorder, ensuring no gap in coverage and maintaining continuity of care.
- ***SB 611 (Caballero)*** – Calls on the Governor's Office to establish the Master Plan for Aging's Housing Older Persons Effectively (HOPE) Task Force.
- ***AB 629 (Smith)*** – Creates parity within the California Victim Compensation Program for victims of human trafficking by allowing them to receive compensation for their direct economic losses.