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### *2003-2005 Commission Highlights*

14,585 guests visited  
the Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit

294 constituent cases served by  
one staff member and part-time intern

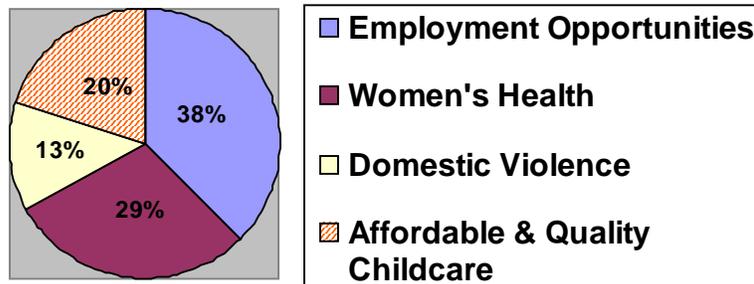
40,000 brochures designed specifically for the batterer  
were distributed

801 average hits on the Commission's web site per month

600 people currently receiving the bi-annual electronic-newsletter

### *Most Important Issues Facing Women Today*

The Governor's Commission for Women surveyed attendees at the 2003 Texas Conference for Women on issues concerning women. Of those who responded to the survey, the most important women's issues were: employment opportunities, women's health, affordable and quality childcare and domestic violence prevention.



## *Letter from the Chair*

On behalf of the Governor's Commission for Women, I am pleased to present the 2003-2005 Biennial Report. The report provides an overview of the important work of the Commission. During this term, we have promoted issues concerning Texas women and their families, reduced the incidence of domestic violence, provided resource information in response to constituent requests and highlighted the accomplishments of notable Texas women through the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

The Commission has actively worked to combat violence against women. A brochure specifically designed for the batterer was distributed to law enforcement agencies, churches, and to the corporate offices of J.C. Penney Company, Inc. and Frito-Lay, Inc. We also partnered with several local and state organizations and domestic violence shelters.

In an effort to promote women's wellness issues, the Commission supported the American Heart Association's Go Red Campaign and hosted a statewide breast cancer awareness event. During the Texas Round-Up, the Governor's Commission for Women sponsored free screenings, hosted speakers who addressed women's wellness issues and distributed general health information to more than 5,000 participants.

The Texas Women's Hall of Fame ceremony was held at the Texas State Capitol and four outstanding women were honored. The inductees' bios and photos will be on display at the Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit. Last year, nearly 15,000 guests visited the exhibit in Denton, Texas.

In addition, the Commission staff handled hundreds of constituent requests and the Commission web site has been completely redesigned to provide easier access for constituents and serves as an important resource for Texas women.

It has been an honor to serve as the chair of the Governor's Commission for Women. This has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience and I have made wonderful friends all over the state. We established the permanent Texas Women's Hall of Fame in Denton, introduced hundreds of women to the annual Texas Conference for Women and the Texas Round-Up, and touched communities all over the state dealing with domestic violence and women's wellness issues. I am grateful to Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry for the opportunity to advance the status of women throughout the State of Texas.



Patty Huffines  
Chair

## *Commission Members*

The Governor's Commission for Women promotes opportunities for Texas Women through outreach, education, research and referral services. The Commission also serves to advance the goals and initiatives of the Office of the Governor and the Office of the First Lady.

The Commission, which employs one full-time staff member, provides a wide range of services in a cost efficient manner. In the last few years, the Commission has responded to hundreds of constituent inquiries pertaining to women's issues, highlighted the accomplishments of notable Texas women, established a permanent exhibit to honor these women and launched numerous public awareness campaigns on issues concerning Texas women and their families.

Women comprise more than half of the population in Texas and the Perry Administration is firmly committed to promoting and advancing the personal and professional status of women.



*Patty Huffines, Chair*

Patty Huffines of Austin is the director of sales and marketing for Public Strategies, Inc., an international public-affairs firm. Previously, she spent several years with St. Edward's University, most recently serving as vice president of university relations. She was also director of development at Austin's Zachary Scott Theatre and worked as a sixth-grade math teacher. Extremely involved in the civic arena, Patty serves as a board member for the Austin Community Foundation, Long Center for the Performing Arts, Rise School, Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation and Leadership Austin. She received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with honors.



*Julie Straus, Co-Chair*

Julie Straus of San Antonio has provided government-relations consulting to corporate clients in Texas for over a decade. Previously, Julie worked for Union Pacific Corporation in Washington, D.C., the George Bush for President campaign, the White House and the U.S. Treasury Department. Her community involvement includes serving as a founding member of the San Antonio Children's Museum. She received a bachelor of arts in government from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

## *Commission Members*



*Keely Appleton*

Keely Appleton of Fort Worth is a community activist, group fitness instructor and image consultant. Keely serves as a board member for several organizations, including Cook Children’s Hospital and the Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M Club. She is a charter member of the National Cowgirl Museum, and a member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students and the American Quarter Horse Association. Keely has facilitated special projects such as state chair for the Laura Bush Breast Cancer Awareness event, and has served as co-chair for civic events such as “Puttin’ on the Pink,” benefiting the Doris Kupferle Breast Cancer Center, the Charles Goodnight Gala and the Fort Worth Zoo Ball. She received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Texas A&M University.



*Suzanne Azoulay*

Suzanne Azoulay of Dallas worked in El Paso as a high-school and college professor of French and English as a second language for more than twenty years. During her teaching career, Suzanne was involved in the El Paso Foreign Language Teachers Collaborative, the Texas Foreign Language Association and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. She was also active within the community, serving as a board member for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Impact Programs of Excellence and the Seymour Edwards Foundation - J.P. Morgan Chase Bank of El Paso. She received a master of arts degree in linguistics from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a bachelor of arts degree in French from New Jersey’s Montclair State University.



*Stacey Bell*

Stacey Bell of Austin is managing partner of Bellina Stone Company. Previously, Stacey worked as vice president of marketing for the Kentucky Lottery Corporation, and marketing director for Louisiana’s Casino Rouge and Missouri’s President’s Casino. Stacey is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Town Lake Chapter of The Links, Inc. She has also served as co-chair of the Lone Star Girl Scout Council Luncheon. She received an undergraduate degree from the University of Houston.

## *Commission Members*



*Sue Chiang*

Sue Chiang is the marketing director for Chiang, Patel & Yerby, Inc., a multi-state engineering firm headquartered in Dallas. A retired teacher, Sue was selected by Who's Who Among America's Teachers as an educator who "made a difference in the life of the students." Today, she's involved in many community activities, including the Fort Bend Education Foundation, Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation, Sugar Land Planning and Zoning, and the Fort Bend County Judge Advisory Committee. Sue is a graduate of Leadership 2000 and a finalist for Fort Bend Women of the Year in 2004. She received a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Houston.



*Lisa de la Garza*

Lisa de la Garza is a Harlingen native, and an owner and partner of Bahnman Realty, Inc. She currently serves as president of the Harlingen Lions Club, and is past president of the Harlingen Lioness Club, the Harlingen Jaycee Women's Club and Beta Epsilon Nu. Lisa has held various leadership positions with Harlingen Communities in Schools, Harlingen Arts and Entertainment Membership Drive and the Junior League of Harlingen. She attended college at the University of Texas - Pan American.



*Christie Leedy*

Dr. Christie Leedy is co-owner of Abilene Dental: The Centers for Implant Dentistry and Cosmetic Dentistry. Christie serves as a board member of the 17th District Dental Society and the Texas Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Within her community, Christie is involved in the Junior Achievement Board of Directors, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and the Junior League of Abilene. Christie has been recognized by the Small Business Salute, the Women in Business Salute and was named West Texas Business Woman of the Month. Christie attended college at Tarleton State University and Western Texas College. She received a doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

## *Commission Members*



*Lisa Lucero*

Lisa Lucero of Austin is a public-affairs representative for Exxon Mobil Corporation. Previously, she spent more than twelve years working for the State of Texas, the Texas Senate, the Governor's Office, the Texas Racing Commission and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Lisa is involved in a variety of community organizations, including the University of Texas Minority Student Scholarship Program, the Girl Scouts of America, the Austin Symphony, Ballet Austin, the Austin Lyric Opera and St. Austin's Catholic Church. She attended college at the University of Texas at Austin.



*Tresa Rockwell*

Tresa Rockwell of El Paso is a field marketing manager for Red Bull North America. Tresa serves as president of the Rotary Club of El Paso, past president of the Junior League of El Paso and member of Las Palmas Hospital Women's Advisory Board, Advertising Federation of El Paso, Executive Forum of El Paso, Leadership El Paso and Texas Lyceum Association. She has served on the executive committee of the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and El Paso's public television station, KCOS. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.



*Jimmy Westcott*

Jimmy Westcott of Dallas is a full-time volunteer and community activist. Jimmy was the first woman to serve as board chair of The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas, and board chair of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. She has chaired events for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Center for Non-Profit Management. Jimmy serves as a board member for United Way, Children's Health Services of Texas, the Child Care Group, the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Center for Performing Arts Advisory Council. She has received many recognitions for her work, including the United Way Above and Beyond Award, the Dallas for Children Children's Champion Award and Campfire USA's "On Behalf of Kids" Award.

## *Commission Members*



*Connie Weeks*

Connie Weeks is a freelance educational consultant and artist. Previously, Connie worked as an art teacher in Round Rock and Austin. Her volunteer work includes fundraising for hospice efforts and Alzheimer's disease, serving as treasurer for the Beacon State Fund and volunteering with Tarrytown United Methodist Church. Connie also served as a member of the 2003 Governor's Inaugural Committee. She received an undergraduate degree from Baylor University and a graduate degree from Hardin Simmons University.



*Mamie Salazar-Harper*

Mamie Salazar-Harper of El Paso is president and owner of Fiesta Rent To Own. Mamie is the chairwoman of the Texas Association of Rental Agencies, and member of the Sam Houston Historical Society and the Friends of the Governor's Mansion. She serves as an advisory board member for State National Bank of West Texas and board member of the Sierra-Providence Health Network. Mamie attended college at the University of Phoenix and the University of Texas at El Paso.



*Lesley Guthrie, Executive Director*

Lesley Guthrie of Austin has served as the executive director of the Governor's Commission for Women since 2001. Prior to joining the Office of the Governor, Lesley worked for State Representative and Congressman Sam Johnson, the University of Texas System, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Vignette Corporation. Lesley is a member of the Women in Engineering Program Advisory Council at The University of Texas at Austin, Women's Advisory Council for the Heart Hospital of Austin and the Texas Business Alliance to End Domestic Violence. She has also served as a board member for the Young Women's Alliance, Young Women's Alliance Foundation and Executive Women in Texas Government. Lesley received a bachelor's degree in government at the University of Texas at Austin.

## *State Agency Council*

The State Agency Council was established in 1983 by Texas Governor Mark White to support the goals of the Governor's Commission for Women. The Council provides its state agency representatives with an opportunity for professional development, community service and a forum to discuss women's issues. The Council also offers volunteer assistance at Commission events, such as the Texas Women's Hall of Fame ceremony, the Texas Conference for Women and the Texas Round-Up.

Members of the State Agency Council are appointed by the director of each state agency at the Governor's request. Each agency appoints one member and one alternate to serve a two-year term; currently, the Council consists of 75 members and 70 alternates. The executive director of the Governor's Commission for Women appoints an Executive Board from the Council's membership.

### **State Agency Council Projects**

#### **Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards**

The Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards were created by the State Agency Council in 1984 to honor women who have made significant contributions to the State of Texas through their work in state government. The awards are open to individuals who do not hold elected positions. Nominations are submitted by state agency directors and recipients are chosen by an independent selection committee. More than 220 guests attended a formal awards luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin on March 18, 2005. Texas Supreme Court Justice Harriet O'Neill was the keynote speaker.

#### **Operation UPLINK**

The State Agency Council members donated \$225 to Operation UPLINK. The program provides free pre-paid phone cards to active-duty military personnel and hospitalized veterans. Thanks to organizations like the State Agency Council, more than 4 million prepaid phone cards have been distributed.

#### **Project Graduation**

Sponsored by the Center for Child Protection, "Project Graduation" provides "Life Kits" for teenagers leaving the foster care system. The kits include basic household items in order to help teenagers who are starting out on their own. The State Agency Council donated more than \$600 worth of in-kind goods. Items included: desk lamps, dishes, irons, pillows, toasters, clock radios, towels and measuring cups.

## *State Agency Council*

### **State Agency Council Speakers**

The State Agency Council holds monthly meetings on a variety of topics concerning women and state employees. The 2003-2005 speakers were:

#### **2003**

Tim Schaffner, Rupert and Associates Certified Public Accountants  
Cecile Young, Budget, Planning and Policy, Office of the Governor  
Gay Erwin, Strategic Partnerships, Inc.  
Lisa Benford, Outstanding Women in Texas Government Recipient and  
Founder of “Lisa’s Hope Chest”  
Ann Kaminstein, Domestic Violence Initiative  
Patricia Shipton, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor  
Audrey Selden, Texas Department of Insurance  
Susan Shaw, Center for Childcare Excellence  
Crystal Heinz, SafePlace

#### **2004**

Nancy Baker Jones, Author of “Capitol Women: Texas Female Legislators”  
Tracye McDaniel, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of the Governor  
Major Rhonda Fleming, Texas Department of Public Safety  
Jeff Johannigman, Johannigman & Associates  
Peggy Hubble, Vollmer Public Relations  
Laurie Dalton White, Texas Conference for Women  
Lt. Colonel Mac McGuire, McGuire & Associates Consulting

#### **2005**

Marty McCartt, Texas Round-Up  
Greg Davidson, Executive Clerk, Office of the Governor  
Ann Fry, Humor University (Speaker, Trainer, and Coach)  
Sandra Martin, Center for Child Protection  
Dr. Nancy Oelklaus, The Success Accelerator  
Rebecca Powers, IMPACT Austin  
Renee Trudeau, Career and Small Business Coach  
Jim Comer, Comer Communications  
Angela English, Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities  
Susan Weddington, One Star Foundation

## *State Agency Council*

### **Executive Board**



*Gabriela Klein, Chair*

Gabriela Klein currently serves as chair of the Council and has also held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. She works as a Financial Analyst for the Texas Public Finance Authority. Gabriela has been employed with the Authority since September 1995. She attended Texas A&M University at Kingsville and Austin Community College.



*Shelley Harris-Curtsinger, Vice-Chair*

Shelley Harris-Curtsinger has been a member of the Council since 1995 and currently serves as vice-chair. She is employed at the Texas Racing Commission where she serves as the chief financial officer. Shelley has also been a member of the Executive Women in Texas Government since 1995. She graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a degree in home economics.



*Avis M. O'Reilly, Membership Director*

Avis M. O'Reilly has served the State Agency Council for ten years and is the Council's membership director. As a certified public accountant, she is the field tax operations manager for the Texas Workforce Commission's Tax Department. She graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in accounting.

## *State Agency Council*



*Raette Smith Hearne, Treasurer*

Raette Smith Hearne is the assistant commissioner for administrative services at the Texas Department of Agriculture. Her volunteer activities include the American Cancer Society and the Breast Cancer Resource Center of Austin. She received a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing from the University of North Texas and a master's of business administration from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. She also is a graduate of the Intermediate School of Banking at Texas Tech University.



*Carolyn Mezger, Secretary*

Carolyn Mezger has been a member of the Council since 1993. She is employed by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services-Division for Blind Services as the supervisor of the vocational diagnostic unit, overseeing four of the divisions's statewide programs. Carolyn has been employed in the Division for Blind Services for thirty-four years. She graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in sociology and certification in Criminology.



*Mary Baldeschwiler, Past Chair*

Mary Baldeschwiler has served on the State Agency Council for 18 years. She currently holds the position of past chair and has served as chair, vice-chair and treasurer. She has been employed for twenty-eight years at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission where she has served in various capacities as an auditor, staff services officer and purchaser. Mary has served on the board of Executive Women in Texas Government in 2004 and has served as president of the Zonta Club of Austin. She graduated from St. Edward's University with a degree in accounting.

## *State Agency Council*

### **Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award Recipients**

*"I would like to thank the council for its continued work in providing opportunities for professional and personal growth to the women in state government."*

*- Terri Dollar Woods, 2005 Recipient*



#### *Outstanding Management Award*

Edwina P. Carrington is the executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, where she has implemented institutional changes to the housing tax credit program and initiated a partnership with Fannie Mae to reach first-time homebuyers. Edwina has served in leadership positions with the Austin Housing Finance Corporation and the Texas Housing Finance Corporation. She also serves as a board member for the YMCA of Austin, the Austin Community College Foundation, the Austin Arts Commission and the Austin Chamber Music Center.



#### *Outstanding Professional Development Award*

Sue Shahan is director for internal services of the Texas Engineering Extension Service. The third-highest ranking person within the agency, Sue directs a staff responsible for providing all human resource, information technology, training and marketing support for seven divisions and more than 1,000 employees. A State of Texas employee for 36 years, Sue has served as an inspiration to other employees with her hard work, dedication and resulting legendary rise through the ranks. Previously, she held a variety of positions with different state agencies, including serving as director of programs, administration and management with MHMR.

## *State Agency Council*



### *Outstanding Contributions to Other Women in State Government Award*

Shirley Jones Welch is a state interpretive program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A 25-year department veteran, Shirley was the first female park manager and the first female city police officer of Castroville. Throughout her career, Shirley has been noted for her desire to help others, especially women, in both their professional and personal pursuits. Says a colleague of hers, “She has given me the confidence that I can achieve whatever goal I set my mind to, work-related or otherwise.”



### *Outstanding Community Involvement Award*

Velia Saenz Williams is the division director for administrative programs with the Commission on State Emergency Communications. Velia’s 25 years with the State of Texas helped launch her social conscience into action. Her notable community contributions include tutoring underprivileged elementary students, educating the Hispanic community about Girl Scouts of America, serving as president of the Austin Chapter of the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas and serving as a board member for many other non-profit organizations. A cancer survivor, Velia volunteers with various cancer organizations.



### *Outstanding Leadership Award*

Terri Dollar Woods is the deputy director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. In 1995, Terri became Texas’ first female supervising jail inspector, where she determined county jail facilities’ compliance with Texas Minimum Jail Standards, briefed county officials on her findings and provided continuing guidance and technical assistance. Terri has served as a community supervision officer in Amarillo, a corrections accreditation assistant in Florida, and worked with the Sumner County Sheriff and Court Services Offices in Kansas.

## *Beacon State Fund*

The Beacon State Fund was established in 1996 as a non-profit organization designed to educate and improve the civic participation of Texas citizens by promoting community leadership and volunteerism. The fund provides financial assistance to the Commission for its projects. The board meets annually.



*Jan O'Neill, President*

Jan O'Neill is the vice president of the George W. Bush Childhood Home, Inc. Board. She was a member of the Governor's Commission for Women in Austin from 1994–2000, serving as the co-chair. She served both as chair and co-chair of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Since 1992, she has served on the board of the Gladney Fund in Fort Worth and the Midland Gladney Development Board. She graduated from Texas Christian University and received a master's degree in education from the College of Notre Dame.



*Brooke Rollins, Vice President*

Brooke Rollins is the president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Previously, she served as deputy general counsel and ethics advisor in the Office of the Governor, and later as policy director. Brooke spent several years as a litigator with Hughes & Luce, L.L.P., and completed a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in agriculture development and the University of Texas School of Law.



*Lynn Box, Secretary*

Lynn Box is the program administrator for Continuing Education's Third Age University at The University of Texas at Austin. Previously, Lynn worked in the Office of Special Services for The University of Texas System. Lynn was appointed to the Women's Commission from 1970 to 1972. Lynn received a degree in secondary education from The University of Texas at Austin.



*Connie Weeks, Treasurer*

Connie Weeks is a freelance educational consultant and artist. Previously, Connie worked as an art teacher in Round Rock and Austin. Her volunteer work includes fundraising for hospice efforts and Alzheimer's disease, and volunteering at Tarrytown United Methodist Church. Connie also served as a member of the 2003 Governor's Inaugural Committee. She received an undergraduate degree from Baylor University and a graduate degree from Hardin Simmons University.



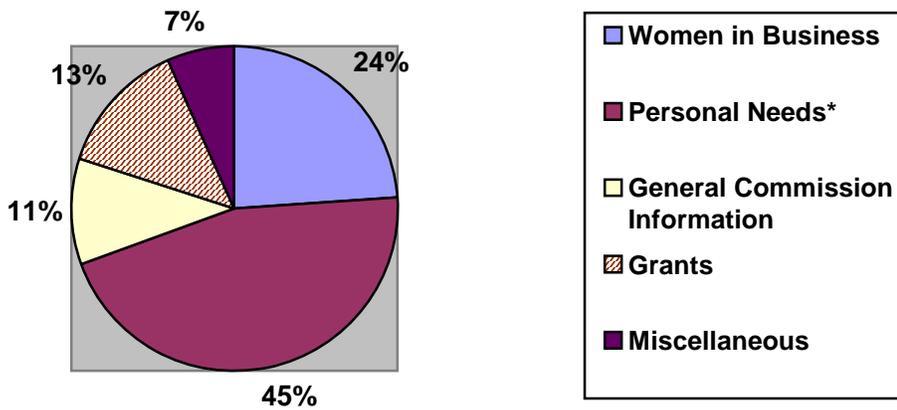
*Communication  
and Outreach*

*“Bless you for all of your help and contacts. I genuinely appreciate your time, ideas, and interest. Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
-constituent, Garland, Texas*

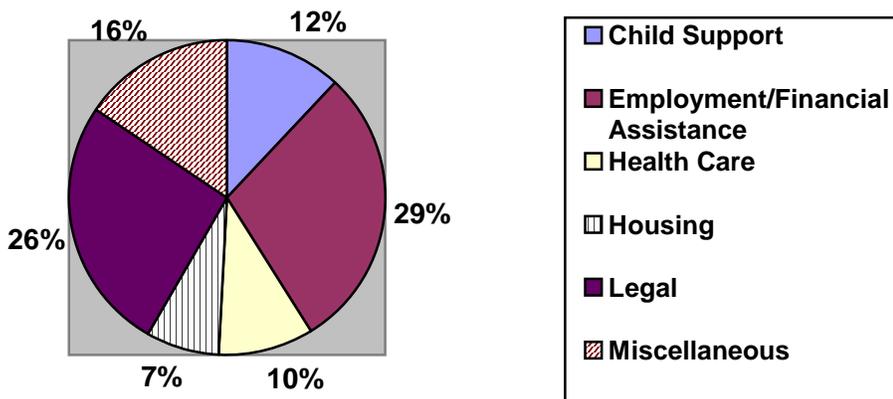
**Constituent Needs**

The Governor’s Commission for Women provides valuable assistance and referral information to Texas residents. Between January 2003 and July 2005, the Commission received 294 requests. The Executive Director and one part-time intern provided referrals, information, advice and research to constituents. The following graphs provide an overview of the types of inquiries the Commission received.

**Constituent Casework 2003-2005**



**\*Personal Needs Breakdown**



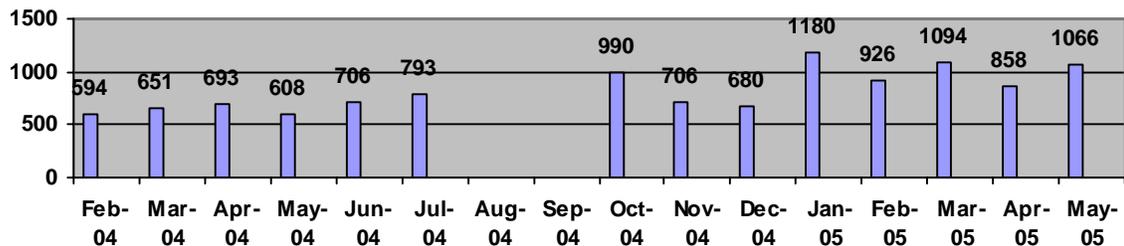
## Website Development

In order to better serve the needs of Texas women, the Governor's Commission for Women created an enhanced web-based information structure. The Commission employed a freelance writer to perform a comprehensive reorganization and rewrite of the web site content.

The web site was reorganized to communicate the voice of the Commission and make it easier to understand and use. Keywords and phrases were analyzed to ensure that the Commission's web site would show up in the top rankings of the search engine results. The web site address was submitted to several free directories in order to increase the number of outside links to the Commission's page. Other women's organizations were asked if they would post the Commission link on their web site. As a result, major search engines such as Google, Yahoo and MSN all list the Commission as one of the top search results.

Since the launch of the redesigned web site, the average number of hits has increased. Over this 14 month span, the average was 801 people. In an effort to increase the number of hits the web site receives, more than 6,000 highlighters were distributed at the 2005 Texas Conference for Women with the Commission's web address.

Average Number of Hits Per Month



Note: August and September 2004 figures were unavailable.

## Commission Newsletter

The Governor's Commission for Women created a biannual newsletter to improve communication between constituents, organizations and other women's groups. Currently, more than 600 people receive the electronic newsletter which is published in the spring and fall. The newsletter highlights upcoming events and provides information on issues of concern to women.



*Community Events  
and Projects*

*“I am deeply honored to be inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame  
and to join a group of exceptional and accomplished Texas women.”  
-Hon. Susan Combs, Agriculture Commissioner, 2004 Hall of Fame Inductee*

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **2004 Texas Conference for Women**

Hosted by Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry, the Texas Conference for Women provides a forum for some of our country's rising female stars in the fields of international and national politics, health, media, business, finance and personal development to share their wisdom with thousands of Texas women. The 2004 Texas Conference for Women drew more than 6,000 women from across the State of Texas.

As a sponsoring organization for the 2004 Texas Conference for Women, the Commission hosted an information booth in the exhibit hall and sponsored several tables at the keynote luncheon. The purpose of the booth was to inform the public about the activities and goals of the Governor's Commission for Women. More than 500 people came to the booth for information.

In addition, scholarships were provided to local women's commissions to attend the conference. The following Commissions were represented:

- The Austin Commission for Women
- The Fort Worth Commission on the Status of Women
- The Laredo Commission for Women
- The Wichita Falls Mayor's Commission on Human Needs
- The Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas
- The San Antonio's Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame**

The year 2004 marked the Commission's 20th anniversary of honoring Texas women through the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. In 1984, the Governor's Commission for Women established the Hall of Fame to honor the State's most accomplished women. Inductees include first ladies, teachers, astronauts, and athletes. More than 250 people attended the induction ceremony on October 18, 2004.

#### **Judges**

Denise Davis-Austin  
Hon. Vilma Luna-Corpus Christi  
Laurie Dalton White - San Antonio

Hon. Harriet O'Neill-Austin  
Luis J. Saenz-Austin

*"I was totally impressed with [the] induction ceremony. Thank you for the memories I will cherish for a lifetime."*

*-Mary Meyers Rosenfield, 2004 Texas Women's Hall of Fame inductee*

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame Permanent Exhibit**

Since its establishment in 2003, the Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit has hosted nearly 15,000 visitors. Located on the campus of Texas Woman's University in Denton, the permanent exhibit features biographies and photographs of the 118 inductees. The exhibit also hosts an interactive computer kiosk with archived award ceremony videos and interviews with honorees.



The Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit.



Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry with the 2004 Hall of Fame Inductees.

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame 2004 Inductee**



*The Honorable Susan Combs  
Austin  
Public Service*

Susan Combs, a fourth-generation rancher and Texan, was sworn into office in 1999 as the state's tenth commissioner of agriculture and the first woman to hold this position in the state's history. She was re-elected to the position in 2002.

Commissioner Combs received a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and is a former assistant district attorney. She served in the Texas Legislature from 1993 to 1996, writing the state's major private property rights legislation and was a member of the House Committees on Natural Resources and Criminal Jurisprudence. In 1996, she joined the staff of United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and worked as the senator's state director.

Commissioner Combs currently serves on the boards of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Wildlife Association and Texas Natural Resources Foundation. She serves on the national advisory board for Texas Wild and on the board of directors of the Texas Beef Council and the Texas Production Credit Association. She also is a member of the Texas Farm Bureau and the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas.

In November 2000, Commissioner Combs received the Texas Tech University Gerald Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Award, which honors those who have made significant contributions to agriculture. In 2002, she was named Progressive Farmer's Leader of the Year in Texas Agriculture. In 2004, Commissioner Combs was recognized at the Time - ABC News Summit on Obesity as one of six national heroes in the fight against obesity, and for her work to promote better nutrition in Texas schools.

Commissioner Combs still maintains a cow-calf operation in Brewster County on the ranch established by her great-grandfather over a century ago.

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame 2004 Inductee**



*Trinidad Mendenhall*  
*Houston*  
*Business*

In 1972, Trinidad “Trini” Mendenhall and her late husband co-founded Fiesta Mart, Inc., a 50-store retail grocery chain in the Houston, Austin and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. With over 6,500 employees, she serves as vice chair of Fiesta Mart’s board of directors.

Ms. Mendenhall is the president of Fulton Shopping Center, a real-estate investment company located throughout Houston. She also serves as vice president of First Quality Fruit & Produce Company, which brings fruits and vegetables from different parts of the world for sales and distribution in the Houston area.

In 1997, Ms. Mendenhall fulfilled her philanthropic dream and created the Trini and O.C. Mendenhall Foundation, which empowers women, minorities and children. In September 2002, she established the Mendenhall Asthma Research Laboratory at Baylor’s Biology of Inflammation Center in memory of her husband.

Ms. Mendenhall serves on the advisory board of Economic Development Stakeholders, the board of trustees for the Baylor College of Medicine and is vice chair of the Capital Campaign Committee at Baylor. Ms. Mendenhall is a member of the board of trustees for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston Development Board, the University of St. Thomas and the Houston Ballet. In addition, Ms. Mendenhall serves as a member of the University of Houston’s Center for Mexican American Studies Excellence Endowment Campaign Committee, and the United Way’s Alexis de Tocqueville Society and Women’s Initiative.

Ms. Mendenhall’s deep commitment to children and the Houston community is reflected in her work on the board of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. She served as board chair from 2002 to 2004. In addition, she serves on Catholic Charities’ nominating, executive and finance committees.

Ms. Mendenhall is a recipient of the Gaia Award presented by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Woman of Distinction Award by the Crohn’s Colitis Foundation of America, the Willie Velasquez Hispanic Excellence Award, and was named one of Houston’s 2000 Millennium Makers by the Evin Thayer Foundation. In 2001, she was recognized as a Star Among Us by the Alliance for Multicultural Community Services.

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame 2004 Inductee**



*Sheryl Swoopes*  
*Houston*  
*Physical Fitness/Athletics*

Sheryl Swoopes has stormed onto the sports scene as one of the nation's foremost athletes. She has received tremendous recognition both on and off the court.

Ms. Swoopes' career has been defined by record-breaking accomplishments. After graduating from Texas Tech University, she was named the National Player of the Year by eight different organizations, including USA Today and Sports Illustrated. In addition, she was honored with the Babe Zaharis Female Amateur Athlete of the Year Award, an ESPY for Best College Female Basketball Player and Team Player of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

Ms. Swoopes has made history as the first player to sign with the Women's National Basketball Association. As the star forward on the Houston Comets, she has led her team to three consecutive championships. She has been named to the All-Women's National Basketball Association First Team four times. A three-time Olympian, Ms. Swoopes earned gold medals at the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games. Acting as an ambassador of goodwill, Ms. Swoopes represented the United States in China during the 2002 World Championship Games.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Swoopes has been honored with numerous awards for her achievements. She has been inducted into the Texas Tech University Hall of Fame, voted the Women's National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player and Defensive Player of the Year, received an ESPY for Female Professional Basketball Player of the Year, named one of Houston's Living Legends, and was the first female athlete to have a Nike shoe named for her: the "Air Swoopes."

Ms. Swoopes' achievements extend off the court as well. Inspired by her mother, she educates and empowers children through the Sheryl Swoopes Foundation for Youth. She also serves on the board of judges for the Talbot's Charitable Foundation's Women's Scholarship Fund, which awards \$100,000 in college scholarships to women seeking an undergraduate degree later in life. In addition, she co-authored a book entitled *Bounce Back*, in which she shares her personal story of triumph and encourages others to bounce back from adversity.

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Texas Women's Hall of Fame 2004 Inductee**



*Mary Meyers Rosenfield  
El Campo  
Health/Health Research*

Mary Meyers Rosenfield was born in 1910 in Lubcha, Russia. Mary and her family immigrated to the United States in 1911 and settled in El Campo, Texas, the following year.

Mrs. Rosenfield's first volunteer service was at the tender age of six, when she knitted blankets for the troops fighting during World War I. Her volunteerism continued into her teens, when she aided in the establishment of the first library in El Campo. As a young girl she joined Hadassah, a volunteer women's charitable organization.

Mrs. Rosenfield graduated from El Campo High School in 1929 and furthered her education at the College of Industrial Arts in Denton, Texas. While in school, she studied art and design.

After giving birth to her daughter, Rita Sue, who was mentally challenged, Mrs. Rosenfield devoted her life to the care and education of Texas children and adults with mental retardation. Rita Sue was the catalyst for a new approach to education in El Campo. In 1949, she organized the first home school for children with mental retardation. In El Campo, she sponsored doctors from Methodist Hospital of Houston, offering free diagnosis for children with mental retardation.

Mrs. Rosenfield became the founding president of the Association of Retarded Citizens in El Campo and served on their state board. She lobbied the local public school system to hire the first special-education teacher. In 1952, Mrs. Rosenfield established the Opportunity Center, a workshop for adults with mental retardation, offering a means for both employment and independence. She also started a summer program for children with mental retardation that included swimming, arts and crafts.

In the 1950s, Mrs. Rosenfield became concerned that the needs of adults with mental retardation were not being met. She worked to help establish the Richmond State School, which opened in 1968. The school offers residents a full range of therapies, medical care, workshops and choices that foster independence in a safe community with a home-like environment.

Mrs. Rosenfield still remains an active citizen of El Campo and, in January of 2004, was named Citizen of the Year by the El Campo Chamber of Commerce.

## *Community Events and Projects*

### **Women's Wellness**

Helping women adopt a healthy lifestyle is a key priority for the Governor's Commission for Women. The Commission works to provide Texas women with the information and tools they need to fight health predators, stay strong and know when to put themselves first. The following health issues were addressed during the 2003-2005 Commission term: breast cancer, heart disease and overcoming a sedentary lifestyle.

### **Breast Cancer Awareness**

"12,980 cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Texas alone."  
-austinwoman magazine, 2004

Each year the Governor's Commission for Women hosts a breast cancer awareness event in conjunction with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The October 5, 2004 event marked the ninth year the ceremony has been hosted by the Commission. The goal of Breast Cancer Awareness Month is to encourage women 40 and over to receive a mammogram and clinical breast examinations at regular intervals. The Governor has proclaimed the month of October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and various events are held throughout the State during the month to raise awareness.

The Community Women's Wellness Center has hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Ceremony for three years. It is an expansion of the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing Breast Cancer Screening Project. The center provides comprehensive breast and cervical cancer screening for Austin/Travis County women who are 40 and older with limited incomes. The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation contract with the center for screening programs.

In 2004, the Breast Cancer Awareness Ceremony presented keynote speakers Texas First Lady Anita Perry, Dr. Eduardo Sanchez-Commissioner of State Health Services, and breast cancer survivor, Ronnie Palmer. A reception was hosted afterwards for breast cancer survivors and guests. The hosting organizations included: The Texas Department of State Health Services, American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Austin Affiliate, Texas Cancer Council, Governor's Commission for Women, and in-kind sponsor, H-E-B. Local television stations, RUMBO, Fox 7, KXAN 36 and Univision covered the event.

## *Women's Wellness*

### **Heart Disease Prevention**

“More than 500,000 women die each year from heart disease.”  
-American Heart Association

Heart disease is the number one killer of women. Because of this startling fact, the American Heart Association has encouraged the State of Texas to examine the potential barriers to timely and proper diagnosis of heart disease in women, and to consider developing a comprehensive women's health campaign involving media, outreach and education. They have also launched the Go Red for Women campaign in order to increase awareness.

In addition, the Heart Hospital of Austin has created the “Her Heart” campaign and a women's advisory council. The Governor's Commission for Women is a member of the Council which is comprised of prominent local women who will help educate and raise awareness about heart health and women's risk of heart disease. In the Fall of 2006, the Council plans to host a series of events to educate Texas women about the disease.

### **Overcoming a Sedentary Lifestyle: Texas Round-Up 2005**

The Governor's Commission for Women sponsored a health education tent at the 2nd annual Texas Round-Up on April 30, 2005. The Commission offered free health screenings to the public and hosted speakers on a variety of health-related subjects. In addition, the Commission distributed nearly 1,000 pedometers.

Several free screenings were offered including: body fat analysis, glucose and cholesterol screening, and immunizations. The American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association and the Texas Department of Agriculture provided information and answered questions.

Dr. Steven Hotze, founder of the Hotze Health and Wellness Center, spoke to the crowd concerning hormones and how they affect our health and happiness. Dr. Jane Chihal gave tips on how to prevent and treat osteoporosis. Mellanie True Hills was invited to speak on the issue of staying healthy in a speed-obsessed world and share her personal experience with heart disease. Tamara Cobbins, a point guard for the University of Texas at Austin Women's Basketball Team, was also a guest at the health education tent.

Launched by Governor Perry in 2004, the Texas Round-Up program encourages all Texans to incorporate physical activity and healthy choices into their daily lives. The 2005 Texas Round-Up generated substantial results:

- 10,556 participants completed the 6-week training program
- 737 cities participated from across the state of Texas
- 5,000 registrants signed up for the 10K events and Kid's Mile

# *Domestic Violence*

*“I am so impressed with the work that you are doing for women who are victims of domestic violence. Please continue to keep up the great work in the State of Texas.”*

*-Dr. Lafils Rivers, Jacksonville, FL*

## *Domestic Violence*

### **Collaborative Partnerships**

#### **Texas Business Alliance**

In 2003, the Commission became a member of the Texas Business Alliance. The alliance is a collaboration of Texas businesses providing avenues and resources to address domestic violence in the workplace. The workplace is typically the only time a victim is away from the batterer's control and having access to information and help at work is crucial. Of these abused victims, 75% are targeted at work by the abuser (U.S. Dept. of Labor). Two Texas women die every week at the hands of their partners. In 2003, 140 Texas women were killed by their partners, an increase from 117 in 2002. Several of these women were killed at their workplace. A Texas Council on Family Violence survey (2002) revealed that three out of four Texans reported that they have been abused or know someone who has been abused.

#### **Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence**

The Governor's Commission for Women was the first women's commission in the United States to join the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. This organization is a leading force in the fight against intimate partner violence and its effects on the workforce. The Alliance offers extensive research, policy knowledge and issue expertise to the business community, including training, program guidance and crisis consultation-with programs designed to make the workplace safe and to prevent intimate partner violence from impacting the workplace.

#### **Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative**

The Commission is a state team member for the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative. This is part of a nationwide effort to address and prevent teen dating violence. One in three female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Patterns of dating violence behavior often start early and carry through into adult relationships. The American Bar Association is sponsoring the initiative and will host a Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week February 6-10, 2006. In addition, the initiative created toolkits for students to use. The toolkits include: booklets with prevention recommendations aimed at teens, parents, school personnel, the medical profession, members of the law enforcement community and other community crime prevention organizations; wallet cards with national and local emergency information; posters for high school hallways, offices and classrooms; a "Teacher's Guide" containing suggestions for classroom discussions and projects that not only address teen dating violence, but coincide with every classroom's curriculum; and a disk that contains the recommendation materials in a format that can be reproduced.

## *Domestic Violence*

### **Interpersonal Violence Prevention Collaborative**

The Interpersonal Violence Prevention Collaborative was formed through a 2003 grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Key stakeholders include the Governor's Commission for Women, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Texas Council on Family Violence, Office of the Attorney General and the Texas Department of State Health Services. The purpose of the coalition is to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. This coalition produced a strategic plan which will serve as a blueprint for action in Texas. Three primary issue areas were identified for the prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking: (1) Resources, Research and Data, (2) Communities, Systems, and Infrastructure, and (3) Public Awareness.

### **Shelter Visits**

In April of 2004, members of the Governor's Commission for Women conducted on-site and telephone interviews with domestic violence shelters across the State of Texas. Each commissioner conducted the same interview and asked questions regarding clients served, visible trends, challenges and the shelter's community partners.

Of the shelters surveyed, clients are typically women under the age of 40 with low incomes. Shelters are seeing a rise in: victim fatality rates, teen date rape, teen pregnancy, mental health issues, undocumented women from Central America, and women of different cultures who have not acknowledged domestic violence in the past, but who are now coming forward.

Successful initiatives of shelters across the state include border patrol agent training, batterer intervention and prevention programs, on-site daycare facilities, and middle/high school education on domestic violence. The directors also spoke of challenges such as childcare needs for women in the shelters, job opportunities in a border economy, retaining qualified staff and serving multiple counties with drastically different needs.

The Commission presented their findings to Texas First Lady Anita Perry at the May 2004 Commission meeting.

## **Batterer Brochures**

In 2003, the Governor's Commission for Women surveyed 1,139 law enforcement agencies to assess the prevalence of domestic violence and ascertain the resources needed within each department. Those surveyed included city police, county sheriffs and large campus police departments. The agencies cited a need for materials to give to the batterer when responding to a disturbance.

In response to these findings, the Governor's Commission for Women printed 20,000 brochures and launched a pilot project in Collin and Hidalgo Counties. The project was a collaborative effort between the Collin County Council on Family Violence, the Texas Council on Family Violence and the Commission.

The brochure is currently being used by batterer intervention prevention programs, in addition to:

- 15 faith communities in Collin and Dallas counties
- All Collin County Community College campuses
- 30% of law enforcement agencies in Collin County
- Jails
- 8 social service agencies
- 2 crisis response teams
- 2 hospitals

The Plano Chamber of Commerce, JC Penney and Frito Lay's corporate offices also agreed to help distribute the brochures.

In the Fall of 2005, the Commission produced an additional 25,000 brochures. The brochures were distributed to the 1,139 law enforcement agencies state-wide that participated in the initial survey. These agencies also received a copy of the survey's findings, which are available on the Commission website at:

[www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/women/work/violence/action#](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/women/work/violence/action#)



# *Economic Development*

*“Many thanks for your kindness in helping to promote and support American Business Women Association in the Houston and surrounding area. We appreciate the support of the Governor’s Commission for Women.”*

*-Monika Miura, Secretary, Houston Area Council of the American Business Women Association*

## **Governor's Small Business Summits**

The Governor's Small Business Summits are a series of educational seminars designed to help equip small business owners with the knowledge and tools they need to be successful. The summits provide experienced business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs an opportunity to receive help securing start-up or growth capital, learn how to qualify for tax credits and find out about bidding opportunities with Fortune 500 companies. The Governor's Commission for Women is a sponsor of the summits.

The first summit was held in El Paso on June 15, 2005. The event drew more than 600 people and Commissioner Mamie Salazar-Harper did several television and radio spots, provided the welcome and introduced one of the speakers. The Governor plans to host summits in the following Texas cities: Edinburg, Tyler, Lubbock, Dallas, Houston and Austin.

## **The American Business Women's Association Conference**

The Governor's Commission for Women supports numerous women's organizations throughout the State of Texas. At the American Business Women's Day Celebration, sponsored by the Houston Area Association, Commissioner Sue Chiang represented the Governor's Commission for Women and provided a few informal remarks.

## *Special Thanks*

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Texas Cancer Council  
Texas Conference for Women  
Texas Council on Family Violence  
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