

Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2020  
5:30 pm  
Via Zoom



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## LEBANON COUNTY Commission for Women

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Attendance: Jody Lazorcik, Emmily Longenecker, Beth Wise, Brittany Hilton, Alissa Perrotto, Renata Williams, Maine Keith, Yesi de la Torre Matos, Nicole Mauer, Jo Ellen Litz, Angela Shea, Becky Witherite, Maribel Gonazalez, Jennifer Bower, Amanda Davis-Buie

### 1. Call to Order - Ali Perrotto

- a. Moment for Mother's Day - Wishing that everyone had a great mothers day! Ali shared the quote "To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power. Or the climbing, falling colors of a rainbow." - Maya Angelou
- b. Discussion - Ida B. Wells, Ahmaud Arbery, and Race Violence in America
  - i. Links to material to review before meeting: [Ida B. Wells Awarded Posthumous Pulitzer Prize for Lynching Investigations](#), [Ahmaud Arbery Shooting: A Timeline of the Case](#), [Stirling K Brown video reflecting on Ahmaud Arbery](#)
  - ii. Thoughts from the discussion:
    1. Alarming that these types of acts are still occurring in our society.
    2. How can anyone feel so much hatred of someone that they feel that they need to hurt someone?
    3. How can people in a place of power or authority not feel the need to do the right thing.
    4. Working to be careful about having these hard conversations from a place of privilege and not feeling like we have the right to have the conversation.
    5. We need everyone's voice. Not just those voices of those that are being acted against. Always use your voice, it is powerful, it helps everyone.
    6. The Ahmaud Arbery Shooting felt crazy that he was in his neighborhood doing something that he should be safe doing.
    7. Interesting that this is one of the more diverse groups in our community.
    8. There are still many deep rooted reasons our society is still seeing acts like this. See the struggle of taking responsibility for the situation or worry that they will hurt someone, so people try to save face. Listen when people express that they are having a problem, don't dismiss it.
    9. Accepting that many people in our community have family that is alive that have experienced oppression.
    10. If these conversations do make you uncomfortable, sometimes the best place to start is figuring out why.
    11. Accept that there is a problem!
    12. The uncomfortableness is no comparison to how it must feel to have the fear of something happening to you or someone you love.

13. Stepping beyond the facebook share, the thoughts or prayers can be as simple as making a donation, starting a conversation with a group of people, checking in with friends or neighbors who are people of color.
14. It feels good to have the conversation here where the space feels safe.
15. Media will do whatever sells or makes the biggest splash. Maybe without all of the facts. Such as with the COVID-19 and saying that minorities are a stronger carrier, but not looking at the facts as to the living situation that these minorities are living in.
16. When you look at geography and places (mountains and rivers etc) where places are named something that is not racially correct.
17. Sometimes the role of a white person in a conversation is amplifying the voice of someone else especially the voice of someone with color.
18. Take your voice outside of this circle, maybe around someone that might not have understanding.

2. Commission Action items:

- a. Secretary Report: Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2020 meeting. (Emmily) Motion to approve by Becky Witherite, 2nd by Jody, all in favor.
- b. Treasurer Report - only change is the check for Michelle Shuff which still needs to be signed. Jody will stop by Angie's office tomorrow to sign the check.

3. Committee Action Items and Updates:

- a. Commission Chair Updates- Ali
  - i. Thank you to the grants committee for navigating grant review and communication during COVID quarantine! Your efforts are much appreciated!
- b. Glass Slipper
  - i. We have been in contact with our school liaisons. Some have reported that they are hoping to hold some type of prom event in the summer others are not sure.
  - ii. The committee recommends staying in touch with our liaisons and if any of the schools do end up having prom, sending the money at that time for the prom ticket. For any schools that do not reschedule their prom, we recommend keeping that money in the account and possibly considering giving extra tickets at next year's event which can be decided at that point in time.
- c. Hall of Fame - Becky
  - i. Our event was rescheduled – new tentative date Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 Stone Ridge Poplar Run. We will confirm this date in July.. August 26<sup>th</sup> is the 100 year anniversary of 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, providing women the right to vote! What a fabulous date to celebrate our local hidden heroes!
    - The count is currently 202 people.
    - We are still looking for and accepting sponsors! We have asked for each of you to track down and secure one sponsor, since this is the only fundraiser the commission has. This allows us to give out grants and support things like girls on the run. Deadline is 7/15, so there is still time. We need each of you to help out!
    - We need to get your RSVP for the event. We have not heard from all of you, and we need your support.
    - Since the Hall of Fame's inception, Alicia Richards has graciously served as our Master of Ceremony. For this reason, we would like to honor her

dedication to our organization in a special way. Due to her involvement in various organizations connected to the battle against breast cancer, we would like to donate to the PA Breast Cancer Coalition in her honor. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the PA Breast Cancer Coalition and write Alicia Richards in the memo. (Your donation is tax deductible.) The checks received to date will be deposited by the organization. On the day of the event, a large check will be presented to her, as a surprise Checks can be mailed to Beth Wise at 123 North Zinns Mill Road, Lebanon, Pa. 17042. Checks can be sent up until the week before the event. Thank you for your consideration.

- We watched the video for Christina Davis who was nominated by Amanda and is her mother!

d. Nominating Committee - Donna

- i. I hope to have a new member to introduce to everyone when we return in August.

e. Grants Committee - Nikki

- i. We had 3 applicants adding up to about \$6,000 with about \$4,000 to award.
- ii. When the committee met again, it was realized that the grants would not work with our current COVID-19 situation. Nikki reached out to the applicants to see if they would like to make updates or withdraw their application.
  1. Communities in Schools asked for \$1,468 and withdrew their application
  2. The girl scouts are unsure if they will be able to hold camp this year so their grant is on hold.
  3. DVI requested \$3,600 for a project in Creating Zen.
- iii. Committee recommendation is to fund half of the DVI request which would fund them for one cycle of their program which would be \$1,800 for the year.
- iv. Please see Womens Commission Grant Recommendations 2020 document in the meeting folder for May 13, 2020.
- v. Great job to the committee for working through this!
- vi. Motion to approve the committee recommendation by Becky Witherite and second by Jody Lazorcik, all in favor.
- vii. Nikki will reach out to DVI for a letter of funding and forward to Angie for payment.

f. Public Relations & Education - Amanda & Ann

- i. Hello Ladies! We do not have any new information for this month. The public relations committee has continued to increase the Lebanon County Women's Commission presence and provide information to the members and the public. Our goal continues to be to spread information about self-love, self-care, triumphs of women, and information that motivates, inspires, and educates. The public relations committee has continued to share post daily including *Self-Care Sundays, Motivational Mondays, Tough Talk Tuesdays, Wellness Wednesdays, True Tale Thursdays, and Fearless Fridays*. The committee is also continuing with Lebanon's Finest Females and are still looking for submissions! So please send us a Lebanon County Lady who deserves a nice shout out/recognition for her work.

- ii. For *Know Your Women's Commission* – thank you Ali, Donna, Maribel, Emmily, and Jodi for sending us your bio! We would like the members of the commission to email us a picture and write-up about herself so we can share it through the *Know Your Women's Commission* thread. Thank you!
  - iii. There have been people reaching out to the Women's commission via messenger and Facebook with comments of how to get in touch with the commission with the courthouse being shut down.
- 4. Grand Mothered Item Discussion
  - a. Maine asked how Girls on the Run has been funded in the past. Girls on the Run is a program that is "Grand-Mothered" into the budget. Other items that fall into this category are glass slipper, junior achievement and excellence in education program. In the past Laurie Funk helped to remind the commission when we need to make the payments to Girls on the Run. Maine has volunteered to take that role with Laurie not being on the commission.
  - b. August is usually a dinner meeting with the commission to share a meal together and talk and catch up. As we get closer to august, and we know what is happening with the restrictions, Ali will be in touch with our plan.
- 5. Good of the Order
  - a. Brittany Hilton shared that it is Foster Care Awareness Month. Especially during this time. Lebanon County is always looking for foster homes, donation or help.
- 6. Adjournment
  - a. Motion by Yesi and second by Brittany