

OCCSW // Empowering Women
Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women

Who we are and what we do

Empowering women since 1995

OCCSW History

- Established by the Board of County Commissioners in 1995
- Represents the “particular interests and concerns of all the women of Okaloosa County”
- Works to improve the “social, economic and public environment”



OCCSW Mission

- Eliminate barriers to achievement for women through research, education and communication
- Recognize and honor women who have made significant contributions to Okaloosa County
- Empower women and girls to “realize their fullest potential and make their maximum contribution to Okaloosa County”

OCCSW: Who we are

- Twenty-one permanent county residents
 - Five appointed as each County Commissioner's District Representative
 - Five appointed as each County Commissioner's At Large representative
 - One representative each from eleven county women's organizations
- All volunteers, serving without pay

Member Organizations

- American Association of University Women*
- American Business Women's Association*
- Daughter of the American Revolution
- Junior League
- League of Women Voters*
- National Organization for Women*
- NWFSC Women's Resource Center
- Shelter House
- Women's Council of Realtors
- [vacancy]

OCCSW: What we do

- Advocate for Okaloosa County women
- Sponsor and maintain Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame
- Partner with NWFSC to sponsor special activities during Women's History Month
- Partner with *JobsPlus* to get county residents back into the workforce

Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame

- Annually honors outstanding county women past and present
 - 78 women inducted from 1995-2011
- Recognizes women who make significant contributions and quality-of-life improvements
- Nominations accepted May 1st – July 15th
- Induction and reception held every August in conjunction with Women's Equality Day

Other OCCSW Initiatives

- Speakers Bureau: Provides presentations on a wide variety of topics for civic groups, classes and other organizations
- Women's Wall of Honor: Recognizes worthy county women at UWF, Emerald Coast Campus, FWB
- Suit Up to Move Up*: Provides appropriate clothing for women and men trying to move back into the workforce

OCCSW: Okaloosa County's “go to” women’s organization

- Recognized by the Board of Commissioners of Okaloosa County
- Represents the diversity of women in Okaloosa County
- Possesses demonstrated knowledge of and significant level of concern for women
- Represents majority of Okaloosa County’s women’s groups

For More Information

- Chair: Shirley Pigott, chair@occsww.org
- Vice Chair: Valerie McLaughlin, vicechair@occsww.org
- Secretary: Mary Blackwell, secretary@occsww.org
- Treasurer: Amy McBride, treasurer@occsww.org
- Historian: Jeanne Rief, historian@occsww.org
- Website: <http://www.occsww.org/index.html>