

# *Indiana Commission for Women*

**Annual Report**  
**In fulfillment of the requirements of IC 4-23-25-7(15)**

**2005-2006**



## **About the Commission**

The Indiana Commission for Women is a bi-partisan advisory commission of fourteen appointed members from across the state. Established in 1992 and enacted as a State Commission in 1996, the ICW is symbolic of Indiana's commitment to improving the quality of life for women and families.

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the Indiana Commission for Women is to enhance lives of Indiana women and their families; to address their concerns; and to promote justice, fairness, and equality of resources and services.

## **Our Website**

[www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw)

# ICW Commissioners 2005-2006

The ICW Commissioners are, by statute, bi-partisan and are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tempore.

Senator Katie Wolf, Chair *	Melissa C. Martin
Rep. Vaneta Becker, Evansville	Teresa Jeter-Newburn*
Jane Blessing, Trafalgar	Joanne Sanders, Indianapolis*
Linda K. Bloom, Ft. Wayne	Senator Vi Simpson, Bloomington
Virginia Calvin, EdD, So Bend	Gazella Summitt, Vincennes*
Senator Sue Landske, Cedar Lake	Sharon Walker, Evansville*
Rep. Linda Lawson, Hammond	Ann Windley, Seymour

**\* Terms ended 06/30/05**

**Terms began 07/01/05**

Janie Craig Chenault, Bedford	Amy McQueen, Shelbyville
Andrea Heslin Smiley, Indpls.	Patzetta Trice, Indpls.
Melissa C. Martin, re-appointed and named Chair	

## **Ex-Officio Member**

Anita Samuel, Governor Mitch Daniel's Liaison

## **ICW Staff**

Sharon Langlotz, Executive Director

## **2006 Part Time Assistant**

Phyllis Behrends

## ICW Advisory Board Members

The ICW Advisory Board is comprised of past Commissioners and interested women who, through their experience and insight, support and advise the Commission on projects and initiatives.

Rep. Terri Austin, Anderson

Judy Singleton, Indianapolis

Jade Cooney, Patriot

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Greenwood

Susan Crosby, Roachdale/ Wash. DC

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Indianapolis

Michelle Crouch, Indianapolis

Rep. Peggy Welch, Bloomington

Jan Ellis, Bloomington

Mitzi Witchger, Noblesville

Sandi Huddleston, Franklin

Ruth Vignati, Indianapolis

Pat Keiffner, Indianapolis

Sandra D. Leek, Indianapolis

## **Indiana Commission for Women Annual Report 2005-2006**

2005 was a year of change for the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) as both the Executive Director and Program Director resigned in January and March, respectively, and the Commission body experienced a 40% change as terms ended and new Commissioners were appointed. A new Director was named in May, 2005 and five new Commissioners and a new Chair were appointed in late July.

A fall retreat in October, 2005 provided the opportunity to re-group, review the mission and goals and to develop plans for addressing issues and reaching those goals during the remainder of 2005 and for 2006.

Much effort in the balance of 2005 and in 2006 was invested in developing partnerships and collaborative agreements with other organizations and state entities who are stakeholders in efforts to improve the quality of life for Indiana women and their families. Combining efforts and funding to maximize impact and avoid duplication is an unwritten mandate in ICW's mission.

### ***Accomplishments***

#### *I. Status of Indiana Women Project:*

- The ICW's Status of Indiana Women report, scheduled for release in the fall of 2006. This report will contain data to help legislators and policymakers in developing and revising legislation and program initiatives. The project is being done by a Governor's Fellow on a rotation with the ICW.
- On a more grassroots level, this report (in its current format) is used by a number of women's organizations in Indiana and has been reproduced and distributed by them as well as linked to the ICW from their websites.
- This report will also be used by the Commission in determining areas on which to concentrate efforts for then next two years.

#### *II. Indiana's Salute to Women: The Annual Torchbearer Awards*

- The 2005 Torchbearer award even was held on November 17, 2005 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. With Lt. Governor Skillman as the keynote speaker, the ICW hosted 365 guests and presented twenty four awards to outstanding Hoosier women.
- The 2006 Torchbearer gala will be held January 23, 2007 at the Conseco Fieldhouse entry pavilion.
- In January the ICW director traveled to Hammond for a special Torchbearer presentation ceremony for Judge Diane Kavidias Schneider who was unable to attend the event in November. Commissioners Senator Landske and Representative Lawson arranged for this special event which was attended by more than 40 people and press from local news stations and newspapers.

- Plans are to partner with the Indiana State Library Historical Bureau and the Indiana Women's History Association to have the biographies of all Torchbearer Award winners listed on the Historical Bureau's website as noteworthy women of Indiana. Once the listing is in place, letters will be sent to all Torchbearers and a press release will be issued.

### III. *House Enrolled Act 1123 Sexual Assault Standards Certification Board*

- In July, 2006 legislation placed the new Sexual Assault Standards Certification Board (SASCB) into ICW statute. While a stand-alone board, the SASCB will be supported by the ICW staff and the director serves, by statute, as chair of the new board. The role of this new board is to:
  - a) Develop standards for certification of advocates
  - b) Set fees that cover the costs for the certification process
  - c) Adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 (adoption of administrative rules) to implement this section
  - d) Administer the sexual assault victims assistance account
  - e) Certify sexual assault victim advocates to provide advocacy services
- The first meeting and orientation session of the SASC Board was held in November, 2006.

### IV. *Collaboration with Partner Groups and State Entities*

When the ICW collaborates and participates in events with partner groups and non-profits, Commissioners and the Director are representing both the ICW and the State of Indiana, demonstrating Indiana's commitment to the quality of life for women and their families. For this reason the ICW believes that outreach and partnership with many groups, and participation with those group's activities is an important role of the ICW and its director.

In 2005 and 2006 the ICW collaborated with a number of **non-profits** and state entities in regard to issues impacting Indiana women and their families. Non-profit groups include AAUW, ABWA, BPW, NAWBO, Indy Business Women Connect, AWBO of Lafayette, Women Work!, Indiana Women's History Association, the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, and the Sisters of Providence who host an annual women's leadership seminar for women in western Indiana.

Coordination with **state agencies** includes: Indiana Department of Health's Office of Women's Health, Workforce Development, ICJI Victim's Assistance Division, Commission on the Status of Hispanic/Latino Affairs, the Indiana State Library's Historical Bureau, and the Indiana Department of Administration's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Division. The ICW Director is on the advisory board of the Department of Health's Office of Women's Health

**U.S. Department of State and the Intercultural Center of Indianapolis:**

The ICW has been designated as the primary women's group to meet with visiting foreign delegations: The U.S. Department of State frequently hosts delegations from around the world which visit cities and universities around the country generally with targeted agendas such as local governance, media/journalism, citizenship, etc. The International Center of Indianapolis acts as host to these delegations and invites the ICW to meet with visiting groups when appropriate. In 2005 – 06 the ICW met with delegations from Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam.

**Health Related Groups Including the Indiana Breast Care Alliance:**

In October 2005, the ICW co-sponsored the Indiana Breast Care Alliance's Illumination night at the Arts Garden. ICW Director was a speaker and presented the governor's proclamation. In October 2006, the ICW will again co-host the event and Chair Melissa Martin, representing the Governor's office, will speak at the event.

The ICW holds a seat on the Indiana Department of Health's Office of Women's Health. The focus of this office, and of First Lady Cheri Daniels, is women's heart health. The ICW director attends advisory board meetings, and participated in the First Lady's Heart Walk on August 12, 2006.

**State Organization of Business and Professional Women (BPW):**

In April, 2006 the ICW co-hosted an event for Wage Equity Day at the Statehouse. Sponsored by the state Business and Professional Women's organization, this event is held annually to celebrate the day that working women's wages equalize with their male counterparts. This event featured nationally known author and economist, Dr. Evelyn Murphy, economist, author of the new book *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What to Do About It*.

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Groups and Coalitions:**

The ICW Director has developed relationships and communicates regularly with ICJI, INCASA (Indiana Coalition against Sexual Violence) and ICADV (Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence). The ICW Director is a member of and regularly attends Domestic Violence Network of Greater Indianapolis (DVNGI) advocate meetings. DVNGI also holds conferences geared toward employers regarding the impact of domestic violence in the workplace and security measures.

- The ICW Director attended INCASA's annual conference in May and will attend ICADV's annual conference in October, 2006.
- In preparation for taking on board chair responsibilities for the new Sexual Assault standards Certification Board in October, 2006, ICW Director Langlotz completed sexual assault advocates training in August, 2006.

**National Association of Commissions for Women:**

ICW is a member of the National Association of Commissions for Women, and the ICW director attended the national conference in Lincoln, Nebraska in July 2006. The director communicates regularly with Commission directors in other states in regard to projects and focus issues.

### **Women's Commissions in Indiana:**

The ICW has reached out to and is in regular communication with the other Women's Commissions and bureaus in Indiana:

- Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women
- Gary Commission on the Status of Women
- Fort Wayne Women's Bureau
- Mishawaka status on the Commission for Women
- Region Women Project, representing women in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties

In June, 2006 Director was one of four featured panelists at the Region Women Initiative Summit at Valparaiso University. The panel was moderated by nationally known economist and commentator, Dr. Julianne Malveaux. The Region Women Initiative is associated with the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council.

### **Indiana Women's History Association and the Indiana State Library's Historical Bureau:**

In March 2006, the ICW co-hosted the Indiana Women's History Association annual conference at the Indiana War Memorial. The keynote speaker was (ret) Lt. General US Marine Corps Carol A. Mutter, the first woman to achieve this position in the US Military. Lt. General Mutter is currently chairing a national committee studying the role of women in the military.

### *V. Grant Awards*

The ICW is not in a position to regularly grant funds, however in February, 2006 the Commissioners voted to award a \$10,000 one-time grant to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). The start date of the grant was July 1, 2006. The ICADV membership is comprised of representatives from domestic violence programs throughout Indiana. The ICADV has established criteria for the statewide distribution of these emergency transportation funds. As a supporting partner of the project, the Commission for Women will be provided with an accounting of the funds, including the number of requests, amounts of awards and areas receiving emergency funds.

This grant will help shelters across the state address the transportation needs of victims including transportation to emergency shelter and resources, relocation to a safe environment and will help reunite victims with their support systems.

### *VI. Young Women and Credit Card Debt*

In response to media reports on bankruptcy among young people, the Commissioners requested research on the statistics and trends of young women and the growing burden of debt. A briefing report was prepared and five action steps were determined.



*VII. Press Releases and Governor's Proclamations*

- Governor's proclamation recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Indiana
- Governor's proclamation recognizing March as Women's History Month in Indiana.
- Press release in December 2005 announcing Indiana's 2005 Torchbearer Award winners.
- Press release in March, 2006 recognizing March as Women's History Month in Indiana with individualized releases containing individual Commissioner's names sent to home town newspapers.
- Press release on July 25, 2006 announcing the ICW's award of \$10,000 to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence for emergency transportation funding.
- Press release on July 28, 2006 announcing the participation of the ICW at the National Association of Commissions for Women in Lincoln, Nebraska.

*VII. Development of a Speakers Bureau and / Speaker's Notes*

An important part of the work of the ICW is to reach out to women in Indiana with information. In 2006 the ICW created a speaker's bureau with speaker's notes on the following topics:

- pay equity
- the status of women in Indiana
- the top 10 issues facing Indiana Women
- the "sandwich generation" – survival skills for women
- Women's history month; important women in US and Indiana history

Commissioners and the Director can use these presentations at events or organization meetings in their communities. Speaker's notes, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and brochures are provided by the ICW staff.