

Charleston Women March Onward (CWMO)

Meeting Notes

APRIL 19, 2017

Observer: Barbara Fry

The April 19, 2017 Charleston Women March Onward (CWMO) was held at the Mount Pleasant Regional Library. There were 18 in attendance

Highlights from the meeting included:

Barbara Fry welcomed the group.

Quest Speaker was **Eme Crawford**, Director of Advocacy for WREN who drove down from Columbia to attend.

Lori Feehan lead a discussion of “Little and Big Victories” individuals have experienced since beginning the march. **Leslie Bennett Gandy** spoke of being inspired to get to know the work of Dr. Kahn at the [Shifa Clinic](#), as well as meeting some of the women there and volunteering. **Joan Zaleski** said was touched when her children thanked her for being so engaged and working so hard for their future (Note: Other comments are posted to the CWMO Facebook page). Cheryl Pitts spoke about changes at Fox News and the departure of Bill O’Reilly.

There was an overall agreement that whether it be postcard parties, committee work, rally conversations, or just broadening personal knowledge, getting to know and working with one another was very beneficial.

Featured Speaker - Eme Crawford explained how the Women’s Rights Empowerment Network (WREN) works to advance the health, economic well- being, and rights of South Carolina women, girls, and their families. They do this primarily by advocating for policies and laws that will improve women’s lives; educating the public on these issues to inspire action; empowering people, businesses and organizations through community conversations, training and mobilization; and building coalitions with organizations and businesses with complimenting motives (see the agenda for the recent *Women in the Workforce Summit* that several members of CWMO attended).

Ms. Crawford addressed the current state of working women in South Carolina and how inequality of pay due to gender as well as ethnicity is such a determinant of continued distress. She reviewed some of the statistics in SC regarding the treatment of women. She also walked us through the legislative process and gave an update on 3 bills currently moving through.

Committee updates: *Karen Byko* reported on the progress of the Healthcare & Reproductive Rights Committee (see her notes in CWMO Facebook Files). *Carol Degnen* reported that the Immigration Committee is now looking at putting together an internet video to try to put a human face on the community of people and their supporters who are dealing with the current U.S. policy. *Mary Ellen Raphael and Cheryl Pitts* spoke on the current concerns of the Environment Committee and provided updates on marches being held.

Open Discussion: There was discussion some growing pains of the group and how group engagement with the Facebook page could be improved. Other discussion involved whether or not Facebook Action Calls should be backed up with separate emails; how better to get Events posted to the calendar; and how to keep our membership engaged for the long term...Any comments or suggestions can be sent to *Barbara Fry* directly or posted for comment on our [Facebook page](#).

Moving Forwards: The next CWMO Meeting TBD (likely the week of May 15th)⁴ and other events were posted

Ongoing ...CWMO Committee Meetings; [Indivisible Charleston Google Calendar](#); [League of Women Voters](#); Ideas Into Action.

