

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners are volunteers from across the state who have experience working toward improving the status of women. Commissioner appointments are made by the Governor, the Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives, the Vermont Senate Committee on Committees, and the Democratic and Republican parties. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

Chair: Marcia Merrill ❖ *Jericho*
Gretchen Bailey ❖ *South Burlington*
Lynn Batchelor ❖ *Derby Line*
Eileen Boland ❖ *Wheelock*
Carol Buchdahl ❖ *Saxtons River*
Charlotte Dennett ❖ *Cambridge*
Laine Dunham ❖ *Manchester*
Ruth Finn ❖ *Barre*
Cathy Frey ❖ *Barre*
Jennie Gartner ❖ *Rutland*
Susan Hudson ❖ *Montpelier*
Nancy E. LaVarnway ❖ *Northfield*
Danielle Martel ❖ *St. Albans*
Melinda Moulton ❖ *Huntington*
Colin Ryan ❖ *South Burlington*
Kerry Secret ❖ *Brattleboro*

STAFF

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lilly.talbert@vermont.gov / 802-828-2841
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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members provide counsel on setting goals and developing strategies and objectives, and act as liaisons between their organization and VCW.

American Association of University Women
Building Bright Futures
Central Vermont Women's International
League for Peace and Freedom
Division of Maternal and Child Health,
Vermont Department of Health
Evolve Rutland
Girls on the Run Vermont
Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
League of Women Voters of Vermont
Mercy Connections
Office of Senator Patrick Leahy
Office of Senator Bernard Sanders
Office of Representative Peter Welch
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Vermont Federation of Business and
Professional Women
Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Vermont Network Against Domestic and
Sexual Violence
Vermont State Nurses Association
Vermont Women in Higher Education
Vermont Women's Fund
Vermont Women in Law Enforcement
Vermont Works for Women
Voices for Vermont's Children
Women Business Owners Network
Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN)
Women's and Gender Studies Program,
Castleton College



ADVANCING RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SINCE 1964



*VCW Commissioners and Advisors
promote our handbook
The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont
Photos: MaryClaireCarroll2013*

WHO WE ARE

The Vermont Commission on Women is a non-partisan independent state agency dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for Vermont women.

Established in 1964 by Governor Philip Hoff as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission has a proud history of improving the lives of Vermont women and their families. In 2002, it was put into statute and its name was changed to the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW).

VCW is governed by 16 volunteer Commissioners from across the state and advised by representatives from organizations concerned about women's issues.

Staff are frequently assisted by student interns and volunteers. For more information about VCW internships, contact Lilly Talbert at 802-828-2841.

WHAT WE DO

Public Education:

VCW addresses issues or publicizes current data through **presentations and workshops** to groups around Vermont, via media in **interviews, articles and commentary**, and on our **social media channels**. We offer a **statewide events calendar** and an **e-newsletter**.

Public Policy:

VCW **organizes events** which study, celebrate or listen to the needs or conditions of women. We work in coalition or lead support for **public policy** that improves the status of women and girls in Vermont.

Information and Referral:

VCW offers both an **on-line resource guide** that helps Vermonters help themselves, and an **information and referral service** that gets the individual to the most appropriate and most local resource to resolve their issue. Our approach is to listen well, assist the client to prioritize needs, and then provide resources. These interactions help us **identify gaps** and take action. We often read or email excerpts from our handbook, **The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont**, first published in 1978, to clients to explain their rights and responsibilities. Our **many other publications** help Vermonters understand frequently-asked-about topics like family leave, sexual harassment or running for public office.



VCW launched a new business initiative, the Equal Pay Compact, a **voluntary on-line pledge** that enables Vermont employers to indicate their commitment to closing the wage gap.

PUBLICATIONS

Important Workplace Laws VT Employers Should Know

Important Workplace Laws VT Workers Should Know

The Legal Rights of Women in VT

The VT Guide to Parental and Family Leave

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, A Guide for Employers and Employees

Domestic Violence in the Workplace: a Public Health and Safety Issue

Getting Appointed to VT State Boards and Commissions

VT Workplaces Support Nursing Moms

Status of VT Women and Girls Reports

Starting a Small Business in VT Packet

Listen, Talk, and Keep Talking - tips and tools for parents when confronted with objectionable language or imagery

Sexual Harassment Trainers in VT List

LEARN MORE/GET INVOLVED

Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)
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Montpelier, Vermont 05633-6801

802-828-2851 or 800-881-1561

women.vermont.gov
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