

**AGENDA  
COUNTY OF SONOMA  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**Meeting Held Through Publicly Available Link Via Zoom as well as in person at  
575 Administration Drive, Ste 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

**Thursday                      April 11, 2024                      6:00PM**

**First District:** Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

**Second District:** Katie Gordon (On Leave of Absence), Julie Shulman, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

**Third District:** Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)

**Fourth District:** Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair), Letitia Hanke

**Fifth District:** Jessica Wood, Angie Dillon-Shore, Zobida McCorquodale

The April 11, 2024, Commission on the Status of Women Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

**1. JOIN IN PERSON:**

Human Resources Large Training Room  
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Limited seating is available for public participants.

**2. JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:**

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94202019002?pwd=V3JCaZd0MFcvR2Q3c0FYK2x3ZjRpQT09>

Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002

Passcode: 252743

**3. JOIN IN ZOOM BY TELEPHONE:**

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128  
Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002  
Passcode: 252743

**Instructions for the Public:**

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconference Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the Commission on the Status of Women meetings will be facilitated using a dual format with listening and participation available through Zoom and in person.

### **Agendas and Materials:**

Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-Status-of-Women/Calendar/>

Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **NOTE:** Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission at [sococsw@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sococsw@sonoma-county.org).

### **Disabled Accommodation:**

If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

### **Approval of the Consent Calendar:**

The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

### **Public Comment:**

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting in person or via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Speakers will be limited to three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

## **2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Commission on the Status of Women of Sonoma County recognizes that we are on the ancestral lands of the Pomo, Wappo, and Coast Miwok, who are the original stewards of this land. We further acknowledge that the office of the Commission on the Status of Women resides on Southern Pomo land in Santa Rosa. We respect and honor the past, present, and future generations, and are grateful for the opportunity to give our respect to the first inhabitants.

## **3. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

At the beginning of each Commission meeting, any member of the public may address the Commission concerning any item not on the Commission's agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes unless otherwise specified by the Chair or the Presiding Officer. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each business item at the time it is called. The Commission may discuss and/or take action regarding any or all of the items listed below.

#### **4. THE BROWN ACT PRESENTATION**

Presenting on The Brown Act: teleconferencing and social media.

#### **5. JUVENILE HALL PRESENTATION**

Presenting on the girls in juvenile hall, their needs, and programming deficits.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 14, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

#### **7. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

- a. Gemma Project Event is on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Sonoma State University
- b. Rollin' Rosies hosting their 3rd Annual Mother's Day Poker Run and Car Show on May 11<sup>th</sup> ending in Cotati at La Plaza Park from 2pm-6pm

#### **8. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners to provide any commission-related announcements, report on communications with supervisors, and announce any tabling opportunities.

#### **9. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Fortino Dickson will report out on current openings.

- a. Welcome Letitia Hanke
- b. We currently have one opening in the 1<sup>st</sup> district and one opening in the 4<sup>th</sup> district.

#### **10. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES**

**Limited to 3 minutes per ad hoc and project**

- a. Women's Recovery Response Ad Hoc
- b. Women and Girls Reproductive Health Ad Hoc
- c. Junior Commission Educational Project
- d. Legislative Advisory Group
- e. Community Engagement Working Group
  - i. Spirit Award Ceremony is on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Museum

#### **11. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- Tabling Training  
Vice Chair Jones-Carter will train Commissioners in tabling to have everyone deliver the same message to the public.

#### **12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 9, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING**

Proposal, discussion, and possible action items for next Commission meeting. (No action required by commissioners for this section).

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**DRAFT-MINUTES**  
**COUNTY OF SONOMA**  
**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

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**Commissioners Present:**

**First District:** Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

**Second District:** Julie Shulman, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

**Third District:** Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)

**Fourth District:** Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair)

**Fifth District:** Jessica Wood, Zobida McCorquodale

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Second District:** Julie Shulman, Katie Gordon ( Leave of absence)

**Fifth District:** Angie Dillon-Shore

**Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting, and in-person.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:02 p.m. Roll call was conducted by the Staff.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Commissioner Wood read the Land acknowledgement.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

No Public Comment.

**4. DR. KAREN MORANSKI PRESENTATION**

Dr. Karen Moranski, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Sonoma State University (SSU) presented on the future of SSU, and access for women to educational opportunities, which is the ultimate access to economic freedom. Her presentation covered issues that SSU is facing and the changes that they are creating for a better future. They currently have one of the lowest equity gaps for those students underrepresented and low-income students in the CSU; and they have among the highest 4 year and transfer graduation rates, however they have low enrollment due to the pandemic. They are making changes while cutting cost. They will continue to have a humanities program, but they will restructure with the limited budget and resources. Dr. Moranski is hopeful for the future of SSU. They are using some of the campus housing to develop affordable rental apartments for faculty and staff, where the rental prices include all utilities,

internet, and cable. They are exploring hybrid learning and they received nearly \$600,000 in grants to support black students.

**5. DR. VENUS OPAL REESE PRESENTATION**

Dr. Venus Opal Reese introduced herself as the highest paid “spirit-led affluence” expert in the industry. She empowers people to success by transforming survival driven tactics to affluence creating messaging, marketing, high network client attraction and online automation. Her expertise comes from her experience. She was a homeless youth on the streets of Detroit. She learned tactics to keep her alive, that she spent a lifetime applying to creating her success. She eventually earned two bachelor’s degrees, and a masters and doctorate from Stanford University. She touched on key points that can empower you change by being brave. Applying the bravery and perseverance we learn, especially as women, by surviving the traumatic experiences and touchy situations in our lives to new experiences that lead us on the path to affluence and success.

**6. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

|                                   |           |              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Motion: Commissioner Diaz-Garcia  | Ayes: 8   | Noes: 0      |
| Second: Commissioner Jones-Carter | Absent: 3 | Abstained: 1 |

Commissioners Shulman and Dillon-Shore were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**7. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson announced two event opportunities for commissioners to attend: San Francisco Women’s Policy Summit on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 9am and the RISE 2024 Women’s Leadership Conference: Surviving to Thriving to Driving Change on Thursday, March 28. 2024 8am - 2pm PDT.
- b. Chair Fortino Dickson reported on behalf of Janice Blalock for the Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force continues to do some investigation on illicit parlors with Law Enforcement and Variety.
- c. Commissioners attended the BOS meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> to accept the gold resolution in honor of Women’s History Month. During the meeting, Janice Blalock got recognized for her years of service during her time in the Commission.
- d. Staff reminded the Commission about the fiscal year deadlines and reminded them to use their funds before end of May.
- e. Commissioner Jones-Carter announced that she was present when Tina Rivera presented on declaring racism as a public health crisis in Sonoma County and the meeting got disrupted by three gentlemen with different perspectives.

- f. Chair Fortino Dickson thanked everyone for getting the proclamation to all municipalities in Sonoma County.
- g. Chair Fortino Dickson got invited to present at a panel for Women's History Month on March 23, 2024 in Geyserville along with Ariel Kelly and Laura Larque.

#### **8. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT**

- a. Commissioner Diaz-Garcia met Sonoma-Marin Cattle Women at an event County of Sonoma hosted and would love to invite them to present at a Commission's meeting. She also attending many of the Council meeting in Sonoma County to accept the Women's History Month Proclamations.
- b. Commissioner Kaykas-Wolff announced she has a potential speaker, Molly Dickens from Petaluma. She's working on this wide-ranging project called Maternal Stress Project.

#### **9. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson announced that Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence for up to 6 months. Her return date hasn't been confirmed.
- b. District 4 appointed Letitia Hanke to the Commission. She founded the LIME Foundation, and she was a Spirit Award Recipient.
- c. Chair Fortino Dickson announced one opening in the 1st district and one opening in the 4th district.
- d. Haunani Pakaki was a member of the public who applied to join the Commission to represent 1<sup>st</sup> district.

#### **10. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES**

- a. Voices Report Ad Hoc announced that they are creating different posts highlighting different pieces of the report. The one pagers were put on hold.
- b. Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc shared some flyers with a QR code that people can access resources.
- c. Junior Commission Educational Project have a career panel in April. They asked for the Commission's help to find speakers who are Scientist, filmmaker, doctor, medical specialist for women entrepreneur lawyer, and real estate agent. They have interviews and are asking for volunteers. Commissioner Isler asked for another Commissioner to help her with the Junior Commission Educational Project. Graduation is on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in person at 2pm and everyone is welcome.
- d. Legislative Advisory Group announced that Women's Legislative Women's Committee will give them a list of Bills to review and the ad hoc will review the list and where the Commission can support.
- e. Community Engagement Working Group has 7 nominations for the 2024 Spirit Award. The ceremony will be held at the Museum of Sonoma County. They will be

doing the Pride event on June 1<sup>st</sup> Downtown Santa Rosa. They will be tabling and march. NAACP, League of Women’s Voters, and Young Democratic Party started the “Get Out to Vote” Campaign and the ad hoc will be partnering with them to get the word out.

- f. Bylaws Review Committee got postponed until further notice.

**11. BUSINESS ITEMS**

Commissioners reviewed the National Farmworker Awareness Week Gold Resolution. Commissioner Diaz-Garcia will be representing the Commission during the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 26, 2024. Commissioner Diaz-Garcia read her speech that she will be reading at the meeting. Motion to approve the gold resolution and to approve Commissioner Diaz-Garcia to speak on behalf of the Commission.

No Public Comment.

|                                   |           |              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Motion: Commissioner Jones-Carter | Ayes: 8   | Noes: 0      |
| Second: Commissioner Brown        | Absent: 3 | Abstained: 1 |

Commissioners Shulman and Dillon-Shore were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 11, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING**

No items were mentioned.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The Sonoma County Commission on the Status  
of Women & Sonoma State University's  
Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies  
Department present:

# THE MANY LIVES OF MAMA LOVE



**Lara Love Hardin**  
Author

## Book Talk & Signing

Join us for an evening with **New York Times bestselling author Lara Love Hardin** for a reading and Q&A about her harrowing, hilarious and no-holds barred memoir recounting her slide from soccer mom to opiod addict to jailhouse shot-caller and her unlikely comeback as a highly successful ghostwriter and **co-founder of The Gemma Project** to help justice-involved women across the country escape the intergenerational cycle of incarceration.



**24TH  
APRIL**

**SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Student Center  
Bennett Valley Room

**6:00PM - 7:30PM**



[www.thegemmaproject.org](http://www.thegemmaproject.org)

VENDORS  
&  
LIVE  
MUSIC

*GAS*  
MONEY

RAFFLE



SPECTATORS  
**FREE**

**25\$**  
ENTRY FEE

*Saturday, May 11th*

*Poker Run Registration*

**10:30 am**

*Lola's Market*

**102 Healdsburg Ave.**

**Healdsburg, Ca**



*Car Show*

**2-6 pm**

*La Plaza Park*

**8167 La Plaza**

**Cotati, Ca**



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## LETITIA HANKE

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## CEO/FOUNDER ARS ROOFING AND GUTTERS THE LIME FOUNDATION

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A small-town girl from Lake County, California, Letitia (LA-TISH-A) Hanke (HANK-EE) grew up dreaming of a music career. Recognized from childhood for her musical talents, she attended Sonoma State University envisioning a future in the performing and recording arts. When the opportunity arose, she took a position at a prominent roofing company and managed the business for 8 years. In 2004, she started her own roofing company, ARS Roofing and Gutters, now celebrating 28 years in the industry. She currently employs 24 full-time, year-round employees servicing the North Bay.

Some of her accomplishments include:

- 2008 Spirit of Sonoma Honoree award winner
- 2014 Small Business of the Year Award from Governor Gavin Newsome
- 2015 Entrepreneurial/Innovative Spirit Award winner by the North Bay Leadership Council
- 2015 Woman in Business award by the North Bay Business Journal
- 2016 Northern California Small Business Award by the California Black Chamber of Commerce
- 2017 Entrepreneur of the year award by the National 100 Black Women Council
- 2018 North Bay Business Journal Non-Profit Leadership award
- 2018 4C's Champion of Children-Empowering Youth award
- 2018 Walmart Community Playmaker award by the Golden State Warriors.
- 2020 North Bay Spirit Award winner by Comcast California and Press Democrat
- 2020 Featured in Square International commercial
- 2020 Featured on Emmy Winning Mike Rowe's "Returning the Favor"
- 2020 Featured on the Emmy Winning Kelly Clarkson Show
- 2020 Residential Roofer of the Year by Roofing Contractor Magazine
- 2021 Sonoma County Woman of the Year by Congressman Mike Thompson
- 2021 Spirit of Education Awardee by the National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI)
- 2022 Featured in Book by Billionaire Jacqueline Reses "Self-Made Boss"
- 2022 Influential Woman of the Year by North Bay Business Journal
- 2023 IB Roof Systems Humanitarian of the Year
- 2023 District 4 Spirit Award by Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women
- 2024 Roofer of the Year by the North Bay Bohemian

Letitia's vision to advocate for the disadvantaged inspired her to start the 501c3 nonprofit foundation called The LIME Foundation in 2015. Through three programs, her nonprofit advocates for at-risk youth and seniors in the community, by providing health services, music and arts, and construction trades education and training.

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