



WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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washingtoncountyrepublicanwomen.com

Thursday, May 2nd
Santa Clara City Hall

Welcome:

- Pres. Lesa Sandberg called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.
- The prayer was offered by Judy Houston and the pledge was led by Carol Bracken.
- An Americanism message was also given by Carol Bracken.
- Dignitaries present were SG City Council member: Bette Arial, Co. Attorney: Brock Belnap, UFRW/school board: LaRene Cox, WCRP chair: Jimi Kestin, SG City Mayor: Jon Pike, Senator Lowry Snow, St. George News: Markee Heckenliable, SG City Council: Ed Baca and Adam Snow from Congress Stewart's office.

Business:

- Christa Hinton gave the membership report.
- WCRW Funds reported as \$21,503.57 in our business account
- The June luncheon will be held June 6th at Abbey Inn. Daughters and friends may be invited.
- (Minutes are on the website and were not adopted at the meeting because there were no corrections.)
- The nominating committee was presented. Bette moved in favor and LaRene seconded.

Spotlight:

Kristen Clark did the spotlight on Charmaine Groll

Guest Speakers:

County attorney Brock Belnap introduced the panel of "local wonder women," six women from different organizations in Southern Utah that team up to help victims of crime. He also said how when we think about the criminal justice system, we often think about court and sometimes the police...but the reality is much more than that. The gears of justice involve a lot of people.

The panel members were Camden Caifa, clinical coordinator for Southwest SANE; Cindy Flowers, director of the St. George Dispatch Center; Sgt. Choli Ence, of the St. George Police Department; Madonna Melton, director of operations and shelter services for the Dove Center; Kristy Pike, director of the Washington County Children's Justice Center; and Sharmane Gull, Court Support Services Director.

Cindy Flowers

As director of the St. George 911 Communication Center, Flowers oversees 42 employees. She's been the director since 2012.

While answering a question from the audience regarding resources for 911 dispatchers, she said she considers her employees the real first responders because they hear the initial cry for help when a crime or incident has happened.

Kristy Pike

After a victim experiences sexual assault or rape, some of the very first questions he or she is asked are "Why didn't you fight back?" And "Why didn't you run?" Caifa said basic brain functions, such as your flight or fight response, are turned off in traumatic situations.

Madonna Melton

Once victims of domestic violence have access to the shelter, they also have access to an array of resources, such as free counseling and support groups. Depending on a victim's level of safety and what they would like to do, they're allowed to stay at the shelter for up to 45 days as they don't have any major infractions, such as drug use.

Choli Ence

If a victim has been victimized by a perpetrator, the first step is to report it to law enforcement, even if they choose not to do anything else.

Sharmane Gull

The goal of the program, which Gull built from scratch, is to produce public safety and help people find productive lives. In the 18 months of its existence, the program has had 800 participants.

Camden Caifa

Having an expectation of a victim being distraught or unable to breathe after being raped is just another "rape myth," she said, adding that only a small percentage of those type of responses happen when a victim comes in after experiencing rape.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by WCRW Secretary Sandy Atkin

The meeting was recorded live on Washington County Republican Women's Facebook page.

