



St. Mary's County
Human Relations Commission

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose

Since 1963, the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission (SMCHRC) has been empowered to promote understanding and harmony of relationships between the people of the county and to use its influence and persuasion to direct the community's efforts to the solution of problems that cause racial and other tensions stemming from acts of discrimination within the county.

II) Significant Activities

A) The HRC co-sponsored the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast held at St. Mary's College of Maryland by attending planning meetings and assisting with PR.

B) Participated in NAVAIR's Diversity Day training. The commission received wonderful training on ways to diversify workforces, why it is important to employers and management to surround themselves with people of diverse backgrounds, and formulating solutions through use of diverse and innovative ideas.

C) Worked with St. Mary's College on their strategic plan and community conversation project. The community conversations were to discuss how their community could be better representative to the community at large and how to address the multi-cultural nature of the their community.

Problem/Challenges

The challenge continues for the membership to find creative ways to accomplish their goal of advocating for human/civil rights and cultural diversity. Also, the group decided it needs to increase it's visibility within the community so more people become aware of what they do and, hopefully, membership would increase. Increasing membership to do all the work required of the group is a necessity.

Plans for the Upcoming Year

Increasing outreach with public.

Working with other agencies to develop plans for projects to discuss race, gender and other related topic areas.

Developing a signature activity to recognize the efforts of volunteers that move the mission of the HRC forward.

How to address the environment that is developed during the Presidential election. To ensure everyone is heard and valued in our community.

Membership as of June 2015

Joshua Brewster, Chair

Sarah Tyson

Wayne Lockley

Agnes Butler

Deborah Dennie

Mary Ferns

Joanna Colvin

Vante Burkes

Gary Younger

Jesus Godinez

Bernadette Smith