



St. Mary's County
Human Relations Commission

2015 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) Held Volunteer recognition breakfast at the James A. Forrest Center on October 22, 2014. The keynote speaker this year was the President of the St. Mary's College of Maryland President Dr. Tuajuanda C. Jordan. There were 8 individuals recognized for their service this year. The members are looking forward to this event next year.

C) 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.

D) Held in conjunction with St. Mary's College of Maryland a town hall meeting about policing and the community. The program was moderated by Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan. Members of the panel were Sheriff Tim Cameron, Dr. Garrey Dennie, and Crystal Worrell, class of 2017 St. Mary's College. Each was given time to give their point of view and then to answer questions from the audience. This was to be the first in a series of dialogue around race in America and St. Mary's County.

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.

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