

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Joshua Brewster, Co-chair

Vante Burkes, Co-Chair

Kelsey R.M. Bush, Commission Liaison



COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY:

James R. Guy, President

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Tom Jarboe, Commissioner

Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner

John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

St. Mary's County
Human Relations Commission
August 9, 2018
Division of Human Services
5:30 pm

Agenda

The purpose of the Commission is "to encourage and ensure equal treatment to all, without regard to race, color, religion, ethical or moral conviction, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental handicap.

Members present: Steve Hall, Joanna Colvin, H. Scott Stillings, Vante Burkes

- **Call to Order: 5:38 p.m.**
- Introductions/Check in
(Name, area of the county you live in, and what is interested you about Human Relations Commission work and how you are doing)
- **Adoption of minutes for February 8, 2018 meeting**
By consensus.
- **Old Business:**
 - a. **Membership**
Currently two vacancies.
 - b. **MLK Day Breakfast.**
The first choice for keynote was unable to attend. The group has moved on to second keynote, K. Bush will check with SMCM for status. This year there will be a second keynote on a local topic.
 - c. **Retreat: Planning for the year and beyond**
Those assembled agreed to October 13, 2019, 9 a.m. -1pm, at The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, 45353 St. Georges Ave. Piney Point, MD 20674-0075. Membership wondered if the St. Mary's Mediation Center could facilitate. If this date does not work, please discuss.
- **New Business:**
 - 1. **Choose Civility: Library**
Choose Civility is an ongoing community-wide initiative to position Southern Maryland as a model of civility. The Choose Civility project intends to enhance respect, empathy, consideration and tolerance in our community.

The Choose Civility campaign is aimed at helping those who live and work in Southern Maryland be mindful of ways to interact with mutual respect regardless of person and choose to be models of civil behavior.

2. Longest Table: Library

On Thursday, June 21 at 6 p.m., the St. Mary's Library sponsored a community conversation over a family-style meal from Mission BBQ. The event was held at the St. Mary's County Government Center, on the front lawn near Miedzinski Park. During the meal, participants will discuss how to Choose Civility in their everyday interactions. To enhance the experience of getting to know different people, guests will not be seated with their companions. The purpose is to share a meal and conversation with someone you don't know, exchange stories about life in St. Mary's County, and discover both common ground and new ideas.

3. Dismantling Racism project: Library, NAACP, Mediation Center

This is an expansion of the program established in Calvert County. This is a program designed to have conversations around race and racism and how the effects of slavery continue today.

4. Trainings: Groundwater and Phase I from REI

<https://www.racialequityinstitute.com/ourservices>

The process is designed to help leaders and organizations who want to proactively understand and address racism, both in their organization and in the community where the organization is working. The Racial Equity Institute, LLC process is just that: an 18-month to two-year process.

Their goals of understanding and addressing racism can rarely be achieved in a 3-hour or one-day workshop. Racism is a fierce, ever-present, challenging force, one which has structured the thinking, behavior, and actions of individuals and institutions since the beginning of U.S. history. To understand racism and effectively begin dismantling it requires an equally fierce, consistent, and committed effort.

The members wanted to see if there is a possibility to bring the Groundwater or Phase I training to St. Mary's County. If it is brought to the area, the membership would like to know so that they could participate.

5. Meeting Dates:

The dates for this year meetings will be discussed at the retreat. The membership present would like to move to an every other month process, so that there is not long gaps between meetings.

➤ **Adjournment : 7:00 p.m. submitted by K. Bush**