



Interview with Kiki Stinnett

March 2010

Background

Chuuk State Non-government Organizations (NGO) have been in existence for forty (40) years. Early on, NGO groups were mostly religious in nature. Their main goals and objectives were to promote Christian fellowship.

In the 1980's there were many NGO groups that did not collaborate with one another. These different groups were more like clubs that sought to accomplish things within their own village or island with limited resources.

In 1984, a small group of civic-minded women realized that in order to be more successful, these groups needed to communicate and collaborate in order to share and utilize precious resources better to bring about positive changes for all women of Chuuk. As a result, in 1993 the Chuuk Women's Advisory Council (CWAC) was officially registered.

The Council was formally organized with by-laws and articles of incorporation. The Chuuk Women's Advisory Council (CWAC) was the umbrella organization for about forty-five Chapters from all over the state and initially had a total membership of about three hundred (300) women.

The original goal of the CWAC was to communicate effectively with all the NGO's and disseminate information on a local level regarding women interests. The CWAC played a role as the clearing house for women's issues and concerns.

As time passed, regular interaction between the CWAC and local NGO organizations moved towards economic, social, health, religious, and cultural empowerment of families and communities.

The NGO women's group and associations have taken a more proactive role in pursuing and promoting activities that ensure customs and traditional values are preserved, protected and enhanced.

The CWAC had again redefined its goal and objective to be more in tune with the current political status of the Federated States of Micronesia and to better address the needs of the NOG's and communities they represent. The CWAC changed its name to "**Chuuk Women's Council**", (CWC) in November of 2003 and is now the umbrella organization for about 63 individual women's associations with a total membership of about 1,000 women.

The CWC actively seeks funding through grants and donations for a wide variety of programs, projects, and activities that are used to provide resources, direction, and training to other NGO's to assist in their mission to meet the needs of communities.



Founders/Officers

Founder & President: Chuuk State 1st Lady Yurie K. Gouland; Vice President: Mrs. Tanseny Reynold; Treasurer: Chuuk State 2nd Lady Maxie Umwech; Secretary: Mrs. Florence Stanley; Advisors: Mrs. Shinobu M. Poll, Mrs. Miter Nakayama, Mrs. Umiko Mori & Mrs. Nely Killion *(all of whom have passed away); Working group: Maria William, Chineina Graham, Kiki Stinnett, Anisina Kony, Ms. Tina Takashy and Nation Santer

How did you first get involved with the "Council"?

Kiki: My passion is helping and working with people. My mother & grandmother were nurses and I wanted to follow in their footsteps. I did not finish my nursing education and ended up in business and still I found my way into the Sunday school teacher ministry at my church and became the President of the Truk Women's Club. I have traveled and represented Chuuk State in various training and summits. In 1994, I participated in the Pacific Platform for Action "Rethinking Sustainable Development for Pacific Women Towards The Year 2000.

Last year, my mother Shinobu M. Poll passed away after 16 years as the President of CWAC/CWC. I was elected

KIKI & HUSBAND BILL STINNETT. KIKI IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE CHUUK WOMEN'S COUNCIL

to the position of CWC President and have served the position since.

Are the benefits offered by the CWC solely for those who reside in Chuuk?

Kiki: No, I would like to say that Chuuk Women's Council has an effect on the Chuukese living abroad because we want to keep them informed through our website about what is happening here in Chuuk as it relates to important issues. Also one of our goals is to prepare the Chuukese before going outside Chuuk.

What message would you like to send out to the Chuukese Women and families who reside elsewhere in the world?

Kiki: I believe in the saying "No place like home", because no matter where you are in world, deep in your heart you still long for your roots. That is something nobody can take away from you. We are still here and working hard to improve our lifestyle and providing quality education for our younger generation. We choose to do this by instilling wisdom and promoting our tradition & culture passed down from our grandparents.

Can anyone donate or volunteer for the organization or are there specific prerequisites/requirements?

Kiki: The CWC actively seeks funds and donations for a wide variety of programs, projects, and activities. We do this to be able to provide resources, direction and training to other NGO's to meet the needs of our community. We are a tax-exempt organization and accept donations and funding from individuals, organizations, and governments. To date, the CWC has received funding from the governments of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the U.S., and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Additional funding has been received from the FSM National Government, South Pacific Commission, Office of Minority Health Resource Center, Pacific Islands HIV/AIDS and STI Response Fund, Papa Ola Lokahi, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and a number of other organizations associated with donor countries and organizations.

What is the most effective way an individual or business can support the "Council"?

Kiki: Volunteer. The CWC seeks assistance from individuals who can contribute to our projects. If anyone has special skills to assist with activities, we encourage them to contact us. Additionally if you have experience in grant writing and would like to contribute to the fundraising effort of the CWC, contact us. At this time, we also need office equipment and supplies for conducting training and outreach education programs.

Currently, the Chuuk Women's Council has no official home or place to conduct business. My late mother Shinobu M. Poll has allowed the CWC to use a building that houses our Fiin Chuuk Gift shop building where we sell our local crafts. The women that work in the Gift shop are also volunteers.

My private office is used more for CWC business than for my personal private business. Other areas of my private business are always available for CWC meetings and these areas, along with my office, are provided at no charge to CWC unless we have budget for workshop stated in our grants and we use our conference facility.

God has been good and has blessed our family so that we can support our Chuukese people in many ways.

At this time CWC submitted an application to the Japan Embassy in Pohnpei, FSM under their Japan's Grant Assistance for "Grassroots Human Security" for a Multi-Purpose Building. We are waiting for the approval and we are hopeful for good news but God's will be prevailing.

Can you share some of the Chuukese language with us?

Hello – *Ran-allim*

Family – *famine*

Welcome- *Ketepan afani*

Thank you – *Kinisou Chapur*

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If you would like to volunteer or donate to the Chuuk Women's Council, contact Kiki Stinnett at (691) 330-8396 or 330-5263 or email her at kfinchuuk@mail.fm. Mailing address: P.O. Box 546, Chuuk State, FM 96943

Gallery

The CWC is active in all areas of Chuukese life as illustrated by the photo gallery here for just one of many events throughout the year.



Chuuk Women' Council Celebration of Women International Day, March 8th, 2010.

The Chuukese women joined women of the World in celebrating the WID by promoting Healthy Lifestyle through Physical Fitness.

Funding provided by SPC Diabetes Grant and CWC.



About 400 women participated in the parade which started at the parking lot of the Chuuk International Airport and walked to the Anderson Field where the activities for the day took place.

This is the Diabetes Blue Team marching with their Blue flag and promoting Healthy Lifestyle through good eating habits, promoting local food and Physical Fitness



The Team Red stand for HIV/AIDS and the other three colors were Team Yellow for Domestic Violence, Team Pink for Cancer and Team Green for Nutrition.

The colors also identified some of the programs that the Chuuk Women's Council is promoting through education & prevention awareness.



At the end of the day Team Green (Nutrition) won First Place with 226 points and led by Team Captain Ms. Teres Narruhn, President for the Mech Sopun Association from Weno.

All the ladies on each of the teams participated and received great prizes.

The grand prize for 1st place was \$125.00 cash for their team effort and participation.



Team Pink (Cancer) came in 2nd with a total of 214 points under the supervision of Ms. Nini Repin President of the Nie Meres Associaton from Tonowas.

2nd prize was \$100.00 cash and other individual prices for each of the events.



Team Yellow (Domestic Violence) came in 3rd with a score of 210 points. Team Captain was Ms. Susan Rudolph.

Team Red came in 4th place with 111 points and Team Captain was Ms. Sincera Fritz.

Team Blue came in 5th place with 107 points and Team Captain was Ms. Katari Job.

2010



Chuuk Women's Council Vice President Martha Kanas in the green shirt leads the Women International Day Parade onto the Anderson Field where the days celebration began.

It was a beautiful day with blue skies for the CWC members to have fun and at the same time burn calories. Two new banners (Take Charge of your Diabetes) were part of the SPC grant.



The ladies sang all the way from the airport parking lot to the field. All the women formed a huge circle around the field and it was just a great feeling to see so many women coming together to celebrate this important day.

The opening prayer was given by Kinanwe Patapat member Ms. Chinia Western from Toleisom.



The ladies behind the scene were Chuuk State 2nd Lady Bersita Elimo, CWC Board member, and CWC President Kiki Stinnett who gave the welcome remarks.

2nd Lady Ms. Elimo encouraged the ladies on their important roles as the first educators and to promote Healthy Eating Habits in their family & communities and state.



The 60 meter dash had two age categories:
1st group age 22 – 35 yrs. old
2nd group was age 40 and up.

This is the starting line and everyone ran including the official score keepers, Team Captains, and CWC Officers and Board members.

It was truly a joyful day for all participants.



One of the Team Red Member in the Tire rolling race making her way around the field.

It was fun to see the tires run away from the ladies on occasion but they were all determined to finish the race.



The three legged race was the most fun and many teams fell on their face but still got up and finished the race.

Everyone enjoyed this event and the lesson learned was to tie their feet tight and use team work.



Ladies from Team Red gave all they had but Team Blue, with just a little more weight, won this tug of war event.

Team Blue (Diabetes) defeated all the other teams, who didn't weight quite as much as Team Blue.

Promoting healthy lifestyle through physical fitness.



Team Yellow tried very hard to win this coconut husk activity but lost to Team Red.

Team Red (HiV/AIDS) Ms. Anfina William from Tonowas and Ms. Maria from Eot won.

Coconut husking is a common chore because of the usage of coconut milk in cooking and coconut oil making for a source of income.



This event had 3 participants and each were given 3 coconuts to husk, and after that 1 teammate had to weave a basket for the 3 coconuts. The coconuts were then secured and 1 person ran to the finished line with the basket.

The ladies took great pride in demonstrating their talents in this event as it is part of their regular chores.

On behalf of IslanderView.com, sincere appreciation is extended to Kiki and Bill Stinnett and the people who make the services provided by the Chuuk Women's Council possible. The Chuukese community is very blessed and lucky to have such dedicated people to promote and sustain the values of your culture. Thank you & Kinisou Chapur ~ Vera Dela Cruz