



WOMEN'S AFFAIRS OFFICE

2025 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

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WHO ARE WE?

The Women's Affairs Office (WAO) was established by Article III Section 22 of the CNMI Constitution on November 03, 1985.

The Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor's main focus is to implement the interests of women in organizing to plan and implement programs and services for women, monitor compliance of laws and regulations, organizing of community education strategies regarding the roles of women and to recommend to the Governor and the Legislators for consideration legislation to benefit women of all nations.

The Women's Affairs Office affirms actions in both government and private sectors in assisting women to achieve social, political and economic parity by such conduction as outreach and crises programs to meet the needs of disadvantage women, victims of domestic abuse, women in need of emotional, social and economic support as well as recognition of praise and continued support for women in leadership.

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

- Formulate and implement a policy of affirmative action in the government and private section to assist women achieve social, political and economic parity.
- Promote and support the interest of women in the CNMI
- Assist government agencies and private organizations to plan and implement programs and services for women.
- Monitor compliance of laws and regulations by government agencies and private organizations.
- Organize community education strategies regarding the roles of women, and recommend to the governor and the legislature for consideration of legislation of benefit to women.

OUR WORK

Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat in Tanapag With Talaabwaogh Stars October 31, 2024



WAO partnered up with Talaabwogh Star Association in participating with their annual village Halloween Trick-Or-Treat that took place in Tanapag from 5:40 until supplies lasted.

Thanksgiving With SAAR - November 28, 2024



For this year's Thanksgiving, WAO decided to give back and celebrate Thanksgiving with the residents and employees up at SAAR.

Christmas Tree Lighting & Christmas Village At The Governor's Office December 5, 2024



As the year comes an end, the Office of the Governor and LT. Governor hosts the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Village. Each department/agency under the Office of the Governor and who ever wants to participate, comes together and follows a theme in which their section would need to follow to represent. The community are fully welcome to go through the Christmas village to feel the Christmas spirit. The villages are up and open throughout the whole month of December.

Theme: Santa's Sealand Christmas

Toys For Tots Gathering & Drive Thru - December 20, 2024

In collaboration with Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz and CBMA, WAO assisted in the gathering of toys from government agencies, private agencies, etc. to donate and give back to the community. The drive thru toy drive was a very successful event that had a great outcome.

Toys collected: 4,200



WOMEN'S MONTH (MARCH 2025)

WAO in collaboration with other government and non-government agencies has coordinated the Women's Month event annually to celebrate their contributions and achievements and commemorate the history of women in the CNMI while raising awareness of women issues. This event coincided with the International Women's Day celebrated every March 8th. A time of celebration and recognition of women's rights and gender equality as well as highlighting the empowerment of women in society throughout the world.

Women's Month & International Women's Day Proclamation Signing February 26, 2025



The event started with the signing of the proclamation by LT. Gov. Apatang. WAO alongside members of the community, previous WAO special assistants, special guest speaker Shannon Sasamoto, government employees/agencies/departments, legislative branch members, private sector members, joined us as we held our proclamation signing at the Garapan Central Park. Theme for women's month is: Moving forward together! Women educating & inspiring generations! International Women's Day theme is: Accelerate Action for Rights, Equality, & Empowerment for ALL women and girls.

Eucharistic Mass at San Jose Church - March 1, 2025



WAO alongside members of the community, joined us as we held a eucharistic mass at San Jose Church to start off Women's Month 2025 with pure blessings.

International Women's Day & Women's Month Mini Cultural Festival At NMI Museum - March 8, 2025



On this specific day, March 8, 2024, International Women's Day was proclaimed. All the women from all the cultures that reside in the CNMI, came out and showcased their culture to the community as part of International Women's Day.

Partners: NMI Museum & CAO

Local cultures of Chamorro and Carolinian to our sister islands of Chuuk, Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, and our neighboring islands in the Asia side that include Philippines, China, Japan, and Korea. It was a whole day event that celebrates all the women of these beautiful and amazing cultures that they are proud to be apart of and truly represent it.

KKMP Morning Talk - March 14 & 21, 2025



WAO alongside KKMP's host Gary and Gordon, we had the privilege of hearing the amazing and brave stories of 2 amazing women whom are Mrs. Dolores M. Aldan, the CNMI's 1st Female DOC Commissioner and 1st Female Police Officer, and Dr. Rita A Sablan, Former PSS Commissioner, during the morning segment of KKMP Live on Air.

Women's Awesome Walkathon - March 22, 2025



WAO hosted its annual women's walkathon at the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park alongside Marianas Health Services that provided basic health screens & H.A.F.A initiatives and medics on standby provided by DFEMS.

Commonwealth Women's Association 11th Women's Summit - March 25, 2025



In light of Women's Month, WAO assisted CWA in prepping for their annual Women's Summit which happens to take place at the end of March. CWA's 11th Women's Summit took place at the Multipurpose Center in Susupe from 8 AM - 12 PM. Alongside CWA, they had small business' come out and showcase their products.

Joeten Kiyu Public Library Women's Night - March 28, 2025



To end Women's Month, JKPL hosted month long events which concluded with a Women's Night at the Public Library. WAO alongside small businesses, NMC Nursing Club, amazing local artists, vendors, and MHS Glee Club, made the night oh so beautiful and amazing.

NMIFA 20th Anniversary Women's Festival - April 5, 2025



In partnership with the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association, WAO was invited to their Women's Festival that was held at the Koblerville soccer field a.k.a the NMI Soccer Training Center at 5:30 PM. Other partners for the event were M2 Fitness, FitBeat Fitness, and Xtreme Fitness 670 who demonstrated energetic Zumba moves!

Good Friday - April 18, 2025



Alongside the Office of the Governor, Office of the LT. Governor, and many other offices, WAO staff took part in volunteering in this year's Good Friday Walk up at Mt. Tapochao from 4 AM - 7 AM.

Orchid Show - May 1, 2025



In partnership with the Office of the Governor, Congresswoman Marissa Flores, NMC, JM Holdings, LLC., Kiara's Gift Shop, Farmer's Association, and CNMI Green Growth Initiative, held its 1st Orchid Show which was held at the Sabalu Farmer's Market, Garapan Fishing Base from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM. The 3 finalist all got prizes and such from the partners.

Graduation Season & OFEGRA - May - June 2025



Annually, WAO gives an award to a female senior graduate who is nominated by her school faculty/staff that receives the award for the Outstanding Female Graduate Recipient Award (OFEGRA).

For SY 2024-2025, there were 9 female senior graduate recipients of the OFEGRA award whom are from KHS, MHS, SSJS, DA'OK, SIS, MCS, GCA, TJSS, and RHSJS.

CNMI Liberation Day - July 4, 2025



WAO participated in this year's Liberation Day Parade alongside 8 different cultures. With the help of the DOC outreach, Melissa Litulumar, and our cultural contacts, our vision would have not come to life without them.

2025 Liberation day theme: Weaving Heritage and Embracing Peace

Rota's Coconut & Sweet Potato Festival - August 22-23, 2025



WAO staff attended Rota's Coconut and Sweet Potato Festival on Rota that took place at the Chamorro Village from August 22-23, 2025, alongside CAO and IAO.

Cultural Heritage Month Proclamation Signing - August 29, 2025



In celebration of Cultural Heritage Month, WAO partners and attended the proclamation signing that CAO hosted at the Carolinian Utt, Garapan at 11 AM. The month of September is claimed as Cultural Heritage Month alongside many events that happened each Saturday of the month.

Women's Conference in Palau - September 30, 2025



WAO was invited to the 32nd Women's Conference that takes place in Palau. While attending the conference, WAO staff were able to showcase some of our cultural artifacts and jewelry while making connections with others that attended the conference.

REVENUE & EXPENSES

FY 2025 BUDGET

FY 2025 BUDGET (PL NO. 23-26)				
NOP	PERSONNEL	ALL OTHERS	UTILITIES	TOTAL
4	\$104,921	\$1,301	-0-	\$106,222

KEY CHALLENGES:

Despite the budget restrictions, with no Operational budget in place for FY 2025, WAO still managed to successfully host and partner multiple community events through out the year to serve the CNMI. We will continue to operate with No Funding for Operations for FY 2026 also and a deduction in our budget from FY 2025.

FY 2026 BUDGET

FY 2026 BUDGET (PL NO. 23-14)				
NOP	PERSONNEL	ALL OTHERS	UTILITIES	TOTAL
4	\$109,123	\$1,091	-0-	\$110,214

WHAT'S NEXT?

Our agency, our partners and collaborations with non-profit organizations are the key to making our work a success!

WAO will continue to promote the interest of women as mandated by the CNMI constitution by partnering up with government agencies and Non-government agencies on projects, community events, and by offering our services.

We will also:

- **Look and share resources in the community to achieve projects and goals.**
- **Look for funding and resources to support projects.**
- **Continue to collaborate with the Public School System and Private School System to provide incentive awards to top honor senior female students. Look for other ways to empower and promote the interest of women in the CNMI.**
- **Seek more training and professional development for staff and women in need so that we can provide the best resources for those women in need.**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS FOR ASSISTING US IN OUR EVENTS!



PLUS MANY MORE PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS NOT SHOWN/MENTIONED!