

Wyoming Council on Women's Issues

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2003

Call to Order

Chair Michelle Aldrich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2003.

Roll Call

Michelle Aldrich, Merna Rierson, Sherrill Heltzer, Diane Moser, DaNece Koenigs, Margaret Pilch, Nina Romero-Caron and Teresa de Groh. Safa Suleiman contacted Michelle prior to the meeting to say she could not be in attendance and Jan Torres joined the meeting later.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of January 4, 2003, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed. Margaret asked if her corrections to the minutes had been received. Since Teresa had not seen the corrections, Margaret quickly went over them.

DaNece moved to accept the January 4, 2003 minutes, as corrected, and Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Diane asked Teresa to email her the corrected minutes so they can be put on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Diane had nothing new to report, as the information provided for the January meeting was the most recent.

Friend's Account

In Marty's absence, Michelle assumed there has been no change from the last report of \$2,096.14 in the Friend's Account.

Committee Reports

Home & Community

Merna reported that the public TV station and the public radio station are both giving the Council two programs each for Women's History Month.

Diane mentioned that on March 8, Women's International Day, the Governor might issue a proclamation. Merna will send Diane a proclamation from another state to use as an example to draft a proclamation for the Governor.

Health

Nina informed the Council that there would be an Eating Disorders Conference on March 7. Also, Shaping A Healthy Future II conference is being held in Jackson, April 29 through May 2. The conference purpose is to promote healthy lifestyles; Nina will send everyone information on these events.

Legislative/Education

Michelle told Council members that Safa, who is working as a legislative aide for the Governor, would provide up-dates on new legislation to members soon.

Michelle informed members that Legal Handbooks are being distributed to all legislators, with a cover letter. It does not appear that the WCWI brochure or the Sexual Harassment brochure will be available soon. The Council agreed that getting at least the Handbook to legislators prior to any decision on WCWI funding was important and should not be held up by waiting for the other publications.

Old Business

1. **501(c) (3) status.** DaNece summarized that the current status is defunct and so the organization will have to reincorporate. DaNece recommended that it would be easiest to start over in forming a new corporation. A new name will be needed, as well as officers. DaNece suggested the name include "foundation." DaNece asked members to email her ideas for names and people who might be interested in serving as officers. DaNece also said she needed the EIN number and she asked if the corporate funds were going to be used for lobbying. 501(c)(3) corporations cannot lobby.

The purpose of the Friends was discussed. Michelle noted that the funds have generally been used to pay for tee shirts, pins, hats, etc. Teresa said her understanding of the Friends Account was to provide an avenue by which people could contribute to the activities of the Council, that the contributions could be tax deductible, and that the monies could be carried over a period of years. It was agreed that the funds raised are not intended for activities that would be considered lobbying.

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A discussion of officers ensued and Michelle suggested that the foundation officers be different from members of the Council. Michelle asked members to think about people who might be interested.

The size of the foundation board was discussed and the Council concluded that initial set-up should be three people independent of the Council and two WCWI members. The foundation board could change this set-up if they wanted to.

DaNece will email draft by-laws and other pertinent documents to Council members for review and for use in approaching potential officers. Michelle asked Margaret if she would be willing to serve on the foundation board. Margaret said yes.

2. **Wage Disparity Study.** Michelle informed the Council that she has emailed John Jackson at least twice asking for clarification on the wage gap versus wage disparity issue discussed last meeting. Mr. Jackson has not responded.

Michelle also informed the Council that, after all the Steering Committee's efforts to ensure no premature release of the study, someone "leaked" the study and several legislators now have a draft. The Council discussed how this may have happened and whether or not members of the Council should receive copies. The Council concluded that it would be best to proceed as intended—that the report is not to be distributed in any way until completed. The Council still expects to receive a draft for review in April in preparation for official release in May.

3. **By-Laws.** Michelle noted that she had sent out revised by-laws and that Teresa had recently emailed a few more suggested changes. Teresa explained that the suggested changes were not substantive and, since not all members had received them, she explained the suggested changes. The Council then discussed the proposed by-law changes by Article, as summarized below. After discussion, Michelle said she would make the agreed upon changes and send out an amended set of by-laws to be acted on next meeting.

Article I: No changes.

Article II: No changes.

Article III: Section 5 suggested to be changed to: "Any vacancy of an office shall be filled by an appointment by the chair for the remainder of the term and shall be ratified by a majority of the membership."

Article IV: No changes.

Article V: Section 1 suggested to be changed to: "Officers shall be elected at the winter meeting of each odd-numbered year for a two (2) year term. Nominations shall be made

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to the Chair and a slate of candidates shall be presented to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the winter meeting.”

Article VI: Suggested change to Section 2 added “at a regular meeting” at the end of the sentence.

Article VII: No changes.

Article VIII: No changes.

Article IX: Discussion of the statute reference lead to a conclusion that this Article should be deleted.

Article X: Should be changed to Article IX, based on deleting the existing Article IX.

4. **WCWI Brochure.** Diane said Aliza has wording changes from Council members and will be working on finalizing the brochure. Teresa noted she had informed Aliza of some additional suggested changes; Teresa will try to get her suggestions to Aliza soon.
5. **Newsletter.** Diane informed the Council that a blue line was done and Aliza was hoping to have the newsletter out next week.
6. **Sexual Harassment Brochure.** DaNece said the brochure has some sexist references, but that it really is OK. She suggests leaving it as is; Lorna really worked hard on it the first time. DaNece has talked to Aliza who will freshen the format up a bit and put the new logo on, etc. Merna noted that she brought a box of brochures to a high school in her area, but the school district did not want them; they apparently were about to distribute their own.
7. **Resource Directory.** Margaret asked for authorization from the Council to seek grant monies. There was discussion about the information in the Directory and how it was being represented. There was some discussion of delaying funding requests until the Council could see a draft, but the due date for some grant applications are before the next meeting. DaNece moved to resolve to allow Margaret to seek out funds to publish the Resource Directory. Nina seconded the motion.

Margaret said she would have a draft for Council members to see at the April meeting. Discussion ensued regarding how to distribute the draft so all members could see it. The Council concluded Margaret should send a draft to Diane, who will bring copies to the April meeting. Michelle called for votes on the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. **Legal Handbook.** Merna informed the Council of the successful distribution of a lot of handbooks: to battered women’s shelters and transitional living shelters; the Headstart program and WIC. The administrator of WIC in her area is going to write a letter of thanks to the Governor for the handbooks. Merna suggested members distribute

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handbooks to all WIC centers in the state. Merna now needs more handbooks and Diane was asked to bring some for the April meeting in Casper.

Merna gave a brief up-date on the Wyoming Tech Prep Consortium. She listed all the participating schools. Merna will send current information regarding the Consortium to Diane, who will distribute to Council members. Merna also gave a summary of success with the program at the Women's Prison.

New Business

1. **2003 Women's Conference.** Deb Farris, coordinator, was unable to make the meeting again. Michelle informed the Council that the next conference is scheduled for September 13, 2003 (a Saturday,) at the Holiday Inn in Casper. Ms. Farris has indicated that she needs topic ideas and suggestions for speakers. There are no monies for funding out-of-state speakers and speakers will need to be willing to present for free. Planning for the conference will begin in April.
2. **2003 Woman of Distinction.** Michelle asked that members bring copies of old nominations to the April meeting, since anything from the last three years can be considered. Teresa will see if she has all the old nominations and, if so, will send to Diane to make copies for everyone at the April face-to-face meeting. The Council concluded that Diane should keep a master file of nominations.
3. **Council Openings.** Michelle noted that Deb Farris had applied for the Council, as well as one other person. Michelle asked if there was concern about having at-large members concentrated in Casper. Teresa suggested that having at-large members from Casper and Cheyenne helped with the concentrated work-load in those areas. Michelle also noted that Deb Farris had submitted her application earlier and the other gal's first choice was a different appointment. The Council concluded that Michelle should contact Leslie True in support of Deb Farris to fill the at-large position. The Council also discussed ideas for filling the District 9 opening.
4. **Next meeting.** Michelle confirmed that the next meeting would be face-to-face April 26th in Casper. The meeting will be at the Parkway Plaza and begin at 10:00 a.m. Merna suggested that members bring ideas for new projects to the next meeting.

Merna asked Diane if the Council could obtain some Legislator Directories. Diane said that all the Directories that the WBC had have been distributed and she is not sure if any more are available.

Michelle up-dated the Council on the Governor's funding proposal. There was discussion about how the funding could be used, if available.

Diane informed the Council that Aliza is putting together a master communications program for various entities. Diane will bring a copy to the April meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.