

Wyoming Council on Women's Issues

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2004

Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Teresa went through roll call. Michelle Aldrich, Jan Torres, Margaret Pilch, Marty Coe, Merna Rierison, Cleo Medina, Teresa de Groh, Nina Romero-Caron, Mary England, and Diane Moser were present. Cynthia Chavez Kelly attended briefly and Safa Suleiman, DaNece Koenigs, and Sherrill Heltzer were absent.

Also in attendance were three people from the University of Wyoming Survey Research Center: Burke, Sandy and Patsy.

Michelle asked the Council for permission to rearrange the agenda in order to discuss Old Business, State Survey, before Committee Reports. This would allow quick address of the topic for which Burke, Sandy and Patsy were in attendance. The Council consented to the change.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of January 10, 2004, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed. Margaret had provided three typographical corrections by email.

Margaret moved to approve the January 10, 2004 minutes as corrected and Nina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Diane explained the financial spreadsheets emailed to the Council prior to the meeting. Merna asked about the \$850 from the Jackson Thursday Roundtable and why it had not been deposited in the Friends Account. Both Diane and Michelle said the donation had been given to the Council and not the Friends. Teresa asked if shipping costs were included in the money committed for the resource directory and Diane indicated that the \$6,082 included shipping to each member. Teresa also asked about the projected expenses for the NACW Conference—how many people were assumed to be going with the projected expenses? Diane said she assumed four people.

Friend's Account

Marty reported there is \$2,064.34 in the Friend's Account. She noted there has not been much activity. Other members indicated the Council couldn't expect much in the way of donations until the 501(c)(3) status is obtained.

Old Business – State Survey

Michelle summarized the purpose for attendance of the meeting by Burke, Sandy, and Patsy. The draft State Survey needs to be reduced by about twenty (20) percent in order for it to be administered within the timeframe felt necessary to make it successful (10 minutes). The survey team has received a variety of comments from Council members; however, some official direction from the Council for eliminating certain types of questions needs to be provided.

One section suggested by both Margaret and Teresa for elimination contained D10A, D10B, and D10C, regarding voting. Some members felt this section would be of interest to legislators, however, other members pointed out that as a random sample, it should not be skewed in any way. Margaret moved to eliminate questions D10A, D10B, and D10C. Teresa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of having questions of a general nature and whether or not such questions should ask about a woman's perception of what is going on in her community or should be confined to asking about her personal experience. Margaret moved to reword all questions so that the questions will be of a personal experience. Merna seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A few other types of questions were considered for elimination, but rejected. Burke indicated that the survey team really needed some direction and not determinations regarding each question.

Cynthia joined the meeting briefly and asked a question regarding the categories used for the question on ethnicity. The UW team explained the rationale behind the categories used, however, Cynthia apparently was disconnected from the meeting as was unable to rejoin.

The Council discussed the section relating to health care and whether or not it is redundant with the Maternal Health Survey in which Safa has been involved. Margaret moved to eliminate question GQ30 through GQ34 and to reduce the open ended questions, generally beginning with "What other..." Nina seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Council indicated that Safa's input was needed in order to identify all the questions that may be already covered by the Maternal Health Survey.

WCWI Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2004

The Council then asked the survey team if they had enough direction so that the draft survey could be modified adequately to be administered within the 10-minute target range. Burke, Sandy and Patsy said they thought they had sufficient direction and thanked the Council for their efforts. The Council, in turn, thanked Burke, Sandy and Patsy for taking time out from their weekend to attend the meeting.

Committee Reports

Health

1. Race for the Cure. Nina said she could not be in Cheyenne for the race and was looking for someone to help coordinate a team and be there for the race. Michelle said that she thought Sherrill might be able to help.
2. Maternal Health Survey. This item was not discussed since Safa was absent.

Nina informed the Council that she has submitted a proposal for a presentation of the Larry Kirkwood exhibit to the NACW for this year's conference. She is also attending a WIN conference at which she will be getting a videotape of the entire presentation.

There was some confusion regarding another video tape that Diane had asked the Council for permission to purchase, which was a roundtable discussion aired on public TV. That tape has now been purchased and will be in the WCWI library. (The program was "Wyoming Perspectives: Wyoming Women" that aired March 25 at 7:00 p.m. on Wyoming Public TV.)

Nina reported there is a conference being held in Montana called "Girl Power – Raising Healthy Girls". She asked if the Council wanted to be involved in bringing the program to Wyoming. Lisa Shulstrom is the presenter and Nina asked the folks in Montana how much it was costing them. The cost is estimated at \$3,500. Nina offered to spearhead an effort to bring in the program and also to look for funding. Michelle asked how many people the program was reaching, i.e., looking for a cost/benefit ratio. Nina explained it is a training program for nurses, teachers, and other people in positions to reach-out to young girls.

Jan echoed Michelle's concern and would like to investigate the quality of the program before investing in it. Marty said that she would be available April 26 to attend the program in Montana in order to check it out. Nina also noted that Ms. Shulstrom would be at the 2005 Shaping Healthy Futures Conference in Jackson. Nina does not know if Ms. Shulstrom will be conducting the same type of training, but it might be an opportunity to see her in action.

Legislative/Education

There was no report from Safa. Diane informed the Council that the WCWI biennium budget was approved with the same funding as last year (\$70,700 general fund and \$19,550 nongovernmental funds).

WCWI Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2004

Margaret noted that Council members should keep an eye out for legislation that may affect the topics in the Legal Handbook so that updates can be produced.

Home & Community

Merna asked the Council if a decision could be made regarding membership in the National Women's History organization. After some discussion, the Council asked Merna to look into the specifics of the membership, i.e., was the membership fee on a yearly basis or was it a one-time fee?

Merna informed the Council that three WCWI sponsored programs were aired on Public TV.

Diane informed the Council that nine new nominations have been received for the 2004 Woman of Distinction award. This is in addition to the nominations received in previous years that are still active. She will provide copies of the nominations to all members at the face-to-face meeting in June.

Merna said she has been continuing to work on the Women's History Road Map, however, Rick Ewing has been unreachable for some time and so the project is currently at a stand still. There was some discussion regarding other sources of information so that the project could continue to progress.

Merna asked the Council if the Woman of Distinction booklet on which she has been working should include the 2004 award winner? The Council indicated the 2004 award winner should be included.

(Margaret had to leave the meeting.)

Old Business

1. **Pinnacle Award.** Mary summarized the comments she has received regarding the initial draft of the award process and criteria. There was some discussion regarding whether or not the award should be focused on programs benefiting women or the workforce as a whole. Teresa said workforce is OK with her as long as the criteria target broadening the workforce, i.e., working toward a 50:50 gender ratio or a ratio that reflects the male:female ratio in the population, since data has shown that in even female dominated fields, if the proportion of males in the employee pool is increased, then wages increase. Teresa also suggested that the criteria require progress toward lessening the wage gap. Mary said she would continue to work on the specifics of the award and have something for the Council to consider at the next meeting.
2. **Resource Booklet.** Diane reported that the printing contract for the booklet expires April 15, so Council members should expect to receive their booklets for distribution around that date.

WCWI Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2004

3. **Legal Handbook.** Diane reported there are 20 cases left in storage of the Legal Handbook.
4. **Women's Conversation.** Merna indicated another conversation would be happening at some point and that she is prepared to attend. Jan said that she had been invited to attend as well, but was unsure if it was because she is on the Council or if it was because of her role as an educator.
5. **Any Other Old Business.** Teresa asked about the Wage Disparity Ad Hoc Committee and what its progress has been? Jan said that she has not received comments from the other two members on the committee (Sherrill and Mary) and that she would forward her thoughts to the rest of the Council for consideration.

New Business

1. **NACW Conference in Pasadena, CA, July 14-17.** Michelle began the discussion noting that the budget currently allocated funds for four people to attend. Members also noted that both Nina and Michelle have sent in proposals for presentations at the conference. Michelle reminded the Council that four people were sent last year and the intent had been that the Council would send four people per year, funding permitting, until all Council members had attended at least once.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of sending four people versus two people to the conference. Margaret had previously given her input, indicating she thought two people should be sent rather than four. Considerations of benefits to members, as well as importance of representation at the conference, were discussed. Many on the Council voiced desires to ensure the Council members who attend report back to the rest of the Council information and ideas for new projects.

Jan moved to send four people to the NACW Conference, Cynthia being one and one person who has attended before with an obligation to present information and ideas from the conference. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed with Merna opposed. (Margaret had previously indicated her desire to send only two people and was not present for the vote on the motion.)

Selection of the other attendees resulted in Jan and Michelle being sent as the only two people who could go who have not attended yet. There was some discussion regarding how to select the fourth person; Merna and Teresa supported sending Nina since she had submitted a proposal for presentation. After some discussion, a majority of the Council indicated names should be drawn. Teresa was selected as the fourth person to go, with DaNece as first alternate, Nina as second alternate and Merna as third alternate.

2. **Website update.** Diane lead the discussion of the topics outlined in an email for providing direction on designing a website. Who does the Council want to reach (a national audience or State-wide)? The Council indicated the website should focus on

WCWI Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2004

people within the State. What type of information should be on the website? The Council indicated publications, minutes, newsletter, and links, among other things. Teresa asked about an internal search engine. Diane indicated that would not be considered a “standard” feature and she did not know how much extra it would cost to include one. What kind of look? The Council agreed that the website needed to be clearly distinguishable from the Business Council website—too many people were getting confused and not realizing when they had reached the WCWI web-page because it looked too similar to the Business Council’s.

3. **Any Other New Business.** There was no other new business to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.