

Wyoming Council on Women's Issues
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2005

Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Michelle Aldrich, Jan Torres, Merna Rierson, Sherrill Helzer, Teresa de Groh, Nina Romero-Caron, Mary England, and Diane Moser were present. Jenny Ingram and Cynthia Chavez Kelly were absent. Three council seats are vacant.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Teresa said she had not received any changes or corrections to the minutes.

Sherrill moved to approve the March 5, 2005 minutes as presented. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Diane had sent a financial report, as well as expenditure projections and allocations, to council members prior to the meeting. Council members clarified planned funding for certain projects: the Women of Distinction booklet had funds allocated, paying for a legal review of the up-dated Legal Handbook does not have funds allocated.

Friend's Account

Michelle noted she had sent Council members an email with the Friends' account balance of \$2,066.58, per Marty Coe.

Committee Reports

Health

Sherrill informed Council members that she has been contacted regarding participation in Race for the Cure. She will forward information about the race and registration when she receives it. There was discussion about partnering with the Wyoming Business Council for a team. Sherrill was assigned to contact Bob Jensen (777-2862) at the WBC regarding a combined team. Council members also requested Diane work with Sonya to put a Race for the Cure link on the WCWI website.

Legislative

Teresa confirmed with Diane that the "legal review" discussed with Dona Playton would include incorporation of all statutory changes since the Handbook was initially published. Teresa confirmed that the next newsletter, to be mailed shortly, contains the Legislative Committee's column listing bills of possible interest that have been or will become law. Teresa asked about the timing for the next newsletter. Diane said that the summer issue will come out in August, so content will be due by the middle of July.

Merna informed the Council that there is a group of people in Natrona County that are keeping alive the effort to repeal the sales tax on food.

Home & Community

Merna summarized the programs on public TV during Women's History Month that were of interest: a program on the 1977 Women's Convention in Houston and the program on Frieda Kalo. Merna also spoke with the TV program director regarding WCWI's efforts to produce a program on Nellie Tayloe Ross and the Council's consideration of requesting money for the project from the legislature.

Old Business

1. **Website.** Council members thanked Diane, and Sonya in absentia, for the data on use of the new website that was sent to Council members by email prior to the meeting. Diane indicated she intends to produce a similar summary for each Council meeting. Council members agreed this would be of interest and that once a year or so, they would like to see a longer-term trend summary as well.
2. **NACW conference bid.** Teresa summarized what was happening with pursuit of a conference bid by reiterating the information needs the Council members had identified at the last meeting, i.e., estimates on attendance, hosting party role/NACW role regarding obtaining speakers, etc. Cynthia was to obtain this information, but no one recalled receiving any information and Cynthia was not in attendance for discussion. Council

WCWI Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2005

members expressed concern regarding the disorganization of the NACW that would make it difficult to put on a well-run conference.

Mary moved to no longer pursue putting together a NACW conference bid. Nina seconded the motion. Michelle summarized the situation—that until there is a strong national organization, there are too many concerns regarding national support to pursue hosting a national conference. Council members requested that Michelle write a letter to the NACW expressing the Council's position and concerns. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Connect brochure.** Diane brought the Council up to date on efforts made to bring the brochure production to closure. Since there is already a general brochure for the Connect program, there has been some discussion that a bookmark with Connect Wyoming information, sponsored by WCWI, might be preferable. Michelle suggested that mouse pads be considered as another way to create visibility for the program. Libraries and employment offices were mentioned as good outlets for these products. Michelle also suggested that the Wyoming Library Association might be interested in partnering on this project to produce bookmarks and mouse pads. There was some discussion regarding interest in mouse pads and Michelle asked members to ask folks in their local libraries if mouse pads would be something they would use.
4. **Girl Power.** Diane summarized the registration and attendance at the Girl Power seminar. Unfortunately, bad weather prevented a lot of people from being able to attend the event in Cheyenne (many roads were closed). There were 30 registrants for the Cheyenne seminar, but only 10 were able to get there. The seminar in Rock Springs fared better with 44 registered and 34 attending.

The speaker had to be flown from Rock Springs to Cheyenne in order to be able to fulfill her obligation, due to the snow storm (an unexpected expense). Seminar evaluations were done in Rock Springs, but did not get done in Cheyenne. Diane will do a financial report on the event, Nina will assemble the evaluation data, and Jan will assemble the final report.

5. **Women's Legal Handbook rewrites.** Diane informed the Council that no student has been found to take on this project for school credit. Dona Playton had estimated \$3,000 was needed to complete the rewrite as a paid law student project. Michelle noted that the Council has allocated money for publishing the handbook update; there is not much point in funding its publication if the Council does not fund the update.

Jan moved to pursue a contract with a graduate student (law school), to be paid up to \$5,000, to update the Legal Handbook. Sherrill seconded the motion. The Council asked Diane to pursue this project with Dona Playton, including contract negotiations. Diane noted that a student will likely not be available until the fall. The motion passed unanimously.

WCWI Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2005

The project to produce a Spanish language version of the Legal Handbook was briefly discussed. Teresa summarized that a list of grant sources had been identified to pay for the translation and that the Latino Resource Center is willing to partner with WCWI and be the grant recipient. However, until the update is progressing, it does not seem prudent to pursue a translation grant. Council members discussed types of information that might be needed to justify a grant. Teresa was assigned to talk to the Latino Resource Center regarding available data.

6. **Summit Award.** Diane informed the Council that only one nomination for the Summit Award has been received and that the nomination period is now closed. WCWI and its partners had intended to present the award at the Business Alliance meeting. Council members discussed ideas about why the award had not received more interest—it is the first year, announcement timing, business practices, etc. After some discussion, there was general agreement to pursue announcement of the award at the Business Alliance’s spring meeting and present the award at the Business Alliance’s fall meeting.

Mary moved to extend the Summit Award nomination deadline to July 31st and that all Council members make an effort to increase awareness about the award. Nina seconded the motion. Motion passed with Mary, Teresa, Nina and Sherrill voting for the motion; Merna abstained. Diane said she will have Sonya make the appropriate changes on the website.

7. **Friend’s reorganization.** Jenny has continued to pursue this project, without much success (her meeting with DaNece fell through). Council members discussed how to get this project going; it has been languishing. Teresa noted that there is a CPA in Jackson who specializes in helping nonprofits get organized and incorporated. Teresa thought the cost would be around \$600. Michelle asked if that cost included the filing fee, which she thought was somewhere around \$500. Teresa offered to investigate; there is sufficient money in the Friend’s account to get this project going.

Nina moved that Teresa look into securing a CPA to form a 501(c)(3) for the Friend’s of WCWI, authorizing up to \$2,050, including the filing fee. Mary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. **Wyoming Women of Distinction booklet.** Mary gave the following bids she received for the 100 prints of the booklet authorized:
Fantasm \$2,150 (high)
Express Printing \$850
Kinko’s \$550 (low)

Mary expressed concern that the folks at Fantasm thought there was more design work involved in the project than necessary and she is unconvinced that the Kinko’s bid is the quality desired. Mary thought investigation of other printers that the WBC uses might be helpful.

WCWI Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2005

Diane suggested that Sonya may be able to do some set-up work on the project that could make the printing straight forward and Diane said she will get a bid from a printer in Cheyenne. (Mary had to leave the meeting at this time.)

9. **Wyoming Woman of Distinction, 2005.** Diane said nine nominations have been received and there are several nominations from previous years that are still active. She will compile a packet for the face-to-face meeting in Casper next month.
10. **Student's Guide to Sexual Harassment Spanish Translation.** Teresa informed the Council that she would be going to the Journeys School on Monday to talk to the students doing the project.
11. **Wyoming Tech Prep Consortium Follow-up.** Diane reminded the Council that she had emailed a list, or a contact email to obtain a list, of all high schools in Wyoming. Diane said she has not received a list of the schools already involved with the Consortium. Merna said she had thought the Consortium had sent one; she will follow-up. Once a list is received from the Consortium, Michelle said she would identify the schools that do not belong to the Consortium and make assignments to Council members of schools to contact about joining the Consortium.
12. **Nellie Tayloe Ross Documentary.** Merna asked Diane about getting a proposal to fund production of the documentary in to the proposed budget. Diane said WCWI should present some information to justify the proposal. After some discussion regarding what information would be helpful, the conclusion was that Merna will work with Ruby and Diane to gather necessary information. Diane said the budget proposal will need to be finished by the end of July.
13. **Committee Realignment to Statute.** Jan had exited the meeting, so Teresa noted that while there had been a proposal to incorporate committee structure into the by-laws, several members seemed unconvinced this was necessary. The general consensus of the Council was that the committees should be restructured according to the focus established by Statute and that the June meeting will be used to work on distributing projects accordingly and assigning members to the new committees.
14. **Any Other Old Business.** There was no other old business.

New Business

1. **Vacancies.** Diane and Michelle noted that there seems to have been a lot of interest in the Council vacancies, but they don't know how many applications may have been submitted. Diane said she would contact the Governor's office to see if any appointments may be forthcoming in the near future.

*WCWI Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2005*

2. **National Conference.** Council members discussed the state of the national organization again and the advisability and possibility of sending four members, as previously intended. The discussion revealed that some members are uncomfortable with sending four members and it appeared that there might not be four members to send anyway. The Council assumed Cynthia was going; Michelle confirmed that Sherrill could go; both Nina and Teresa were unsure of their schedules. Other members either could not go or did not want to go, and Jenny was the only other member who has not yet attended an NACW convention. The general consensus of the members remaining at the meeting was that Sherrill and Jenny should go, if possible, otherwise only one member, in addition to Cynthia should be sent.

Merna raised the question of how long WCWI is committed to funding Cynthia's NACW seat expenses. Michelle and Nina had understood Cynthia's term to be one year; Cynthia has said it is two. Since there seemed to be some confusion, Michelle was charged with obtaining information on all NACW seats, terms and their expiration.

The Council discussed its commitment to NACW and Cynthia's seat. Some concerns were expressed that the benefits anticipated in WCWI support were not being realized—both due to the disorganization of the NACW and due to Cynthia's illnesses during her term. Michelle indicated a consideration for withdrawal of support should be on the next meeting's agenda.

3. **Next Meeting June 4th in Casper.** Michelle asked Diane if a venue had been established yet. Diane indicated she has not reserved space, but will likely pursue the Holiday Inn Express (same place as last time).
4. **Set Dates for Next Year?** Michelle indicated this should be done at the June meeting in Casper.
5. **Any Other New Business.** Michelle acknowledged Nina's decision to withdraw from her appointment as Chair of WCWI (she was to take office in July). There was discussion regarding the appropriate process for filling the vacancy. Michelle noted that Sherrill does not want to be Chair. Teresa asked if there is a proper parliamentary procedure to be followed or if there is instruction in the by-laws. Some members thought the Vice-Chair would typically be installed as Chair, however, given Sherrill's position, perhaps an election will need to be held at the June meeting.

Diane informed the Council that WCWI received a \$4,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole (with involvement of the Thursday Roundtable). Council members expressed much appreciation for the donation!

Merna asked that members bring any extra Legal Handbooks they may have to the June meeting; she is out and still getting calls for more.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.