

# Wyoming Council on Women's Issues

## Meeting Minutes

### July 29, 2004

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michelle, at 7:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Diane Moser, Jenny Ingram, Mary England, Michelle Aldrich, Teresa de Groh, Jan Torres, Merna Rierison, Sherrill Heltzer, Cynthia Chavez Kelly, and Nina Romero-Caron were present. Members Marty Coe and DaNece Koenigs, and Liz Quealy, were absent. Michelle noted that since the last meeting Margaret Pilch and Cleo Medina have resigned, Jenny Ingram and Liz Quealy have been appointed and several members have been reappointed.

#### Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of June 5, 2004, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed.

Jan noted one typo, then moved to approve the June 5, 2004 minutes, as corrected, and Nina seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Treasurer's Report

Diane noted she had sent to the Council a summary of the 2003-2004 budget expenditures and the 2005-2006 Biennium Budget. It was noted that delays in the contract negotiations with the firm to be retained to produce the WCWI website prevented spending all the previous biennium budget monies—some monies had been intended for the initial payment to the website designers. As a result, those monies were returned to the Wyoming State General Fund and will have to come out of the new biennium budget.

#### Friend's Account

Michelle reported for Marty that there has been very little change in the Friend's Account. Michelle explained the purpose of the Friend's Account to Jenny and there was a little discussion regarding where the 501(c)3 status was, and why.

## Old Business

2. **State Survey.** Michelle then deviated from the agenda in order to allow discussion with Sandy Root-Elledge regarding the state-wide survey WCWI had contracted with the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC). Teresa and the rest of the Council thanked Sandy and her colleagues for a well done survey and report. Nina requested that the WCWI name be more prominent on the cover of the report. Jan requested that more credit be noted for WCWI's contributions in development of the survey. Some questions regarding the survey results were discussed, specifically the results indicating a general feeling among respondents that substance abuse is a significant problem in their community, yet the number of respondents who personally experienced substance abuse problems did not indicate a high incidence of the problem in the state.

Jan asked if the UW team had any suggestions for improvement in the survey if WCWI were to pursue administering the survey at regular intervals in the future. Michelle asked if the UW team had any recommendations for further study. Teresa noted that WCWI had already met one need noted in the report by the recent publication of the Resource Directory. Teresa also encouraged the Council to consider the top areas in which the largest percentages of respondents indicated they experienced problems—health care, family issues, child care and employment/wages—and what types of problems were respondent's greatest concerns, such as cost of insurance, communicating with teens, dealing with aging relatives, the availability and cost of child care, and low wages. What can WCWI do to address these problems? After some discussion, the Council agreed that collaboration with other state departments should be pursued, as the top issues for respondents are areas in which various state agencies have already been pursuing reform and improvements. The survey results could give a significant boost to existing efforts by reinforcing arguments for needed changes in current systems.

Diane asked about a press release and providing copies of the report to legislators. Michelle noted that some state department heads have also requested copies. There was some discussion regarding how to release the report and how to use the information provided by it.

Merna moved to have Cynthia coordinate publicity regarding the Women's Issues Survey. Jan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle next asked Sandy to describe the Connect Wyoming program. Sandy said she would like to give a presentation to the Council regarding the program. It is grounded in a database that has been developed focusing on human services. The database is called Pathways Plus, is updated quarterly, and can be reached at <http://wind.uwvyo.edu/connect/pathways.asp>. Efforts can be made to integrate the WCWI Resource Directory information and Michelle asked Diane to send Sandy a Resource Directory. The Council again thanked Sandy for her time. Michelle then returned to the scheduled agenda.

## Committee Reports

### Health

Sherrill updated the Council on doings for Race for the Cure. A couple of Council members are planning to run and Michelle encouraged all Council members to sign-up as phantom runners if they could not run the race.

Nina has been working on potential funding sources for bringing the Girl Power workshop to Wyoming. Jan has some groups interested in sponsoring for a workshop in Rock Springs. Michelle noted that the Wyoming Women's Foundation has issued a Request for Proposals and that the Girl Power workshop may be a good project. Jan and Nina will work on the RFP for the December deadline.

### Legislative

Michelle opened the Legislative Committee Report by noting that since Margaret has resigned, the Legislative Committee needs to appoint a new Chair. Michelle asked any member who is interested in serving as Legislative Committee Chair to please let her know. New member Jenny Ingram expressed an interest in serving on this committee.

Diane confirmed to the Council that greeting letters have been sent to all candidates for state and national public offices. Council members thanked Diane for getting the letters to prospective legislators. Everyone thought the letter was very good.

### Home/Community

Michelle asked Council members for comments and question on the Woman of Distinction rubric and noted that all Council members should be using it to rank the women nominated. Rankings are due to Michelle by August 1. After some discussion regarding the usability of the rubric, Cynthia said she would work on streamlining it a bit more.

## Old Business

1. **Pinnacle Award.** Mary England quickly noted that she has sent out summaries of the proposed Summit Award (the name was changed at the June meeting) to Council members and has yet to receive any comments.
2. **State Survey.** (This item was moved up on the agenda at the meeting.)
3. **Resource Booklet Reprint.** Diane informed the Council that the reprint of the booklet was finished and more booklets are available.
4. **Wage Disparity Ad Hoc.** Jan has not received any comments from Council members. Michelle requested members to be prepared to discuss at the September meeting.

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5. **Website.** Diane informed the Council that the contract for services has been executed. WCWI should have a press release when the website is up and running.
6. **NACW Conference.** Attendees from the conference shared anecdotal information as reports were received by Council members from most of the attendees via Michelle as the conference was going on. Cynthia is still preparing her notes, however, Michelle suggested that the WCWI send a letter to the NACW expressing concerns the Council's attendees had with the operation of the conference and sending a letter to the folks in Florida, who will be hosting next year's conference, with suggestions for improvements. Next year's conference will be in Miami, beginning July 11, 2005 and the following year's conference will be in Austin, Texas. Michelle noted that Cynthia was elected to the National Board.
7. **Proposed By-Law Change on Attendance.** Michelle initiated a discussion regarding a possible requirement for meeting attendance. She requested members to think about the minimum number of meetings a member should or could attend and still be a valuable, functional member of the Council. She also asked members to think about implementation—should there be an attendance requirement in the By-Laws or should it simply be a policy of the Council? After some discussion, the Council agreed to pursue a by-law change that would require a minimum of three meetings per calendar year.
8. **Any Other Old Business.** Nina mentioned she will be attending a data training in Cheyenne and that the Wyoming Health Council is sponsoring data training. Michelle noted that she will be going to Dubois to participate in a Women's roundtable there. Michelle also mentioned she has met with several Department heads regarding potential changes to the Legal Handbook. Michelle noted that the Council is almost at full capacity again, Judicial District 4 being the only position currently open. There was some discussion regarding the Women's Conference in September; thus far efforts to confirm the conference have been fruitless. Diane noted she had followed up on the idea of doing a publication about Wyoming's former first ladies. There has been a publication that covered the period 1869 to 1990. The Council agreed that current efforts should be directed at getting publication of a Women of Distinction booklet off the ground.

## **New Business**

1. **Jane Curry Presentations.** The fee for bringing Ms. Curry to Wyoming would be \$2,000, plus expenses. Various ideas for obtaining funding to pay for Ms. Curry's visit were discussed. Members requested a video, if possible, of the presentation for the next meeting and a summary of her program that would aid in approaching potential donors.
2. **2007 NACW bid for Jackson Hole.** Council members expressed interest in bidding on bringing the national conference to Wyoming for 2007. Application materials from

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NACW have been requested. The conference generally has about 250 to 300 attendees. Teresa will ask the Jackson Hole Chamber for help in getting the application completed.

3. **NACW President, Ruth Jackson, as Presenter of Woman of Distinction Award at Douglas Women's Conference.** The Council discussed a proposal to ask Ruth Jackson to present this year's woman of distinction award. Nina moved to pay for Ruth Jackson's expenses to travel to Douglas so that she can present the Woman of Distinction Award. Mary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. **New Member Committee Appointments.** Michelle noted that new members should let her know on which committees they are interested in serving.
5. **Wyoming Women's Foundation Grant RFP.** (This item was discussed during Committee Reports.)
6. **Other New Business.** The attendees of this year's NACW Conference had seen a bookmark done by another Commission and came home with the idea of publishing bookmarks or business card size handouts encouraging women to vote (since there is an election coming soon). After discussion of the idea, Cynthia moved that Nina and Michelle pursue production of bookmarks. Mary seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding getting a draft to members for review and a target distribution by the face-to-face meeting in September. The cost should be under \$500, and that should pay for approximately 5000 bookmarks. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The Council tentatively set September 25 as its next meeting date, which will be a face-to-face meeting in Casper.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.