

*Rough Draft – prepared on 8/6/05; corrected 8/12/05*

## **Wyoming Council on Women's Issues**

### **Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2005**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Sherrill at 6:10 PM.

#### **I. Roll Call**

Cynthia Chavez-Kelly	Jenny Ingram
Mary England	Merna Rierson
Sherrill Helzer	Nina Romero-Caron
Diane Moser	

Absent: Teresa de Groh, Michelle Aldrich.

**Changes After Roll Call:** Nina Romero-Caron exited the meeting at 6:35 pm; Teresa deGroh entered the meeting at 7:45 pm; Mary England exited the meeting at 7:50 pm

#### **II. Minutes of Last Meeting (June 4, 2005)**

Diane made two corrections, one to correct the spelling of Tucker Fagan's name and the fact that there were four council vacancies as of the last meeting. Mary moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Nina and motion passed

##### **Change to Agenda**

Because Nina needed to leave early, Merna asked about information on Home and Community Reports and the Love Your Body project. Ruby Calvert of Wyoming Public Television had told Merna she could use the information and specifically requested one-half and hour-long programs by the end of August. Nina reported there is a Larry Kirkwood video currently available and the new year programming materials would probably not be ready until later this Fall. Merna was to email Nina specific information on how to contact Ruby.

#### **III. Treasurer's Report**

Diane reported our expenses through 6/30/05 and said end-of-year adjustments would be made before the final year-end figures are available. At this point, 42% of the budget has been expended but national convention expenses were not reflected. Projected costs are highlighted and some costs are less than estimated. She feels about \$2,600 of the full biennial budget has not been allocated to any projects. Cynthia moved to approve the financial reports, seconded by Jenny. Motion passed.

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. Educational Opportunities.**

1. Tech Prep Consortium:

Jan reported she had obtained the names of all district personnel teaching in the schools she was responsible for contacting from the State Department of Education but was waiting until school started to write personal letters.

Jenny has sent the information to principals.

Nina had also made some progress.

2. WIN (Wellness in Wyoming)

No information has been received yet but Nina will forward it when it does become available.

### **B. Employment Practices**

1. Mary reported that two nominations had been received. Discussion involved the next step in the process as to whether both nominees met the criteria and setting up the committee so that each partner (DFS, Wyoming Business Alliance and Wyoming Business Council) could vote on the winner. Diane said she could get the names of individuals from each agency and Nina suggested a scoring similar to the one used for the Woman of Distinction process. The nominees are Wyoming Children's Access Network (Sheridan) and Edeen Homes (Cheyenne). The deadline was July 31<sup>st</sup>. Discussion centered on whether or not the process was reasonable. After the extension in time, only 2 nominations had been made and a suggestion was made that a shorter nomination period be used. Perhaps it would be best to announce the recipient at the Women's Conference and have the deadline by year's end. The original plan was to have the winner recognized at the Business Alliance Forum (which meets twice yearly, Fall and Spring). Mary will meet with the other three representatives after receiving a template for the scoring matrix from Cynthia.

At this point, Nina exited (6:35 pm) after responding to a comment about "Love Your Body" being presented at the national conference. A reference was made to the workshop idea coming from the Wyoming Council of Women's Issues.

2. No new information was available from either Mary or Merna regarding the Contractor's Association.

### **C. Legal Rights and Responsibilities**

1. Diane has not had any success reaching Donna at the UW Law School but

will continue to try to reach her. Cynthia said she would try as well

2. Sexual Handbook. Because Teresa was not present, there was general discussion about the Spanish version recently completed. Cynthia looked at it but didn't feel competent to accept responsibility for formatting in a brochure version. She offered to find a student to do the final proof for formatting if the Council would offer some kind of payment. Jan said she could do the final formatting proof if necessary. The item was tabled.

#### **D. Home and Community**

##### 1. Woman's History Month:

Merna reported that she had been in contact with Ruby Calvert regarding the Nellie Tayloe Ross documentary. Ms. Calvert said WCWI should NOT request funding from the legislature for the project but that Wyoming Public TV would appreciate our support and might need help with some grant writing. The documentary will be a half hour program with an unknown screening date. It won't be done by next March for Women's History Month. Wyoming Public TV is probably going to submit a Humanities Grant, according to Jenny, to ask for a grant and production was probably going to begin in January as part of Main Street Wyoming. National distribution is a possibility. Merna said there is a video available on Jeannette Rankin (Montana) who was first woman elected to the U. S. House and has the distinction of casting the lone negative vote for both World Wars.

There was also discussion about Public Radio's interest in any item the WCWI is working on. Merna wondered if any information on Girl Power might be available and Jan reported the presenter (Lisa Hjostrom) is returning to Rock Springs for a bullying program next Fall.

Merna said that the last she had heard from Equipoise was that they were pursuing a different direction and information would follow but nothing further has been received since then.

##### 2. Woman of Distinction Award

The item regarding the Woman of Distinction Award was tabled because Michelle wasn't present. Apparently the vote is very close between two women. Cynthia said she had not voted because she thought she had missed the deadline and said she would send in her selections.

3. Woman of Distinction Booklet: The rough draft with pictures and text is now ready. Diane is going to send a copy of the draft to members for their feedback. Once the 2005 winner is selected, she can be added

and the booklet will be ready for printing.

4. Connect Bookmark: All WCWI members and Connect staff have received a supply. The next newsletter mailing will have one inserted in each copy. Jan reported hers are all distributed; Merna said she didn't have much success and every one wanted a book. Sherrill said she did not anticipate any problems dispensing them. Jenny had distributed some to the Washakie Center and wondered if they would be an asset to students. Other sites suggested were adult centers, chambers of commerce, and DFS offices. Each member received 500 bookmarks.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Friends Corporate Status**

Jenny reported that we have started from scratch and she has the required forms which she will mail to get feedback. The cost is \$25 and the forms are fairly straight forward. It is believed the officers who have agreed to serve are Marty Coe, Amy McClure and Lora Hittle. Marty apparently has the funds and Jenny will get in touch with her.

### **B. By-Law Amendment Eliminating Treasurer**

Jan moved to approve the suggested amendment; Jenny seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. NACW Membership**

This item was apparently mistakenly added to the agenda. Cynthia said that to bring the issue forward, it would have had to have been requested by a member who had voted in the majority and none agreed to do so. Diane reported the 2005 dues had not been paid.

### **D. WCWI Vacancies**

There has been no notice regarding new appointees. When she sent the list of new officers to the Governor's office, Diane asked Patty Burns about the status. Currently, Districts #4, #5 and #6 and one at-large position are all unfilled.

### **E. Request to Amend Previous Minutes**

Cynthia suggested withdrawing the item. Diane's check of phone records did not indicate Cynthia had called in and Cynthia doesn't have any record of proof from the motel. Diane suggesting checking with the motel as no system is foolproof and there may be an error in the calling center.

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Cynthia believes she had logged on and had asked the national group to re-arrange their schedule so she could do so. The item was tabled.

#### **F. Girl Power**

The financial summary through June 30 shows that the expenses were \$5,553.79 and we collected \$6,180 in registrations and grants. There is about \$700 that could be applied to other projects. There was some discussion about presenting the workshop again in the northern part of the state but Jan said without local coordination, it would be very difficult. She also said it was very labor intensive and stressful.

#### **G. Follow through on other Projects**

The wage disparity ad hoc committee consisting of Jan, Sherrill and Mary asked about what more can be done. The Summit Award is something that grew out of it but it was agreed we need to keep pressure on legislators and make sure the information is always available. It was a common frustration expressed at the national conference but no concrete suggestions have been made. Mary reported a visit to Teton Homes which manufactures recreational vehicles had about 25% female employees in a nontraditional job and the manager reported that all were making \$10 which is the official living wage in Natrona County according to the recent study. The Governor's office has issued a self-sufficiency standard, county by county, which takes family size into account. It is available on the Governor's website. There are also two pages of suggestions on what can be done about the issue, which might offer WCWI some ideas we could focus on, perhaps tied to the issues survey. Jenny reported she would advise the League of Women Voters that we are still interested.

#### **H. Improved Credibility and Visibility:**

Jenny and Cynthia were guests on public radio and talked about the various projects we are involved with and the station appears to want more stories about our various projects.

The issue of vacancies is another problem and how to get applications to the Governor and get vacancies filled would help our visibility.

Merna suggested that since Equipoise does not appear to have made any progress, we could perhaps take a lead role in developing a list of all the various groups working on women's issues in Wyoming

Mary exited the meeting at about 7:50 pm. There were five members remaining so the meeting continued.

## **VI. New Business:**

### **A. NACW Convention Report**

Sherrill, Jenny and Cynthia talked about their experiences. Cynthia attended the national board meetings and advised them of our decision. Some of the same issues and concerns we raised were echoed by other members. She reported the President had not received our letter until the night before. Utah voted not to fund her trip to nationals. Ruth wanted the next President to appoint replacements because National did not have a full slate of officers for existing vacancies. Cynthia returned home and submitted her resignation letter. She was allowed to vote because dues were paid last year.

Sherrill was very impressed with the caliber of women attending the conference and believes the new President will be a true leader. She didn't see as much information to bring home as previous attendees had found.

Jenny agreed with Sherrill that the workshops were a little "thin" and commented Florida used a lot of state resources. One session she found interesting was on human trafficking.

Cynthia said a legal handbook was available from another state that was formatted a little differently. She felt the AIDS workshop was positive.

When asked how many people attended, they believed there might have been 125 and that other conferences might have had more content. Cynthia described some of the workshops she attended and said she would bring information to the next face to face meeting.

### **B. Committee Chairs:**

Teresa joined the meeting at about 7:45 pm. She felt each committee should have a chair and there seems to be some confusion about who had volunteered for what specific committee. Michelle had said she had volunteered for Home & Community and Mary reported that Jan and Sherrill were on the Employment Committee with her. Diane said she will check the notes from the flip chart. Jan said as secretary, she would only agree to be on one committee and volunteered to chair educational opportunities. Sherrill said she did not volunteer for the Employment Committee. Teresa would like to have the assignments more even and Cynthia volunteered to be on the Employment Practices Committee

### **C. Committee Columns**

Teresa would like each chair to write a column for the newsletter each time. Jan and Sherrill agreed.

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**D. Matters from Council and Public:**

Merna said that perhaps Mary should be appointed as the new Tech Prep Consortium representative as she is on the Employment Committee.

Teresa said she believed that Merna could continue to serve and that perhaps Merna and Mary could talk about whether there needs to be a change.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm after a motion by Merna and a second by Jenny.