

# Wyoming Council on Women's Issues Meeting Minutes September 14, 2003

## Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, 2003.

## Roll Call

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

Michelle introduced two guests in attendance at the meeting: Melissa Turley from the Equipoise Fund and Susie Scott-Mullen from the Wyoming Women's Foundation (WWF.)

## Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of July 12, 2003, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed. Margaret suggested several clarifications. Margaret then moved to accept the July 12, 2003 minutes with the suggested changes and DaNece seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

Diane indicated she had emailed the budget summary to the Council members and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

## Friends' Account

Michelle reported for Marty, who was absent, that there is \$2,063.14 in the Friends' Account.

## Committee Reports

### Legislative/Education

Safa indicated there was nothing new to report from this committee. The committee has been following the Title 14 revisions and although there has been no activity recently, it is expected to pickup again soon.

### Health

Nina sent a report by email to Michelle, since she would be missing the meeting. Michelle read the email as follows:

Nina attended the following health workshops at NACW: Hormone Replacement Therapy, Women and Heart Disease, Rural Health Issues, and Mental Illness. Nina indicated she brought back tons of information. She also wrote an article on cholesterol for the next newsletter.

Nina's email announced the "Keeping Wyoming Safe and Secure Conference" to be held October 22, 2003 at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. State and national experts will discuss terrorism and emergency preparedness for the State of Wyoming in the areas of food safety, public health, economics, crops and livestock. Registration is \$15.00. Call UW Conferences and Institutes at 766-5637 for more info.

Safa reported that the Women's Council received \$3,500 to fund the Women's Health Assessment. This project will take at least a year.

### Home & Community

Merna reported that the Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award was given to Cindy Knight as part of the luncheon activities yesterday, at the Wyoming Women's Conference.

## Old Business

1. **Friends' reorganization.** DaNece said that she would email a summary report to all the Council members.
2. **Wyoming Woman of Distinction.** [This was covered in the committee reports.]
3. **Race for the Cure.** Safa handed out T-shirts to those that had participated. Safa did not have information regarding how much money the Council may have raised for the Komen Foundation.
4. **Resource handbook.** Margaret informed the Council the handbook was done and had a print to pass around. She explained the need to keep the number of pages under 123, due to cost. She would like to use the same printer as WCWI used for the Legal Handbook,

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as their price is significantly less expensive. WCWI will still need to put the print job out to bid under state bidding regulations. She is still working on finding some graphics to insert and has left spaces in the text where she would like to put some graphics. Some Council members indicated a few more changes would be coming from their districts. In addition, Michelle indicated the WCWI name should be in a larger font, so that it is more prominent on the front. There was some discussion regarding the WCWI name—the title should be largest and the WCWI name should be in balance with other items on the front—and where the WCWI logo should be placed. The conclusion regarding the logo was that it should be placed on the front cover. Margaret also indicated a grant request was sent to the Wyoming Women’s Foundation. Susie, WWF, said WCWI would hear from them sometime in November regarding the grant request.

5. **Wage disparity.** Diane summarized the last Joint Committee meeting; the Committee wants specific legislation proposed. The Committee also noted three efforts the State could make to address wage disparity:
  - a. Adjustments to State employee wages.
  - b. Provide childcare for State employees.
  - c. (Diane could not remember what this was.)

Susie, WWF, talked about the training sessions being spearheaded by the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters called “What Would You Do With an Extra 25 Cents Per Hour” or otherwise known as “Information is Power” workshops. Margaret, Safa and Jan indicated they would like to bring the workshops to their communities.

6. **Any other old business.** Diane mentioned the Sexual Harassment brochure was finished and she brought some for people to distribute in their districts.

## **New Business**

1. **Business Award.** Michelle spoke for Mary, who was scheduled to attend the meeting later in the morning. Mary would like to Council to consider an award for employers who provide excellent and/or unusual, but necessary, employee benefits. The membership indicated that such an award would be a good pursuit, but that guidelines should be set out for the award prior to soliciting nominees.
2. **Any other new business.** The Council set the dates and times for meetings through the end of the fiscal year. The Council’s next meeting was set for Saturday, November 1, 2003, as a teleconference at 8:30 a.m. A meeting was set for Saturday, January 10, 2004, as a teleconference at 8:30 a.m. A meeting was set for Saturday, April 3, 2004, as a teleconference at 8:30 a.m. The next face-to-face meeting was set for Saturday, June 5, 2004, in Casper at 10:00 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m., at which time the Council went into a strategic planning session in order to identify projects and set priorities for the rest of the year.

### ***Summary of Strategic Planning Session:***

Approximately \$44,000 remains of the special exception budget. \$10,000 is committed to publishing the Resource Directory. As a result, the WCWI has about \$34,000 for new projects.

The top four projects that the Council will pursue are:

1. **A Study/Survey of Issues.** The model for this project is a survey that was conducted first in New Mexico and subsequently in Nebraska by the Commissions for Women in those states. Margaret committed to gathering information on how these surveys were conducted and obtaining copies of the instruments.
2. **Wage Disparity Action.** The Council would like to work with industry to discover why women are under-represented in certain industries that have higher paying jobs. The membership noted that state forms need to be changed so that the necessary data is collected for accurately reporting the disparity situation. The State of Wyoming should also be involved in promoting a living wage. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed of Mary, Jan and Sherrill, who will peruse the Wage Disparity Study again, looking specifically for ideas on what can be accomplished by WCWI to promote address of the wage disparity problem.
3. **Coordinate Women's Groups.** The membership agreed that the Equipoise Fund intends to bring women's groups together and work on coordinating our efforts and that WCWI will lend its support to the Equipoise Fund. Teresa and Michelle were to keep in contact with the Equipoise Fund and indicate the Council's intent.
4. **Transitional Education.** WCWI should team with Workforce Services to identify where there may be significant losses in funds for continuing education. Questions regarding educational needs should be included in the survey contemplated in project #1, above. An eye should be kept on TANF fund allocations.