

WYOMING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES
Minutes for February 23, 2008 -- Cheyenne, WY

Members Attending:

Lori Clifford	Suzey Delger	Scarlet Skorcz	Kim Capron
Teresa de Groh	Donna Whitson	Sherrill Helzer	Diane Moser
Michelle Aldrich	Jan Torres	Pamela Downing	

Members Absent:

Jenny Ingram
Maureen Neavill

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Teresa de Groh.

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Legal Handbook

There are two general items to discuss. The first is that we have received updated information based on 2007 Legislative changes from Dona Playton, amounting to about 15 pages. Teresa has been working to incorporate them into the current Legal Handbook (which has already been reviewed by the Attorney General's office). She explained to new members that the first Legal Handbook was completed in 2002 with the goal of explaining law of particular impact to women in terms a layperson can understand. Teresa pointed a significant change in 2007 law which prevents breastfeeding women from being charged with public indecency. However, these 2007 updates from legislative changes have to be submitted to the Attorney General's office for review before the Handbook can be printed. Absent these updates, the handbook is ready to be printed. Lori volunteered to help with this task. Pamela moved that Lori be given a week to review them and determine if they could be easily included. If not, the Legal Handbook will be formatted and sent out for printing and the 2007 changes will be offered as an amendment. Suzey seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Michelle pointed out that since we are contracting with Ms. Playton for the same kind of service from 2008 legislation, our contract should require the changes be produced in a format easily inserted into the existing handbook. Kim pointed out that keeping the handbook current will always be a challenge issue because laws change annually and we determined the Handbook should be available in printed and electronic formats.

The Council then discussed the development of pamphlets or newsletter filler from extra material WCWI deleted from the Playton version that we considered to be more advisory or based on personal opinion, rather than legal facts. Kim summarized thirteen titles to see how each could be assigned to various committees. Donna suggested that some of these informational topics were already being well publicized by other groups and that perhaps the best use would be in the newsletter

After discussion, the Council assigned the following list to members who are asked to edit and summarize the information to about 500 words and then verify that the contact information is correct. Kim will send each of us the information on how and who to forward the summary when completed.

Credit - (checking credit, etc) - Pamela Downing
Elder Abuse (adult protective services) - Michelle Aldrich
Habitat for Humanity (qualifying) - deleted
Identity theft (4 pages) - Donna Whitson
Land Ownership (tenancy) - Teresa de Groh
Multiple level marketing plans (distributors) - Lori Clifford
Payday Loans - Jan Torres
Property Rights of unmarried, same-sex couples (quit claim deeds) -
Sexual assault (key facts) - Suzey Delger
Stalking and domestic violence (cyber stalking) - Sherrill Helzer
Teen Dating Violence (safety plans) - Scarlet Skorcz
WCDA first time homebuyer loans - Teresa de Groh
Work at Home schemes -- Lori Clifford

B. Revisions to WCWI Brochure

Council members reviewed the updated brochure and recommended two changes: deleting a reference to WCWI identifying educational programs and suggested the tag lines be more distinct. Michelle suggested the reference to weekly updates of the legislative session may not be accurate.

C. Spending Plan for Balance of the Biennium

Teresa reminded members we had requested \$50,000 as an exception budget for the next biennium and the Governor recommended \$25,000.

We had about \$16,000 in uncommitted dollars and had agreed to review a list of proposed expenses at this meeting. To date, our expenses appear to be as follows:

Summit Award - spending is in process and we had allocated \$2,700.

Promotional Items - we had allocated \$2,000 for promotional items. Pamela moved that we purchase 500 note pads and spend the remaining amount on magnetic clips. The note pads will be distributed at the Summit Awards dinner. The clips will be available as the WCWI is displayed at various events. Scarlet seconded and the motion passed unanimously. All items will be ordered in purple and feature the WCWI logo.

Printing Legal Handbook - the costs will probably be about \$20,000, and we had previously reserved \$10,000. Diane is preparing an RFP for the printing but is guessing that with a nicer cover and the increased costs of printing, the price per handbook will be much greater. The last edition cost about \$1 each. The Council decided that we will print as many as \$20,000 will buy. Kim moved that Diane be authorized to award the lowest bid as soon as the RFPs are completed so that we can get the handbook finished. Suzey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Career Fair - keynote speaker. Since LCCC has been selected as the site for 2008, Michelle moved that the \$1,000 we earmarked for a speaker be forwarded

to LCCC for sponsorship fee. She will ask LCCC to prepare an invoice in that amount. In addition, Michelle moved that any available money not expended or committed on June 30, 2008 be reserved for the Nontraditional Job Fair costs. Kim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Equal Pay Day Proclamation

Pamela has prepared a proclamation for Equal Pay Day which needs to be submitted as soon as possible. The proclamation will be listed on the Governor's website. Members living in Cheyenne are asked to be at the signing and Diane will see press releases are sent out.

B. Women's Women Status Report

The 2008 Report garnered a great deal of media attention. Teresa feels we should begin preparing next year's report and asked members to think about what they wanted to include or if there are recommended changes, Members felt that there is a huge underlying discussion about how we can actually impact women's lives rather than describing their status. Members requested the issue be put on the next agenda as a matter of lengthy debate.

Teresa suggested the 2009 Report have one page per committee which could perhaps be pulled out to stand alone if a committee had need of a handout. She asked each committee to think about what to include in their section. The Legal Rights and Responsibilities Committee will feature results of the 2008 election, including municipalities. Home and Community can look at the issues that were important in our survey results such as substance abuse, health care, elder care, etc. Teresa suggested that all the committees think about those survey results as they prepare their respective pages.

C. Voting Electronically and Open Meetings Act

Lori expressed concern that WCWI members voted electronically via email and referenced our contract with Health & Human Services and the health needs assessment. She said she isn't comfortable making decisions by email and that the Open Meetings Acts discriminates between major decisions and day-to-day activities. Members discussed the fact that we had talked about the contract in detail in October and decided that if certain requirements were not met, the contract would be cancelled. Jan suggested that many times boards confirm action by electronic votes. Since our bylaws don't specifically allow for electronic voting, we may not be able to do so. Diane said she believed electronic voting was not allowed under the Open Meetings Act and had contacted the Attorney General's Office. She was told that voting needed to be part of the public process meeting process. Additionally, she verified with the Attorney General's office about what whether press releases or media advisories are sufficient public notice about meetings. She was advised that WCWI should send out either a press release or media advisory to the local press. Teresa expressed her intention to have no further electronic voting in the future and if an issue requires the Council to vote, she will schedule a special meeting. Any special meeting would probably be done via the telephone.

D. Go Run, the White House Project (Run Girl Run)

This training on political leadership is sponsored by the White House project and is scheduled for March 28 in Colorado. Equipoise will provide scholarships for women who want to attend the training. The Leap into Leadership scheduled for next week in Cheyenne will have representatives from the White House Project as speakers. Teresa wondered if WCWI might want to try to bring the training to Wyoming. She suggested we limit it to every other year, when elections are not scheduled. Teresa and Kim are both attending Leap into Leadership and will try to get more information about the White House Project. They will make a recommendation as to whether or not this is a project the Legal Rights and Responsibilities Committee wants to adopt.

E. Vote Bookmark/Voter Mailer -

Members reviewed the bookmark that was done last election and didn't have any changes. They elected to stay with a bookmark rather than expand the effort into a mailing.

F. Leap into Leadership -

Both Kim and Teresa are attending and were asked to find out when it is scheduled next year so that our Cheyenne meeting could be scheduled accordingly.

G. Junior Miss Presentation -

Teresa summarized the discussion she had with the contestants and felt it was an effective way to encourage young women to think about wages and career choices. She would like to give the same kind of presentation to larger groups.

H. Crisis Management - Communication Plan.

Teresa pointed out she attempted to test our crisis plan with a small situation where she felt it was applicable and didn't have a good sense that the plan worked. She was asked to comment on the Governor's remarks regarding wage disparity and couldn't reach the executive committee members. In thinking about how to deal with the situation, members discussed the option of preplanning responses. Perhaps we could use the April 22nd Equal Pay Day proclamation and anticipate some questions, using the resources of the WBC. Members believe we could all use some media training and asked Diane to see if Rachel might be available and willing to come to our next meeting in Casper.

I. Other:

Teresa asked members to keep our annual schedule at the back of the media plan in mind as dates for events are confirmed for the coming year. In addition to the Leap into Leadership event, we need the Wyoming Expo and other dates. The Nontraditional Job Fair is scheduled for Thursday, October 23rd at LCCC

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes:

Because the minutes presented were not the corrected set, Jan Torres moved to table them until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Donna Whitson and passed unanimously.

B. Financial Report and Committee Reports:

The motion to approve was made by Suzey Delger and seconded by Scarlet Skorcz and passed unanimously.

IV. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PUBLIC

Michelle announced that WCWI's nomination of Pamela Downing as one of the 40 under 40 was approved. This recognition is sponsored by the Casper Star Tribune. Members congratulated Pam and Jan pointed out that every assignment that Pam accepts is done and done well so the award is very well deserved.

Michelle asked members to think about nominating someone for the Atta Girl Award. These awards will be announced during the screening of a film sponsored by the Wyoming Women's Foundation scheduled for April 26th. We have been asked to financially contribute to the event and the committee discussed several options. Kim suggested we change our meeting date to coincide with the film and Sherrill Helzer seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 26th in Casper and Diane will make motel arrangements,

Michelle's high school has formed a Z-club (Zonta) which has designed the first week in May as an event to "get mugged for women's rights". Handcrafted coffee mugs filled with tea assortments will be sold to raise awareness of both foot binding and genital circumcision. Michelle plans to set up the WCWI booth for the event, which will be in Cheyenne.

Diane handed out informational flyers from the Happy Jack calendar system and said there would be no charge if WCWI used it on our web page. It is more interactive than the calendar currently in use. Suzey Delger moved to adopt this calendar system and the motion was seconded by Pamela Downing and unanimously passed.

Teresa de Groh informed the council that Jenny Ingram will be resigning her position. Jan Torres and Michelle Aldrich will be leaving at the end of their terms in June so WCWI will need to replace four members. In addition, we will need a new Secretary. Nominations for officers will be taken at the April meeting. Michelle recommended that we ask Sanya to do some press releases to encourage applications.

Kim Capron will update the website to add links for Equipoise and the Wyoming Women's Foundation.

Diane Moser informed the council that she would be turning over her current position as liaison to someone else from the WBC. In addition, Sanya will be leaving the WBC on March 7 and Rachel will be her interim replacement. She also requested a short Executive Session to discuss personnel issues after the regular meeting was adjourned.

Kim moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Suzey and unanimously passed. The regular meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

WCWI then entered an Executive Session. Absent from the original list of attendees was Jan Torres. A personnel issue was discussed. The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:43 pm with no action.