

**Wyoming Council on Women's Issues
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2003**

Call to Order

Chair, Michelle Aldrich, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2003.

Introduction of New Council Members

Michelle introduced the two newest members appointed to the Council: Cleo Medina and Cynthia Chavez Kelly.

Roll Call

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

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the February 1, 2003 meeting, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed. DaNece moved to accept the February 1, 2003 minutes as presented and Safa seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Diane explained the biennium expenditure report contained in the binder prepared for the meeting. Expenditures are in line with what would be expected at this time in the biennium.

Friend's Account

Michelle reported for Marty that there is \$2,096.82 in the Friend's Account.

Committee Reports

Home & Community

Merna reported on the Women's History Month activities. WCWI got three shows on Public TV and had two slots promised by Public Radio, but when Merna attempted to arrange the programming, her calls were not returned. Merna noted the Governor proclaimed March 8 Women's History Day (using language suggested by WCWI.) Merna informed the Council of other Women's History Month activities, and there was discussion regarding what had gone on in various parts of the state and what the Council might do to promote Women's History Month next year.

Mary informed the Council that the Habitat house in Bar Nunn that Council members helped with last year was now finished and occupied.

The Council discussed the up-coming Women's Conference in September. The SBA is starting to put an agenda together, which was in the binder provided by Diane. Michelle noted that Wage Disparity was a topic and the conference would provide a good forum in which to disseminate the information in the Wage Disparity Study.

Health

Nina said she is getting ready to go to the conference in Jackson on shaping women's health. Nina also noted that she will probably receive the Love Your Body Day packets about three weeks prior and she will forward the materials to Council members when they arrive.

Legal/Legislative

Safa informed the Council of the disposition of the nine bills the Committee was monitoring this legislative session. Five of the bills passed, two failed and one was amended to pass only a portion of the original bill. (See attached summary.)

Old Business

1. **501(c) (3) status.** DaNece passed out By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation for the "Friends of the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues, Inc." DaNece noted that an incorporated entity has to have a uniform statement of purpose, which can be represented by the WCWI brochure. The Council indicated that Diane should be listed as the contact person on the application. The Council indicated that the members who are Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer should be the people who sign the Articles of Incorporation.

The Council then discussed the matter of Board members. DaNece noted that the Board members do not have to be members of the Council and, in fact, it might be better if they were not current members of the Council. DaNece informed the Council that a 501(c)3 Board must be comprised of at least three people; seven was average. The Council

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discussion indicated that five might be the target size for the Friend's Board. The Council then discussed who might consider serving on the Board.

2. **Wage Disparity Study.** Michelle informed the Council that the Wage Disparity Study was finished and a print was provided in the meeting binder. Michelle explained that the report must be provided to the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee by May 1. Council members are not to distribute the report to anyone prior to that date. The Steering Committee for the study will be making a formal presentation to the Joint Committee sometime in the future, but since their meeting schedule is unknown, it is unclear when the formal presentation will happen.

Michelle and Merna summarized the results of the study and discussion ensued regarding what the next steps of the Steering Committee and Council will be. Michelle explained that the Steering Committee intends to meet one more time in order to provide recommendations to WCWI and others regarding pursuit of the suggestions for rectifying wage disparity provided by the study. Council members decided that each should read the report and provide comments to other WCWI members by email as soon as possible. After a round of emails, the Council will assess the possible need for a meeting, to be scheduled on June 16, if necessary.

3. **By-Laws.** Michelle presented the most recent version of the By-Laws, contained in the meeting binder and dated 2-1-03. Margaret moved to approve the By-Laws as presented. Jan seconded the motion. There was no discussion as the By-Laws had been discussed at length in previous meetings. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **WCWI Brochure.** Diane presented the final version of the WCWI brochure on purple paper. Many thanks were given to Aliza Sherman who did most of the work on the brochure; everyone thought it turned out beautifully.
5. **Newsletter.** Diane informed the Council that Aliza needs Committee reports for the next newsletter, which should be coming out shortly. Diane also noted that Aliza would like to include a calendar of events in the newsletter; discussion ensued regarding the types of events that should be included in the calendar. The Council concluded that it would be great to pursue the idea of having a calendar, however, only events of interest statewide should be included.

There was discussion of the effort to distribute as many newsletters as possible by email rather than regular mail and other inclusions in the up-coming newsletter, such as new member bios, Race for the Cure information and entry forms, and the Executive Summary from the Wage Disparity Study.

6. **Sexual Harassment Brochure.** DaNece indicated to the Council that no substantive changes were called for in the information provided in the Sexual Harassment brochure, as it currently exists. The Council requested that Aliza help put the information into a more current format, as she did with the WCWI brochure, and send a draft around to Council members for comment.

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7. **Resource Directory.** Margaret noted that a draft of the Where to Find Help directory was in the meeting binder. Each Council member should review the draft, make notes, corrections, etc., on it and mail it back to Margaret by August 1. It was noted that Pathways to People provides similar information via the Internet and discussion ensued as to whether or not WCWI's effort was redundant. The Council concluded that providing such information in printed form is important, since a lot of people do not have access to the Internet and it can be costly to obtain in printed form. The Council also concluded that it should collaborate with Pathways to People to ensure that both sources have information that is as complete as possible.

The Council discussed the size of the Where to Find Help directory and, because of its size, the options for publishing it and otherwise distributing it. The Council discussed some of the difficulties people were having in finding the WCWI webpage and the possibility of establishing a WCWI website. The Council requested that Diane investigate the possibility of the WCWI getting its own website through the Wyoming Business Council.

8. **Legal Handbook.** There were no issues related to the Legal Handbook; the Council ensured that all Council members had Legal Handbooks to distribute, particularly the new members.
9. **Women's History Month.** (Discussed under Committee Reports.)
10. **Governor's Proclamation 3/8.** (Discussed under Committee Reports.)
11. **2003 Woman of Distinction.** Michelle summarized her discussions with the Girl Scouts regarding the confusion with the Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction award and WCWI's. After a brief discussion, Teresa moved to call WCWI's award the "Wyoming Woman of Distinction" award. Safa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle asked Council members to review the Woman of Distinction nominees in the meeting binder and email her their top three list by June 1. The award this year will be made at the Women's Conference in September.

New Business

1. **2003 Women's Conference.** In addition to the discussion under Committee Reports, it was noted that the next planning meeting for the Conference will be May 7 and Mary will be attending for WCWI.
2. **Council Openings.** Michelle noted that the new members, introduced at the beginning of the meeting, brought the Council to full capacity and there are no longer any vacancies.

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3. **Women's Health Initiative.** Safa summarized the Women's Health Initiative for the Council and promoted the opportunity to collaborate with those involved to obtain as much useful information as possible via the needs assessment that will be part of the project. Safa asked for suggestions regarding specific, health related issues that could be included in the assessment. Merna moved to approve WCWI involvement in the Women's Health Initiative. The motion was seconded by Mary and passed unanimously.
4. **National Conference in July.** Michelle informed the Council of the dates (July 16-20) of the NACW Conference and that it is being held in Delaware this year. There was discussion about the possibility of sending additional members to the conference, how to rotate attendance, and the possibility of bringing the conference to the Mountain Region.

Margaret moved to continue to send two members to the NACW National Conference. Teresa seconded the motion. The motion failed 5-6.

DaNece moved to send four members to the NACW National Conference. Jan seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1, with one abstention.

Mary moved to include one member in the delegation that has attended the conference before. Safa seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-4.

The Council then drew names to decide among the members who would attend this year's conference. Teresa was drawn to attend as the member who has attended an NACW conference previously. Merna was drawn as first alternate and DaNece was drawn as second alternate, with Margaret serving as third alternate.

The Council drawing resulted in Cynthia, Mary and Nina being the other members attending. Cleo was drawn as first alternate, Michelle as second, Sherrill as third and Safa as the final alternate.

DaNece noted that Council members should be sure to bring the Legal Handbook, brochures, and the Wage Disparity Study for distribution at the Conference. Teresa suggested bringing any hats, tee shirts and other promotional materials available also.

The Council requested Diane send in the preregistration form for the Council members just selected to attend.

5. **New Interim Budget.** Michelle presented Margaret's suggestions for projects to take on with the additional money allocated to WCWI in the next budget. After a brief discussion, the Council indicated that since WCWI has completed one large publication and is pursuing another, other types of projects should be pursued. Additional ideas for projects were forwarded. The Council concluded that each member should come to the next meeting with one or two specific project proposals that are consistent with the parameters of the supplemental budget, i.e., in dollar amount needed and timing.

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Michelle asked the Council if there still is a need for a part-time administrative assistant. There was discussion regarding the enormous help the Council has been getting from the Wyoming Business Council through Diane and Aliza and that their involvement has removed much of the burden previously carried by Council members, particularly publication of the Newsletter. With Diane's and Aliza's help, the Council concluded that there was no longer a pressing need for additional administrative help, although the question should be reconsidered after new projects are identified.

6. **Race for the Cure.** Nina noted the race date is August 16 and that she will get race information in to Aliza for inclusion in the Newsletter.
7. **Title 14 Guest, Donna Sheen.** (Donna, coming from Teton County, was unable to get to Casper before the meeting was to adjourn.)

Michelle informed the Council that her husband, Andy Aldrich (777-6031) will be setting up community meetings for people to learn about the federal funds available for faith- and community-based initiatives to provide food and housing to people in need, i.e., soup kitchens, homeless shelters, etc.

Safa informed the Council that May 11-17 is Women's Health Week and that she has been invited to a brown bag lunch on May 12 to discuss WCWI. Safa indicated she will be developing a power point presentation for that meeting.

Teresa informed the Council that the Thursday Roundtable in Jackson has invited WCWI to present its mission and activities to the Roundtable on July 17th. Teresa had intended to go with at least one other member of WCWI, but the date conflicted with the NACW Conference. Michelle and Safa (with her power point presentation) said they would attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.