

**WYOMING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES  
WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2017**

<b>Task List</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Develop proposal for Woman of Distinction nomination process	Susan Peck	May 13
Develop proposal for self-esteem workshops	Susan Bates, Danae Brandjord, Laurel Vicklund	May 13
Contact Dona Playton for proposal to update Legal Rights Handbook	Carma Corra	May 13
Submit examples of desirable features on websites for use in updating Council website. Send to Jen Simon.	All members	May 13
Submit photos of Council activities to add to website. Send to Jen Simon.	All members	Ongoing
Submit headshots and updated bios for inclusion on the website. Send to Jen Simon.	All members	May 13
Participate in Women of Wyoming project by submitting photos and captions of women in each community. Send to Jennifer Wilmetti.	All members	Ongoing
Submit photos of historical women and captions for Women of Wyoming project. Send to Jennifer Wilmetti.	All members	Ongoing
Establish Instagram account	Jen Simon	May 13

**Call to Order**

Chairman Carma Corra called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. via conference call. In attendance: Carma Corra, Jan Torres, Ashley Mikels, Jen Simon, Jennifer Wilmetti, Susan Peck, Susan Bates, Deborah Demander Reno, Danae Brandjord, Candy Dooper, Laurel Vicklund, and Chava Case representing the Wyoming Business Council. Absent: Merit Thomas and Andrea Summerville.

**Minutes of October Meeting**

Danae Brandjord moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting; Jen Simon seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget Report**

Susan Bates called attention to the \$48,896.58 remaining in the budget which extends through June 30, 2018. At this point in the biennium, it was anticipated that 29% of the budget would have been spent but the Council has spent just 19.72% to date. She reminded the group that money can be moved from one line item to another as needed. An explanation regarding the cost of the Woman of Distinction Luncheon was given by Carma Corra and Susan Peck. It was noted that Chairman Corra authorized \$500 to support Leap into Leadership and \$250 for Insight Cheyenne based on the decision made by the Council allowing the Chair to make some limited expense decisions between meetings.

## **Slate of Officers**

Jan Torres and Ashley Mikels served on the nominating committee. Jan presented the slate of officers: Danae Brandjord, Chairman; Candy Dooper, Vice-Chair; Ashley Mikels, Secretary; and Susan Bates, Treasurer. The new officers will assume their responsibilities July 1. Jan Torres moved to accept the slate of officers; Susan Peck seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Corra expressed appreciation for the members' willingness to serve.

## **Standing Committee and Task Force Reports**

*Home and Community/Woman of Distinction Award* – Susan Peck reviewed the nomination form for the Woman of Distinction Award, looking for ways to streamline it to encourage more nominations. She also has been grappling with how to disseminate information about the award to generate more interest in it. It was suggested that the name of the award be changed to the Governor's Woman of Distinction Award. Carma Corra will revisit the idea with the Governor's office. Reviving the newsletter was discussed; it was suggested that an e-newsletter might help in getting the word out about the award. To reduce the work involved in the nomination process, Susan Peck questioned the need for three letters of recommendation and recommended limiting the requirement to one or two. It was suggested that the two pages highlighting the nominee's contributions and her biographical sketch be combined into one page. Other suggestions involved keeping the nomination process simple with an online form and then reaching out to the nominees asking them to provide a résumé, biographical sketch and references that the committee could contact. The nomination form is on the website and the deadline is May 30<sup>th</sup>. The group was reminded that Council members can make nominations. Susan Peck agreed to develop a proposal regarding changes to the nomination process.

### *Employment Practices/Employer of Choice Award*

Carma Corra thanked Jan Torres and Jennifer Wilmetti for their work on the Employer of Choice Award. The *Casper Star Tribune* was this year's recipient and Chairman Corra presented it at the Governor's Business Forum held November 10-11. She reported on some issues regarding the November presentation, as well as the difficulty in attracting nominations. Discussion involved reviewing the award criteria, possibly looking at recognizing women-owned businesses.

### *Educational Opportunities*

Susan Bates discussed the self-esteem workshops offered by Maribeth Flanagan. She asked for direction from the Council regarding in what communities future self-esteem workshops should be held. She stressed that a point person would be needed in each community to secure a room, lunch, etc. There was some discussion about presenting at a school facility during an in-service to help alleviate the situation where teachers aren't given professional leave to attend. Chairman Corra recommended that Susan Bates, Danae Brandjord and Laurel Vicklund come up with a proposal to present to the Council at the next meeting.

Jen Simon discussed the Women in Leadership Luncheon held in Jackson in November. She reported on her meeting with Womomentum Director Caryn Flanagan. Womomentum won't be offering workshops in 2017 but instead will be creating a toolkit to offer to communities. Jen asked the Council if Womomentum is obligated to present another workshop. Chairman Corra explained the contract with Womomentum ended in December and since the workshop that was slated for Lander did not materialize, the money set aside for the workshop reverted to the state's general fund. Jen is awaiting a summary from Womomentum which details their future plans.

It was suggested that the Women's Issues Survey be used to help determine future education programs by aligning future workshops with the survey.

#### *Legal Rights and Responsibilities*

No chair for Legal Rights was present. Merit Thomas may be interested in chairing the committee. Dona Playton has offered to update the Legal Rights Handbook. She has suggested the Handbook needs to be totally revised. Chairman Corra will ask Dona to provide the Council with a proposal for updating the Handbook. Further discussion regarding the Legal Rights and Responsibilities Committee was tabled.

#### *Communications*

Members of the committee include Jen Simon, Danae Brandjord, Deborah Demander Reno, Ashley Mikels and Jennifer Wilmetti. Jen Simon extended thanks to Ron Gullberg and Andy Greenman of the Business Council for their help with technical assistance and generating ideas to improve the website. The committee is making changes to clean up the website and to make it more user friendly and current, as well as changing the nomination forms so they can be submitted online. In addition, the committee discussed using the Council's Facebook page in conversation with the website. Jen Simon asked Council members to send her examples of websites that contain features that would enhance the Council's website. She also asked members to provide photos that depict Council activities to use in showcasing the great work that the Council is doing. The communications committee will be collecting head shots and updated bios to add to the site. Chava Case asked to be included in the communication regarding the website. Carma Corra will continue posting on the Facebook page. It was suggested that a photo tab be added on the website and a link to the Governor's website to apply for Council positions.

Jennifer Wilmetti provided background on the Women of Wyoming project. The committee wants to use the project as a way to support Wyoming women similar to the popular photoblog, Humans of New York. She asked Council members to submit photos of women in each community and include captions that can be put on the Council's Facebook page and later on Instagram. Danae Brandjord created a release form that the subject of the photo must complete which will be housed at the Business Council. In addition to current photos, Jennifer asked Council members to submit historical pictures of Wyoming women who were trailblazers. Jennifer will send out an email that includes the release form and a questionnaire that can be used when interviewing the subject of the photo. It was suggested that a tab for Women of Wyoming be added to the website. Jen Simon will follow up on establishing the Council's Instagram account. Jennifer Wilmetti is willing to be the lead person on the Instagram account. Jen Simon moved to create an Instagram account; Susan Peck seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### *Leap into Leadership*

Carma Corra, Ashley Mikels and Candy Dooper plan to attend Leap into Leadership in Cheyenne February 27-28.

##### *Womentum Luncheon in Jackson*

Danae Brandjord, Jan Torres, Deborah Demander Reno and Jen Simon were in attendance at the Womentum Luncheon in Jackson on November 3. Jen Simon reported they were pleased with the recognition given the Council.

#### **Other Reports**

##### *HB 0209*

Carma Corra reported she and Chava Case attended the committee meeting regarding HB 0209, the Wyoming Department of Workplace Services Gender Wage Study. The bill passed the House.

*Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence Gender Wage Gap Collective Impact*

Chava Case and Carma Corra participated in the conference call. There will be an upcoming meeting to organize and get more momentum. The wage gap is seen as a factor in domestic violence and there is a need for more groups to support the effort.

**New Business**

*Women's Suffrage Celebration*

Chairman Corra asked the Council to consider ways to get involved in the celebration that will be held December 10, 2019 – September 6, 2020.

*Wyoming Business Council Update*

Chava Case reported she will be on maternity March 27 – June 19. Warren Appel has been hired as the new executive coordinator. He will be working with the Council during Chava's leave. Diane Joyce is retiring.

*Spring Meeting*

The date for the spring quarterly meeting in Sheridan will be determined later.

**Blowing Our Own Horn**

Ashley Mikels has a new job as a VR Counselor for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and she reminded everyone to use her new email address.

***Adjournment***

Susan Peck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37; Ashley Mikels seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Dooper  
Secretary