

Wyoming Council for Women's Issues  
Spring Quarterly Meeting  
April 23, 2016

Call to Order: Chairperson Carma Corra called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: The following members participated in the conference call: Carma Corra, Jan Torres, Sherrill Helzer, Danae Brandjord, Candy Dooper, Laurel Vicklund, Susan Bates, Susan Peck, Jennifer Simon, Deborah Demander and Chava Case. Absent: Shawn Reese, Ashley Mikels, and Pamela Downing.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were amended to clarify that the Executive Committee voted to return \$35,000 in funding for the current biennium and to request \$35,000 less for the next biennium. Jan Torres moved to accept the minutes as amended; Susan Bates seconded. Motion carried.

Budget: Susan Bates pointed out the \$18,920 in Professional Services which was previously unspecified has now been assigned to Education. Dona Playton, who has been updating the Legal Rights Handbook, recommends the handbook be completely revised. The budget would need to be updated to reflect the handbook overhaul. The \$10,500 remaining in the budget needs to be used or encumbered by June 30. The members were reminded to turn in travel vouchers in a timely manner.

Sherrill Helzer moved to approve the expenditure of \$500 for the partnership with the Humanities Council for the Bearded Lady Project presentation in Laramie and the expenditure of \$1200 for the partnership with Womentum to help fund the Negotiating Workshop in Jackson; Susan Peck seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the reception on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Press Conference for the release of the Status Report on May 24<sup>th</sup>. WCWI provided \$15,000 to the Women's Foundation to help fund the preparation of the report. Carma Corra, Deborah Demander, Pamela Downing and possibly Danae Brandjord will be in attendance.

Announcements: Susan Peck will serve as Home and Community Chair upon the completion of Sherrill Helzer's term on June 30. The Home and Community Committee will be working on Woman of Distinction. Carma Corra thanked Sherrill for her work on the Council and thanked Susan Peck for her service as Education Chair. Danae Brandjord and Laurel Vicklund have been appointed as Co-Chairs for the Educational Opportunities Committee.

Dona Playton has been invited to apply for the open seat on the Commission.

The Council will host a round table discussion of programs, activities and services for children in the Cheyenne area from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Laramie County Library. Twelve groups will participate and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Wyoming will provide refreshments. Jan Torres offered to attend but Chairman Corra declined to have to drive from Rock Springs. Chava Case thanked Carma for her work on the project.

Jan Torres is working on the Employer of Choice Award.

In the absence of a Legal Rights Chair, Chairman Corra will begin work on Equal Pay Day.

### Proposals

Susan Bates shared her proposal for an educational program designed to empower young girls and develop self-esteem. She visited with Mary Beth Flanagan from Lakewood, Colorado who is a licensed professional counselor with ten years of experience in community based seminars on this topic. The workshops would target community and school counselors, elementary teachers, professionals involved with Big Brothers and Sisters, and Boys and Girls Clubs. Mary Beth is available September and October for three, two-hour workshops. Susan determined the cost of the three workshops would be \$2132. Jan Torres moved to host workshops on self-esteem and empowerment for young girls in three of the following venues: Rock Springs, Evanston, Rawlins and Cheyenne; Susan Bates seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Simon reported on the Womomentum Strategic Communication workshop. She thanked the Council for allocating resources to help fund the workshop. She is working with the Womomentum director to offer this workshop to communities statewide. She proposed partnering with the Women in Leadership Luncheon in November. Carma Corra suggested sending Laurel Vicklund and Danae Brandjord to the luncheon. Jennifer Simon moved, and it was seconded, that WCWI host workshops in two of the following three communities (Riverton, Lander, Powell/Cody) at a cost of \$1000 each and partner with Women in Leadership by contributing \$1500. Motion carried.

Carma Corra extended thanks to Chava Case and the Business Council as well as the Education Committee for their work.

Jan Torres moved that council members reimburse out of town travel with gas receipts; Susan Bates seconded. Motion failed. Members are encouraged to submit gas receipts rather than reimburse mileage using the state per mile rate.

Chava Case proposed holding meetings during the work week rather than on weekends. Several members shared the difficulty they experience getting away during the week. Discussion was tabled.

The next meeting will be scheduled to coincide with upcoming workshops/presentations.

Chava Case reported that Governor Mead is asking agencies for an additional 8% cut. She will keep the group updated regarding the effect the proposed cut will have on the Council.

Laurel Vicklund asked about setting up a meeting for the Education Opportunities Committee. Committee chairs need to contact Chava Case to arrange for a conference call.

Blowing Our Horn: members were encouraged to email their news to Chairman Corra.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 10:10.