



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Providence, R.I. 02908-5850

401-222-6105 401-222-5638 (FAX)

**Full Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 1, 2004**

**5:30 PM, Dept. of Administration, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, conference Room "B"**

**Present:** Jane M. Anthony, Joyce J. Dolbec, Catherine E. Graziano, Joanne M. Hill, Mary Anne Miller, Kathy Nadeau, Linda Newton, Adelita Orefice, Sarah Rockett, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Anna M. Tucker, Cynthia G. Wilson.

**Excused Absence:** Helen Christy, Jo Eva Gaines, Hon Fong Mark, Lela Morgan, Neena Savage, Kathleen Spangler, Camille Vollaro.

**Unexcused Absence:** Rep. Melvoid Benson, Rep. Robert Watson.

**Present, Non-voting:** Shanna Wells

*Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jane Anthony at 5:30 PM.

*Consent Agenda*

Kathy Nadeau made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Adelita Orefice seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

*Chair's Update*

Chair Jane Anthony thanked the Woman of the Year (WOY) Committee for organizing such a successful event and acknowledging the Committee's appreciation that Governor and First Lady Carcieri were both in attendance and participated in the program for the event. The Chair is sending Certificates of Appreciation to those individuals who were Sponsors and Friends for the 2004 Women of the Year.

Chair Jane Anthony advised the Commissioners that the RI Brotherhood of Correctional Officers have been taking out large ads in the local newspaper decrying the Transformation House Program. RICW is on record as supporting this program and stated the potential for a letter of support from the RICW. Discussion followed. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to continue to support the Program; but to postpone sending a letter until more definitive information was obtained regarding the Transformation House statistics. The Chair stated her speculation that continued funding for the Transformation House program would probably be requested through an appropriations bill during this year's legislative session. Discussion followed focusing around the appropriations bill and again specific information regarding Transformation House. The Chair asked the Legislative Committee to discuss what information they would need prior to endorsing a letter of support at their upcoming meeting. The Chair stated she would request information from the Department of Corrections on recidivism rates for enrollees of the program and other associated financial concerns raised by the Commissioners. The Chair informed the Commissioners that the Advisory Board for Female Offenders is meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Both the Chair and the Director, Shanna Wells, will attend. Mary Anne Miller made a motion to accept the Chair's Update. Catherine Graziano seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### *Director's Report*

Please see attached Director's Report. Discussion focused on the RICADV portion of the Director's report. The Chair informed the Committee that Attorney General Patrick Lynch had appointed her to his Domestic Violence Task Force as well as Catherine Graziano. Cindy Wilson and Mary Anne Miller expressed interest in having Deb DeBare or a legislative staff member of the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence come speak to the Legislative and Health Committees. The Chair expressed interest in having Deb DeBare speak with the Full Commission. The Chair voiced concern over the perception that the RICW had opposed the Handgun Bill that was defeated during the last legislative session and felt it was important to have the Coalition aware of the stance to support the bill with the caveat that the law enforcement exemption be removed. Discussion followed. The Commissioners restated their position for support of the 2004 Handgun Bill with the caveat for the exemption being removed stating that it was an equity issue and that all victims of domestic violence deserved equal protection under the law. Shanna Wells was going to check with Deb DeBare to schedule a meeting with a representative from the RICADV. Joanne Hill made a motion to accept the Director's Report. Cynthia Wilson seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### *Committee Reports*

WOY Committee – See attached financial report for the Woy Event, held on October 7, 2004. The Woy Committee made the following recommendations for future events:

- Rather than an Ad Hoc Committee, the Woman of the Year Committee members think they should be a Standing Committee, as they believe early planning and distribution of information is the key to a successful event.
- Nomination forms should be posted to the website in February.
- Event should continue to be held the first week of October and an event date for the next year should be selected almost immediately following the completion of the current year event.
- All announcements, Save the Date and Request for Nominee Information should be distributed and posted on the web site sooner and broadcast to a wider group of people. The PRIDE newsletter could be used as a way of informing state employees of Woy search. We could post the request for nominees in the March issue, during Women's History Month.
- Examine the feasibility of sponsorship for appetizer plates.
- Examine the feasibility of accepting in-kind contributions for invitations, program printing and advertising.
- Examine feasibility of creating a larger program with sponsor advertising to help offset the cost of the event, so more of the monies received can go toward the Goldman Awards.
- Print invitations sooner and mail 5 weeks before the event.
- Examine the feasibility of hiring a photographer to document the event. (MPA's for photographers do exist.)
- Review the wording on invitations with regard to the Education Awards, "...all net proceeds..." rather than "all proceeds." Add a check box line to the RSVP card asking if person wants donation listed on the website.
- Thank you notes with independent woman pin should be sent to all donors not attending the event.
- Committee recommends a detailed seating chart for the event as well as tables of 12, so we have the ability to add 1 or 2 unexpected guests if necessary
- A template for introduction of recipients and recipient speeches should be developed with an eye toward brevity and relevance.
- Welcome speech should be short, and bulk of event should not be started until dessert is served. If VIP's have time commitment difficulties, the schedule of events can flex to accommodate them to speak during dinner.
- Less people should be on the agenda.
- More information should be provided on the Educational Award.

Sarah Rockett made a motion to change the Woy Committee from Ad Hoc to Standing Committee. Adelita Orefice seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The Chair did advise Commissioners that if the Committee was changed to a Standing Committee that the Chair of the Woy Committee would be a member of the Executive Committee and required to attend the Executive Committee meetings. The Chair was going to review the Bylaws to see if this motion would require a change in the Bylaws and, if so, would require the procedures for amendments to the Bylaw. **Motion passed unanimously.** The motion would be added to Old Business for the next Full Commission Meeting and a second vote on the Motion.

Mary Anne Miller made a motion to accept the Woy Committee Report. Joyce Dolbec seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee Report was tabled, due to the absence of the Committee Chair, but the Quarterly Report was presented and reviewed. Adelita Orefice made a motion to accept the Quarterly Report. Sarah Rockett seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

*Old Business*

Annual Report – The following Committee Chairs still need to submit their reports for the Annual Report:

Helen Christy – Finance Committee  
Joyce Dolbec – Selection Committee  
Mary Anne Miller – Health Committee  
Lela Morgan – Education Committee  
Linda Newton – Community Awareness Committee

*New Business*

None.

*Announcements*

The Legislative and Legal Rights Committee is meeting on Monday, November 8, at 5:00 PM, DOA, Conference Room B. Chair Cynthia Wilson is hoping to hold monthly meetings of this Committee on the second Monday of every month.

*Adjournment*

Anna Tucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marilyn Cocozza Trillo seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Next Meeting: **December 6, 2004, 5:30 PM, DOA 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Conference Room B.**

Minutes approved on January 10, 2005.

---

Kathy Nadeau, Secretary



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Providence, R.I. 02908-5850

401-222-6105 401-222-5638 (FAX)

**Full Commission Meeting  
November 1, 2004, 5:30 PM  
DOA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B**

*Director's Report*

1. On Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, I met with Deb DeBare, Executive Director of the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV). We discussed possible collaborations between RICADV and RICW. The RICADV is reviewing all comments both for and against last year's Handgun Bill, and will be re-working the language with an eye toward re-submitting it again this year. She has asked the Attorney General to increase the meetings of his Sub-Committee on Domestic Violence Task Force Meetings, to which a RICW representative is invited.

Additionally, we discussed some education and outreach projects in which the RICADV is engaged, and the possibility that DV materials might be included in some of RICW education projects. According to Deb, each of their sister agencies have developed their own curriculum for kids, based on their school district's particular demographics.

Ms. DeBare said she or her Legislative Policy Staffer would be happy to come to a RICW meeting to discuss potential collaborative efforts.

2. Per your request at the last meeting, copies of Federal House Bill H.R. 3438, the Gynecologic Cancers Education and Awareness Act of 2003 or "Johanna's Law" were made available to any Commissioner who requested a copy. Currently the bill is under consideration by the Health Committee. If passed, \$55 million would be allocated for Outreach and Education and \$15 million would be allocated for Awareness, for a total of \$70 million. Both Representatives Kennedy and Langvin are co-sponsors of this bill.
3. Please see attached list of monthly expenditures for the period October 1, 2004-October 31, 2004.
4. In the last month, 38 RICW web site visits have occurred.