



# RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

## Commissioners

Linda H. Newton, *Chair*  
Corinne Calise Russo, *1st Vice Chair*  
Carol Gibbons, Ph.D., *2nd Vice Chair*  
Joanne M. Hill, *Treasurer*

**FULL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**November 5, 2007, 5:00 PM**  
**One Capitol Hill, Second Floor**  
**Conference Room B**  
**Providence, RI 02908**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Denise Barge, Carrie Bridges, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Helene Martin, Rep. Eileen Naughton, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Beverly Turner.

Denise A. Barge

**Absent, Excused:** Rep. Joanne Giannini, Victoria Johnson, Lela Morgan, Rep. Carol Mumford, Adelita Orefice.

Carrie Bridges, MPH

Representative Joanne Giannini

**Absent, Unexcused:** Jacqueline Laguerre.

Catherine Graziano, Ph.D.

Victoria Johnson

### *Call to Order*

Chair Linda Newton called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Jacqueline B. Laguerre

### *Consent Agenda*

Helene Martin, RNC, CAGS, NCC

Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Corinne Calise Russo seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Lela Morgan, M.A.

Representative Carol A. Mumford

### *Chair's Report*

Chair Linda Newton thanked all the commissioners who participated in or supported the 2007 Women of the Year Event. The event was successful, thanks to the hard work of the Outreach Committee.

Representative Eileen S. Naughton

Adelita Orefice

On October 17, 2007, Linda Newton was keynote speaker at the Athena Awards event hosted by the Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce.

Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

### *Director's Report*

See written report. Additionally, Director Wells reported that she submitted information regarding "Friends of the RICW" to the pro bono lawyer's referral unit at Roger Williams University. To date, no lawyers have agreed to complete the paperwork for the 501(C)(3).

Beverly Turner

## Staff

### *Executive Session*

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

None.

### *Committee Reports*

**Women of the Year:** Co-Chair Marilyn Coccozza Trillo thanked all the commissioners who participated in or supported the 2007 Women of the Year Event. The event brought in approximately \$1,000 less than last year, and we sold approximately 50 less tickets. Marilyn attributes this to the fact that the RI Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) held their annual meeting at the same date and time as the WOY event. Consequently, we lost the attendance of the Governor and First Lady, and all the legislators who historically attended our event. The event came in under budget, thanks to the generous in-kind contribution by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, who

Printed the invitations for the event, saving RICW an estimated \$1,500. The net proceeds from the event totaled \$1,817.25, \$2,938 was received in sponsorships and donations, for a total increase to the RICW/Freda H. Goldman Education Award in the amount of \$4,755.25. Combined with last years increase to the Award of \$5,730.50, a total of \$10,485.75 was donated. This makes RICW eligible to receive the complete \$10,000 matching grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. This years' honorees were interviewed on "Trillo Talks", and the show received much airplay. Additionally, the 2007 Women of the Year were recognized favorably, as was the RICW, on the TV program, "A Lively Experiment." Overall, the Committee was pleased with the change of venue to the Radisson, but had mixed reviews regarding the service, which seemed slow.

Education Committee: Chair Sarah Rockett reported that the 2007 Freda Goldman Award recipients attended the 2007 Women of the Year event and really enjoyed it. Sarah reported that Phase I of the URI/RICW research project on Women in Non-Traditional Trades has been completed. The URI staff will attend the December meeting of the RICW to present the findings to the Commissioners. Carol Gibbons, Chair of the Girls in Non-Traditional Trades (GNTT) Forum Committee, played a video entitled "Dream Builders: Women on the Job," to help orient the Commissioners to the issues at play with women in the construction trades. After the video, Carol informed the commissioners the GNTT event will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2008, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, at the Lincoln Campus of CCRI. RICW has raised about half the money needed for the event, and are still fundraising for the rest.

#### *Nominations and Elections*

Director Shanna Wells reported that, though a nominating committee was formed, they have yet to meet. Chair Linda Newton said she would find others more available, so this could be taken care of swiftly. Linda Newton announced the resignation from the Commission of Neena Savage, Chair of the Legislative Committee. In addition to the Nominating Committee recommending candidates to fill the position of Secretary, they will also be charged with making recommendations for the Chair of the Legislative Committee.

#### *New Business*

No new business.

#### *Adjournment*

Carol Gibbons made a motion to adjourn. Denise Barge seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Minutes approved on February 11, 2008.

Linda H. Newton, Chairperson