



# RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

## FULL COMMISSION MEETING

### Commissioners

Linda H. Newton, *Chair*

Corinne Calise Russo, *1st Vice Chair*

Carol Gibbons, Ph.D., *2nd Vice Chair*

Joanne M. Hill, *Treasurer*

Denise A. Barge

Carrie Bridges, MPH

Representative Joanne Giannini

Catherine Graziano, Ph.D.

Victoria Johnson

Jacqueline B. Laguerre

Helene Martin, RNC, CAGS, NCC

Lela Morgan, M.A.

Representative Carol A. Mumford

Representative Eileen S. Naughton

Adelita Orefice

Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Beverly Turner

### Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

**Monday, December 10, 2007, 5:00 PM**  
**One Capitol Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B**  
**Providence, RI 02908**

### NOTES

**Present:** Denise Barge, Carol Gibbons, Victoria Johnson, Jaqueline Laguerre, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Beverly Turner.

**Excused Absent:** Carrie Bridges, Catherine Graziano, Adelita Orefice, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo.

**Unexcused Absent:** Rep. Joanne Giannini, Joanne Hill, Helene Martin, Lela Morgan, Rep. Carol Mumford, Rep. Eileen Naughton, Corinne Calise Russo.

### *Call to Order*

Chair Linda Newton called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. **NO QUORUM WAS PRESENT.**

### *URI Urban Field Center presentation of Phase I Findings of Women in Non-Traditional Trades Research Project*

Dr. Marsha Marker Feld, PhD, AICP, Executive Director Emeritus and Gayla J. Gazerro, Study Director of the URI Urban Field Center presented the Phase I findings of the *Women in Non-Traditional Trades* Research Project.

### *Consent Agenda*

The consent agenda was reviewed, but, since no quorum was present, not voted upon.

### *Chair's Report*

Chair Linda Newton received a call from Governor's office requesting recommendations for appointments to the Commission. Any names submitted by Commissioners were forwarded.

Commission will vote on replacement for Treasurer at next meeting.

Representative Giannini has been asked if she would be willing to serve as Legislative Committee Chair. Final steps to fill both positions will be scheduled for the January meeting.

### *Director's Report*

See written report. Director Wells was instructed to draft thank you letters to Congressmen Langevin and Kennedy for supporting HR 3887 – The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Authorization Act of 2007, and to draft a letter to Senator Whitehouse, urging him to support this bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

*Executive Session*

No Executive Session was held.

*Old Business*

Beverly Turner was asked to accept the Nomination for Secretary of the Commission. Ms. Turner accepted the nomination. Election will be held at the full Commission meeting on January 14, 2008.

501(c)(3) Status Report: An attorney has agreed to assist RICW in the pro bono completion of this paperwork. Linda Newton reported a committee was formed to assist in the completion of the paperwork.

*New Business*

Director Wells raised the issue of the recent articles in the *Providence Journal* regarding comments attributed to the Governor concerning women on welfare. Director Wells asked the Commissioners if they think this is an issue upon which the RICW should respond. Discussion followed. Some Commissioners felt very strongly that we should respond to these comments by writing and submitting an Op/Ed piece to the local newspaper. Some Commissioners questioned whether advising the Governor at a time when the budget is so bad might not have a negative impact on the RICW. After discussion, Chair Linda Newton suggested Director Wells draft a letter to the Governor. Group consensus was for Director Wells to go forward with drafting a letter to the Governor.

*Adjournment*

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.