



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*
Jan Torres, *Secretary*

FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 8, 2007, 5:00 PM
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B
Providence, RI 02908

MINUTES

Jane M. Anthony
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.
Neena Savage, Esquire
Marilyn Coccozza Trillo
Beverly Turner

PRESENT: Jane M. Anthony, Denise Barge, Carrie Bridges, Victoria Johnson, Helene Martin, Linda Newton, Adelita Orefice, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo, Beverly Turner, Tracy Williams.
ABSENT, EXCUSED: Rep. Joanne Giannini, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Lela Morgan, Neena Savage, Jan Torres, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo.
ABSENT, UN-EXCUSED: Jacqueline Laguerre, Rep. Carol Mumford, Rep. Eileen Naughton.
PRESENT, NON-VOTING: Shanna Wells.
GUESTS: Neil Severence, Sherry Lynn Cotter.

Call To Order

Chair Linda Newton called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

Discussion with the Rhode Island Foundation Regarding the Goldman Award

Neil Severence of the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF) attended to answer Commissioner's questions regarding the administration of the RICW/Freda Goldman Education Award.

The fund was established by RICW at the RIF in 1997. It is identified as a "Committee Advised" award. Advertising for applicants is sent to all the high schools, colleges and public libraries in Rhode Island as well as the newspapers and posted on the RIF website.

The formula for determining how much money can be awarded each year is 4.5% of sixteen quarters of rolling averages of the fund. The principal is never available at anytime for distribution. Currently the RIF is considering creating their own discretionary fund, which would allow them to give additional dollars to supplement fund's such as RICW's, however, this would be at the discretion of RIF.

On August 17, 2006, the 109th United States Congress passed HR 4, which impacts community and private foundations. The law's passage means committee advised funds must have 51% of the selection committee from outside the funds creators. Jane Anthony reminded the Commissioners that the arrangement to have only Commissioners on the selection committee was determined by RICW's legal counsel. Director Wells was instructed to advise Counsel about this change.

Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

Consent Agenda

Tracy Williams made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Denise Barge seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton has spoken with House Majority Leader Gordon Fox twice regarding a legislative grant to the Goldman Award. She was told it is still under consideration.

Chair Linda Newton has scheduled an Executive Committee Meeting for February 1st. The purpose of the meeting is to review RICW's priorities and agenda for the year. She perceives RICW's program priorities to be:

- Human Trafficking
- Women in Non-Traditional Trades (WNTT) (with the help of Dept. of Labor and Training)
- Additional ongoing program priorities:
 - Workforce Re-Entry for Women Exiting Prison
 - Emerging Women in Business Conference
 - Legislative Advocacy
 - Domestic Violence Issues
 - Childcare Issues

She perceives RICW's administrative priorities to be:

- Networking, Collaboration, and Public Relations
- Goldman Award fundraising
- Recruiting volunteers

Linda asked the Commissioners if RICW should open the February 12th the Human Trafficking educational meeting to outside women's agencies. The Commissioners overwhelmingly agreed we should do so.

Director's Report

Please see attached.

Old Business

Education Awards: Nancy Carriuolo, of the Rhode Island Board of Higher Education will be the keynote speaker at the Goldman Education Award event, scheduled for January 17th, 3:00 PM, State House State Room.

Announcements

Tracy Williams gave notice that she is leaving her position with the state, and therefore, as a departmental appointee, will be leaving the Commission. She volunteered to sit on the Goldman Award Selection Committee as a non-commission representative. The Commission thanked Tracy for her service to the Commission and wished her the best as she pursues new opportunities.

Adjournment

Tracy Williams made a motion to adjourn. Beverly Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Minutes approved on March 12, 2007.

Jan Torres, Secretary