



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 March 12, 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: Denise Barge, Carol Gibbons, Helene Martin, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo, Neena Savage, Jan Torres, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo
Excused Absent: Jane Anthony, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Victoria Johnson, Carol Mumford, Beverly Turner.
Unexcused Absent: Joanne Giannini, Jacqueline Laguerre, Lela Morgan, Eileen Naughton, Adelita Orefice.
Present, Non-Voting: Shanna Wells

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda items were reviewed. Corinne Calise Russo made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Neena Savage seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton informed the Commissioners what transpired at the Executive Committee meeting of February 1st. The Executive Committee formalized the RICW's operational plan for 2007-2008 (see attached).

Director's Report

Please see attached Director's report.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee: Helene Martin, representing the Personnel Committee, presented the forms they created for evaluating staff. The Commissioners decided by consensus to implement these forms. The Commissioners decided to have the staff evaluation completed by June 2007. Chair Linda Newton will be seeking input on the evaluation and process from Commissioners as RICW moves toward deadline.

Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

Old Business

Goldman Education Award: The Commissioners discussed the Goldman Award Committee, and the impact of the new Federal Legislation on the selection committee structure. The change to the legislation affects donor advised funds. The ramification of the legislative change is that the Goldman Award selection committee must now be comprised of no more than 49% of Commission members. Fifty-one percent must be people from outside the donor group. Community volunteers will be recruited to participate on the Committee. Some Commissioners voiced their concerns about the amount of money available for donations from the endowed fund, feeling the awards are not significant enough. Discussion ensued and the Commissioners determined to review other options for donating in the future.

Human Trafficking: Director Shanna Wells informed the Commissioners that 42 people attended the Human Trafficking presentation RICW hosted on February 12th. Commissioners discussed the Human Trafficking legislation, introduced by Representative Giannini. After discussion they determined the need for more information regarding: key facts, key laws, existing laws, a comparison between the Federal Laws and what is being proposed here in RI, statistics on trafficking in RI, the roles of different law enforcement agencies officers as related to trafficking and who is providing victim services in RI. The Commissioners determined they would like RICW to create an informational document about Human Trafficking that would be used to educate the public about Human Trafficking here in RI. Director Wells will be attending a meeting on Human Trafficking at the U.S. District Attorney's Office for the district of Rhode Island, to gather more information.

By-Laws: At the April 9th Commission meeting, the By-Laws revisions will be voted upon for ratification.

Women of the Year: The nomination forms for the Women of the Year event will be disseminated this week, and the call for nominations will be submitted to the press. Co-Chairs Marilyn Coccozza Trillo and Denise Barge will call their first meeting next month.

URI Research Project Funding: To date, only \$2500 of the \$18,512 needed for this project has been secured. Chair Linda Newton will work with Director Shanna Wells on following up on the solicitation requests. If funding is not secured by May, other funding sources will be sought. Another possible option is to ask URI to reduce the scope and cost of the project.

New Business

Letter from Senator Perry: Senator Perry sent a letter to all the Commissioners asking them to respond to an address labeling error by the Governor's office, which was sent to "Senator and Mrs. Perry." Chair Linda Newton said she will inform the Governor's office of the error and will inform Senator Perry of action taken.

Office of Women's Health Advisory Committee (OWHAC): At the Executive Committee meeting it was determined that, Commissioner Carrie Bridges will serve as the RICW representative to the OWHAC. It was agreed that Commissioner Bridges will be able to appropriately represent both the Dept of Health and the RICW. RICW Chair Linda Newton will inform the OWHAC of this decision.

Adjournment

Neena Savage made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Coccozza Trillo seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 9, 2007, 5:00 PM, 2nd Floor Conference Room B, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

Minutes approved on March 12, 2007

Jan Torres, Secretary

Director's Report

Full Commission Meeting
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Civil Rights Roundtable Martin Luther King Jr. Event: On Sunday, January 14th, I acted as MC for the Civil Rights Roundtable Martin Luther King Jr. Event. This event presented civil rights issues that will come before the legislature this session. Commissioner and Representative, Joanne Giannini presented about Human Trafficking, and a great deal of the press coverage for the event focused on that issue.

Human Trafficking Presentation: On February 12th, RICW had Dr. Donna Hughes of URI present information on Human Trafficking. Forty-two people attended. Attached please find fact sheets distributed at that event.

I will be attending a Justice Department training on Human Trafficking at the US Attorney's office for the District of RI tomorrow.

RIF/Goldman Award: As per Neil Severence of the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF), RICW has to change the makeup of the selection committee for the Goldman Award to be in compliance with recently amended Federal law. As per the discussions of the Education and Executive Committees, I solicited some non-RICW people to sit on the selection Committee. Nancy Carriuolo, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, RI Board of Higher Education, and Carol Malyszcz, Director, Center for Women and Enterprise have agreed to sit on the selection committee. I am awaiting response from Toby Ayers, Director, RI Community and Justice. Sarah Rockett, Education Committee Chair will still sit on the selection Committee. RICW needs to determine which other Commissioner will participate. Non-Commissioners must represent the majority of this Committee.

Women in Non-Traditional Trades: After receiving confirmation of \$2500 toward the project, we have been unable to confirm additional donations for the URI Research project. I was referred to a Social Science grant, which I am waiting to discuss with the URI Staff to see if it is appropriate to the needs of this project.

A letter of intent was sent to the Women's Fund on February 22nd, seeking funding for the Girls in Non-Traditional Trade event, planned for March 2008. Please see attached letter of intent for more details on the project. Partnering with RICW on this project are: Big Sisters of RI, Community College of RI, RI Chapter Women in Construction, RI Trades Women, Girls Scouts of RI, RI Dept. of Education Career and Technical Schools and numerous individual volunteers.

Speaking Engagements: I will be presenting a welcome citation to the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Regional Forum on April 13th. President of the local NAWIC Chapter, Pam House, has asked me to discuss our pending women in non-traditional trades projects as well.

Metropolitan Life has asked me to speak at their Women's Day event on March 26th. They want me to discuss women's health and legal rights.