



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, May 14, 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

Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

Present: Denise Barge, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Victoria Johnson, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Jan Torres, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Beverly Turner.

Absent, Excused: Rep. Joanne Giannini, Lela Morgan, Rep. Carol Mumford, Corinne Calise Russo, Neena Savage.

Absent, Unexcused: Jane M. Anthony, Carrie Bridges, Jacqueline Laguerre, Helene Martin, Rep. Eileen Naughton.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

Consent Agenda

Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Joanne Hill seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton plans to complete the evaluation of the Director by the end of June. Any comments, feedback, etc., on the Director's performance over the last year should be submitted to Linda.

The following gubernatorial appointee terms expire on June 30th: Carol Gibbons, Lela Morgan, Linda Newton and Jan Torres. Both Carol Gibbons and Linda Newton wish to be re-appointed. Director Wells will draft a letter to the Governor, requesting those re-appointments.

Catherine Graziano asked whether RICW ever received the legislative grant requested of Gordon Fox. RICW has not to-date received any comment on the request. After discussion, Linda said she would send another request to House Majority Leader Fox.

Director's Report

See attached. Draft of Human Trafficking Op Ed piece was submitted for edits and approval. Commissioners present asked that they receive it electronically as well.

Committee Reports

Legislative: As per the last meeting, RICW Health Committee Co-Chair Carrie Bridges was asked to review Federal House Bills 20 (Post-Partum Depression Research and Care Act), 88 (Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention and Education Act), 113 (Women's Health and Cancer Rights Conforming Amendments) and 283 (Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Access Now Act), to determine whether the RICW should take action on these bills. Ms. Bridges reviewed the bills with the Department of Health's (DOH) Public Policy staff. DOH is taking no action on these bills. After discussion, Commissioners asked Director Wells to draft a letter to Congressmen Kennedy and Langevin, to ascertain their positions on these bills. As to the recommendation to take no action on Federal House Bill 669 (Establish a Center for the Study of Women and Workplace Policy) and to support Federal House Bill 406 (Alice Paul Congressional Gold Medal Act), Victoria Johnson made a motion to accept the recommendations. Joanne Hill seconded the motion. **Ayes:** Denise Barge, Carol Gibbons, Joanne Hill, Victoria Johnson, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Jan Torres, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Beverly Turner. **Nays:** None, **Abstains:** Catherine Graziano. Motion passed.

Girls Non-Traditional Trade Event (GNTT): Carol Gibbons reported that the request for funding made to the Women's Fund was turned down. Additional funding will be sought through fundraising. To that end a fundraising committee has been formed and has met. The program committee met, and determined the event will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008, at the Flannigan Campus of the Community College of RI in Lincoln, RI. The event will be limited to 100 middle and high school girls and their big sister/mother. The program will consist of a welcome and safety instructions, a building exercise, lunch with a keynote speaker, an expo where information is available on all local programs for trades and technology skills, and a second building exercise.

Women of the Year Selection Committee: Marilyn Coccozza Trillo reported that the Selection Committee met just prior to this meeting and selected the 2007 honorees: Dr. Lynn Antonelli, a naval engineer; Sister Mary Reilly, founder of Sophia Academy, Dorcas Place and McAuley Manor, and; Dr. Karen Stein, founder and Director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Rhode Island. The 2007 Women of the Year Event will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at the Airport Radisson, in Warwick, RI. Director Wells was instructed to send the Sponsor Solicitation List out to all the Commissioners, seeking additions to the list and any personal contacts they might have with potential sponsors.

Old Business

Bylaws Ratification: Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the amendments to the bylaws. Victoria Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Enumeration: The terms for departmental appointments for Business Regulations and Corrections expire on June 30th. Commissioners were asked to select two departments they think should be represented on the Commission. Departments for consideration: Business Regulations, Corrections, Elementary and Secondary Education, Environmental Management, Human Services and Transportation. Commissioners voted by secret ballot. The results are as follows:

Corrections – 8
Business Regulations – 5
Elementary and Secondary Education – 3
Human Services – 2
Environmental Management – 1
Transportation – 1

New Business

Information on Pay Equity was distributed. This issue will be discussed at the June meeting.

Announcements

The Emerging Women in Business Conference will be held on June 7, 2007, 4:00 PM at the Liston Campus of CCRI, One Hilton Street, Providence, RI.

Adjournment

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo made a motion to adjourn. Denise Barge seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 11, 2007, 5:00 PM, One Capitol Hill 2nd Floor, Conference Room B, Providence, RI.

Minutes approved on August 20, 2007.