



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

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Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 10, 2008, 5:00 PM
Conference Room C
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

MINUTES

Present: Denise Barge, Nancy Carriuolo, Dawn L. Huntly, Victoria Johnson, Carol Malysz, Linda Newton, Marilyn Cocozza Trillo, Beverly Turner, Camille Vollaro.

Absent, Excused: Carrie Bridges, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Helene Martin, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo.

Absent, Unexcused: Rep. Joanne Giannini, Joanne Hill, Jacqueline Laguerre, Lela Morgan, Rep. Carol Mumford, Rep. Eileen Naughton.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Consent Agenda

Victoria Johnson made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Beverly Turner seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton welcomed returning Commissioner Camille Vollaro, from the Department of Labor and Training (DLT). Camille was appointed to complete the term vacated by Departmental Appointee, Adelita Orefice. Camille is the Special Projects Coordinator for DLT and is the Federal Equal Employment Officer for the State of Rhode Island. The Chair also welcomed the following new Commissioners:

- Nancy Carriuolo, gubernatorial appointee, filling the seat vacated by Anna Tucker. Dr. Carriuolo is the Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education.
- Dawn L. Huntley, gubernatorial appointee, filling the seat vacated by Jan Torres. Ms. Huntley is a felony level prosecuting attorney at the RI Attorney General's Office.
- Carol Malysz, gubernatorial appointee, filling the seat vacated by Jo Eva Gaines. She is the Executive Director of the Rhode Island office of the Center for Women and Enterprise.

Additionally, both Chair Linda Newton, and Commissioner Carol Gibbons have been re-appointed by the Governor.

Director's Report

Written report attached.

Director Shanna Wells informed the Commissioners that she is helping facilitate the restructuring of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT). This organization is losing its leadership and in danger of folding. Shanna met with outgoing leadership and technical support/information specialist Dr. Donna Hughes to discuss prioritizing issues and changes to leadership. The full group will meet on March 19th. In the event that no one steps forward to take on leadership, Shanna will report back to the Commissioners for their input.

On Sunday, March 2nd, Shanna attended The Red Tent Reception, hosted by Peace Providence. This was part of a week-long series of events called "V DAY" aimed at calling attention to, and eradicating violence against women. The event honor the women and men who are working to make RI a safer place for women and girls. RICW was one of the local organizations to receive a Community of Peace award from Attorney General Patrick Lynch.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Committee Reports

Education Committee/Girls Non-Traditional Trades Forum: The Girls Forum will be held this Saturday, March 15th at CCRI-Lincoln. Shanna will forward directions to all Commissioners. Donations of hard hats, safety glasses and work gloves were received, as well as \$5000 in cash donations. Four workstations will teach girls carpentry, masonry, electrical and lead abatement.

Outreach Committee/Women of the Year: The Committee met just prior to this meeting.

- The event date is Thursday, October 9, 2008
- The venue is the Airport Radisson Hotel
- Karen Adams is confirmed as host
- Call for nominations will go out around March 15th.
- Deadline for receipt of nominations is May 2nd.

Friends of the RICW/501 (c) (3) Committee: The Committee met on February 29th. Attached please find the draft By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation for your review. These items will be on the next Full Commission Agenda for comments and approval.

Old Business

Letter to the Governor: A second draft of the letter was reviewed. Long discussion regarding the purpose of the letter. The majority of Commissioners in attendance feel the issue of stereotyping should be addressed. Director Wells was instructed to complete another draft for review.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo made a motion to adjourn. Denise Barge seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Minutes approved on April 14, 2008.

Beverly Turner, Secretary

Director's Report
Full Commission Meeting
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Website: There were 721 hits on the RICW website in February 2008, up from 234 in January 2008.

RI Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT): I met with outgoing leadership: Carrie Lutjens, Polaris Project and Sally Jones, Rhode Island Council of Jewish Women. We define the RICW role for now is to organize a meeting where the Coalition can re-assess their priorities and to assign leadership positions. We also met with Dr. Donna Hughes, who is a local expert of Human Trafficking. She will continue to provide technical support to the Coalition. Our first full meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19th.

Wi\$eUp: Wi\$e Up is a financial planning course designed for Generation X women. The course, distributed and maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau (DOL/WB) is available on line or through classroom instruction.

I taught two Wi\$e Up sessions to incarcerated women at the ACI. In exchange, DOL/WB is paying RICW \$1,500, to be used to offset costs of the Girls Non-Traditional Trades Forum. The sessions were held on January 29th and February 12th. A total of 21 clients attended the classes.

V-Day: On Sunday, March 2nd, I attended a V-Day event where the RICW was recognized and presented with a Community of Peace Award. V-Day is a week long series of events devoted to education and advocacy around ending violence against women. The event is the brain child of Eve Ensler, the author of *The Vagina Monologues*. So far, only four cities around the country have participated in the week long schedule of events.