



# 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*

Beverly Turner, *Secretary*

## FULL COMMISSION MEETING

June 9, 2008, 5:00 PM

One Capitol Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Conference Room C

Providence, RI 02908

## NOTES

Carrie Bridges, MPH

Nancy Carriuolo, Ph.D.

Representative Joanne Giannini

Catherine Graziano, Ph.D.

Dawn L. Huntley

Victoria Johnson

Jacqueline B. Laguerre

Carol Malysz

Helene Martin, RNC, CAGS, NCC

Lela Morgan, M.A.

Representative Carol A. Mumford

Representative Eileen S. Naughton

Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.

Neena Savage, Esquire

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Camille Vollaro, M.A.

## Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

**Present:** Nancy, Carriuolo, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Dawn Huntley, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Beverly Turner.

**Absent, Excused:** Denise Barge, Carrie Bridges, Rep. Joanne Giannini, Carol Gibbons, Victoria Johnson, Carol Malysz, Corrine Calise Russo, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Camille Vollaro.

**Absent, Unexcused:** Jacqueline Laguerre, Helene Martin, Lela Morgan, Rep. Carol Mumford, Rep. Eileen Naughton.

### *Call to Order*

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

### *Consent Agenda*

Consent agenda approval was held to the next meeting.

### *Chair's Report*

Linda Newton congratulated Commissioner Denise Barge on being selected as one of the honorees of Providence Business News' first annual Business Women Award. An awards luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 PM at the Grand Hall, Bello Center, Bryant University. Tickets are \$50 and seating is limited. Call for reservations at 273-2201, ext. 107.

Linda Newton also noted that an article about Commissioner Carol Malysz and the Center for Women & Enterprise appears in this week's edition of the Providence Business News (June 9-15, 2008, Volume, 23, Number 9, Page 5, "*Budget pain looming for groups both big and small*")

Linda Newton congratulated Commissioner Nancy Carriuolo on her appointment as President of Rhode Island College.

### *Director's Report*

See attached. Discussion ensued over the Women Ending Hunger House Party. Outcome of the discussion was to ask the Director to inquire of the RI Community Food Bank if RICW could hold an event at there in early August. Invited guests would be asked to donate food items. Alternative suggestion was to have each Commissioner conduct a food drive at their workplace.

Discussion ensued over the Girl's Day materials from the Maine Women's Policy Center. Director wells had been instructed at the May 12, 2008 Commission meeting to gather more information about this event for possible replication here in RI. After discussion, the suggestion was made to target high school girls. Possible groups to target for collaboration are Leadership RI and the Women's Fund.

### *Committee Reports*

Outreach/Women of the Year: Honorees for the 2008 event were selected on May 12<sup>th</sup>, but were not announced at the last meeting, pending their acceptance. All accepted. The honorees are:

**Susan Cu-Uvin, M.D.** – Dr. Cu-Uvin, a resident of Sharon, MA, is a Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology at Brown University and Director of the Clinical Immunology Center at Miriam Hospital, Providence, RI. She established in Rhode Island the first clinic in the nation to treat the unique health needs of post-menopausal women living with HIV disease and AIDS. Dr. Cu-Uvin has trained 17 doctors from India, Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and the Philippines on women and HIV/AIDS and has participated in over 150 presentations and published scientific articles on women and HIV/AIDS.

**Joyce J. Dolbec, M.A.** – A resident of North Smithfield, RI, Ms. Dolbec has committed over 20 years to community service and outreach, focusing her work on healthcare education to women and minority populations. A three time cancer survivor, Ms. Dolbec began volunteering with the American Cancer Society in 1990, as a way to give back and help change the course of the disease. Currently, she serves as the Health and Wellness Program Manager and Consultant for the YWCA of Greater Rhode Island in Providence, and the YWCA Northern Rhode Island, in Woonsocket. During her tenure there, Ms. Dolbec implemented the first multicultural outreach team as well as the first “Women to Women – Mujer a Mujer” multicultural health program at organizations and hospitals throughout the state. Ms. Dolbec served as the first chairperson of the Department of Health Office of Women’s Health Advisory Committee, initiating the first “National Women’s Check-Up Day and the “Go Red for Women’s Heart Health” Breakfast. She actively served on the RI Commission for Women from 1996-2006, and was instrumental in implementing the Commission’s first “Legal Rights Handbook for Women of Rhode Island.”

**Carol Englander, M.S.** – A Kingston, RI, resident and science teacher at the Curtis Corner Middle School in South Kingstown, RI, Ms. Englander created the SMILE (Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences) Program. The SMILE Program is an after-school science and math activities club for women and minority students. In operation since 1994, the Program has grown to include career counseling, study skills development, field trips and collaboration with the University of Rhode Island. The Program, originally in one school, has expanded into three school districts and served over 800 students. The goal of the SMILE Program is to increase the number of underrepresented students who graduate high school well prepared to attend college and pursue careers in science, math, technology, teaching and the health related professions. Ninety percent of SMILE seniors have gone to college with 100% retention and graduation rates. Additionally, Ms. Englander is a Gender Equity Specialist and a Gender/Ethnic Expectations and Student Achievement trainer.

The Women of the Year event was originally scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, but it was discovered to be a Jewish holiday. The event date was changed to October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Friends of the RICW 501 (c) (3) Committee: The by-laws, as approved by the full Commission, were sent to the attorney, who had some questions and suggestions and submitted a boilerplate design. Director Wells transferred the approved bylaws into the attorney’s format. The Committee met to review the changes and asked the Director to re-format the by-laws back to the original format, including only the crucial bits from the attorney’s format. She did so and the bylaws are under review by the committee.

Two questions are set before the full commission: (1) should the number of board members stay at 9 or be changed to a range, as suggested by the attorney. This group suggested that the board go “up to 11 members” rather than staying with a static number. (2) Suggestions for a name for the organization are requested. The Committee suggested “The RICW Project”. Catherine Graziano suggests “The RICW Foundation.” Other suggestions will be accepted.

### *Old Business*

None.

### *New Business*

Departmental Commissioner terms are expiring from Business Regulations, Administration, DCYF and MHRH. Ballots for selection of departments to be solicited were distributed at this meeting, but, having no quorum no vote could be taken. Chair Linda Newton advised Director Wells to distribute the ballots to all Commissioners and request they complete then and return to the RICW office prior to the next full Commission meeting. The results will be ratified at the next meeting.

### *Executive Session*

An Executive Session was scheduled for this meeting so the Chair could get input from the Commissioners for the Director’s annual performance evaluation. Since there was no quorum, no Executive Session could be held. The Chair requested that Director Wells email the Commissioners, requesting their input, to be emailed directly to the Chair.

### *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 18, 2008, 5:00 PM, One Capitol Hill 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room C.

Notes approved on August 18, 2008.

Beverly Turner  
Secretary