



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, August 17, 2009, 5:00 PM
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor
Conference Room B
Providence, RI 02908

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*

Carrie Bridges, MPH

Nancy Carriuolo, Ph.D.

Carmen Diaz Jusino

Representative Joanne Giannini

Catherine Graziano, Ph.D.

Lorraine Hynes

Dawn L. Huntley

Donna Huntley Newby

Victoria Johnson

Helene Martin, RNC, CAGS, NCC

Representative Eileen S. Naughton

Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.

Neena Savage, Esquire

Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Staff

Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

MINUTES

Present: Carrie Bridges, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Lorraine Hynes, Victoria Johnson, Linda Newton, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo.

Absent, excused: Nancy Carriuolo, Joanne Hill, Dawn Huntley, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo, Neena Savage, Beverly Turner.

Absent, unexcused: Rep. Joanne Giannini, Helene Martin, Rep. Eileen Naughton.

Present, non-voting: Shanna Wells

Guests: Kim Butler, RI Foundation, Kristine Campugna, RI Dept. of Health.

Call to Order

Chair Linda Newton called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. Quorum was not achieved.

Guest Speaker

Kim Butler from the RI Foundation came to speak about changes to federal laws affecting the administration of the RICW/Freda Goldman Education Award.

The Goldman Award is a committee advised endowed fund. All the money donated to the Goldman Fund is invested. Each year, the amount determined eligible for award is based on 4.75% of the last 16 quarterly trailing market averages. A 1% fee is paid to the RI Foundation yearly for administration of the fund.

Up to this point, the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act (UMIFA) stated that if the value of an endowed fund falls below its original value, only interest and dividends on the account could be paid out. In July, 2009, UMIFA was repealed, and replaced by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), which allows the fund more discretionary spending.

Kim reviewed the agreement between the RI Foundation and the RICW, which states that a 2/3 majority vote of the Commissioners could authorize a withdrawal from the principal, to increase the disbursement of the Goldman Award.

Kim also stated that we could vote to change the award from a committee advised to a designated fund. The amount disbursed would be assessed based on 4.5% of the 16 quarter rolling average. The Foundation could send that money directly to the RICW Project, who would then be responsible for the entire application and awarding process.

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton reported that a planned informal gathering of the RICW Project was

postponed.

Director's Report

See attached.

Committee Reports

Outreach/Women of the Year: See attached.

Freda Goldman Award Committee: See attached.

Term Expirations

Tabled, due to lack of quorum.

New Business

Commissioner Corinne Calise Russo was unable to attend tonight's meeting. However she wanted to suggest that the RICW nominate someone for the YWCA Northern RI 2009 Women of Achievement Award. Victoria Johnson suggested the nomination of RICW Director Shanna Wells.

Adjournment

Linda Newton adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 14, 2009, 5:00 PM, Conference Room B, One Capitol Hill, Providence.

Minutes approved on September 14, 2009.

Beverly Turner, Secretary



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Website: There were 660 hits on the website in July.

Women's Policy Institute at the Women's Fund: The Institute begins with our first retreat all day this coming Friday.

Human Trafficking: A Human Trafficking bill passed the senate and a Human Trafficking Bill passed the house. Unfortunately, it was not the same bill. The RICW, along with their partners on this issue—the RI Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Day One and the Polaris Project—sent a letter to the leadership in both chambers recommending a compromise bill. The legislature left in June without making a definitive decision. They say they will be back in September to take up some bills, but, to date, we have not heard if the Human Trafficking bill will be one they consider.

The RICW Project: On July 26th, the IRS granted the RICW Project 501 c 3 non-profit status, All WOY donations have been deposited in the RICW Project Account.

Annual Budget and Report: I've begun working on the FY 2009 Annual Report and the Outcome Measures for the FY 2010 Revised and FY 2011 Budget. In FY 2009, we met our outcome measurement goals (please see attached.)

WOY Committee Report

2009 Women of the Year Honorees

Lynn Ewart-Paine, Ph.D. – Science & Technology

- Deputy Chief Technology Officer in the US Naval Undersea Warfare Division
- International reputation for her expertise on transduction materials.

Kathleen Hittner, MD - Health

- President and CEO of the Miriam Hospital and the Miriam Hospital Foundation
- Anesthesiologist

Beverly Najarian – Trailblazer

- First woman director of State Dept of Administration
- Currently Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor

Sen. M. Teresa Paiva-Weed – Public Service

- First woman Senate President in RI
- Previously was the first woman Senate Majority Leader, and first Senate Judiciary Chair

Carol Shelton, Ph.D, RN - Education

- Was a Professor at RIC Dept. of Nursing until retired in 2008
- Specialized in Community Health, Health Policy, Women's Health Teaching

Toby Simon, M.Ed. – Advocacy

- Director, Women's Center, Bryant University
- Written texts on Peer Education regarding sexual violence, for both colleges and high schools

Event Date

Thursday, October 8th. Tickets are \$45. Invitations will be mailed by the end of August. You each have a packet of ten invitations. Please mail them out to your own contacts. If you need more invitations, or want Shanna to mail invitations for you please contact the office.

Sponsorships

To date, the following Sponsorships have been received:

- Silver Sponsor (\$1500) Lifespan/Miriam Hospital
- Bronze Sponsor (\$500) Lefkowitz, Garfinkel, Champi & DeRienzo, P.C.
- Bronze Sponsor (\$500) Amgen
- Star Sponsor (\$250) AAA

Attached is the list of potential sponsors we solicited. Please review this list and let Shanna know if there are any changes or updates.

Attached is a list of organizations with ties to the honorees. Please review it, and let Shanna know if you know anyone associated with any of these organizations.

Event Planning

Awards have been ordered, and citations were requested from local dignitaries.

2009 RICW/Freda H. Goldman Education Award Recipients

Melodie Boyd is a 21 year old Native American and the first in her family to attend college. She is currently entering her junior year at Rhode Island College, majoring in Education. Her goal is to become an elementary school teacher. Ms. Boyd is active in volunteer work and is employed part time as a teaching assistant while enrolled full time in school. Her GPA is 3.7.

Elizabeth Mederios is a 49 year old, divorced single mother of one teen aged daughter. Ms. Mederios is currently enrolled in her second year at the Community College of Rhode Island, seeking an AS in Chemical Technology and a certificate in Biotechnology. She was laid off from her job and is retraining for a new career. Ms. Mederios is the first in her family to attend college. She is an active volunteer in her daughter's school. Her GPA is 4.0.

Jazmin Meriweather is 18 years old and is the first in her family to attend college. Ms. Meriweather's mother was laid off from her job and, as a consequence, the family has been made homeless. Ms. Meriweather graduated high schools with a GPA of 3.4, and will be studying Business Administration in college.

Kelly Mullane is 21 years old, and is a senior seeking a BS and RN in nursing. Ms. Mullane is single, but has acted as a caregiver to her mother who passed away in 2009, and to her younger siblings. Her GPA is 3.77.

Chithy Saing is a 34 year old single mother and first generation college student. Ms. Saing works full time, and is seeking her Associates Degree from the Community College of Rhode Island in Accounting. Ms. Saing volunteers her time as a board member of the Community Preparatory School. Her GPA is 2.81.