

Rhode Island Commission on Women

Minutes

Full Commission Meeting

Monday, June 7, 2004

Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B

5:30 PM

Attendance: Jane Anthony, Helen Christy, Joyce Dolbec, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, , Hon Fong Mark, Mary Ann Miller, Lela Morgan, Kathy Nadeau, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Neena Savage, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Anna Tucker, Camille Vollaro, Cindy Wilson.

Excused Absence: Kathleen Spangler, Jane Hayward, Adelita Oraface

Unexcused Absence: Rep. Melvoid Benson, Jo Eva Gaines, Rep. Robert Watson.

Present Non-Voting: Shanna Wells.

Call to Order

Chair Jane Anthony called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M.

Consent Agenda

Helen Christy made a motion to accept the consent agenda with a friendly amendment to modify the communications list consistent with RICW policy regarding events and activities of outside agencies and organizations. Cindy Wilson seconded the motion. Motion

passed unanimously.

Guest Presentation

Steven Florio, Director of the RI Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) presented information about CDHH. CDHH's website will go live tomorrow. The URL address is: www.CDHH.ri.gov. He spoke of the needs of deaf women and his wish that RICW and CDHH can work together to increase access to women's services for deaf women. The Chair thanked Mr. Florio for his presentation and expressed the Commission's interest increasing women's awareness of the services and resources available through the CDHH.

Election of Officers

The Chair turned the meeting over to Helen Christy, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Helen Christy submitted the slate of candidates presented to the Commission last month.

The slate was presented as follows:

Jane M. Anthony Chair

Joyce Dolbec 1st Vice-Chair

Cindy Wilson 2nd Vice Chair

Helen Christy Treasurer

Kathy Nadeau Secretary

Ms. Christy asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. No nominations were submitted. Hearing none, Anna Tucker made a motion to elect the proposed candidates as officers of the RICW for a term expiring October 31, 2005. Neena Savage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Update

Speaking Invitation

The Commission received an invitation to speak to the Association of Women in Education on June 4, 2004. The Chair asked Lela Morgan, Chair of the Education Committee to present information on the Cultural Pluralism Project. Both the Chair and Lela Morgan attended the event. There was some interest generated from the attendees about the possibility for networking and partnering opportunities. Ms. Morgan will send them some information as well as needs of the RICW for this project.

Women of the Year

The Chair spoke with Rosemary Gallogly of the Budget Office related to the expenditures for the Woman of the Year event. The Chair reiterated the RICW's position regarding our grant monies, which is expended only from the net profits of our Women of the Year event and not from general revenues. As we will not be receiving monies during this fiscal year, the Chair announced we will reduce our 2004 budget in both the expenditures and revenues sections by the

previously anticipated \$2000.00. This will not impact our 2005 budget.

Based on the direction of the Commissioners at the May meeting, the Chair had invited all interested parties to attend an informal meeting to discuss our 2004 Women of the Year event. Camille Vollaro, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Sarah Rockett, Mary Anne Miller, Kathy Nadeau,

Joyce Dolbec, Jane Anthony and Shanna Wells met on Friday June 4.

The group presented the following recommendations for the 2004 Women of the Year.

- 1) A tentative event date of Thursday, October 7, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza.**
- 2) Nomination forms would be sent and due back by 4:00 PM, July 16th. No late nominations would be considered.**
- 3) Candidates must reflect achievements consistent with the mission of the RICW.**
- 4) No current Commissioners would be eligible for consideration.**
- 5) Past Commissioners must be off the RICW for a full year prior to being considered for nomination.**

The Commissioners agreed to the above recommendations.

The Chair will work with Shanna Wells to develop notification and

updated Nomination Forms. Nomination Forms and Save The Date notice will be sent out via email by the end of the week.

The next meeting will be held on July 19 at a location to be announced.

Subcommittee Structure

In response to Commissioners' legal concerns regarding the Adhoc Committees recommendations for changing the structure of our sub-committees, Jane Anthony spoke with Claire Richards. Ms. Richards cautioned that although there is nothing illegal about the recommendations, if adopted, they would create a far more restrictive environment than is needed. Attorney Richards also cautioned the "voting membership" suggested by the Adhoc committee. Subcommittees are primarily comprised of volunteers and interested parties from the community who are not appointed commissioners, chaired by an appointed Commissioner. They serve as advisory groups to the Full Commission and cannot act independently of the Commission. Only duly appointed Commissioners have a legal vote on RICW matters. It was suggested that we continue to operate with flexible committee membership. All meetings would be posted and noticed to increase both awareness and participation. The Chairs of each subcommittee will present a written report to the Executive Committee and Full Commission for consideration.

Mary Anne Miller made a motion to accept Chair's Report. Lela

Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Please see the attached Director's Report. Additionally the Director reported that House Bill 8037 (Crime Victims Unpaid Leave), which the Commission chose to support, passed both the House and Senate, and now goes to the Governor for signature. The Press Release from the Legislative Press Bureau mentioned the RICW as a supporter of this bill. Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the Director's Report. Joyce Dolbec seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

No voting issues.

Anna Tucker wanted to inform the Commissioners of the contributions and achievements of the late Supreme Court Justice Florence Murray. Judge Murray was instrumental in designing the Independent Women logo utilized by the RICW. She was an outstanding woman who worked diligently throughout her life to promote opportunities for the advancement of women.

New Business

In accordance with the General Laws and bylaws of the RICW, Commissioners are required to select State departments for representation on the Commission. This year there are two

Department slots whose terms will be expiring as of June 30, 2004 - the Department of Business Regulations and the Department of Corrections. The following listed are all Departments eligible for consideration:

Department of Business Regulations

Department of Corrections

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Department of Environmental Management

Department of Transportation

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Catherine Graziano noted that our representatives currently serving from the two Departments have been active and supportive of the RICW and expressed an interest in continuing to serve. A motion was made by Catherine Graziano, seconded by Hon Fong Mark, to invite the Department of Business Regulations and the Department of Corrections to serve for another three-year term on the Commission. Motion passed unanimously. The Chair will submit a letter to the Directors of these Departments recommending reappointment of Neena Savage (DBR) and Joanne Hill (DOC) as representatives from these Departments.

Announcements

- Mary Anne Miller announced that on June 21st, 5:30 PM, Department of Health, Beck Conference Room. Lieutenant Governor Charles

Fogerty will attend the Commission's Health Committee Meeting to discuss his Comprehensive Health Care Package.

- Cindy Wilson announced that the Legislative and Legal Rights Committee is meeting on June 14, 4:00 PM, DOA 2nd Floor , Conference Room B. Interested parties are invited to attend.

- Catherine Graziano announced her appointment as an AARP legislative representative. She is the first Rhode Islander to serve in this role and one of only 25 people nationally to serve as an AARP legislative representative. She will sit on the Health and Long Term Care Committee.

- The Chair congratulated Catherine Graziano on her new position and stated that the RICW looks forward to working with her to promote awareness and resources for elderly women in RI as well as on a national level.

- The Chair announced there will be no Full Commission meeting in July.

Adjournment

Linda Newton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joanne Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, August 2, 2004, 5:30 PM, Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B.

Approved by the Commission on August 2, 2004.

Kathy Nadeau, Secretary