

Wyoming Council for Women's Issues
Winter Quarterly Meeting
February 6, 2016

Call to Order: The quarterly meeting of the Council was called to order at 10:05 by Chairperson Carma Corra via conference call.

In Attendance: Those calling in were: Shawn Reese and Chava Case representing the Wyoming Business Council, Sherrill Helzer, Susan Bates, Susan Peck, Jan Torres, Laurel Vicklund, Danae Brandjord, Deborah Demander, Jennifer Simon, Pamela Downing and Candy Dooper.

Welcome and Thank Yous: Carma Corra extended her appreciation for everyone who worked on 50th Anniversary activities. The Council's newest member, Jennifer Simon from Jackson, introduced herself.

Announcements: Suzan Campbell, Legal Rights Chair representing Judicial District #2, resigned her position. Three or four people from District #2 are interested in serving on the Council. The updated Legal Rights Handbook is on hold while Dona Playton is on sabbatical. Sherrill Helzer, Home and Community Chair representing District #8, will not reapply when her term ends in June. Pamela Downing's term ends in June and she will not be reapplying. She serves in an at large position.

Minutes and Budget Report: Susan Peck moved to accept the minutes from the October 3rd meeting and Sherrill Helzer seconded. Chava Case explained the budget was reduced by \$35,000 as per the governor's request in light of the state's budget crisis. The Executive Committee met via conference call October 19th and offered back \$35,000. Cuts were made in the areas of Commercial Printing, Volunteer Travel and Promotional Products. Other areas of the budget were reprioritized. Jan Torres moved to accept the Budget Report; Laurel Vicklund seconded.

Women's Foundation Sustainability Report: The Women's Foundation expressed appreciation for the monetary support given by WCWI to help pay for the preparation of the report. The report will be released in April. WCWI will be listed as a sponsor. The spring quarterly meeting will coincide with the presentation of the report to the governor.

Leap into Leadership: WCWI offered to sponsor the Leap into Leadership luncheon. Since they will not be holding a lunch this year, WCWI will not be providing sponsorship at the event. Due to budget cuts, the Council will not be paying for members to attend.

Standing Committee Reports:

Educational Opportunities. Since the Council has voted to discontinue the Young Women's Career Fair, Chairperson Susan Peck reported on a free mentoring program aimed at empowering young girls called Heart to Heart. Information about the program can be found at heart-to-heartmentoring.com. It is a ten-week program in which trained mentors work with girls to help them develop the necessary skills to build positive strong relationships and self-esteem. Susan Bates reported on Girl Power, a wellness program for girls promoting positive body image, as well as coping and leadership skills based on the book *Full of Ourselves* by Catherine Steiner-Adair. Jan Torres questioned the time commitment and cost of the program. Susan will post a link on the Council's webpage. She is looking into licensing fees and will continue to reach out to the program developer. Susan Peck suggested establishing community programs for women. Jennifer Simon mentioned the financial programs for women offered in Teton

County. She volunteered to serve on the Educational Opportunities Committee. The Committee will report to the group at the April meeting. Prior to the meeting, they will hold a conference call with the Business Council to propose ideas. Chava Case recommended tying the mentoring program to what was revealed in the Women's Issues Survey which was released in 2012.

Employment Practices. Jan Torres reported the Employer of Choice Award was presented to Campbell County Health of Gillette at the luncheon during the Governor's Business Forum. Two representatives from Campbell County Health were on hand to accept the award. Jan, Chava and Carma attended the luncheon representing the Council. It was suggested that nomination forms be distributed at the Governor's Business Forum in November to generate more nominations.

Home and Community. A short discussion was held and it was decided to table any business with this committee at this time.

Legal Rights & Responsibilities: No chair at this time. Nothing further was added.

Unfinished Business: Carma revisited the rules regarding monetary contributions made by the Council.

New Business: Carma reviewed Standing Committees and Committee Chairs

Educational Opportunities: Chair - Susan Peck; Susan Bates, Jennifer Simon, and Laurel Vicklund

Employment Practices: Chair - Jan Torres;

Home & Community: Chair - Sherrill Helzer, Danae Brandjord

Legal Rights and Responsibilities:

Carma shared that she was contacted by the Federation of Women's Club. According to their by-laws, they should be supporting us in our needs and providing help with our issues. Carma suggested having more panel discussions at the Cheyenne Library and partnering with the group. Carma has not had any further contact with them.

Carma also reported that Michelle Aldrich contacted her to help with an activity that her school was sponsoring on Martin Luther King Day. Carma had another commitment but did supply some material from the WCWI.

Carma also reminded the members of the Council that anytime they have a special function in their community and would like to share materials from WCWI, they are available.

Chava suggested that we continue with Executive Committee conference calls involving committee chairs and officers. An e-mail will be sent out concerning this.

Sherrill asked if there are members who are in need of WCWI sweaters/jackets. Carma will send out an e-mail to new members.

Shawn Reese, Wyoming Business Council, reminded the Council that the budget session begins on Monday and thanked the Council for making their cuts. He shared that the Business Council had taken an 18% cut. He explained that the Business Council receives federal funding and discussed how their money is spent. They will be identifying needs for their new 5-year plan in 2018 and has asked that the Council be able to help identify those needs.

Carma assigned herself to go through the survey report and prioritize the needs from that survey.

Blowing Our Own Horn: Susan Peck reported that she has been heading up the Food Pantry in her community and has learned a lot.

It was moved and seconded the meeting be adjourned.