

WYOMING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES
SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2016

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carma Corra in Room 404 of the Gateway Building at Casper College at 9:10. In attendance were Jan Torres, Susan Bates, Laurel Vicklund, Ashley Mikels, Jennifer Wilmetti, Andrea Summerville, Deborah Demander Reno and Candy Dooper. Chava Case and Shawn Reese of the Wyoming Business Council, Susan Peck, Danae Brandjord, Jennifer Simon, and Dona Playton were not in attendance.

Welcome, Announcements and Thank You's

Carma informed the group that Dona Playton, who was recently appointed as the Judicial District 2 representative, has submitted her resignation due to a job change requiring an out of state move.

Carma presented Andrea with a New Member Handbook and briefly discussed ethics and serving as part of the Executive Branch of State Government.

Thank you cards were signed for Sherrill Helzer and Pamela Downing who have completed their terms. Carma announced that Deborah Demander has married and is now Deborah Demander Reno; she distributed a card for Deborah to be signed.

The current officers will continue serving in their positions for the 2017 fiscal year. Carma Corra, Chairperson; Jan Torres, Vice Chairperson; Susan Bates, Treasurer and Candy Dooper, Secretary.

Minutes and Financial Reports

The minutes of the April 23rd meeting were discussed. Jan Torres moved and Deborah Reno seconded the approval of the minutes. Motion carried.

Susan Bates presented the Budget Report through June 30, 2016. Questions were raised regarding the website hosting fee which prompted a lengthy discussion about the website. It was suggested that it be made more user-friendly. Chairman Corra informed the Council that a link to the Wyoming Women's Foundation Status Report was recently added to the website. Members were reminded to update their bios for the website. In addition to the website, Andrea Summerville and Carma Corra will meet with Ron Gullberg to discuss using social media to increase the Council's visibility. Members were encouraged to submit relevant news items from their communities for inclusion on the Council's Facebook page. The Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2017 was unavailable. Andrea Summerville moved to accept the Budget Report. Deborah Reno seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Chairs, Assignments and Reports

Laurel Vicklund and Danae Brandjord: Co-chairs of Educational Opportunities. Members: Candy Dooper, Susan Bates, Deborah Reno, and Jennifer Simon.

Jan Torres: Employment Opportunities Chairman. Members: Andrea Summerville and Ashley Mikels.

One of the goals of the committee will be to improve the nomination and application process for the Employer of Choice Award. Some suggestions include contacting the Wyoming Contractors Assoc., Wyoming County Commissioners Assoc., UW, etc. and utilize social media to solicit nominations. October 1 is the application deadline.

Susan Peck: Home and Community Chairman. Member: Ashley Mikels. It was suggested that the name of the Woman of Distinction Award could be changed, with the approval of the Governor and with input from the Governor and be awarded by the Governor at an event, but the Council would continue to hold the luncheon in the honoree's hometown.

Legal Rights and Responsibilities – The chairman has vacated her position. Carma appointed Jennifer Wilmetti and Andrea Summerville to serve on the committee. Andrea will serve as Interim Chair. The Legal Rights Handbook needs to be updated. Updates have been done by Dona Playton following each legislative session since the original was published in 2008. It was suggested that the Council involve UW grad students in preparing a new handbook. Council members are encouraged to establish focus groups in their communities to review, discuss and make recommendations for improving the Legal Rights Handbook.

The meeting was recessed and reconvened at the FireRock Restaurant.

Activity Reports

Information was shared regarding the following activities:

Roundtable Discussion – Children's Services and Activities coordinated by Carma Corra, April 27 in Cheyenne.

Self-Sufficiency Report Release – May 23-24 in Cheyenne attended by Jan Torres, Sherrill Helzer and Carma Corra.

Wyoming Equal Pay Day Proclamation Signing by Governor Mead, June 28 in Cheyenne attended by Chava Case and Carma Corra.

New Member Training – Aug. 4 in Cheyenne attended by Jennifer Wilmetti, Chava Case and Carma Corra.

Business Forum Women of Influence Luncheon – August 11 in Laramie attended by Chava Case, Carma Corra and Candy Dooper.

Summer Quarterly Meeting – August 13 in Casper.

Upcoming events

August 16-17 Womomentum Workshop in Casper

September 21 Woman's Foundation of Colorado Luncheon in Denver. Carma will be attending as a guest of Sinclair Oil.

September 22 Wyoming Nursing Summit and Convention in Casper. Carma is a speaker.

September 29-30 Connect to Women Mentoring Conference in Cheyenne

October 5-7 Maribeth Flanagan, Licensed Professional Counselor, Free Workshops in Rawlins, Rock Springs and Evanston targeting adults/organizations who work with young women to promote self-esteem including parents, teachers, coaches, school counselors, Girl Scout Leaders, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, health professionals, etc.

TBA Womomentum Women in Leadership Luncheon in Jackson

TBA Womomentum Workshops (Cody/Powell, Riverton/Lander)

TBA WCWI Fall Quarterly Meeting

Resurrecting the Young Women's Career Fair/STEM Workshop was discussed. It was suggested that the Council involve the Department of Education and Governor's Office to promote it.

Deborah Reno discussed her upcoming presentation to the Rotary Club in Evanston and asked for WCWI materials she could distribute to those in attendance.

New Business

Discussion was held regarding contracting/partnering with other organizations in hosting events. A suggestion was made that a provision be included in each contract to cover the registration for members attending the events.

Chairman Corra asked for direction regarding the maximum amount of financial support the Chair or Executive Committee should be authorized to commit to partnerships with other organizations. Jan Torres said the Chair should be trusted to spend WCWI monies as necessary with no specific limit. There is no provision in the bylaws to address partnerships. Jan Torres volunteered to work on the bylaws. She would also like to amend the bylaws to allow business to be conducted under special circumstances when a quorum is not met due to unavoidable absences at meetings.

Jan Torres reminded the group that the Woman of Distinction was not awarded in 2015. She moved to select Ann Redmond as the Woman of Distinction Award recipient. Susan Bates seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Carma Corra will contact Committee Chair Susan Peck, who is absent. Andrea Summerville moved to set the policy of the board so that the Home and Community Committee and Employment Practices Committee review nominations and submit a recommendation to the Board for approval. Jan seconded. Motion carried. Jan moved to simplify the application process for both awards. Andrea Summerville seconded. Motion carried. Jan Torres and Susan Peck will serve on the committee charged with simplifying the application process.

Attendance at WCWI meetings and events was discussed. Carma reminded members that we recognize an Employer of Choice Award each year for implementing family-friendly business practices such as flexible scheduling, time off to participate in non-profit events, and etc., yet our own members are often reluctant to request time off to attend meetings and activities. Members should inform their employers concerning what a privilege and honor it is to be appointed by the Governor of the State to WCWI, and that such appointments also reflect positively on the specific employer. Carma asked members to consider why they applied for an appointment to the Council and what their expectations were regarding meeting attendance and participation. That discussion included promoting the appointments of new members and WCWI activities through press releases and social media postings. It was suggested that a schedule of meetings be set in advance so board members have plenty of time to make arrangements to attend.

Nominating Committee – The slate of officers is presented at the fall meeting and are voted on at the winter meeting and the new officers take office at the spring meeting. Jan Torres, Candy Dooper and Ashley Mikels were appointed to the committee. Jennifer Wilmetti recommended that the incoming chairman serve in that capacity for a year prior to assuming the role of chairman. It was explained that rules regarding officers are governed by State Statute and WCWI Bylaws. Naming an incoming chair who served for a year prior to assuming the position of chair would require a change to WCWI's bylaws.

Blowing our own horn! Ashley Mikels earned her MSW – Master's in Social Work. Jan Torres is serving as a Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Association and will be presenting workshops in Rock Springs. Carma Corra is giving a talk on effective boards at the State Nursing Assoc. Laurel Vicklund is presenting a paper on the nesting habitat of sage grouse in NE Wyoming. Candy Dooper reported she was an Arch Coal Teacher Award recipient. Andi Summerville is a finalist for the National Science Foundation Research Grant.

Susan Bates moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:30; Jennifer Wilmetti seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Candy Dooper, Secretary