

Indiana Commission for Women
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 18, 2008
11:30am
Indiana State Library Rm. 401
Chair, Melissa C. Martin

Present: Melissa Martin, Cindy Felsten, Dr. Virginia Calvin, Sen. Vi Simpson, Janie Craig Chenault, Sen. Vaneta Becker, Rep. Suzanne Crouch, Andrea Heslin Smiley, Patzetta Trice

Also Present: Governor's Liaison Anita Samuel, Advisory Board Member Jane Blessing, Intern Chelsea Stauch, and Future Executive Director Kristin Svyantek Garvey

Not Present: Linda Bloom, Amy McQueen, Lisa Hershman, Anne Jacoby and Rep. Linda Lawson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:42 by Chair Melissa Martin.

Introduction of New Executive Director: Kristin Svyantek Garvey. She is expected to begin her new position in mid July. She is currently working for the International Center in Indianapolis, and she has been there for nineteen years.

Approval of Minutes and Financial Report: The minutes from January 9, 2008, and April 22, 2008 were voted upon and accepted as read by the commissioners. Financial Report – Anita Samuel passed out an overview for fiscal year 2009 and the commissioners reviewed it. The commissioners were curious if every government agency had to give a 7% reversion. Anita explained the expenses for contractual services on the report were probably for the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Standards and Certification Board (SAVASCB) and a contract for the process of responses for Torchbearer Awards. The fiscal report for 2009 was approved.

Old Business:

- **Report on “Bridging the Gap”** 4/22/08 at Saint. Mary's College – Chair Martin explained how we worked with CWIL (The Center for Women's Inter-cultural Leadership), specifically with Bonnie Bazata. She thought we made a breakthrough on how we can make real changes. She would like to take this program around the State in order to get different views from different areas. She thought the report underestimated the attendance and there were 300 women there.
 - Cindy Felsten who also attended the seminar gave a summary of the event. Dr. Virginia Calvin who lives in South Bend said she received positive feedback from the community. Melissa Martin wants the Commission to offer a similar conference in other communities around the state, like Evansville or Bloomington because of the university connections. She would like to see one or two conferences within the next year. She

also suggested asking Bonnie Bazata to serve as a consultant for the next conference.

- Virginia Calvin liked the idea of connecting communities. She thinks there is value in having data and information ready to share.
- Melissa Martin explained that a few states have state commissions on the economic status of women. She named Minnesota as one of those states and mentioned they also have a transparent process for all their state jobs.
- Anita Samuel thought their might be labor information on women at DWD or SPEA. She is checking on this.
- The commissioners thought we should produce a fact sheet on women in the workforce and also wondered how we should market to college aged students.

- **Moving of Sharon Langlotz and Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Certification and Standards Board** – Melissa Martin gave a quick update on Sharon Langlotz transferring to CJI to continue working directly with the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Certification and Standards Board. Anita Samuel thanked Sen. Becker for serving as author of the legislation to move the board and Sen. Simpson and Rep. Crouch for helping this get passed.

Recognition of Jane Blessing, Senator Sue Landske, and Judy Johns Jackson for their service in the commission. Jane was able to attend and was awarded a certificate.

Slate for 2008-2009 officers – The current officers are Melissa Martin, President; Jane Blessing, 1st Vice Chair; Patzetta Trice, 2nd Vice Chair; Janie Craig Chenault, Treasurer; and Amy McQueen, Secretary.

- Nominations were posed: Dr. Virginia Calvin for Vice Chair, Patzetta Trice for 2nd Vice Chair, Cindy Felsten for Secretary and Janie Craig Chenault for Treasurer.
- Nominations were closed, there was consent and all nominations were approved.
- Advisory Board Member Jane Blessing was also voted chair of the Torchbearer Committee 2009.

Legislative Preview – Chair Martin would like to see the commission become more involved legislatively, and would like to follow two or three pieces of legislation. The Legislators of the commission present Sen. Vi Simpson, Sen. Vaneta Becker and Rep. Suzanne Crouch explained there were going to be summer study committees; however, none of the topics were specific women's issue. Some included immigration, adult education, and dialysis.

- Sen. Becker shared with the commission an age discrimination bill (discrimination on people older than 40) which passed the house, but did not make it past the senate last session.
- Chair Martin reminded the commission of a grant we have from the USDOL Women's Bureau for older women. She spoke of an interesting book called *Designated Daughter* and how it related to what we are focusing on.

She thought it would be a good idea to have the author come and do a speaking engagement to implement our grant.

- Sen. Becker suggested working with AARP and Dr. Calvin agreed. It was also agreed the Commission would try to work with Ivy Tech since they have locations across the state.
- All of the commissioners were interested in a video conference. A committee including Dr. Calvin, Sen. Simpson and Andrea Heslin Smiley was formed to discuss potential ways to use the grant. Chelsea Mason is checking on the specific details of the grant including amount and date that grant expires.

Announcements and Next Meeting

- NACW Conference is July 16-19 in Albuquerque, NM, and it was decided Kristin and Melissa would attend.
- Advancing Hoosier Women in Business – The Lt. Gov. is sponsoring a one-day conference to promote and support women entrepreneurs in rural Indiana. Commissioners were encouraged to attend one of the venues. Janie said she would attend the conference in Jasper, and Kristin and Chelsea said they would attend the seminar in Marion.
- New and Improved website – The new website is up and running. Chelsea is able to make changes to the website. The commission would like to get short biographies of each of the commissioners to post on the website. Chelsea is going to work to put together a biography format for the commissioners.
- Dr. Virginia Calvin thought something needed to be done for lunches at commission meetings because Chair Martin has been paying for lunch recently. The commission thought everyone should start bringing their own lunches to the meetings.
- The **Next Meeting** was scheduled for Wednesday August 20, and it was agreed that every 3rd Wednesday was best for meetings.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 1:19pm.

Action Items Summary

Commissioners

1. Explore potential for hosting “Bridging the Gap” conference in other communities.
2. Explore and implement plans for Older Women conference (Calvin, Simpson, Heslin Smiley).
3. Submit short bio and photo to post on website.

Staff

1. Identify specific details of women’s Bureau grant.
2. Develop biography format for commissioners.