

**WCWI FALL QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2016**

Call to Order

Chairman Carma Corra called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. in the Sheridan Room at the Radisson in Cheyenne. In attendance: Carma Corra, Jan Torres, Danae Brandjord, Susan Peck, Ashley Mikels, Candy Dooper, Jennifer Simon, Deborah Demander Reno, Jennifer Wilmetti, Merit Thomas, and Chava Case from the Business Council. Absent: Andrea Summerville, Laurel Vicklund and Susan Bates.

Welcome, Introductions and Thanks

Chairman Corra introduced and welcomed Merit Thomas, the Council's newest appointee from Cheyenne, and Jennifer Simon from Jackson. Jennifer was acknowledged for her work on the Womomentum workshops in Jackson and Casper. Chairman Corra also thanked Susan Bates and Deborah Reno for their work on the Self-Esteem workshops in Evanston, Rawlins and Rock Springs. Special thanks were extended to Susan Peck and Chava Case for their work in coordinating the Woman of Distinction Luncheon.

Minutes of August 13 Meeting

Jan Torres moved to approve the Minutes from the August 13th meeting as amended; Deborah Reno seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Chava Case reported on the biennial budget covering July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018. She reminded the group there is flexibility in the budget, so funds can be moved from one category to another depending on priorities. Funds for the self-esteem workshops were encumbered in last year's budget.

Standing Committee and Event Reports

Educational Opportunities: Co-chairs Danae Brandjord and Laurel Vicklund

Danae Brandjord, Ashley Mikels, and Carma Corra attended Womomentum in Casper. Jennifer Simon thanked the Council for partnering with Womomentum. The Casper Womomentum workshop was the first to be held outside of Teton County with approximately 40 in attendance. The Council members who attended commended the excellent speaker and the effective communication strategies offered to the workshop participants. To increase attendance, it was suggested that email and Facebook be used along with selling points to promote it. Lowering the \$40 fee and/or offering scholarships, or making the workshop free to the public were other suggestions offered. Similar workshops are planned for other Wyoming communities in the future.

The Women in Leadership Luncheon will be held November 3 in Jackson. Four seats are reserved for Council members. Jennifer Simon and Jan Torres along with Educational Opportunities committee members Danae Brandjord and Deborah Reno plan to be in attendance. Susan Peck may also attend. The keynote speaker will be Michelle Royan, Regional Director for the Six Seconds EQ Network and a Master Trainer in Emotional Intelligence. Jennifer Simon will look into lodging options for Council members.

The self-esteem workshops in Evanston, Rawlins and Rock Springs were discussed. Kudos were given to Susan Bates for her efforts in organizing the events and lining up three different BOCES organizations to donate lunch for all three workshops. Along with other positive comments, it was agreed that Maribeth Flanagan, the speaker, was fabulous. It was suggested that surveys be distributed following all the

Council-sponsored events. In Susan Bates' absence, Jan Torres read Susan's remarks summarizing the workshops. Participation statistics included 49 in attendance in Rock Springs, 21 in Rawlins, and 19 in Evanston. Because Rock Springs School District employees were told attendance at the workshops would not be considered professional development, discussion revolved around reaching out to employers. Chava Case suggested sending out a justification handout in advance informing employers of upcoming events that would be valuable to their employees. Jennifer Wilmetti agreed to develop a standard survey, in both electronic and paper format. Offering Continuing Educational Units to participants was also discussed. Chava Case will make arrangements to have the Business Council create a standard Certificate of Attendance that can be distributed to participants of upcoming workshops.

Employment Practices: Jan Torres, Chair

Jan Torres and Jennifer Wilmetti met and selected the Casper Star Tribune for the Employer of Choice Award. The award is presented at the Governor's Business Forum in Cheyenne and can present a substantial travel expense to the recipients depending on their location. Jan Torres expressed concern that despite her efforts in soliciting nominations, which included contacting every Chamber of Commerce office in the state, very few businesses are being nominated. She agreed to develop a handout to distribute on the tables at the Governor's Business Forum promoting the award with information about nominating businesses. It was suggested that simplifying the nomination process might result in more nominations; however, it was cautioned that the nomination process should remain significant because of the nature of the award. Other suggestions included expanding the criteria to female owned businesses. As a cost-cutting measure, Jan Torres recommended that the Council pay Chairman Corra's registration and have Carma present the Employer of Choice award rather than bearing the cost of having Jan, the Chair of Employment Practices, drive over from Rock Springs. Jennifer Wilmetti suggested writing a press release to promote the award. Carma and Chava stated this was already done. Merit Thomas volunteered to join the Employment Practices Committee.

Home and Community: Chairman, Susan Peck

Susan Peck expressed excitement about the Woman of Distinction recipient, Ann Redman. She would like to work on simplifying the nomination process for the Woman of Distinction award, hoping that would result in more nominations.

Legal Rights and Responsibilities

The committee report was tabled since there is no chair appointed at this time. Chairman Corra appointed Jennifer Wilmetti and Merit Thomas to serve as the new chairs of the Legal Rights and Responsibilities Committee. The updates for the Legal Rights Handbook are on the WCWI website; readers need to be directed to the updates. Since the 2nd Edition of the handbook was released in 2008, it needs to be redone. Deborah Reno and Jennifer Wilmetti will contact attorneys about rewriting the Legal Rights Handbook.

Unfinished Business

Jan Torres presented the proposed bylaws changes. She expressed concern about having a quorum to conduct business in the event of inclement weather or other situations that limit the number of attendees and directed the group to Article 7 Section 3, where that situation is addressed. Jan moved to accept the updated bylaws and Danae Brandjord seconded. Motion carried.

As per the bylaws, Jan Torres presented the slate of officers for July 1, 2017: Danae Brandjord, Chair; Candy Dooper, Vice Chair; Ashley Mikels, Secretary, and Susan Bates, Treasurer. A vote will be taken at the winter meeting. Outgoing officers Carma Corra and Jan Torres will provide mentoring as needed.

New Business

Jennifer Simon will handle negotiations regarding the contract with Womomentum to hire Caryn Flanagan to present a workshop in Lander.

Susan Bates will contact Maribeth Flanagan to discuss presenting additional self-esteem workshops in northern Wyoming.

Leap into Leadership sponsorship was discussed. In the past, despite providing substantial financial support, WCWI's status was listed only as a corporate sponsor, the Council wasn't provided a table for materials, and members who attended had to pay for registration. Danae Brandjord recommended investigating the various levels of sponsorship. Jennifer Simon moved to support Leap into Leadership at a level to be determined and Deborah Reno seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Carma assigned Jennifer Simon to contact Leap Into Leadership and make recommendations regarding a potential sponsorship.

Chava Case reported on the reorganization of the Wyoming Business Council.

Carma Corra reported she spoke about Board Stewardship at the Nurses Convention in September and she attended the Connecting to Women Conference in Cheyenne in September.

Jan Torres shared the work she has been doing with the Alzheimer's Association. She conducted three workshops and advised early identification and intervention are critical, but she's found people are worried about getting the diagnosis, not realizing memory problems and behavior changes can be the result of other illnesses or medications. Alzheimer's and related dementia programs are being developed in Sheridan and training is being offered in Teton County for emergency providers.

Ron Gullberg, Communications Director at the Wyoming Business Council, provided training on marketing using Facebook. It was suggested that regular updates to the WCWI Facebook page be made by adding a What's Happening section to help promote the organization.

Jennifer Simon moved to adjourn at 11:00. Merit Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Dooper, Secretary