

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

May 14, 2014, 12:00 PM – 1:38 PM

Nash School, Augusta

Welcome

Present: Andrea Irwin, Bre Kidman(intern), Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Regina Rooney

Participating via conference call or GTM: Marianne Moore, Rebekah Smith, Samantha Lott Hale, Amy Gallant, Jennifer Burke, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Holly Stover

Absent: Fatuma Hussein, Jessica Maurer, Melissa Simones

Review and Approve Minutes from March meeting

Motion to accept minutes from 03/12/14 as amended – Marianne, second -Regina. All in favor.

Committee Reports/Updates:

Report – Regina

The committee met on 4/28/14, focused on what it means to update the upcoming report. An amendment or rider would suffice our charge. *Please look at the 5 key sections of the last report and make a recommendation on whether an update is needed or not. We would like the survey to be included with the report and to include 3 sections - narrative (like previous report), survey results, and policy recommendations (important to legislators). Legislative outreach - How useful was the last report? How could it be more useful? We will reach out to key legislators to ask. The next meeting will be held on 5/19/14 at 2:00 pm.

Outreach – Jen

The committee met several weeks ago to discuss the survey and contacts. Please take a few minutes today to make any changes to the survey before it is placed on Survey Monkey.

Suggested edits:

- #2, #4 add option of “other”
- Keep #23 and #24 as is, deferring to the Outreach Committee’s research. The last survey did not ask a gender related question. The commission wanted to add it this time as well as sexual orientation. Checkboxes limit labor involved with compiling data, however blank space recommended allowing people to identify their gender as they like.
- Add a question #25, *How many months of the year do you work in Maine?* with 3 month segments to select from. Part-time (island/summer, migrant workers) residents often have very different key issues than year-round or Maine residents.
- New #26, *Do you consider yourself transgender?* Yes/No
- Discussion on whether men can respond to survey and how it would affect the report. Agreement to solicit data from women and girls’ perspective and consider men’s response in the future, when there might be another opportunity to gather that data.

Motion to accept the survey with edits discussed today – Regina, second – Jen, all in favor.

Timeline/ Next Steps - The goal is to have Bre compile data from Survey Monkey. The survey will be live from June 1-July1 and paper copies will be distributed. SOS will photocopy 200. Jen has a template cover letter for sending the survey via email.

Regina spoke with the Maine State Library. They agreed to promote the survey in a number of ways. They will post it on their website and ask other libraries to do the same. They suggested selecting a week

during the survey time when libraries would promote it, including the possibility of hosting a Survey Day where libraries might dedicate a computer for people to use to fill out the survey. MSL will help us set up as long as there is a commission member/volunteer on sight to assist. Jen willing to volunteer in her area, Sarah available in the Rockland/Belfast area, Andrea in Portland, Bre will do a road trip.

Sarah – In 2012, we shared the survey at the June meeting of Mighty Women of Washington County.

Marianne – Suggest the Lioness Club in Washington County.

Regina – Lots of people willing to volunteer. Heard from Fatuma that person-to-person outreach really helped with survey completions.

Jen – Good point to put a name and a face to our organization. *Will connect w/Bre to discuss next steps.

Finance – Marriane

Rebekah the only other committee member. Looking for new members. Andrea will consider joining in the Fall. Jess and Regina are willing to share grant writing experience, but not able to be members.

Finance Committee work will be postponed until Fall. *Other committees, please consider items for which you need funding and submit to Marianne in order to create a budget.

Governance – Elizabeth

Melissa and Jen are the remaining members of the committee.

Vacancy updates: Gary Wolcott's application has been forwarded to the Governor's office. Sharon's seat is At Large and the Tribal seat is open. Jessica Laliberte has been accepted. *Elizabeth will contact members who have expired. Marianne mentioned that there is a young woman in the Calais area interested in getting involved. Volunteers are welcome to participate at the committee level.

New England Women's Policy Commission Forum – Holly, Amy

Review of last conference call. Theme: Public Policies for Today's Working Women.

Sen. Collins declined the invite to attend, but agreed to lend her name as an Honorary Committee Co-chair and will be on the save the date invites that go out. Maria Shriver's attendance not confirmed.

There was a request for two levels of invites; the first will fill the audience with a rich expanse of New England women. Discussed a nominal fee for attendance of \$30-\$40 to reduce no-shows. We suggested an option of a sliding scale and the others agreed to consider it. They would appreciate guidance on suggested speakers for breakout groups, bi-partisan representation - most immediate need.

Suggestions for breakouts:

Jen – Lori at AARP. Great advocate to attend or participate on a panel if willing.

Regina – Lean In debate. Interesting conversation/topic to have.

Rebekah – Recommend the women at Maine Equal Justice. Excellent and well versed in policy.

Sarah – Annie Houle from The WAGE Project. She's in No. Carolina now, but from Maine.

Andrea – The word "health" is not mentioned at all on the first agenda. I would like to see a breakout on ACA implementation throughout NE. Happy to help brainstorm ideas.

Amy – The most recent agenda I have is from March.

Regina – Madeleine Kunin, former Governor of VT, has a book out called, *The New Feminist Agenda*

Sarah – Elizabeth Warren

Regina – Military leaders from National Guard

Holly- Attend Maine Military Leadership Council.

Elizabeth – Terry Moore, served on VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and was Chair of the Maine Advisory Commission on Women Veterans. Her focus sexual assault related now.

Andrea – We will use the survey contacts list for reaching out.

Sarah – The current US Surgeon General a woman.

Holly – Dora Mills, Mary Hermon, Sen. Emily Cain. Include yourselves on the commission. Also would like women from our area or other areas who can both attend and help make sure the save the date card gets out to all of the groups in our own state.

*Holly will follow up with the committee to see if they have a budget to reimburse for mailing costs or if they only need email addresses. *Amy will send the list out to all to generate a few more suggestions and Holly can share with the committee.

Other Business - Andrea

How we are communicating as a commission? Nikki and I are the only ones reaching out to everyone, but all are welcome to. Regina and I would like to get everyone on the Google Docs site.

Regina – Currently, committee chairs are able to edit in Google Docs. Right now, only people who were sent the link can see our Google site. It's a work site. *Interested to hear from people if the stuff on the site is useful, if you can post, have you had any problems doing that, any unexpected consequences/ challenges that we should trouble-shoot? *Regina and Andrea will work on creating a Google Group for the commission.

Adjourn – 1:38 pm

Motion to adjourn – Regina, second – Sarah, all in favor.
Next Meeting is Wednesday, July 9, 2014.