MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, March 15, 2013
12:00 - 3:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
800 NE Oregon St., Room 705C, Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDEES
Chair: Stephanie Vardavas
Vice Chair: Jeanne Burch
Commissioners: Jenny Greenleaf, Megan Jacquot (phone), Mariahm Stephenson
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo, VoteERA.org

I. Call to order
Chair Vardavas called the meeting to order at 12:07pm. A quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
MOTION (Jacquot/Greenleaf): To adopt the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Approval of the January 2013 Minutes
MOTION (Vardavas/Greenleaf): To accept the Minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. OCFW Old Business
A. The OCFW’s Strategic Plan goals – check-in:
   Tabled for next meeting.

B. Debrief on Status of Oregon Women Report/Annual Report:
   Jenny Greenleaf and OAC Staff were thanked for their work on the Report. A link
to the report will be sent to all Oregon legislators, Governor and Governor’s Office
staff, Agency heads, AAUW and the League of Women Voters, OWHWA and
among others.

   Commissioner Greenleaf requested that the data in all intern reports be
standardized to include links to sources as well as citations.

C. Debrief on OCFW/LWV/AAUW Legislative Day:
   Commissioner Jacquot attended the event on January 17, 2013 in Salem. A bigger
   room will be needed next year because of the large turnout. She spoke with her
   legislators, Rep. McKeown and Sen. Roblan. It was noted that it would be
beneficial to hold a future legislative day when all the legislators are in the building.

D. Legislative Priorities
Commissioner Greenleaf will create and send to the OCFW Commissioners an online survey of all the bills the OCFW is tracking. Commissioners can vote on which ones to support, and a prioritized list of bills to support will be compiled.

1. HB 2226 Domestic Violence Survivor name Change Bill - the Oregon Law Center has some concerns that are being addressed by Commission Jacquot, who drafted the bill. There will be a follow up conversation with the Oregon Law Center about the specific issues on March 22, 2013.

2. Other bills - The Commissioners discussed the proposed ERA bill to be added to the Oregon Constitution. The Commission kept its discussion brief in anticipation of hearing from proponents of the bill in this meeting and opponents of the bill in a future meeting.

   The Commissioners will invite a group opposed to this bill to speak at the May OCFW meeting.

E. Decide on holding one or two day-long planning sessions for OCFW in 2013:
The Commissioners agreed to extend the next regular OCFW meeting on Friday, May 31st by 1 hour from 11:00am – 3:00pm, including a working lunch, for the express purpose of discussing the strategic plan and working on goals for the OCFW. A decision will be made at that meeting as to whether to hold a follow-up planning meeting on Friday, September 20th.

F. Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) update:
Commissioner Greenleaf will ensure that all the bills supported by the OWHWA will be on the bill prioritization survey she creates.

G. Debrief of the Governor’s proclamation signing event for Women’s History Month:
As part of the celebration the Women’s Firsts poster was presented to Dr. Doris McEwen, Deputy of Curriculum and Instruction for the Oregon Education Investment Board. Dr. McEwen provided a short address at the celebration along with Stephanie Vardavas and Sunny Petit. Dr. McEwen noted in her remarks that she appreciates that the OCFW understands the importance of education in girls’ lives. She looks forward to partnering with the OCFW as they plan for next year’s event and would like to help bring young women leaders still in school to speak at the ceremony. While the Governor has signed and mailed the Women’s History Month proclamation to the OCFW each year, this year’s celebration was the first such ceremony to take place in the Governor’s ceremonial room. The proclamation was written by former OCFW Commissioner Sunny Petit, Director of PSU’s Center for Women, Politics and Policy. Nancy Kramer was thanked for her efforts in organizing the event with the Governor’s Office.
Nancy will post the 2013 Women’s History Month proclamation on the OCFW website and notify Commissioner Greenleaf when she has done so.

The OAC Office will set a reminder to reach out to Dr. McEwen and Ms. Petit in early November 2013 to begin planning the 2014 Women’s History month event.

V. OCFW New Business
A. The ERA Senate Joint Resolution – Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo from VoteERA.org:
   The Commission welcomed Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo who presented on the ERA Senate Joint Resolution. She stated that the end goal of this resolution is to have women’s equality in the Constitution so it is there in perpetuity, and that having equality expressed in case law is not the same as having it written in the Constitution. There was lively discussion on this topic. It was clarified that the OCFW simply supports women’s equality, and needs to hear from the opposition before voting on support of the Resolution.

   Nancy will forward Ms. Littrell DiLorenzo’s contact information and the poll results to all Commissioners in case they have questions.

B. New Commissioners waiting Senate confirmation:
   Chair Vardavas would like current OCFW Commissioners to serve as a resource to the new Commissioners, one-on-one.
   1. Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna
   2. Barbara Spencer

C. Retirement Security Bill:
   Chair Vardavas spoke at length with Joyce DeMonnin from American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) regarding the retirement security bill. If approved, AARP would create a statewide fund for Oregonians, whether employed or not, could make contributions to it so State could receive a better investment return than those available to individuals.

   It was noted that this proposed bill is a hybrid between a defined contribution and defined benefit plan. Commissioner Greenleaf will meet with Ms. DeMonnin to further discuss this issue and will include it in the bill prioritizing survey.

D. Membership to NACW is $100, due by March 31st
   Because Vice Chair Jeanne Burch needed to leave the meeting early a quorum was no longer met. An e-mail vote will be taken to gauge interest in using OCFW Other Funds to cover the membership. E-mail votes on expenditure of funds must be unanimous.

VI. Commissioner Reports
Commissioner Greenleaf’s focus has been on the OCFW’s Annual Report. She was pleased with the results.
Commissioner Jacquot focus has been drafting and working through the steps of submission for HB 2226.

Commissioner Stephenson noted that the next Environmental Justice Task Force meeting is April 12, 2013. She remains interested in submitting the OCFW’s application to the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA).

VII. OACO Administrator’s Report
A. The Oregon State Bar Association approved the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office as an employer, thereby becoming eligible for one of six awards the Bar makes annually for funded law fellowships. Lucy submitted a co-Commission concept (Hispanic Affairs and Black Affairs) on fair housing.

Commissioner Greenleaf is interested in an internship concept on housing discrimination against women with children.

B. The OACO presented its budget request before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government. As part of the presentation, the four Advocacy Commission Chairs submitted a letter asking that the OACO be exempt from further budget reductions in the upcoming biennium.

Two Policy Option packages for additional funds were submitted:
1. To restore Commissioners’ travel reimbursement line
2. To host a PSU Work Study student to work on projects such as newsletters, web page updates and Facebook accounts for the Commissions.

VIII. Other Business
The Women of Achievement (WOA) awards for 2013 will be given in spring 2014. Increased effort will be made to solicit nominations. The nomination form will also be revised. A suggestion was made to begin a young person’s award, perhaps for women under 25. The WOA nomination deadline may be extended to December 15th, 2013. This will be a topic of discussion at the May 2013 meeting.

IX. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

X. Adjourn
MOTION (Jacquot/Greenleaf): To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm.