MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, March 20, 2015
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 1C, Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDANCE:
Chair: Stephanie Vardavas
Vice Chair: Jeanne Burch (phone)
Commissioners: Doris Cancel-Tirado (phone), Sheri Malstrom, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna, Barbara Spencer (phone), Stephanie Swanson
Absent: Megan Jacquot, Representative Betty Komp, Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Guests: Trish Garner, Public Policy Chair, AAUW; Jodi Ballard-Beach, President of the Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda was adopted by common consent.

III. Approval of the January 2015 Minutes
MOTION (Malstrom/Swanson): To approve the minutes as written with one addition: Barbara Spencer was at the January meeting and her name will be added to those present. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment
Trish Garner introduced herself. She is the Public Policy Chair for the American Association of University Women.

V. OCFW Old Business
A. Ratification of e-votes from October 2014 for 2 new Friends of the OCFW board members: Jennifer Ruwart and Tobey Goldfarb

MOTION (Swanson/Spencer): To ratify the e-votes for Jennifer Ruwart and Tobey Goldfarb to serve on the Friends of the OCFW board. CARRIED.
B. Committee Reports

1. Health & Environmental Justice Committee – this committee has not met formally recently. Commissioner Malstrom has provided testimony in person for 2 bills so far (SB 445 and SB 478). Her connection to the Oregon Nurses Association has proven valuable in advocating for women’s health issues. She and Lucy attended the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) breakfast to hear their legislative agenda.

Commissioner Cancel-Tirado is bringing 7-8 students for the AAUW and OCFW joint lobby day at the capitol. Commissioner Cancel-Tirado would like her students to meet with other OCFW Commissioners. Lucy will work with Doris to assure that her students have the opportunity to meet attending Commissioners as well as legislators.

2. Women’s Economic Security Committee - Commissioner Spencer reported that the committee is tracking legislation on sick leave, equal pay, and the State Treasurer’s recent proposal on a retirement plan for Oregonians. The OCFW requested that Governor Brown issue the Equal Pay Day proclamation and expressed interest in a signing ceremony for the day as well. The Committee will work with staff to request it.

The Commissioners accepted both Committees' reports by common consent and thanked them for their good work.

C. Update on Women of Achievement awards - Chair Vardavas

Attorney General Rosenblum will be the emcee, and the Governor will arrive in time to present the awards. Jodi will talk with the artist about a token for the Governor (who will be celebrating her 20th anniversary of receiving the WOA award.) The Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) are buying a table to support Chief Magistrate Tanner and some other honorees are purchasing tables.

The Commissioners discussed honoring past awardee Gretchen Kafoury at the event as well. The OCFW would like to invite her daughter Deborah to the event. Chair Vardavas will reach out to Commissioner Kafoury’s Chief of Staff and invite her. Once Stephanie has made the connection, Commissioner Malstrom will also follow up. She knows Deborah well.

This year is the 30th Annual Women of Achievement Awards. During the first part of the event will be slides of the 30 years of awardees interspersed with event sponsors. Next there will be specific quotes from each honoree. Jodi gave an overview of the details.

The event space is larger this year and there will be 24 tables at the event. Voodoo Donuts will donate 5 dozen donuts and they will be centerpieces. Chair Vardavas will order the donuts 48 hours in advance. Members of the Friends are working on other sponsorships. Jodi is reaching out to corporate diversity departments. There will be a raffle this year of a goody basket with donations from sponsors.

The Commissioners discussed additional methods of promoting the event through social media. Commissioner Rodriguez-Montegna requested the invitation as a JPG. Nancy has already converted it and will send it to her. Commissioner Swanson will develop a media plan for the WOA which she will send to Jodi. Nancy will forward her the press release.
Chair Vardavas experimented with boosting the event on Facebook. It reached 4,000 people with a number of them clicking through to the event page.

Jodi asked all Commissioners to attend by 10am and thanked them for their help and support of the event.

D. Biennial Report of the OCFW for the Governor - update
Chair Vardavas is compiling the report with staff support. The statutory charge is to create a Status of Oregon Women report and present it to the Governor at the beginning of the new biennium. The Census statistics will go into the Status of Oregon Women report rather than the biennial report.

Chair and Vice Chair recently met with Kendall Clawson, Governor Brown’s Deputy Chief of Staff and the OAC’s Senior Policy Advisor. They explored new areas of collaboration between the OACs and the Governor’s office which may include joint research and policy analysis. Governor Brown’s top priority is the Oregon workforce and the number of women and people of color of participating in the workforce.

The Commissioners discussed economic security issues facing rural and urban women and whether there was any similarity between them. There is interest in analyzing the data from the upcoming Status report to see if the economic security issues differ between these populations.

E. Social Media – Chair Vardavas touched on social media earlier in the meeting.

VI. OCFW New Business
A. Legislative Discussion
1. Approving potential bills of interest to OCFW in strategic areas
Commissioners reviewed a spreadsheet of bills being tracked, supported and/or monitored by the OACs partners. They discussed the OCFW’s priorities and selected a slate of bills the OCFW would support for the 2015 legislative session. The list is appended as part of these minutes.

MOTION (Malstrom/Swanson): The OCFW approves the slate of legislation discussed at the meeting to be supported with testimony and other advocacy by the Commission. CARRIED.

2. Ratification of e-votes by the OCFW to support bills with testimony since the last regular meeting of the Commission:
   a. SB 445, Requires medical marijuana facilities and marijuana retailers to post notice of harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women
   b. SB 454 - Requires All Employers to Implement Paid Sick Time for Employees
   c. SB 478, High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health
   d. SB 491, Requirements in public contracting for compliance with pay equity provisions of state law
   e. SB 492, Authorizes use of accrued sick leave or personal business leave by certain employees who are victims of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking
   f. HB 2005 - Requires All Employers to Implement Paid Sick Time for Employees
g. HB 2205, Establishes Fund to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
h. HB 2600, Requires continuation of group health insurance coverage for employee on family leave
i. Resolution Urging Governor Kitzhaber to Commute Death Sentences before stepping down

MOTION (Spencer/Swanson): To ratify the e-votes for these bills read into the record. CARRIED.

B. OCFW meeting in Corvallis
   Chair Vardavas reminded the Commissioners that the July 17th meeting will be held in Corvallis. She will work with the Commission and staff to develop an agenda that includes discussion with invited women’s groups and leaders from the Corvallis area.

C. Expending General Fund in support of statutory mission
   This topic will be discussed at the next OCFW meeting.

VII. Administrator’s Report
   A. Update on OACO’s Joint Ways & Means Budget Hearing
      The OACO’s budget hearing is this Wednesday, March 25th. The 4 Chairs and Lucy will present the budget request to Joint Ways & Means Good Government subcommittee.

      Trish Garner offered to provide supportive testimony from the AAUW. The League of Women Voters, the Oregon Women’s Equality Coalition and Portland State University/Sunny Petit were also suggested as groups who could provide testimony in favor of new staff.

VIII. Good of the Order
   A. Next OCFW meeting Friday, May 15, 12PM – 3PM, Room 1C, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland 97232
   B. Vice Chair Burch has health related family commitments and, with regret and great appreciation for the work of the OCFW, she did not request reappointment to the Commission. She asked that a new Vice Chair be appointed by the Commission at their next meeting.

      The Chair and the Commissioners each expressed their gratitude to Jeanne for her leadership and wonderful service on the OCFW. They requested that while Jeanne retires from the Commission that she remain a close collaborator with the OCFW in its discussions of challenges facing rural women. They accepted her retirement from OCFW with great reluctance and with all support of her family priorities.

IX. Adjourn
   The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.