

Virginia Council on Women Meeting
April 15, 2015
12:30 pm
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ann Harbour at 12:49 pm. Ann announced that she was asked to conduct the meeting in the absence of our chairwoman who was on vacation.

Introduction of new member Hala Ayala was made with a warm round of welcome from the board. The agenda was presented and a motion was made by Carol Gibbons to accept the agenda and 2nd by Rita Surratt. A vote was taken and the agenda was adopted.

The minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting was presented and a motion by Meta Braymer to accept the minutes with a 2nd by Hala Ayala. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Kelly Thomason gave an update to the board regarding our web site. She again asked for a brief bio from each member to be included on the web site. Kelly also passed around the contact information for each member to make any corrections to their information. Kelly also announced that the council has a facebook page and encouraged everyone to like it and help promote the page. Also a reminder that each member of each council member is required to file an annual financial disclosure statement to the Secretary of the Commonwealth as now required by law.

Old Business

Katherine Waddell gave an update on the legislative agenda. Discussion was held on the letter that the council sent to the General Assembly Members with the position we took on women's health care in the Commonwealth. Katherine also gave an update on the day of service project which was held at the Housing Families First, a shelter for homeless women and children. It was an overwhelming success as First Lady McAuliffe made a visit to support the shelter and our service. The families and staff there were very appreciative of the meal, program, and support we provided.

The STEM Subcommittee update was given by Kelly Thomason. The STEM Contest was very successful this year with more sponsors participating which enabled us to award five young ladies with scholarships. The reception which was held at the Governor's Mansion to honor these young women was very well attended. A lengthy discussion was held on how the judging process can be expanded and a suggestion that the STEM committee consider a way to have regional winners to ensure winners from all areas of the state. The STEM subcommittee will look at the ideas which were discussed and come back with suggestions on growing and improving upon this program. Recognition of Theresa Preda for her years of service to this project was expressed with sincere appreciation.

Treasurers Report

Lashrecse Aird gave an update on the Treasurers Report. Balance on hand was \$33,818.73. Lashrecse will not be able to continue the role of treasurer and we will need to have a new election at the next meeting.

Carol Gibbons gave an update on the sponsors for the STEM contest and discussion on how to recruit more sponsors from businesses in the Commonwealth.

Ruth Zajur gave an update on potential partnership of NAWBO, National Association of Women Business Owners. NAWBO has offered to allow the STEM winners to attend their conference to help them in achieving their goals.

New Business

Kelly Thomasson reported on a summer intern who will be working with her to update information and will be working on special project for her during the summer. She hopes to utilize her skills to assist the council.

Ann Harbour discussed the Code of Virginia, 2.2-2630, which establishes the Virginia Council on Women. In response to previous discussions, the council does have the ability to give comment and advice on public policy.

Announcements:

Susan Rowland announced that the MA Conference on Women in Boston will be held in December again this year. Meta announced that Women's Health Virginia will be hosting their annual conference in June.

Dates for future meetings are August 11, 2015 and October 20, 2015 at 1 pm

Olivia Turner made a motion to adjourn and Sally Mullikin seconded the motion.
Meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan J. Rowland
Secretary
Virginia Council on Women