

Virginia Council on the Status of Women
Science Museum of Virginia 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Draft Minutes – June 7, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Brenda Fastabend	Annie Kasper
Tracy Key	Rita Surratt
Ruth Zajur	Dawn James
Randy Davis	Laura Mandala
Nicole Neilly	Jeff Caruso

Staff: Jennifer Aulgur
Emily Barrett

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Tracy Key, Chairwoman.

A motion was made by Annie Kasper and properly seconded by Rita Surratt to move up the Business Award discussion to after the STEM discussion and to adopt the tentative meeting agenda. The motion carried. Tracy briefly welcomed the members and had the membership introduce themselves along with Council staff.

A motion was made by Annie Kasper and properly seconded by Dawn James to adopt the minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting as distributed. The motion carried.

Jennifer Aulgur gave a legislative update. She provided copies of the legislation which updated the Council's name to Virginia Council on Women effective July 1, 2012. The legislation also clarified the duties of the Council. Jennifer also passed around the Council membership roster for any updates.

STEM Essay Contest Report & Wrap-up

Tracy provided an update on the STEM Essay contest and award breakfast at the Science Museum. She noted it was an honor and privilege to represent the Council and to present the awards. A total of \$10,500 was raised and \$10,000 in scholarship money was presented to the 3 awardees. This leaves us a \$500 cover for next year. Jenni Aulgur passed around the program from the event to the Council members; reviewed the lodging reimbursement submitted by one family and briefly summarized the 3 award winners:

3rd place (\$2,000): Alisha Konst - Junior at Lord Botetourt High School in Daleville, VA with a GPA of 3.36. Her essay and area of interest is in engineering. Alisha is enrolled in an academic program at her high school geared to those with an aptitude and interest in engineering. This program accepts 25 of the most qualified students attend the local community college. After two years in this program she will have completed 36 college credits that can be applied to her associate degree in engineering. Alisha expects to receive her Associates in Summer 2013 – just shortly after her high school

graduation. She then hopes to attend Virginia Tech thereafter to study mechanical engineering.

2nd place (\$3,000): Christina Washington - Senior at King George High School in King George, VA with a GPA of 4.0. Christina's essay focused on biology/chemistry. Last summer Christina was selected to attend the Howard University Minority Science & Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) which provided her the opportunity to be exposed to new technology, research, field activities and classroom lectures. She will be following in the footsteps of her parents, who are also both engineers, by studying biology/chemistry next year at GMU.

1st place (\$5,000): Caitlin Grumbling - Senior at Smithfield High School in Smithfield, VA with a GPA of 4.35. Her essay and area of interest focused on mechanical and aerospace engineering. During her junior year she was accepted into the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) Program, which is an online college-level engineering course. She was then invited to the VASTS Summer Academy at NASA Langley Research Center for the top scholars throughout Virginia. At Langley she spent an intensive week working side-by-side with NASA engineers and scientists to create a viable Mission to Mars. Caitlin, we fully expect to see you on a space ship someday! Caitlin will be studying engineering at UVA next fall.

Annie Kasper noted that the breakfast was a great event and she applauded this new program. Ruth Zajur said all the award winners were all exceptional and now everyone at the breakfast knows who the Council is. Rita Surratt commented on how very impressed she was with the event. Tracy mentioned the head of the museum wants to continue this partnership as they thought it added great substance to their event. Tracy also thanked Theresa for heading up the judging portion and for Leslie for stepping up and assisting with the judging at the end.

The Council then had a discussion about continuing the essay contest next year. The group consensus is to move forward for next year and continue the contest. There was a motion made by Tracy Key and seconded by Ruth Zajur to proceed with a 2013 Essay Contest. The motion carried.

Annie suggested that if we raise \$24 - \$30K then we could do three levels of awards and maybe some smaller ones too. Also, she noted that if one company were to give a large amount, perhaps we name the top award after them. Jeff noted that perhaps some of the colleges/universities might be willing to donate funds and that depending on the amount raised and the number of applicants; any additional scholarships given out are a bonus. Tracy said she would draft a fundraising letter. Laura mentioned that it was a successful program and FLITE would support it and help to get the word out. Rita mentioned she drafted a press release. There was discussion about issuing it after the awards were given out. Jenni offered to ask press about what our options were. It was discussed that a timeline needs to be put in place. Jenni will bring the timeline from last year to the September meeting.

Members volunteered for several subcommittees:
Fundraising: Tracy Key; Ruth Zajur; Nicole Neilly

Judging: Laura Mandala; ask Leslie
SMV Liaison: Dawn James (along with Jenni)
PR/Press: Rita Surratt and Randy Davis

The Council agreed the first step is going back to donors who gave last year and looking at other new ones. Suggestions were Altria, defense contractors (like SAIC in Northern Virginia); and Dominion. Suggested date to send fundraising letters was September 6. A judging letter should be done in the fall with expectations, criteria, and timing. It was suggested to perhaps get a science teacher or someone in the field of science to assist with judging. There was a discussion about doing some fundraising over the summer months and then between September and December finalize the timeline/tweak dates from last year and get the notice out on the essay contest. January through March would be the judging and notification of winners.

OLD BUSINESS

FLITE Outreach Update

Laura reached out to Elizabeth Mancano with the Office of the First Lady. Elizabeth was very excited about the idea of a business award and having the First Lady present it. Laura noted that it might be possible to get the chambers involved and have it be a separate event from the FLITE dinner. Elizabeth also liked the idea of the health and wellness and that the First Lady might be interested in the timing and locations. The idea about growing and doing a conference down the road was not an unreasonable idea the Council determined. Laura mentioned a non-profit organization called Women's Health Virginia which does a conference each year. Laura also noted that she signed up the Council as a volunteer for FLITE. She also updated us on the Freedom Support Center at Ft. Monroe which is a facility with vendors and professionals to assist family of military and mentioned the Council may have an interest in helping further when needed on this pillar of FLITE. The First Lady's FLITE even this year will be a dinner in October. Tracy thanked Laura for her efforts on this.

Business Award Idea

Dawn shared her idea about a business award that the Council could do. It could relate to companies which have put best practices in place to help all employees including women. Dawn is willing to see if the idea "has legs". There was a discussion about Council having limited time and they were not sure if it fits as broadly with Council's purpose. Discussion continued about this idea being tabled for now or if we can find someone to run with the idea. Laura mentioned partnering with the Governor's Office on this which would support his jobs initiatives. Council would need to put together some sort of criteria then maybe the Governor could present the award when he visits that business. Tracy mentioned that AMEX just announced that Capital One was just announced as the #4 on Great Places to Work. She also mentioned perhaps getting a speaker in September that could present on Women in Business to gather some data. It was decided that Jenni/Dawn could meet with Janet to talk about moving forward on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Website

With SOC now staffing the board it was discussed to move the Council's website away from DSS and to the SOC. Jenni asked the members what items they would like to have on their new website. Council members decided that it would be good to have member names, short bios, term dates, meeting dates, press releases, information on STEM Essay Contest, pictures from events, leadership resources categorized, and noting the presence of Council at any events, etc. It was decided that at the September meeting members could review a draft and add input. Jeff suggested maybe having a committee to review to make additional suggestions. Nicole volunteered to be review the current list of leadership resources for Virginia women to ensure links are still accurate.

Openings for 2012 Seats

Tracy and Jenni reviewed the seats that are up for appointment at the end of June. Laura and Annie mentioned they both would like to be considered for reappointment and they would like to see the STEM contest grow. It was suggested to perhaps hold one meeting a year in Northern Virginia. Laura mentioned a group working on a memorial on women's suffrage and perhaps the Council might want to become a partner on that. Jenni advised she would find out more about the group from the Secretary of Administration who chairs that Commission and will report back. Annie suggested maybe a Council member could be on the Commission as an ex-officio member.

The next meeting is planned for September 6, 2012. A motion to adjourn passed after being made and properly seconded at 1:40 p.m.