

**Delaware Women's Commission  
Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy  
State of Delaware, Department of Human Resources**

Haslet Building  
122 Martin Luther King Blvd, South  
Dover, DE 19901  
Monday March 26, 2018  
11:00 am to 12:30pm

Carvel State Office Building  
820 N. French Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(Via Videoconferencing)

**Attendees:**

Alisha Bryson-Wilmington Videoconference  
Katherine Caudle  
Sherry Dorsey Walker  
\*Marian Palley  
Rosalia Velazquez  
Sobia Choudhri  
Lauren Vella-House of Representative  
Melanie Ross Levin  
Representative Valarie Longhurst  
Sherese Brewington-Carr  
\*Chairperson

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Welcome and introductory comments.**

The meeting was called to order by Marian Palley at 11:10 am. Marian Palley introduced Representative Valarie Longhurst and Lauren CW Vella to the Commission.

**Comments from Marian Palley**

The Commission members talked about the event on 5/28 for Senator Margaret Rose Henry that the OWAA is sponsoring with the Delaware Women's Workforce Council. The Commission will provide volunteers at the event and will help promote it. The group is also encouraged to stay at the ERA rally that will immediately follow the event.

**Update from the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy**

Carling Ryan, who is the Policy and Research Analyst for the OWAA was introduced to the Commission. Shaleah Sutton who is the Social/Digital Marketing Assistant for the OWAA will be introduced to the Commission at a later time. The OWAA has launched on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The OWAA is building an audience and marketing the event for Senator Margaret Rose Henry and the Equal Rights Amendment rally.

The OWAA has also been in Legislative Hall supporting bills that help women, such as Parental Leave (HB 3) and ERA (HB 399). The OWAA will have a newsletter coming out soon. There are several bills and policies that the OWAA has been working on, such as the sexual harassment policy for the state and Parental Leave (HB 3). If HB 3 passes, the state will have six months to implement it. OWAA is working on fact sheets focused on legislative priorities.

Information was given to the Commission about the Hall of Fame Event on September 27th, including how the group can help get the word out regarding nominations. Salary negotiation workshops are being considered and the OWAA is looking for host organizations. The Salary negotiation workshops would ideally be done in every county.

The Commission was given the information on how the salary negotiation workshops would work and how they are limited for space to 40 people. Commission members talked about what the Commission should be doing when it comes to working with OWAA concerning legislation.

**Introduction of Val Longhurst and her comments**

Marian Palley introduced Representative Valarie Longhurst. The Commission was encouraged to come to the ERA Rally. The Commission was informed about how AAUW does salary negotiation workshops in Boston and how we could benefit from replicating the same trainings.

The Commission can help with driving legislation forward. There are various bills that are going forward at this time and the Commission can be a leader in helping to shape legislation.

The Equal Rights Amendment (HB 399) is moving this session and the Commission can help support it.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

The Referral's Subcommittee provided a list of suggested referrals to the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy (OWAA). OWAA is going to include the referrals on their website once website is built. This subcommittee work is complete and the group no longer needs to meet.

The Women's Needs Subcommittee had a meeting and they discussed mentoring girls, workforce development, salary negotiation, women in the criminal justice system, and women and immigration. They are looking at several ways to help women and girls in these areas and would like to continue to meet to flesh out ideas.

**New Business:**

The Commission agreed that they will support legislation for Parental Leave (HB 2), Equal Rights (HB 399), Infertility (SB 139) and the Sexual Harassment (HB 360). An e-mail will be sent out with the links to the bill text so that the Commission members can read more about them. The Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy will help promote events with the Women's Commission. OWAA staff will send regular updates to Commission so that the group knows what is happening and can weigh-in.

Motion to adjourn Marian Palley  
Second motion Alison Bryson

**To do:**

Marian to provide links to the full bill texts that are under consideration of support.  
Melanie will send out regular communication updates to Commission members.