

**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, May 20, 2019
10:30am to 12:00pm
(Via Videoconferencing
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street, 10th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Attendees:

*Marian Palley-Wilmington
Alisha Bryson-Wilmington
Melanie Ross Levin-Wilmington
Sobia Choudhri
Shaleah Sutton
Sherese Brewington-Carr
Katherine Caudle
*Chairperson

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome and Introductory Comments

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marian Palley at 10:30am. The chairperson welcomed everyone and asked the members to look at the minutes from March 25, 2019 meeting. Katherine Caudle motioned, Sherese Brewington-Carr seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

An update on the role of the Delaware Women's Coalition

Marina Palley talked about the role of the Women's Coalition to the Delaware Women's Commission. There will be a Pro-Choice rally at Rodney Square on May 22, 2019. There was to be a coalition meeting, but some members will attend the rally and a date will be set in the future for another meeting.

Legislative Update

Marian Palley asked Melanie to give the Women's Commission an update on legislation. A variety of laws that has been introduced on the floor of the legislature and some of the laws have been passed. Melanie Ross Levin talked about Senate Bill 60, that was introduced by Senator Poor, clarifies that in order for a person to be found guilty of prostitution, the person must be 18 years or older. Melanie Ross Levin asked the Commission members if they would will write a letter of support to the legislators or testify at the hearing.

Sherese Brewington-Carr would like to put forth a letter around the bill showing support. Marian Palley will draft the letter and send it out to the commission members and allow changes to be made by the commission members. The letter is to be sent out to members on the week of May 20, 2019. Marian asked if anyone was opposed of sending a letter. None opposed. Melanie will keep commission members updated on the status of the bill.

House Bill 102 proposed by Kim Williams is a bill that allows for victims of human trafficking to be able to expunge their records. This bill has already passed in house and senate and is headed to the Governor's office. Senate Bill 78 proposed by Senator Poore. Health Education programs will be required to talk about consent in context of a sexual encounter. The commission will support this bill. A separate letter will be sent to each chair of the appropriate committees. Sherese Brewington-Carr would like the committee to consider House Bill 8. This bill is an act to amend the Delaware code relating to tax credits for those incarcerated. Delaware does not have an independent tax credit. It is to encourage business to hire ex-convicts and then businesses will get a tax credit.

Update on Women's Advocacy Coalition: Our September Meeting

Marian Palley asked Commission members to come to the Women's Coalition meeting to hear a speaker from Alliance for Justice during the week of September 9th. The meeting will be held from 10:00am-2:00pm. Marian talked to the commission members about how the schedule will be for the meeting in September. The first session will be based on Federal guidelines for nonprofits and the second session will be concerning what is a (C3) status. There will be a national and state perspective on these issues. Marian will keep the members up to date on when the actual date will be for the meeting in September.

The 100th anniversary of women's suffrage events

Melanie Ross Levin explained to the committee about the 100 anniversary of Women's Suffrage committee. She explained what the Heritage Commission were discussing during their meetings. There will be suffrage events going on for the rest of the year. Melanie Ross Levin outlined the events that the Heritage Commission would like to see in Delaware. The Heritage commission would like to have a Suffrage parade. Events will be happening all over the country and Melanie Ross Levin told the commission that they could partake in all the events that Delaware will be having. The Chairperson for the suffrage committee is Susan Del Pesco. The Workforce Council and the Hall of Fame members will be able to join in events later on after the commission member's work on a subcommittee for the suffrage events. There is a website called women's vote 100.org to see where the federal activities will be going on. Sobia Choundrhi suggested that the events for the women's suffrage be centered on education, so that young women to learn the history of the Women's suffrage.

Marian Palley will have a conference call sometime in July to see what the commission members would like to do for a suffrage event. Marian will draft information concerning the women's suffrage events. Marian will send out proposal before next meeting in September.

Update from OWAA

Melanie Ross Levin sent an around announcement that the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy is hiring. Melanie Ross Levin will be at legislative Hall during this last session for the year. The Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy is now dealing with the Hall of Fame Nominations now that the applications process is closed. The Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy completed four salary negotiations classes in Dover, Lewes, Wilmington and Newark. The office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy will sponsor the classes next year.

New Business

On June 7, 2019 the office is participating in the Pride Festival in Dover. Melanie Ross Levin asked the commission members to volunteer to help table with the Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy.

Melanie Ross Levin is in touch with the Biden Center and the center will be having a policy dinner on Sexual assault in sports. Melanie Ross Levin will let the commission members know that date of the event.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: September 23, 2019

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