

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of March 27, 2013**

**Present:** Marie Soeurette Eloi, Viviana Jordan, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Grace O'Donnell, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Grace Signorelli, Marie Woodson, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo

**Excused:** Leah Blumenfeld, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Samia Taoulost Malik, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Eveline Pierre, Rhonda Wimberly, and Barbara Schwartz,

**Staff:** Laura Morilla

**Guests:** Millie Herrera from the U.S. Dept. of Labor; Silvia Unzueta; and Judge Angelica Zayas from the Juvenile Division

Chairwoman Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 6:25 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. The meeting was held at The Women's Park.

First there was a **Public Forum:**

Millie Herrera, the Southeast Regional Representative for the U.S. Labor Secretary, talked about the proposed event to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Millie reviewed a written summary of the event, which would basically be a reception followed by remarks from a noted national speaker and a panel discussion on the Equal Pay Act and pay equity issues. Millie requested that the CFW join the U.S. Labor Department and help host the event to observe this important anniversary. Millie wants the CFW to take lead the way on this event and get co-sponsors.

Viviana stated that we could get the universities and municipalities to co-sponsor. Linda stated that she believes that the CFW should volunteer and support the event. Linda then moved that the CFW support the effort and volunteer for the event. Grace Signorelli seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

There were no more comments from the public and the public forum ended.

At this point there was a quorum.

Grace O'Donnell moved to approve the agenda. Mara seconded the motion and the motion passed. **The Agenda was approved.**

Grace O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of 02/27/13. Mara seconded the motion and the motion passed. **The minutes were approved.**

**The Committee Reports** were presented.

Grace gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The slate of officers as recommended by the committee is: Michelle Dunaj Lucking for Chair; Marie Woodson for First Vice Chair; Francesca Menes for Second Vice Chair; and Sharon Kendrick Johnson for Member at Large. The elections will be held at the April 24 meeting.

For the report of the Legislative Committee, Michelle reviewed the written report prepared by the committee and the additional written information provided by Francesca about the immigration issues. The committee's

recommendation is to send a letter to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation about the CFW's position on the various bills, similar to the letter that the CFW sent last year.

Kit also explained the various preemption bills that are pending in the legislature and stated that one of the main arguments against these bills are the ability of local governments to have to make decisions as to what is best for their residents; other parts of Florida should not make these decisions for Miami-Dade County Commission and other local elected officials. The bottom line is that Tallahassee is trying to take over local government. Kit also reported that a letter on the preemption issues is going to the Miami-Dade legislators from several organizations, and that she would like for the CFW to sign on to the letter. Linda moved that the CFW sign on to the letter. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Upon further discussion and clarification, Kit moved that the CFW send the letter to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and include the immigration bills. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Under **Old Business**, Marie Eloi reported that Irene Lipof was appointed to be the labor representative on the Jackson Financial Recovery Board.

The CFW then discussed the idea of starting a scholarship for worthy students. Laura reported on her recent discussion with the Assistant County Attorney, who advised the following: if the CFW wants to do the scholarship through the CFW itself, as opposed to through the Friends 501(c)(3), then the CFW has to get authority from the County Commission; the CFW may be able to limit the applicants to girls only, but the CFW would have to show a compelling state interest to do so; and it would be easier to do all this through the 501(c)(3). This was a preliminary conversation and Laura will follow up with her again. Silvia Unzueta suggested that the CFW talk to Adam Peters with the County's Sister Cities program because the Sister Cities program awards a scholarship too.

Marie Woodson stated that she would like for the scholarship process to go through Friends. A couple of people expressed the opposite view that it would defeat the purpose of the CFW being behind it and getting the credit. After some more discussion, the matter was referred to the Events and Fundraising Committee to start the process.

Under **New Business**, Michelle explained that the CFW received a request from the Miami-Dade County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association asking for a letter of support for its upcoming luncheon of April 6 and requesting the someone from the CFW attend the luncheon and read the letter. Mara moved that the CFW send a letter of support. Linda seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mara and Linda will attend the luncheon and read the letter.

Grace reported on the In the Company of Women awards reception held on March 7. Mara reported on the Women of Impact awards luncheon, where the CFW Chair was one of the honorees. Mara and Dona reported on the Miami Beach Women's Conference that they attended. Marie Eloi reported on the FANM/Haitian Women of Miami fundraiser and that Marie Woodson is the Chair of FANM. Grace reported on the recent fundraiser for the Lotus House by the Everglades Bike Club.

CFW members will be touring the B.E.S.T. Outreach Center for human trafficking victims on April 19 and April 23 at the invitation of Linda Sullivan, who had previously attended a meeting of the CFW's Human Trafficking Committee. The Committee will also set up a meeting with Millie Herrera.

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Laura explained that the City of Doral was creating a women's commission and that a letter of support from the CFW was requested. Marie Woodson moved to send the letter. Linda seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Under **Announcements**, Grace mentioned the "Girls Night Out" fundraiser for the Girl Scouts on April 9 at Fisher Island and encouraged everyone to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Laura Morilla, Recorder