

**Georgia Commission on Women
General Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2020**

Present: Tita Stewart, Julianna McConnell, Karla Jacobs, Sharon Baker, Michelle Nelson, Jill Neilson, Tina Blakey and Martha Murphy Long. Guest: Jatisha Marsh.

- Call to Order: Chairwoman Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.
- Pledge of allegiance cited by all.
- Commissioner Stewart welcomed Johnessa Smith, our new program manager. Johnessa briefly introduced herself. Her enthusiasm and work on our efforts already is phenomenal!
- Review of Old Minutes: Minutes reviewed. Commissioner Blakey recommended approval. Commissioner Neilson seconded and motion passed.
- Report of the Treasurer: Commissioner Jacobs shared that we are now operating on the new budget which began July, 1, 2020. She showed an excel sheet of expenditures to date and new allocations recommended by the executive committee which included:
- \$4,000 per committee pillars. Any expenditure over \$1000 needs approval by the executive committee.

There is \$24,000 left uncommitted. She asked if we might want to consider conducting an International Women's Day event in March.

There are still a few items for which commissioner have not been reimbursed. She has the new expense form. Invoices should be sent to Commissioner Jacobs and be submitted to her. Will Bell, the budget director of DPH is the individual she is working with and progress is being made.

Review of Pillars, Report from committee chairs:

- Health Committee: Commissioner Baker reported the health committee members have been contacted and blog assignments for the year have been made. Commissioner Long doesn't have internet connection and is at a bit of a disadvantage...so contacts with her need to be with phone or text.
- We have yet to assign newsletter responsibilities.
- Recommendations for an event include resurrecting the meeting previously scheduled for June 2020. This has been circulated and tweaked and done via video conference. Commissioner Nelson has agreed to be responsible for applying for CEU's for nursing professionals which should be a major incentive for partnerships and participation. Discussion of this ensued and a tentative month for conducting this event was June.
- Financial contributors: Commissioner Nelson has a number of nursing organizations who could be charged a fee to participate. Commissioner Baker suggested that the American Bone Health organization can assist with marketing.
- Events attended included: Commissioner Nelson and Baker attended the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies video in-service. Commissioner Baker attended the Standards for Maternal Health Safety and the annual conference of the National Association of Women's Health Nurse Practitioners.
- Human Trafficking: Commissioner Jacobs reported there is a new trafficking hot line that includes human sexual and labor trafficking issues.

- There is a new statewide human trafficking task force that focuses on victim services that include minors and adult victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking and educational efforts on this topic. The makeup of this task force includes government agencies, victim providers, law enforcement and medical professionals.
 - She shared that a federal grant for \$800,000 has been given to create a task force, but one had already been developed, so a coalition task force was established. This group will focus on law enforcement and policies.
 - Commissioner McConnell will serve as co-chair of the policy for this new group.
 - Commissioner Jacobs is on the statewide coalition.
 - Commissioner Blakey is also a member of the task force for child advocacy that will examine issues with adult trafficking victims and working on webinars that provide education on victim assistance.
 - Commissioner Nelson will serve on Group 8 which deals with issues related to survivor thriving effort which will include education on personal finance, resume building and healthy living.
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- Web Update: Report from Marketing Committee: Commissioner Tymchuck shared the web improvements that have been developed. Program manager Johnessa Smith was congratulated for including items that archive our agendas, minutes, upcoming events, etc. It is greatly improved!
 - She requested review of the list of current commissioners and changes were shared. She requested that all commissioners' review their bios and those who haven't sent one were asked to write one and get it to her with a photo to post on our web site.
 - Commissioner Tymchuck shared our new letterhead, our PowerPoint template, business card and name tag models. She will order name badges for everyone. Access to these documents is available to commissioners on the web site. The PowerPoint template for future use can be found on Google drive. Program manager, Johnessa Smith can be contacted at 404-375-6404 for any assistance needed.
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- Legislative Report: Commissioner McConnell announced that the legislative session will start in January with many new restrictions regarding in person meetings due to covid. The biennial legislative orientation meeting will not be in person this year and she was uncertain of details at this time.
 - She is in the process of putting together a virtual program to orient nursing students and others to the process of advocacy and engagement in the legislative activities upcoming. She is planning this for Thursday afternoons via zoom. She will share updates on news and times as they develop.
 - Commissioner McConnell shared that there are many new legislators and encouraged everyone to familiarize themselves with them and to reach out to their legislator to establish a relationship.
 - Commissioner McConnell is also working with NP's working in the veteran's administration—that are under federal guidelines and do not have the practice restrictions on NP's working under Georgia law.
 - Commissioner McConnell encouraged everyone to vote in the January 5th runoff for Georgia senators.
 - New Business: Cudos: Commissioner Nelson announced that Commissioner McConnell had been nominated for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners for the advocacy award and won! Congratulations!
 - Commissioner Nelson has been nominated for the Advocacy Nurse of the Year for the March of Dimes award. We learned after the meeting that she had won! Congratulations Dr. Nelson!
 - All awards will be posted on the web site to highlight the accomplishments and activities of GCW.

- Commissioner Baker shared that she had been contacted by Margaret Coker, editor of The Current,” a non-profit newspaper in the Savannah/Coastal Georgia area. Special is planning to do a series on women’s health and was interested in connecting with our members to gain information. Commissioners Baker, Nelson McConnell, and Jacobs had an hour long dialogue with her. We will see what evolves from this contact. Our hour long meeting was very positive.
- Future Meeting dates and details are posted on the GCW website.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:37 by Chair Stewart.