

Committee of Women's Rights Business meeting, November 19, 2014, New Orleans

Attendance: Padmini (Mini) Murthy, Chair, Nathan Boucher, Constance Jackson, Marjorie Sable, Elizabeth Barajas-Roman, Karlene Baddy (APHA Liaison)

- The meeting was called to order by Padmini (Mini) Murthy at 6:30 a.m.
- Karlene thanked Mini for her leadership over the past three years.
- Karlene and Mini congratulated Constance on the program planner activities for which she was responsible during the past two years.
- Mini thanked members in attendance for their work with her during her tenure as Chair including Valerie who is an outgoing member and not attending the meeting.
- Minutes were reviewed by committee members, seconded and accepted
- Packages were distributed to each member. Letters of support signed by Dr. Benjamin in support of women's issues were included in the package.

COWR's Mission and Related activities

- Karlene encouraged the members to get familiar with the purpose of the Standing Committees, which could be found on the APHA website.
- Karlene explained the details of a standing committee as it is stated in Article VIII of the By-Laws "Standing Committees are those committees which are necessary for the continuing effective operation of the Association and which are charged with responsibilities for internal organizational, structural, and/or administrative affairs of the Association."
- Karlene suggested that COWR should broaden its scope beyond the submission of scientific sessions in order to remain a relevant Standing Committee.
- Committee members discussed activities in which the committee could be engaged.
 - a. Nate suggested collaboration with the student assembly.
 - b. Other suggestions by Marjorie and Constance included policy changes regarding women's health
 - c. Collaboration with other committees in which there is overlap in the activities

Status of the consolidation of EHO, COWR, IHRC

- Karlene reported that she had submitted to Dr. Benjamin an evaluation of the consolidation of three standing committees. The assessment was based on the responsibilities of each committee as listed in the description of each one in the By-Laws.
- The decision to consolidate some committees in part was the difficulty in getting applicants.

- There was a lengthy discussion of the consolidation of the Equal Health Opportunity, Committee on Human Rights and the International Human Rights Committee.
- The consensus of the committee included the following:
 - a. Favorable to the consolidation as long as COWR's title is not lost in the new name
 - b. Concerns that the specific rights of women will be lost

Karlene stated that in the meantime, COWR should continue to operate as in the past. Any action on the consolidation will be taken by the Executive Board in the future.

Planning for scientific sessions for 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago

- The evaluation of the sessions presented at the 2014 meeting was examined.
- Karlene suggested that the committee develop really solid sessions to maintain the integrity of COWR for the meeting in Chicago.
- Focus should be on sessions that were well attended.
- Members suggested that invitations to presenters should be targeted to persons in and around Chicago, which would lower expenses for travel.
- Karlene emphasized the importance of building Health Equity into all sessions.

Need for new Chair of COWR for 2015

- Karlene reported that a temporary Chair was required for COWR until a decision was made by the Executive Board.
- She asked if any one of the members had a particular interest in acting as the COWR Chair.
- Mini recommended Constance to be the Chair for the next year and was seconded by Marjorie.
- Constance accepted the nomination and was congratulated again by Mini for her work as the program planner for the past two years.

Closing

- Karlene thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting.
- Constance will schedule the next teleconference by doodle poll for January 2015.
- Karlene adjourned the meeting at 8:00 a.m.