

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council -Quarterly meeting
Minutes of March 1, 2007

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer
Randy Collins, Secretary
Sherri Collins
Fernando Cruz
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
Lavern Lizer
Naomi Ortiz
Kathryn Robins

Council Members Absent

Marquita Beene
Ken Jacuzzi
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt
Ramon Garcia

Guests

Paul Wilson and Sue Kroeger

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: *Kathryn Robins motioned to approve the minutes of December 7, 2006. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Consent List: *There was a request to remove the membership packet item and discuss it separately during the Executive Committee report section of the meeting agenda. . Ed Myers motioned to approve the March 1, 2007 Consent List with the exception of the membership packet item and discuss the membership packet separately. Seconded by Randy Collins. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Executive Committee Report:

Membership:

- A cover letter and membership packet drafts were reviewed (see handouts). It was suggested to make reference in the packet that the Council makes recommendations to the Governor's office on disability issues. It was also suggested to revise the draft with particular attention to more accessible language. Naomi Ortiz and Kathryn Robins both volunteered to assist with language and proof reading.
- The Executive Committee will review the membership packet drafts after they are revised. .

Committee report form:

- The executive committee recommended that a committee report form be adopted for the full council quarterly meetings. The SILC Chair, Donna Powers explained that the reports should be completed by the respective SILC committee chairs and sent to the SILC office prior to the quarterly meetings. SILC staff would subsequently include those reports into the packet of materials that are distributed to council members in advance of the quarterly meetings. The reasons for this procedure are; 1) provide documentation that can be incorporated into the 704 reports and SPIL, 2) provide council members with time to analyze the activities of the council and posed questions accordingly, 3) decrease the time allocated on the agenda for reporting, and 4) support extending time allocated on the agenda related to issues discussions, having presentations, etc.
- A draft of the Committee report form was reviewed as well as, a sample from the Public Policy Committee (See handouts). It was suggested to reformat the report and place the recommendations/motions section to full council at the top of the page.
- The new report form will begin with the start of the next Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2007.
- It was suggested to have a summary Year End report from each committee for the June meeting.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Organizer:

- Ramon Garcia was introduced as new SILC staff. He is the project coordinator for AZ Disability Vote Coalition.
- Tony DiRienzi stated that SILC is the fiscal agent for the coalition. The council previously agreed to oversee and housed the position within SILC. The coalition members financially support the project. It is substantially funded by ABIL and SILC.
- Ramon said the Coalition's goals are; to help increase voter registration and participation in the disability community, to assist organizations who are coalition members with list enhancements, and to identify and build a voting block of people with disabilities, among other considerations. The primary focus of the Coalition is to change the culture in the disability community and involve the community year round with the political process.

Treasurer's Report:

Current Financials

- Gene Heppard, Treasurer, went over the month ending January 31, 2007 financial statements (See statements).
- A question was posed related to the change in net assets from the January Balance Sheet as compared to the financials from the December 31, 2006. Tony DiRienzi stated he will check with the SILC accountant and get back with the Council with an explanation.

Office Lease

- Gene Heppard reported that the Executive Committee recently met with building management to discuss our lease options. The current lease for our office space will expire on May 30 2007. SILC is scheduled to relocate to the new multi disability organizational

campus but the completion of that facility is projected to be about July 2008. As referenced in the consent list it was decided that SILC will sign an amendment to our current lease. The amendment extends our lease for another 2 year period.

REPORTS:

121 Report:

- Lavern Lizer reported that all the 121 projects in Arizona participated in the CANAR conference in Washington DC in February. They will have a mid year conference in Georgia in August.
- Fort Mohave has a new program called Gold Medal Program. Fort Mohave has requested that SILC have an outreach workshop there.

Community Collaboration Committee:

- Gene Heppard reported he filled out the new report form. There are 4 main activities of the Committee which are: PAS toolkit, IL DVD's distribution, Disability Events Calendar project and Emergency Preparedness.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Kathryn Robins gave a brief verbal report for each CIL. She stated she will follow up with a written report.

SMILE:

- SMILE has a new board president and a work incentives coordinator.
- Living well with a disability program is going very well.

DIRECT & CochiseAbility:

- DIRECT received a 2 year contract for home access modifications.
- There is an upcoming golf fundraiser event.

NEW HORIZONS:

- New Executive Director is needed.
- New transportation coordinator has been hired.

ABIL & ASSIST!:

- No reports.

Outreach Committee.

- Lavern Lizer reported SILC was at the Disabilities Expo on February 28th.
- Legislative training event recently took place on January 31st. Lavern stated she met with her legislators the following day (Feb 1st) during the Disability Awareness Day.
- Committee is planning workshops for South Phoenix, Parker and possibly Fort Mohave.

Public Policy Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

- Sherri Collins reported the Committee has been busy with advocating during this legislative session. Some of the activities have included; testifying in person, internet advocacy, among other things.

- She noted that the Governor's Council on DD website is a good resource for tracking bills. (www.azgcd.org).
- Sherri reported that she and Randy Collins both attended the SILC Congress in January representing Arizona. There was good networking at the Congress. Focus seemed to be on hurricane Katrina issues. Congress was voted to be in New Orleans again in 2008.

RSA Report & ILRS Report:

- Paul Wilson reported Katharine Levandowsky sends her regrets as she was unable to attend today's meeting.
- VR outreach activity for referrals to program continues.
- The VR Policy Manual revisions are currently being reviewed.
- RSA and SILC are currently working collaboratively on developing and drafting the 2008-2010 SPIL.
- Donna Powers added that she is participating in the selection process related to the hiring of the RSA Administrator position.

SRC Report:

- SRC report was sent to all prior to Quarterly meeting (see handout).

Internet Advocacy:

- Randy Collins noted that it is important for PWD's to be involved in advocacy. Randy said that by definition democracy is active involvement of an informed citizenry.
- Internet advocacy is available for testifying on bills with the house and senate. It was noted the system is not fully accessible and that needs to be improved. In order to register one must go to the kiosk at the capital to register before they can go online to testify. Efforts to change the process and update the system are currently being explored.

Break

U of A Disabilities Studies Curriculum Presentation:

- Sue Kroeger, Director of Disabilities Resource Center at U of A gave a power point presentation on disabilities studies.
- It was requested that SILC collaborate with others to support a disabilities studies curriculum. The process has started at U of A. It has momentum. Additional support is needed in the universities.
- It was suggested that a disabilities studies be explored as Continuing Education Units and be implemented in the disability service providers' community.

Executive Director Report:

- ED activity/responsibility profile matrix for Jan through June 2007 was distributed prior to meeting (see handout).
- Tony added that there was a DES audit in January. SILC is awaiting an audit report.
- Ramon Garcia is now on board with SILC working on the get out the vote project.

- Considerable focus is being directed to drafting the SPIL.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Jenn-Yun Tein was introduced. She is working with Kathryn Robins as an evaluator for the Living Well Program. Jenn is on faculty at ASU and is a possible SILC member candidate.
- Fernando Cruz announced that the 3rd Annual Urban Native American Summit will be April 26 & 27. Fernando also said there will be an Elder Summit in April. Information will be forwarded to SILC office to be sent out.

ADJOURNMENT: *Gene Heppard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kim March-Force. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Randy Collins _____ SILC Secretary