

**Women's State Legislative Council
General Session Meeting Minutes
Copper Room, Senate Office Building
March 4, 2015**

Call to Order

Members were advised due to the volume of bills currently being discussed in the Legislature today, speakers in two areas; contact lens consumer protection act and access to health care legislation will come to the Council out of order on the agenda, as they can leave committee meetings and press conferences. When there are time lapses, we will then proceed with the regular opening areas of our Council meetings, and the opportunity to vote on a resolution we are preparing SB16464S01 Access to Health Care Amendments.

Senator Brian Shiozawa @ Dist. 8 Sponsor – SB164 Access to Health Care Amendments discussed where funding could come from, statistics on who would be helped with this proposed law, advised this has been passed in the Senate and House hearing to come. It may not get out of committee. This is one of 5 medical bills currently being discussed today, with sessions at 6:00 this evening also. It is also known as Health Utah Plan.

Senator Deidre Henderson @ Dist. 7 Sponsor – SB169 Contact Lens Consumer Protection Act Amendments. Senator Henderson was unable to speak to the Council at this time, and her intern represented her, with facts and figures how specific retailers are given to customers seeking prescriptions for their contact lenses. This limits a customer to 4 specific retailers, and sometimes there is only one brand which can carry a difficult prescription. This limits choices to customers, and none are below the standard price.

Call to Order

At this time Kari Malkovich called the meeting to order, and welcomed Suzanne Larsen, and Marge (Margaret) Wilson (96) our oldest member who is here today. She also welcomed Kitty Kaplan and Marianne Stoddard as past presidents.

Approval of Agenda

Changes to the agenda today to show speakers as they are available, to discuss SB169 Contact Lens Consumer Protection Amendments under the direction of Business and Labor Study Committee Suzanne Mulet Director, and Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair, and Health and Human Services Legislation Committee with Kitty Kaplan Director and Marci Curran, Co-chair. for Health Care Legislation and with WSLC business and a proposed resolution from the council during breaks were approved.

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Inspirational Thought **Lorraine Turner**

Pledge **Michelle Scharf**

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the previous meeting February 25, 2015 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Shannon Jacobs reported a checking account balance as of February 25, 2015 Of \$2,731.67. There was no income for this report. Expenses for this period were \$49.20 leaving an ending balance of \$2,682.47.

Zion's Gold Money Market had \$1.28 additional interest with a current balance of \$13,953.35.

Officer's Reports

Shauna Scott-Bellacomo reported a total of 113 members, with 36 of these new members.

WLSC Resolution to bring SB164 to the House Floor for Debate and Vote

Prepared by Kitty Kaplan, Director Health and Human Services Legislative Committee also known as the Health Utah Plan. Sponsored by Senator Brian Shiozawa. Council members were given copies of the resolution to view the whereas and resolved. Motion was made by Kitty Kaplan to approve the resolution and seconded. The resolution was approved.

Senator Allen Christensen ® Dist. 9 Sponsor SB153 Access to Health Care

He was sponsoring the bill also known as (Frail Utah) which is very limiting, a minimal group of people covered. Participants for this bill would be very critical and frail. He also advised this bill was voted down.

Senator Gene Davis Sponsor SB83 Medicaid Expansion Proposal (Access To Health Care Legislation). Seen as a healthy alternative and extends Medicaid to a large group of people not currently covered.

Senator Robert Spendlove ® Dist. 49 Sponsor – HB307 Medicaid Expansion Provisions

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Senator Spendlove provided statistics and how Medicaid could be used as an overlap where other programs fall short. He also discussed the exchanges, and advised currently 34 states have invalid insurance exchanges to provide health care. There is no hospital coverage under his proposals.

New Business

At this time, Kari Malkovich advised members copies of the Nominees for Biennium 2015 – 2017, are available for all members to review. Elections of officers will take place in our next meeting, March 11. You will need to wear your badge to the meeting in order to vote. There will be speakers from the legislature at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you there. This will be our last meeting in the Senate Office Building for the year.

Adjourn

Jean Davies

Recording Secretary