

**Women's State Legislative Council
General Session Meeting Minutes
Copper Room, Senate Office Building
Wednesday, January 28, 2015**

Call to Order

President Kari Malkovich called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and welcomed those in attendance. She welcomed past president Kitty Kaplan. There were no changes to the agenda and the agenda was approved.

Inspirational Thought Lou Ash

Pledge - Susan Vaughn led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for previous meetings, September 24, 2014, October 22, 2014 and January 21, 2015 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Shannon Jacobs reported a checking account balance as of January 21, 2015 of \$2,884.97. Income for this period was \$20.00 with expenses totaling \$129.77 leaving an ending balance of \$2,775.20
Zion's Gold Money Market had no additional interest and an ending balance 1/28/2015 of \$13,950.69.

Membership Report

One new member for a total membership of 98 members was reported earlier in the Executive Board meeting.. An additional 2 members were added during the General Session today, making a total membership for the council of 100 members.

**General Session under the direction of the Business and Labor Commission
Suzanne Mulet, Director, and Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair**

**Minimum Wage Act Amendment & Cash Wage Obligation for
Tipped Employees Amendment**

Representative Justin Miller District 40 - explained the tip wage credit, how the basic wage is \$2.13 an hour for tipped workers, and is adjusted to \$7.25 an hour only when an employee goes to the manager/owner and has not made additional money in tips for the time period. He distributed a handout from the National Women's Law Center with key facts, how equal minimum wages for tipped workers would lower the poverty rates for tipped workers. He provided statistics for women in this level needing food stamps, Medicaid and housing help to survive.

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Senator Todd Weiler, District 23, Business & Labor Commission

He is also on the Rules Committee for the Senate, and advised he felt there was no hope for this bill to be passed in the Legislature. As an example he cited current openings at a current fast food in the city offering \$10.50 for applicants, and suggested most of these positions are beginning positions for applicants, who can then achieve a higher position in the company through promotions. Nor is he recommending an increase in the minimum wage of \$7.50 at this time.

Steve White, Lobbyist, AFL-CIO cited statistics from the Economic Policy Institute and the Department of Labor, which also represents groups not receiving tips, 6.3million, He cited 2 out of every 3 which fall into the group being discussed are women. Among the questions he answered were no tip restaurants, shared tips, and 3 bills on these issues before the legislature. He also cited food, housing, and medical care as issues for those with minimum wages at this time.

Melva Sine, Restaurant Association explained how the economy affects their industry and the difference between tipped employees and banquet servers, etc and how their pay is determined. She said an average employee makes \$17.00 to \$18.00 an hour with tips, and ample opportunity to make more. She cited 62 high schools which have programs for students on the restaurant business, and the chance to learn all facets of this, with ample opportunities for promotion. She did not recommend any change in the current \$2.13 an hour for tipped workers with the \$7.25 adjustment.

New Business

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 4, 2015 in the Copper Room and will be under the direction of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Adjourn

Jean Davies
Recording Secretary