

**Women's State Legislative Council
General Session Meeting Minutes
Copper Room – Senate Office Building
Wednesday, February 18, 2015**

Call to Order

Kari Malkovich called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and welcomed those in attendance. She also welcomed past presidents Kitty Kaplan and Mary Ann Stoddard

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written

Pledge Jessica Christopher

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the previous meeting February 11, 2015 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Shannon Jacobs reported a checking account balance as of February 11, 2015 of \$2,899.59. Income for this period was \$88.00 and expenses at this time were \$44.21 leaving an ending balance of \$2,943.38. Zion's Gold Money Market had no additional interest and a current balance of \$13,952.07.

Officer's Reports

Shauna Scott-Bellacomo reported a total of 112 members, 35 of these are new members.

Prior to the General Session Senator Mike Lee visited briefly with the Council, and discussed the Criminal Justice System, suggesting minimal penalties for some offenses. He answered questions on Filibusters, with the statistics needed to end debates, close debates, and also numbers needed in Congress to pass votes.

**General Session under the direction of the Education Legislative
Study Committee Donna Murphy, Director**

State School Board Election Process

The state school board election process was effectively struck down in September when a U.S. District Court Judge concluded the current method of nominating Candidates are an unconstitutional infringement on free-speech rights.

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Rep. Norm Thurston, ® Dist. 64.Sponsor HB263, State School Board Powers Modifications, and HB297 State School Board Elections Amendments. Suggesting A different way to elect, shared 3 common ways, party process, non partisan, (mayors) Gubertarial appointments and suggest a group appointment model. Also stated that change takes time, and how successful special interest groups can be in these elections.

Rep. Francis Gibson ® Dist. 65, Sponsor HB186, State School Board Membership And Election Amendments recommending non partisan, that every candidate be get 2,000 signatures, 2% of every school district in their area. Felt this would totally get Constituents involved, and knowing who their local people were for the positions. He also stated that the Senate wants partisan voting.

Rep. Kraig Powell ® Dist. 54 Amendments to State School Board Election Process (Not numbered). Adding bills to the system, because there is no alternate system in the current method of election. Felt strongly the system employed by the Governor was not fair to applicants or to the city.

Sen. Alvin Jackson ® Dist. 14, Sponsor, SB104: Education Elections and Reporting Amendments. Looking for alternatives or combinations, for the state like the Board of Regents is chosen for the University. We need an interim in 2015 and possibly a constitutional amendment in 2016. At this time the house is Non-partisan and the senate are partisan.

Rep. Daniel McCay ® Dist. 41. HB 305 State Board of Education Membership Amendment, HIR 16 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution Governance of Public Education. Shared a vision of unified government sharing education goals. How to unite legislature and shared vision of education groups. At this time, Non partisan will not change, and local groups (hate charter schools) will not change. What's needed is to empower parents to vote more carefully on these areas. Board of Regents model, for higher education is solely appointed by the Governor, ratified by the Senate, before the names become public.

As can be seen by the above 7 bills to help resolve this problem, there is not an easy solution. Each of the men above asked how many in our group knew who was running for school board positions either locally or on the state level, and only a small number could respond. Also, statistics show that the first applicants on the ballot continue to be elected over other participants.

Adjourn

**Jean Davies
Recording Secretary**