



FINAL MINUTES
Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting
August 14, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Frankie Robinson, Karen Schulz, Elaine Nissen, Tracy Kline, Debbie Ness, Mary Sue Brown, Carolyn Oesterle, Kathy McCullough, Patricia Spence, Patricia Bernhold

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m., and welcomed everyone to her home. She also thanked Co-President Janet Arden and Debbie Ness for assisting her with hosting the meeting.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon distributed binders titled “Handbook of Policies and Procedures 2019” to each attendee. She also noted that information to be placed in the binders would be distributed during the meeting.

Co-President Simon reported that Nancy Daly and Frankie Robinson have done an amazing job organizing programs for the upcoming year. However, due to a change in Nancy Daly’s schedule, she will need to take a hiatus from her position as Program Co-Vice-President through 2019. She will try to return in early 2020. However, if this cannot happen, the Board will make plans accordingly. Frankie and Nancy will continue to communicate about program plans during this time period.

Co-President Simon explained that there are still vacant committee chair positions. Mary Sue Brown shared that she is now serving as a Co-Chair with Debbie Ness on the Community Relations Committee. Co-President Simon noted that the Cultural Arts Chair and Publicity Chair positions are still vacant. If anyone knows of members who might be interested in these positions, they should let Co-President Simon know.

Co-Presidents Arden and Simon shared that they have asked Patricia Bernhold to join the Board as a Member-At-Large. They explained that Patricia’s wise perspective and guidance will help enhance the decision-making processes of the Board.

Co-President Arden shared that Ewa Bacon has offered to serve as Book Sale Coordinator. However, the Branch still needs to commit to whether they want to conduct the Book Sale or not.

Co-President Arden noted that Susan Levy-Creed would appreciate assistance with chairing the Education Opportunity Fund Committee. If anyone knows of a member who might be interested in assisting, she should let Co-President Arden know.

Co-President Simon stated that the Board will be following Robert’s Rules of Order during Board meetings. She and Co-President Arden developed a one-page summary of key points of Robert’s Rules of Order, and copies were distributed to members. It was shared that Tracy Kline will be responsible for making sure that everyone adheres to Robert’s Rules of Order during meetings. There was discussion regarding the steps involved in making a motion as described on the one-page summary. It was decided that under the section “Every Motion has 6 Steps” that the step of “I move to call the question” be added after the item “Step 4- Debate”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Treasurer Elaine Nissen suggested that the phrase reading “raise the scholarship to \$2,000” in the June 12, 2019 Minutes be amended to indicate that the amount of each of the four scholarships will be raised to \$2,000. After discussion, Co-President Simon moved that the Minutes, as amended, be approved. Patricia Spence seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Co-President Simon shared that the AAUW Mission Statement no longer includes the term “philanthropy”. This revised Mission will, in effect, facilitate the fund-raising efforts of AAUW branches. She also explained that many ill-advised business decisions made at the AAUW’s national level have significantly and adversely affected its financial status. Additionally, she noted that the new national president, Kim Churches, is trying to get AAUW back in “the black” and is trying to be as transparent as possible about the challenges facing the organization. Co-President Simon explained that the mind-set of AAUW is changing. We need to consider all aspects of AAUW’s Mission and determine which should be the beneficiaries of our fundraising efforts.

Patricia Spence asked about the extent to which the updated Mission would impact tax-related issues. Co-President Simon explained that implications of the new Mission would not impact tax-related issues.

Co-President Arden suggested that the Board develop an “elevator speech” that explains AAUW’s Mission and facilitates consistency of messaging.

Co-President Simon reviewed the goals contained within the “Mission, Vision, and Values” hand-out.

The “Handbook of Policies and Procedures- 2019” was distributed. This handbook should replace the current handbook. Co-President Simon requested that each Board member complete the following before the September Board meeting: 1) Read the entire handbook and send any suggested changes to Co-Presidents Arden and Simon. 2) Review your role, and make sure that you have a full understanding of the role. 3) Consider whether any of the information in the handbook can be pared down. Co-President Simon is hoping to approve the Handbook at the September Board meeting.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Treasurer Elaine Nissen reported that the Branch received \$1,000 back from COD for a scholarship. An audit at COD discovered a discrepancy which resulted in the \$1,000 being returned to the Branch for redistribution. A Book Sale Remainder amount of \$329 has been deposited and will be reflected in the August financials. Treasurer Nissen would like to revisit the proposed 2019-20 budget. She also shared that there was a request to increase the EOF Chair budget by \$100.

Membership Vice-President Karen Schulz reported that the Branch currently has 127 members. There are also two members who have committed to renew their memberships but have not yet done so. Membership Vice-President Schulz will continue to follow-up with these members. However, if they do not renew their memberships by next week (week of August 19, 2019), they will be dropped. Membership Vice-President Schulz has two people assisting her with membership duties, and Maureen Sheehan will now be maintaining the membership database. Membership Vice-President Schulz will continue to provide the membership information for the database.

Program Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that the September Branch Meeting will be informational in nature and will also feature Terra Costa-Howard as a guest speaker. The October Branch Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019 in the morning. It will focus on goal-setting. Most of the Branch Meetings will be conducted at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society building. The March Branch Meeting will feature a speaker from the Morton Arboretum.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that there have been several State public policy triumphs as of late, and much of this will be described in the upcoming issue of TWIGS. She emphasized that an election running smoothly is heavily dependent on the participation of a sufficient number of election judges. DuPage County is seeking staff to work at the elections. A related link will be published in TWIGS.

Newsletter Editor Kathy McCullough reminded everyone to read the guidelines that she sent earlier regarding submitting information for TWIGS. She will send a reminder regarding submittals on the 5th of the month. The deadline for submitting information is the 15th of the month.

Community Relations Chairs Debbie Ness and Mary Sue Brown distributed a summary of the purpose, goals, and proposed activities of their committee. They are focused on reaching out to various community groups in order to publicize key features of AAUW. Community Relations Chair Ness shared that she needs \$500 for Reserve 22 for the Winter Banquet which will be held on December 4, 2019 from 6-9 p.m. Treasurer Nissen provided her with a check request form. The Committee would like to invite the same speaker who spoke at last year's banquet. Kathy McCullough asked if the banquet could start at 5:30 p.m. Community Relations Chair Ness said that she would check on this.

Treasurer Elaine Nissen reiterated information regarding budget-related topics: An additional \$100 has been requested for the EOF Chair budget and the Branch will be giving four, \$2000 scholarships this year. She noted that the Branch had a "break-even budget." There was considerable discussion regarding whether to adjust the proposed budget in light of anticipated Book Sale-related decisions. Ultimately, it was decided to leave the proposed budget "as is" for now with the exception of including a \$100 increase to the EOF Chair budget which would bring that budget's total to \$200. Co-President Simon moved that the proposed 2019-20 budget be accepted with a \$100 increase to the EOF Chair budget. Karen Schulz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Arden shared that a fund-raising walk, formerly known as the "Eleanor Roosevelt Walk" was scheduled for October 12, 2019. However, due to scheduling difficulties, the date needs to be changed. After a brief discussion, it was determined that this event will be tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Co-President Simon shared that the funds from this walk will be earmarked for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Co-President Arden moved that the name of this annual fund walk be changed from the "Eleanor Roosevelt Walk to the "LAF Walk". Patricia Bernhold seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Co-President Arden reviewed results of the Book Sale discussions and distributed a hand-out that summarized key points from the discussions. She shared that opinions are split on whether the Book Sale should continue or not. Co-President Arden suggested that a survey be distributed to the membership to gauge overall sentiments about this event. This survey will be sent by Co-Presidents Arden and Simon and will be sent near the end of August 2019. Co-President Simon shared that she feels there are huge discrepancies among members regarding common understanding of key AAUW topics. She feels that a need for clarification of these topics is crucial. Treasurer Nissen suggested that financial information might be more accessible if it is provided in "sound bite" format.

Co-President Simon asked if Wednesdays were still good for Board Meetings. It was decided that Wednesdays will continue to be the day of the week on which Board Meetings are held.

Co-President Simon shared that interest group chairs will have the opportunity to publicize their groups via poster boards at September's Branch Meeting. All Board members were reminded to bring treats for the September Branch Meeting.

Co-Presidents Arden and Simon reminded Board members to keep them apprised of any communication that is sent out to the membership.

Patricia Spence moved that the meeting be adjourned. Elaine Nissen seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: September 11, 2019 at Janet Arden's home.