

FINAL MINUTES
Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting
October 9, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Frankie Robinson, Elaine Nissen, Tracy Kline, Ewa Bacon, Mary Sue Brown, Suzanne Gagner, Carolyn Oesterle, Patricia Spence, Patricia Bernhold

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon shared that Karen Schulz's son-in-law, Adrian Nieves, passed away on Monday. Board members expressed their sincere condolences to Karen and her family.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In reference to the Board policy pages that were attached to the minutes, Treasurer Elaine Nissen shared that she had previously sent a list of changes related to treasurer's duties to be considered. Co-Presidents Janet Arden and Simon said that they would review this list and that the Board would discuss this at the next Board meeting. Suzanne Gagner suggested that the sentence in the September Minutes reading: "Sarah Allen is in charge of publicity for LunaFest" should be changed. She stated that that Sarah had only expressed interest in being in charge of publicity; she had not been appointed to any position. Patricia Spence moved that the minutes, as amended, be approved. Suzanne Gagner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Treasurer Nissen reported that the Branch currently has a membership of 135. Patricia Spence reported that she may have recruited another member.

Co-President Arden shared that COD and our Branch are continuing to discuss issues related to membership. She also reported that COD has rejoined AAUW. Additionally, a representative from COD has asked to meet with Co-President Arden in order to discuss AAUW in more detail.

Program Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that a speaker for November's Branch Meeting has been procured and that she has accepted the Branch's dinner invitation.

Book Sale Chair Ewa Bacon distributed a sheet summarizing the current status of Book Sale planning. Key points from this sheet included the following: the Book Sale will be conducted on May 3-9, rental of the venue has been secured, the main locker number is 1277 and the small

locker number is 1285, the entry code for the facility is 12779705*, and the padlock code is 911. Additionally, specific responsibilities have been assigned to members, and a collection process has begun. Finally, Chair Bacon reported that an expectation has been established to limit the collection to 500 boxes and that books will be “priced to sell” in order to move the inventory more efficiently.

Community Relations Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that she will be conducting a presentation at a Glen Ellyn Rotary Club meeting on January 16, 2020 at Barone’s Restaurant.

Legal Advocacy Fund Chair Carolyn Oesterle distributed participant forms for the LAF Walk. She also reminded members that the LAF Walk (formerly known as the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk) will take place on October 26th. Co-President Simon reminded members that the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund has been sufficiently funded. However, the LAF continues to need funds in order to do its work. Participants will meet at 8:45 a.m. in a parking lot adjacent to the Glen Ellyn Library, walk approximately 2.9 miles, and end at Shane’s Deli in Wheaton. Chair Oesterle shared that monies from LAF are used for three main purposes: 1) Case support; 2) To compose amicus briefs; 3) To support public education about legal issues. Chair Oesterle asked if a \$5 charge per member would be charged for the LAF. Co-President Simon asked if the \$5 charge had been publicized among membership. Treasurer Nissen reminded the Board that since there was no quorum at the last Branch Meeting, the Budget is still not approved. Treasurer Nissen also stated that no funds were given to the LAF last year because there were many questions regarding what was going on with the LAF. Patricia Bernhold suggested that previous Board Minutes be reviewed to determine the circumstances under which funding had been forwarded to the LAF in the past.

LunaFest Chair Suzanne Gagner shared that she will be presenting information regarding LunaFest at the November Branch Meeting. She reminded the Board that LunaFest will take place on April 25, 2020 at Center Stage in Naperville.

Tracy Kline shared information that was forwarded to her by Newsletter Editor Kathy McCullough. The deadline for the November issue of *Twigs* is at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15th. *Twigs* guidelines have been sent to all members. Please refer to these guidelines.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that there is not much activity legislatively since the Illinois General Assembly is not currently in session.

Co-President Simon reported that STEM Coordinator Fran Kravitz is interested in conducting a STEM workshop in November or December.

OLD BUSINESS

Co-Presidents Arden and Simon shared that the Board will postpone discussion regarding the approval of the Board Policy Handbook.

Program Vice-President Robinson reported that the Holiday Party will be on the first Wednesday in December. The cost will be \$42 per person. The speaker who spoke at last year's event will be speaking at this year's event. Suzanne Gagner asked if she could give LunaFest tickets to the speaker. Co-President Simon said that she could.

Co-President Simon reminded the Board that the Fall Conference will be on October 19th at the IIT building in Rice Lake Square, Wheaton. The \$25 entrance fee will be reimbursed for Board members attending the meeting. Co-President Simon also stated that she will need help at the registration table. Frankie Robinson and Patricia Spence said that they would help.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Nissen reported that she filed Illinois Charitable Report AG990 and that she and Jane Palmer are working on the IL Annual Report due on November 30th. She also shared that she has already sent in the sales tax exemption form. She stated that Jane Palmer is a "registered agent."

Co-President Arden and Simon led discussion regarding the October Branch Meeting. They reported that there was interesting feedback regarding the Branch's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth. They also stated that 21 members were in attendance.

Co-President Simon requested that Board members read the feedback information and then be prepared to discuss the information in more detail at the November meeting.

Co-President Arden reviewed the results from the survey that was sent to gauge opinions about the October Branch Meeting. In response to the question about the pillar on which the Branch should focus, 53% of the respondents indicated education; 53% of the respondents indicated economic security; and 1 person indicated leadership. Therefore, Co-President Arden suggested that a task force be formed that focuses on education and that another task force be formed that focuses on economic security.

Co-Presidents Arden and Simon shared that programs that can draw in community members who are not AAUW members would be beneficial for our Branch. Elaine Nissen suggested that the Branch should partner with other community resources (e.g. public libraries) in order to promote more community involvement.

Co-President Simon reminded the Board to be very cognizant of the constraints of 501(c)(3) organizations. She also shared that 501(c)(3) organizations can partner with one another.

Co-President Simon suggested that Branch members who are members of other organizations should capitalize on that involvement in order to facilitate connections between our Branch and

other organizations. Additionally, she stated that she and Co-President Arden feel that it is very important that the Branch set goals that are aligned with the AAUW Pillars and then decide how fundraising endeavors can support those goals. We want to make sure that our fundraising efforts are a result of conscious decision-making instead of simply because the Branch has always done things a certain way.

Suzanne Gagner suggested that money raised for education could be used for women returning to school instead of just for young women who are graduating from high school. It was agreed that the Board should decide how the \$13,000 that is in the EOF should be distributed. Suzanne offered that she and Mary Sue could gather information regarding how this funding could be distributed and present the results of this research at a future Board meeting.

Co-President Simon encouraged Board members to reflect on whether our programs and fundraising efforts are aligned with the pillars. This topic will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

In reference to the November Board Meeting, Co-President Simon stated that Board members will be discussing approval of the policy handbook and next steps stemming from the October 6th Branch Meeting.

Carolyn Oesterle moved that the meeting be adjourned. Frankie Robinson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: November 13, 2019 at Mary Sue Brown's home