

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting**  
**November 13, 2019**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Janet Arden, Frankie Robinson, Karen Schulz, Tracy Kline, Elaine Nissen, Mary Sue Brown, Suzanne Gagner, and Carolyn Oesterle

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-President Janet Arden called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Co-President Arden shared that Co-President Donna Jean Simon would not be in attendance at tonight's meeting due to illness.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Karen Schulz moved to approve the October 9, 2019 minutes. Suzanne Gagner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**CO-PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND DISCUSSION**

Co-President Arden shared that the Fall Conference was very good and that Kendra Davis was an awesome speaker. Ms. Davis adeptly explained AAUW's financial situation, and, of particular note, she shared that the advent of the "Me Too" movement had provided a natural opportunity for AAUW to become involved in an issue that directly impacted women. However, financial concerns precluded AAUW from becoming as involved as they could have.

Co-President Arden also shared that she and Co-President Simon met with the co-presidents of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters. The co-presidents had a fruitful discussion, and they are planning on meeting again next month.

**OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS**

Treasurer Elaine Nissen reported that the Branch expended funds on costs related to the Book Sale (i.e. liability insurance and storage locker fees) in October. She also reported that funds were received in the form of membership dues. She reported that the Branch has just over \$32,000 "in the bank". Treasurer Nissen reported that the Branch has donated a total of \$2,000 to the following funds: \$400 to the Greatest Need Fund; \$600 to the LAF; and \$1,000 to the Education and Training Fund. She also reported that there is \$13,000 in unrestricted funds and \$12,000 in the EOF account. She reminded members that last year the Board agreed to transfer \$2,000 from Operations to EOF which was added to \$4,000 allotted for scholarships. Treasurer Nissen shared that the Branch's sales tax exemption status has been renewed for 5

years. Lastly, Treasurer Nissen shared that she has questions regarding a Treasurer responsibility that is listed in the Board Policy Handbook which states that the Treasurer shall review restricted funds every two years. Co-President Arden said that the Board would take a look at this issue in more detail at a future meeting. There was discussion regarding the Dues Assistance Fund. It was suggested that this fund be publicized more.

Co-President Arden shared that another AAUW Branch sponsors “STEM Spark” which is an event to which gifted girls and their mothers are invited for workshops and seminars. It was suggested that our Branch investigate doing something similar.

Co-President Arden asked the Board members if they felt that guests (e.g. Terra Costa-Howard, a representative from COD, and the manager for Center Stage) should be invited to the Winter Banquet. Mary Sue Brown moved that these guests be invited to the upcoming Winter Banquet. Elaine Nissen seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Vice-President Karen Schulz reported that the Branch currently has 137 members.

Program Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that the November Branch Meeting was well-received and that the speaker accepted the honorarium. She also reminded members to turn in their reservations for the Winter Banquet.

Co-President Arden reported on behalf of Book Sale Chair Ewa Bacon. She shared that Book Sale Chair Bacon has been involved in scheduling book sorters. Board members confirmed that the Religion and Reference categories will not be included in the 2020 Book Sale.

Tracy Kline reported on behalf of EOF Chair Susan Levy-Creed. She shared that Naeema Torres will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming Winter Banquet. She will be showing her Master’s thesis film in its entirety. EOF Chair Levy-Creed believes that it has already won some awards. Additionally, it was shared that EOF Chair Levy-Creed will begin reviewing updated local scholarship criteria ideas after she receives additional information pertinent to this topic from the Board.

LAF Chair Carolyn Oesterle reported that the LAF Walk in October was a great event. She noted that the LAF received \$1,070 in donations. LAF Chair Oesterle offered to complete research on how members can help groups of young women who are in need of feminine hygiene products.

LUNAFest Chair Suzanne Gagner reported that she has uploaded the 2020 LUNAFest Program of seven films. She has listed the film titles in *Twigs*. The first LUNAFest committee meeting will be in December. It cost \$350 to have access to the seven films. LUNAFest tickets will cost \$35 per ticket. Carolyn Oesterle suggested that event be oversold. LUNAFest Chair Gagner noted that most of the tickets sold last year were paper tickets. Fifty tickets were sold via Eventbrite.

Tracy Kline reported on behalf of Newsletter Chair Kathy McCullough. She reminded members that the deadline for the December issue of *Twigs* is Friday, November 15th. She also shared

the following reminders/information: if one is not sending an article, please send Kathy a notice; only 5 articles had been received as of yesterday; and Kathy is ready and waiting for articles.

The Board discussed the issue of providing an organized system of transportation in order to assist other members who have difficulty with getting to meetings.

Co-President Arden shared that Patricia Bernhold will be undergoing surgery on Monday. Branch Buddy Donna Jennings has been notified about this.

Co-President Arden reported on behalf of Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence. She shared that that there was no new report due to a lack of relevant activity in the State legislature.

Co-President Arden shared that there was no report from STEM Chair Fran Kravitz.

Community Relations Co-Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that she presented information regarding AAUW at a recent Lions Club meeting at which 25 people were in attendance. The Lions Club will put the information she presented in their upcoming newsletter. Next week, Community Relations Co-Chair Brown will present at a Kiwanis Club meeting. She will be presenting at a Rotary Club meeting in January.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mary Sue Brown and Suzanne Gagner will work on developing ideas related to the Returning Scholar concept. They have information from four other chapters regarding this topic.

Board members discussed the circular seating format that was used, per the request of the speaker, at the November Branch Meeting. They felt this facilitated collegiality and believed this format could be used at upcoming meetings. However, if this format is used and the Branch wants to avoid additional expense, members would have to move chairs to form a circle and then move them back after the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Co-President Arden reminded members that per the feedback from the October Branch Meeting, the main interests of the Branch should be Education and Economic Equity. She shared that she is in the process of forming task forces to address these topics in more detail. These task forces will meet after the first of the year.

Co-President Arden noted that the Branch's COD contact is Saraliz Jimenez. Karen Schulz shared that she has been in contact with Saraliz and that Saraliz is still in the process of completing the paperwork associated with COD's membership. Karen has encouraged Saraliz to attend a Branch meeting. Co-President Arden suggested that she be invited to the Winter Banquet.

Co-President Arden noted that the promotion of education can spill over to economic equity issues. Elaine Nissen agreed that the topic of economic equity is still very relevant in today's world and that WorkSmart endeavors continue to be especially important.

Co-President Arden shared that the 5 Star Program is sponsored through the national AAUW organization and is designed to provide recognition to outstanding Branches. She believes that the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch could easily meet the criteria for this award. She and Co-President Simon will be working with Patricia Bernhold to complete the application for this award.

It was decided that if the January 8, 2020 Board meeting cannot be conducted due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held on January 11, 2020 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Frankie Robinson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Karen Schulz seconded this motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 8, 2020 at Elaine Nissen's home