



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

February 12, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Frankie Robinson, Karen Schulz, Tracy Kline, Suzanne Gagner, Fran Kravitz, Ewa Bacon, Patricia Bernhold

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Janet Arden called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-President Arden suggested that the phrase in the January 2020 minutes reading: "...\$1,070 had been transferred from LAF to EOF..." needed to be corrected. She stated that the phrase should read "...\$1,070 from this fall's walk was paid into LAF...". Karen Schulz moved to approve the minutes as amended. Co-President Donna Jean Simon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Co-President Simon presented information on Treasurer Elaine Nissen's behalf. She suggested that the notes that Treasurer Nissen prepared prior to the meeting be attached to the February Board minutes. Members unanimously agreed with the suggestion.

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

Program Co-Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that 22 people were in attendance at the February Branch meeting. She also shared that February's speaker accepted the honorarium and applied it to her daughter's educational endeavors. She noted that arrangements for the March Branch meeting's speaker have been set. Frankie also shared that Program Co-Vice-President Nancy Daly has been investigating the possibility of our Branch marching in Wheaton or Glen Ellyn's 2020 4th of July parade. She said that our Branch will be able to work together with the local chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV) to march together in one or both parades. This joint effort would publicize the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women the right to vote in the United States. Members discussed the possibility of marchers carrying umbrellas and/or banners that would inform

community members of when other countries gave women the right to vote. Frankie stated that she and Nancy feel that participation in only the Glen Ellyn parade would be sufficient. Co-President Arden shared that she and Co-President Simon will send out a survey to Branch members to gauge their interest in participating in the 4th of July parade.

Co-President Arden suggested that representatives from the Branch, including Sarah Allen, should meet with the LWV to discuss other ways of publicizing the history and importance of the women's suffrage movement.

Co-President Arden shared that she and Co-President Simon have met several times with leaders of the LWV. She noted that many topics of interest to AAUW and LWV overlap and that both groups are interested in investigating how their efforts can be coordinated. Co-President Simon added that the LWV has access to community resources that AAUW does not and that an on-going relationship with the LWV could be beneficial to our Branch.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon shared that the Branch has collected 230 boxes of books thus far. The Branch's goal is to collect 500 boxes. The Wheaton-Warrenville South High School Key Club is conducting an on-going book drive. Health Track will also be conducting a book drive next month. Ewa encouraged Branch members to post "donate books" flyers. The move-in date for the Book Sale is May 4th. Carlson Movers have been reserved to assist, and their fee will be based on the *time* the company uses to help move the books. Nancy Possinger is planning the April 1st book sale potluck which will be held at the Glen Ellyn History Center. A sign-up sheet for the book sale will be available at the March Branch meeting. Additionally, Karen Bondy will be launching the sign-in app in order to organize the work schedule for the sale. In mid-March a sign-making pizza party event will be held at Marilyn Mayer-Wiedemann's home. A May 5th appointment has been made with an appraiser. Ewa also shared that there will be fewer categories of genres represented at the book sale this year. Additionally, she said that Jane Palmer will be noting on the website that the Branch will no longer be accepting books *at* the book sale.

Co-President Arden presented information on behalf of Legal Advocacy Fund Committee Chair Carolyn Oesterle. It was reported that Carolyn has tentatively set the date of the 2020 Winter Banquet for December 2nd. Proposed dates for the 2020 fall walk were identified as September 19th or 26th. It was discovered that Rosh Hashanah is on September 19th. As a result, it was decided that September 26th would be the date of the fall walk. Co-President Arden also reported that Carolyn suggested that the Branch consider the following as a possible beneficiary of the fall walk donation: 1) Assisting college students in attending the NCCWSL conference; or 2) Donating to the Indian needs project which was described by Liz Schlembach. Co-President Arden suggested that Board members think about these two options in preparation of a suggested vote by the Board on April 8th.

LUNAfest Committee Chair Suzanne Gagner reported that 20 tickets have been sold for LUNAfest. Additionally, the committee has collected 10 gift cards for the raffle, and \$1200 in sponsorships has been received. The next committee meeting will be on February 18th. Suzanne will be interviewed by *West Suburban Life* regarding LUNAfest during the first week in

March. It has also been decided that people attending LUNAFest will be asked to bring toiletries to be donated to various community groups. Fran Kravitz shared that she just discovered that Lifetime Fitness might be able to give some type of donation for the LUNAFest raffle. Suzanne will follow-up with this suggestion.

Co-President Arden presented information on behalf of Newsletter Committee Chair Kathleen McCullough. It was emphasized that contributors need to use the correct format when submitting articles. Also, the deadline for the March issue of *Twigs* has been moved up a day. The deadline is February 14, 2020.

Co-President Arden presented information on behalf of Community Relations Chair Patricia Spence. Patricia has been reviewing various news sources for updates. Spring campaigning has also begun. Additionally, local LWV leadership shared with Patricia that the idea of partnering with AAUW was positively received by the LWV membership.

Co-President Simon reported that on March 19, 2020, Lobby Day in Springfield will be held. She said that it is a very worthwhile event and that it was at that event that the Branch connected with Terra Costa-Howard previously.

STEM Committee Chair Fran Kravitz reported that she is in the process of writing an article regarding Tech Savvy. She also shared that the Green for Good expo will be held on May 9, 2020. Fran plans on publicizing AAUW while she is there.

Co-President Simon reported that local Boards are still getting used to the fact that National is not promoting entities like Tech Savvy or Dare to Dream any more. Branches can still continue to donate money to these entities, but National is promoting that donations be directed to the Greatest Needs Fund.

Co-President Arden reported that she has contacted College of DuPage (COD) in order to schedule a tour- possibly with a docent- of the upcoming Frida Kahlo exhibit. She will call COD next week to set this up.

Nominating Committee Chair Karen Schulz reported that Nancy Possinger and Jean Lindsey have been nominated to be Membership Co-Vice Presidents. Karen also reported that despite reaching out to 28 members, no one is interested in being nominated for the position of Treasurer. Karen explained that she has even described how the responsibilities of this position could be divided among more than one person in order to make it more manageable. However, these efforts were to no avail. There was lengthy discussion regarding how this issue could be addressed. It was finally recommended that Karen should approach a particular member again. This member had previously expressed possible interest in the position in the future after current work obligations had been fulfilled. It was decided that Karen should find out more about this member's concerns and questions about the position and develop accommodations that would address those concerns and questions. If applicable, the Board is prepared to identify an Interim Treasurer until the member is ready to take on this role- provided that this member agrees to take on the role as Treasurer. Co-President Arden also said that Karen

should note that the Treasurer nomination is in “TBA” status in her report for the *Twigs* March issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Co-President Arden reported that she and Susan Levy-Creed had a lunch meeting with Karen Kuhn, Executive Director, College of DuPage Foundation in order to discuss the scholarships that AAUW provides. In summary, Karen Kuhn shared that AAUW scholarships that are provided to COD students can be managed through COD’s Foundation. Our Branch would provide criteria regarding the conditions under which scholarship funding would be provided, and the Foundation would run this funding through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) system which would help applicants maximize their ability to receive scholarships. Additionally, if our scholarships are offered through the Foundation, students would receive support and would be guided through the complicated world of scholarships. This arrangement will be considered again by the Board and may result in a policy change. However, in reference to the 2020 scholarships, Susan is in the process of working with high schools to identify recipients of the scholarships.

In addition to the topic of scholarships, other various issues were discussed at the aforementioned lunch. Co-President Arden described the Work Smart program. There is a possibility that Work Smart could be added as resource offered in COD’s Career Program. It was also discussed that COD football players may be able to assist with carrying boxes during the book sale. Lisa Cherry has been invited to speak to the entire COD student body regarding the history of AAUW and equity issues. It was confirmed that COD has not started an AAUW chapter yet; our Branch is willing to help with this.

NEW BUSINESS

Suzanne Gagner and Mary Sue Brown interviewed 4 other local AAUW Branches (i.e. Elmhurst, Downers Grove, Lombard, Naperville) to gather information regarding the criteria and application processes that the other Branches use to guide their Returning Scholar Scholarship Programs. Based on their research, Suzanne and Mary Sue believe that a 10/15/20 application deadline is appropriate. Additionally, they are proposing that a committee interview 4-5 candidates and that the top candidate be approved by the Board. After the top candidate is selected, the scholarship will be awarded in November, and a check will be sent for the spring semester. Full-time students would be awarded \$3,000, part-time students would be awarded \$1,500 students, or students enrolled in associate degree programs would be awarded \$750. Criteria for applicants would include: provision of transcripts, proof of previous college attendance, being 26 years of age or older, maintaining a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, being enrolled in an associate’s, bachelor’s, or master’s program and being within a certain point of completing the program. Candidates would also be able to get a Returning Scholar Scholarship in addition to other scholarships. Fran Kravitz asked why the scholarship would be restricted to women already enrolled back in a college program. She asked why women who want to enroll back in school- but are finding it difficult to do so- cannot be eligible for this scholarship. Co-President Arden asked if this was something that our Branch wanted to be involved in. She also

asked how other Branches handle all of the components of this type of scholarship. Suzanne said that they have committees devoted to the Returning Scholar Scholarship Program. Co-President Arden also wondered how other Branches started this process and what would be the next steps if we decided to go forward with this? Suzanne said that she would continue to research this topic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon reported that the Regional AAUW Conference for our area will be held in Moline, IL on June 18-20, 2020. Our region is made up of 13 states. "Bridging the Future" is the theme of the conference, and it is going to be held in a brand new conference center. National AAUW officers will be in attendance. Our Branch will provide funding assistance for Board members who want to attend. Suites are available, and Co-Presidents Arden and Simon are planning on reserving a suite that can serve as a central meeting place. Laura Desmarais is the state Vice-President for Programs, and she is very involved in the planning for this event. She is also planning on publicizing this event in *Twigs*. Board members are encouraged to attend. All Branch members are welcome to attend. Sign-up for this event will probably be in mid-March.

Co-President Simon moved to adjourn. Suzanne Gagner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: March 11, 2020 at Patricia Spence's home