



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

March 11, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Janet Arden called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Co-Presidents Arden and Donna Jean Simon thanked Ewa Bacon for hosting the meeting and thanked Frankie Robinson for the delicious treats that she prepared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Tracy Kline shared that Patricia Spence had pointed out that her title was listed as “Community Relations Chair” instead of “Public Policy Chair” in the February 2020 minutes. Co-President Simon suggested that Patricia’s title be listed as “Public Policy Chair” in the minutes. Karen Schulz moved to approve the minutes as amended. Co-President Arden seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Co-President Simon presented information on Treasurer Elaine Nissen’s behalf. Ewa shared that donations in the amounts of \$125 and \$25 were sent to the site of the upcoming book sale with instructions to forward to our Branch. These donations were from the organization “Network for Good”. Co-President Simon said that she would consult with Treasurer Nissen to process these donations.

Frankie asked questions regarding the “Program Facilities” and “AV and Branch Meeting Hospitality” entries on the 2-29-20 Operations Budget Report for the Board including questions regarding how to interpret the information as it is listed on the report. Co-President Simon said that she and Co-President Arden would follow-up with Treasurer Nissen to obtain clarification.

Co-President Arden shared that Elaine Nissen has been advised to go into hospice. Elaine’s fellow Board members expressed their sincere concern and compassion for her well-being. It was decided that a beautiful floral arrangement will be sent to Elaine from the Board on behalf of the Branch. Co-President Arden also shared that Maureen Sheehan has indicated that she

can help with treasurer duties. Carolyn Oesterle has indicated that she can help train Maureen for this role.

Tracy Kline also provided information on behalf of Treasurer Nissen. She reported that there was very little financial activity in February. There was \$5.85 in Amazon Smiles collections and \$46.45 in book sale expenses. There will be a program expense incurred in March.

Susan Levy-Creed moved that Maureen Sheehan be appointed as Interim Treasurer. Patricia Bernhold seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Vice-President Karen Schulz reported that the Branch currently has 137 members. She also reported that she reached out to all new members regarding officer positions. Co-President Simon stated that the AAUW state organization has a sample welcome letter that she can share with Karen for her review.

Program Co-Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare, the speaker at March's Branch meeting, was very well-received. Dr. Alvarez-Clare did not accept the honorarium that was offered by the Branch and asked that it be forwarded to a scholarship fund. Co-President Simon said that it should be returned to the Branch as a donation. Frankie also shared that Dr. Alvarez-Clare made her aware of Megan Dunning, who is the manager of Adult Programs at Morton Arboretum. Frankie will follow-up with Megan to see how her access to resources might be of interest to the Branch.

LunaFest Committee Chair Suzanne Gagner reported that 68 tickets have been sold for LunaFest. Additionally, the committee has collected 19 (with 4 more on the way) gift cards for the raffle, and 2 lovely gifts for the raffle. Suzanne shared that attendees will be asked to bring feminine hygiene products to be donated to the "Go with the Flow" organization. Suzanne reported that she has been receiving guidance from the national LunaFest headquarters and that they are advising her to follow CDC guidelines in order to properly address concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Suzanne understands that LunaFest plans may change as a result of pandemic-related concerns and is in the process of developing contingency plans to address a variety of changes. Co-President Simon commended her for her foresight. Suzanne also reported that she has not deposited any checks yet so that refunds can be processed more easily, if that becomes a necessity.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon reminded members that the Book Sale Potluck Branch Meeting will be held on April 1st. She reported that 20 people have signed up to bring a dish and 11 people have signed up to help set-up for this event. Ewa noted that the number of sign-ups is lower as compared to last year. Computers will be available at the April 1st meeting for members to sign-up for Book Sale-related events. 330 boxes of books have been stored in the locker. Today, several members collected 15-20 more boxes. Bookmarks are now available for distribution. Flyers will be distributed to members on April 1st. Alphagraphics is the new company that will be assisting the Branch with making new signage. The Branch will need to work on placing the new date signage on the sign frames. Suzanne recommended that hand sanitizer and other disinfectants be available at upcoming events, including the Book Sale.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that there is no urgent news to report. However, she did share that she has requested information regarding bills to which we need to pay attention. In response to this request, she has received information on approximately 59 such State bills. In her role as Facebook Chair, Patricia reported that LunaFest has been publicized on AAUW's on-line presence, and it has received hundreds of "hits".

Co-President Arden reported on behalf of the Cultural Arts Committee and shared that our Branch has reserved 40 tickets to the Frida Kahlo exhibit on June 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Ticket prices are \$25 for general admission and \$23 for senior citizens. This tour of the exhibit will be docent-led. Lunch will not be included. Members should let Co-President Arden know if they are interested in attending.

Co-President Simon reported that there is no STEM report. However, she did note that the Tech Savvy event had been cancelled.

Nomination Committee Chair Karen Schulz reported that the Branch will vote on new officers at the April 1, 2020 Branch meeting. The slate of candidates includes: Program Co-Vice Presidents candidates- Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger; Treasurer- Maureen Sheehan. Karen also shared that Barb Roos and Lillian Sorensen have expressed interest in helping the Membership Co-Vice Presidents with their duties. Likewise, Susie Gullickson and Diane Serb have expressed interest in helping the Treasurer with her duties. Co-President Simon suggested that members continue to "spread the wealth" in terms of helping officers with their duties.

OLD BUSINESS

Co-President Arden reported that College of DuPage (COD) has requested a speaker for one of their events. In response to this request, Lisa Cherry is scheduled to present information about AAUW and Work Smart on March 26, 2020. Suzanne Gagner agreed to man a table at COD on the same date. She will focus on promoting LunaFest and the Book Sale.

Co-President Arden reported that the League of Women Voters (LWV) has a truck and signs that have been designated for the 4th of July parade in Glen Ellyn and may be accessed by Branch members who just need to "show up" in order to participate. Co-President Arden also reported that our Branch has been asked to bring a display to the Regional Convention in June. Additionally, she reported that she has been advised that COD will be able to manage the funds that our Branch will forward for new student and Returning to Learning scholarships. She recommended that the Board can discuss this in more detail at a later time.

Co-President Simon reminded members that the Regional Convention will be held at the Moline Hyatt on June 18-20. Fourteen states will participate in this convention. She will forward a copy of the Convention's agenda to members soon. In summary, however, the following events will take place: June 17- Tour of the Davenport Works and John Deere plant; June 18- Tour of the John Deere headquarters, Convention registration, tour of exhibit displays, welcome by Lisa Matz, and presentations by the following speakers: Michelle Duster (great-granddaughter of Ida

B. Wells), Angie Maxwell (author of *The Long Southern Strategy*), and Kim Churches (AAUW's CEO); June 19- Welcome, presentation by Kendra Davis (Senior Vice President for Advancement and Partnerships at AAUW), presentation by a panel of women leaders at John Deere, break-out sessions, a presentation by Denise Lieberman on the topic of voter suppression, and state board meetings. There will be a riverboat cruise Friday evening; June 20- Presentation on the Legal Advocacy Fund, break-out sessions, and a speech by Kendra Davis. The registration fee for this event is \$175 and a hotel room will cost \$129/night. The Convention's day rate is \$65. Co-President Simon noted that there is \$3,800 in the Branch's Convention Fund, and it would be appropriate to use money from this fund to reimburse members who attend this convention. It was decided that the Board will pay up to the registration fee for 17 Board members who want to attend. Co-President Simon also shared that TRIO funding can cover 100% of the cost of a Board member who has never attended a convention before. Since Co-President Arden is the highest ranking Board member who has never attended a convention, it was recommended that she be the recipient of the TRIO funding.

Frankie shared that Nancy Daly is conducting research regarding the purchase of umbrellas and banners for the 4th of July parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Arden shared that the 5-Star Program is an award administered by the national AAUW organization that recognizes outstanding Branches. She feels that our Branch would qualify for the award. We would need to submit a succession plan and mapping plan before submitting our application for consideration.

Co-President Arden summarized the results from the Branch survey last month. She reported that we will need to reconcile ourselves to the fact that some members may never come to a Branch meeting. About 50% of the respondents are planning on attending LunaFest, and the overwhelming majority of the respondents are willing to help *at* the Book Sale but not *before* the Book Sale. There were a variety of comments and opinions expressed, and Co-President Arden opined that it is great that our members have differing opinions and feel free to express them. There was discussion regarding whether the Branch should alternate the days of the week on which Branch meetings are held and whether we should conduct the meetings in different venues in order to spur attendance. There was also a suggestion about discussing, again, the development of a system in which members who do not feel comfortable driving at night could be picked up by other members.

Co-President Simon reported that she will send out a copy of the Branch Handbook (excluding the EOF section) via a mode by which Board members can review the information on-line and make comments. This will be sent out this week and will be sent as a large document. Board members are to get back to Co-President Simon by the end of the month regarding their respective comments and suggestions for changes. Co-President Arden suggested that members view the Handbook as a "living document". Co-President Simon also shared that there is a substantial amount of historical information in the Handbook, and she wondered if it

would be okay if she extracted the historical information before sending it to Board members. The Board members present agreed that this would be appropriate. Co-President Arden suggested that if a Board member approves of the Handbook as written, they should comment as such.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Arden shared that Equal Pay Day is on March 31st for white women; it is in July for African-American women, and it is in August/September for Latina and Native American women. These days signify how far into the year a particular group of women must work in order to earn pay equal to what men earned the previous year.

Karen Schulz moved to adjourn. Suzanne Gagner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 8, 2020 at Karen Schulz's home