



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

May 13, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Maureen Sheehan, Frankie Robinson, Karen Schulz, Tracy Kline, Jean Lindsey, Nancy Possinger, Ewa Bacon, Mary Sue Brown, Suzanne Gagner, Fran Kravitz, Susan Levy-Creed, Kathleen McCullough, Carolyn Oesterle, Jane Palmer, Patricia Spence, and Patricia Bernhold

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that this was the first Board meeting that had ever been held via Zoom technology. The virtual meeting format was necessary due to the current concerns about the COVID19 pandemic. These concerns were also the reason why no April Board meeting had been held. Co-President Simon shared that she was grateful for everyone's flexibility in terms of adapting to the new format. She noted that a few revisions needed to be made to the agenda. Maureen Sheehan, Interim Treasurer, will be providing the Treasurer's report- not Co-Presidents Janet Arden and Simon. There will also be reports provided by the Community Relations Chair and the Fundraising Chair. A report from the STEM Chair will be included under New Business.

Co-President Simon shared that since the last meeting, several sad events had occurred. Elaine Nissen passed away in March, and Gail Davis passed away earlier in May. It was also shared that Allene Harding had just been placed on hospice. Allene's daughter is with her now, and cards would be welcomed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Tracy Kline presented the March 11, 2020 minutes. Karen Schulz moved that the minutes be approved. Carolyn Oesterle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Co-President Simon welcomed Interim Treasurer Maureen Sheehan to the Board meeting and expressed her appreciation for Maureen being able to forward the budget to her so quickly after starting in her new role. Maureen reported that she was grateful to have been able to access the Branch's bank statements. She also reported that current net assets are \$29,117.72.

Maureen shared that there were few expenses in the past couple of months since there was no Book Sale. Additionally, aside from the book locker rental, there have been few other expenses. Maureen noted that the speaker from the March Branch Meeting elected to donate her honorarium toward the EOF. Co-President Simon reported that Maureen's name has been added to the Branch's bank account as a co-signer at Glen Ellyn Bank and Trust. Maureen and Co-Presidents Arden and Simon are the three co-signers of this account. Carolyn asked if an email would be sent regarding national dues. Maureen reported that she had an example email that Elaine had written regarding national dues and will forward it to the appropriate parties for publication. Ewa Bacon asked about national dues and reminded members that in the past members received an email with a link via which members could pay their national dues. Jane Palmer will help Maureen find a current link for this function. Susan Levy-Creed asked about when expenses need to be submitted. Maureen stated that she will let members know about this in the near future. Co-President Simon stated that new fiscal year budget requests should be made at the end of July/early August before the Budget Committee meeting. Maureen will send out a reminder regarding budget requests.

Membership Vice-President Karen Schulz reported that the Branch currently has 135 members. She also reminded members that this would be the last report that she will give as the Membership Vice-President. Co-President Simon noted that Karen deserved many accolades for the fine job she did as Membership Vice-President. Co-President Simon welcomed Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger to their new roles as Membership Co-Vice-Presidents. She also shared that the Board, if possible, will have an in-person meeting in June which will include the installation of the new officers.

Program Vice-President Frankie Robinson reported that programs for 2020-21 are being planned. Currently, possible topics of the meetings are: September- (need ideas); October- Book Sale; November- Native Americans; December- Holiday Banquet. Please submit additional ideas for meetings to Frankie.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon reported that the Branch is continuing to rent a book locker. The Book Sale is now planned to occur during the week of October 25, 2020- barring any restrictions due to continued concerns about the COVID19 pandemic. If the Book Sale goes forth during this time frame, the Branch will move books in on October 26, 2020, and the sale will be held during the last weekend in October 2020. It was proposed that the Book Sale potluck be held at the October 7, 2020 Branch meeting. Ewa shared that the committee will not be accepting any additional books. Additionally, the contents of only 400 boxes of books (instead of 600 boxes) will be available at the sale. Given these plans, Frankie asked about program topics for the September Branch meeting. Karen said that she would ask Gwen Henry, DuPage County Treasurer, if she could speak at this meeting on September 2, 2020. If this date does not work, Karen will also ask Gwen about March 3, 2021 or about a Saturday in March 2021. Fran Kravitz asked about the possibility of conducting Branch meetings on-line.

LUNAFEST Committee Chair Suzanne Gagner summarized key points of a report that she had sent to Board members prior to tonight's meeting. Suzanne noted that checks that had been written in February and March of 2020 for LUNAFEST will expire in July/August 2020. She will be reaching out to the authors of the checks to determine how they want to proceed with the disposition of the checks. Suzanne reported that there are three primary options to consider in terms of this year's LUNAFEST event: 1) cancel the event; 2) wait and see if COVID19-related restrictions will lift and people will feel comfortable viewing films together in an auditorium venue; or 3) conduct a virtual LUNAFEST event via Vimeo. She shared the following financial information: revenue- \$2940 = \$2240 ticket sales (64) and \$700 sponsorships; expenses- \$720 = \$350 LUNAFEST films, \$175 Center Stage, and \$195 publicity. If the event is cancelled, Eventbrite will issue refunds for the tickets. Ticket holders will be notified. Gift certificates would be used for other events or given back. If we "wait and see", the projected date of the event would be September 12, 2020. In the case of a virtual event, a ticket holder would be able to watch the event several times, others could join the ticket holder to watch the event on their screen, there could be an unlimited audience, tickets could be sold to people in locations far away from Center Stage, ticket sales would resume at the same price (\$35 each), and promotions would resume. Additionally, the date of the event could remain on September 12, 2020 or change to a date in the summer of 2020. Suzanne shared that parties who have elected to conduct LUNAFEST in this way have been very pleased. She also said that she would like to use the gift cards as door prizes that would be issued according to unique numbers on each ticket. Suzanne said that her brother-in-law and last year's emcee, Richard Daly, suggested that we buy gift cards from local restaurants in order to support them and as a way to generate additional publicity. In response to a question posed by Patricia Spence, Suzanne explained that those who already purchased tickets or will buy tickets will receive a code by which they can access Vimeo in order to watch the event. Fran advocated for the virtual event idea because she heard from her friends at the NIH that large gatherings would most likely be restricted until December 2020/January 2021. Patricia Spence suggested that computer specifications required for accessing this event be publicized. Several members also shared their preference for the virtual event. Jane Palmer moved that Suzanne should continue to investigate the particulars associated with a virtual event and bring this information back to the Board at their June 2020 meeting. Frankie seconded this motion, and the motion was passed unanimously. Suzanne said that she would probably be purchasing gift cards from those restaurants that supported LUNAFEST last year.

Community Relations Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that there has not been a lot that she can do given the current COVID19-related conditions.

Fundraising Chair Carolyn Oesterle reported that she is not sure if a Walk can be held this fall. We will have to wait to see what the restrictions are when we get closer to the fall. She offered several ideas regarding what to do with current funds: 1) providing feminine hygiene products to Native American women at the Crazy Horse School; however, it has been difficult to coordinate planning with this school; 2) providing funding for college students to attend the NCCWSL conference; 3) providing funding to the Return to Learning scholarship through College of DuPage. It was noted that Suzanne and Mary Sue are already working with COD on

this topic. Carolyn reported that \$800-1000 is typically raised from the Walk. Carolyn suggested that the Board wait to decide which option would be most appropriate.

Educational Opportunity Funds Chair Susan Levy-Creed reported that she already has the biographies and COD ID numbers for all four scholarship recipients. The recipient from Glenbard West High School is a refugee and is currently in the CNA Program at Technology Center of DuPage (TCD). Wheaton North's recipient works at Gia Mia restaurant, maintains a high GPA, and provides money for her family. Glenbard South's recipient has a financial need, is interested in pursuing a career in Early Childhood, and is very warm and compassionate. Wheaton-Warrenville South's recipient is very interested in the medical field and is enrolled in a health-related field at TCD. Susan also shared that AAUW will be recognized as the sponsor of the scholarships at each high school's award assembly. Jane posed questions regarding the amount of money that was listed as being available for scholarships. After much discussion, Jane moved that it should be reflected that \$8,000 will be paid out in scholarships instead of \$4,000 as indicated in the treasurer's report. Patricia Bernhold seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Maureen will follow-up with Jane regarding how this decision should be reflected in the treasurer's report.

Newsletter Editor Chair (*Twigs*) chair Kathleen McCullough reported that the deadline for submitting information for the June issue of *Twigs* is May 15, 2020. A question was asked about how the two members who recently passed away should be remembered. Co-President Simon noted that according to the Branch's by-laws, \$50 will be given to the Greatest Needs Fund in memory of each member. Co-President Arden will forward memorial information regarding each member to Kathleen so that she can include it in the next issue of *Twigs*. Carolyn moved that \$50 each be given to the Greatest Needs Fund in memory of Elaine Nissen and Gail Davis. Kathleen seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that AAUW is currently in the middle of state elections and national elections. Laura Desmarais is currently running for a state office. The state legislature returns next week. Patricia noted that she is going to be requesting more information regarding AAUW's concerns about the changes to Title IX. Co-President Simon shared that one of the biggest concerns pertains to one of the proposed changes that would "criminalize reporters" of sexual assault through allowing the cross-examination of reporters by defense attorneys. Co-President Simon said that she would forward additional information about the changes to Patricia.

NEW BUSINESS

STEM Committee Chair Fran Kravitz proposed an idea in which the concept of Little Free Libraries could be used to promote science education. Within the "mini-library", small bags containing instructions and ingredients for simple science activities would be housed and available for children who may pass by. These libraries would be installed on residents' lawns (with their permission, of course) and could also include information regarding the Branch. The structures would be poised on top of a post that would screw into the ground. Fran proposed that this endeavor could begin with one mini-library in Glen Ellyn and one mini-library in

Wheaton. Members felt that this was a good and creative idea, but many posed questions regarding liability issues. Fran shared that a disclaimer would be included in the instructions provided with each kit. Additionally, the ingredients included would not be hazardous in any way. Members felt that this idea could easily be publicized on the Branch's Facebook page and on platforms like Next Door. Fran would like to begin implementing this idea this summer. Mary Sue said that DuPage Woodworkers may be able to build the libraries. Jean Lindsey shared that her husband could possibly build the structures. Fran shared that the "Little Free Library" web page has many more resources to which members can refer. It was suggested that a Survey Monkey survey be distributed regarding this idea. Fran requested help with developing such a survey. Fran also said that she would submit an article to *Twigs* pertaining to this idea. Jane moved that Fran should continue to research this project and bring the results of her research to the June Board meeting. Ewa moved that Fran be granted permission to go forward as she outlined in her proposal using funds not to exceed \$2,150. Carolyn seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon shared that the Branch ranked second in the state in terms of total giving. The Branch also ranks tenth in the state in per capita giving.

Patricia Spence took a picture of the Zoom screen to memorialize the Board's first Zoom meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: June 10, 2020 at Tracy Kline's home. If social distancing parameters preclude the possibility of having an in-person meeting, the Board will meet via Zoom.