



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

October 14, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE (via Zoom which was recorded): Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Maureen Sheehan, Frankie Robinson, Tracy Kline, Jean Lindsey, Nancy Possinger, Ewa Bacon, 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 7:12 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Tracy Kline asked if everyone had a chance to review the September 9, 2020 Board minutes and if there were any corrections that needed to be made. Carolyn Oesterle moved to approve the minutes as written. Patricia Spence seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Secretary Kline asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the special Board meeting to discuss the Book Sale on September 21, 2020 and if there were any corrections that needed to be made. Carolyn moved to approve the minutes as written. Patricia Spence seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon announced that information regarding the Stars Program can be found on the AAUW website. Once you are on the this website, you can click on "Membership" and then "Initiatives" in order to access the information.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Before Treasurer Maureen Sheehan presented her report as treasurer, she reported that she had mailed 81 directories to members' homes on October 13, 2020. She asked that members email her when they receive their copies. In her treasurer's role, Treasurer Sheehan reiterated that she had shared two financial reports with Board members in preparation of this meeting.

One of the reports contained Branch financial information as of September 30, 2020, and the other report contained Branch financial information as of October 9, 2020. In reference to the September 30th report, the most significant activity was income of \$2,000.00 from the sale of the Branch's books. In reference to the October 9th report, the most significant activities were the expenses associated with printing the directories and income from the Fall Walk which collected \$1710.00. Treasurer Sheehan shared that Alpha Graphics was used to print the directories and that they each cost \$1.79 to print and approximately \$1.00 to mail. The financial balance for the Branch as of October 9, 2020 is \$29,730.31. Ewa Bacon asked if the refund of the \$350 deposit from the church- where the Book Sale was to have been held- had been received. Treasurer Sheehan said that this refund was reflected on the October 9th financial report. Treasurer Sheehan reported that she had received a letter from a general liability company with which the Branch deals. The annual premium for this policy is \$196.00. Treasurer Sheehan asked the Board if it was okay to renew this policy. Jane Palmer wondered if a reduced premium could be obtained since the Branch was going to be involved in fewer activities this year. Fran Kravitz asked if the Branch is covered by an umbrella policy through National. Treasurer Sheehan said that she would check on the umbrella policy question. Jane suggested that Susie Gullickson might be able to lend expertise related to insurance-related questions. Co-President Simon emphasized that it is essential that we have liability insurance for the Branch. Jane added that the premium for this insurance policy was a part of the proposed budget and wondered if the proposed budget had been approved. Co-President Simon reported that 100% of the 55 members who responded regarding the proposed budget voted to approve the budget.

Membership Co-Vice President Nancy Possinger shared that the Branch currently has 110 members. She also shared that she and Membership Co-Vice President Jean Lindsey are planning to conduct a new member gathering for those who joined the Branch during the last fiscal year. There are 11 new members. They are thinking of conducting this orientation event on October 24, 2020 from 1-3 p.m. on Membership Co-Vice President Possinger's porch. Concerns were expressed about cool temperatures, and several Board members suggested that portable heaters could be rented at Branch expense or lent to Membership Co-Vice President Possinger for this event. Membership Co-Vice President Possinger also said that she had areas in her house that could accommodate many people while social distancing. Co-President Simon stated that she felt that people would feel more comfortable meeting outside. Membership Co-Vice President Lindsey said that Karen Schulz had told them that she had shown a video about AAUW during the orientation meetings that she conducted. She will follow-up with Karen to find out more about retrieving it.

Program Vice President Frankie Robinson reported that the small group discussions which focused on issues of equity and inclusivity were held last weekend. She attended two of the small groups and felt that they both went quite well. She also noted that there were no expenses associated with these events. Program Vice President Robinson also reported that Branch meeting programs have been set through April 2021. She shared that the November Branch program will feature a doctor who will speak on topics related to managing stress and staying healthy. She also shared that the April 2021 meeting may not be able to be held at the Historical Society as a result of pandemic-related issues. If this is the case, the April speaker has already agreed to conduct her presentation virtually. Ewa Bacon complimented Program

Vice President Robinson on the organization and format of the discussion group activity. She shared that she felt that the level of discourse and engagement was wonderful. Nancy shared that she felt it gave everyone a chance to become better acquainted with fellow members. Jean thought that the format of this activity should be applied to future meetings. Patricia Spence felt that the activity was especially useful given the isolative nature of today's society. Co-President Simon said that if any member has questions that they would like to address with the doctor who will be speaking at November's meeting that they can forward those questions to Co-President Simon. The doctor is a chiropractor and naturopath. Jane suggested that a virtual banquet could be held in December in which the proceeds could be directed to the EOF. Carolyn shared that the speaker for January is the author of *Sisters in Law* and that, perhaps, other groups could be invited to this event. Membership Vice President Robinson reported that she is going to ask members to read *Sisters in Law* in preparation of the January meeting. Co-President Arden shared that she will send an invitation to the January meeting to the local League of Women Voters and to other area AAUW Branches. Fran shared that *Sisters in Law* is currently on sale through Amazon. Members were reminded to select the Amazon Smile option in order to have money donated back to the Branch from Amazon.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon reported that the Book Sale "left with honor". She also shared that Bob Squires and an assistant cleared the storage lockers of books on September 30, 2020. She has also cancelled Carlson Movers and the appraiser and received a refund from the church where the Book Sale was going to be held. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon reported that the Branch may be getting additional income from the curios. She conducted an inventory of the non-book items that were left over and reported that various amounts of the following items are still in the Branch's possession: cash boxes, tape, markers, calculator, and aprons. She also stated 24 cans filled with concrete and sticks were left behind. She asked if these particular items could be thrown away. Likewise, a multitude of yard signs were left, and Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon wondered if these could be thrown away. Carolyn wondered if political organizations could use the frames from the signs. Nancy asked if they could be used for Luna Fest. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon shared that she felt a virtual Book Sale could be held in the spring in order to raise funds for the EOF. Co-President Simon reported that the Naperville Branch of AAUW held a virtual Book Sale through a GoFundMe page, and they earned \$16,000. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon asked what she should do with the files associated with previous Book Sales. Co-President Simon said that they should go to the Branch's archive site which is located at Northern Illinois University. Patricia Spence wondered if there was a policy regarding what should be archived. Co-President Simon said that there are guidelines regarding archiving. Jane pointed out that some documents need to be kept on hand for a certain period of time in case there is an audit.

Educational Opportunity Funds Chair Susan Levy-Creed reported that emails were sent out to last year's scholarship recipients, all of whom are currently attending College of DuPage. She hopes to have more information about the recipients at next month's Board meeting.

Fundraising Walk Chair Carolyn Oesterle reported that last month's walk was successful and a good time. She offered to organize the walk again.

Newsletter Editor Kathleen McCullough reminded members that the deadline for submitting information for the next issue of *Twigs* is October 15, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. She also asked that members let her know if they are not planning to submit an article for a particular issue of *Twigs*.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that it has been "quiet" for the past two weeks. She also shared that Illinois' AAUW organization is on record as supporting Illinois' graduated tax proposal. Additionally, AAUW's national organization is opposed to the selection of Amy Coney Barrett to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat on the United States Supreme Court.

STEM Coordinator Fran Kravitz reported that she is currently working on the next installment of "Science Girls on the Go". She shared that Epsom salt works well for the activity that she is working on. Unfortunately, Epsom salt is not particularly safe for children.

Website Chair Jane Palmer reported that she had updated meeting information for next month and that she had posted September's Board minutes on the Branch's website.

OLD BUSINESS

Patricia Spence shared that she likes how Maureen streamlined the directories.

It was shared that the Branch is in the process of obtaining a copyright for "Science Girls on the Go". It was explained that obtaining a copyright costs nothing and will confer legal standing if someone tries to appropriate the name or idea.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Arden asked how the Branch can build on the energy stemming from the October Branch small group meetings. Ewa suggested that for future meetings, members could engage in learning about a particular subject before the meeting and then discuss the subject in small groups at the meeting. Jane suggested that a summary of the October meetings be included in *Twigs* so that members who did not attend the October meetings could be aware of the meetings' impact. Co-President Simon said that results of the October discussions will be shared in the next issue of *Twigs*. She also shared that a survey regarding the October meetings will be distributed in the near future. Nancy and Ewa emphasized that they believe it is important that the benefits of the relationships formed through AAUW be shared with members. Patricia Spence suggested that members could listen to a speaker at a Branch meeting then meet in small groups on a different day to discuss the content of the presentation. Jean Lindsey felt that the variety of time options offered for the October meetings was beneficial. Co-President Simon reemphasized the point about AAUW being a source of support

for members. She feels that new members are not always being mentored and that we have several older members with whom we are losing touch. Ewa wondered how people who need support are being identified. She wondered if a section in *Twigs* that would list members who need extra support would be useful. Patricia Spence suggested reaching out to each member. Frankie said that her childhood church published a bulletin that would identify those who needed more support and consented to have their names listed. Nancy suggested that small group sessions be held to brainstorm ideas related to outreach and how to engage current members more effectively. Co-President Simon asked Board members to think about ideas to increase engagement.

Frankie reminded members that the next Branch meeting is on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Jane shared that she believes some people are actually becoming more involved in Branch activities because they can join via Zoom instead of being at a meeting in person.

Patricia Spence asked what the Branch's goal should be. Co-President Arden suggested a sample goal: Twelve members will be more actively engaged in Branch activities by next year.

Jane pointed out that there are many members who participate just by paying their dues and that that participation should be honored. Co-President Simon agreed with this and said that we can still reach out to these members.

Nancy shared that her biggest concern are the 23 people who did not renew their memberships. Ewa reported that there have been societal shifts and that is not as valuable to join a club as it used to be. Members wondered if the forced isolation caused by COVID may make many years for clubs after things open up.

Fran shared that a new member joined the Branch during the course of the Board meeting.

Carolyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Frankie seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: November 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom