



## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting**

**November 11, 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, Suzanne Gagner, Fran Kravitz, Carolyn Oesterle, Jane Palmer, Patricia Spence, and Patricia Bernhold

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Secretary Tracy Kline asked if everyone had a chance to review the October 14, 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.

#### **OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS**

Treasurer Maureen Sheehan shared that \$316.00 was spent in order to print and send membership directories in October. The Fundraising Walk resulted in \$1710.00 worth of contributions. One new member has joined the Branch in the past month. Treasurer Sheehan reported that she filed legally required federal and state statements during the month of October. She also shared that the Branch's balance at the end of the October was \$29,666.34 which is approximately \$4,000.00 more than the balance at the beginning of the fiscal year. Treasurer Sheehan reported that she will be sending fillable PDF expense forms to Board members. She would like to everyone to use these forms so that the Branch is using one version of expense forms.

Membership Co-Vice President Nancy Possinger shared that the Branch currently has 111 members. She reported that the Branch's newest member is very accomplished. Board members discussed how to facilitate her involvement in the Branch. Jane Palmer suggested

that the Board review where there are openings on committees and see if new members might want to participate in these committees. Possible committees that could be considered include the Publicity Committee (through which the Branch's social media presence could be expanded through Instagram, Twitter, and other platforms in addition to Facebook and could promote the inclusion of meeting notices in local online calendars) or the Cultural Arts Committee. Membership Co-Vice Presidents Possinger and Jean Lindsey also reported that they had to postpone the new member meeting due to concerns about COVID-19.

Program Vice President Frankie Robinson reported that a Branch meeting was conducted on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Dr. Julia Liebich presented information regarding personal wellness. Program Vice President Robinson shared that she had received positive feedback about Dr. Liebich's presentation. Terra Costa Howard (D) will be the speaker at December's Branch meeting. Amy Grant (R) was also asked to speak at the meeting but then reneged due to a legislative session that she needed to attend. However, this session has been postponed so Program Vice President Robinson has reissued an invitation. She reminded members to read the book *Sisters in Law* in order to prepare for January's Branch meeting. The League of Women Voters has been invited to this meeting, and they are issuing reminders to their membership regarding the Branch's upcoming events. A survey regarding last Saturday's meeting will be sent soon. Ewa Bacon reported that approximately 25 copies of *Sisters in Law* have been made available to members courtesy of local libraries. Members can go to Marilyn Wiedemann's home in order to check out a copy of the book. Twenty-seven members attended Saturday's meeting which is comparable to the amount of members who attended in-person meetings. Additional discussion was held about local Republican legislators who could speak at December's meeting if Amy Grant is unable to appear. Program Vice President Robinson shared that she did not feel comfortable issuing an invitation to a new person at this time because of the relatively short period of time that that person would have to prepare for a presentation.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon reported that she has had a few preliminary thoughts about a virtual Book Sale. She believes that an event like this should be held at the same time that the Book Sale was traditionally held (i.e. May). She plans to provide more information regarding a virtual Book Sale after reviewing other virtual events in more detail.

Community Relations Committee Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that the pandemic significantly impacts her ability to reach out to community organizations. She has a list of possible partnerships that she will be pursuing in the coming months. Co-President Simon suggested that the Branch should continue to support a partnership with the League of Women Voters. She also encouraged the promotion of the Branch's Zoom meeting opportunities.

Educational Opportunity Funds Chair Susan Levy-Creed was not in attendance at the meeting. However, Jane asked if this was the month in which the Board decides how much to contribute to national. Carolyn moved that \$750.00 be donated to national's Greatest Needs Fund. Discussion was conducted. Carolyn said that \$750.00 is significantly less than what has been donated in the past. Co-President Arden pointed out that national dues will increase next year. Jane shared that national dues go to their Operations fund. Jane seconded the motion that was

on the floor, and all members but Suzanne Gagner were in favor of the motion. Suzanne opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Fundraising Walk Chair Carolyn Oesterle reported that she will have no comments regarding fundraising until next year.

LunaFest Committee Chair Suzanne Gagner reported that she feels that the acceptance of a virtual format for this year's LunaFest has increased due to people feeling more comfortable with technology. LunaFest Committee Chair Gagner said that tickets for a virtual format would probably be less than an in-person event (e.g. \$25.00). She reported that a virtual silent auction could be conducted. She also shared that small groups of people could possibly meet to view LunaFest together in outdoor settings. Patricia Spence suggested another idea in which members would watch LunaFest on their own and then small group discussions could be conducted at a later time. LunaFest Committee Chair Gagner said that anyone who has additional thoughts about LunaFest should email her.

Newsletter Editor Kathleen McCullough was not in attendance at the meeting. However, Co-President Simon reminded members that November 15, 2020 is the deadline for newsletter submittals.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that a Zoom presentation will be conducted on November 14, 2020 which will focus on research sponsored by national. On November 18, 2020, a Zoom presentation sponsored by AAUW and focused on women filmmakers will be held. On November 19, 2020, the League of Women Voters will be having a post-election discussion. Branch members are invited to this event.

STEM Coordinator Fran Kravitz reported that she distributed this month's experiment (density towers) to the mini-libraries. The crystal experiment is still not working. STEM Coordinator Kravitz shared that she is working on next month's experiment which will focus on iodine clock reactions. Suzanne said that she would give STEM Coordinator Kravitz's contact information to a journalist with whom she worked in order to further publicize Science Girls on the Go. STEM Coordinator Kravitz described how the name Science Girls on the Go is now copyrighted. Jean suggested that Science Girls on the Go be publicized in AAUW's state and national newsletters and in *Glancer* magazine.

Website Chair Jane Palmer reported that she has added the copyright symbol to Science Girls on the Go on the Branch's website. She has also updated other information.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Co-President Simon asked if anyone had feedback regarding the November Branch meeting. Suzanne said that she was not able to attend the meeting, but she thought it sounded wonderful. Co-President Simon said that she would be distributing the PowerPoint slides from the presentation to Branch members.

Co-President Simon reported that AAUW's national dues will increase by \$3.00 in 2021, by \$5.00 in 2022, and by \$5.00 in 2023. She also shared that she and Co-President Arden will issue a presidents' letter that will explain the dues increase in more detail. Suzanne said that she feels that members need to be more aware about the excellent resources that are available on national's website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jane reported that she conducted some research regarding the Naperville Branch's use of GoFundMe as a way to raise \$16,000.00. She shared that if a charity is raising money on GoFundMe, the charity is not charged an initial fee. However, a 3% is charged when contributors use credit cards to donate money. Based on her research, Jane suggested that the Branch concentrate on their own efforts- like LunaFest, a possible virtual Book Sale, and the Fundraising Walk- instead on embarking on a GoFundMe endeavor at the current time. It was also suggested that an all-Branch email could be sent that would describe how members could use money that they would have spent at the Book Sale or at the Winter Banquet and apply it toward a charitable donation to the Branch's EOF. Carolyn said that this suggestion could also be described in *Twigs*. Fran asked if the Branch's website has a "donate" button on it. Jane said that it does not, but if people want to donate to the Branch, the website explains how they can reach out to the Branch treasurer. Co-President Simon said that the state AAUW organization has set-up a PayPal account for individual Branch use. Maureen shared that Amazon Smile funds are distributed on a quarterly basis.

Tracy asked if a December Board meeting was going to be held since it was not originally scheduled but was being considered since there will be no Winter Banquet this year. Jane asked about the Nominating Committee and when it would be put together. The committee is usually announced at the Winter Banquet. However, it was pointed out that this can occur at the December Branch meeting. Currently, the Nominating Committee consists of Nancy and Jean. An additional member will be needed to serve on this committee. Frankie asked if the Board needed to meet in order to discuss topics discussed at the December Branch meeting. Jane moved that a December Board not be held unless an urgent issue arises. Tracy seconded this motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

