



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

JUNE 9, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Arden, Donna Jean Simon, Mary Sue Brown, Carolyn Oesterle, Maureen Sheehan, Frankie Robinson, Barbara Roos, Tracy Kline, Lillian Sorensen, Jean Lindsey, Nancy Possinger, Ewa Bacon, Fran Kravitz, Marilyn Mauritz, Ellen McGowan, Jane Palmer, and Patricia Spence,

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon welcomed the outgoing and incoming Board members. Co-President Janet Arden stated that she hoped everyone enjoyed the Frida Kahlo exhibit that many members attended earlier in the day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Tracy Kline asked if everyone had had a chance to review the April 14, 2021 minutes and if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes. Patricia Spence recommended that the following sentence under "Old Business" be deleted: "Patricia Spence shared that the League of Women Voters may support the book sale." There were no objections to this recommendation. Minutes were accepted as amended.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Treasurer Maureen Sheehan stated that 73 out of 114 members have renewed their memberships. Treasurer Sheehan has sent reminders to the members who have not renewed their memberships. Two of these members indicated that they will not be renewing their memberships. Two former members purchased tickets through the Branch to the Frida Kahlo exhibit. It was suggested that these two members be contacted and encouraged to rejoin the Branch. Treasurer Sheehan shared that May financial highlights included income from the following sources: \$91 in dues, \$408 from Frida Kahlo tickets, \$28 from extra money members gave when purchasing Frida Kahlo tickets, and \$8.44 from Amazon Smiles. Treasurer Sheehan encouraged members to take advantage of the Amazon Smiles program. She also shared that after national receives membership dues, they will send \$19 back to the Branches. Fifty-five

renewals were completed online during May so \$1,045 will come back to the Branch on June 15, 2021. In terms of expenses, \$72 was forwarded as state and national dues from 4 members, final Frida Kahlo expenses totaled \$480, \$50 was spent in memory of Mary Jane Marsh, and the locker rental for May totaled \$46. Treasurer Sheehan reported that end-of-the-fiscal-year expenses will include \$8,000 for COD scholarships, reimbursing Co-President Arden for the down payment for the Frida Kahlo tickets, reimbursing Jean Lindsey for her Zoom subscription, and reimbursing Kathy McCullough for *Twig*-related expenses. The final balance of assets as of May 28, 2021 was \$31,086. Treasurer Sheehan reported that three checks were received for "Pretend It's a Book Sale". She also reminded Board members to submit their requests for reimbursement to her by the end of this week. She will be closing the books on June 30, 2021. The budget meeting will be held on July 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at incoming Co-President Carolyn Oesterle's home. Treasurer Sheehan will send a reminder regarding the deadline for reimbursement requests and about the budget meeting. The Audit Committee meeting will be held on July 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Treasurer Sheehan's home.

Membership Co-Vice President Nancy Possinger reported that two new members have joined recently. Marilyn Mauritz joined in March of 2021, and Patty Mugavero also joined. The Branch currently has 114 members, but not all of the members have renewed their memberships. Membership Co-Vice President Jean Lindsey emphasized the importance of having in-person meetings in order to attract new members. It was shared that Co-Vice Presidents Lindsey and Possinger will be meeting with Maureen tomorrow in order to coordinate their databases.

Program Vice President Frankie Robinson reported that the Branch did not incur any facility costs associated Branch programs during 2020-21 since all of the programs were conducted via Zoom during the 2020-21 session. In terms of other expenses, Program Vice President Robinson reported that speaker Gwen Henry donated her honorarium back to EOF. Speakers Dr. Julia Liebich, Dr. Linda Hirshman, Leslie Goddard, Jennifer Kelley, and Katie Slivovsky accepted their honoraria. Total expenses spent on speakers was \$800. Program Vice President Robinson shared that she hopes that more members will attend the Branch meetings in the future. Co-President Simon suggested that program chairs think about inviting other Branches to the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch meetings next year. There was also discussion regarding the provision of reminders prior to future Zoom meetings and how the Zoom links could be listed on the Branch's website. Incoming Program Co-Vice President Barbara Roos reported that all of the programs for 2021-22 have been planned except for April's program. She also explained that the Program Committee is exploring the possibility of having speakers present via Zoom to members that have gathered in person for the presentation and to members that are also joining via Zoom. All Branch meeting will be held at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center. Program Co-Vice President Roos shared that since there are still concerns about keeping safe during the pandemic, the Program Committee is working on composing a carefully worded statement that will help ascertain the vaccination status of members. She also provided a roster of speakers and the topics on which they will be presenting for 2021-22: September- Michelle Bacon, writing; October- Paula Johnson-Purdue, the ERA; November- Dr. Winifred Creamer, traveling; December- Winter Banquet; January- Anderson Flen, Africatown; February- Dr. Ann Grauer, forensics and anthropology; March- Anne Hanley, Brazil; April- a speaker from the Islamic Network Group; May- Spring Banquet. Co-President Oesterle shared that the Branch meetings

will be conducted in the Clayton Room in the Civic Center, which is where they were held before. She has confirmed that the Branch will have access to a projector and wifi. The new parking garage will afford members plenty of parking. Fran Kravitz shared that she knows of someone who could help with the hybrid set-up for meetings.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon emphasized that much of the Branch's identity is linked to the Book Sale. By not having a Book Sale, the Branch's community visibility has decreased dramatically. She stressed that the Branch must find another endeavor which provides them with a similar level of community exposure. She suggested that this particular committee's activities should continue under a more general fundraising committee format. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon also shared that the Elmhurst Branch collects books for a month and stores them at the high school and then has a sale. Patricia Spence stated that repurposed Book Sale signs- with different slogans (e.g. celebrating the branch's 65th anniversary)- could still be placed in yards around the community. Co-President Arden said that the Branch could use this time when the Branch is transitioning away from having a large Book Sale as an opportunity to expand AAUW's visibility for reasons other than the Book Sale.

Community Relations Committee Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that she has not been to any community meetings due to the pandemic.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair Marilyn Maurtiz provided background about her involvement in activities that promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion while serving as a librarian in a school in Minneapolis. She suggested that perhaps a tutoring program to assist students could be an endeavor in which the Branch could participate. She has spoken to Lynn LaPlante who shared information about work with promoting the expansion of diversity among small business owners. Additionally, she has spoken to Tom at the Glen Ellyn Library who is very enthusiastic about making sure that inclusive themes are supported among the books at the library. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair Maurtiz stated that she is looking for members to serve on this committee.

Educational Opportunity Funds (EOF) Chair Susan Levy-Creed was not able to be at the meeting, but Co-President Simon expressed her gratitude for all the work EOF Chair Levy-Creed has done over the years even in spite of significant challenges. Co-President Simon welcomed the incoming EOF Chair Ellen McGowan to the meeting and shared that she is thankful for the connection EOF Chair McGowan has to College of DuPage (COD). EOF Chair McGowan reported that she will be following up with the scholarship check that will be delivered to COD to make sure that it is forwarded to the correct location.

Fundraising Chair Patricia Spence reported that the EOF Walk will take place at Hidden Lake again this year. After a comprehensive discussion, it was decided that the Walk will take place on Friday, October 8, 2021.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that nine of the state bills that were supported by AAUW passed both chambers. She will put more information about the bills in a fall *Twigs* issue. She also thanked Jane Palmer for enhancing the Public Policy page of the website.

STEM Chair Fran Kravitz reported that the next set of kits for Science Girls on the Go is still in the midst of being assembled.

Website Chair Jane Palmer reported that she and incoming Website Chair Tracy Kline will be getting together in July to review the duties associated with maintaining the Branch website. It was suggested that a new page for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee could be added. Website Chair Palmer reminded members that when they send information to *Twigs*, they should also send it to the Website Chair as well. The Board thanked Website Chair Palmer for all of her service on the website over many years. Co-President Simon shared that the new AAUW logo's colors will be red, white, and blue.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Oesterle distributed two sign-up sheets: one for sign-making for the 4th of July parade and one for participating in the 4th of July parade. The sign-making activity will take place at incoming Co-President Mary Sue Brown's home on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Nancy Possinger will be driving her white car in the parade. Members participating in the parade will meet on Lake Road in Glen Ellyn prior to the parade, and they should dress in red, white, and blue. Members will not be able to hand anything out at the parade due to COVID-related restrictions. The goal of marching in the parade is to publicize the Branch in the community and attract new members. It was suggested that the Branch's website address be posted on Nancy's car so that spectators can follow-up if they are interested in finding out more about the Branch. Co-President Oesterle will send an all-Branch email about the parade. She would like at least twenty members to participate.

Co-President Oesterle distributed a host and assistant list for the 2021-22 Board meetings. Co-President Brown distributed copies of *Robert's Rules of Order* and information regarding seven habits of effective meetings.

Fundraising ideas were discussed. The concept of auctions is being explored. The Elmhurst Branch conducts a smaller book sale. They hire high school students to work at the sale and collect books for just one month and sort the books as they receive them. They then store the books in a junior high school and conduct the sale for four days. The fee to enter the book sale is \$10. Jean mentioned that on-line auctions can be very lucrative- if the packages being auctioned are highly desirable. Co-President Arden suggested that someone consult with Suzanne Gagner since she has a lot of experience with auctions.

Co-President Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Frankie seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Carolyn Oesterle's home.