



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board Meeting

April 14, 2021

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

Before the meeting was called to order, Co-President Janet Arden announced that there would be no May Board meeting. Members were reminded that no Board meeting had been scheduled for May according to the meeting schedule. It was explained that there would be a joint meeting with other Branches on May 12, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Donna Jean Simon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-President Simon shared that she hoped that this would be the last time that the Board would have to meet via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Tracy Kline asked if everyone had had a chance to review the minutes and if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes. Nancy Possinger moved to approve the March 2021 Board minutes as written. Carolyn Oesterle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER AND CHAIR REPORTS

Treasurer Maureen Sheehan stated that the primary expenses for March resulted from honorariums and the monthly locker fee. She also shared that she will be sending out membership renewals during the first week in May. Treasurer Sheehan will also submit an article to *Twigs* to remind members to renew their memberships. Co-President Simon suggested that the Branch reimburse Jean Lindsey for the cost of her Zoom subscription. Jean has been using her subscription to schedule many meetings for various Branch activities. Mary

Sue Brown moved to reimburse Jean for the cost of the subscription. Suzanne Gagner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The estimated cost of the subscription is \$149. Co-President Arden suggested that the Branch procure its own Zoom account. Nancy Possinger pointed out that conducting meetings via Zoom has advantages- especially in the case of inclement weather or for members who do not like driving at night. It was suggested that the new Board should discuss whether they want to conduct some meetings both in-person and virtually.

Membership Co- Vice President Nancy Possinger reported that she sent a letter to Connie Howard, prospective member. However, she has not heard back from her. It was suggested that Peggy Connolly or Kathy Wessel could also follow-up with Connie to talk to her about AAUW membership.

Program Vice President Frankie Robinson reported that a \$200 honorarium was presented to the speaker at April's Branch meeting, Katie Slivovsky. She also shared that Ms. Slivovsky was happy to present to the Branch and indicated that she would be open to working more with our Branch, if desired. Program Vice President Robinson also shared that she sent a letter to Karen Hall of the Glen Ellyn Historical Society to notify her that a new programming group would be taking over soon. Program Vice President Robinson reported that approximately 25 members were in attendance at April's Branch meeting and that it seemed to be well-received. Carolyn thanked Frankie for scheduling such an effective speaker, and she shared that she noticed that the owners of The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn used a "her/hers/she" pronoun notation in their correspondence. Because of Ms. Slivovsky's presentation, Carolyn was aware of the significance of this notation.

Book Sale Committee Chair Ewa Bacon shared that she took Book Sale files to the locker. They are now ready to be forwarded to the historian. She also emphasized that she has concerns about how scholarship funding and community presence will be negatively affected by the absence of a traditional Book Sale. She believes that a position dedicated to the systematic promotion of AAUW within the community should be created. Carolyn reported that she and Mary Sue Brown met with the owners of The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn to discuss the idea of offering a coupon- that would provide a discount on items purchased at The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn- to people who donate to "Pretend It's a Book Sale". Carolyn shared that she felt that the meeting went very well and that the owners were engaged in the conversation. She said that the owners have offered similar coupons in the past and that the coupon procedure proceeded as follows: After a person donates to an organization, the organization sends the person a thank you letter with a numbered coupon good for a discount at The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon said that she is still interested in the possibility of the Branch manning tables at various community festivals in order to sell books and publicize the Branch. However, she said that many details regarding this idea still need to be sorted out. Carolyn wondered if the Board was still interested in publicizing Science Girls on the Go at the tables. Fran Kravitz shared that she participates in similar activities at the Illinois State Fair. If the Board wants to go forward with providing small kits at the tables, she would need three weeks of lead time and assistance with putting the kits together. She believes that 500 kits may be needed, and she suggested that the Cartesian diver kit would be the easiest and cheapest kit to

put together. Fran reported that she believes remaining funding in the budget would be able to cover the cost of the kits. Mary Sue believes that it will cost \$300-500 to rent a table. Carolyn reported that the Branch's banner is in the locker. Co-President Arden suggested that additional research regarding the cost and dates of various festivals be conducted. There was discussion regarding whether the focus of the tables should be on books or Science Girls on the Go. Co-President Arden suggested that the focus should be on selling books but that Science Girls on the Go could be publicized too. Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon reported that the Branch should not have any difficulty finding volunteers to man the table(s). Nancy said that the benefits of membership could also be publicized. Suzanne added that LunaFest could also be a point of publicity at the table(s). Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon said that she would be responsible for organizing the June event. Carolyn said that she and Karen Bondy could be in charge of organizing the "Pretend It's a Book Sale" event. Mary Sue will talk to officials in Glen Ellyn regarding their plans for Taste of Glen Ellyn. Suzanne will speak to officials in Winfield regarding their plans for a community festival. Kathleen McCullough asked if the proposed position described by Book Sale Committee Chair Bacon would fall under the existing Community Relations Committee. It was suggested that this be discussed in more detail in the future.

Community Relations Committee Chair Mary Sue Brown reported that there had been no community meetings to attend. However, she will continue to seek out community meetings to attend as they open up.

Educational Opportunity Funds Chair Susan Levy-Creed reported that she has heard back from two of the four high school guidance counselors regarding student names. She hopes that she will hear back from the remaining two counselors by next month. She shared that the counselors are very happy about the scholarship opportunities that the Branch is offering.

Fundraising Chair Carolyn Oesterle reported that she will need someone to take over organizing the Fundraising Walk and Winter Banquet since she will be getting sworn in as Branch president soon. Patricia Spence said that she would organize the Fundraising Walk but that this offer would be contingent upon finding a partner to help her. It was mentioned that Karen Schulz had partnered with Carolyn to help organize the Winter Banquet. Someone will check with Karen to see if she will need a partner to help her with the Winter Banquet.

LunaFest Chair Suzanne Gagner reported that she has been working with the LunaFest organization headquartered in California. She shared that this will be a traveling festival. She will announce through *Twigs* that LunaFest will be a virtual event. LunaFest Chair Gagner reported that she has seen the films and that they are "solid documentaries". The Branch will be able to add its own announcement that will appear before the showing of the films. LunaFest will also roll-over the money contributed last year and apply it this year's costs. LunaFest Chair Gagner emphasized that anyone can attend and that she is planning on selling tickets to friends and family members who live out of state. The Branch's LunaFest event is scheduled for September 10, 2021. It will open at 7:00 p.m. and be available for viewing for 48 hours. Viewers will use a code on their tickets to access the event. Tickets will cost \$20 each. The

LunaFest Committee is working on organizing viewing parties that can take place in members' homes. Co-President Simon suggested that other state Branches should be invited.

Newsletter Editor Kathleen McCullough reminded members that the deadline for submittals for the May issue of *Twigs* is tomorrow, April 15, 2021. She also reminded members to let her know if they are not going to submit an article for the upcoming issue of *Twigs*.

Public Policy Chair Patricia Spence reported that Claudia Finley is not available to assume the role of Public Policy Chair due to another position that she just accepted. She also shared that AAUW's Illinois Public Policy leaders have encouraged the Illinois legislature to repeal the Forced Parental Notice of Abortion Act. Public Policy Chair Spence contacted Suzy Glowiak, Illinois State Senator, and Terra Costa-Howard, Illinois State Representative, to gauge their level of support of this proposal. Ms. Glowiak did not respond to Public Policy Chair Spence's request, called in to her office, to state her position on PNA. Ms. Costa-Howard indicated that she does support this proposal. Public Policy Chair Spence has not yet contacted Amy Grant, Illinois State Representative about this issue. She also shared that the Branch has been asked to submit a witness slip in regard to HB1301-The Healthy Youth Act. Public Policy Chair Spence asked Terra Costa-Howard about this bill, and Ms. Cost-Howard indicated that she supports this bill.

A report regarding STEM was not presented.

A report regarding the website was not presented.

Kathleen McCullough clarified that the final issue of *Twigs*- for the fiscal year- will be the June/Summer issue. The first issue of *Twigs* for the upcoming fiscal year will be the September 2021 issue. Submittals for the September issue will be due on August 15, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

Carolyn suggested that "Pretend It's a Book Sale" should occur regardless of whether a coupon system is included as part of the sale or not. Patricia Spence shared that the League of Women Voters may support the book sale. Ewa suggested that if Carolyn does not hear back from The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn by April 28, 2021 regarding the coupon proposal she should proceed with the book sale without the coupon system. Ewa also stated that the virtual book sale will take place on May 19, 2021.

Co-President Simon shared that in her role as District Director, a sister Branch came to her to describe issues that they have been having with leadership. Specifically, they wondered if they would be able to merge with another Branch, perhaps the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. While researching this issue, Co-President Simon found that in 2018, national by-laws were passed that stated in order for one Branch to merge with another Branch, both Branches would need to disband and then re-form as a new Branch. The Executive Committee of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch conducted a meeting on March 15, 2021 to discuss this issue. The Executive Committee voted not to merge with the sister Branch. The sister Branch was informed of this decision. Since that time, they have found members to serve as president and treasurer, which

are the offices that need to be held, minimally, in order for a Branch to exist. Co-President Simon emphasized that the identity of the sister Branch is being kept confidential. Carolyn pointed out that the sister Branch could have also disbanded, and its members could have joined other Branches.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Arden shared that there have been discussions regarding an installation event for the new officers. Since it is estimated that most members will have had at least one dose of vaccine, she is hoping that an in-person, outdoor event can be held at the end of May. Carolyn shared that she thinks that the Hidden Lake pavilion in Glen Ellyn may cost \$25 to reserve. Co-President Simon wondered if a Thursday or Friday morning, perhaps on May 20th or 21st would work. This event would be open to the entire Branch, and members would be encouraged to bring their own chairs and beverages. It was suggested that donuts be purchased and served. Co-President Arden will contact Forest Preserve officials to ask about the availability of facilities on May 20, 2021 at 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. Co-President Simon will check on the availability of the other officers-elect on this date.

Co-Presidents Arden and Simon will be meeting with Carolyn and Mary Sue to discuss transitioning the role of president from Co-Presidents Arden and Simon to Co-Presidents-Elect Brown and Oesterle. Carolyn and the other Board members thanked Co-Presidents Arden and Simon for their service and leadership- especially during the challenges of the pandemic.

Patricia Spence shared that there will be a presentation on women in science on PBS tonight at 9:00 p.m. Suzanne commented that LunaFest features a STEM-related documentary. She also mentioned that the LunaFest event should be limited to people 16 years of age and older due to some of the themes that are explored in the documentaries.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: June 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. location-TBA