

## MINUTES

### Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch Board Meeting

September 14, 2022

Location: Carolyn Oesterle's home and via Zoom

#### CONTENTS OF BOARD PACKET

The following items were distributed by Co-President Oesterle to the Branch Leadership team prior to the meeting: Agenda, Zoom link, the financial reports for July 31 and August 31. Separately, the Secretary sent the Minutes from August 10 and a Summary of Policy Handbook Changes.

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Officers and Chairs: Carolyn Oesterle, Maureen Sheehan, Nancy Possinger, Jane Palmer, Marilyn Mauritz, Ellen McGowan\*, Patricia Spence\*

Other Attendees: Ewa Bacon, Marilyn Wiedemann\*, Mary Mossman\*, Karen Schulz\*

\* via Zoom

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Co-President Oesterle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcomed everybody.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Co-President Oesterle called for approval of the August 10, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Diversity Chair Mauritz moved to approve the corrected minutes and Treasurer Sheehan seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### CO-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

Co-President Oesterle:

- AAUW of Illinois is hosting a Fall Conference via Zoom for all Branches on September 24, from 9 AM to 11 AM. Officers and Chairs are urged to attend by signing up from the AAUW-IL website or by the link provided in the recent AAUW-IL Connection.
- The location for the 10/5 Branch Meeting has not yet been confirmed. Our choices are: (1) GE Civic Center (free, but no microphone), or (2) GE Historical Society for \$100 fee. After discussion, Co-President Oesterle moved that the Board preference is to secure the GE Civic Center, provided that we are able to rent or borrow a suitable microphone. Treasurer Sheehan seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.
- On behalf of Co-President Brown, volunteers are requested to assist with monitoring School and Library Board meetings. Public Policy Chair Spence discussed timing of School Board elections and where members can find information on Board members' backgrounds.
- Winter Banquet Survey: A recent email survey sent out by Co-President Oesterle asked members whether they would prefer a traditional banquet (for example, at Reserve 22) or small group dinners, hosted by members. The results were 15 for banquet, 7 for small groups and 2 with no preference.

## **OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Program Vice President Report:**

Acting Program VP Oesterle reminded Board members that our speaker for the October 5 meeting (hybrid format) will be Dr. Steven Macek, Professor of Communications and Chair of the Department of Communications and Media Studies at North Central College. The topic will be Citizens United, Dark Money and Gender Equity. As previously announced, the location for the meeting has not yet been finalized.

### **Membership Vice President:**

Co-Vice President Possinger shared that the branch has 106 members. To date, only 8 members have not yet renewed. A new member orientation event is planned for October 20.

### **Treasurer:**

Treasurer Sheehan reported on the Branch's 7/31 and 8/31 Financial Reports. The 8/31 total ending balance was \$800.82 over the beginning Fiscal Year balance. Other highlights:

- The Branch recently received a \$250 unrestricted donation.
- The Branch received \$1,554.50 in dues payments in July and August.
- As directed by the Finance Committee, \$170.43 was transferred from Unrestricted Fund to the Special Programs Fund to provide for future Program needs.

### **Special Project: Policy Handbook Update**

Chair Palmer reported that the end is near. She shared with the group the major changes over the past five years which are now included in the Handbook. Some discussion ensued about the pending change in the name of the Educational Opportunities Fund to the Branch Gender Equity Fund. It was agreed that the Handbook Committee would try to develop a better name.

### **Cultural Arts**

Chair Desmarais was not in attendance but Co-President Oesterle reported that the Mary Mossman/Beekeeping event is still planned for September 21. The gathering prior to the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's September 29 presentation of Clybourne Park has been canceled\*.

\* Later reinstated.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Chair Mauritz shared newspaper articles about regional diversity activities. It is a positive sign that so many organizations are highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion events.

### **Fall Fundraising Walk:**

Chair Spence reported that the Fall Fundraising Walk will be held on Friday, September 23 at Herrick Lake. To date, only 14 members have signed up but more are expected to attend. If Chair Spence is unable to attend, Member Margaret McGrath will take her place as event coordinator.

### **Historian**

Co-President Oesterle welcomed Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann as the new Branch Historian. The Branch looks forward to her future initiatives in that area.

## **LunaFest Film Festival**

Chair Desmarais was not in attendance but Co-President Oesterle read from her report.

- Ticket sales have been slow but many members have indicated interest in the event.
- Publicity efforts are ongoing.
- Many restaurant and cooking class gift cards have been secured for the raffle as well as a handmade necklace made by Member Winifred Creamer.
- Two donations have been received, totaling \$500.

## **Twigs Newsletter**

Articles are due tomorrow, September 15 by 5 pm.

## **Publicity**

Chair Mary Mossman asked about her budget for online publicity. Treasurer Sheehan advised that the Publicity Chair has a budget of \$100 for Branch publicity.

## **Winter Banquet**

Banquet Chair Schulz reported that Reserve 22 requires a \$1,200 minimum for the use of the banquet room. This would make our break-even point to be attendance by 30 members for the menu of a chicken buffet similar to 2019. Discussion ensued about how many might attend this event. Banquet Chair Schulz was directed to explore luncheon options on a Saturday or Sunday at either Reserve 22 or Adelle's. Currently the date is set for 12/7 (Wednesday evening). EOF Chair McGowan requested that the date be confirmed as soon as possible so that she can proceed to line up the speaker.

## **Public Policy, STEM, and AAUW Online:**

No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Member Bacon proposed that the Branch accept a new interest group with the topic of Aging. This group would study the following topics: Elder law, physicians with geriatric specializations, housing alternatives, home services, directory of service providers and other related areas. Information gathered can be shared on the Branch website. After discussion, Jane Palmer moved that this interest group be approved for a trial of one year. Maureen Sheehan seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. Member Bacon proposed that the Branch purchase bumper stickers with "AAUW" in order to increase awareness of our organization in the community. This could be a small fundraiser if the bumper stickers are sold above the cost of purchase. Discussion ensued and Member Bacon will pursue this further.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Co-President Oesterle announced that the Board will next meet on October 12, 2022, 7 PM, at Nancy Possinger's home, 26W070 MacArthur Ave., Carol Stream.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:01 pm, Membership VP Possinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Sheehan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.