

MINUTES

AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Board Meeting February 8, 2023 Location: Ewa Bacon's home and via Zoom

CONTENTS OF BOARD PACKET

The following items were distributed by Secretary Palmer to the Branch Leadership team prior to the meeting: Agenda, Zoom link and final Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2023. The Treasurer sent the 11/30/2022 and 12/30/2022 Financial Reports.

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Person: Ewa Bacon, Mary Sue Brown*, Marilyn Mauritz*, Jane Palmer*, Patricia Spence*, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann.

Via Zoom: Fran Kravitz*, Ellen McGowan*, Mary Mossman, Carolyn Oesterle*, Nancy Possinger*, Maureen Sheehan*.

* Voting Officers and Chairs

With all Voting Officers and Chairs in Attendance (=9), the quorum rule was met.

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-President Oesterle called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm and welcomed everybody. She thanked Ewa Bacon for hosting and co-hosting the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Secretary Palmer called for approval of the January 11, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Public Policy Chair Spence moved to approve the minutes and Book Sale Chair Mauritz seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

Announcements:

- AAUW-Illinois will hold its state-wide convention in Peoria May 5-6, 2023. The TRIO Award is available to defray expenses of attending the convention for a Branch member who has not previously attended a state conference. Applications are available from Co-President Oesterle. All Board members are encouraged to attend.
- School and Library Boards – Elections April 4. Public Policy Chair Spence is gathering information on all candidates in our local members' communities. Relevant information will be passed on to members via the Branch website, Facebook, Twigs and All-Branch emails.
- Spring Luncheon – Mark your calendars for May 20 at Adelle's. Induction of our 2023-2024 new Branch officers will occur at this event.
- Reminder: Voting on National AAUW bylaw changes begins April 6.
- The Glen Ellyn Public Library is sponsoring a Book Group Social Event to be held at the GE Historical Society on February 10, 2023, 7-9 PM. Several Branch members plan on attending.
- Nominations for this year's AAUW-IL Agent of Change Award are due by March 1. After discussion, the consensus was that there will be no nomination from our Branch this year.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer:

Treasurer Sheehan reported that the Branch finances are proceeding according to budget expectations. She will soon submit the Contribution Report Form and a check for \$3,000 to national AAUW funds for this fiscal year. The contribution will be spread among three funds with \$1,000 to each. The three funds are: Education and Training Fund (#4450), Economic Security Fund (#4449) and the National College Women's Student Leadership Conference Fund (#2504).

Membership Vice President:

MVP Possinger reported that the branch now has 111 members.

Historian/Archivist Wiedemann asked if half-year memberships are available. Co-Vice President Possinger advised that if a new member waits until about March 15, 2023, she can join for the remainder of the 2022-23 fiscal year and for all of the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the cost of one year's dues.

As Nominating Committee Chair, MVP Possinger reported that the slate for 2023-24 is nearly complete. Member Sarah Allen agreed to serve as MVP for the second year of MVP Possinger's term of office but would like to have a Co-MVP to share the duties. MVP Possinger is making calls to recruit for this position and hopes to report successfully soon.

Program Vice President Report:

Acting Program VP Oesterle reminded Board members that the March 1 Branch Program will be in person and also available via Zoom. The speaker will be **Kelwin Harris** an urban planner working as a county assessor for Cook County. His talk will emphasize how addressing racial equity can improve economic prospects for all. He will be speaking to the Branch in person, not via Zoom. Officially, his topic is: **How to Create Resilient, Equitable Communities in a COVID World**. We will meet in the Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room, 65 S. Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Book Sale

Chair Mauritz reported that plans are underway to update the yard signs. Decision is pending on whether to do the "mask" approach as in past years or to print new signs. Publicity Chair Mossman will be assisting with Book Sale publicity. Secretary Palmer asked for a volunteer to send the emails to our list of about 200 individuals who requested annual updates on the book sale dates and times. Chair Mauritz noted that the Naperville Branch sends postcards. Our branch switched from postcards to emails about 10 years ago.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Chair Mauritz offered some comments on diversity of candidates running in the April 4 local elections.

Cultural Arts

On behalf of Cultural Arts Chair Desmarais, Co-President Oesterle announced an upcoming COD Andy Warhol exhibit planned for June 3 through September 10. There will be a preview at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on April 18, 7 to 8:45 PM. Details will be provided to the Branch through Twigs and/or an All Branch Email.

Public Policy

Public Policy Chair Spence provided more details on the upcoming local elections. She noted that even though these are non-partisan elections, we cannot directly support certain candidates. But we can inform our members and the public which candidates support AAUW policies. She is working to develop questions related to our values and will be sending them to all candidates for school boards (Districts 41, 44, 87, 89 for Glen Ellyn and Lombard and Consolidated District 200 for Wheaton) and for the Glen Ellyn and possibly Lombard Library Boards. She noted that Wheaton Library Board members are not elected. They are appointed by the Mayor. By March 1, the Public Policy Committee will share with the Branch information on which candidates support AAUW values.

STEM

STEM Coordinator Kravitz announced that the Glen Ellyn Public Library has agreed to host our STEM after-school programs for March, April and May. She recently called for volunteers to assist her with this project and has had a good response.

Last month, the Board briefly discussed the Branch's use of the Copyright symbol on the Science Girls on the Go kits. Further research has been completed. We should have been using Trademark instead of Copyright as copyrights are only available for "creations" such as, music, art or writings. "Science Girls on the Go" is the Trademark for the AAUW kits. Trademarks can be registered or unregistered. Due to the expense and effort involved with registering the trademark, it was decided to continue using it as an unregistered trademark. Fran will consider some options for making it more distinctive, such as, font and color. We should begin using Science Girls on the Go™. (Note that the symbol for a registered trademark is ®)

Twigs Newsletter

Articles are due Sunday, March 15 by 5 pm.

AIR (Aging Information Resources) Study Group

Study Group Chair Bacon reported that their first report on the topic of Housing Alternatives is now available on the Branch website on the Members Only page. The next report will be on the topic of Home Services that can provide options for staying at home longer.

School Boards (Wheaton Observer)

Ewa Bacon is an appointed member of the Wheaton District 200 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). At the most recent meeting, a new High School Pathways Program was announced and explained. This program will assist students who are looking for post-high school opportunities other than traditional colleges. After this presentation, Member Bacon sent a letter to the School Board asking about the "Tech-heavy" direction of the Pathways program. Her letter asked about other pathways related to students' emotional, social and academic needs.

Historian/Archivist

Chair Wiedemann reported that her recent Twigs articles listing Branch activities from its founding in 1956 through the 1980's are now on the Branch website. Branch history can be found on the "About Us" page. No password is needed since this information is intended for newer members and prospective members.

Opportunities Fund

Chair McGowan reported that she contacted the four Wheaton and Glen Ellyn high schools regarding possible scholarship candidates for this Spring's Higher Education Incentive Awards. She heard back from all of them that they plan to select a candidate.

COMMITTEES NOT REPORTING

AAUW Online
Branch Buddy
Community Relations
Fall Fundraiser
Library Board (Glen Ellyn Observer)
LunaFest
Publicity
Spring Luncheon

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

CLOSING REMARKS

Co-President Brown announced that the Board will next meet on March 8, 2023, 7 PM at Patricia Spence's home.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 pm, DEI Chair Mauritz moved to adjourn the meeting. Opportunities Fund Chair McGowan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.