

## MINUTES

### AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch

Board Meeting January 11, 2023

Location: Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann'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. Separately, the Secretary sent the final Board Meeting Minutes from Nov. 9, 2022 and the Treasurer sent the 11/30/2022 and 12/30/2022 Financial Reports.

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

In Person: Ewa Bacon, Mary Sue Brown\*, Marilyn Mauritz\*, Carolyn Oesterle\*, Nancy Possinger\*, Jane Palmer\*, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann

Via Zoom: Fran Kravitz\*, Mary Mossman, Maureen Sheehan\*, Patricia Spence

\* Voting Officers and Chairs

With 7 of our 10 Voting Officers and Chairs in Attendance, the quorum rule was met.

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Co-President Oesterle called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and welcomed everybody. She thanked Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann for hosting and co-hosting the meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Secretary Palmer called for approval of the November 9, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Public Policy Chair Spence moved to approve the minutes and Co-President Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Announcements:

- AAUW-Illinois will hold a 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.
- The Women's March on the 50th Anniversary of Roe v Wade is planned for Sunday, January 22, 2023. Its primary location will be Madison, WI. Contact Co-President Oesterle if you are interesting in joining the March.
- The Spring Banquet is planned for May. Co-President asked if the Board would like to ask Chair Bondy to plan it as a luncheon instead of a dinner. Board consensus (without a vote) was luncheon is a good option. As for a date, it was suggested that we avoid Mother's Day weekend.
- The Glen Ellyn Public Library is sponsoring a Book Group Social Event to be held at the GE Historical Society on February 10, 2023. Flyers are being passed out with book group books available at the library.
- Past President Gloria Sullivan (1975-77) passed away Dec. 20 at age 90. Member Lindsey will write an item for Twigs to inform the membership.

**OFFICER REPORTS:****Treasurer:**

Treasurer Sheehan reported that the Branch finances are proceeding according to budget expectations. She noted that the contributions to national AAUW funds have not yet been transferred but will be taken care of soon.

**Membership Vice President:**

Co-Vice President Possinger shared that the branch now has 109 members after including recent new member, Sheila Perry. Member Wiedemann asked if half-year memberships are available. Co-Vice President Possinger will investigate and get back to her. She also reported that the Nominating Committee is making progress with the slate for 2023-24 but wasn't sure that it would be completed in time to announce at the February 1 Branch meeting. Secretary Palmer noted that announcing at the February Branch meeting is a policy but not part of the bylaws. The bylaws require that the Branch be notified at least 10 days before the Annual Meeting. An all-Branch email would meet the bylaws requirement if it is sent before 10 days before March 1, which would be February 18. No Board members objected to this suggestion. No vote taken.

**Program Vice President Report:**

Acting Program VP Oesterle reminded Board members that the February 1 Branch Program will be in person and also available via Zoom. The speaker (via Zoom) will be Julie Strauss, PhD and the topic is "Women's Rights and the Supreme Court". We will meet at the Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room, 65 S. Park Blvd, GE. The speaker asked if her time could be extended from 45 minutes to 1 hour with a Q/A period of 15 minutes. No Board members objected to this suggestion.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****AIR (Aging Information Resources Study Group)**

Study Group Chair Bacon reported that the group recently completed their first report on the topic of Housing Alternatives. In January, they will meet to discuss options for assistance with staying at home longer. Other topics are planned. The Study Group's reports will be available on the Branch website for members only. The Board discussed copyrighting the reports but decided more research will be needed.

In Twigs, Study Group Chair Bacon will announce the upcoming Senior Expo USA event, called the Dupage County Senior Expo. It will be held at the Drury Lane Theatre on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 10 am-1 pm. According to its promotional materials, the Expo promises opportunities to meet with experts regarding Medicare Coverage, Assisted Living, Mobility Solutions, Independent Living, Veterans Benefits, Audiology, Senior Travel, Health Insurance, Home Care, Medical Equipment, Hospice Care, Financial Planning, Legal Assistance, Aging In Place Home Improvements, Eye Care, Physical Therapy and much more.

**Book Sale**

Book Sale dates are June 22-24 (Thursday, 8am-8pm; Friday, 8am-5pm; and, Saturday, 9am-1pm). Location is Forest Glen Elementary School in Glen Ellyn. Collection and sorting of books will occur June 7-21. An organizational meeting will be scheduled soon. We will be featuring Fiction/Mystery, Non-Fiction/Biography, Children's/Young Adult and Better Books. We are no longer using the terms "curios" or "collectibles" since we are not hiring an appraiser to help us identify and price special books.

### **Cultural Arts**

On behalf of Cultural Arts Chair Desmarais, Co-President Oesterle announced an upcoming group event at the DuPage Symphony (in Naperville) on Saturday February 11, 7:30 pm. RSVP by January 17. An all-Branch email will notify Branch members in time to meet this deadline. (It was noted that Film Group is meeting February 10 so this does not conflict with that interest group.)

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

Chair Mauritz reported on about diversity “firsts” recently in the news, such as, first Native American women and first women of color elected or appointed to important positions.

**Library Board** – No report. Chair Brown was out of town and not able to attend the most recent meeting of the Glen Ellyn Library Board.

### **Public Policy**

Public Policy Chair Spence announced that the AAUW Washington Update should be now in our email inboxes. It includes changes to the national bylaws and some public policy updates.

### **School Boards**

Chair Bacon reported that she recently attended a Wheaton District 200 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Three topics of interest to our membership were discussed or announced.

- The major topic of that meeting was the attempt by the Edison Middle School principal to be inclusive with the school’s Christmas decorations. Two trees were decorated at the school. One was a traditional Christmas tree and the other was a Rainbow tree. Parents complained about “grooming” and inappropriate sex education. A Board member responded to that parent by saying that no child should feel threatened, endangered or made to feel like “the other”. She gave a personal example of being raised in a secular Jewish family and attending a public school that had few Jewish children. Her parents had told her about the Holocaust but it wasn’t until 5<sup>th</sup> grade that she realized that it was over. She mistakenly thought it continued and was fearful that she and her family would be sent to gas chambers if anyone at school learned that they were Jewish. This personal story reiterated her point that no child should feel threatened or endangered because their family is different from other students’ families.
- Upcoming School Board Elections – Chair Bacon and Public Policy Chair Spence discussed the importance of paying attention to April’s School Board Elections. In Wheaton, three 4-year seats and one 2-year seat are open this year. Chair Bacon will find out if forums will be held.
- New Rules for District 200 Library Acquisitions – Previously, each school librarian prepared a list of proposed new library acquisitions and this list was approved by the school principal. The new approach will require all school librarians to work together on a proposed acquisition list. A committee of Principals will approve (or reject) the recommended acquisitions. In addition, “genre” stickers are now in use. Parents can request that their children not be allowed to read books of a certain genre.

### **STEM**

STEM Coordinator Kravitz announced that the next experiment will be ready about January 15.

Historian/Archivist noted that fewer kits are being picked up now that the weather is cold. The Board discussed other options for distributing the kits. The libraries have their own STEM activities and in the past have declined to distribute our kits. It was decided to explore options for getting the word out through school newsletters. Co-President Oesterle will contact District 41, Co-President Brown will contact District 89 and Diversity Chair Mauritz will contact District 200.

Our use of the Copyright symbol on the Science Girls on the Go kits was discussed. We were previously told that no applications were needed to use the © but it was decided that we need to get something in writing. Secretary Palmer will research this further and possible contact member Mary Callow.

### **Twigs Newsletter**

Articles are due Sunday, February 15 by 5 pm.

### **COMMITTEES NOT REPORTING**

AAUW Online  
Branch Buddy  
Community Relations  
Fall Fundraiser  
Historian/Archivist  
LunaFest  
Opportunities Fund  
Publicity  
Spring Banquet

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Co-President Oesterle announced that the Board will next meet on February 8, 2023, 7 PM at Ewa Bacon's home.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:38 pm, Membership VP Possinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Co-President Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.