

## AAUW WHEATON-GLEN ELLYN BRANCH

### Minutes of Board Meeting May 10, 2023

Location: Mary Sue Brown'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 April 12, 2023. The Financial Report as of 4/28/2023 was distributed separately by Treasurer Sheehan.

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

In Person: Ewa Bacon, Mary Sue Brown\*, Marilyn Mauritz\*, Carolyn Oesterle\*, Jane Palmer\*, Nancy Possinger\*, Maureen Sheehan\*, Patricia Spence\*, Marilyn Wiedemann. Via Zoom: Mary Mossman

\* Officers or Voting Chairs

With 7 of our 9 total Officers and Voting Chairs in attendance, the quorum rule was met.

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Co-President Oesterle called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm and welcomed everybody. She thanked Mary Sue Brown for hosting the meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Secretary Palmer called for any additional corrections or additions to the April 12, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, Co-President Oesterle accepted the minutes as submitted.

#### CO-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Co-President Oesterle reported on the recent AAUW-Illinois State Convention.
  - Nine or ten Branch members attended.
  - The convention was well-run and well-attended. Speakers were good.
  - As part of the President's report, Donna Jean Simon said that membership in Illinois and nationwide has been decreasing. The decrease was attributed to changing objectives of the national organization. Although our branch has been adding members, others have not. Many of our Branch's new members this year were former Lombard branch members but we have also continued to gain members from Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and neighboring communities.
  - There were Affinity Group Discussions related to both Public Policy and Branch Programs. Co-President Oesterle attended the Programs discussion and volunteered to help the state organization with a project that will provide resource information for Branch programs on the state website.
- A company called PCI has been contacting AAUW members about the AAUW Oral History Project. Postcards have been sent, requesting that members call to verify their data. Upon calling, PCI asks them to share their memories of their AAUW membership and offers to sell them various products that will include all memories shared by members. AAUW receives a share of all sales. This company has previously worked with Universities and Greek organizations in a similar way. Co-President Oesterle has written to the national organization with her concerns about this "project" and the use of members' contact information.
- Local Elections - School and library Boards
  - With the help of our informational website, the Wheaton District 200 "Green Slate" was defeated. In contrast, the community of Huntley (near Crystal Lake) was blind-sided with a "reform slate" replacing their entire school board.

- Two of our Branch members were successful in the recent elections. Co-President Brown was elected Glen Ellyn Library trustee and former Branch Co-President Simon was elected Glen Ellyn Village Trustee.
- Spring Luncheon - Co-President Oesterle reminded attendees of the upcoming Spring Luncheon at Adelle's on Saturday, May 20. Reservations are due by May 13.

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

### **Treasurer:**

Treasurer Sheehan reported that, in general, Branch finances are proceeding according to budget expectations. She noted that the budget process may be more difficult next year since the Luna Foundation has temporarily suspended their film festival support.

### **Membership Vice President:**

Membership VP Possinger reported that with the addition of new member Lisa Capps, the branch now has 114 members.

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

Co-President Oesterle reported that the incoming Program Co-VPs recently convened to discuss next year's programs and several have been lined up. Contrary to prior practice, they are thinking about only lining up speakers for the first half of the year at this time. The rest will be lined up later.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **AAUW Online**

Chair Jane Palmer asked officers and chairs who are submitting articles to Twigs copy AAUW Online so that the team can keep the website up-to-date and keep on top of opportunities to publicize Branch activities on Facebook.

### **AIR (Aging Information Resources) Study Group**

Study Group Chair Bacon reported that the committee will resume their regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday meetings in September. They expect to next look at needs for legal assistance and may add some new health care related topics, such as specialty units (e.g., cancer centers). She requested feedback from Board members on topics and recent reports.

She also commented on the value of membership in "affinity groups" (such as, the Branch, bridge groups, book clubs, etc.) for aging individuals. Among other benefits, such groups can combat loneliness.

### **School Boards (Wheaton Observer)**

AIR Study Group Chair Bacon is an appointed member of the Wheaton District 200 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). At the most recent meeting, Jason Spencer, an instructional expert, spoke on "how kids relate to the internet". Chair Bacon asked him a question about Chat GPT. Based on his knowledgeable response, she suggested to our Program VPs that we ask him to speak at our September 6 kick off meeting. He has agreed to do so. Chair Bacon asked if we can make our September 6 meeting more available to the public. She will work with the incoming Program VPs to see if this can be accomplished.

### **Book Sale**

Chair Mauritz reported on recent book collections. As might be expected, HealthTrack and Wheaton Sport Center are doing better than the newer sites. Members are encouraged to hold onto their personal book donations until

June 7 when they can bring them directly to Forest Glen School. Marilyn Wiedemann will keep us posted on the count of collected books.

The "Sign-up Genius" request has been sent to members. Day Captains are still needed for several days. Distribution of the yard signs will begin May 20 at the Spring Luncheon. Flyers announcing the Sale information are ready to be distributed. Several Board members volunteered to distribute flyers in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Lombard businesses.

#### **Cultural Arts Report:**

Public Policy Chair Spence and AAUW Online Chair Palmer have organized a "pop-up" cultural arts event for Monday, May 22, 4:30 PM at the Wheaton Public Library (West Plaza). At that time the Wheaton Warhol Pop Art Mural honoring distinguished Wheatonites will be unveiled. Branch member Glennette Turner is among those being honored. Details will be announced at the Spring Luncheon.

#### **Fall Fundraiser**

Co-President Oesterle proposed that we again hold a Fall Walk/Run Fundraiser at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve. Although this will be the responsibility of the incoming Board, it is a good idea to announce the date in the next Twigs which will be published at the end of May. The date of Friday, September 22 was proposed.

#### **Historian/Archivist**

Chair Wiedemann requested that we all send her pictures of Branch activities.

#### **Opportunities Fund**

Co-President Oesterle reported on behalf of Opportunities Fund Chair McGowan that four Higher Education Incentive Awards have been awarded to a graduating senior from each of the four public high schools in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. More information on each awardee will be available at the Spring Luncheon and in Twigs.

#### **Twigs Newsletter**

On behalf of the Twigs Editor, Co-President Oesterle announced that articles for the Summer Twigs are due Monday, May 15 by 5 pm.

#### **COMMITTEES NOT REPORTING**

Not reporting: Branch Buddy, Community Relations, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Library Board (Glen Ellyn Observer), Publicity, Public Policy and STEM

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Co-President Oesterle announced that the next Board meeting will be the annual Joint Board Meeting with the incoming Officers and Committee Chairs. It is scheduled for June 14. Membership VP Nancy Possinger will host.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:21 pm, Public Policy Chair Spence moved to adjourn the meeting. Membership VP Possinger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.