

AAUW Westchester Board Meeting of May 3, 2017

Attendance: Phyllis Hirth, Diona Koerner, Carol McMillan, Sandra Flank, Roli Wendorf, Marie McKellar, Selena Barron, Stephanie Lemnios, Marilee Scheuneman, Linda Swann, Colleen Fay, Jane Pendergast, Pam Margand, Natasha Rose

1. The meeting was called to order by Diona Koerner at 4:35 p.m.
2. The minutes of the April board meeting were approved in a motion made by Carol McMillan, seconded by Phyllis Hirth and a unanimous vote.
The minutes of the April branch meeting were approved in a motion made by Sandra Flank, seconded by Carol McMillan and a unanimous vote.
3. Treasurer's Report – Carol McMillan
Carol said that we are on target, but will have a deficit for the year. As of the current report we have a net income of \$569. Carol had a question of whether we will continue to make a \$50 payment to the Women's Federation as well as a payment of up to \$100 to Colleen Fay to attend their functions. There is \$150 in the budget for this and it was decided to continue to do so. Carol will contact Colleen with regard to this. Carol also asked about whether or not to continue to subsidize the attendance at the State AAUW convention for the 3 branch delegates. In the past we have given them each \$50 and Diona said we should do the same as in the past. Roli Wendorf asked Carol if there is still \$650 in the Start Smart budget that can be used for future workshops and Carol replied yes.
Selena Barron stated that National is thinking about raising the dues \$10 to make up for a loss in membership, but she believes that it will hurt Branch membership. After discussion on the issue Natasha Rose made a motion for the Branch to send a letter to National stating our opposition to the increase which was seconded by Sandra Flank and approved unanimously. Diona and Linda will send the letter.
4. Membership – Phyllis Hirth
Phyllis reported that we have a new member, Mary Lou Green who joined online and paid by Paypal so we now have 186 members.

Marie McKellar said that in the past she has received a list of National members and sent them flyers and letters about the branch and has gotten some new members by doing that. Phyllis said she would follow up and try to do the same thing.

5. Action Group reports

Running and Winning – 40 girls attended the latest workshop along with 15 female elected officials from all over Westchester County.

Start Smart – Jane Pendergast and Roli Wendorf

Several workshops were given in April – two at Western Connecticut State College, one each at Vassar College, New York Institute for Technology and SUNY Purchase.

Roli said that the contract for a Worksmart pilot program in New York City has been signed. It will train facilitators at first and then will hold about 30 workshops to train between 1000-1500 women.

WizGirls – Diona Koerner

The third year of the program will be held in November. There is currently a hold up in waiting for confirmation of insurance for the event.

Scholarship Luncheon – Marilee Scheuneman

We had 40 reservations and paid for 40 lunches but 5 people who reserved were unable to attend, but they donated their lunch fee and the Branch made \$1087 with the event. Marilee also announced that the Beverly Jordan AAUW endowed scholarship is now official and includes major contributions from Marie McKellar, Stephanie Lemnios and Jane Pendergast. Diana Kent, Sue Lambert, Phyllis Dale and Marilee Scheuneman also contributed.

Education Awards – Carol McMillan

Carol is getting the certificates printed for the 8th grade awards and she is on track to give out 160-170 awards. The senior awards should also be proceeding.

Summer Activities

There will be an opportunity to sign up for the summer activities at the Spring Fling. Carol McMillan announced she will be leading a trip to Cabbage Hill Farm along with lunch at a local restaurant.

Phyllis Hirth announced that she is interested in starting a Shakespeare Club and was given permission to announce it in the next CHIPS.

6. State convention

About 120 people attended the convention. Our Branch was well represented with 8 members attending.

Marilee said that the workshops were good, the keynote speaker was good and Roli indicated that the vast majority of the evaluation forms said good things about the convention.

7. Spring Fling

Carol McMillan said that reservations are coming in slowly. The event was announced in CHIPS and an email was sent asking members to attend.

8. Program planning meeting

There will be a meeting on May 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Greenburgh Library to plan programs for the next year.

9. Proposed AAUW by laws amendments

National is proposing 8 amendments of which the last 6 are not controversial. Proposition 2 would do away with the requirement for a college degree for membership and Proposition 1, votes for which would only be voted upon if Proposition 2 fails, would allow for a new category of members called advocates who would be people who support the mission of AAUW but do not have degrees.

Natasha Rose made a motion for the branch to support Proposition 1 which was seconded by Diona Koerner. Three members voted in favor, and four voted against so the motion did not pass.

10. New York Health Law- Jane Pendergast

Jane urged members to call their state representatives and senators and urge them to support this bill, currently before the State Legislature which would enact a single payer health care system in New York State. The State AAUW board has already endorsed it, but they would like to have as many endorsers as possible. The board will vote on whether to join the State AAUW in endorsing the proposal at the June meeting

Jane also urged members to call their representatives and urge them to support the ban the salary history question bill which bans companies from asking about the salary history of potential employees.

11. Vermillion Talent – Roli Wendorf

Vermillion Talent is a company which helps women who are re-entering the workforce and gives them necessary skills. They would like AAUW to be listed as partnered with them for salary negotiation. A motion to do so was made by Linda Swann, seconded by Stephanie Lemnios and unanimously approved.

12. June Board message in Chips – Running & Wining

13. New business – Selena Barron

Selena said there had been requests to change the venue of the holiday luncheon. Someone had suggested the Pleasantville Country Club but they have a 60 person minimum and charge \$50. It was decided to look elsewhere and Selena will investigate arranging for a brunch in a nearby hotel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by : Natasha Rose