

**AAUW ASHLAND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 23, 2018**

PRESENT: Sandy Theis, Gretchen King, Peggy Moore, Diana Quirk, Julie Benezet, Pam Shay, Sandra Coyner, Priscilla Arnold, Janet Troy, Paula Wiiken

ABSENT: Chris Donchin, Carol Ryan, Tricia Acheatel

Sandy called the meeting to order at 3:30. A quorum was established.

MINUTES

The minutes were approved as distributed, by consensus.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Diana reported that in line 62, the SOU Endowment should be \$40,752 (total amount of money that goes through our account). There was some discussion about the scholarship money.

Diana pointed out that we received over \$1,000 in the Vanguard account last year in interest earned. She also pointed out that we went over in several categories.

Lines 38-41 show the amount that came through our account for both RCC (\$800 plus) and SOU \$ 6,000.

Julie suggested that in September, when new members join us, we should provide a graph showing how much goes to each area by percentage, not by dollar amount. There was agreement that this would be a good idea.

LIAISON REPORTS

Sandy reported that this is a slower time of year for committees and there were few liaison reports received.

MEMBERSHIP

Priscilla reported that there were 51 attendees at the April branch meeting. She also mentioned that she updates the information about membership online and that it is current as of today. We have 190 members.

Peggy asked how we follow up with those who do not renew their memberships. Priscilla reported that they are emailed and then called. We have a few members who never respond back but generally the reasons for non-renewal include, moved out of the area, health or work.

PROPOSAL FOR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY NOT USED IN THE CURRENT YEAR

Jean Conger provided the Board with a proposal for money not used this year for scholarship. There was some left over in both the RCC and SOU accounts. The total amount will be held in the appropriate college account for the new year, pending Board approval.

Peggy mentioned that both Scholarship committees favored retaining the money for next year. The Board approved the proposal.

Diana pointed out the the \$\$\$ For Scholars program has not had anyone step up to take the leadership role. Unless this happens, that money will not be available for scholarships next year. It has become a significant amount.

TABLE TALK FEEDBACK

Gretchen sent out a report on the feedback. She cautioned that this was not scientific data but did provide some feedback on the table talk aspect of the Branch meetings. Some of the important feedback includes the desire for more interaction between members at branch meetings. April is a busy month and some members cautioned scheduling up against some events like AIFF as a problem.

There was some discussion about student memberships since the Scholarship committee mentions student memberships in the interviewing process for scholarships. Several years ago the Branch provided free membership (since state and local dues are not required of student members). The cost for a non-affiliate school – RCC – is \$ 18.81 a year. For SOU students, they receive the membership free since they are an affiliate school.

Discussion ensued about the status of RCC with respect to Grants Pass and Medford. Priscilla will check but we don't think either of the other branches have robust relationship with RCC. Peggy had spoken with Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle, RCC President, who is interested in pursuing a closer relationship with our branch.

One suggestion from Julie and Janet included a focus group for working women (and perhaps others). Other suggestions included a focus on more career oriented programming, highlighting women in interesting careers. Paula and others mentioned several workshops at the state conference that dealt with women in non-traditional careers which might also be of interest.

Gretchen pointed out that the Program Chairs will be at the June Retreat which will be helpful in further discussion of these ideas.

CHANGE IN VENUE

There was a spirited discussion of a possible change in venue. Sandy pointed out that we spend \$ 1,700 a year currently to rent space at SOU. Sandy calculated that if we calculated the \$35

that remains local with our dues, and multiplied it by the number of members we would have a total of \$6,400. \$1,700 is almost 33% of the total revenue we collect in a year. Gretchen mentioned we have a fiduciary responsibility to our membership.

Gretchen handed out lists of potential spaces that might be available for meetings. These include several churches. The Board agreed that the following members would meet with particular venues that might be possibilities. We have to be sure, if a church is rented, that we couldn't be bumped by a wedding or funeral. Janet will investigate Ashland Hospital space, Pam the Methodist Church, Gretchen the Presbyterian Church and Mimi SOU possibilities.

Gretchen will speak with the SOU folks and alert them that for financial reasons we may be changing venues. She will determine when best to do this.

According to Priscilla we have a low number of 50 and a high of 80 at any branch meeting.

If it looks like we can save money, while maintaining an attractive and functional venue we may change venues. But Gretchen will keep SOU in the loop.

BOARD RETREAT

Pam, Sandy and Gretchen will develop and plan the agenda. Board members should email suggestions for topics to them.

Strategic Planning was mentioned as one of the topics. We have been using an annual planning approach rather than a long range strategic planning approach. Julie suggested we should review our current plan and check off what we've done and develop a more traditional strategic plan. It was mentioned that budget should follow plan and that we need to have the plan in place before developing the next budget.

CONVENTION REPORT

Members attending commented on the conference. Several speakers were inspirational: non-traditional fields, "I am not invisible" a veteran speaking on women's roles in the service and others.

Sandy informed the Board that we were # 1 in the state for the most new members this past year (applauds for Priscilla and her team); We were number 3 in percent of increase in membership. It was noted that an increase for a branch like ours (190 members) by percentage does disadvantage us when compared to a branch of 20 members who has a 20% increase by adding four new people.

We also received a partnership award for SOU and NCCWHISLE (spelling???)

END REMARKS

There will be no May meeting.

Gretchen thanked Sandy for her work as President these past two years. Peggy,

Priscilla and Diana for their service as Secretary, Membership Chair and Financial Officer were also thanked.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore
Secretary