

**AAUW BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2021
ZOOM MEETING**

Present: Catherine Lutz, Bessie Azari, Ellen Fowler, Jean Conger, Sandra Coyner, Chris Donchin, Pam Shay, Regina Ayers, Susan Hollandsworth, Peggy Audibert

Catherine called the meeting to order and the following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Hollandsworth has accepted the position of Membership Chairperson, and Mary Coombs will be working with her as the Membership Welcome person.

Gretchen King and Annette Lewis will chair the Celebration of Scholars.

The next Board meeting will be held Monday, September 20, at 3:30 pm

The minutes of the June Retreat Meeting were approved by consensus.

MEMBERSHIP (see report)

Susan Hollandsworth reported that AAUW Ashland had a membership retention rate of 86% with current total of 130 members. Her Membership Team met on August 30 to discuss team plans and the Fall new member orientation, date to be determined. The focus of the team will be to recruit and retain new members. It was suggested that a questionnaire be sent to former members to determine the reason for leaving AAUW Ashland, and this will be developed by Sandra Coyner. Until the pandemic reaches a level of lower infection rate, all group meetings will be held on ZOOM, and it was suggested that Greeters also participate in these meetings by acknowledging new members and all other joining in.

FINANCE (see report)

Jean Conger reported current Income as \$6,896, and expense as \$300. She also reported that the \$2,500 gift received from the Ashland Art Center will be used for Operating Expense. The following accounts are: Checking - \$12,863; Savings - \$3,495; and Money Market - \$16,912.

The Board decided to keep AHT liability insurance at a cost of \$196 per year. The Board also agreed to discontinue AHT Director and Officers policy with an annual cost of \$337.

By the end of this year, there will be a donation for the amount of \$5400 to SOU and RCC scholarship funds from the 2019 Upscale Sale. Jean proposed a percentage be distributed to the SOU and RCC endowment funds. The Board voted 8-2 to put a hold on the decision until after the October Upscale Sale.

Wanda Chin, Scholarship Chair, responded to the above proposal, stating that with tuitions rising, surveys show that larger cash awards to fewer eligible students is preferable to small awards to a large number of students. If monies are transferred out of Scholarship, where the dollars are directed, this will not be possible in the future if donations decrease.

AAUW SOUTH DISTRICT

Pam Shay reported she and Catherine Lutes will attend the South District meeting on August 31, and news will be forthcoming. South District members include Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass, Roseburg, and Lakeview. AAUW Oregon is planning the State Convention to be held in Ashland, at the Ashland Hills Hotel, during April 2022, but no information has been made available. It is questionable whether our local AAUW chapter will have any responsibility in the convention.

CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS

The Celebration of Scholars will be scheduled for October 27, 2021, at SOU. The presidents of SOU and RCC have been invited to attend, Alice Mallory will play the piano for the entertainment of the arriving guests, and Dick and Elaine Sweet will pour wine. COVID guidelines will be strictly followed and masks will be required. If this event is unable to be held, ZOOM meeting may be possible.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ellen Fowler distributed Publication and Social Media Policy/Guidelines and discussed the Website use and content. The next newsletter will be published through MailChimp and will be published soon. The Website is current and members are able receive all branch information from what should be considered the "HUB" of the branch. Ellen stated that it is possible to send "personnel" emails to members plus have a Membership Drop Box to receive information from branch sources.

UPSCALE SALE

Bessie Azari stated that plans for the Upscale are in full swing. Phone calls and letters are being sent to members soliciting support sign-ups and donations. All State COVID mandates will be followed and masks will be available at the door. The final decision to go-ahead will be made mid-September.

INTEREST GROUPS

Chris Donchin, IG Chair, stated that Interest Group sign-ups will be held in person, and links for new members will be created on the website to group descriptions. Chris also noted that all Book Groups are closed to new members, and she is hoping to encourage opening some with a larger cap to encourage participation.

PUBLIC POLICY

Regina Ayers requested newsletter support to encourage new members to the Committee, and will submit an article to the Communications Team in that effort. She noted that the Public Policy forum will be held in January and it will be added to the Program Calendar. Also noted is the **Diversity on Corporate Boards** bill has passed the Oregon legislature, and congratulations to the Public Policy Team which sponsored the measure.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Audibert, Recording Secretary

