

AAUW ASHLAND BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

Present: Catherine Lutes, Paula Wiiken, Bessie Azari, Sylvie Whitman, Jean Conger, Susan Schafer, Kathleen Mackris, Gretchen King, Claudette Paige, Janet Troy, Sonja Friedman, Sandra Coyner, Gail Engblom, Shirley Malcolm, Ellen Fowler, Diana Quirk, Peggy Audibert

Catherine called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and the following items were discussed:

The minutes of the November 23, 2020, Board Meeting were approved by consensus.

FINANCE (attached)

Sonja presented the current Expense statement as follows: **Income:** \$5,392; **Expense:** \$2,071; **Special Projects:** \$431. **Total Balance of Checking/Savings/Vanguard:** \$26,773.08

LAISON REPORTS (attached)

Laison reports have been received from Communications, Interest Groups, Strategic Plan, Scholarship Funding and Membership. Bessie requested a review of the status of the numerous book clubs to determine if the membership would like to increase the number and if so, what type of book clubs would be preferred. Sylvie will create a survey for that purpose.

MEMBERSHIP

Claudette stated that as interested people visit the website, a Contact Us button is available to inquire and receive information regarding membership and who to contact. No orientation meetings have been scheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Paula stated that Ashland AAUW does not have a Historian/Archivist member nor a current location to store archival materials, therefore Paula will research online possibilities. This is especially important for the multiple 5-Star Program awards given to Ashland AAUW.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Catherine discussed the status of the Ashland AAUW Strategic plan. All current categories are on track with the exception of **Economic Security**. An Ad Hoc committee is to be formed to both research local economic security issues and to recommend specific steps to the Board. That committee, consisting of Shirley Malcolm, Paula Wiiken, Sandra Coyner and Peggy Audibert, will be asked to survey the membership through an all-member email to determine what issues are critical to be researched then determine one focus to report.

NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Catherine introduced the following new Board members for the current year: **Shirley Malcom** will chair the Nomination Committee with the help of Catherine Lutes, Gretchen King, and two members to be named later; and Silvie Whitman will chair the Scholarship Campaign in addition to her duties as Interest Group Chair. Congratulations to everyone and welcome.

UPSCALE SALE

Bessie reported that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Spring Upscale Sale has been postponed for the time being. The Fall reservation remains with the Bellvue Grange, and if possible, the date will be determined, and announced in the Vison Calendar. At that time, a Steering Committee of eight members will be created.

LANG MATCH

Jean Conger announced that the Lang Match of \$50,000 has been achieved, and congratulations to everyone! The Scholarship Committee announced that the distribution of the funds is as follows:

SOU	\$17,000	34%
RCC	33,000	66%

NATIONAL AAUW DUES INCREASE

Diana Quirk announced that National AAUW has raised its annual membership dues as follows:

March 2021	\$3.00
March 2022	5.00
March 2023	5.00

Current Ashland AAUW membership dues are \$110 paid the following categories:

National	\$59.00
State	16.00
Local	35.00

As the dues increase would make payable to National \$62.00 by each member, it was determined by discussion then consensus that Ashland AAUW would absorb the expense of \$3.00 per member for 2021, and dues for membership will remain at \$110. As for the succeeding dues increases, any action by the Board will be discussed at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Catherine discussed the gift of AAUW membership to scholarship awardees, and how unsuccessful it was to retain those new members after the first year. Ellen Fowler stated that the category of **Equity Member** is currently what is most relevant for this group: it gives access to the National AAUW website for research and program information, no membership is granted, and is strictly an online relationship. Further information will be sought on this membership class then reported back to the Board at a later meeting.

Paula reported that the online January 23rd Branch meeting, with guest speaker Ashland Mayor Julie Akins, was opened to the public and had 126 participants. Excellent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Audibert, Recording Secretary