

AAUW ASHLAND BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

Present: Catherine Lutes, Paula Wiiken, Bessie Azari, Ellen Fowler, Gretchen King, Gail Engblom, Janet Troy, Kathleen Mackris, Jean Conger, Sandra Coyner, Echo Fields.

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

The March 2021 minutes were approved as corrected.

No Board meeting will be held in May. The summer edition of the Vision will be published mid-May.

The June 2021 Retreat will be held June 26, at location yet to be named.

Sandra Coyner introduced Echo Fields, retired Womens Studies Professor at SOU, who discussed with the Board, the Economic Security Needs for Women in the Rogue Valley due to disasters, pandemics, lack of employment, etc., and what AAUW can focus on to help meet the needs of struggling women and their families. Areas of concern noted were: housing needs, safe communities, homeowners and need for housing, Insurance needs, neighborhood watch, child care.

Some practical suggestions for areas of help include preventing COVID-19 spread, job loss for women during the pandemic and disasters, working from home and child care. Women are inclined to “do it all,” and communication and support from others in similar situations could be offered.

Coordination between organizational aid is virtually non-existent with no one place to go for a full plate of information. Those included are ACCESS, Salvation Army, Jackson County and many others and those searching for help are generally older, have lower education, and have poor English skills. What can be done? Echo recommended that AAUW Ashland put efforts into the Child Care problem and determine what types of child care is needed and available at a cost that women in economic stress can afford. The Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee for Economic Security Needs for Women will discuss what area should receive concentration, what opportunities can be developed from information and sources in the community, then report back to the Board.

FUND RAISING

Bessie and Jean reported that the Scholarship fundraising campaign chaired by Sylvia Whitman was tremendously successful with donations reaching 215% of goal. \$21,470 was donated by 84 branch members with 55% of membership participating. Also noted was that \$821 was donated to AAUW Greatest Needs fund by the membership in 2020.

The Endowment Committee for 2021-22 has been formed with the following members: Elaine Plaisance, Kate Wolf-Pizer, Sylvia Whitman, Ginnie Dugan and Vickie Giffin. Bessie, Funds Chair, announced that both SOU and RCC will be interviewing candidates for Scholarship recommendations and report back to the committee. She also stated that a final agreement for Scholarship awards will be set, reviewed by Sonja Friedman and Ellen Fowler, then signed by AAUW Ashland Endowment committee members.

BOARD POSITIONS

Board Positions to be filled for 2021-2022 are: Finance, Membership, Celebration of Scholars, and Co-President. Searches are ongoing and member suggestions for Catherine and the nominating committee will be happily received.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p,

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Audibert, Recording Secretary