

# **AAUW ASHLAND BOARD MEETING JANUARY 30, 2023 FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**

**PRESENT:** Regina Ayars, Catherine Lutes, Pam Shay, Mary Coombs, Sandra Coyner, Bessie Azari, Liz Murphy, Susan Hollandsworth, Susan Schaefer, Jean Conger, Lisa Verner, Gail Engblom, Peggy Audibert

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

- The minutes from the November 21, 2022, meeting were approved by consensus without changes.
- The January 28 General Meeting, a panel discussion with three newly elected Ashland City Councilors, was pronounced a rousing success. Moderated by the Public Policy committee, over 100 members of the Branch and public attended.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Membership Update Report indicates total membership is now at 145, including one SOU student. A New Member Orientation was held January 8, 2023, at Karen Spence's home. Four new members Board members attended.

## **NON-PROFIT BOARD GUIDELINES**

Sandra Coyner discussed **A Guide to Nonprofit Board Service in Oregon** booklet she had acquired for the Board, and reviewed the enclosed information regarding responsibilities, laws, and duties of a Nonprofit Organization. Each Board member received a copy and was encouraged to read the contents carefully.

## **DEI UPDATE (SEE REPORT)**

A DEI Committee meeting was held January 26 with 4 members attending. Progress was reviewed and the Branch has met the DEI goals of the Five Star Award. Action items were set to continue and improve the DEI program. (See report for details.) At the next General Meeting in February, a small-group exercise will be conducted with members in regard to DEI information.

## **FINANCE//BUDGET UPDATE (SEE REPORT)**

Jean Conger presented a financial spreadsheet detailing a proposal to move some money in order to take advantage of potential earnings. The plan is to transfer \$5,000 from the checking account and \$10,500 out of the Vanguard Money Market into a safe investment fund, yet to be determined, leaving a balance of \$7,944 in checking.

The proposed financial transaction was approved by the Board with consensus.

### **ASHLAND.NEWS ADVERTISING**

Catherine Lutes discussed the expense for advertising in Ashland.news. An annual fee of \$1500 will provide a city-wide presence, is an investment in Branch visibility, and give the public a means of accessing the AAUW website.

No decision was made on this item, and it will be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Bessie Azari stated that a committee is being formed to elicit nominations for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors. Sunny Anderson, Pam Shay and Susan Hollandsworth have agreed to serve, and one additional Board member will be needed on the committee, to secure a volunteer for each position. Job descriptions are listed on the website along with the Branch Organization Chart, with information regarding reporting responsibility.

### **AAUW OREGON STATE CONFERENCE**

Pam Shay reported that AAUW State Conference will be held at the Ashland Hills Hotel April 14-16, 2023, and our Branch will be providing hosting volunteers for the event. Many activities are planned for the three-day event, with a variety of speakers during the Saturday sessions. Membership will be encouraged to participate / volunteer during the weekend activities.

### **BREAKING BARRIERS**

The Ashland nominee, Dee Anne Everson from United Way, was not selected this year. The committee encouraged us to submit her again.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Gail Engblom stated that the VISION will be published this week. She was excited to announce that new member, Eliza Kauder, has volunteered to help re-establish the website with updated information and new construction. Welcome news. Co-Presidents to meet with Eliza.

### **OTHER / NEW**

VALENTINES DAY – The Branch donated \$100 and is co-sponsoring an event hosted by One Billion Rising. It will be held at Wesley Hall in the UMC, 6-8pm Members are encouraged to attend. A flash email will be sent out.

Possible member fundraising campaign was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Audibert for Christine Fernlund, Recording Secretary