

AAUW Ashland

Board of Directors Meeting

March 27, 2023

Present: Peggy Audibert, Regina Ayars, Bessie Azari, Mary Coombs, Jean Conger, Sandra Coyner, Gail Engblom, Christine Fernlund, Susan Hollandsworth, Liz Murphy, Mimi Pippel, Susan Gunn Schaefer, Lisa Verner

The meeting was called to order at 3:32pm.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February meeting were summarized and approved by consensus, without changes.

BRANCH MEETING: Mimi Pippel

The Truth to Power Club from AHS did a fabulous job on Saturday. Regina's suggestion of finding a community service project AAUW could do in the Fall with Truth to Power received unanimous support from the Board. The May Branch Meeting will include roundtable discussions for the members to brainstorm ideas for community projects. The results will be discussed at the June Retreat.

REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP – Susan Schaefer

The Ashland Branch now has 152 members. About 9-12 attended the Branch Meeting this month and were recognized.

Susan reported that National has requested that no renewals be submitted until they can get the software updated and the process defined. She has prepared a flyer for the April Branch Meeting that will provide step-by-step instructions for members to handle their own registrations. The Board agreed to keep both renewal and new member registration forms on the website for the time being.

PUBLIC POLICY: Lisa Verner

Lisa was approached the Ashland School Board regarding a public forum for the four candidates who will appear on the May ballot. Regina and Lisa have planned a panel for April 23rd, 2-4pm in the AMS library.

PUBLICITY: Catherine Lutes

BROCHURE: A team, comprised of Jean Conger, Ginny Dugan, Catherine Lutes, Mimi Pippel, and Elaine Plaisance, created a new, color brochure for the Ashland Branch. Mimi had 500 copies printed. It will be distributed at the April Branch Meeting.

ADVERTISING –

- ASHLAND.NEWS – tabled until April Board Meeting

FINANCES: Jean Conger

1. Jean handed out the updated YTD budget.
2. There will be several unbudgeted expenses next month: \$350 for the new brochure (Mimi), expenses for the April Branch Meeting (Regina), two Past President Pins (Mimi), and wages for SOU student to clean up the member directory (Jean).

STRATEGIC PLAN: Will be updated at the April Board Meeting and reviewed during the June Retreat

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: Regina Ayars

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A member activity is planned for the April Branch Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: Gail Engblom

FACEBOOK – Alice Mallory is continuing in a temporary capacity. We need someone to step up as Facebook Coordinator

TWITTER –

VISION – Gail is waiting for one more item and the newsletter is good to go.

WEBSITE –Eliza Kauder is working on the website, but has been busy outside of AAUW. In addition, some of the clean-up is as old as 2019. It is a massive task. Regina and Catherine will meet with Eliza to discuss the workload.

DIRECTORY – Updates to the directory are labor intensive and three years out of date. The Branch no longer receives a file format that is easily converted for posting on the webpage.

Jean Conger agreed to work with SOU to identify a student who could take on the task of updating the directory – and perhaps help us simplify the process and find workarounds for the software issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUNDS: Bessie Azari

Bessie found that most donations occur with membership renewals (how will that change with the new electronic process?) and at the end of the year.

Ashland has lost its 5-Star rating because we no longer qualify for two financial reasons:

- Fund Raising must increase 15% each year, and
- The number of Legacy Members must double each year. We currently have one, but she no longer lives in Ashland.

There are only 714 Legacy Members in the US, 63 of those reside in Oregon.

The question is: Does Ashland want to meet the financial requirements in order to regain our 5-Star rating? During the June Retreat, the board will discuss the advantage(s) of retaining 5-star status.

NOMINATIONS: The team this year, Bessie Azari, Susan Hollandsworth, Mimi Pippel, Pam Shay, and Sunny Anderson, have completed the roster for next FY. The slate will be shared with the membership at the April Branch Meeting.

Fundraising Chair – The purpose and job description for a fundraising chair will be discussed at the retreat in June.

AWARDS: Eight of our members will be recognized at the State Convention: Gail Engblom, Marilyn Hawkins, Susan Hollandsworth, Catherine Lutes, Alice Mallory, Public Policy Team, Susan Schaefer, and Elaine Sweet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Fernlund

NEXT MEETINGS:

State Convention – April 14 - 16

Branch – April 22

Board -- April 24