AAUW Ashland Board Meeting

September 25, 2023

Present: Regina Ayars, Diane Toth, Susan Hollandsworth, Shannon Stuver, Gail Engblom, Susan Schaefer,

Bessie Azari, Peggy Audibert, Susan Jain, Sandra Coyner, Beth Rubin, Lisa Verner

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. by Regina Ayars.

BRANCH MEETING DEBRIEF:

* Sandra Coyner commented that the meeting was AAUW at it’s finest and there was general agreement.
* Bessie Azari expressed great appreciation for the presentation on the AHS ASPIRE program by Jennifer Marsden from AHS and suggested thank you notes be sent to the meeting guest speakers.
* ACTION: Beth Rubin will send out thank you notes to the speakers after the meeting.
* The Branch meeting program schedule was discussed. Many expressed appreciation for having mentoring opportunities described and wondered if there might be a way to add more to the schedule.
* ACTION: Beth and Regina will meet to discuss options for achieving this. Regina will write an article for Community Connections in the Vision to share information with members.
* Interest Groups: There was good sign up for some of the Interest Groups, especially the Movie Night and Friendship Circles. The Friendship Circles were described for those who were unaware of how they worked. Peggy Audibert will be attending Board meetings and sending a report of Board activity to the Interest Group Coordinators so that they can share information with their members.
* Raffle Update: Proceeds from the Sept. mini raffle were $407.00. The membership seemed to enjoy but it was discussed that we possibly will not hold raffles every month in order to keep up the enthusiasm for the event. Raffle themes for future meetings will be described by Diane at the Oct. Board meeting and other suggestions will be welcomed. October’s theme is “Upscale Baked Goods”.

BUDGET:

* Christine submitted a report on the budget for Board members to use while discussing the budget. There is a shortfall between Income and Expenses of approximately $4300.00.
* She offered three potential solutions: Use all, or a portion of the remaining proceeds from the Upscale Sale($3059). Use RCU checking acct funds to apply to the budget. Cut expenses.
* There was a wide-ranging discussion on many different options for balancing the budget including cutting or eliminating some line items and the viability of holding suggested fundraisers.
* It was decided that the budget will be moved to the October agenda.
* ACTION: Regina will meet with Christine Fernlund to discuss the budget.

COMMUNICATIONS:

* Gail would like to find a third person to help with the communication responsibilities. Bessie offered to help find someone to fill that position. Board members are encouraged to check their areas of the website and let Chris Licata know if anything requires attention.
* Alice Mallory will continue to manage the AAUW Facebook page.

Dues and Membership:

* At this point in time there are 114 renewals, 31 not yet renewed, and 10 that are on a different renewal schedule or are lifetime members.
* Gail stated that a Flash was sent to members who haven’t renewed.
* Susan Schaefer said that it has been frustrating trying to get responses to email. She prefers snail mail although it is too late for this year. Phone calls are suggested at this point.
* ACTION: Shannon, Susan, and Regina will divide up and contact the non renewed members by phone.
* A question was raised about surveying the members via Survey Monkey regarding volunteer opportunities in order to increase participation.
* ACTION: Susan will follow up with Chris Licata regarding the survey.
* Sandra suggested that next year’s membership campaign be a future Board meeting agenda item.

Public Policy:

* No new updates.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES:

* There is no definite news yet regarding the Pickleball Tournament, Regina will be contacting them. Catherine is still awaiting a return call regarding the possibility of a Women Winemakers event in May.

CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS:

* The COS planning is going well according to Gretchen King.
* Peggy Audibert requests more food and wine donations for the COS.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Regina Ayars

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Toth

Recording Secretary