AAUW ASHLAND BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2021

Present: Regina Ayars, Christine Fernlund, Diane Toth, Gail Engblom, Susan Schaefer, Bessie Azari, Peggy Audibert, Susan Jain, Sandra Coyner, Beth Rubin, Lisa Verner

Meeting was called to order by Regina Ayars at 4:00 p.m.

BRANCH MEETING DEBRIEF:

* Acknowledgement was made by Bessie for the excellent program by Irving Lubliner and also for Wanda Chin’s presentation about the importance of funding our scholarships.
* The mini-raffle was not as well received at the October meeting, possibly due to baked items not being as popular and last minute request for an eFlash reminder not being sent. Raffle proceeds were $205.
  + ACTION: Diane will send an eFlash reminder about raffle to Gail and Penny before each meeting.

CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS: Wanda Chin

* Wanda Chin was in attendance to review the 2023 Scholarship Report. She explained some of the key points of how the endowments function and answered questions.
* It was suggested that the membership would benefit from this information and also information on the advantages of donating from IRAs. Possibly a link could be placed on the webpage to access this information.
* A discussion was held on the advantages of extending the current Scholarship campaign until January 31, 2024.
* A Scholarship campaign chairperson with marketing skills would be helpful for the next campaign.
  + ACTION: Wanda Chin agreed to have an article written for the December Vision. Include a link on the webpage. Extend the Scholarship campaign until January 31, 2024.
  + Recruit a Scholarship chairperson with some marketing skills to help guide the Scholarship Campaign.

BUDGET: Christine Fernlund

* After examining the budget, Christine feels that it could be approved, knowing that some of the projected income could change.
* There are the issues of having the new AHS scholarship which will require some funding and the uncertainties of whether our fundraising will be able accomplish the projected amounts of income. Those items will be left in the budget for the time being.
* A discussion was had about the importance of trying to maintain a sustainable budget and taking this issue to the membership for their opinions. Possibly address this issue in the planned membership survey.
  + The 2023-2024 Budget was approved by the Board, with 3 abstentions.
  + Susan Jain and Marilyn Hawkins are working on the membership survey.

COMMUNICATIONS: Gail Engblom

* Chris Licata’s term was for 9 months and a replacement will need to be found for that position.
* Board members are reminded to let her know if they see any issues with their areas on website.
* Other remaining issues with the website include finding the ByLaws and printing the directory.
  + ACTION: Place an ad in the Vision for a Webmaster to replace Chris Licata when her term ends.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP: Susan Schaefer and Susan Jain

* Current membership numbers are 128, with an additional 9 future members. 23 members in grace period, which expires on 10/31.
* Susan Schaefer reports that there are still some issues with accessing our member database on the National website. Hopefully there will be an update on the progress with resolving this issue at the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC POLICY: Lisa Verner

* A report was sent to Board members prior to the meeting to review.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES: Regina Ayars

* There is still no definite information on the possibility of the Pickleball Tournament or Women Winemakers’ Event. They will remain a possibility for Spring 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024:

* Due to time constraints the Strategic Plan 2024 discussion will be moved to the November meeting agenda.

Meeting Adjourned by Regina Ayars at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Toth, Recording Secretary