JANUARY AAUW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2024

Present: Regina Ayars, Christine Fernlund, Diane Toth, Shannon Stuver, Gail Engblom, Bessie Azari,

Peggy Audibert, Susan Jain, Beth Rubin, Lisa Verner, Penny Little, Susan Hollandsworth

Meeting was called to order and the November meeting minutes were approved. Regina addressed the issue of the upcoming vote at AAUW national regarding open membership for the organization. A decision was made to have an article for the April Vision to remind the members of the issue and encourage them to vote.

DEBRIEF JANUARY MEETING:

* It was agreed that it was an excellent presentation by guest speaker Rep. Pam Marsh regarding the childcare situation in Oregon and upcoming legislation to address childcare needs.

BUDGET: Christine Fernlund and Gail Engblom

* Christine and Gail are working on the transition of Gail to the Financial Officer role. There are still some issues that need to be resolved regarding website access.
* Christine reviewed the budget operating expenses and explained that while some were low, some mission related expenses exceeded the budgeted amount and should be reviewed to determine why.
* Action: Regina will assure that next year’s COS chair is aware of budget constraints and the availability of free or lower cost options for dish and glassware rental, etc.
* Bessie thanked Christine for her handling of a large donation to the Endowment fund in December.
* Gail Engblom was elected as the Financial Chair by the Board.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Jean Conger and Erin Finklea

* The campaign has exceeded the $10,000 goal. Jean Conger assisted with the campaign. A campaign chair will be needed for the next scholarship campaign and Regina mentioned that she may have a possible resource.
* Bessie has offered to review the website for accuracy of job descriptions. Open positions will be announced in the April Vision.
* Also discussed were the branch contributions to the National Funds, with a historical accounting of contributions for the past few years. 2023 is much lower than previous years although Bessie is concerned about the inaccuracies that she finds in some reports. Our number of named honorees is based on contributions for the year and it looks like we will qualify for 4. These will be selected at the March Board meeting. (Addendum: After the Board meeting Bessie received a list of donations with corrections and additions, including one major donation, and notified the Board. This brings the total to $4228.50 and qualifies the branch for 8 Named Honorees.)
* Action: Board will discuss whether we should make a contribution to National Funds at the end of the year.
* Another scholarship issue is whether we might consider providing a scholarship to a student in the OHSU Nursing Program at SOU. It was agreed to table this idea until next year.

MEMBERSHIP: Susan Jain

* There is now a membership committee and they are working on ideas such as determining whether there should be a new member briefing, new member social event, and other ideas for attracting new members. An accurate current member list is still needed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Penny Little

* Gail and Penny have been training Beth Rubin for her role in communications. Since Beth agreed to assume the role early and has other commitments for the next few months, Gail will continue to provide backup for her.
* Christine Fernlund is still working on gaining access to the website to assume role of Webmaster.
* Regina showed examples of two service organizations ads which were placed in Ashland.news and wondered if we should consider this. Due to the expense it was decided not to pursue this at this time and it was pointed out that AAUW Ashland does get mentioned when they do an article about a public speaker at our meetings and the Great Ideas series.

DEI:

* Diane updated that at the current time we have raised $1380 of the funds for the $2500 AHS scholarship,which puts us at 53%. There are hopes that the Feb, Mar, and May raffles and donations will enable us to reach the $2500 goal. The planned raffle categories will be Books, Small Gardening Décor, Tools, and Potted Plants, and Wine. Peggy Audibert will be able to donate wine for the May raffle from inventory remaining after the COS.

FUNDRAISING:

* Susan Jain provided some information about a proposed scholarship fundraiser at the Langford Gallery in Phoenix, OR. Regina will pursue this opportunity.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Regina mentioned the need for a SWOT sometime in the near future. It was agreed that we should try to get member survey results first, and possibly be able to have the SWOT meeting at the annual retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by Diane Toth