AAUW MARCH BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2024

Present: Regina Ayars, Gail Engblom, Diane Toth, Susan Hollandsworth, Shannon Stuver, Penny Little, Susan Gunn Schaefer, Bessie Azari, Peggy Audibert, Sandra Coyner, Beth Rubin, Lisa Verner, Christine Fernlund

The meeting was opened by Regina at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES:

* The minutes of the February 2024 meeting were approved by all.

BRANCH MEETING DEBRIEF: All

* There were several favorable comments regarding the presentation by Denise Crosby on United for Ukraine Rogue Valley and the work that is being done by them. All appreciated her focus on the women and their various professions, skills, and aspirations.
* It also appeared that the membership enjoyed the cards placed at each seat highlighting an important woman in history and sharing their particular card with the other members.
* Raffle:
  + The raffle proceeds were $155. Not as many tickets were sold as at previous raffles and there were fewer donations. The next planned raffle is a wine raffle in May, exact details to be determined.

NEWCOMERS SOCIAL: All

* The social was well attended by Board members and new members and it was a fun event. Karen Spence was a gracious host and it was agreed that this tradition should continue.
* The icebreaker from Regina was fun and successful.
* Two of our new members, Christine Westland and Katrina Williams, agreed to be the nominations for Members at Large for next year.

OPEN MEMBERSHIP: Regina

* A vote is being held on April 3rd for all AAUW members to decide if there should be a change in the Bi-Laws to no longer require a 2 or 4 year higher education degree to become a member of AAUW.
* The Oregon State chapter along with other states have endorsed this change.
* There was a discussion among the board members present regarding this and since there wasn’t consensus on the issue Regina proposed that the Board should not officially endorse the change.
* For the vote to be valid a 2/3 membership participation is required. If it does not pass the local branch still has the option of making the change if desired by the membership.

BUDGET: Gail

* There are no significant changes in the budget.
* To date there is $1989 in the Ashland High School Scholarship fund.
* “In Kind” donations are not accounted for in the budget and will be accounted for with footnotes in the future.

NOMINEES, FLORENCE SCHNEIDER, NAMED HONOREES: Bessie

* There are still openings for Program Chair, President or Co-President, Interest Group Chair and Bessie would like to see a Fundraising Chair also.
* Named Honorees were selected and the committee is meeting soon to select the Florence Schneider Award recipient. These will be announced at the April general meeting.

WEBSITE: Christine

* It is going well but there has been difficulty with placing a calendar on the site. For now the important dates can be provided as a list.
* Everyone is encouraged to check the website and send any edits to Christine.

FUNDRAISING: Regina

* Gallery Event at the Langford Gallery in Phoenix, April 21, 2024. Donations to fund the AHS scholarship will be accepted at the door. There will be a table with brochures and refreshments available and an artists panel with some of the featured artists.
* Food and beverages will be donated by the Board.
* Action: Regina spoke with Susan Jain post-meeting and she confirmed that we do need event insurance for this event. Gail will work with Susan J to get estimates on cost.
* A discussion was had about possibly having a silent auction at the April 27th meeting of a piece of artwork from the WomanKind Exhibition. This is to be determined in the near future.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

* The next Board meeting is on June 3 , which has been rescheduled from May 27, Memorial Day. It will be in our usual upstairs meeting space.
* Saturday, June 22, is the annual Board Retreat in the Walker Hall downstairs.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by Diane Toth