

AAUW Ashland Board Meeting
October 28, 2024

Present: Regina Ayars, Bessie Azari, Barbara Cervone, Gail Engblom, Susan Hollandsworth, Susan Schaefer, Lisa Verner, Christine Westlund, Sandra Coyner, Leslie Nilson, Susan Jain
Absent: Penny Little, Diane Toth

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm by Regina.

Guest, **Fran Adams**, scholarship campaign fundraising chair, reported that approximately \$5,000 has been raised so far from the mail in campaign. October Art 4 Scholars contributor, Vicky Giffin helped raise \$700 to \$800 for scholarships.

Pam Shay's Christmas cards will be featured at the November branch meeting. Katherine Lang will be featured in January. Other artists will present their art and crafts at the Christmas party, at the March branch meeting and the April branch meeting. Thanks to Fran and her team.

Guests, **Sylvie Whitman and Cathy Ledford** reported that the Christmas party will be held at the Bellview Grange on December 7 from 10am-2pm. We have rented the Grange from 9-2:30. The party is for members only and the event will be a holiday brunch potluck.

Board agenda:

- The September minutes were approved.
- Board members enjoyed and appreciated the speakers at the October Branch meeting on the topic of feminism.
- The Celebration of Scholars on October 16 in the RRR at SOU had a more relaxed open house format. Guests got food and drinks as they arrived and next year, could be encouraged to get their refreshments right away. Conversations seemed comfortable and guests appreciated assigned tables for seating. The earlier start time was helpful.
- The candidate forum was well received. It was open to the public, we had good press and we approve of the partnership with Ashland News.

- Gail gave a budget report. All current bills including meeting room rental and insurance have been paid. Our bottom line shortfall is currently \$2,100. The COS event costs were within budget at \$607.
- We discussed the topic of publicizing our branch programs, such as Betty La Duke who will be our guest in November. Board members feel that our outreach is good, but Regina will ask Marilyn Hawkins to announce our programs at the “Big Ideas” meetings.
- Regina is managing the website. If the webmaster’s fees this year exceed \$1000, she will cover the overage. Regina is committed to the success of our website.
- Susan Jain shared an email complaint from the food services at SOU regarding our use of the kitchen without prior approval at our COS event. She also presented a concern from a member about inappropriate discourse on emails within an interest group. We will discuss this as an agenda item next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Bessie Azari