

AAUW Board Meeting  
September 30, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 4p.m. by Susan Jain

Christine Fernlund was present at the beginning of the meeting to discuss an issue of concern for her related to some recent events. She expressed that sometimes it seems that decisions are made regarding non-urgent issues that can have unexpected ramifications and suggested that better communication and a more transparent process would be beneficial. The Board appreciated and thanked her for her input and agreed that better communication and clarity are needed and that it merits more attention from the Board. Christine thanked the Board and left the meeting.

August Meeting Minutes:

- Bessie corrected the August minutes to indicate that rather than the AHS Scholarship letter being included with the October SOU/RCC fundraising letter, it will be sent in a separate mailing in 2025. This letter will be drafted by the AHS Scholarship Committee.
- These changes were approved without objection.

Debrief Branch Meeting:

- Bessie expressed that she was very happy with the meeting and noted that members were enthusiastic. The space was comfortable but may require a couple of more tables to be set up.
- Susan Schaefer mentioned that viewing the seated panel members was difficult from the back of the room.
  - Action: Investigate obtaining some raised stools for the panel members. Lisa and Gail stated that they may have some stools to loan.
- The SOU Scholarship fundraiser at the meeting raised over \$500.
- The SOU Honors College panel discussion was informative and very well received.

Budget Forecast 2024-2025: Gail Engblom

- Insurance is paid and it includes liability coverage.
- Susan suggested that the COS expenses may need to be increased.
- A discussion was held about the need for some type of fundraising effort for branch operating expenses. No decisions were made regarding this issue at this time.
- The budget with changes was approved without objection.

Scholarship Campaigns: Regina Ayars

- RCC/SOU Scholarship Campaign: Art4Scholars will continue at Branch meetings in 2024. Fundraising letter will be mailed in October 2024.

- AHS Scholarship: There is currently approximately \$900 available. Two fundraisers will be held: a used book sale at the Feb 2025 meeting and a wine raffle in the Spring 2025. A fundraising letter will also be sent in 2025.
- Susan and Fran are drafting a statement regarding our scholarship campaigns to educate and enlighten the public about our mission.

Candidates Forum: Lisa Verner

- The Candidates Forum is coming together and is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters, AAUW Ashland, and the Ashland News.
- It is being held on Sunday October 13, 2024, at the AHS theater.
- Regina is the M.C. and the event will be recorded and available to view on our website. (post board meeting – no recording )

Engagement Activities: Susan Jain

- Holiday Party: There are two co chairs for the event and no other details yet.
- Celebration of Scholars: Susan and the Membership Committee have taken on the organizing of the COS. There is a format change from previous years. It will be at SOU and consist of a chance to mingle for a short time with appetizers and beverages followed by the more formal part of the agenda, approximately 1 ½ hours in total. There will be no alcohol served due to insurance, expense, and server issues. Elaine Sweet is handling the food and will be requesting donations of appetizers from members.
- There was some discussion about changing the format and Susan Hollandsworth suggested seeing how this event goes and then reevaluating for the future if needed.
- A strong membership turnout for the event is hoped for and needed.
- The Florence Schneider Award will be given at the October branch meeting.

Committee Updates:

- Interest Groups: There was robust sign up at the branch meeting and Susan Schaefer has sent group updates to the website.
- Membership: Current membership is 113 members.
- Communications: There is a new webmaster and the website is very current and informative.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40p.m.

Submitted by Diane Toth