

## AAUW ASHLAND BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2025, 4 p.m.

Present: Regina Ayars, Susan Jain(Chair) Gail Engblom, Diane Toth, Leslie Nilson, Christine Westland, Penny Little, Susan Schaefer, Lisa Verner, Carryl Breon

March Meeting minutes approved.

### DEBRIEF APRIL BRANCH MEETING: All

- Members appreciated the short tribute to Gretchen King regarding her many contributions to Dunn House. Donated sheets can still be brought to the May Branch meeting and Adrienne Simmons will take them to Dunn House.

### TABLE DISCUSSION FEEDBACK: Leslie Nilson

- Leslie distributed the results of the table exercise where ideas were prioritized for the possible activities that were most important to members.
- There was a discussion about having a new member social in the coming year since there are several new members now.
- There was some agreement that early in the coming year might make sense, possibly August or September.
- No decision has been made and Carryl Breon was at the meeting and offered the possibility of hosting the event.
- Leslie suggested promoting the idea of having committees formed to help in different areas. This might include membership, fundraising, Celebration of Scholars, Christmas Party, and hospitality. This could be publicized and would encourage members to become more active in the organization without having to take on leadership positions.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Regina Ayars (for Bessie Azari)

- Fundraising Chair and Financial Officer positions are still open.
- Celebration of Scholars still needs a Chair. There is a simplified project plan for the event. Location Rogue River Room, date TBD in October.
- There will be a call for open positions at the May Branch meeting.

### NATIONAL UPDATES: Regina Ayars (for Bessie Azari)

- There are two new funds, Public Policy and Defending Higher Education.
- These will eventually be on the National website for donations.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS: Gail Engblom

- There is currently \$34,600 in all of the different AAUW accounts. Funds from the Money Market Account will be used to balance the budget for 2024-2025 if necessary and hopefully we will generate more income from coming events later this summer and fall.
- There are over \$4000 in donations for this year's Ashland High School scholarship.

#### ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP: Susan and Regina

- Susan gave an update on the selection process for the scholarship candidates. They anticipate being able to award two scholarships of \$2000 each. The top two candidates have been selected although this may change depending on other possible awards coming to those students in the next few weeks.
- Barbara Cervone did an excellent job, through her work at the HS, of helping to bring in more applicants for this year's scholarship.
- Fundraising for the scholarship continues until May 1.

#### NCCWSL SPONSORSHIP REQUEST: Regina Ayars

- Regina received a request from Wanda Chin about sponsoring a student to attend the NCCWSL conference in Washington D.C. We have not done this for the past couple of years for budgetary reasons.
- It is too late for this year but Gail suggested considering adding this to the budget for next year.

#### MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND MISSION FUNDRAISING: Susan Jain

- There are two upcoming events scheduled for Branch mission fundraising:
- A gallery exhibition at the Langford Gallery in Phoenix, OR, featuring the work of Irene Kai. She will speak and donations will be accepted and refreshments will be available. June 8, 2025, 3 p.m.
- Nov.5, 2025, "Bus Stop" at the Camelot Theater in Talent, OR. Ashland Branch will be buying out the theater for that evening's performance and

selling the tickets. The Medford Branch has done this in the past and Susan will reach out to them for information on their process for doing this.

- A suggestion has also been made to include a silent auction at the Christmas Party as a means to raise mission-related funds. The proposed Christmas Party date is December 7, 2025, 4-6 p.m., at the Grange.
- Regina will book the RRR for the COS, the church for the Board Retreat on 6/21 and the Grange for the Christmas Party on 12/7.

#### STATE CONFERENCE: Regina Ayars

- No updates since the Branch meeting last Saturday.
- The hotel is sold out at this time.

#### JUNE BOARD RETREAT: Regina Ayars

- A date has been set for June 21, 2025, 10 a.m.-1p.m. Please arrive early so that meeting can start promptly at 10.
- It will be a lunch potluck.

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Susan S. will be leaving Interest Group position.
- A few Interest Groups are ending for various reasons. When this happens the Chair should notify members of the group and notify Penny for the Vision.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Diane Toth