

**AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch
Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 13, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted virtually using the Zoom platform and called to order at 2:00 by President Donna Zimmerman. In attendance: Susan Brodie, Peggy Hammersmith, Mary Lynn Korch, Jane Miller, Ginny Sherr, Stacey Spaulding and Donna Zimmerman. Absent: Hayden Pigott, Diane Steen, Gail Welde and Mary Ann Travis.

SECRETARY: There were no corrections to the December 9, 2020 board meeting minutes. The December Board Meeting minutes were accepted.

TREASURER:

- \$1,738.00 was raised during the December fundraiser.
- \$6,134.93 of the Community Projects Fund is restricted to scholarships.
- Ginny will send updated financial spreadsheets to board members. The Distributions to Operating Budget is okay.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Mary attended the state membership meeting. It was suggested to subscribe to Equity Express, the monthly newsletter for events and webinars of the Equity Network, National's new project. Mary has subscribed.
- Colorado AAUW President Paula Munger wants branches to prepare for a Diversity Officer Position, using AAUW national's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Toolkit. Linda Davies from Longmont shared information about a YMCA program that their branch participated in "Overcoming Unconscious Bias" presented by Debbie Pope from YWCA of Boulder.
- Paula also described a proposed 3-year pilot plan to pay state and national dues to branches' scholarship recipients as a way to increase membership. The membership would be awarded regardless of whether the recipient's college has an AAUW branch.
- Voting on the proposed changes to AAUW National bylaws and Public Policy Priorities starts April 7.

PROGRAM:

- Saturday, February 6th is Public Policy Day. The January issue of Connects included a registration link.
- Thurs Feb 11th – branch Happy Hour via Zoom from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- March 13, 1:00 – Branch meeting via Zoom. Susan is looking for an Equity Network member, possibly Shannon Wolfe, to describe that initiative
- Equal Pay Day is March 31, 2021.
- April 23rd – State Board Meeting via Zoom
- April 24th 9:00a.m. - State AAUW Conference. The theme is Women as Catalysts for Change. The COVID19 Pandemic will be a focus.

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- Susan would like to get Phil Weiser, Colorado's Attorney General, as a keynote speaker for the State Conference.

COMMUNICATION:

- January 25th is the due date for articles for TWIGS

AAUW Funds:

- No update this month.

PUBLIC POLICY:

- Registration links are available from AAUW Colorado in the Connects e-newsletter. There is no charge to attend because the conference is on Zoom.
- TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year – Gitanjali Rao – a student at the STEM school in Highlands Ranch – is going to receive a plaque from AAUW Colorado to acknowledge her achievement.
- Stacey will contact Hayden about sending an email blast on the Monday before Public Policy Day on Friday, Feb. 6th.

INTEREST GROUPS:

- No update this month.

BOOK BAGS:

- No update this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jane drafted a Bereavement policy. Board members reviewed it and accepted it as written. Donna will put the new policy into the branch Operating Procedures and send that to the board members.
- Littleton-South Metro succession plan. Donna wrote a short article in the December TWIGS. Donna challenged board members to look at the branch roster and identify one member who might be, either a good candidate for their position or possibly interested in their position (whether their term is up this spring or next) and bring that name to next month's board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Donna contacted principals of Littleton High School (LHS) and Sheridan High School (SHS). Dr. Oaks of LHS is excited to resume scholarships for two girls graduating from their STEM program. Donna hasn't heard yet from Principal German Echevarria of Sheridan.
- Board members discussed whether we should give scholarships to high school students or college students. The argument in favor of giving to college students is that older college students might be more inclined than 18-year-old high school girls to participate with our branch or to join the Equity Network since it is not associated with a particular branch. Arguments in favor of giving to local high school girls: Branch members want to support local educational institutions; the relationships we

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have been building with LHS, (SHS) and Arapahoe Community College (ACC) are as valuable as the scholarships themselves and are valuable for the long term. Also, we can rely on high school administration to select the recipients; members noted the complexity of having the branch create and manage an application process for college applicants.

- Board members discussed the amount of money we want to allocate to the 2021 scholarships. Ginny noted that if we give all \$5,000 away this school year, we won't have any to carry over to 2022. With the current COVID restrictions on gatherings and uncertainty about how long those restrictions might last, our ability to do fundraising events this year is uncertain. Susan noted that the honor of receiving a scholarship, and the ability to include that on a girl's resume, is more important than the amount of the scholarship. Mary moved that the branch set the 2021 scholarship target at \$3,000 and hold \$2,000 in reserve for the future. Ginny seconded. The board approved the motion unanimously.
- The board discussed the plan to provide two \$500 scholarships to SHS students for attendance specifically at ACC. Peggy noted that the type of student who attends Sheridan could benefit from receiving some direction and the stipulation will help motivate them to attend a local college. Donna noted that Sheridan students typically have fewer resources so might be more likely to start college at a community college and then move to a 4-year school later. Jane explained that this stipulation was initially to help the branch build a relationship with ACC. Peggy noted that Sheridan already sends some of their students to classes at ACC, which means there already is a relationship between these two schools. Jane moved that for 2021 the branch grant two \$1,000 scholarships for STEM-graduating girls from Littleton H.S. and two \$500 scholarships for Sheridan H.S. girls enrolling at ACC. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mary asked to whom does the branch make out the scholarship check. Ginny said that previous years' checks were made out to Littleton High School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next board meeting will be February 10, 2:00 – 3:30 pm using Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary