

**AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
November 11, 2020**

**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, Hayden Pigott, Ginny Sherr, Stacey Spaulding, Diane Steen (joining at 3:15) and Donna Zimmerman. Absent: Gail Welde and Mary Ann Travis.

**SECRETARY:** There were no corrections to the minutes of the October 7, 2020 board meeting. The October Board Meeting minutes were accepted.

**TREASURER:**

- There are no changes to the Balance Sheet.
- Budgeted items: \$200 in the Programs line will be added to the 10/31/2020 column to reach the total of \$2,657 which is what was budgeted.
- There are no changes to the Income Statement.
- The speaker fee for the November meeting is \$250. After some discussion, the budgeted amount of \$200 for Programs will remain as is and will reflect a \$50 overage in that line-item as a result of paying the program speaker. Susan purchased three books for “door prizes” at that meeting. The cost of the books will be paid from the amount budgeted for Hospitality.
- The \$400 for the Hear My Voice December program has been paid but still has not cleared the bank.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- The State AAUW Membership Chairwoman suggested we give memberships to last year’s scholarship recipients. Mary Lynn told her that we didn’t award scholarships last year because of COVID and the resulting closures of our local high schools.
- We have reached 100% member renewal.
- Mary Lynn learned that Douglas County AAUW is working with the Arapahoe Community College (ACC) Castle Rock campus on scholarships and programs. Donna said she has previously talked with the Castle Rock branch about our branch’s relationship with the Littleton ACC campus. Donna doesn’t think this creates a conflict.

**PROGRAM:**

- 34 people have registered for the November 14<sup>th</sup> branch program on mindfulness in the time of pandemic. Dr. Dena Samuels is the speaker. Then Bethany Orozco will speak for a few minutes about EnCorps – an initiative to train professionals working in STEM fields to be teachers or tutors.
- The registration link for the December *Hear My Voice* program will be emailed soon. An announcement was placed in the State AAUW publication – *Connects*. Cat Jensen, Guest Services Specialist of the Colorado Women’s History Museum, will

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participate in the post-video discussion. She'll provide a backup in case she returns to onsite work. Ginny will take checks for donations.

- We usually don't have a January branch meeting, but Donna is looking into showing the RBG movie.
- Board members discussed having a social hour for branch members to connect during the holidays. It will be Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:00 – 5:00. People can wear holiday attire and make holiday backgrounds for the Zoom call. Susan will email an invitation to members before Thanksgiving.
- Possible future program ideas – Women of Color – especially as Kamala Harris is the US VP Elect.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

- November 23 is the TWIGS deadline. Interest Group information will be downsized, but the Interest Group Calendar with leaders' contact information will remain in the "Print Section" for interested members to use. Donna will create a shorter version of the December 12<sup>th</sup> Hear My Voice branch program and Hayden will include the registration link. Stacey will prepare a reminder about the February Public Policy Day.
- Mary Lynn noted that we should put an article in TWIGS about the increase in AAUW national member dues. Donna suggested republishing Julia Brown's letter. Mary will check with Colorado's State Chairwomen, Paula – to see if State dues are increasing or not.

### **AAUW Funds:**

- Our branch is #2 in Colorado for donations to AAUW National. From Jan 1, 2020 to Oct 31, 2020 we contributed \$3,383.76. This is the highest gross amount in the state and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by contribution per member (32.33).

### **PUBLIC POLICY:**

- Full information about Public Policy Day is on the state AAUW website.

### **INTEREST GROUPS:**

- No report this month.

### **BOOK BAGS:**

- Sheridan Elementary school was on the verge of returning to in-person learning, but then reverted to online so there will be no book bags until further notice.

### **OLD BUSINESS: Strategic Plan**

- The Board reviewed Section 3 - Leadership. The goals remain the same. We should have someone from AAUW National talk to our membership about the Equity Network whose purpose is to get younger women involved in the organization. Susan will see about a program for the March 2021 branch meeting.
- The Board reviewed Section 4 – Governance. The goals remain the same. Donna noted that attendance at our Zoom branch meetings is about the same as at our in-

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person meetings last year. Attendance at State and regional programs has increased a lot by hosting on Zoom because travel is not required.

- The Board could do a survey of members regarding attendance at branch meetings. We could ask about members' comfort using Zoom.
- Donna will revise the Strategic Plan. The Board will review it for edits at the December meeting. Then Donna will post it on our website and provide a link for member access in the January TWIGS.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Board members discussed creating a branch policy regarding bereavement announcements when members lose loved ones. Currently, announcements have gone through email to all members, or to a select few members or been in TWIGS or not at all. Announcements are irregular based on whether the member – or a member's friend – reached out to any Board member. It is challenging for a Board member to guess which members knew the grieving member. Some members want bereavement notices and others don't. A member might feel slighted if a bereavement announcement is not published. Policy options include not to make announcements at all through any media, or publish in TWIGS with a disclaimer "Member X requested us to publish an announcement that Y has passed.
- Board members agreed about the need to decide on and create a policy. The policy should be the same for whoever has died – spouse, child, parent. Operating Policies are to guide the Board only and don't require approval by the membership.
- LSM Succession Planning – We need to publish information about the Board positions and ask members who are interested in holding a position to contact us.
- Mary Lynn will email the 2020-2021 membership list to members in January.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The next board meeting will be December 9, 2:00 – 3:30 pm using Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary