

AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch and Annual Business Meeting

April 10, 2021

The spring AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch Annual Meeting was held online on April 10, 2021 using Zoom. President Donna Zimmerman opened the business meeting at 2:00 pm, following the April program, a talk by local author Andrea Bobotis. Twenty-nine members were present so a quorum (at least 15% of the membership) was established.

Bylaws: Donna reminded members that proposed changes to the bylaws were emailed to the membership on March 25, 2021 for their review. Proposed changes clean up some language, eliminate redundancies, and align the bylaws with other documents. Mary Lynn Korch moved that the branch accept the changes as specified in the revised bylaws. Jill Smith seconded the motion. Donna called for a voice vote. The revised bylaws were approved by the membership unanimously.

Branch Officers: Donna thanked Barb McDaniel for chairing the Nominating Committee. Donna Zimmerman is running for a second 2-year term as branch President. Hayden Pigott is running for a second term as Communications Director. At this time, no one has agreed to serve as Program Vice President (VP). Barb McDaniel presented the slate of nominees to the membership. Donna asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the two offices. There were none. Donna called for a voice vote for accepting the slate of officers. The members present voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers.

Donna explained that the Program VP job description allows for a committee to assist the Program VP. Any members interested in the position or willing to be a member of a committee should contact Donna or Susan.

Branch Updates/Reminders:

Programs: The next branch meeting is Saturday, May 22nd, on Zoom. Susan is working to get Justice Monica Marquez of the Colorado Supreme Court as the speaker. If available, Justice Marquez will share her life story and discuss issues of justice, equity, and the courts.

Picnic and fundraiser: A branch picnic is scheduled for June 19th at Sterne Park in Littleton, from noon – 3:00 pm. There will be a luncheon and games. The picnic includes a fundraiser for next year's scholarship funds. Members can buy raffle tickets to win a hand-made quilt donated by member Jane Miller. Members should refer to the March TWIGS newsletter for information on how to purchase tickets for the raffle. Purchasers do not need to be present at the picnic to win.

2021 Scholarships: The branch has awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to two girls graduating from Littleton High School and pursuing a career in STEM. We have also awarded two \$500 scholarships to two girls graduating from Sheridan High School. The schools have not yet set dates for their awards ceremonies. We hope to have photos and biographies of the scholarship winners from both schools in the May TWIGS newsletter.

Colorado's State AAUW gave each branch a \$125 scholarship to award for attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference. Branch members were given the opportunity to nominate someone for this opportunity, however no nominations were received. Donna contacted Student Services at Arapahoe Community College. They named Juana Rocha, a rising junior, to accept the scholarship and attend the online conference.

Teaching opportunity: Our branch program in November 2020 included Bethany Orozco of EnCorps – an initiative that trains professionals working in STEM fields to be teachers or tutors in underserved schools. Their work has continued through the pandemic. They are calling for more tutors/teachers. They are hosting a virtual information session on April 15th for anyone interested. Donna noted that if anyone is interested in watching the session, to contact Donna and she will forward Bethany's email with the registration information.

AAUW National Election: Donna reminded members that the AAUW National election is underway. Members are voting on Public Policy priorities and for the AAUW National Board of Directors. There is also a vote to change the bylaws by eliminating the membership requirement to have a college degree. The election opened April 7th.

Membership renewal: Mary Lynn Korch sent members an email last week reminding them to renew their annual membership.

COVID precautions and member meetings: The future of the pandemic is still uncertain. Donna reminded members that branch and Interest Group meetings should follow CDC and local county health department guidelines. AAUW National hasn't issued any statements regarding meeting practices. Their fiscal year ends June 30th so we likely won't hear guidance, if any, before August.

The president adjourned the branch/business meeting at 2:30 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary