

**AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch
Minutes of the Board Meeting
May 12, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted virtually using the Zoom platform and called to order at 2:10 by President Donna Zimmerman. In attendance: Susan Brodie, Peggy Hammersmith, Mary Lynn Korch, Jane Miller, Stacey Spaulding, and Donna Zimmerman. Absent: Hayden Pigott, Ginny Sherr, Gail Welde, Mary Ann Travis and Diane Steen.

SECRETARY: There were no corrections to the April board meeting minutes. They will be filed as written.

TREASURER:

- The first \$2,000 check for Littleton High School scholarships did not process so Ginny stopped payment. She reissued a check which will show up on next month's report.
- There were no other changes to the financial documents.
- Mary Korch and Jill Smith both paid Lifetime Memberships this year. This helps the branch because their \$2200 will count as a donation to AAUW national.
- The Budget Meeting is scheduled for May 26th. Board members should be ready to specify their budget needs as if the branch is going back to normal (pre-pandemic) operations.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Mary said 45 members have already renewed, including two new members. Mary re-sent the membership renewal email to branch members yesterday.
- Mary noted that there are many glitches with AAUW national's new website and with the membership database. Also, the national office is understaffed so it is difficult to get prompt answers to questions.
- There is much interest in the Equity Network.

PROGRAM:

- Saturday, May 22nd, is the branch meeting on Zoom featuring Colorado Supreme Court Justice Monica Marquez to share her life story and discuss issues of diversity on the bench.
- Mary noted that David Ortiz is finishing his first session in the Colorado legislature. Would it fit for him to be a speaker at the May branch meeting in terms of disabled vets and veterans' benefits? Susan will call him about it.
- Happy Hour on Zoom is Thursday, May 20th. Happy Hour has become very popular so will continue through the summer.
- The branch picnic is Saturday, June 19th.

COMMUNICATION:

- May 20th is the due date for articles for the June TWIGS

AAUW Funds:

- No update

PUBLIC POLICY:

- No update

INTEREST GROUPS:

- Peggy said Interest Groups have not yet decided how they will conduct meetings next fall. Several groups (mostly with fewer than 10 members) are already meeting in person. They are being careful and asking members about vaccination status. Hostesses can say that non-vaccinated people can't come into the home. The two large groups – Great Decisions and Literature – have not decided yet. One group is doing mixed (in person and Zoom). Peggy will find out how that method works and will let the board know. Kim Churches, Chief Executive Officer of AAUW National had cautioned that if people gather under AAUW auspices, it makes every level liable if someone gets COVID. Peggy noted that IGs can work it out amongst themselves; the reality is the groups are going to do that anyway.

BOOK BAGS:

- Mary Ann told Donna that she can go into the Sheridan ECE June 3rd to do an inventory and see the status of the book bags since the program's closure in March 2020. She will organize volunteers to organize the bags so the program can resume in the fall 2021. Mary Ann will need funding to purchase books that were lost to students' homes when the school closed. So, we should put money into the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Littleton High School graduation is May 22nd. Because of the pandemic, the ceremony is closed to visitors. However, Donna recorded a message which will be played at the graduation about our scholarships for two STEM graduates. Brief bios of the two recipients were in the May TWIGS. It might be next fall when the LHS girls can attend a branch meeting.
- Donna was invited to be part of the May 19th Awards Ceremony at Sheridan High School. She will give certificates, and get a photo with the two scholarship recipients. Bios of the two girls will appear in the June TWIGS.
- Mary asked if the NCCWSL recipient from ACC will report back on her experience. Donna said she asked Dan Balski, Student Affairs Director, to contact the student.
- The Program VP officer position still hasn't been filled for next fall. Barb McDaniel will continue recruiting for this position.
- AAUW of CO wants to offer free national and state memberships to scholarship winners of all branches in the state. The goal is to get college girls involved in local branches. Our branch is the only one that gives scholarships to high school girls. The board discussed and decided not to participate in this state program.

NEW BUSINESS:

- June Picnic and Fundraiser.
 - The picnic is Saturday, June 19th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the North Shelter of Sterne Park. We'll set up for 1 hour and socialize for three.
 - Board members discussed the picnic in regard to State COVID vaccination rates and lifting of State restrictions. Board members agreed that the picnic should proceed, since it is held outside, most members have been vaccinated, attending the picnic is voluntary, and attendees can follow their individual comfort levels regarding masking and social distancing. We are required to wipe down surfaces when we leave. Mary suggested using butcher paper table covers instead.
 - Susan will order boxed lunches from Honey Baked Ham. Attendees must RSVP and pay in advance, with checks made out to Susan. RSVP due date is Friday, June 11th.
 - Peggy can bring Corn Hole. Donna can bring Ladder Golf.
 - Jane will write another article in TWIGS about the quilt raffle.
- New Fundraiser. Donna wondered if the branch could raise funds by publishing and selling a booklet of members' essays about their pandemic year. Jane thought there would be many challenges around motivating members to write. She questioned whether people would want to read about the struggles of the past year. Jane suggested doing an author talk using Zoom, as those have been popular this past year and the former Foothills branch had success for many years with Colorado author talks. The board thought an author talk would be a good fundraiser.
- Donna suggested that she appoint a branch member or two who would coordinate the scholarship effort next year and be the liaison to the high schools as that is a heavy task. The board agreed.
- Donna was contacted by state AAUW about who our branch's Diversity Officer is. Donna said we were working on it. Mary thought the CO State AAUW was going to look into DEI options first and then make recommendations to the branches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The board will have a summer retreat, likely using Zoom, across two Monday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00. The first will be June 21st to discuss the Strategic Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary