

**AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch
Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 9, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted virtually on Zoom and called to order at 2:05 by President Donna Zimmerman. In attendance: Susan Brodie, Peggy Hammersmith, Mary Lynn Korch, Barb McDaniel, Jane Miller, Ginny Sherr, Stacey Spaulding and Donna Zimmerman. Absent: Hayden Pigott, Diane Steen and Mary Ann Travis.

SECRETARY: There were no corrections to the November 11, 2021 board meeting minutes. The November board meeting minutes were accepted and filed.

TREASURER:

- Balance Sheet is through Nov. 30th, so checks received in December do not yet show. No comments or concerns regarding other financial reports for November.
- We had allotted \$490 for food purchases to give to needy families at Sheridan High School. We spent \$432. Diane Steen donated \$200, so the branch used just \$232 from the Community Projects Fund.
- We have received \$475 in donations for the holiday fundraiser.
- Ginny has paid Living Voices for the video streaming for the December branch program.

MEMBERSHIP:

- The board discussed how to solicit and receive written bios from new members to publish in TWIGS. Donna was concerned that some bios are brief and others lengthy. Can they be standardized? Mary noted that she sends out a list of prompts for the members to respond to. She said it is very difficult to get new members to write anything. Susan noted that in the spirit of inclusion, we should let new members write whatever they choose so existing members can get to know them and include them. Mary said she will try to design a membership form that includes both what we need for the new member to join AAUW, and what we'd like to know to include the new person in branch membership. Mary will share the draft form with the board for their feedback. Donna will send Mary a form she previously used for new board members at a previous nonprofit employer as an example.
- The new member gathering will be sometime in the spring, outside at Peggy's house.
- The Colorado Springs branch has a committee – not just one board member – for member recruitment. The Longmont branch uses a 1-on-1 buddy system where every new member is partnered with an existing member who helps orient them to the branch. These are two ideas our branch could implement. Donna will put a notice in TWIGS about new committees.
- We need to think of ways our branch can be more visible in the community.

PROGRAM:

- The Branch meeting is Saturday, December 11, Living Voices presentation *The New American* via zoom. Thirty-one people have registered to attend. Several are from the Aurora branch. The virtual doors open at 12:50; the program starts at 1:00. Donna will introduce Susan; Susan will introduce Rachel McClinton. Donna will remind attendees of the fundraising component both before the presentation and at the end of the meeting. She will include the address to send checks. The video is about 36 minutes. Then Rachel McClinton will facilitate the follow-up Q&A.
- Donna is looking into streaming a movie for a January 15th branch meeting.
- Happy Hour will be January 13th.
- It would be nice to have short programs for April and May. April 23rd is the State Convention, likely focusing on inclusion and belongingness. Board members should think of possible programs for the spring.

COMMUNICATION:

- TWIGS due date is Dec. 20 for the January edition.
- TWIGS will include notice about Public Policy Day and a link to the AAUW Colorado website for registration.
- Donna will write a teaser for the March fundraiser with author Pam Houston.
- Barb will write an article about delivering food to Sheridan High School for needy families.

AAUW Funds:

- Barb bought the excess Safeway cards herself to get them off of our books as they are getting old and there is concern about whether or not they still work. We won't buy any more Safeway cards, since the process now is easier with King Soopers as AAUW gets credit when shoppers use their customer loyalty cards. In addition, we get very little back from Safeway and have had a hard time selling the cards as it's more difficult to use them since members must load them with funds first and then use them to pay for their groceries.
- We have sent \$2,572.00 to AAUW National. Barb recently sent two Safeway checks for \$6.00.

PUBLIC POLICY:

- Members can register through the AAUW CO state website.
- The conference is virtual again this year.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):

- This group is not meeting in December.
- Susan noted that AAUW National has several upcoming 1-hour webinars that address DEI themes.

INTEREST GROUPS:

- Interest groups are running smoothly.

BOOK BAGS:

- Mary Ann recently spent \$143 of the allotted \$200 on new books for this Sheridan program.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nominating Committee: Donna will write an article about board vacancies. Members should keep an eye out for new members who might join the board. Donna is willing to call them individually.
- Sheridan High School Holiday Meals: We were hesitant about giving the Safeway cards in case they had expired. Donna contacted the SHS staff for a shopping list of needed items. She ordered six each of 10-12 items online. Barb loaded six King Soopers gift cards with \$35.00 each for families to use for perishables. The school assembled packages and gave them to six families. In total we spent \$432 for the project. Diane Steen had donated \$200 for the project, so the branch used \$232 from the Community Projects fund. Barb also gave a \$35 King Sooper card to Felicia, the SHS Family Liaison person, because Felicia has a new baby.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2022 Fundraiser: The author talk with Pam Houston is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2022. Members will gather virtually at 12:30 and the program will start at 1:00. Ginny should mail the fee to Pam in January to lock in the commitment. Pam recommended our partnering with a bookstore to have copies of the book *Deep Creek* available. Her recommendation was not the Tattered Cover. We should do a special board meeting in January to focus solely on the book talk fundraiser.
- Week of Women: Donna got an email regarding the Week of Women. After two years hiatus, this event is back on for March 3-13. The Women's Foundation of Denver took it over. The event will be virtual, not in-person. Donna asked if our branch should have an event that week so we could get on the Week of Women calendar. Susan suggested a DEI virtual event that could be open to the public. We have until the end of January to submit an idea. Donna hopes to attend a planning meeting on January 27th.
- Branch dues: Mary mentioned raising branch dues by \$2/year which would bring in \$200 more per year. Or we could raise it by \$2 in both of the next two years, for an annual extra amount of \$400. State dues are \$10 and Branch dues are \$16. Any raise of dues requires a vote of branch members. We should write an article for TWIGS about the proposed raises and how we'll use the extra money. The board will discuss further in January and vote. Then we'll present to the branch members in April when we have the annual business meeting.
- GSTEM: Susan asked about the status of the middle-school GSTEM conference. Donna said it was virtual in May 2021. She is on their mailing list, but hasn't heard plans for May 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next board meeting will be January 13th, 2:00 – 3:30 pm using Zoom
- The February board meeting is February 10th.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary