

**AAUW Littleton-South Metro Branch
Minutes of the Board Meeting
October 7, 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, Barb McDaniel, Jane Miller, Ginny Sherr, Stacey Spaulding and Donna Zimmerman. Absent: Hayden Pigott, and Mary Ann Travis.

SECRETARY: There were no corrections to the September 2021 board meeting minutes. The September Board Meeting minutes were accepted and filed.

TREASURER:

- The board reviewed the financial documents. There were no questions or corrections. Board members praised Ginny for the Reserve Funds document. Ginny will forward the financial documents to Carolyn Cooley to post on the branch website in the Members Only section.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Mary is cleaning up the roster. We've lost several members due to illness. Mary has reached out to them with letters.
- AAUW National is running behind in converting their new software. Anticipated completion date is in Nov.

PROGRAM:

- Saturday, Oct 9th. Dr Rebecca Theobald of University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will explain the work of the non-partisan Redistricting Commission and resulting maps. Donna will also check with Jill Smith about explaining the three ballot issues.
- The speaker from the EnCorps STEM program cannot attend in October so will speak to the branch in November.
- The November 13th branch meeting will feature a presenter from the ~~Denver~~ Women's Foundation of Colorado, speaking on COVID's economic impact on women in Colorado.
- Barb McDaniel is experiencing a breakthrough case of COVID so feels she shouldn't host the branch at her house for the December 11th meeting.
- Susan talked with the Legendary Ladies about presenting their characters via Zoom for that meeting. There would be an Introducer, three ladies, and time for questions. Cost for three ladies is \$225; four ladies is \$300. Board members agreed that three characters is enough. Peggy suggested we ask members to RSVP and ask them to send an amount to cover the cost. We could offer a door prize.
- We can ask members to mail checks for the holiday fundraiser. That has been successful in the past. We have asked members to send one check for their meal and a separate check for a donation.

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- Susan will put a teaser in the November TWIGS about Legendary Ladies performing virtually for the December meeting.

COMMUNICATION:

- October 18 is the due date for the November TWIGS
- Happy Hour is Nov 11th.
- If board members hear of TED talks that would be of interest to branch members we could put a link in TWIGS.

AAUW Funds:

- Barb McDaniel is now the coordinator of AAUW Funds, taking over for Gail Welde. Barb suggests sending checks to AAUW National as we receive them from the two grocery chains, rather than sending the money only in June and December. Ginny and Barb will confer to simplify the process.

PUBLIC POLICY:

- Stacy reported that one panelist has been confirmed for Public Policy Day. The state newsletter *Connects* will have a blurb in November.
- Colorado AAUW is taking positions on some ballot issues, but has not issued a document yet.
- Betty Boyd, who has served as CO AAUW lobbyist for years is stepping down.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):

- Susan reported that other branches are doing DEI programs that are welcome to all members in the state. She asked if we should let our members know about these meetings. If so, should she send the invitations directly to branch members or to Donna? The board agreed that such notifications should be by email blast, rather than in TWIGS, so it doesn't appear that our branch is conducting the events.
- Sharing zoom meeting invitations would be a way for our members to meet members of other branches, since in-person meetings are not happening now.

INTEREST GROUPS:

- Peggy said Interest Group leaders are asking her if the branch is requiring members to be vaccinated against COVID to attend interest group meetings. Peggy tells them that the branch can't make that requirement.
- Donna mentioned that we published the branch policy in TWIGS. When members gather in the home, it is up to the hostess to decide whether to allow vaccinated members only. The hostess should let members know so they are aware of what they are walking into and decide whether to enter or not.
- Peggy will write a letter to interest group leaders with a copy of the policy that states members must wear masks while attending any type of branch meeting, regardless of vaccination status. Peggy will run the letter by Donna before sending it to IG leaders.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nominating Committee. Jill Smith contacted Donna about reaching out to the Past Presidents Group for help in finding candidates for board positions. Maybe they could use their connections to recruit candidates for leadership roles. Barb cautioned that past presidents don't always know the new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ginny offered to host an informal gathering of the board. Board members would bring appetizers and drinks and have time to socialize casually. We agreed and scheduled it for Saturday, Nov 6th from 2:30 – 4:30.
- Donna will send out a new list of board members' contact info.
- Donna is not sure about having an author's event for our 2022 fundraiser. It is a challenge to get branch members involved in planning the event. A few authors have been mentioned (Pam Houston and Amy Irvine), but it's not known if they are good presenters or not so good.
- Eventbrite is an option for registration but it is pricey. Susan says the Colorado Springs program chair uses them.
- Board members should share other possible ideas for fundraisers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next board meeting will be November 11th, 2:00 – 3:30 pm using Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Jane Miller, Recording Secretary