

AAUW NC Board Meeting
Alumni House, UNC-Greensboro
July 23, 2015

Attendees: Jean D'Addario, Sandra McLaurin, Ellen Garbarino, Peg Holmes, Denny McGuire, Nancy Shoemaker

Note: Mary Fran Schickendanz joined the meeting at lunch.

Meeting Notes:

Welcome and Introductions: Co-Presidents Jean D'Addario and Sandra McLaurin welcomed members to the meeting. Jean introduced Ellen Garbarino as the new STEM Advocate and member of the Board. Sandra mentioned that Donna Wilson is the new Branch Advocate for presidents of the local branches. JoAnn Hall is continuing as State Treasurer and Karla Atkinson is continuing as the Newsletter editor. Peg Holmes, Denny McGuire and Nancy Shoemaker are continuing in the roles of Vice-President, Public Policy chair and Webmaster and College/University Relations Representative respectively.

Note: Donna, JoAnn and Karla were unable to attend the meeting.

Denny McGuire volunteered to take notes for the meeting. An agenda is attached to these notes.

Report from the National Convention: Nancy reported on her participation in several technical workshops and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). She served as the lead for discussions on Virtual Branches. She also met with AAUW IT Director Fong Cheng to discuss several technical issues with the Member Services Database and the web site. She discussed the 10 year effort to change the membership requirements to open membership to all those interested in AAUW's Mission rather than continuing to demand a college degree or two-year degree to qualify for membership. While National had made it easier for current members to vote, only about 12% of members did so. 40% of those voting did vote to change the requirements but it was not sufficient to change the by-laws. Nancy reported that the results of all elections are posted on the AAUW web site by state.

Denny McGuire spoke about the quality of some of the workshops and presentations. The Finance Workshop, Fund Raising and Public Policy workshops were excellent. The winner of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director of the Institute of Women's Studies at the University of Georgia, also gave an outstanding speech.

Ellen said that this was her first AAUW Annual convention and that when she walked into the first major event and saw a huge ballroom filled with people, most of them women, she was overwhelmed with the feeling of togetherness. She reported on the good work being done with the Young Members Task Force and with the funds raised for grants and fellowship. She encouraged the rest of us to share our experiences with our branches so that members understand what being a part of a national organization is all about and how dues are spent.

Jean discussed the changes in terminology at the national level. Patricia Ho is now the Board Chair rather than President. She also commented on the quality of the workshops and speakers and reminded

us that the handouts and other materials are available on the national web site. She also reported on the State president's meeting. AAUW now has 12 virtual branches and 302 branches are using the branch payment process—where members pay their dues to national and national then pays the state and local branch its share of the dues money. It can make the job of State and Branch Treasurer much easier to manage. More than 200 branches now have Facebook pages. Social media is one way to reach out to younger women as members. The next major report that national is going to release is one on Women in Leadership. They also are updating the data in "The Simple Truth" report.

Nancy then reminded us that the MPP has a "branch locator" so a potential member can enter a zip code and find the local branches.

Board of Directors: Jean asked the meeting notes to include an explanation of terms used in describing the state board. The Executive Committee is composed of the elected members: President (or Co-Presidents), Vice President, Treasurer, and Branch Advocate. The Board of Director is composed of the Executive Committee and appointed members who are approved by a vote of the Executive Committee. This year's appointed members are: Karla Atkinson, Newsletter Editor; Ellen Garbarino, STEM Advocate; Denny McGuire, Public Policy Chair; and Nancy Shoemaker, Web Manager and College and University Chair.

Committee Reports:

Public Policy—Denny McGuire reported for this committee. A written report was distributed and then summarized. Much of the focus of the Public Policy committee since late fall was preparation for and then monitoring of the General Assembly long session which convened in January. The long session is where the two year budget is adopted and where much of the state policy direction is set. The Committee prepared a list of legislative topics to cover and had the list approved by the Executive board and the Presidents. The key items followed are: Economic Self Sufficiency (minimum wage and pay equity), Education (supporting local schools and educational opportunities for girls and women) and Health (support the expansion of Medicaid). National AAUW sent us a daily report on legislative actions and we narrowed it to those pieces of legislation most closely related to our core issues. Unfortunately, not many of our legislative goals were supported in the General Assembly this year.

Denny also reviewed some work being done with the national AAUW and with partner organizations in North Carolina. Future activities include continued working with our partners, reviewing the state budget and sharing key items with the branches and beginning to use the new tools National has invested in (COSM). One item of discussion was the value of doing a "Legislative Report Card" later this fall. Nancy Shoemaker and Mary Peterson did most of the work on the previous report card. Nancy recommended that Donna Wilson go to the branch presidents and ask if they used the previous report and if it were helpful to them. We also discussed asking branch public policy chairs about the report card.

Communication—Nancy Shoemaker reported for the committee. She submitted a written report and then summarized it. She discussed the email lists that are used to communicate with state members such as the president's list. The possibility of using automated tools to do electronic newsletters was briefly discussed, as were the state website, social media, conference calling, and web-based meetings via Adobe Connect. Currently, Nancy is doing most of the posting on social media and on the web site.

There is a need for some updating of the aliases for AAUW NC email accounts and a need for further discussion of whose names are on the Presidents' list. It currently is a combination of current presidents, past presidents and other interested parties. Should it be limited or split into two lists, or are there better ways to communicate with members?

Jean added that she and Sandra will continue preparing monthly "e-letters" on topics of interest to the board and the branches. She would like to receive any local newsletters from branches.

A question was raised about the 2015 Annual Business Meeting. No minutes have yet been posted.

Finance—Jo Ann Hall was unable to attend the meeting since she is working full time. We currently have around 900 members which gives us an annual income of approximately \$10,000. Jean and Sandra are going to meet with JoAnn in August to discuss building a state budget for 2015-16.

Old Business: There is a need to develop revised operating procedures for the state, including the use of funds for donations to other organizations. Ours have not been revised in several years, although some efforts were made to do so. The members of the existing committee have asked for other members to be appointed in their place. AAUW National has issued some new guidelines that we should examine to be sure we are not violating any IRS regulations. Jean and Sandra will appoint a committee on policies. Volunteers will be sought.

Several members of the board asked for further direction regarding job descriptions for the Board. Nancy advised that the Board has the authority to approve job descriptions and that some job descriptions are available on the national web site under "resource/national-state-and-branch-leadership-positions".

New Business:

State and Local By-laws—both local and state bylaws should be examined to be sure that there is consistency with the changes made to the National By-laws at the Convention in San Diego. There were no major changes this year. There is a conformance memo available on the national web site.

Miscellaneous—

- Volunteers are needed to attend/staff the STEM Conference: Bridging the Gap, October 27-28. Ellen will follow-up.
- The State ERA Coalition is meeting on October 24th. A member is needed to attend. Jean will follow-up.
- Hold the dates: April 1-2 or April 8-9 are being explored as the dates for the Annual meeting. More to follow.
- Off-agenda discussion: Waiver of state dues for Sharon Trimble who was invoiced incorrectly by the Membership Payment Program. Ms. Trimble is an out-of-state dual member of the Tar Heel Branch. Waiver approved.

Discussion—Where are we and Where are we Going?

- Would be great if each Branch had an advocacy committee (to advocate for the AAUW Mission and policies)
- Each Board Committee should set its goals for 2015-16.

- Ellen is interested in determining what each branch is doing regarding STEM. What have they done in the past and what is planned for the future. Are they focused on K-12 or are they including programs for Women in STEM.
- Branch Advocacy—Could Donna survey branches regarding the perceived value of the state board? What do Branches need from the state, what do they want?
 - Role of the C/U representatives. How do we incorporate college and university issues in programming?
 - Mini-grants—is it time to refocus them and update the guidelines?
- How can we best use national programs at the branch level—mission based programs such as “One AAUW, One Mission, One Fund” videos and programs are on the national website. Can we use them to create exciting programs and or elevator speeches? National also has a report on how to secure excellent speakers for free. Do we need a program on how to use the national website?
 We agreed to hold two sessions of a webinar in November on how branches can access state and national websites and the resources available to help in planning and holding good meetings.
- Twitter—how involved are the branches and can we help?

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.