

AAUW NORTH CAROLINA BOARD MINUTES

Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 at 11:25 AM

Location: Ballroom, Downtown Marriott, Greensboro NC

Members Present: Jean D'Addario, Co-President – Sandra McLaurin, Co-President – JoAnn Hall, Finance/Treasurer – Diane Schneider, Branch Advocate – Peg Holmes, Vice President – Karla Atkinson, Tar Heel News Editor - Nancy Shoemaker, Webmaster/CU Liaison - Cheryl Wheaton, Annual Meeting Coordinator - Jane Terwillegar, Secretary Pro Tem

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/DECISIONS |
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| Welcome/Introductions | The meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM by the Co-Presidents. Both expressed gratitude to Cherrie Wheaton for her organized planning with the Marriott and the Greensboro Branch for the AAUW NC Annual Meeting. (This is a meeting that includes lunch for the Board members.) |
| Announcements: AAUW Liaison | Melissa Johnson, AAUW Board member and featured speaker for the meeting may be unable to attend, as weather is delaying flights in Colorado. Plan B will be a FREECONFERENCECALL.com presentation with the speaker, if needed. |
| Tar Heel editor | Karla Atkinson has resigned as Editor, Tar Heel News. Appreciation was expressed for her service as newsletter editor. |
| Bylaws for branches | Jean D'Addario has been working with branches to complete revised bylaws by the end of January 2017. Sandhill and Charlotte branches are not yet listed on the AAUW website, although the Charlotte Branch did copy her when their revised bylaws were emailed to AAUW in January. |
| Greensboro | The Greensboro branch has been granted 501(c)3 status. |
| UNC Pembroke | A group of students from UNC Pembroke is planning to attend the Annual Meeting. This is a first time event. Nancy Shoemaker met with Desmond Wood and other Pembroke students who organized the new AAUW associate student group. |
| Juvenile Literature Award 2017 | The Juvenile Literature Award 2017 goes to author, Sheila Turnage for <i>The Odds of Getting Even</i> , the 3 rd title in her mystery series. |
| Nominating Report | Diane Schneider, Branch Advocate, provided the Nominating Committee report (see attached). For the 2017 offices, Cheryl Wheaton and Jane Terwillegar (both members of Greensboro branch) are nominated as co-presidents, and Diane Schneider is nominated as Branch Advocate. These are elected offices for two year terms, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2019. (Diane Schneider was appointed when Donna Wilson resigned this in 2016 and now she is the nominee for a full term as Branch Advocate.) |
| Minutes, Board Phone Conference, January 25, 2017 | <p>Nancy Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of the Board phone conference, January 25, 2017 as recorded by Denny McGuire, (2nd Peg Holmes). The minutes were approved by voice vote (see attached).</p> <p>Three items from the January minutes were brought up for discussion. First, there was a suggestion to do a member survey. Since there already was a plan with Diane Schneider, Branch Advocate, to go deeper into communication responses from last year's survey, it was suggested that a new survey might be an agenda item for the next board. Second, AAUW NC policies have been</p> |

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| Financial Report | <p>updated and following discussion of a few final items during this meeting, the revised policies will be posted on the website. Third, it was noted the Board voted to follow the lead of the NC Literary and Historical Association and change our annual book award to "Young People's Literature Award."</p> <p>Treasurer JoAnn Hall distributed the financial report for July 1 2016 – February 28, 2017 (see attached). First she noted that no income was showing yet for the Annual Meeting and that the budget was based on 953 members in February 2016. It is difficult to get a definitive count of members in the spring, as the list includes members that will not be retained, as well as new members paid for the next fiscal year. In actuality, AAUW NC appears to have experienced a "significant drop" in members, and she indicated the 953 number is inflated somewhat by Tar Heel Branch and other dual members.</p> <p>The <i>Tar Heel News</i> printed and distributed two editions in 2016-2017, at 12 pages each, for a cost of \$3,310.07. These two issues used nearly all of the budget that was intended for three issues. Three mini-grants at \$500 were awarded by the Board. The Annual Meeting expense of \$1200 is a deposit to the hotel. An additional \$120 was added to the \$1200 already contributed to AAUW for the Ann Chipley fund. As members and branches also contributed, the full amount budgeted will not be required to complete the \$100,000 fund.</p> <p>Treasurer Hall also distributed reimbursement vouchers to Board members for their expenses to attend this Annual Meeting. Each is entitled to a \$50.00 reimbursement, for a total of \$100 in this year's cycle. (Two checks are issued for Board member expenses: \$50 in July, \$50 in April, as voted at the Board meeting in July 2016).</p> <p>Sandra McLaren made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report (2nd Peg Holmes). The motion was passed by a voice vote.</p> |
| AAUW Biennial Meeting Expenses Co-Presidents Officers and Branch members | <p>Regarding expenses for officers to attend this year's AAUW Biennial Meeting in Washington, DC, Sandra McLaren made a motion, "that the current co-presidents and co-presidents-elect should have their registration fees covered at \$575 each, for a total of \$2300." (This plan leaves \$700 in the Executive Board budget for national convention expenses.) This part of the motion was passed by a voice vote.</p> <p>Sandra McLaren offered a second part to her motion: "That the remaining \$700 be distributed equitably to other Board members that attend the national meeting, up to the limit of the registration fee, and also to provide \$100 to any branch that has members registered to attend." A brief discussion followed, and it was clarified that the \$100 would go directly to the branch, not to branch members, allowing the funds to be distributed locally. It was also noted that the Executive Committee is able to appropriate more funds to the Branch Attendee budget, or the Mini Grants budget could be utilized to assist with additional funding at the branch level. The second part of this motion was approved by voice vote.</p> |
| AAUW NC Policy | <p>Jean D'Addario reported on the progress of revising policies to bring them up to date and distributed that document for Board review (see attached). Her first question in Section IV, Elected Officers, D, No. 2. concerned the policy when two people share an office, such as co-presidents. Do they share a vote, or does each have a vote? According to the bylaws, "Two people may be elected to these positions to serve as a team in these positions." However, there is no clarification on the matter of their voting. It could happen that</p> |

Communications Discussion

every office is shared by two different individuals. **Nancy Shoemaker asked for this issue to be tabled, until the Board has more information.**

The next issue relates to **Section X, Item G, No. 1**, Reimbursement for the AAUW Convention when there are co-presidents. With four women currently serving as president and president-elect and the June timing of the AAUW conference, this makes budgeting for reimbursements complicated. **It was suggested that wording be provided for this policy, indicating the Executive Committee needs to bring a recommendation for an equitable distribution plan to the Board of Directors.**

The third issue for discussion is in **Section X, I. Dues Schedule**. The current dues schedule indicates \$11 dues for members-at-large joining the state. **This was quickly resolved, as no AAUW members-at-large pay dues to AAUW NC, only members of a recognized branch. College/University partner representatives and student affiliates have no dues, as set by the AAUW Board of Directors.**

The fourth issue relates to **Section XI. Affiliates, E. Branch Board of Directors**. The current statement: "...AAUW NC strongly urges that a state board member be made a non-voting member of their Branch Board of Directors." The Board recommended substituting this wording: **"...AAUW NC recommends that the State Board member be welcomed and encouraged to be a resource to their Branch Board of Directors."**

And finally, in **Appendix C. Award for Young People's Literature, No. 7** A question was raised about the age limit for award books. It presently states "...Pre-K through age 12". **The consensus of the Board is to change the wording to, Pre-K to Grade 12.**

Nancy Shoemaker led a discussion on how to create better communication paths to members. Presently Jean D'Addario and Sandra McLaren have been writing the E-President's letters on alternating months. Questions for consideration: Can the state go completely electronic, with mailings only to members who request that service? Should those who request postal mail pay extra dues? Presently only 123 people receive E-letters, generally state and branch officers. Branch presidents are asked to forward the monthly E-letters to their members. Statistics from Nancy Shoemaker:

Mail Chimp E-letters were opened by 61.2% for 2/2 issue
40.8% for 3/29 issue
60.0% for 3/24 issue
56.7% for 3/29 issue

Given that 60% opening is an excellent rate for any publication, this seems positive. The Board suggested the concern about effective communications also be discussed at the President's Council meeting.

There was a plea for continued print newsletters as members in branches do like to read their news, see their photos and read about activities happening elsewhere in the state. So, the discussion turned to less expensive ways to print a newsletter, such as fewer pages, cheaper paper, possible cheaper printing rates. The discussion then turned to doing some form of printed publication in the fall similar to a yearbook, with information about AAUW NC officers, branch officer information, etc., with a second publication in the spring with information about registering for the Annual Meeting.

These are the branches that presently have a website: Tar Heel, Wilmington, Twin Rivers, Salisbury, Raleigh/Wake, Hendersonville, Greensboro, Charlotte,

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| <p>Looking forward to a New fiscal year</p> | <p>Chapel Hill, Brevard and Ashville. Cherrie Wheaton asked if the state website is capable of including links to branch newsletters or websites, making that section of the state website more informative for complete state-wide news. The answer was not resolved.</p> <p>It was noted the role of the Branch Advocate is still not clearly stated and this position needs an adequate job description. Last year branches did have one goal in common, a STEM activity, either sponsored by the branch or in collaboration with another organization, although that goal was not realized in all branches. Should this be a goal for 2017-18?</p> <p>The nominees for President-elect indicated there are plans for a July Board meeting in Greensboro. Policies allow the President-Elect to send out messages and announcements prior to July 1st, so that action will be forthcoming, as Board members are contacted about setting a July date. Cherrie Wheaton proposed an informal meeting, beginning before noon for Board business, box lunches, finishing in the afternoon. Then an early dinner out, and an evening of open discussion at Cherrie's home. Board members will be invited to stay in member homes, rather than at a hotel.</p> <p>The presidents, presidents-elect and Treasurer JoAnn Hall will develop an initial budget by July 1st which can be fine-tuned at the July Board meeting. This will meet the requirements of the bylaws to have a budget prepared by July 1. The final budget, approved at the July meeting, will be posted on the AAUW NC website.</p> <p>Initial goals for 2017-2018 as presented by the two nominees for co-president:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication to bring branches together and help promote AAUW goals. Regional round tables – dividing NC into 5 areas for meetings with local branch leaders – time frame is late summer and early fall. <p>Possible topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to develop contacts between C/U partner institutions and branches, Developing ideas for promoting regional STEM opportunities, especially through collaboration with other organizations, Examining possibilities for: fundraising activities, use of Twitter, mini-Grants, and public policy initiatives between branches |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p>The AAUW NC Board of Directors meeting was adjourned by co-presidents Joan D'Addario and Sandra McLaurin at 2:20 PM.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respectfully submitted, Jane C. Terwillegar, Secretary Pro Tem</p> |
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