

HEALDSBURG AAUW BRANCH MEETING

May 16, 2016

Healdsburg Junior High School

PRESENT: Andi Michelsen, Deana Fusco, Heidi Blumenthal, Janet Hoehn, Judy Edmonds, Linda Clark, Lynda Guthrie, Michele St. Clair, Ronnie Devitt, Violet Nelson, Winky Merrill

The AAUW Branch meeting was called to order at 4:55 pm. The minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting were approved. Linda moved and Michele seconded.

Treasurer's Branch Report and Budget Report:

Winky reviewed both reports and no changes were noted.

President's Report:

Ronnie recognized Heidi and Lynda who will be leaving the Board. Ronnie has 2 other volunteers for Speech Trek committee; looking for additional volunteer. Suggestion that we should reevaluate our priority to focus on pre-school activities since there doesn't seem to be a need (at least in Healdsburg). Will discuss further at our August retreat.

Communications Report:

Multiple efforts were expended in widely communicating about the Homes Tour, including newspapers, Chamber of Commerce online, paid ads, cover story in the Press Democrat Sonoma Home section, Facebook, Constant Contacts, postcards and our website.

Work is continuing on updating our AAUW-Healdsburg website. Each Board member needs to review their section of the website and communicate to Joanne Johnston (in Word or PDF) what changes need to be made. To be completed by 6/30/16.

Linda suggested we consider the option of allowing new members to join online instead of printing/mailling applications. She will give a recommendation to the Board.

Liz is on vacation starting May 17. If anything needs to be sent via Constant Contact, please do so before that day.

Public Policy Report:

The Committee is working with the State's AAUW Public Policy Committee to effect legislative change in Sacramento through the lobbyist. The top priority for this legislative session is AB1676 that prohibits prospective employers from asking job applicants about their salary history (doing so perpetuates the inequity of lesser earnings

for women). This same bill was vetoed by Jerry Brown last fall but AAUW has requested the lobbyist to introduce it again. Support is needed in Sacramento to show the strength of our organization, especially at time of the hearing for this bill. Michele will let us know when the hearing is scheduled.

Priorities for the Public Policy Committee will be focused on 1) pay equity, 2) Title IX, and 3) STEM. These are the areas that AAUW is best known for.

Membership Report:

We presently have 202 members. Membership renewals are due for the 2016-17 year; more than half of our membership has renewed.

During the upcoming year, we will consider efforts to attract more younger members to our Branch. Research has found that they are not interested in social activities but rather Mission-based programs on topics that effect them. We will need to offer programs and interest groups dealing with topics that appeal to and benefit them.

The North Coast Leadership meeting will be held in Healdsburg on June 11 at the Healdsburg library from 10-3. Our branch is considered a model that other branches would like to replicate. Humboldt and Ukiah members will be attending; our Board members should attend, if possible.

We need to communicate to new members/current members how to access the CA website. This will be incorporated into the orientation for new members and via e-blast to existing members.

Community Services Report:

The community service team has done a great job this year with many successful programs. Only negative is the decision to end the Future Prep: Career Choices & Life Skills program at Cloverdale High School due to some discontent in the community over various school issues. Alternately the Board voted to fund \$2,200 for the the Cloverdale Education Foundation for a classroom science unit incorporating science learning, art and performance. All other programs: Future Prep at Healdsburg High, Reading Rocks at HES and West Side, GEMS, and Expanding Your Horizons have been successful this year.

Speakers Series:

Concluded Speakers Series meetings (last of 7 for the year) with Patricia Murphy, teacher at Healdsburg Junior High, spoke at the May 10 meeting about the Lego Mindstorm robots we bought for the JH at the beginning of the school year. Three of her students participated by demonstrating the robots they created in the class.

Social Activities:

The Committee wrapped a successful year completing 19 events, including kick-off and 40th anniversary event, annual picnic and holiday party, cultural tours, Lunch Bunch luncheons, Wine 'n Dine dinners, and Happy Hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Violet Nelson, Secretary
May 16, 2016