

HEALDSBURG AAUW BRANCH MEETING
October 19, 2015
Healdsburg Junior High School

PRESENT: Ronnie Devitt, Janet Hoehn, Winky Merrill, Lynda Guthrie, Andi Michelsen, Violet Nelson, Deana Fusco, Michele St. Clair, Sue Campbell

The AAUW Branch meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm. The minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting were approved; Sue moved and Janet seconded.

Treasurer's Branch Report and Budget Report: Winky reviewed both reports and no changes were noted.

President's Report: Cynthia Adam to replace Bev Liberman as Tech Trek chair; and Karla Rosen may be co-chair; Sue to contact her to see whether she is willing to do so. Barbara Lannin is willing to be on the committee.

Ronnie read commendation letter from AAUW National regarding our website.

Janet and Sue will chair the holiday gift drive for the schools. Janet will focus on Healdsburg and Sue on Westside School. Email request to remind members to bring only new, child-appropriate supplies.

Discussion whether we should have a structured presentation at our monthly member meetings. Decided not to do so at this time but will continue to highlight upcoming events at the beginning of each meeting.

Vice President's Report:

Ronnie, Nancy and Heidi attended the Sept. 30 meeting sponsored by the Petaluma and Marin AAUW branches with Mark Hopkins, AAUW Chief Strategy Officer, as the speaker. AAUW is oldest women's empowerment group. Total membership is 180,000 with 1000 branches; in reality, only 90,000 are dues-paying members and others are supporters (donations). In the past 5 years, Branch donations have decreased from \$3.1 million to \$1.25 million; some of this is due to the fact that more Branches have their own funds now. 20% of all members reside in CA and life-expectation of members is 10 years longer. National programs include Research, Fellowships/Grants, Legal Advocacy

Funds, Start Smart, Work Smart, Tech Trek/Tech Savvy, Elect Her, and Public Policy.

Communications/website update: All systems are working for the new website. Need to add the Speakers Series and all events after 1/1/16. The Bulletin Board will continue to be distributed as an email blast.

Public Policy Report: Need more members on the Committee in order to achieve goals that had been previously set. Doable goals with current Committee members are:

- 1) educating Healdsburg membership about AAUW's public policy agenda
- 2) promoting Equal Pay Day in April 2016 in Healdsburg
- 3) get out the Vote (GOTV) efforts in '16
- 4) maintain an active presence on AAUW-CA's Public Policy Committee

In light of the board's interest in preschool availability, Michele and Hala worked together to identify two preschool/early education funding bills in Congress that Hala will track for us.

Membership update: In September and October we gained one new member and one returning member. Currently we have 184 members with two more in process with National. Membership Directory will be updated next week. Board is invited to new member gathering on November 13 at Pat Bertapelle's home.

Community Service: The GEMS program will have a slightly later start this year (without affect to the program) because co-chair Nancy R is in Europe. Reading Rocks in West Side School can use more volunteers. There will be a notice in the Grapevine. HS Principal, Dr. Lori Rhodes, gave wonderful publicity in her blog for the community support for HHS and described several activities we did last year for Career Choices.

Speakers Series: 40 people attended the recent Speaker's Series with Don McEnhill. His daughter was introduced as a most appreciative 2015 Tech Trek participant. A vote was taken at that meeting, all but one indicated that we don't need food but asked that water be provided. This will start with the next meeting.

Speakers are confirmed for November, January, March, April and May. Need to find a speaker for February; tentative topic is Title 9, its successes and failures.

Social Activities: All scheduled events to date have been well attended and enjoyed by all. Lynda's report summarized all social activities for 2015-2016. She will finish getting them all on the AAUW on-line calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.
Respectfully Submitted,
Violet Nelson, Secretary