

## **HEALDSBURG AAUW BRANCH MEETING**

April 18, 2016

Healdsburg Junior High School

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

The AAUW Branch meeting was called to order at 4:28 pm. The minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting were approved. Michelle moved and Judy seconded.

### **Treasurer's Branch Report and Budget Report:**

Winky reviewed both reports and no changes were noted.

### **President's Report:**

AAUW Convention: Michelle, Nancy and Ronnie attended. Ronnie recommended that we consider SpeechTrek project. State provides structure for the project; we need Committee members and volunteers. Also Ronnie would like to focus our Branch on attracting new younger members; need to focus on mission-based issues (e.g., pay equity, etc.) rather than social activities. Need a more established process for applying for grants as well as follow-up for how the money was spent.

Nancy reported on the Leadership sessions she attended, specifically focused on (1) how to use new processes with old practices; (2) strategic planning — should be more measurable, and (3) we need to engage existing members in more activities. More information and discussion will be forthcoming from Nancy.

### **Vice President's Report:**

Nominating Committee: Nancy distributed an updated Leadership Team Roster for 2016-2017. Nancy will send another updated version soon. All Board and leadership positions have been filled except Homes Tour Committee for next year.

All job descriptions have been updated by Board members and will be posted to the website in next two weeks.

### **Public Policy Report:**

Three proclamations were read in Healdsburg, Cloverdale and Healdsburg regarding Pay Equity. 400 cookies were made and donated by Costeaux — 200 whole and 200 with a bite out of them; 232 sold at Big John's and 55 sold at Windsor Starbucks. Took in about \$270. Got front page articles in Healdsburg Tribune and Windsor Times. Initial cost

was \$370; next year will be able to reuse banner, etc. from this year. Thank you's to be sent to Costeaux, Big John's and Starbucks. Hillary Kambour wrote article for next month's Grapevine.

## **Membership Report:**

The Membership Directory, the Personal Information Roster, and the New Member Orientation document were each updated and posted on our website as of 1/29/16.

We have 5 new members — Barbara Zarakov, Mary Farha, Linda Miller, Karen Warburton, Hallie Beacham, and one returning member, Kelly Ebeling. Total membership is now 200, having lost Doris Golden who recently passed away. Renewal notices went out at the end of March and 40% of the members have renewed.

A New Member Orientation was held at Pat Bertapelle's home on Tuesday, March 29. Six new members attended.

Sallyann Berendsen has agreed to a change in date for the North Coast Leadership meeting. It 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.

In order to increase diversity within it's membership, Sally has requested that AAUW CA branches start collecting demographic (age and ethnicity) data for members. The Board decided not to collect this data.

## **Community Services Report:**

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> **Future Prep** held a Career Choices Technology Panel at Healdsburg High School where 57 students attended. This was in partnership with Healdsburg Rotary, who set up the panel. The 8 panelists were well received, but in the future we'll try to keep to 6 professionals as students reported they would have liked to have more time with each of the panelists.

**GEMS** girls were excited to participate in a remarkable field trip to Google in Mountain View.

March 10 was Internship Night at Healdsburg HS. As an offshoot of Career Choices, for the past 2 years every junior gets to internship for about 20 hours in the community. The program is coordinated by school staff member Shelley Anderson, who tries to match students to employers on their fields of interest.

**Sharyn Sarquis, Violet Nelson, Judy Voigt, Ann Mahoney, Carol Hazlett** (and husband John), **Patty McHugh, Laura Moore, Heidi Blumenthal** (and husband Don), and **Judy Edmonds** (and husband EJ Neil) all participated by listening to 5 or 6 student presentations each (they used 20 classrooms), and unanimously agreed this is a fantastic program for the students.

**Future Prep, Career Choices and Life Skills** brought six AAUW volunteers to Eric O'Connor's economics classroom to help critique business plans created by the students. There will be a follow up in a few weeks to see the revised plans.

**Reading Rocks and Expanding Your Horizons** are going well.

### **Communications Report:**

After a rocky start on the learning curve, the website is now running smoothly and up to date! Facebook is continuing to increase viewership. Michele's policy posts are popular. A plan is now in place for at least one posting per week.

The Homes Tour has already been mentioned in the San Francisco Chronicle and Press Democrat! Neita is working with the PD for a cover article in April. The *Grapevine* and Constant Contact publications are fully utilized. Most of the members are involved with the Homes Tour. Articles have appeared in the *Grapevine*, information and ticket purchase forms are on the website, advertisers and sponsors are being recognized on Facebook, Neita is working with the PD for an article as well as ads and there are plans with the local newspapers as well. Liz sends to Constant Contact emails for volunteers as needed.

### **Speakers Series:**

Chris Vanden Heuvel spoke at the April meeting about making changes to the district's pre-school program, about project-based learning in the elementary charter school, about the district's new Accelerated English system of teaching English language learners, and about career technical programs at the junior high and high schools. He also gave a walking tour of the three newly completed classrooms for art, culinary arts and digital arts. So many members expressed pride over all the community service assistance our branch has given to help local education. There will be an article in the May *Grapevine*.

Patricia Murphy is scheduled to speak at the May 10 meeting about the Lego Mindstorm robots we bought for the JH at the beginning of the school year. We also anticipate hearing about the junior high students who are assembling an electric car and motor.

Last month Heidi spoke with Alan Finnie, the Program Director at Alliance Clinic, about the Safe Dating workshop we contributed to last summer. He said they “didn’t get a school to sign on for it” until February. The schools were worried about the subject matter! Andi will follow up with Alan to find out the status of the workshop.

**Social Activities:**

Lynda suggested that we consider charging members for the Holiday Party so we can have it catered. The Branch would cover the cost of the venue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Violet Nelson, Secretary  
April 18, 2016