

## **HEALDSBURG AAUW BRANCH MEETING**

February 20, 2017

Ronnie Devitt's home

1714 Latigo Lane, Healdsburg

**PRESENT:** Ronnie Devitt, Violet Nelson, Linda Clark, Michele St. Clair, Winky Merrill, Judy Edmonds, Sandy Beddow, Barbara Reid, Deana Fusco, Andi Michelsen, Sue Campbell, Janet Hoehn

The AAUW Branch meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

### **Minutes from prior meeting: Violet**

The minutes of the January 20, 2017 meeting were approved; Michelle moved and Judy seconded.

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

Winky reviewed the Branch Budget Report and Treasurer's Report. No changes to be made at this time.

### **Nominating Committee Report:**

During the meeting, Michele St. Clair agreed to continue as Chair for the Public Policy Committee. As a result, all Board positions are now filled.

### **Speaker Series/Survey results: Sandy**

A Speaker Series Survey was sent via email to all members in early February; the purpose was to obtain feedback about the topics and timing for these meetings as attendance has been quite low.

Highlights include:

60 members (30%) responded

41% indicated that the topics were not of interest to them

52% said that 5-7 pm is not a good time to meet

43% said that Tuesday evenings are not a good time to meet

98% felt that the topics should be focused on community issues; 56% felt that they should focus on Branch mission/goals

90% felt that we should have fewer meetings

In light of the survey results and additional comments/suggestions that were shared, the Board discussed some alternative options in lieu of continuing the current format on a monthly schedule. The Board made a decision to suspend the current format of the Speakers Series for one year. As a result, there will be no Board position next year for Speaker Series. During the upcoming year, the Board will consider scheduling a “one off” meeting on a topic of general interest.

Upcoming Speakers’ Series:

March 7, 2017 — Our AAUW State Lobbyist, Shannon Smith-Crowley

April 4, 2017 — Cathryn Couch, Executive Director, The Ceres Community Project

**Communications Report: Linda**

1. The website has been very active with articles from Speech Trek and GEMS in addition to the Forum and Homes Tour. A change was made to googles calendar, which allows us to modify it ourselves.
2. A member suggested we add a travel topic to Bulletin Board. It would allow members to share their travels with others who have an interest. We’re trying it this month and would appreciate feedback.
3. Neita was able to get an article about the spring Forum in Sonoma Discoveries.

**Community Services Report: Judy**

GEMS: Margie, Wendy and Judy chaperoned 11 girls on a field trip to Facebook in Menlo Park in January. Their responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Speech Trek: Hillary Kambaur and fellow coaches Annie Himmelstein, Diane Burnley, and Diane Bartleson did a super job in coaching local students and arranging the competition at Cloverdale HS. Supervisor James Gore was one of the judges, and the next day his Facebook page said: “Judged the AAUW Speech Trek Competition at [Cloverdale High](#) tonight. Topic: ‘Is it time to pass the Equal Rights Amendment?’ The participants were 4 boys. The top finalist will be competing at the State competition in April.

Reading Rocks is doing well at both HES and Westside.

Future Prep is doing well at both Cloverdale and Healdsburg. Later this month there will be a panel on the arts for students at HHS.

**Membership Report: Deana**

Current membership is now 202, losing 2 former members and gaining a new member. Patti McHugh has agreed to move from Membership Assistant to Chair for 2017-18. National AAUW will initiate membership renewal for 2017-18 in mid-March.

**Public Policy Report: Michele**

Michele has agreed to continue as Chair of the Public Policy Committee. During the upcoming year, she will restructure the Committee to be more “events focused”.

**Social Activities Report: Barbara**

Wine & Dine was held on January 28th with 40 participants.

Happy Hour was held at Longboard Vineyards on February 9th with 50 people RSVPing; due to the weather, attendance was somewhat fewer.

Lunch Bunch is scheduled for February 22nd at Cafe Lucia; reservations are at maximum participation.

The next Cultural Tour is scheduled for April 14th to Cornerstone in Sonoma.

Suggestions were generated about potential venues for the Annual Meeting/May luncheon; Barbara will follow up with those members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Violet Nelson, Secretary  
February 20, 2017