

AAUW BRANCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2020 *Final*

The AAUW Branch Board Meeting was called to order at 3:18 pm via Zoom teleconference

Present: Linda Clark, Barbara Epstein, Mary Fitzgerald, Nancy Haiston, Kathryn Henderson, Karla Rosen, Kate Van Ness, Theresa Cabral, Julie Hanamura, Beth Wolk, Barbara Reid, Sue Campbell, Mickey Sarquis

Absent: None.

Minutes: Motion to accept the 2020.04.07 Branch Board Meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved.

President's 2019-2020 Healdsburg AAUW Year End Report -- Linda Clark

Our goal for the year was to achieve at least 4 of the 5 goals of the national AAUW 5 Star Program. Congratulations! We met our goal.

Communications: Mary Fitzgerald

- Website was redesigned to be more user friendly and added tabs.
- Continued member spotlight in the Grapevine. Very well received.
- Working with the past president, evaluated the ongoing role of website manager.
- The Communications Team had a get together with the goal of better support for each other.

Membership: Barb Reid

- Continued growth of our AAUW Branch. Membership stands at 220 members as of 04/30/20. We received recognition from State AAUW that we had the highest membership increase of any club in the state! We had 24 new members this fiscal year. Our retention was very high with only 17 members not rejoining and the majority of those were due to relocation.
- Online membership renewal instituted by National in 2019 has resulted in a more efficient use of time.

- Debit Cards to pay our dues online has greatly reduced our mailing costs, and increased our efficiency for enrolling new members in a timely manner.
- The New Membership Mentor program has been challenged by the fires and Covid-19. The Windsor program is operating well.
- New Member information delivered monthly to the board, which has enhanced the member motivation to become involved in groups and committees.
- Additional book clubs and Great Decisions groups have been added due to our increased growth.
- Due to the volume of new members the buddy program has been challenged and a committee will be working on better addressing this issue.
- National has been difficult to communicate with regarding overcharging of fees. There have been many personnel changes and non-responses due to Covid-19.

Mission Based Projects: Beth Wolk

- **Reading Rocks:** There were four volunteers at HES, two in first grade and two in second grade. There were eight volunteers at Westside, some were regulars, and some were subs. Shally Schultz will be retiring from her position of coordinator at Healdsburg Elementary and Diane Burnley will be taking over. We hope to expand the scope of volunteers to more classes, and perhaps include Geyserville Elementary if we can find people to volunteer there.
 - The annual holiday book giveaway to the first grade classes at Westside and HES was a rousing success. Every student received a book which was given to them individually by the Reading Rocks volunteer in their class.
- **Future Prep:** We held one Future Prep at Healdsburg High School in January. The focus was agriculture and hospitality. It was well attended, and the students were engaged. Many wrote heart warming thank you notes to the speakers and spoke about how they were positively

influenced. Due to the school closure, the April event was not held. Hillary Kambour was the coordinator.

- o On Friday January 24, a Future Prep session was held at the Cloverdale High School Maker Space. The topic for this event was Arts and Entertainment. There were 36 students attending from all high school grade levels. The volunteers came from a variety of professions including a music marketing executive from Disney Studios, the founder and executive director of a film society, the owner of a music school, an actor and artistic director of a performing arts theater, a professional artist, and an author of children's books. After a brief introduction by each of the professionals, students met with each professional in a small group. They got to ask questions like the education required, whether the work required significant group interaction, what the professional liked best about their job, and any other question that helped the student to understand whether the job might be something that they would like to pursue. After the small group sessions, the students and volunteers had a pizza lunch and continued to talk informally. The next session was supposed to be held in April. Cecile Peters was the coordinator.
- o As of this report, there is no coordinator next year for Healdsburg or Cloverdale High School.
- **Holiday Supplies For Teachers:** As always our members generously donated enough supplies so that the teachers at Healdsburg Elementary, Healdsburg Charter, Fitch Mountain Elementary and Westside school all received a generous amount of supplies. Cathy Mock was the coordinator and also delivered the supplies.
- **School Readiness:** AAUW was a supporter of the Preschool Fair, hosted by Corazón at the Healdsburg Community Center on January 26th. This was the third annual Fair with AAUW a supporter of all three.
 - o This year, fifteen area preschool and childcare providers set up booths at the Fair. Nearly 100 families came, asked questions, and got information on local educational opportunities for their preschool aged children. In addition, there were toys and wellness displays for children to enjoy at the Fair and free books and supplies

to take home. Families and providers all agreed the Fair was a big success.

- o AAUW contributed \$500 to North Bay Children's Center for their Raising A Reader program.

Public Policy and Programs: Sue Campbell

- Women's March – Organized by Ann Pederson, held in January.
- Rosie the Riveter Event – Attended by Sue Finan in March.
- Member Survey – Conducted by Ann Pederson.
- 2-Minute Activist – Organized by Becky La Londe, communicated to the membership via the Grapevine and the Board to their committees; also presented at the Fall Forum.
- Work Smart – Organized by Nancy Andrews and Connie Cservenyak; postponed due to COVID -19.
- Centennial Celebration – Organized by Sue Campbell and Hillary Kambour; mini-film festival planned for March but cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Legislator Meeting – Led by Becky La Londe and Martha Noble; planning meeting held with AAUW CA lobbyists; meeting with Mike Maguire postponed due to COVID-19.
- High School Voter Registration – Organized by Sue Campbell; training planned for March cancelled due to COVID-19; expectation to start up again in the fall.
- Advocacy Web Page – Developed by Sue Campbell and implemented by Nancy Haiston.
- Equal Pay Day – Planned by Ann Pederson; not pursued due to COVID-19.

Social Activities: Kathryn Henderson

- Lunch Bunch was a huge success this year, with a waiting list for every planned lunch. April's events were, of course, cancelled, but planning will begin for the fall as soon as it seems feasible.
- Wine and Dine expanded by including a summer brunch last year, 2019, which was very successful. The W&D committee plans on keeping the addition for the 2020 year (if possible).

- Cultural Events had only one activity this last year, in January. Signups were slow, but in the end, the event brought in quite a few people. The format used for the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 Cultural Events was a bit of an experiment, with cultural events presented in a private home. The incoming committee will resume with the format used in the past, beginning in the 2020 year.
- Happy Hours: Two were held this year, one in the fall and one on Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day Happy Hour was at a new venue this year, Young and Yonder Spirits, which was very well received by members-- great space, lots of areas to sit, and having a bar made it different and fun.
- Kick-off and Holiday Party: Both went well, with solid attendance.
- Installation/Garden Party: Cancelled.
- 2019 Summer Barbecue: On the grass at Lake Sonoma, and, as always, successful.

STEM: Karla Rosen

- This was the first year for the STEM Director position. If the coronavirus had not cancelled the planned events, the goals would have been accomplished for the Tech Trek, GEMS, and Expanding Your Horizons committees. Research continues on the possibility of creating a Tech Trek Mentor program. Although no decision was made, the possible types of mentor programs were explored. Starting at the low level, mentors could be a trusted adult who meets with girls once a month. At the highest level, the mentors could provide academic and financial counseling and scholarships. Expertise, time and money requirements increase at each level of mentorship. There was discussion about the feasibility of starting a trial Tech Trek mentor program by forming a cooperative relationship with Corazon's FirstGen program. They would provide the academic and financial expertise to counsel first generation, economically disadvantaged Tech Trek girls. AAUW would fund FirstGen while also having AAUW members be a trusted adult to the mentees. The decision for the mentor program will be made next year.
- Tech Trek 2019
 - Article about the 2019 Tech Trekkers in the Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale Sonoma West newspapers on August 15, 2019

- Tech Trek Panel Discussion for AAUW members and Tech Trek Sponsors on October 14, 2019.
- Tech Trek 2020
 - Girls were selected and notified of their acceptance status to Tech Trek 2020. Tech Trek was then cancelled and the girls were notified of the cancellation.
 - We are in the process of planning a summer activity called Terrific Science Virtual Camp 2020 in June or July for the girls selected to attend Tech Trek 2020, to be led by Mickey Sarquis.
- GEMS
 - Bodega Marine Laboratory field-trip on October 22.
 - STEM Career Panel on Wednesday October 23.
- Expanding Your Horizons - Money Matters Workshop
 - Before EYH was postponed to the Fall, the presentation and supporting material were updated for this year's presentation.
 - Printed materials were updated for this year's Money Matters presentation.
 - A \$500 donation was made to EYH.

General Discussion

The proposed slate of next year's Branch Board Officers will be published electronically and voting will be done by email due to the Shelter in Place requirements.

The new Board will hold its Annual Planning Retreat meeting in August, 2020.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Cabral, Secretary

Final