

AAUW Whatcom March 2024 Board Meeting

March 23, 2024

9 am start (via Zoom)

Attendance:

Judi Edwards, Susan Moen, Judith Paulson, Margo Hammond, Uzma Ahmad, Lynda Buehring, Carol Simmer, Pam Sankey, Catherine Chambers, Gwen Parker.

Call To Order - Judi

Meeting started - At 9:07 am. Zoom recording started.

Tribal Lands Acknowledgment – As shown in the agenda:

“We want to acknowledge that the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack tribes are located in the heart of Whatcom County. Accordingly, we take this opportunity to recognize that we live, work and learn within the original homelands of the Coast Salish.

We acknowledge that the Coast Salish peoples have lived and nurtured these lands since time immemorial and we recognize that we are here because of the sacrifice forced upon them.

In recognizing these tribal communities, we honor and seek to raise up and center their legacy, their lives, their descendants, and their living cultures.

Any agenda additions or order changes

- Reshuffling of agenda

Board Minutes – Margo

- Minutes for February sent out to board.
- Request to put approved minutes in pdf form and put into Dropbox.
- Motion for approve both minutes made. Seconded. No discussion. All voted aye. Motion passes.

Treasurer’s Report – Judith was not present.)

- January Report
 - Judi will forward report received to be included in the minutes.
- WA Secretary of State
 - “In default”
 - Timing with the annual report. Has sent this in and all is worked out.
- Balance
 - Savings acct: \$23,100.63

- Checking acct: 93.60
- Monthly usage:
 - Income: From National for a membership (\$11)
 - Expenses: Spent history social, coffee for branch meetings, brochures
- Post office box update:
 - Judith described more cost-effective options, including Pack Mail.
 - Several people mentioned cons as changing a mailing address may be deleterious and time consuming.
 - Lynda shared USPS non-profit options.
 - Judy will earmark this for an agenda later this year, before the renewal in Feb.
- Motion
 - Approval made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded. No discussion. All voted aye. Motion passes.

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Budget – Judi

- Request for volunteers to create the budget for next year.
- Judith and Carol volunteered. Judi will communicate with them for new

Membership – Lynda & Sandy (not present.)

- Renewals. Most will be in June. Will work with Sandy on reaching out to current members.
- Meet up – To discontinue? Usage is not resulting new people to participate. Discussion to end as there is a fee for usage. This is paid through June. People mentioned and brainstormed various ways to invite people to AAUW events which are free.
- Roster – Membership. Judi sent the updated form from National to Gwen. Gwen is reviewing this list to make call lists. Wi commented.

- Fundraising – Could this be combined with membership recruitment? Catherine had an idea on fundraising and will discuss later in the program.
- Removal of non-members on the roster. Some confusion on our list compared to the national roster. We need to know for newsletter, membership, etc.

Presidents Report – Judi

- National – April bylaw
- WA State AAUW Annual Meeting
 - April 21st via Zoom
- WA State AAUW Convention
 - September 21st in person.
 - Renton
- Webinar
 - AI webinar. Judi and Catherine watched. Catherine reported, and encouraged everyone to watch the recording.

- - 4pm PST. See link in this meeting agenda, National email list and Evergreen Leader.
- **Nominations**
 - Need a membership chair or committee.
 - Open positions:
 - Treasurer – Catherine put in her name.
 - Membership – Lynda would like to participate as a member of the membership committee. A chair is still needed.
 - Votes – Typically in April
 - Transition – In June
- **Public Policy**
 - Why has National changed their position on salary negotiations.
 - Still looking at pay inequality, yet the focus is not on negotiations.
- **State AAUW**
 - Opening for Evergreen leader editor position.

Tech Trek Update – Judi reported initially. Pam reported once she joined the meeting.

- Judi gave an update.
- Plan to support 6 girls.
- Budget = \$700 short. Judi would like to have the AAUW budget pay this delta. Discussion about putting a request for funds from membership in the newsletter, for next year. To get a tax deduction, then send the funds directly to SPF. Funds needed by April 1st. There was a consensus to send AAUW funds to SPF. As it is in the budget, no vote is needed. Judi will communicate to the Tech Trek team that these funds are coming. Judi will also send the SPF address to Judith.
- Pam reported that 8 girls have been selected. 6 to send, and 2 alternates. Schools: Fairhaven, Whatcom and Shuksan. Meet and greet scheduled for May 18th at the Sunset Ridge Community Center hosted by Cathie Oberg. She will send this info to Gwen for the newsletter. SPIE has been very supportive of this program, and they donated \$1700.

Food Pantry – Catherine and Carol

- Getting more difficult to get in touch with people to make deliveries. Basically, a lot of work for not donating very much food.
- A donation of money would be easier, and more effective to the recipient schools.
- Catherine suggested to continue through May, then a consideration of change of plans. She will commit to the program through May.
- Carol and Catherine offered comments on the various difficulties in delivering money or food. Challenged our branch commitment to this program.
- Ideas: Susan mentioned that this would be a good question to continue or not for our upcoming questionnaire. Uzma mentioned an idea of selecting one month for a specific school to collect food.

Scholarships – Carol

- Each of our local educational institutions have a foundation scholarship event each year.
- BTC event. No AAUW person to attend this year. Anticipates \$1000 donation this year. Judi confirmed that this funding was in the budget. Judith will communicate with Carol on how to send these funds to BTC.
- Remember to use the branch email address for communications. Judi will send the branch email addresses (Main, treasurer, membership) to all on the board. These are also listed on our branch website.

Public Policy – Catherine

- Asked to write a letter about pay equity to local publications. Will send to the board for review prior to sending it out. Margo suggested to Judi will forward to the
- Cascadia Women's Film Festival – Catherine suggested a choice about the film to sponsor and support. Consensus to approve. Info will be put in the newsletter. Support needed to table at this event. Also, will check to see if we get a free ticket(s) to the festival.

Fundraising – Catherine and Susan

- Three events identified – Yet not traction on these yet.
 1. Sin and Gin party
 1. Only 3 people responded that they would pay for a \$60 ticket. Disappointing.
 2. Already paid the speaker.
 3. A discounted ticket of \$30?
 4. How many people would come to a Thursday evening, May 16th?
 5. Comments on the title. As this is a history of Bellingham, then the name should reflect this. Frame differently as women's role in the history of Bellingham. May increase the number of people who would attend.
 2. My Nursery event.
 3. Additional event?
- Scholarship fundraising - Think about earmarking this type of donation at these events.
- Next steps
 - Future fundraising brainstorming and committee formation.
 - Robin brought a fundraising person to the last branch meeting. After this meeting, this person didn't want to be involved. Perhaps a personal invitation to her? Judi will contact her and see if she could offer insights.

Programs & Meeting Locations – Susan

April – Encore Rm. At Mt. Baker Theatre

- Bham Police Chief
- Comment – Catherine - Want to know about her journey in law enforcement as a leader.
- May – My Garden – On Bakerview Rd.
 - Make garden pots

- Snacks at the onsite Purple Flamingo café.
- June – Art Walk or gallery visit at WWU

Additionally,

- February – Debrief
 - Enjoyable
 - Perhaps 1 time per year
 - In a round table(s)

DEI – Judith Enwithe (Not present)

- **No report**

High School Scholars – Carol

- Will send a letter to the high school counselor that we will not have this program.
- Though if they want to send us a nomination, then we would send a certificate.
- Catherine mentioned a question on continuation of this program needs to be on the upcoming survey.

Survey –

- Gwen asked for more information.
- Last branch meeting – 3 questions posed to the membership. An outcome was that a survey is needed to survey the entire membership.
- Judi reviewed details on how to survey what the membership wants, and then move forward.
- Margo to send info from the board meeting to Judi.
- Judi will start a list of questions and start to compile in a Survey Monkey format.
- Discussion about ideas: Zoom only, social events in person; Seattle model of meetings; we could utilize Seattle speakers, and then we could arrange social events; Emily (WWU scholarship recipient) had a lot of ideas and offered help; The State AAUW has a Zoom membership.

Status of 501c3 – Judi

- Judi is continuing to work with Judith Paulson on this.

Communications – Gwen

- Newsletter deadline: March 29th.

Hospitality – Carol (reported, though not the chair)

- Consensus to donate small pkts of snacks to the April Food Pantry collection.

Survey - Judi

- Send questions to Judi.
- Will prepare questions and create a survey.

Additionally – Judi

- Sign up for AAUW webinar, next Tuesday.
- Suggestion to put this type of information in the newsletter.
- A suggestion to put our mission and historical information could be put in the newsletter.
- Asuggestion to put in National work in the newsletter. Could be a branch meeting with National webinars too. Could attract younger members. Some links could be put on our website and even on Facebook. Virtual book group

Book group

- Gained a couple members.
- Book this month was on the history of Palestine.
- To meet at the Affinity Community library. Kay manages access to this site.
- Ideas: Perhaps at our branch meetings, a 5-minute report from the last book read.

Next Board Meetings

- Meeting adjourned - at 10:58 am. Zoom recording ended.