

## AAUW March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 General Membership Meeting

### Meth-Wick

9:30-11:30 A.M.

**Attendance:** Sarah Swayze (Secretary), Carletta Knox-Seymour (Branch Pres.), Sue Jorgenson (Communication), Sue Pearson (Charitable Funds Director), Carol Hills (Annual Funds), Carole Bernard Freeman (Program Officer), Linda Armitage (Membership Director), Jennifer McNabb (Website Director) Lillie Moore, Deborah Reed (New Member), Karen Alderman, Jean Helfer, Gisela Steffe, Suah Borsay, Erica Yoder, Carolyn Schmidt (Our Host), Trudy Sunderman, Betty Debban (Music), Barb Goings, Carol Hills, Julie Mitchell (New Member?) and Dorothy Johnson

Absences: Mary Lawrence, Renee Penalver and Linda Topinka (All excused)

Board members were introduced and identified as appointed or elected.

**Meeting called to order:** Carletta Knox-Seymour

**President's Report:** Carletta (also on the committee for fund raising/marketing with Jennifer M. and Renee P.)

**Finance Report:** Balance of \$4,146.49 in Farmer State Bank, Funds from Holiday Brunch is \$465.00 (income from the registration fee) with expense paid to Carole Bernard of \$38.14. We are still awaiting results because other expenses need to be paid out of the \$465.00. \$29.50 has been paid to National and \$10.00 was paid to the state.

Carletta also spoke on the opportunity to work in collaboration with Susie Green and the College for Kids Enrichment Program. Susie stated the program is lacking the participation of students of color. She is interested in having AAUW local branch push the effort to get girls of color involved for next year. The branch is in favor of the collaboration opportunities with Grant Wood AEA and Coe College. Monies will be raised through fund raising, donations and grants. The intentions of the monies raised will be clearly stated. We are not doing scholarships, we are doing sponsorships.

Carletta wanted to know if everyone was receiving the bulletin so a determination could be made on how to ensure that all members are receiving the bulletin. Jennifer will be putting all bulletins on the website and has offer to help any member learn to use Google docs. Sue Jorgenson is also taking hard copies to members who struggle with technology.

The AAUW nominating committee has selected Carletta Knox-Seymour to be president-elect for state. She has accepted.

**Finance Report: Mary Lawrence. (excused absence)** (Carletta Knox-Seymour and Sharon Vana are also on this Treasury committee.) Report given by Carletta.

**Public Policy Report:** Linda Topinka (excused absence) (Report read by Jennifer McNabb)

*National:* New Jersey is the second state to recently pass a law that will implement the history of LGBTQ in their school curriculum. The first state was California in 2011.

Congress allowed the Violence Against Women Act to lapse. Legislation attempted to submit it in the immigration negotiations, but it was reported that the monies were allocated to the government subcontractors or contractors. It was reported that monies for the Violence Against Women Act will be allocated later in a congressional session.

*State:* Governor Reynolds says she will not oppose a district ruling decision regarding the fetal heartbeat law being unconstitutional. Linda's report also states, [There is a total of 90 million new dollars in the K-12 funding bill. Part of that is a 2.06 percent increase to base per-student funding.]

*Local:* The Cedar Rapids' School District is proposing that McKinley and Taylor become magnet schools. The Workforce Development received 1 million dollars for an additional incentive for additional state expansion grant money from the U.S. Department of Labor. Organizations that qualify for the monies are the following: High school apprenticeship community programs, health care factors and health care related leadership programs. Linda is in the process of finding out if young women and men of color can access these apprenticeships through their respected schools, as well as unemployment or under employment. She has reached out to representative Deed and the Workforce Center but has not heard back from them.

**Membership Report: Linda Armitage (Lillie M. is also on the committee)**

Linda called out the names of the newer members, they are Lillie Moore, Jean Helfer, Carole Bernard, Suah Boray and Erica Yoder. Recent members are Deborah Reed (joined on March 9th and Julie Mitchell, pending).

Linda acknowledged several of the branch's members who have passed throughout the year based on a suggestion from Linda Topinka. She thanked Carletta for all the work she has been doing. She also thanked Sue Jorgensen for all her effort in getting new members involved with the branch.

She shared that Kirkwood Comm. College has let their partnership with AAUW lapse and she is working on getting a connection going again. Many community colleges had to drop their membership as partners with AAUW because of the \$175.00 charge. They were making many cuts because of funding. She has reached out to Kirkwood with Brenda Steinke, a Kirkwood staff member, who will help with connecting Linda with their new Dean of college because now she must go through the human resource office. Various AAUW members are willing to donate money to help Kirkwood to continue their work with the local branch. Coe is the other college or university partnering with the local branch. Linda has not approached Mount Mercy University and is not sure if this is the move to make because there are some areas of our organization that they may not be supportive of.

Linda suggested that maybe Barb Goings will be interested in getting a multi-cultural program going next year with their students. This has happened in the past.

Sue P. questioned the use of the word 'partner' in Linda's report. However, Linda had a pamphlet on hand titled, *'AAUW: College/University Partner Membership'*. *This conversation is connected to the by laws that state that as an affiliate of the AAUW, we cannot partner with any organization.*

**Program Officer: Carole Bernard (Trudy S. and Barb Goings are also on this committee)**

Carole thanked the members who showed their support of the March program at the New Cedar Rapids History Museum. She also thanked Trudy Sunderman for getting Mark Hunter to give a tour of the facility.

Members were reminded of the upcoming AAUW State Conference on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Newton Campus in Des Moines Area Community College.

The program committee is looking for a place to hold the End of the Year Luncheon on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Election of Officers will be held at the luncheon. Suggestions are welcome.

Carole Bernard stated the bill for the Holiday Brunch has been going to Barb Goings and wanted to know had this been taken care of. Carletta stated that she, along with Mary L., have taken care of this issue. In reflecting on this, Carletta notice that there were expenses paid to Sodexo Catering (372.00) and dues received from D. Caldwell of \$50.50. If we deduct \$372.68 from the \$465.00 received from registration, we have a balance of \$92.32. This is our profit. This is the results of the Treasury report.

**Website Report:** Jennifer McNabb gave the group a background report on her life. She served as a board member for the AAUW Branch in Storm Lake before moving to Cedar Rapids. She wore many hats while there. In her report, she is stated that the bulletins will be on the site, the book club has been updated, links have been added for the Amazon postings and additional add-ons are being made. Sue Jorgenson has been helpful in sending many pictures of the organization to include on the website. The site is under construction. The website address is [cedarrapidsarea-ia.aauw.net](http://cedarrapidsarea-ia.aauw.net). Jennifer also shared information on Google docs and encourages all members to look at the various links listing up-coming events, public policies, etc. She welcomes any suggestions.

An account has been setup in Google Drive for the purpose of sharing/storing information and each member will receive a link to the website. Jennifer will be sending out emails to all individual with some specific questions on your content areas, what is it that you would like to see on the site and additional information she may need from you.

**Newsletter Editor Officer: Sue Jorgensen**

Sue Jorgensen has served in her position for 10 years. She acknowledged the role that various members have played in the years. She needs people to help her with calling and texting our senior members.

The legislator forum, a yearly event, will be held in the coming weeks. League of Women Voters event will be on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Oakland Road HyVee will be catering the beverages (coffee, tea and water). AAUW is committing to donating money for napkins and pastries or home baked goods. All donations are to be sent to Sue Jorgensen up until March 9<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to AAUW Cedar Rapids' branch. Pastries and setup are to be done by 9 or 9:30 A.M. at 1717 Boyson Rd (Kirkwood Training Center). This is a yearly donation. 150 people have signed up to attend. The things that are on the table this year is females' genital mutilation. Iowa is one of the few states around that does not do anything about that.

At Lobby Day, Iowa stands is 37<sup>th</sup> in the national for equity pay for women. AAUW's article, *The Simple Truth*, talks about where Iowa stands. Sue J. encourages members to come with their question or to help set up for the Legislator's Forum.

Carletta shared information she learned from a text in February 2019 called *Breaking the Paycheck Fairness Act*, that acknowledges the role AAUW has played in bringing recognition to equity in pay for women. It is now a top priority for Congress and is currently on the house floor for passage.

**Appointed Chair AAUW Funds: Carol Hills** reported that she sent a check for \$1205.00 to national (information taken from January Board Minutes' notes. Carol could not recall at the time). There are matching funds.

**Charitable Funds Appointed Chair: Sue Pearson:**

Sue Pearson stated that AAUW local will keep our 501c3 status. We are still willing to be a part of Open Minds, Open Doors (OMOD), but we need to understand what kind of financial help we would be able to give. The branch needs to decide if it wants to continue the Thank You Lunch Celebration or do, we want to do more along the lines of a 'token' thank you that will go to every presenter. Whatever is decided, the branch needs to know that the \$1213.00 in the charitable fund account, must go toward the donors' intentions, which is Open Minds, Open Doors.

Also, the branch does not have the money to sponsor children from the College for Kids Enrichment currently. The price of sponsorship is \$250.00 per kid. Suggestions were made to do a pilot program next year where we may want to fund the sponsorship of two students.

Karen Alderman shared information that Collins Aerospace will donate good money for Open Minds, Open Doors because of our 501c3 status. She suggested that we request help from them to help us with the sponsorship and to ask for this help on an annual basis. She moved that the branch take this action. Carletta added for clarification that AAUW's part is simply the 'luncheon.' Karen stated she is fine with this and made a motion that we continue to support OMOD and be a collaborator with it and apply to Collins' Aerospace or some other tech company for grant money or donation to support AAUW's part in Open Minds, Open Doors. Betty Debban second this motion. All are in favor. Motion carries.

Betty Debban added that people like Sue P. are appointed and the members can call these people with ideas. So, at the board meetings, if a recommendation is made, then you give it to the general population for a vote. Otherwise, the branch talks about this stuff and there never is a conclusion because there is never anything specific to vote on put to the group. Carletta replied to this by stating, "There was so many speculations with respect to so many people wanting OMOD to stay on and then there was some that didn't." Because of this Carletta felt that she needed to hear from the branch.

Trudy Sunderman asked, "When dues are paid, is it possible for members to add donations for Open Minds, Open Doors? This will have to be researched to see if it is possible. A suggestion was made to just write a separate check to the Charitable Fund so members can get a receipt because donations are tax deductible.

Sue Pearson suggested the person writing the grants (Renee P.) may want to solicit donations that will cover both Open Minds, Open Doors and College for Kids.

Trudy S. also proposed that in the bulletin or when the information is put out about dues being due, that a request is made to donate to either Open Minds, Open Doors or College for Kids or both.

Sue P. announced that there is an opening for her position as Charitable Funds Director after she resigns this year. She adds that the bylaws state that there needs to be two officers over the Charitable Funds. Information was shared on how Sue came into the position of Finance Officer around 2006 after Marilyn Bowman. Sue had

submitted a grant for the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation which was approved after the 2008 conference. The branch has been working off that grant money since 2008 and has not brought any new monies in. The question was asked as to how much money it takes to have the OMOD. Sue states that from Susie's projected budget, it is just over \$9420.00. \$8800.00 comes in from student registrations and chaperone registration. OMOD has become pretty much self-supporting. All the branch pays for is the luncheon and the expo boxed lunches, which was about \$1100.00 last year. The branch also paid for the \$5.00 gift certificates for the 16 Coe students.

Carletta states that the branch is now at the question is the branch willing to save, keep or continue the 501c3 status, the Charitable Fund for OMOD. We now have \$1213.00 left in the Charitable Funds' account.

**Fundraising/Marketing Renee P. report was read by Jennifer McNabb.**

Renee has created a Twitter account for the branch to connect with other branches that already has an account. Most branches use Twitter accounts for marketing, fund raising and other events. She has also been in contact with Steven Shelby, director of Multi-cultural at Coe College to discuss a collaboration between AAUW and them for Women's Month. Steven wants us to present on negotiation for women and is hoping the presentation will be done by a non-Coe employee. This is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 P.M. in Coe's Intercultural Center. For fund raising, she has started a review of the binder given to her by Sue P. She has also had discussion with Carletta about the Charitable Fund. She has also reviewed the grant submission process for the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Submitted by Sarah Swayze on 3/19/2019