



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 9-10, 2019
Clarion Hotel Central
Richmond, VA

CALL TO ORDER

The State Board meeting was called to order on Friday, November 9, 2019, at 12:34 PM by Co-President Carol Stephens. A list of Board members in attendance was distributed via email. **(Enclosure 1)** Carol announced that Nancy Warren, College/University Chair, has resigned from her position because of family commitments that make it impossible for her to continue. DebraLee Hovey was introduced as the new Southwest District representative, and Tammie Mullins-Rice has returned to the Board as the Southeast District Co-Representative.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The Co-Presidents' Report was distributed to the Board via email. **(Enclosure 2)** Caroline Pickens and Mary Froehlich volunteered for the reading committee. They will review and modify the minutes, as needed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the July 26 and 28, 2019, Board meeting were distributed electronically by Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd. **(Enclosure 3)** Carol Stephens asked if there were any corrections to the July 26 and 28, 2019, minutes. Hearing no corrections or objections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Nominating Committee Report was distributed to the Board by Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Woodlee via email. **(Enclosure 4)** Co-Presidents Leslie Tourigny and Carol Stephens, as well as Tammie Mullins-Rice, updated the Board on the nominations for the positions that will be voted on in the 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Board election.

- Leslie Tourigny will serve a second term as Co-President, but Co-President Carol Stephens will step down. Suzanne Rothwell, the current Bylaws/Resolutions Chair, will join Leslie on the ballot as Co-President.
- Patsy Quick will serve a second term as VP for Communications.
- Nadine James will be on the ballot for VP for Program. Current VP Sandy Lawrence will step down.
- Susan Burk, the current Co-VP for Public Policy, will serve a second term, but Co-VP Sylvia Rogers will step down. A Co-VP candidate is being sought.

Biographies and pictures of the candidates must be sent to the editors of the Vision for inclusion in the next issue.

VOTING and ELECTION PROCESS for 2020

A Voting and Election Process for 2020 report was distributed to the Board via email. **(Enclosure 5)**

ElectionBuddy, which worked well in the last election, will be used again for the 2020 election. The following items will be on the ballot:

- AAUW of Virginia State Board Officers
- One Bylaws amendment
- Public Policy Priorities for 2020-2022

Online voting will take place in April and May. Voting starts on April 26, so members will be able to discuss the proposed bylaws changes and public policy priorities at the State Conference. Members need to verify that their email address is correct in the Member Services Database (MSD) to ensure delivery of their online ballot.

2020 STATE CONFERENCE

A Conference Schedule, outlining Conference activities, was distributed via email to the Board. **(Enclosure 6)** Arlene Shapiro, Alexandria Branch, and Joanne Clark, Mt. Vernon Branch, co-chairs of the Conference Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), attended the meeting.

Logo/Theme

At the July meeting it was agreed that the theme of the conference should reflect the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which will take place in 2020 and the campaign for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). It was decided that the title should be “20/20 Vision.” Leslie suggested that the Board might want to consider using another title because that one is being used by so many other organizations. Several other titles were considered. A vote was taken on the suggested title “**20/20 Celebrating Visionary Women.**” That title was approved. It was then decided that it should be slightly changed to appear as:

Celebrating Visionary Women 1920 - 2020

Patsy Quick will design possible logos to be used on conference materials.

Program

The Conference programs and activities were outlined in the Conference Schedule which was Enclosure 6.

The Conference Committee will strive to enlist a diverse group of “visionary women” on the “Women Elected Officials” panel that will be present on Sunday morning.

Diversity and Inclusion Chair Cyndi Shanahan requested that a separate Diversity and Inclusion meeting for the Diversity and Inclusion branch representatives be scheduled in addition to the Diversity and Inclusion Workshop that is already scheduled for Saturday morning. Cyndi wanted more time with those representatives to learn what they are doing in their branches and answer any questions that they might have. It was

suggested that a meeting could be scheduled for 8:00 AM on Sunday morning. An updated schedule will be sent with this addition and other current information.

Conference Budget

The Event Budget for the 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference was distributed to the Board via email. **(Enclosure 7)** Tammie Mullins-Rice, Conference Treasurer and Registrar, explained that this is a preliminary budget based on estimates. There were several changes made to the Budget as it was reviewed. The costs of lunch and dinner were estimates because Tammie was unsure of how much the taxes would be. Joanne Clark, Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) advised that AAUW of Virginia is a tax-exempt organization so the totals will decrease. Welcome bags for members were discussed. It was decided that they are not necessary. On the Income page of the Event Budget, Enclosure 7, \$375 was estimated for income associated with the Woman of Achievement Awards and on the Expense page, \$240 was estimated as an expense associated with the Award. It was determined that the Woman of Achievement Award is included in the AAUW of Virginia State Board budget so \$375 was deleted from the Income page and \$240 was deleted from the Expense page.

Registration

The Board discussed what the conference registration fee should be and whether or not there would also be a late fee or an early bird registration discount. The Board considered previous conference registration fees in their deliberations. There was discussion about offering a regular registration fee of \$95 and a late registration fee of \$110 or offering an early bird registration fee of \$95 and a regular registration fee of \$110. **Neola Waller moved that the early bird registration fee be \$95 and the registration fee be \$110.** There was more discussion. **Caroline Pickens proposed an amended motion: I move to amend to delete “early bird” and add “late” before \$110.** Caroline spoke on her motion; Neola spoke on her motion. A vote was taken on Caroline’s motion. The vote was 7 for and 7 against the motion. Her motion failed. A vote was taken on Neola’s motion. The vote was 9 for and 5 against. Her motion passed. The early bird registration fee will be \$95 and \$110 will be the regular registration fee after the early bird deadline expires.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Marsha Melkonian distributed the report that includes the Budget FY2020 – Year to Date and Net Worth – As of 11/8/2019 to the Board at the meeting and Itemized Categories 2019-2020 – Year to Date were distributed via email. **(Enclosure 8)**

PROPOSED AAUW-VA 2020-2022 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Co-Vice President for Public Policy Sylvia Rogers sent the Draft of the Revised AAUW of VA Public Policy Positions to the Board via email. **(Enclosure 9)**

Sylvia asked that Board members review the draft of the public policy priorities and offer feedback. The highlighted areas in the draft are areas that were added from AAUW National priorities. The top priorities identified are pay equity and ratification of the Equal

Rights Amendment (ERA). Sylvia and Co-VP Susan Burk realize that many branches in Virginia want to prioritize other areas such as human trafficking or family medical leave. They want to be inclusive among the non-homogeneous branches around the state.

Suggestions from members included:

- Caroline Pickens suggested that the last bullet on the public policy priorities list that deals with passage and ratification of the ERA be moved to the second spot on the list.
- Caroline also suggested that the language used should be simplified.
- Neola Waller suggested that the list be shortened to list only the most critical public policy positions.
- Mary Froehlich suggested that short bullet points be used with explanations placed beneath them.

Based on the discussion, Sylvia and Susan determined that they will send out a new draft so that members will have the opportunity to consider it and send them comments. After they receive those comments, they will send out a revised draft. That draft will be voted on at the January 9 State Board Conference Call.

Board Liaisons

Liaison reports were distributed electronically to members. **(Enclosure 10)** Board members discussed what they learned from their branch contacts. There were several common themes:

- Branches are losing members because some members feel that AAUW's public policy has become partisan.
- Branches are not attracting any new members.
- Branches are not able to get volunteers for leadership positions.
- Websites are not kept up-to-date.
- Branches are concerned that they are not receiving support from National AAUW.
- Reaction to the 5 Star Program is mixed, with many negative comments.

Then the Board talked about ways to help the branches. It was suggested that:

- If a question is raised by a member about partisanship or general displeasure with AAUW, ask what it is, specifically, that concerns them.
- If they focus on what National AAUW is not doing anymore, have membership folders available to show them what National, State, and local AAUWs are doing.
- Some branches are in areas where the printing discount at Office Depot is not available. There was discussion about online orders and/or whether the State budget could be amended to include money to help them cover those costs.

Cyndi Shanahan asked if it would be possible for Board members to get some background information on our assigned branch before our next contact is scheduled. It was agreed that it would be a good idea.

Co-President Carol Stephens recessed the meeting at 5:05 PM.

Co-President Leslie Tourigny reconvened the meeting at 8:39 AM on Saturday, November 10, 2019.

BOARD REPORTS

PROGRAM

Vice President for Program Sandy Lawrence sent the Program Report to the Board electronically. **(Enclosure 11)**

MEMBERSHIP

Vice President for Membership Cheryl Spohnholtz sent the Membership Report to the Board electronically. **(Enclosure 12)**

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President for Communications Patsy Quick sent the Communications Report to the Board electronically. **(Enclosure 13)** Patsy reminded the Board that Giving Tuesday will be a chance to have your contribution to AAUW matched.

BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

Bylaws and Resolutions Chair Suzanne Rothwell sent the Bylaws and Resolutions Report to the Board electronically. **(Enclosure 14)**

AAUW FUNDS

AAUW Funds Chair Caroline Pickens sent the AAUW Funds Report to the Board electronically. **(Enclosure 15)** Caroline reported that it seems that not as much is being contributed from branches as in the past. She encouraged State Board members to contribute individually.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CHAIR

There was no College/University Report because Nancy Warren, the College/University Chair, had resigned. Susan Burk suggested sending out a request to branches for volunteers to fill the position. The Board may consider eliminating the position.

Leslie Tourigny announced that National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) registration has opened online. This should be advertised online and in newsletters. The State donates to NCCWSL

HISTORIAN

Historian Neola Waller sent the Historian Report via email **(Enclosure 16)**. One copy of *A History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia 1925-2010* will be given to each College/University member with information about AAUW and AAUW

contact information. Some will be delivered by board members, and some will be mailed. Caroline Pickens asked where the books would be available at the college or university. Sandy Lawrence said that depending on the school, they would probably be sent and delivered to either the Women's Studies Department or the research library.

PUBLIC POLICY

Co-President for Public Policy Susan Burk distributed the Public Policy Report electronically. **(Enclosure 17)** Susan said that they would send congratulatory notes to newly elected delegates and senators and those reelected legislators who have sponsored legislation pertaining to equal pay and passage and ratification of the ERA.

Susan outlined plans for the upcoming Lobby Days. The information is in the Public Policy report at Enclosure 17. She said that hotel rooms are reserved at the Omni Hotel in Richmond for \$144 per night for both of the Lobby Days.

Sylvia said that they have designed a trifold covering AAUW public policy priorities as a resource for legislators. The emphasis will be on closing the gender pay gap.

They will invite the new female Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn along with all of the other women legislators to the reception for Virginia's women legislators on January 14 as part of the first Lobby Day in January.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORT

Cyndi Shanahan, Diversity and Inclusion Chair, distributed the Diversity and Inclusion Report via email. **(Enclosure 18)** Cyndi held a conference call with all the Diversity and Inclusion points of contact. They asked that a mini-grant be considered to support their branch activities. The Board agreed that it was a good idea. In the discussion on mini-grants, Sylvia and DebraLee talked about the mini-grant to Smith Mountain Branch which is for a diversity and inclusion project involving young children.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District Reports were distributed electronically by each of the District Representatives. **(Enclosure 19)**

MINI-GRANTS

Sylvia Rogers distributed the Mini-grant Report via email. **(Enclosure 20)** There was a brief discussion of the four mini-grants that were awarded. They are detailed in the report Enclosure 20.

5 STAR NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Cheryl Spohnholtz, who introduced the program at the July Board meeting, reported that the liaison reports showed that there was a mixed response from the branches as to whether they wanted to participate in the program. After a discussion that examined several choices such as participating only as a State; not participating, but supporting the goals; or revisiting it with the membership at the April Conference, it was decided that Co-President Carol Stephens would draft a letter to National AAUW sharing our

concerns and the feedback that has been received. The topic will be revisited in the January conference call.

AAUW OF VIRGINIA'S DISTRICT STRUCTURE/CONFIGURATION

The configuration of AAUW of Virginia's districts was examined. Carol Stephens suggested that the Greater Richmond Branch, which has been in the Southeast District, despite the fact that it is not near any of the other branches in that district, be moved to the Northwest District. **Caroline Pickens moved that the Greater Richmond Branch be moved to the Northwest District, pending approval by the members of the Greater Richmond Branch.** The motion was seconded and approved.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Neola Waller shared a catalog from the Women's History Resource Center, associated with the National Women's History Alliance, that offers many 2020 centennial products. The website is www.nwhanews.org.

She will keep the membership current on centennial events happening in Virginia. The Society of 1918 (the year that women were first admitted to the College of William and Mary) will march in the William and Mary Homecoming Parade on October 16, 2020. AAUW of Virginia is invited to take part.

WINTER/SPRING VISION ARTICLES

A list of all articles for the *Vision* will be emailed to the Board. **(Enclosure 21)** All submissions for the winter/spring 2020 issue are due by **January 15, 2020**.

ACTION ITEMS

Co-President Carol Stephens will send Action Items via email to the Board **(Enclosure 22)**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM by Co-President Leslie Tourigny.

Deborah Dodd
Recording Secretary
AAUW of Virginia