

AAUW OF VIRGINIA
95th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
April 18, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome (page 4) **

The 95th Annual Business Meeting was convened at 1:05 p.m. by Co-Presidents Carol Stephens and Leslie Tourigny. The meeting was held as a virtual meeting using Zoom. The coronavirus pandemic made it impossible to have the in-person meeting at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, VA as originally planned. The theme for the meeting had been “Celebrating Visionary Women, 1920-2020.” The Co-Presidents gave instructions to the meeting participants on how Zoom would be used during the meeting. Members were asked to follow the meeting in the program book that was distributed online. **(Enclosure 1)**

Roll Call of Branches

Carol Stephens announced that AAUW of VA Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd would call the roll of branches in attendance. **(Enclosure 2)** Each branch was asked to respond when its name was called.

Appointments

Carol Stephens introduced the members who would help the meeting move smoothly:

- Minutes Review Committee – For each business meeting, two board members are selected to serve as readers to review and modify the minutes if needed. Members Marilyn Riddle of the Newport News Branch and Jane Newell of the Greater Richmond Branch will join Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd on this committee.
- Page – Sandra Lawrence of the Woodbridge Branch will monitor the Zoom CHAT feature for questions, comments, or motions.
- Timekeeper – Patsy Quick of the Mount Vernon Branch will keep time if there is debate on any of the Public Policy Priorities or the Bylaws Amendment.
- Tellers – Lane Stone of the Alexandria Branch and Mary Froehlich of the Winchester Branch will count votes via the Zoom Raise Hands feature when needed.

** Page numbers referenced in the minutes refer to Enclosure 1, 95th Annual Business Meeting Program Book.

- Parliamentarian – Caroline Pickens of the McLean Area Branch will answer any procedural questions.

Adoption of Registration Report

The Recording Secretary reported that at the time the registration report was adopted by the membership there were 97 members in attendance representing 23 branches. However, two more members joined the meeting after the report, raising the total to 99 members in attendance. The two branches not represented were the Bedford County Branch and the Greater Manassas Branch. The Registration Report was adopted.

Adoption of the Rules of the Annual Business Meeting (page 8)

Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd moved for the adoption of the Standing Rules of the 95th Annual Business Meeting of AAUW of Virginia. They were adopted by the membership.

Adoption of the Annual Business Meeting Agenda (pages 6-7)

Sandra Lawrence, Vice President for Program, presented the Annual Business Meeting Agenda. She moved for its adoption, with the chair reserving the right to make further changes with the approval of the assembly. The Annual Business Meeting Agenda was adopted.

With the establishment of a quorum and the approval of the Standing Rules and the Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting, Carol declared the 95th Annual Business Meeting of the American Association of University Women of Virginia officially organized for conducting business.

Minutes of the 2018 and 2019 Annual Business Meetings (pages 9-12)

The State Board, at its summer of 2018 and 2019 meetings, approved the minutes of the last two annual business meetings.

2020 Annual Business Meeting Official Minutes

Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd took the minutes of this meeting. Because there was no objection, the minutes of this 2020 Annual Business Meeting will be referred to the State Board for approval at their next meeting.

Report of the Vice President for Finance, Marsha Melkonian (pages 13-15)

As of March 9, 2020, our total assets were \$37,063.53. The balance of the checking account was \$36,610.75. The investment funds were moved to the

checking account last year, resulting in the balance in our checking account increasing.

Reports of the Officers

Co-Presidents (pages 16-17)

Leslie Tourigny thanked the AAUW of VA members for the great job they are doing carrying out the mission of the organization and for the opportunity of working with them. She said that the ElectionBuddy program that was used in the 2019 AAUW of Virginia state elections saved the organization money and provided a voting procedure that was quick, easy, and efficient. To focus on diversity and inclusion in programs and membership, the board created an appointed board position of Diversity and Inclusion Chair. Cyndi Shanahan was selected to fill the position. The close relationship between the state board and the branches was maintained with the continued assignment of a board member to act as a liaison to each branch.

Vice President for Program (page 18)

Sandra Lawrence congratulated the branches on their mission-based programs. She said that although it was unfortunate that the planned program for the state conference had to be canceled because of the pandemic, many of the scheduled speakers want to be involved in the state conference program next year.

Vice President for Membership (page 19)

Branches are doing well on maintaining membership. There are twelve branches that have maintained or increased their number of members over 2019: Alexandria, Arlington, Bedford County, Greater Manassas, McLean Area, Mt. Vernon, Newport News, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, Suffolk, Winchester, and Woodbridge. Cheryl Spohnholtz announced that there are six branches that have participated in the *Five Star Recognition Program* to date: Alexandria, Reston-Herndon, Springfield-Annandale, Vienna Area, Virginia Beach, and Woodbridge. The program has been extended through June 2021.

Vice President for Communications (page 20)

Patsy Quick is proud of the *Vision*, the AAUW of Virginia newsletter which is published three times a year. She congratulated Mary Anne Graham, the copy editor and Bianca Daugherty, the layout editor. She worked with the Co-Vice Presidents of Public Policy to create a trifold public policy brochure concerning pay equity which was sent to all legislators in Virginia as part of AAUW of Virginia's advocacy efforts. She congratulated the branch webmasters for their

websites. National AAUW recently introduced a new, streamlined website. She encouraged members to check it out.

Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy (pages 21-22)

Susan Burk reported that public policy focused on passing the ERA and closing the gender pay gap. Sylvia Rogers created a pamphlet, *Math Not Myth*, that included research on the gender pay gap that was given to Virginia state legislators. The ERA was ratified by the Virginia General Assembly in January 2020. AAUW of VA will continue to focus on closing the gender pay gap. They will be working to Get Out The Vote (GOTV). There have been many recent changes to voting rights in Virginia. Emails will be sent to the membership informing them of these important changes.

2018-2020 Public Policy Mini-Grants Report (page 22)

Some of the branches that were awarded a mini-grant for 2019-2020 were forced to postpone their planned activity because of the pandemic. Sylvia Rogers said that funding for postponed activities will be carried over until next year if the activity is rescheduled. Any branch that has completed their activity will receive the funds. At the April 17, 2020, State Board meeting \$1500 was approved for 2020-2021 mini-grants.

Proposed Public Policy Priorities 2020-2022 (pages 23-24)

Sylvia explained that the proposed AAUW of Virginia State Public Policy Priorities for 2020-2022 align with the most important 3 Pillars of the AAUW Strategic Plan:

- Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice
- Economic Security
- Education

She reviewed the proposed public policy priorities section-by-section, allowing members time to discuss and make motions to amend them. Denise Murden of the Suffolk Branch said that in the third priority in the first pillar the word “insure” was incorrect and should be corrected to “ensure.” This was an editorial change only. There were no motions to further amend the proposed Public Policy Priorities so Sandy Lawrence will include the proposed public policy priorities on the April ballot with the one correction. The full membership will vote on this version, online voting from April 26 to May 16.

Standing Committee Reports

Nominating Committee (pages 26-30)

Barbara Woodlee, Nominating Committee Chair, thanked the members of the nominating committee: Sara Anderson, Kate MacLeod, Mary Froehlich, Marsha Gochenour, Tammie Mullins-Rice, and DebraLee Hovey. She referred members to pages 27-30 of the program book to view qualifications of the slate of officers that will be voted on in the election starting on April 26th. Beginning July 1, 2020, they will serve for 2 years. The slate of officers is:

- Co-Presidents – Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny
- Vice President for Communications - Patsy Quick
- Vice President for Program - Nadine James
- Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy - Susan Burk and Denise Murden

Because Nadine James and Denise Murden were not current members of the state board, they were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership. Because of technical difficulties, Nadine was not able to participate in the teleconference. Suzanne Rothwell spoke for her. Nadine has been an active member of the Vienna Area Branch for many years. Denise has been an active member of the Suffolk Branch for two years.

Diversity and Inclusion Chair (page 31)

Cyndi Shanahan, Diversity and Inclusion Chair, reported that many of the branches have diversity and inclusion points of contact. They have conferred together via a successful conference call to discuss the focus on diversity and inclusion. She said that there was a mini-grant awarded to one branch for an activity that supported diversity and inclusion.

College/University Relations Acting Chair (page 32)

Cyndi Shanahan volunteered to energize the relationship with Virginia College/University partners in a mid-year update by identifying current points of contact and verifying their email addresses.

AAUW Funds Chair (pages 33-34)

Caroline Pickens, AAUW Funds Chair, reported that Virginia ranks #4 in the nation in donations to AAUW. Donations for the state in 2019 totaled \$86,451.88 which is more than in 2018. Branch donations increased. Fundraising this year will be a challenge because so many branch fundraisers have been canceled or postponed because of the pandemic. Alternative ideas for fundraising will be

suggested in the summer *Vision*. Because of AAUW of Virginia's contributions, 76 Named Honorees were able to be designated. The name of Roberta Sherman of the Reston-Herndon Area Branch was inadvertently left off the list of honorees on page 34 of the program book.

Bylaws and Resolutions Chair (pages 35-36)

Suzanne Rothwell, Bylaws and Resolutions Chair, explained the rationale for the proposed bylaws amendment that will appear on the ballot in April. She said that the State Board recommends that members approve an amendment to the state bylaws to delete Virginia's half-price dues discount for new members who join a branch between January 1st and March 15th. AAUW National has already dropped its half-price dues discount. The state board found that the state half-price discount was rarely used and that there was a better discount for candidates for membership. New members joining after March 15th can take advantage of National's *Shape the Future* discount which is larger and would extend memberships until June 30th of the following year. If this amendment passes, branches would need only remove it from their branch bylaws because it is an editorial change. No motions to amend this proposed change were made so the bylaws amendment will appear on the April ballot as proposed.

Reports of the District Representatives

Northern District (page 38)

Co-Representative Kate MacLeod will not be returning next year to this position. The Northern District Branches elected Sandra Lawrence of the Woodbridge Branch to fill this vacated co-representative position and join Sara Anderson of the Arlington Branch, who is continuing as Co-Representative.

Northwest District (page 39)

The Greater Richmond Branch is now a member of the Northwest District. They had been part of the Southeast District. Co-Representatives Mary Froehlich and Marsha Gochenour will not be returning next year. Sylvia Rogers of the Harrisonburg Branch and Carol Stephens of the Greater Richmond Branch have volunteered to be Co-Representatives. The district will hold an election soon.

Southeast District (pages 39-40)

Barbara Woodlee will be moving from District Co-Representative to the board position of College/University Chair. Current Co-Representative Tammie Mullins-Rice will continue as District Representative.

Southwest District (page 40)

Representative DebraLee Hovey will not be returning. There is a search for a new representative. She expressed disappointment that the Bedford Branch has decided to withdraw from AAUW. The Smith Mountain Branch received a mini-grant for an important project that promoted diversity and inclusion.

Recognition of Outgoing State Board Members

State Board members who were leaving the board or were moving from one position to another were recognized.

Those leaving the board are:

- Historian Neola Waller first started serving on the state board in 1991. She has served in seven positions, including State President. She is leaving the historian position now, in which she has served for more than ten years.
- Northern District Co-Representative Kate MacLeod
- Northwest District Co-Representatives Mary Froehlich and Marsha Gochenour
- Southwest District Representative DebraLee Hovey

Those remaining on the board but changing positions are:

- Co-President Carol Stephens to Northwest District Co-Representative
- Vice President for Program Sandra Lawrence to Northern District Co-Representative
- Co-Vice President for Public Policy Sylvia Rogers to Northwest District Co-Representative
- Bylaws/Resolutions Chair Suzanne Rothwell to Co-President
- Southeast District Co-Representative Barbara Woodlee to College/University Chair

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Many branches shared the innovative ways they have found to communicate with members and continue some of their programs. Branch members took turns talking about how they have done this. Many have used Zoom to have branch meetings, board meetings, book groups. Some have held telephone conferences.

One group has reached out by phone or email to members who are social distancing to let them know that AAUW is still there and that they are being thought about.

Another group is watching streamed movies and then discussing them as a group via Zoom.

Recognition Awards

Suzanne Rothwell presented three awards on behalf of AAUW of Virginia to:

- Shannon Wolfe from National AAUW who helped facilitate the virtual annual business meeting
- The Local Arrangements Committee that planned the AAUW of Virginia 2020 State Conference that was to be held in Alexandria, Virginia but was canceled because of the pandemic
 - Particular recognition was paid to committee co-chairs Joanne Clark and Arlene Shapiro and Vice President for Program Sandra Lawrence.
- The AAUW of Virginia Communications Team for their timely, quality communication with members and the community
 - Vice President for Communications Patsy Quick, *Vision* Copy Editor Mary Anne Graham, *Vision* Layout Editor Bianca Daughtery, and Facebook Manager Cheryl Spohnholtz

Announcements

Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Co-President of the McLean Area Branch, reported that although there is an advertisement in the program book announcing the 2020 McLean Area Branch Annual Book Sale, the sale has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kristin Moyer of the Vienna Area Branch is the new **National Legacy Circle Team** member for Virginia, replacing longtime team member Neola Waller of the Virginia Beach Branch. Janine Greenwood of the Reston-Herndon Branch is a new **Legacy Circle** member from Virginia.

National AAUW Senior Vice President for Advancement and Partnerships Kendra Davis is leaving AAUW on May 1, 2020, for the position of Vice President of Strategic Development with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Adjournment

Leslie declared the 95th Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Deborah Dodd
Recording Secretary
AAUW of Virginia