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| C:\Users\Dodd\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\4961BC6C.tmp  **of Virginia** | **BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**  **September 23, 2020**  **Via ZOOM** |  |

**BACKGROUND**

On August 17, 2020, Julia Brown, National AAUW Board Chair, sent the following letter to the AAUW membership:

“The AAUW Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

1. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between $3 and $10.
2. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between $3 and $10 each year.

“The selection of option A or B and the exact amount of the increase for the option chosen will be determined by the board at its October meeting. Any change to Individual Member dues will impact paid Life Membership as well, since AAUW’s bylaws require paid Life Membership to equal 20 years of annual dues. The Board is not considering a change to College/University Member dues at this time.

Membership dues cover between 15% and 20% of AAUW’s annual budget. While AAUW’s expenses increase annually, in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses. Increasing Individual Member dues will help AAUW cover more expenses, including important functions like the Connect team, critical technology and infrastructure such as the website and Member Services Database, and other member support.

“Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to connect@aauw.org no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board’s vote. Thank you.

Best regards,

Julia T. Brown, Esq.

Board Chair”

In an email dated August 20, 2020, Co-President Suzanne Rothwell reminded branch presidents that AAUW national dues remained at $49 from 2008 to 2018, before they were increased to the current rate of $59.

On September 10, 2020, Suzanne requested the attendance of the Board of Directors of AAUW of Virginia at a special meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was for the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors to decide their response to AAUW’s proposed dues increase.

On September 22, 2020, Suzanne and Co-President Leslie Tourigny attended a Virtual Town Hall Meeting held by Kim Churches and certain AAUW Board members that dealt with a proposal about the dues increase. Suzanne then sent an email to the AAUW of Virginia Board for their consideration at the September 23rd meeting. She also described the information that was considered in preparing the proposal.

Suzanne stated that she and Leslie reviewed 10 comments of individual members and branches. Six supported and three were opposed to a dues increase and one person had a related question that was resolved. There were different recommended forms of the dues increase. Two opposed commenters recommended that AAUW find areas to further decrease expenses or AAUW of Virginia and/or branches reduce their dues in an amount equal to any increase by AAUW.

The position proposed for the Board’s consideration was:

“In general, we doubt that a member would favor a second dues increase so close to the increase in 2018. Nonetheless, we have concluded that a dues increase is necessary to preserve AAUW as a membership organization. Therefore, the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors supports an AAUW dues increase of either:

1. Up to $10 on July 1, 2021, with a commitment that no further dues increase will be implemented for three years; or
2. Up to $4, $3 and $3 to take effect on July 1st of each of the next three fiscal years, with a commitment that no further dues increase will be implemented for three years.

“We are opposed to what appears to be an option under the Dues Proposal to increase dues by as much as $10 for each of the next three fiscal years, resulting in a total increase of $30 and dues of $85.”

**CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 7:02 PM by Co-President Leslie Tourigny. Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd took roll of all participants on the call. A list of board members in attendance was distributed via email. **(Enclosure 1)**

The comments received from branches across the state indicated that a majority supported a dues increase. The State Board expressed general support for a dues increase.

There was extensive discussion of all aspects and implications of the dues proposal. Board members generally agreed that its comment should not include a requirement that there be no further dues increase for three years. Further discussion indicated that the Board preferred a dues increase spread over three years.

**Caroline Pickens moved that** **the AAUW of Virginia Board send to the National AAUW our preference for a dues increase of $10 over three years. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leslie made four announcements:

1. Liaison contacts should be emailed or called to schedule interviews by September 25.
2. The Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion self-evaluations are due to be sent to Cyndi Shanahan by October 24.
3. Named Honorees nominations are due by November 1.
4. The November 7-8, 2020 State Board meeting will be held via Zoom.

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM.

Deborah Dodd

Recording Secretary

AAUW of Virginia