



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 12, 2021
Via ZOOM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:02 PM by Co-President Leslie Tourigny. The meeting was conducted via Zoom because of the continuing pandemic. She noted that the agenda should be amended to add "AAUW CEO Kim Churches' Response to the Assault on the U.S. Capitol" as item number 10 and the remaining items renumbered accordingly. Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd took roll. A list of board members in attendance will be distributed via email.

(Enclosure 1)

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the November 7 and 8, 2020, Board of Directors meeting were distributed electronically by Deborah. **(Enclosure 2)** They were approved as distributed.

Prior to the meeting, Co-Presidents Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny requested that Deborah ask the board to vote electronically to approve the appointment of Anita Aymer to the position of Nominating Committee Chair for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term. Deborah reported that pursuant to an email dated November 28, 2020, the board voted electronically, and the appointment was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report

Anita Aymer, Nominating Committee Chair, sent the committee report electronically. **(Enclosure 3)** She reported that there is a full slate of officers for the 2021-2023 positions. There were no further nominations received from the membership. The slate includes Marsha Melkonian for VP for Finance, Cheryl Spohnholtz for VP for Membership, and Sherry Warren for Recording Secretary.

Co-Presidents' Report

The Co-Presidents' Report was distributed electronically. **(Enclosure 4)**

Tammie Mullins-Rice and Kathy Batkin volunteered for the reading committee for the minutes from this meeting.

Finance Report

VP for Finance Marsha Melkonian sent the Finance Report as of January 8, 2021 electronically. **(Enclosure 5)**

A question arose concerning the \$1600 mini-grant line item. The actual amount approved for mini-grants at the November 7, 2020 meeting was \$1840. That is the amount that should appear in the budget allocation for mini-grants as of January 8, 2021. Marsha will make the correction.

State Named Honorees Committee Report

State Named Honorees Committee Chair Caroline Pickens distributed the State Named Honorees Committee report electronically. **(Enclosure 6)** She reported that the committee met in November to determine the nominees. The committee recommended Neola Waller, Marion Stillson, and Patricia “Trish” Wallace to be presented at the 2021 State Conference. **Caroline made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve as 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Named Honorees Neola Waller, Marion Stillson, and Patricia “Trish” Wallace.** The motion was voted on and approved.

The board agreed that the AAUW of Virginia State Named Honorees program should be continued next year.

The board agreed that the names of the honorees were to be kept confidential until they are presented to the membership at the annual meeting in March. Several branch members had asked for the names in advance so that they could honor their member in the conference program if they had been chosen as an honoree. It was decided that the names should be kept as a surprise until the annual meeting. Those who had posed the question will be notified of the decision.

2021 State Conference

VP for Program Nadine James distributed the Program Report electronically.

(Enclosure 7) The conference event schedule showed an incorrect starting time for the Saturday, March 13 program. The starting time should be corrected to 10:00 a.m.

She reported that she has been coordinating with Leslie, Suzanne, and Sandy Lawrence on plans for the AAUW of Virginia State Conference to be held Saturday, March 13; Sunday, March 14; and Monday, March 15, 2021. They considered suggestions made by board members at the November meeting in making the program plans. Some speakers still need to be confirmed. The program includes an outstanding array of women in various fields.

She shared an overview of the schedule and the scheduled speakers for Saturday, March 13.

- The program will begin with the presentation of the 2020 AAUW of Virginia Woman of Achievement Awards to State Senator Janet Howell and Scientist Ana Humphrey.
- The keynote speaker will be Kelly Dittmar, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University-Camden, and Director of Research and Scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, who will speak about women in public leadership positions.
- Dr. Diane Hodge, Director of the School of Social Work in Radford University’s Waldron College of Health and Human Services and Susheela Varky, Director of the Center for Family Advocacy and Legal Assistance for Victim-Immigrants of

Domestic Abuse (LA VIDA) at the Virginia Poverty Law Center, will discuss the impact of poverty on the lives of women.

- AAUW Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches will make a special presentation to members in recognition of Virginia becoming the first AAUW state affiliate to achieve five-star status under the AAUW Five-Star National Recognition Program.
- The 96th Annual Business Meeting of the AAUW of Virginia will end the program.

Speakers for Sunday and Monday who have been confirmed so far are:

- A panel of women including State Senator Jen Kiggans, Chair Phyllis J. Randall (Loudoun County Board of Supervisors), and Mayor Deanna Reed (Harrisonburg) will discuss the role of women as elected officials in Virginia; and
- Dr. Angela J. Hattery and Dr. Earl Smith, who will talk about combatting domestic and sexual violence.

Cyndi Shanahan, former VP for Membership, recalled how successful the inclusion of a short meeting for new members had been at past meetings, suggesting that one be added to the conference this year. It was agreed that, although such a meeting would be beneficial, because of the time constraints associated with Zoom meetings, it would be best to schedule a meeting for new members at another time. It could be held on an evening prior to the conference and perhaps include a door prize to encourage participation.

A conference program book covering one year will be available electronically. Ads will be sold for insertion in the program. It will include one-year reports. Reports are due to be sent to Mary Anne Graham by February 1.

The board decided to purchase an ad to congratulate the board on achieving the five-star recognition under the AAUW Five-Star National Recognition Program. Members will send four dollars each to Leslie to cover the cost of the ad.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Membership

VP for Membership Cheryl Spohnholtz distributed the Membership Report electronically. **(Enclosure 8)** She reported that not as many branches had a renewal rate above 90% as in the past. Only 8 branches in the state achieved that rate. It was noted that the report failed to highlight in green the line that showed that the Portsmouth Branch had a renewal rate of 95%. That will be corrected.

It was mentioned that the national AAUW database does not differentiate between honorary lifetime members and paid lifetime members. Honorary members pay no yearly dues, while paid lifetime members pay state and branch dues. It would be helpful during membership renewal season for the branch to know which category their lifetime

members are in so that they can be sure to collect dues from their paid lifetime members. Cheryl agreed to ask National if it would be possible to show specifically if the lifetime member is honorary or paid.

A question was asked about whether it would be a good idea to do a survey of membership chairs to determine if the national dues increase has had any effect on membership. It was determined that such a survey should be postponed until the dues increase has been implemented.

Communications

VP for Communications Patsy Quick distributed the Communications Report electronically. **(Enclosure 9)** She reminded members that if they had any items, they would like to put on the state website they should send their request to her or if they would like to put it on the Facebook page, they should send it to Cheryl.

She said that she has removed from the website the invitation to branches to send their program information to be put on the state website because there was not enough participation. Branches can do their own announcements. In general, conducting meetings via Zoom has increased attendance.

Bylaws/Resolutions

Bylaws/Resolutions Chair Carol Dabbs distributed the Bylaws/Resolutions Report electronically. **(Enclosure 10)** She reported that a call for proposed AAUW Bylaws and Resolutions was published in the fall *Vision*. No submissions were received. The recommendation for a proposed amendment to establish a Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) in place of a Chair for DE&I was approved at the November 2020 board meeting. The proposed amendment will be presented at the AAUW Annual Business Meeting in March 2021, added to the ballot, and voted on by the membership in the 2021 election.

AAUW Funds

AAUW Funds Chair Caroline Pickens distributed the AAUW Funds Report electronically. **(Enclosure 11)** She noted that there is a delay in receiving information about contributions for Names Honored from National. Individual branch Presidents, Treasurers, and AAUW Funds Chairs, however, can go online to see the year-to-date contributions made so that they can determine the number of branch honorees they are entitled to name.

Historian

Historian Kathy Batkin distributed the Historian Report electronically. **(Enclosure 12)** She reported that because she was unable to find information about how AAUW dealt with the 1918 flu epidemic she would not be writing an article on the subject for the *Vision*. The hours of the archivist at AAUW National have been decreased so dramatically that she was unable to do any research there. She did find that in 1918

there were only two AAUW branches in Virginia so it may be that information about that period would be limited.

Public Policy

Co-VP for Public Policy Susan Burk distributed the Public Policy Report electronically. **(Enclosure 13)** Because of the pandemic, an in-person Lobby Day is not possible this year. Susan reported that she and Co-Chair Denise Murden held a pre-session brief via Zoom on January 11, 2021 to educate members on the issues and encourage them to get involved in lobbying their state representatives to support the public policy priorities of AAUW of Virginia using a combination of calls and emails. They suggested that when contacting your representative, it is most effective to first indicate that you are calling or emailing on behalf of yourself as a constituent and then as a member of AAUW of Virginia. Fact sheets with sample letters or scripts for telephone calls are available.

The Virginia legislative session is scheduled to end on February 27. It may be extended by 16 days, but those extra days would likely be focused on the budget. Susan and Denise will hold another public policy brief via Zoom after the legislative session ends and they plan to hold quarterly public policy updates via Zoom.

The immediate public policy issue is paid sick leave. There is disagreement among the legislators as to who should be covered by paid sick leave. Delegate Elizabeth Guzman has authored a bill that would provide paid sick leave for essential workers. When a number for this bill is available, Susan will notify members so that they can include it in their calls and emails.

AAUW of Virginia has joined the Coalition of Virginians for Paid Sick Leave which is made up of many organizations in Virginia. It is sponsored by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. Following the pre-session brief that they held with AAUW of Virginia members, Susan and Denise joined a Zoom meeting with the Coalition. The Coalition wants this paid sick leave bill to include coverage for part time workers. They will send out a fact sheet that they received from the meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)

DE&I Chair Cyndi Shanahan distributed electronically the DE&I report **(Enclosure 14)** She reported that the DE&I point of contacts are doing great work. The DE&I toolkit is now available on the AAUW National website. The website address is <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>. Feedback on the new toolkit is requested. Cindy has been asked by National AAUW to be the coordination point for the feedback from the state representatives. The website will be updated quarterly.

She distributed the current version of the Contemporary History of DE&I in AAUW-VA from the branch points of contact. **(Enclosure 15)**

Leslie, Suzanne, and Cyndi will discuss strategies for DE&I state activities. Cyndi will request input from the branches.

College/University Report (C/U)

College/University Chair Barbara Woodlee distributed the College/University (C/U) Report electronically. **(Enclosure 16)** She reported that approximately half of the C/U partners have dropped out of the program which was not unexpected. She attributes this to the effect that the pandemic is having on colleges and universities. She will meet virtually with the representatives in February and focus on the online programs that AAUW has asked to be promoted.

Northern District Report

The Northern District report was distributed electronically. **(Enclosure 17)** District Co-Representative Sandy Lawrence reported that there were 58 participants at the Saturday, January 9, 2021, Northern District Meeting.

Northwest District Report

The Northwest District report was distributed electronically. **(Enclosure 18)** District Representative Sylvia Rogers said that there was nothing to add.

Southeast District Report

The Southeast District report was distributed electronically. **(Enclosure 19)** District Representative Tammie Mullins-Rice said that there was nothing to add.

Southwest District Report

The Southwest District report was distributed electronically. **(Enclosure 20)** District Representative Anita Aymer said that there was nothing to add.

AAUW CEO Kim Churches' Response to the Assault on the U.S. Capitol

AAUW CEO Kim Churches issued a response to the January 6, 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol. **(Enclosure 21)**

Board Response to the Assault on the U.S. Capitol

Suzanne shared these words with the board:

“Leslie and I reserved this time so that we could reflect on the dangerous insurrection that occurred last Wednesday January 6th when the U.S. Capitol was invaded, putting legislators, staff members and security personnel and our Republic in grave danger. The Board is asked to take a minute of silence to think of the many in the past who sacrificed their lives so that we might live in freedom; be thankful that the attempted coup did not succeed and that our legislators and other persons were not harmed; and be grateful to the security personnel [from the Capitol Police, the Deputy Marshal's Service, DC Metropolitan Police, FBI, ATF, Secret Service and others] who liberated our Capitol. And we should especially honor those security staff who were injured and Capital Policeman

Brian Sicknick who died protecting others. I hope you will also join me in being proud of our AAUW leadership for demanding that those responsible should be held accountable for their actions.”

She then opened the discussion for board members to share their thoughts.

Review Action Items

Suzanne will send a list of the Action Items electronically. **(Enclosure 22)**

Upcoming Meetings

- March 20, 2021 Spring virtual board meeting
- July 30 & August 1, 2021 Summer board meeting at Sweet Briar College

Leslie adjourned the meeting at 9:48 PM.

Deborah Dodd
Recording Secretary
AAUW of Virginia