

AAUW Conference Call
March 5, 2012

Present: Julie Garrett, Roberta Shreve, Maureen Kelly-Jonason, Vetta Syverson , Debbie Alber, Connie Hildebrand, Marlene Anderson, Brenda Langerud

Julie reported that she received the membership information from National. She reported the branch membership as follows:

Bismarck – 20
Dickinson - 23
Jamestown - 32
Devils Lake - 27
Wahpeton - 16
Fargo - 29
Grand Forks - 32
Mayville-Hillsboro – 7

Total Members: 186

Julie reported that she talked to Murial and she just received the new template to update the State by-laws. Branches will also need to update their by-laws.

Discussion was held about the branches collecting the \$10 per member for the convention instead of the Silent Auction. Vetta and Maureen have heard concerns from their members concerning the cost per member and that some feel that this amount is unreasonable. She suggested that they reinforce the idea that we are asking for this in place of the branch contribution that is usually made at conference. She also encouraged that maybe we need to say...give what you can give instead of a set amount. She also thought some would balk that the money is all going into the AAUW funds. She felt that we need to stress that this fund is given to the funds that are most in need either for legal advocacy, research or fellowships. Also to stress that AAUW National has made great strides for women's rights and equity in the past ten years. It was decided that this needs to be brought up again at the State Board meeting.

Deb Alber reported the registration for the State Convention and online payment is available on the website. Several have already registered and it appears to be working ok. Bobbie asked if they could just register online and mail in a check. Deb said that they preferred that members send in a registration form along with a check. But it would probably work the other way. Several wanted the website of the registration form. It is available at <http://aauw-nd.aauw.net/>.

Maureen was asking about the upcoming election of officers and how that was going to be handled. Julie reported that the nominating committee has been working to fill the two vacancies for VP of program and Secretary. So far they have one nomination for each position. Julie said that she will be mailing out a voting postcard to each member next week.

Vetta asked about the Conference program on Friday. She said that she and Paul Robinette and his wife would be willing to assist at the conference for the Friday program. Deb reported that most of the program will be handled by National but that volunteers can always be used. Vetta said that they would be there by 9:30 a.m. Connie suggested that we tell National that we have volunteers available if they need them. Maureen also reported that the League of Women Voters was interested in holding a training in Fargo. She put them in contact with National. Great news for AAUW North Dakota.

Connie also mentioned that it is important that AAUW respond to her email about Rush Limbaugh sponsors, considering his crude remarks against women. AAUW can help this effort by contacting his sponsors.

Brenda also reported that her branch would love to attend the state conference but the time it is held does not work well for their branch. She would prefer that the conference be held in May. This was also tabled to be talked about at the summer board meeting.

Connie suggested that when Betsy from the AAUW National Board is here that we pay attention to her presentation and that this presentation should be taken back to the branches so they understand where the monies go. Julie suggested that we should also make a program available from our educational fund chair to the branches.

Julie adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Alber, Secretary