

AAUW State President's Meeting—Jamestown, ND
July 13, 2013

Attendance:

Maureen Kelly Jonason, Fargo, State President
Deb Alber, Jamestown, State President-Elect
Simone Sandberg, Wahpeton, State Finance Officer
LaVetta Syverson, Grand Forks
Naomi Thorson, Dickinson Membership
Linda Steve, Dickinson Branch Treasurer
Muriel Peterson, Bismarck
Jessica Haak, Jamestown
Bobbe Shreve, Fargo

The state AAUW meeting was called to order by Maureen Kelly Jonason in Jamestown, ND on July 13, 2013 at 10am. The minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting were read by Deb Alber and approved after correcting the date for the fiscal year to June 30.

Maureen shared information from the AAUW National Conference, which she attended. Of special interest was that Branches are encouraged to fund AAUW projects rather than donating funds to other community projects. This implies that branches should be planning and financially supporting projects that are promoted by AAUW mission.

Financial report

Simone Sandberg presented the financial report. Discussion followed with concern that we were operating at a deficit. Also discussed was whether we should continue to fund the NEW program and the Women's Network since they are not AAUW projects. It was suggested that the line item under Marketing should be used to promote AAUW via Face book. A motion was made and approved to accept the report by Simone with the following revisions: Cut fund raising and special projects line items from the budget and to use any surplus as needed.

Increasing dues was also discussed. While a vote was taken at the April 2013 to increase dues, according to our bylaws, members must be given notice of such an increase at least 60 days before a vote.

It was noted that it is important to educate branch members about where their funds go. AAUW has many supports on-line to help with this.

Bylaws

Muriel Peterson distributed the branch bylaws, which she had reviewed and marked with areas that needed to be revised. The corrected bylaws with revisions need to be re-submitted by December 1.

Programming

Deb Alber pointed out the usefulness of the Program-in-a-Box programs found on the National AAUW web site and suggested that branches be encouraged to check them out for use as local programs.

Membership

Naomi Thorson discussed the process for accessing membership lists on-line. Questions to ask when designing branch programs are: What should be the focus in branch programming? What are we doing for our members? Will programs encourage participation?

Maureen presented suggestions on how to develop college/university membership development and for adding student affiliate members. She shared an "idea sheet" to help branches with this goal. Some suggestions include: Work directly with women's studies, Meet with student groups,

Distribute AAUW brochure, "Graduating to a Pay Gap", Develop a college group with an advisor, Help students get voter ID, Set the following goal for your branch: "Each branch will reach out to a university/college to establish university members."

Future plans for ND branches: To apply for AAUW funding to pay for an AAUW organizer. Each Branch should discuss "How would a state organizer help their branch? What would an Organizer do for their branch?" A suggested Branch activity would be to assist students and others obtain the required Voter ID, which will become effective August 1st. This could become a statewide activity for all Branches.

Branches each presented a short report on current activities. Of note, Bismarck/Mandan is disbanding. Final remaining funds from this Branch will be distributed according to the members' decisions.. More information on that later.

The Board discussed the calendar for the year. Maureen pointed out Dickinson president was designated to chair the nomination committee, which will consist of the presidents of Dickinson, Jamestown, and Devils Lake. That discussion led to noting that the positions open for next year are president, secretary, and Program chair. Bylaws Chair and AAUW Fund chair are appointed positions.

That led to discussion of possibly eliminating the Program VP position since the hosting branches are now in charge of planning the annual meeting with the president. The board also needs to discuss changing the Bylaws Chair and AAUW Fund Chair to elected positions so that they would be part of the three-term limit. These items will be discussed at the October meeting. They would require bylaws changes.

Bobbe made a motion and Naomi seconded to appoint Linda Steve of Dickinson branch to fill the position of treasurer through June 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Lavetta made a motion and Naomi seconded to make new treasurer Linda Steve and president-elect the new authorized signers on all AAUW ND accounts. Motion carried.

The board discussed filling the secretary position vacated by Jessica Haak and decided to ask for an acting secretary for each meeting (the meetings are recorded) through the rest of the year. A new secretary will be elected at the next annual meeting.

Maureen will make sure that Linda Steve and Naomi Thorson (Membership) are given access to the state lists as required by their positions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm'

Recorded by Bobbe Shreve