

AAUW Huntingdon Branch (PA 2027)
Minutes of the Annual Branch Meeting on May 12, 2017
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Held at Standing Stone Coffee Company (lunch optional)

Items in bold, except for the names of those in leadership positions, were the agenda items.

In attendance: Pat Croissant and Deb Roney, Co-Administrators; Judith Benz, Finance Officer; Amy Frazier-Yoder, Charlotte Ridge, Trisha Staab, Polly Walker, and Becky Weldon.

According to our bylaws, 15% of branch membership is needed for a quorum. Attendance at this meeting constitutes 35% of the full branch membership and a quorum to do business.

Items under Discussion:

- **Introductions** of attendees

- **Recognition of Joanne Gordon:** Although Joanne was again unable to attend, the branch officially honored her achievement of Honorary Life Status with a certificate, a plant, and a round of acclamation.

- **Finance report:**
 - Checking: \$831.26
 - AAUW Funds: \$670.97
 - Contingency: \$291.22

- **AAUW National Announcements:**
 - Note that the **new CEO** hired (starts June 1): Kimberly Churches, currently at the Brookings Institution
 - **VOTE** in national elections, on the Bylaws proposals, and on the biennial Public Policy Priorities. Although the deadline for requesting a paper ballot has passed, online voting continues. The national election voter guide is now available, it has been included in the Spring 2017 *Outlook* and is on the national website.
 - If you haven't already done so, **sign up for Action Alert, Washington Update and the Two-minute Activist**—our national public policy team tries to be strategic about when they call on you to participate (a vote on the issue is due, etc.). You won't get lots of requests, but they will be timely and important.
 - **National dues** will increase \$10/year next year; last national dues increase was in 2009
 - **Member Services Database (MSD):** This is one online feature that is very helpful for members; it is linked from the main page of <http://www.aauw.org>. To access it, you need to create a personal account at AAUW: You use your membership number as your user name and then create your own password. If you don't remember your membership number, ask Deb Roney or Judith Benz; they have access to the full list of branch members.

- **AAUW-PA Announcements:**
 - **July 22:** Genetti Hotel in Williamsport; state retreat focusing on program and membership; first two members of the branch attend free, students attend free, beyond two members, additional members pay \$20 to cover lunch, etc. Deb Roney is planning to attend and would love to have company.
 - Next state convention: **April 13-15, 2018**, Seven Springs Resort (SW PA).
 - Advocacy in a Box now on the AAUW-PA PP page.
 - The state board is offering a new initiative to raise the visibility of AAUW in branch's communities to hopefully lead to increased membership. Branches would collaborate with state board members to plan and implement one or two programs we think will be of broad appeal. The two programs are "**Draw the Lines PA**" and "**Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans**", the new AAUW research report being released on May 24. Draw the Lines PA deals with the issue of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania and Deeper in Debt examines the extra burden women face over men in paying back student debt. To read more about the initiative and the programs, and to indicate your branch's interest in potentially offering one or both programs, visit the state website <http://aauw-pa.aauw.net/state-programs/> or contact Dot McLane, aauwpaperpresident@gmail.com.
 - State board has replaced the Leader on Loan program with the following offer: A board member will come to a branch meeting, talk for about 15 minutes to attendees about state and national programs, and then stay for the program and conversation with branch members and other attendees.
 - State board offer: **Help maintaining branch websites.**
 - **Graduating Juniata College senior Jillian Murphy** got a grant to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL; the acronym is pronounced "nick-whistle") this year from AAUW-PA. This conference is held at the University of Maryland at the end of May or the beginning of June each year and attracts nearly 1000 women from across the US. It is an initiative strongly supported by national and state.

- **Bylaws update:** Deb Roney reported that branch bylaws always need to be in compliance to help keep national's and our branch's 501(c)(4) tax status. Huntingdon's bylaws are in compliance, having been updated most recently in January 2017. After the national convention in June, there may be a need to revise again. If so, a branch vote on those changes will not be necessary because they are mandated national changes; only those changes not mandated by national require a branch vote to pass. Branch (officially an AAUW Affiliate) proposals must be approved by the state and then are subject to a branch vote at a branch meeting.

- **Branch membership update:** Judith Benz reported that we have 23 current members; this is significantly up from our official, annual February 1 membership count of 19. Members who have not yet renewed are encouraged to do so promptly so their dues

will be registered in a timely fashion for the coming fiscal and programmatic year that runs July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year. Our finance officer spends the summer in Germany and wants to get everyone set before she leaves.

- Deb Roney will send out to the branch the latest AAUW-PA leader-newsletter *FYI*.

DECISIONS:

1. **Branch Website:** Judith Benz noted that we renewed the domain name of our current website for the coming year through NameSecure to allow us the flexibility to figure out the best way to proceed without losing our online presence in the interim. Deb Roney has contacted the state about this help and that of a similar offer from national. The branch's current website occasionally generates an email of someone looking for more information about AAUW Huntingdon branch, and we just got a new member (Lucy Condron, Juniata's new Registrar—welcome, Lucy!) this week through that link, so clearly a web presence helps us. Unfortunately, the information on our site has not been updated since 2009, and that needs to change.
2. **Branch Funding:** Over the coming year, we need to decide how to fund our branch work better: Through higher dues? Different or more fundraising? Both? What?
 - **AAUW fundraiser idea:** Culture Day for elementary kids; the money we raise could be split half for branch operations and projects and half toward helping pay down school lunch debts for local kids. Any extra could go to the backpack snack program. With an emphasis on education, not on policy issues, we would probably not find resistance. We should try to host it on campus to get more kids to possibly start considering college as a future option for them; Good Hall or VLB would be good possible locations. We need to avoid Ursula's similar event for science; Becky texted her to ask her date. [The answer came shortly after the meeting ended: Her event is in February every year.] Someone asked whether TED talks for kids exist; they do, produced by kids for kids. We could do or 9-3 on Sat. (it should be a non-soccer Sat.) or a Sun. afternoon 1-5 pm in the fall (while Amy is here; she is on sabbatical in the spring). Amy agreed to chair the event; Polly Walker agreed to do a session on Native American peacemaking, and several others present also volunteered to help. More volunteers (for running sessions or helping with logistics or PR) are heartily welcomed.
 - **Dues increase?** Although current dues are \$66/year, only \$7 of that amount goes to the branch; \$49 goes to national, and \$10 goes to the state. Any change to the dues would have to be voted on by the branch (it can be done by an electronic vote on a motion) and would not take effect until next year. There are three options under discussion for a dues increase starting the next fiscal year:
 - A \$1 increase to total of \$8/year branch dues
 - A \$3 increase to a total of \$10/year branch dues
 - A \$2 increase each year until our total branch dues reach \$20 (so \$9 for 2018-19, \$11 for 2019-20, etc.).

Timeline for the decision: Since annual dues are due May 1; invoices will be sent out April 2. We need to have an electronic vote over by March 15. Therefore, the

motion(s) need to be sent out for a vote no later than Feb. 15. Deb Roney, in her role as Bylaws Chair, will work with Pat Croissant and Judith Benz on developing a motion to send to the branch for discussion in the fall. Any other branch members interested in this work are welcome to take part, and all are encouraged to make their voices heard.

- We should host a fundraiser by taking advantage of Standing Stone Coffee Company's offer to do a profit-sharing event with community organizations. Pairing this fundraiser with a fall membership drive event would be a good thing.
 - Pecan sale for AAUW Funds? Pat Croissant asked whether we should continue this fundraiser. The consensus was that we should.
3. Sarah Worley is stepping down as the **AAUW representative for the Juniata College institutional partnership membership**. Although the Juniata College Provost decides who will be appointed to this position and to the second one that AAUW encourages there be, we can suggest people for these positions. Whom should we suggest? Recommended were Carlee Ranalli, former member, and Amanda Page, interested party. Deb Roney will contact Carlee and then Amanda to see whether there is interest and then will follow up with Joanne Krugh and Sarah Worley.
4. **Branch leadership positions** for the coming year; those currently (2016-17 year) holding these positions are listed in italics following the position. Those agreeing to take on the position for next year (2017-18) are listed in bold. If a position does not have a name in bold after it, any renewing member can volunteer to take it. Please do! We welcome participation on the part of all members to the degree you are able and available. Job descriptions are flexible, and mentoring is available.
- a. President/Administrator: *Pat Croissant and Deb Roney*; **Pat Croissant and Deb Roney**
 - b. Finance: *Judith Benz*; **Judith Benz**
 - c. Program VP: *No one (done by the whole)*; **Becky Weldon**
 - d. Membership VP: *No one (done by the whole)*; **No one**
 - e. Public Policy Chair: *Charlotte Ridge*; **Charlotte Ridge**
 - f. Communications Chair and Yearbook Editor: *Deb Grove*; **Deb Grove** and **no one yet***
 - g. College/University Relations Chair: *Deb Roney*; **Deb Roney****
 - h. International Affairs: *Deb Roney*; **Deb Roney****
 - i. AAUW Funds: *Pat Croissant*; **Pat Croissant**
 - j. Bylaws: *Deb Roney*; **Deb Roney**
 - k. Secretary *Deb Roney*; **Trisha Staab**
 - l. Education: *Amy Frazier-Yoder*; **Amy Frazier-Yoder**
 - m. Website Manager: *No one*; **Trisha Staab**
 - n. Newsletter Editor: *No one*; **No one**
 - o. Anything else we want or think we need

NOTES:

Although we now have a Program VP, quality programming, like membership recruitment, needs as many of us as possible to help.

If any members are curious about the job responsibilities for any of these positions, please ask Deb Roney or Pat Croissant; such a query does **not** imply an interest in taking on that position, only in understanding the workings of the branch.

Thank you to ALL members who have taken on an AAUW job of ANY size for next year. Your efforts on behalf of the AAUW mission are greatly appreciated.

5. **Program and project ideas for 2017-18:** Our bylaws require that we hold at least six programs over the year; such programs can be speakers or panels or community projects. We are also required to have an annual branch business meeting (that can be held separately or appended to a program).
 - a. We should seek balance between hosting speakers and/or panels and doing projects
 - b. Hold a membership event in the fall at Standing Stone Coffee Company in conjunction with a fundraising event for the branch
 - c. Visit Joanne Gordon in the fall in Martinsburg.
 - d. Host a candidate night/forum for HASD school board or for our Congressional representative. Attendees seemed to favor doing a school board candidate forum since it is non-partisan and always a critical local election. This event should be held in late October or early November.
 - e. Host a town-hall discussion with one of our legislators
 - f. Host a career-based speaker series at the local high school and/or invite students from several high schools to attend.
 - g. Consider programs in a box on the AAUW and AAUW-PA websites or the branch historical files so we don't have to create something new but can implement something important that has already been created. Cocktails and Convos was a popular choice, perhaps instead as Cocoa and Convos as a membership event at Standing Stone Coffee Company
 - h. "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans" is the new AAUW research report being released on May 24, 2017. We could take part in AAUW-PA's programming related to this report.
 - i. "Draw the Lines PA," dealing with the issue of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania, is another program from the state that we could take part in.
 - j. We need to work more on the branch's relationship with the Juniata College AAUW Student Organization and find good ways to collaborate next year. Deb Roney noted that this would be particularly important this coming year as the officers struggled with getting member involvement this past year.
 - k. We could append to a program or project or to several of them postcard writing to legislators about timely AAUW issues.

- l. Movie night and discussion: Choose a film related to an AAUW issue and hold a movie night, perhaps at the Clifton, but with popcorn nonetheless. It could be a branch fundraiser, too--\$1 ticket gets you entrance to the film and free popcorn.
- m. The women-in-science panel we hosted two years ago and the women-in-science multigenerational conversation we hosted in January 2017 were both popular with students. Should we do something along those lines this year?
- n. Members who work at Juniata were encouraged to get Green Dot training and to then create a collaboration with Jody Althouse and her Green Dot program and perhaps also with the JC Student Organization.
- o. Other ideas are always welcome. Please contact Becky Weldon with any suggestions you have.

Thanks to the members who were able to attend this meeting. We welcome input from the rest of you via email or phone.

Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Roney
 Secretary
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 814-667-4479

Post-meeting addenda:

- a. *The position of Yearbook Editor was not discussed at the meeting, but a few days later, Deb Grove asked to be relieved of this responsibility for next year. The Yearbook contains the plans for the year and membership lists, among other useful information. The Yearbook is an important part of on-going branch records and history. It is done in Word, and we have the current version available to share with whoever takes this over, so the new person would have a template and all the information that carries forward and/or gets repeated. Deb Roney has proofread the draft Yearbook for several years and would be happy to continue to do so. The 2016-17 Yearbook should be out this month. Ideally, however, programming for the year is in place by early fall and the Yearbook done shortly thereafter. This is a job that occurs only once a year.
- b. **Deb Roney would be happy to relinquish either of these positions to any interested member.
- c. Judith Benz's post-meeting addition to the program list for consideration: Hold a membership drive at Westminster Woods because "there are quite a few people there with interesting backgrounds and free time on their hands who'd like to become more engaged in the community."
- d. Deb Roney's post-meeting addition to the program list for consideration: Also popular this past year was our panel of five international women students talking about gender issues in their countries (Prof. Emil Nagengast gave extra credit for it as did Prof. Alison Fletcher); perhaps we should repeat that sometime.