

## Indiana AAUW Board of Directors October 25, 2008

Members present – Agnes George, Barb Kanning, Beth LeRoy, Deb Romary, Janet Brewer, Jean Stephens, Kay Depel, Mary Lou Thomas, Phyllis Thompson, Sharon Schafer, Susan Trout, and Barb Wellnitz.

Members absent – Jane Allerton, Jean Amman, Marsha Miller, and Treva May.

Barb Kanning called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Deb moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting and Phyllis seconded. Motion passed.

**Finance report** – Susan cashed in the CD and combined it with the savings and asked for guidance from Deb about how to handle the funds given the current economic climate. Deb suggested she keep it where it is for the time being and she may have another recommendation in January for the \$11,217. Susan submitted a current balance sheet. A little over 600 members have paid and Mary Lou received some dues that she will send to Susan. Honorary life members do not pay dues at any level. Branches need to notify Association when a woman has been a member for 50 years. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. Susan will check to see which branches, if any, she has not yet received dues from.

**New state directories** were distributed and each member should check her own information and that of her branch to be sure everything is correct. If anyone needs an extra copy, please let Jane know. Barb K. will see that each branch president receives a directory.

**Program** – Barb K. thanked Deb for all the work she did making arrangements for the July meeting in Bloomington. The State Convention will be April 25, 2009 in Warsaw preceded by the board meeting on Friday, April 24 also in Warsaw. Deb will soon begin making final plans for that meeting. There will most likely be considerable time spent during the State Convention discussing the Association's plans for the future of AAUW and getting feedback from members. The Association Convention is June 26-28 in St. Louis and information about this is continuing to come in. Several board members are now linked on Facebook's AAUW space and they have been advised that there will be a meeting convened in St. Louis on June 27 to discuss what it means to be a virtual AAUW member. Currently, there are about 400 members of this group.

Barb K. reported that Briefing #11 from Association outlined changes to the **bylaws** which will not be pursued due to the feedback received. Only 273 members in the country filled out the online response form. The largest response was from Michigan with 211 comments and Indiana tied with California for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 82. There are three areas of concern – membership, dues collection, role of states and branches. Board members will be state delegates and will vote the state votes. Branches need to attend and vote their branch votes so members need to be encouraged to attend. Association adopted the resolution that they will be retaining the \$49 dues for 2009. The latest version of the proposed bylaws will be posted online in January and be included in the Spring issue of

Outlook. The summary of the feedback stated that states and branches were being marginalized and this was definitely not the intent. The current state and branch structure does not need to change if it serves the membership well. Structure means the way we are set up – number of officers, which officers, etc. State and branch bylaws will need to be aligned with all changes made to the Association (corporate) bylaws in June 2009. Delegates must vote by a 2/3 majority to adopt the proposed bylaws as a whole.

Deb will send out personal invitations to each branch president to the **State Convention** urging them to attend. Hopefully, there will be quite a few members in attendance to discuss these proposed changes.

The February 2008 Board of Directors decided to drop the use of the full American Association of University Women and use only the **acronym AAUW**. The reason is to simplify the name and make it more like a business as in IBM or like AARP has adopted. All new materials will use only the logo and acronym. We will use up old letterhead.

Barb K. asked Deb to get some teasers out to branches for the State Convention to drum up interest in attending. We need to be agents of change in order to survive as an organization. Barb K. has been in touch with the presidents of Michigan and Ohio regarding these changes. Ruth Sweetser, Association president, is the featured speaker at a Michigan meeting being held today.

**Membership** – Kay gave the Association figure of 887 members as of February 1, 2008. It is the branch treasurer's job to notify Association when a member moves or dies. This information also needs to be sent to Janet Brewer to keep our newsletter mailing list current. She distributed a list of MALs near each branch and hopes we can encourage some of them to join the nearby branch. Her goal for her term is to form 6 new branches. Lafayette and Bloomington are already working to form new branches. Another possibility are virtual branches. She was contacted by an Eli Lilly employee who is interested in forming a corporate branch. Barb K. asked Kay to write an article on membership incentives for the February newsletter. Branches can use these to help attract new members. Kay has new membership brochures available for those who would like them.

**Public Policy** – Jean S. reported on the conference call between Association and state public policy chairs soliciting feedback on what each state is doing. She distributed copies of the latest Congressional Voting Record and urged members to put them in libraries, schools, and other public locations. A review of our state Public Policy Agenda 2007-2009 showed it still reflects our wishes as these were used as a guideline for our goals. The board would like to see health coverage, family planning and affordable prescriptions added to the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point under the equality, individual rights, and social justice section of Association priorities. We would also like to see funding of the arts and humanities added to the priorities. Jean will take these suggestions to Association for their consideration in preparing the priorities for 2009-2011. Our consensus is that those action priorities need to be more specific and measurable in order to know when the goal has been reached.

**Educational Foundation** – Mary Lou announced that EF funds are due December 1. Most contributions are now being sent directly to Association or made online and she then gets a report listing those contributions by branch and member. Through September 30, \$1570

has been contributed by IN members but Mary Lou has sent in additional monies. She received a Breaking Through Barriers memo announcing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Educational Foundation asking for 500 gifts of \$50 each in 50 days. She sent in \$50 for IN for this promotion from monies raised by the state, not individual branches. Mary Lou will send a reminder to the branches that contributions are due December 1 and may be sent directly to Association preferably with a copy to her so she can help track those from IN and be sure they are credited to the appropriate fund.

Labels are still available from Mary Lou. She is soliciting fund raising ideas – bumper stickers and window clings were suggested saying “Breaking Through Barriers.” Mary Lou has opened a new bank account with Star where service fees won’t be charged. She will try not to buy checks but will use the temporary ones furnished as few checks are needed. Currently, there is a balance of \$1746.27 in that account.

AAUW New Mexico is working to complete a \$100,000 fund for Corinne Wolfe which currently stands at \$75,000. They are asking other states to consider designating at least a portion of their contributions to assist them in completing this fund. All IN funds have been completely funded but additional monies can still be put in them. Beth moved we donate \$500 from our state funds to the Corinne Wolfe fund. Phyllis seconded. Deb countered with a suggested amount of \$1000 rather than \$500. Agnes seconded Deb’s counter motion. Counter motion passed. Mary Lou will send a check to EF to be added to this fund.

**Legal Advocacy Fund** – Phyllis reported that to date we have collected \$1125 for LAF. She will be sending forms to each branch treasurer who should send one copy with their check to Association, one copy to Phyllis, and keep another for the branch records. She has a few of the LAF brochures available. December 1 is the deadline for these contributions.

Phyllis will get information on the Emerging Leader and Branch Recognition programs to Barb K. to include in the president’s packets she will be sending out in January. The State Directory will be included so she requested each person to let her know if there are any changes so they can be made before more copies are made. Phyllis will have updated figures on LAF contributions which she will send to Janet for inclusion in the February newsletter. Information on the Emerging Leader and and Branch Recognition programs should also be included so all members are aware of them.

**International Relations** – Sharon finds that the Goshen branch is able to work with Goshen College for diverse speakers. Noblesville hosted a meeting open to the community with BeBe Barama speaking about her work in Afghanistan; Anderson will again host a 2000 Villages Bazaar on November 10 and an evening program by nursing faculty who will tell of women’s health experiences in the countries in which they have worked. Barb K. asked Sharon to gather information on diverse programs to include in the February newsletter.

**Bylaws** – Barb K. asked board members to read the Feedback Summary published by Association which summarizes the feedback on the proposed bylaws. Those bylaws have now been finalized and will be put online in January and also appear in the Spring issue of Outlook. Board members should share this information with their consultant branches. The published ones will be voted on in June in St. Louis. Branch and state bylaws do not

need to be changed at this time. After the new bylaws have been voted on at the June convention, Association will put out model bylaws for branches and states and our local versions will need to be changed at that time to align with Association's. Branch members need to attend the Association Convention in order to vote branch wishes for the future of AAUW. State board members will be discussing the proposed bylaws in further detail and Deb requested the board meet in St. Louis to align their votes.

**Resolutions** will need to be updated prior to Convention and Jean A. will be guiding that effort.

**Branch Consultants** – With the new directory, Beth will now be able to contact the current branch officers to be sure each branch knows who her consultant is. She will also try to make connections between branches so others are aware of programs which may be of interest to other branches. Sharon reported that Elkhart and Goshen are already working in this direction. Beth will write up some introductory info on her role and will get it to Janet for the newsletter.

**Lending Library** – Agnes is happy to be back on the board. She has gone through all the library materials and wants to upgrade and complete the information. She wants to encourage branches to use the many materials on the Association website available for download. Shop AAUW is down for upgrades. If there are recent research reports that are not in the library, she will look into adding them. Barb K. requested that Agnes ensure that at least one copy of each research report be in our lending library. If any board member has a copy of any of these reports she would like to add to the library, she should get it to Agnes. She also asked her to put a list of those reports in the newsletter so all know they are available for use at branch meetings. Agnes wants to also have links on our state website to the reports on the Association website. She would also like to purchase the Adalante books for the library in hopes that will encourage more members to read them.

**Newsletter** – Janet asked that all those who have information for the newsletter to send their articles to her as well as remind her what you want to go in it. Each member should be putting something in each issue as Janet is not the content queen but the editor. February 1 is the deadline for the next issue and she is to contact those she has not heard from to get their information. Janet has switched from white paper to colored paper and black and white type rather than color. She used first-class postage to mail the most recent newsletter and asked for direction for future mailings. Bulk mailing costs less but is much more work and the added cost of the bulk mailing permit of \$175 needs to be taken into consideration. Phyllis moved Janet use first-class mailing for future newsletters. Motion carried. Janet is trying to correct addresses for those that were returned. She is getting quite a few branch newsletters. The February issue should contain the names of the nominating committee as well as the offices which will be up for election – secretary, public policy, and program directors.

Historian – Treva is collecting historical information on anything pertaining to the state AAUW. She also keeps a scrapbook with pictures, etc. for the state as well as branch information. Board members should send any information of this type that they have to Treva.

President's packet to branches – Barb K. will be sending it out mid-January after our online chat meeting. If any board member has information that should go to each branch president, she should send that information to Barb. Beth requested that Barb send to board members only that information which they do not already have but not duplicate what we received today. As a general rule, board members will not receive the president's packet. The contents will be finalized during the online chat meeting.

**State Directory** – Susan will send the State Directory to the branch presidents now so they have the information for use immediately. Barb asked that each board member check the directory listing for herself, her branch, and other information and let her know if something is inaccurate. Barb will send a note along with it asking for changes, let them know about the forthcoming bylaws online in January and in the Spring Outlook.

**Timeline** – each board member should remind her consultant branches of the December 1 deadline for EF and LAF contributions.

**January 10** is the board chatroom. Barb will see if we can have more than an hour so we don't get knocked offline. January 15 is the deadline for getting any information to Barb for the president's packet. If members have any information from Association that should go to the branches, Barb will need it by that date.

**Torchbearer Award** dinner will be held in March but the exact date is not known. Kay asked if anyone in our organization is being nominated but at this time it's unknown. Go to [icw.org](http://icw.org) for more information and qualifications for nomination.

Mary Eherenman has begun work on the arrangements for the State Convention in Warsaw on April 25 at the Ramada Inn.

Phyllis plugged Fort Wayne's new website which all should visit. Three branches have their own website – Fort Wayne, Muncie, and Valparaiso and there are links to each on the state website. Of special interest is the Fort Wayne LAF silent auction which has a week's rental at an elegant Colorado lodge in Breckenridge owned by a branch member's son. There are three dates on which people can bid with a minimum of \$500.

Barb K. has the Association DVD if anyone wants to borrow it. She feels it is most appropriate for boards rather than members. There are 7 modules each of which covers a different area.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wellnitz, Secretary