

AAUW OCTOBER 1, 2012 BOARD MEETING

The following Board, Appointed and Administrative members attended:

Holly Sauer – President	Loretta Altschuler – Co-President Elect
Carol Gerich – Programs Co-Vice President	Elizabeth Williams – Membership Co-Vice President
Tena Gallagher – Membership Co-Vice President	Callie Gilbert – Secretary
Soni Leighton – Advocate Editor	Kathy McKnight – Garden Tour Co-Chair
Judy Lauper – Hospitality Co-Chair	Lynn Goodwin – Local Scholarship Chair
Pat Foster – Advocate Circulation Manager	Robin Halloran – Parliamentarian
Alicia Jones – International Relations Chair	Cynthia Savell – Women’s Issues Chair

Call to Order and Announcements: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Holly Sauer. Robin Halloran announced that the Measure D endorsement online vote did not have a quorum of 28 votes and therefore the endorsement failed. Holly reminded us about the AAUW Fellows Luncheon in Napa on 10/21. The registration deadline is 10/8 and she is arranging carpooling. Holly also announced that Tena has the results of her conversations with non-renewing members. Let Tena know if you’d like to see the results. Holly also announced that this year, AAUW has begun a partnership with an organization called ‘Half The Sky’ to end poverty and gender inequality for women around the world. A documentary ‘Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide’ is being broadcast on PBS 10/1 and 10/2. Our AAUW link for this effort:

<http://blog-aauw.rog/2012/09/28/get-ready-to-watch-inspiring-women-in-action-in-half-the-sky>

Holly suggested to Alicia Jones that perhaps there is something we can do as a branch event to promote this international partnership.

Holly is in possession of 2 large white banners stating that we’re a 5 star branch 2000-1, 2 AAUW posters with slogans “Shaping the Future for Women and Girls” and “Making an Impact for Over 120 Years” and 2 framed proclamations on our 40th anniversary, a large California Legislature Assembly Resolution signed by Joan Buchanan and a smaller House of Representatives Congressional Record from Representative Jerry McNeerney. Liz Williams may be interested in taking them for membership and will look at them.

Fall Audit: Joyce Tenney read the results of the audit report. She stated that the report is not correct as the balance will need to be corrected. There was difficulty doing the audit because items were missing. Roseann has ordered missing statements. Joyce will double check with Melissa as to the status of the IRS issue. Loretta Altshuler complimented Joyce for doing an excellent job on the audit. Holly stated that there will be another audit in the spring and that we have a CPA who files our taxes. Judy Lauper stated that the CPA always asks for an extension for the November 15th filing. Holly asked Robin to make a note for the Policy & Procedures updates in 2013-2014 to add a checkpoint ensuring that tax forms are filed on time.

Membership: Tena Gallagher asked for feedback on the Membership Brunch. There were many compliments regarding the Brunch. In publicizing an event, Carol Gerich suggested emphasizing more of the speaker's expertise, rather than focusing on her AAUW background. Pat Foster suggested having more tables and more time for the book sale. Alicia Jones suggested that the Tech Trekkers be prepped for their talk so that they could talk more about their actual Tech Trek experience. Judy Lauper suggested that the brunch be scheduled to end at noon rather than 12:30 as that extra ½ hour would be tiring. Loretta suggested that attendees could bring a gift for charity. Callie stated that some potential members had trouble locating someone to answer their membership questions.

Board Reorganization Proposal: Loretta Altshuler provided handouts on the proposed reorganization of the board. There are presently 14 voting positions and 29 non-voting positions. The total number of board members, including co-positions, is 39. In August, the board was asked to fill out a survey and 10 board members responded. After receiving a preview of the committee's recommendations by e-mail last week, Loretta received numerous e-mails with feedback on the recommendations. Loretta stated that not everyone feels as the committee does regarding the proposed changes and if the changes don't happen now, the parliamentarian will file the recommendations. Pat Foster stated that there are lots of people on committees which are separate from the board.

Loretta stated that the reorganization committee started their process by identifying goals and objectives. Our branch is not a business but it does have some similarities to a business and it follows a democratic process. Loretta explained the new flowchart and pros and cons list. Holly stated that there may be a 13th voting position created. She also explained that by creating teams, one team member could vote on behalf of the team. Tena stated that she liked the Secretary and Advocate parts of the flowchart but was having a hard time with the rest of it. She also stated that Hospitality and Special Interests are the positions that really get to know the members. Holly said that maybe this is where the 13th voting position would come in. Pat Foster suggested that the President Elect(s) should focus on special interest to get to know the members. Alicia Jones stated that Membership is a big job and it's helpful to sit down with everyone. Robin asked Holly if she found the President Elect job overwhelming. Holly responded that it was time consuming to learn branch operations and special interests. Tena suggested another board position for special interest since it's a lot of work for the President Elect. Holly responded that the President Elect can form a committee for help.

Soni Leighton gave feedback on her shared vote. She feels that her position is to serve the board and not to be on the board. She questioned the validity of having the Advocate Editor as a voting position. Judy Lauper asked about the criteria for voting. She wondered why the HHT and Garden Tour positions are voting positions. She agreed with Soni that some positions don't need a vote. Kathy McKnight said that maybe she doesn't need to vote or come to all the board meetings. She also stated that she didn't get an experience binder passed down to her to help with her position. Holly responded that we need to do a better job of turning over the positions. Carol Gerich stated that in any board reorganization, two objectives must be addressed. First, the board should be reorganized to increase its efficiency. Second, board positions should be designed to attract volunteers to serve. She also stated that we currently have a big problem finding volunteers to take on the board positions. Loretta agreed that part of the reorganization would be formation of teams so people don't have to come to every board meeting. Pat stated that as a volunteer organization it's hard filling positions which require special skills or interests. Robin responded that it is hard to help the president fill 29 positions. Holly stated that we don't need 29 board positions because we can have support positions. Cynthia Savell stated that it would simplify things if the Executive Committee did the voting. That would be the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Funds, Membership and Programs. Soni suggested that support positions report to the Executive Committee and attend board meetings from time to time to report. Holly suggested ending the discussion for now, extending it another 5 minutes or extending the meeting after 11 a.m. Cynthia commented on what a high energy branch this is, with a lot of talent in this group.

Approval of Minutes: There were no further corrections to the September 10, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes and the September 15, 2012 Membership Brunch Meeting Minutes. The minutes were accepted as e-mailed. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Programs: Carol Gerich reported that Diablo Country Club was asking for the food order, 1 week in advance of the October 20th meeting. She will contact Holly if she has any problems with late registration. Carol asked what a preferred night would be for the January evening program. Holly suggested either a Wednesday or Thursday and Loretta suggested checking the schedule for any possible conflicts with dates for special interests. Carol stated that she would like to push for the public to attend.

Monthly Events: Holly announced that the Candidate Forum will be Monday, October 8th at 7 p.m. at Ironhorse Middle School in San Ramon. We have provided the PTA with the questions and we are official sponsors, although we are not endorsing any candidates. Loretta suggested giving awards in May, rather than at the Installation Meeting and having the Planning Meeting in May. Holly expressed concern about moving the awards to May, as girls may be taking finals.

New Business: Cynthia Savell encouraged us to read the California Perspective information on propositions. Kathy McKnight asked if anyone could suggest another garden in Blackhawk, as she has one already and would like another one. Cynthia asked if a former garden could be used again. Tena stated that it was not a good idea. People who regularly attend the Garden Tour would remember previous gardens. Holly asked if we should proceed to tentatively

reserve 12 campership spots for Tech Trek (same as last year) and if this requires a board vote. Robin stated that no vote is required. Holly will request Helga Glasson to tentatively reserve 12 spots by the 10/13 deadline.

Board Reorganization Proposal: Loretta thanked everyone for helpful comments and stated that although this may not be the year for change, this is starting people to think about change. Robin stated that there is a consensus on some things. Loretta stated that the committee needs to meet to discuss the feedback. Soni said that she hopes it isn't tabled. It feels like limbo and it's important to have even a few things established before the new board. Loretta responded that it's important to phase in changes. The Nominating Committee knows that there may be changes. Tena recommended having Public Policy as its own position and having the Corresponding Secretary under Hospitality. She appreciated having the proposed reorganization information e-mailed in advance.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Callie Gilbert
Secretary