**AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch**

**Board Meeting – May 10, 2016**

Shadow Hills Cabaña, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville

**Attendance**: Charla Gabert, Tena Gallagher, Carol Highton, Sandy Killoran, Roseann Krane, Marilyn Lawver, Soni Leighton, Noel Manion, Kathy McKnight, Kate Reed, Caroline Sanchez, Holly Sauer, Susan Terzouli, Melanie Wade, Liz Williams, and Rita Wustner

**Consent Agenda:** The financial report was accepted. Minutes were moved to the discussion.

**Minutes:** After 2 corrections, the minutes were approved.

**Garden Tour:** The tour was excellent despite the rain. 456 tickets were sold. After expenses, the branch will have made approximately $17,000. This figure includes the raffle money of about $1500. A wrap-up meeting will be held on May 12. General remarks: many branch members were seen enjoying the gardens; a total of 121 docents were involved; although many of the 68 folks contacted to help were unable to do so, many made donations; this year we didn’t sell as many tickets at the door as in prior years – possibly due to the rain; going forward, we might want to have a canopy to shelter those waiting for shuttle pickups. Already 5 potential gardens have been identified for next year’s tour.

**Appreciation Dinner:** The dinner, scholarship recipient recognition, and installation will be held in Carol Highton’s lovely garden. The menu is set and the rental of tables and chairs from Gagnon’s is in place. We can use additional helpers to set up. RSVPs are slow, so Holly will send an e-blast with an RSVP link going directly to Sandy. Mary Ellen is in charge of installation. The programs are set up, and a means of easing access and seating for anyone with physical challenges is being put into place.

**Program:** 29 people attended the presentation “Bones” given by our 2 speakers. The program was very good. We have decided not to purchase a projector as it is expensive and storage becomes an issue. It might mean that 1 member would have to go to all programs to manage it. Roseann has an InFocus projector she could donate – but it needs a new bulb and that is very expensive. Charla has an expensive cable for an LCD projector that she can donate. Rita suggested we revisit the question of a projector next year when we know what our programs will be.

**Scholarships:** Only 5 individuals applied for our scholarships this year. Each was highly qualified. 4 will receive general scholarships in the amount of $1600 each. One will receive the Jane Trittipo Medical Science scholarship in the amount of $2135.

**Membership:** Last month Soni had stated her interest in continuing in the position of chair if an exception could be made to allow her to serve a third year. Marilyn moved and Liz seconded the motion to allow a membership chair to serve a third year. This passed unanimously. Soni will chair Membership, and has a committee in place to assist her.

**Board Configuration:**  A discussion about our lack of a nominating committee this year generated much discussion and many ideas. We need nominations for a president, a secretary, and a treasurer in order to hold an election. Further, we have no president elect and, as our conversation began, no program chair. This latter position was filled by Liz after she shared her interest in filling the position if someone would work with her and if she learned the Board’s expectations.

The discussion moved into ideas about how many programs we should present annually. Charla reminded us that we had 3 programs this year and suggested that 2 would be sufficient in light of our other activities such as the Membership Brunch. 2 suggestions were made: getting an AAUW Fund Fellow to speak, which would link an activity to Funds, and using the Lend a Leader program.

We face the question of whether we should hold an election via e-mail. On the one hand, we could solicit nominations from the floor at our Appreciation Party. On the other, as we wish to hold our installation at the event, might we look bad if we do not have a slate of elected officers to install?

We decided to conduct a e-mail election. The slate currently reads Melanie Wade for President, Kathy McKnight for Secretary, Marilyn Lawver for Treasurer, Carol Highton for Funds, Tena Gallagher for the Garden Tour, and Noel Manion helping with Hospitality. We do not know if Rita Wustner will be our parliamentarian. A final note about our slate: Melanie said she would consider being our President for 2 years. Tena moved and Carol seconded the motion that the board accept the above slate. The motion passed unanimously.

Rita validated our holding the election via e-mail vote with the recommendation that we craft a message to the membership with an explanation of why the election is being handled this way. The ballot should go out by May 17 with voting to close on May 31. The ballot will go out under Liz and Kathy’s names with the votes coming back to Rita and Liz. Mail Chimp will be used for the election with USPS service to our members who receive the Advocate via the post office.

Melanie noted that she discussed our lack of a president elect at the state convention. She discovered that other branches are having this problem. This observation led to a wide ranging discussion of how to generate interest, enthusiasm, and possibly new ways of exposing and training folks for the many positions that make our branch strong. Soni recommended that we hold a brainstorming session focused on how to motivate and inspire leadership potential, and that we include anyone interested as well as reaching back to past years’ position holders to solicit their input.

Further ideas and questions: Should we change our policies and procedures to allow every board member to have a vote?; Could we “save” the energy of folks for positions by not having “co-“ positions and have teams, instead? Doing so would eliminate the 2 year eligibility rule currently in our policies and procedures.

**Last Items:** Tena has a shed available for our use to store all our materials and supplies if we can secure the shed with a new door. Soni moved we purchase a door for $200. Marilyn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IBC Leadership Training takes place at CSUEB on May 21st. Registration is $5. We are encouraged to attend, but must register immediately.

Marilyn needs all reimbursement requests no later than Father’s Day, June 19th. Carol needs those for the Garden Tour immediately. If anyone knows budget needs for next year, please get them to Marilyn.

100 of the brochures about our branch, approved at last month’s meeting, have been printed. They look excellent.

Liz and Kathy adjourned the meeting and distributed mugs and cards as a thank you to each of this year’s board members.