

AAUW Board Meeting — February 11, 2011

The following Board, Appointed and Administrative members attended:

Marcia Steinhardt, Co-President	Mary Mix, Co-President	Jacque Schubert, AAUW Funds Co-VP
Loretta Altshuler, Secretary	Karen Large, Program Co-VP	Dianne Tinnes, AAUW Funds Co-VP
Susan Terzuoli, LAF Fund Co-VP	Pat Gross, Program Co-VP	Sonya Seyler, Local Scholarships Co-Chair
Barbara Welch, LAF Fund Co-VP	Mary Hanson, Treasurer	Sharon Cohune, Hospitality Co-Chair
Kathie Hixon, Corresponding Secretary	Karen Schlumpp, Membership VP	Holly Sauer, Hospitality Co-Chair
Robin Halloran, Holiday Home Tour	Marian Bliss, Parliamentarian	Robin Halloran, Holiday Home Tour
Tena Gallagher, Event Publicity	Carol Kennedy, Walnut Creek Satellite Rep	Gail Clark, Nominating Committee
Caroline Sanchez, Women's History	Karen Abu-Hamdeh, Nominating Committee	

Call to Order and Announcements: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Co-President Mary Mix at Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville. General announcements included the following:

- We were read a thank you letter from Bob Brittain, who represented the Walnut Creek Library during the January program on self defense. He received a Gift Card to Jack's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill and a nice thank you note from Karen Large and Pat Gross.
- Danville Today News article publicized an invitation to the general public for the "Remember the Ladies" luncheon on March 12, 2011 at Crow Canyon Country Club.
- Appointments Training Workshop for Women featuring Joan Buchanan is scheduled for February 24, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at the Miller Starr Regalia Conference Room, 1331 N. California Blvd. 5th Floor Walnut Creek.
- Benicia-Vallejo Branch Best Intentions Tech Trek Fundraiser musical show is scheduled for March 12, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The AAUW Clayton Branch Spaghetti Feed Scholarships and Tech Trek Fundraiser is scheduled for March 23, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Friends Fellowship program is designed to provide students, recent graduates and motivated individuals seeking career development with an opportunity for involvement with the Friends of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. Currently, they are looking to fill one fellowship position in 2011. Interested parties may contact www.friendscosw.org/fellow or send a resume to women@friendscow.org by February 18, 2011.
- The annual National AAUW Art Contest is open to votes between February 7-18, 2011. A vote may be made once every seven days. All members were encouraged to vote. Many Branch members submitted entries.
- A paper was sent around to Board members to document any good books read that had a strong female personality.
- The AAUW California Convention is being held on April 8-10, 2011 in Irvine. The deadline for early registration is February 20, 2011. Refer to the Connection Corner Tri-Fold which illustrates Branch activities throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to make tri-fold inserts for the convention program.

Approval of Previous Minutes (Loretta Altschuler): The final draft of the AAUW Danville-Alamo 2010 General Meeting minutes for December 11, 2010 were approved by a motion made by Jacque Schubert with a second by Pat Gross. All were in favor and the motion passed. The final draft January 14, 2010 Board meeting minutes were approved as e-mailed by a motion made by Barbara Welch with a second from Karen Large with acceptance by the Board, except for the section on public policy. It now reads as follows: K-12 education funding is protected unless the voters vote against tax extensions for five years in the June special election. If not, K-12 budget cuts might happen, and most likely more cuts in higher education could come. The budget for the University of California (UC) is in great jeopardy. We should all be very concerned about the budget that is being proposed to be taken away from the UC's. Our next generation who will be taking care of us depends upon this educational system and there are great concerns about the stability of the California public school system. Cynthia distributed copies of the original email sent to her from AAUW California at the last board meeting. Please note the correct spelling of the author Karen Abu-Hamdeh, who is a member of the AAUW California Public Policy Committee and a copy of this article can be found attached. The article presents a discussion about *AAUW and the Future of California Education* and as an *AAUW Member What You Can Do*. In addition a correction was made under LAF: The name was corrected from Kathy Dixon to Kathy Dickson.

Nominating Committee (Gail Clark): The nominating committee has been busy trying to fill the seven executive offices. This is the mission of the nominating committee whose members include Gail Clark, Kathie Hixon, Carolyn Sanchez, Karen Abu-Hamdeh, and Kerry Montalvo. They have all done an outstanding job trying to find new officers for 2011-2012 and we thank them for their efforts. At this time there have been some positive acceptances including Holly Sauer for President Elect, Pat Gross, Karen Large and Norma Spencer for Program Vice President, Tena Gallagher for Membership Vice President and Judy Finch for AAUW Funds Vice President. The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer have not been filled. In order to have a Branch there must be at a minimum two officers which are the President and Treasurer. To date the committee has contacted all qualified members and sent out over 500 emails. However, the committee is meeting resistance by members unwilling to take on these high level leadership positions. The nominating committee has found that other AAUW Branches are having similar problems filling these high level leadership positions. Some reasons for not taking an officer position include taking care of parents, grand children, work, just too much to do. As a result the committee has offered a number of creative strategies to fill the positions by doing the following:

1. Secretary: Share recording meeting minutes for Board, Planning and General meetings among the existing officers. Not discussed was how to share the overall recordkeeping for the branch if the Secretary position is eliminated. This position is the central place to hold general records.

2. Treasurer: Hire a bookkeeping firm. The concern is the cost of these services. Mary Hanson suggested elimination of QuickBooks and reinstate the use of Excel. Excel is more manageable and does not require special training. Note: The taxes for the branch are now completed by a member who is donating her time and business skills to file in a timely manner.

3. President: Sharing a position has worked effectively in the past. The position could be divided by function and then shared between two, three or four members. Example: One person could take on running meetings, other board committees, IBC meeting and the advocate letter, another person could be responsible for the Holiday and Garden Tour. Concern was that it would be difficult to retain the continuity with so many changes in the year.

There were some unresolved questions such as can a dual member be an Officer? What happens if we don't have the positions filled? Voting for new officers is scheduled for April 2, 2011 within the 30 day voting period of the nominations.

Again we were reminded that Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt are available to help anyone who takes a leadership position as are past Presidents. Another effort will be made by the Nominating Committee to contact again those who meet the qualifications to see if they are now willing to share the position.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Hanson): Several highlights of documents were reviewed including Balance Sheet as of January, 2011 and Profit & Loss Summary 2011. All detailed documents are attached.

- Per the January 2010 Balance Sheet, assets totaled \$50,011.51, including \$41,861.31 in checking and \$7,823.72 in savings. Profit and Loss as of January 2011 are inflows at \$851.51 and outflows at \$855.51.
- Changes in January: Payable to Scholarship and Tech Trek: \$22,000 (\$11,000 each) Total Payable Scholarship = \$12,659 / Tech Trek = \$12,300
- Found on our web page are the revised "Expense & Deposit Record Keeping Forms" and attached are printed copies.
- Tech Trek: Payment for our Tech Trekers is pending with the "drop-dead" due date as March 1, 2011.
- Recruitment for new Treasurer. Mary Hanson offered to mentor and guide the new Treasurer through the end of December 2011. The updated income and expense reporting process should simplify the new Treasurer's job as well as remove some of the mundane activities involved such as making multiple copies of receipts. The tax return job for 2011-2012 has been delegated (pro-bono) to a CPA.
- Savings and CD: Savings are to be placed in CD's in amounts determined by the Treasurer and approved by the Board. A local financial institution is preferred rather than an online bank. Home Savings in Rossmoor had the best rates for a CD. However, this project is on hold pending completion of new legal documents reflecting the Branch name change to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek.

Membership (Karen Schlumpp): On January 22, 2011 a New Member Welcome Tea was hosted at the home of Sharon Cohune. High praise was given by Board members to the beautiful and elegant event that Karen, Sharon and Holly worked so hard to present. Sharon was a gracious hostess and her beautiful home made the event special to all who attended. The Board offered a big thanks for such a great event. There were two additional new recruits that were a result of the tea. Also Karen will be looking into the membership status of Bev Watson who may qualify for life membership as a past president of the North Lake Tahoe Branch. However, first there is some terminology around Life Membership that needs to be clarified.

Public Policy (Marcia Steinhardt for Cynthia Savell): Marcia read the following report for Cynthia: Redefining Rape Lawrence Journal World – 2/06/2011 U.S. House drops 'forcible rape' language.

The author of a bill in the U.S. House that would ban taxpayer funds for abortion said he will drop the term "forcible rape" in the exemption portion of the bill. The exemption to the proposed ban will now cover all forms of rape, said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. The bill, which had been co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-Topeka, whose district includes west Lawrence, had touched off a firestorm of criticism. H.R. 3 would make permanent the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funds for abortions except in cases of rape, incest and if the life of the mother is threatened. Currently, the amendment is subject to annual review. Jenkins was one of 173 co-sponsors of the bill, but H.R. 3, as filed, also would change the "**rape**" exemption to "**forcible rape**." Abortion rights advocates said using the term "forcible rape" could exclude statutory rape or rapes where the victim was drugged, unconscious or verbally threatened. However last week, Smith's office said the word "forcible" would be replaced with the original language of the Hyde Amendment. Abortion rights supporters still oppose Smith's bill because it contains other provisions that they said will make it more difficult for women to get comprehensive health care coverage.

Programs (Karen Large, Pat Gross): The EF program planned for February 22, 2011 at Scotts Restaurant in Walnut Creek will feature Tam Ma, the daughter of a 1979 Vietnamese boat person, who is studying at UC Berkeley. A \$100 honorarium is being given to the speaker. In the past it was \$50 so there was some discussion as to why it was increased. The meal and expenses are paid for and it is the expectation that the fellowship recipient speak. On March 12, 2011 a program titled "*Remember the Ladies*" honoring 100 years of the Women's right to vote in California will be held at the Crow Canyon Country Club in San Ramon. There are 80 seats available for this "sit down" event. The cost will be \$26 per person and it will be a Shape the Future Event. A Certificate of Insurance is still needed. Jacque Schubert made a motion to open this meeting to the public so we

can get the needed Certificate of Insurance and it was seconded by Karen Large. All were in favor and the motion passed.

LAF (Susan Terzouli, Barbara Welch): The speaker for the Saturday, April 2, 2011 LAF program is Leslie F. Levy. Leslie is a member of the law firm Dickson Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams. The location is still under consideration. The Community Room in the Mercer in Walnut Creek is being considered. The event will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost per person will be ten dollars. Wine and appetizers will be served.

EF (Jacque Schubert): Both Jacque and Dianne Tinnes are busy working on the details of the 11th annual Garden Tour to be held on May 6 -7, 2011. They are very confident that planning is proceeding nicely and feel that the event is well under control. There are seven or eight gardens scheduled for the tour. Dianne Tinnes showed us the beautiful invitation designed with the help of Dora-Thea Porter. Volunteers are still needed as head docents, and one half of a refreshment coordinator. There have been five restaurants secured. East Bay Floral has been requested to be our exclusive connection with the public to sell tickets to this event. There are several Landscapers on the tour with very different styles.

Hospitality (Sharon Cohune, Holly Sauer): The Hospitality committee had a follow-up meeting on February 9, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Holly Sauer's home. There were 14 hosts who attended. One outcome of the meeting was a need to prepare an article to help the hosts with successful meetings offering tips and advice. Kerry Montalvo will merge her spreadsheet with that from Holly Sauer to create a master list for hosts to use for emails and contact telephone numbers. There have been many positive comments about the neighborhood meeting and many members are enjoying getting to know each other through these events. Sharon and Holly have done an outstanding job with coordinating this project.

Local Scholarship (Sonya Seyler): A scholarship selection committee has been formed to include Alicia Jones, Sonya Seyler, Kathie Hixon, Carol Kennedy, and Marian Worrall. This committee will receive the scholarship applicants and then make selections. Tena Gallagher has written a PR article about these scholarships. The committee is awaiting applications.

Tech Trek (Mary Mix for Helga Glasson and Luisa Hansen): Invitations were sent to two schools in Walnut Creek on January 9, 2011. Teachers then make nominations no later than February 11, 2011. By March 11, 2011 girls will be contacted and their essays and other information must be returned. The Committee will have two weeks to review the applications and the interviews will happen before or during the last week of March. On April 1, 2011 the girls selected will be notified and then the parents requested to send a \$50.00 check. On April 15, 2011 the names of the selected and alternate girls will be sent to the Tech Trek Coordinator.

Branch Payment for Tech Trek is due March 1, 2011. It is \$800 per camper which includes the \$50 donation from each family. A check from Mary Hanson will be needed for (\$800x12) \$9,600. The check is to be sent to Sonoma State University. At this time there are 27 nominees from the Danville Alamo schools for 8 openings. Interviews will begin the third week in March. Special donations to sponsor two girls have been made by Carla Pancheco and Luisa Hansen. A request was made that additional openings be made, however, the Board felt at this time that we will leave the number receiving the scholarships alone at this time. A motion was made by Dianne Tinnes to limit the number of Tech Trek scholarships that our Branch funds to 12 recipients. Two additional Walnut Creek slots will be funded by private donations by Branch members. A second was made by Sonya Seyler and all were in favor so the motion passed.

EYH (Mary Mix for JoAnne Dahlin): Volunteers are still needed for the afternoon EYH Saturday session. In summary, contacting schools this year has been interesting. While waiting to get the flyers to distribute from Debi, JoAnne emailed the woman in charge at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. She was informed that this year the SRVUSD requested information be sent electronically. She also had been told to call the school district in order to find out how to contact the teachers. She spoke with a woman who asked her to send an email with pertinent information which she would forward to the teachers. The school contact wouldn't allow AAUW representatives to contact teachers directly. She said she sent JoAnne's email to the district science coordinator. JoAnne encouraged them to get all information to the teachers and that it was a first come first serve situation. A big concern is that the emails are going directly to the trash bin or ignored. With their interest in protecting the

teachers and using email our signups might still be low this year. It was suggested that Nadine Rosenzweig be contacted about possible suggestions on best practices of communication with the school district.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, March 11, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the Shadow Hills Cabaña.

Respectfully submitted by

Loretta Altshuler, Secretary