

AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch
Monthly Board Meeting – October 14, 2014
Shadow Hills Cabaña, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville

Attending: Mary Ellen Blake, Anna Freitas, Robin Halloran, Carol Kennedy, Sandy Killoran, Judy Lauper, Marilyn Lawver, Soni Leighton, Kathy McKnight, Kate Reed, Cynthia Savell, Melanie Wade, and Liz Williams

Call to Order: Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

September Minutes: September 9th Board Meeting and Sept. 29th business minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: Marilyn shared that expenses from the Membership Brunch were less than income.

- The Branch is being assessed \$85 to Funds. She explained that every branch is assessed for EF as well as insurance. This assessment is due by Nov. 15th.
- Tickets for HHT will go on sale starting Nov. 10th.
- Marilyn will be gone for 3 weeks beginning Nov. 6th. She will provide a deposit ticket and the bank stamp to allow deposits during her absence.

HHT: Anna shared that we have 4 homes for the tour and that plans are going well. We would still like to find a 5th home. We discussed potential issues surrounding a HHT with only 4 homes and determined to go forward, believing that interest will remain high.

- Anna and Roseann are going to be away for 3 weeks. Kathy and Jennifer will stand in for them until Tena and Susan T. return. Robin will ask Karen Large if she could contact member Cindy Silva, who resumed a position on the WC council this summer, to find homes in Walnut Creek.
- The tickets and postcards are prepared. We discussed how to include a 5th home, if we find one. We can add to the ticket/postcard mock-ups until Nov. 3rd, and can include an insert into the ticket if we identify a 5th home. Advertising posters will be 8 ½ x 11, somewhat smaller than in previous years.
- On-line docent sign-ups are working well
- Loretta will handle recruitment for refreshments
- We considered concerns regarding the use of booties and seating outside each home to don them.

We want to create an ad-hoc committee to look into possible alternatives to the HHT and Garden tours.

Garden Tour: We heard that the Garden Tour has 1 definite garden and possibly 3 in W.C. We continue to try to find members to support the tour.

Membership Brunch: Soni reported that the event went well and was well received. It was noted that the speaker significantly reduced her fee.

- 10 new members joined at the Brunch; they were given particular attention, introduced to current members and helped to learn about and sign up for interest groups.

- Of positive note, a new table arrangement allowed better sight lines and traffic flow. We have made a deposit at Crow Canyon Country Club for next year's Brunch.
1. Related to member activities, Soni brought up the difficulty of maintaining name tags. Handling them at each event is difficult and time consuming. We discussed alternatives, and Soni recommended training 1 person to handle check-in of members at each event.
 - a. We will try Stick-on tags at Judy's event.
 2. Should the size of the membership committee be increased?
 - a. Mary Ellen will name a committee to investigate and make recommendations regarding #1 & #2.

Hospitality: Robin reported only 29 members responded after 3 appeals to the survey regarding holding a Holiday Party or an Appreciation Party. The majority voted for an Appreciation Party in the spring.

Candidates Forum: The forum was excellent and well attended with an excellent moderator s from the League of Women Voters.

General Discussion of Current Issues: In addition to the discussions noted above, several other wide-ranging discussions were held.

1. Concerns regarding accurate contact information plus the directory were shared. We suggested that updating and maintaining current information could be spearheaded by the neighborhood groups. We asked if there were a way to teach how to navigate our website? Perhaps Teresa might have recommendations.
2. The time overlap between installation and actual assumption of duties was considered.
 - a. Kathy moved, Marilyn seconded and we passed a motion to move our installation to the 1st week in June. This membership year, the date would be June 4th. We would then consider June a transition month with no board meeting in July as usual and a planning meeting in late July as occurred this year.
3. Mary Ellen brought the Start Smart project to our attention. Start Smart's intent is to train women entering the workforce about how to negotiate for the same salary as men would receive for the same positions. Start Smart is a Wage (Women are getting Even) project and is a AAUW sponsored project. A 3-year license for DAW to take Start Smart classes to local colleges and universities is \$195.00 .
 - a. We discussed this project and decided to ask our Public Policy committee to investigate this issue. We wish the committee to consider Start Smart as well as other initiatives, and to make a presentation of their findings.

Mary Ellen adjourned the meeting at 11:12.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Reed 10-31-14