

Holiday Working Meeting. 12/07/2019

Present. 14 Branch Members and 1 guest.

After a wonderful lunch and networking, Ruth Holst gave us a discussion of AAUW's 5 Star Program as well as the projects completed by National and some of the gains made in their other projects.

Reminding us that it is the 130th Anniversary of our branch, we were presented with highlights for 2019 involving the Chicago Branch:

- Ida B Well Drive
- Project to honor Suffragettes. Concentrating on Illinois Suffragettes and their gravesites. Full list will be post on branch website. Committee is Eledia Gomez, Gerry Oberman, AJ Conroy, and Helen Ramirez-Odell.
- Partnering with Jane Addams Hull House Museum for March meeting; Equal Pay Day Rally in March; Bughouse Debate in July; and Young Feminist Conference in Nov.
- Three members that have been recognized this past year
 - Springfield Lobby Day in May led by branch member Jenni Purdue
 - Paula Purdue received AAUW Illinois' Agent of Change Award
 - Barbara Yong honored by The League of Women Voters

Ruth Holst explained what the 5-Star Program entailed and discussion was had.

Programs. Hosting strategic-plan related programs

Advancement. Member giving. Object is for branches to give \$30 per member to help support National greatest giving

- This year we have accomplished this by raising \$2065- with the No Dinner Dinner

Communication and External Relations. Website and Social Media highlight economic security

- Lori Switzer has worked hard on this and feels that we may have completed or nearly completed what we need to do on this one

Public Policy and Research. Aim to host a meeting with a state or national legislator

Governance and Sustainability. Align with national and write a succession plan

- This involves developing a branch Strategic Plan
- Cynthia Abrams-Bemis offered to volunteer for this effort

Discussion points

Can this 5-star program help us to focus on our mission?

What are the strengths of our branch?

- Work Smart/Start Smart Urban area
- National research projects and publications

What are our weaknesses?

- Absence of a Branch strategic plan
- Poor attendance at programs
- What do we need to do to survive?
- Partnering with other organizations
- Partnering- good but maybe not our best way forward

What does our organization have to offer that no other organization does

- Many organizations trying to reach potential members same as us
- Jeane Lindeke mentioned what Colorado branch has done. Offered free work smart classes. Has increased recruitment but noticed these members stay for a few years
- We need to set our mission and base our programming on that
- National focus is on Pay Equity and Work Smart Lots of focus by many groups on it
- We need to look at people in their 30's and 40's how they can do something meaningful and have leadership and networking opportunities and help women in all phases of their career
- Look at women who are interested in giving back
- Perhaps our focus may be Salary Workshop and Student Debt
- Instead of monthly meeting maybe we should consider quarterly meetings for our programs and monthly meetings for planning and brainstorming.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Submitted,
Barbara Harris
Secretary