AAUW Chicago, Inc. Branch Annual Meeting

June 6, 2020

Minutes

Attendees:  Arlene Alpert, Nancy Burton, A.J. Conroy, Mary Ann Dion, Helen Elkiss, Anne Foley, Eleida Gomez, Barbara Harris, Ruth Holst, Jan Lisa Huttner, Jackie Kirley, Kathleen Mallow, Megan Moser, Paula Purdue, Pamela Sanner, Kate Skegg, Judith Smith, Ruth Sweetser, Lori Switzer, Barbara Thomas, Donna Zimmerman

**CALL TO ORDER**  
The Annual meeting was called to order by president Ruth Holst at 11:08 AM on  
Saturday June 6, 2020. Ruth said a few words on our solidarity with the protestors in the wake of the death of George Floyd’s and others.  
  
**YEAREND RECAP**

Lori Switzer briefly reviewed some of the content of the Chicago Branch Recap for 2019-2020 that was distributed earlier in the week to all members via email. Lori thanked all who worked on and attended the programs and reminded everyone that meetings scheduled for dates past mid-March had to be cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**TREASURE REPORT**

Megan Moser presented the Treasurer’s report. The balance in our checking account is $2,300 and the balance in our investment account (Marston) is $11,640.37.  
  
**PUBLIC POLICY REPORT**

A.J. Conroy presented a report that highlighted public policy activities from the past year, along with an update on pending issues. The following topics were included:

Chicago

* A.J. attended Young Feminist Conference in November 2019
* Equal Pay Day Press Conference (Comptroller, Board President, States Attorney General and others)
* In-Person Equal Pay Day moved to October 29, 2020

Illinois

* SB471. HB2343. Paid Sick Time
* Paid Maternity Leave
* Reproductive Health
* Black History Curriculum

National

* Title IX - New Rule adopted May 6. Enforcement for Colleges. Favorable to defendents
* Girls Inc. presentation
* ERA - Virginia ratified as 38th State.  Dept. of Justice placed on hold since time limit had expired

**FIVE STAR PROGRAM**

Lori reminded the group that the Chicago Branch has two Stars currently; one for communications on social media and one for reaching the Advancement goal of donating $30 per member to the Greatest Needs fund. The remaining stars fall into the categories of Programs, Public Policy and Research, and Governance and Sustainability. The Branch will aim to schedule at least one meeting with a state or national legislator during the next year and to do other programs related to AAUW’s strategic plan. We will also try to work on a strategic plan for the Branch, as well as a succession plan.  
     
**MEMBERSHIP**  
Because Anita Moore was unable to attend the meeting, Lori presented the membership report. Chicago Inc. Branch ended the year with 66 paid members, including three new members. Approximately half of last year members have renewed for next year and Lori urged attendees to renew as soon as possible but no later than September 1st.

**IN MEMORIUM**

The Branch lost two members since last year’s Annual Meeting: Karen Antine who died in June 2019 and Henriette Simon who passed in April 2020. Several members made remarks about their remembrances of these two long-standing members.

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

Lori presented the annual membership awards for participation in the Chicago Branch.   
         5 Years:  AJ Conroy, Marsha Katz, Amy Laiken, Joanne Schlichter  
        10 Years:  Nancy Burton, Susan Grossman, Margaret O’Hara

15 Years: Ruth Holst  
        20  Years:  Laura Malec, Heather Pete, Lori Switzer, Barbara Thomas  
        25  Years: Linda Rosenberg  
        30 Years:  Arlene Alpert, Linda Naru  
        45 Years: Judith Grand Pre Smith,   
  
 The Special Appreciation Award was given to Ruth Holst for her contributions as Branch President for the past four years, her participation on the State Board and her recent work on the National Governance Committee.   
            
The Exceptional Service Award was presented to Jackie Kirley and Anita Moore for their work planning and implementing the very successful March Program held at the UIC Richard J. Daley Library titled: “*Recognition Delayed: The Contributions of African American Suffragists and Why Their Stories Matter.”*  
**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Ruth administered the oath of office for the new (and continuing) members of the Board of Directors, including:

President:  Megan Moser  
Membership Vice-President: Anita Moore  
Treasurer: Ruth Holst  
Secretary (Continuing): Barbara Harris  
Program Vice-Presidents: Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris (for one year remaining on a two-year term)   
New Directors at Large: Barbara Thomas and Eleida Gomez

Continuing Directors at Large: A.J. Conroy and Barbara Spiegel

**PROGRAM PLANNING**

Helen Elkiss announced two scheduled program planning meetings for the 2020-2021 program year: Thursday June 25th and Thursday July 16th, both at 7 pm. Pending changes in the current “Stay at Home” restrictions, both meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held via Zoom. Helen said that the plan is to hold a minimum of four program meetings during the next year; two in Fall (September and November), and two in Spring (February and April). The Annual Meeting will be scheduled for May 2021 and will include a presentation by Ruth on the history of the Chicago Branch. Additional programs and social gatherings will be held as needed based on the desires of the members. Everyone is invited to attend the planning sessions. A few suggestions made during the discussion included:

* Something with the League of Women’ Voters,
* Continue with the Fellows and Grantee’s Program
* A Book/Author Presentation
* A presentation from AAUW National
* Invite Jennie Purdue to do a presentation on working with State Legislators

**OTHER BUSINESS**   
To restart the Day Time Book Club, it was suggested that we use Zoom to meet. This idea will be forwarded to members of the Book Club.  
  
The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.   
  
Respectfully Submitted,

*Barbara Harris*