

The regular meeting of the Portland Metro Interbranch Council was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. As dictated by the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, the group met by Zoom. Chair Pat Squire (Lake Oswego Branch) called the meeting to order at 10:02. Also present were Gresham Area Rep Arlene Lemieux, secretary Claudia Gray, Hudson's Bay Rep Kay McMurry, On-line Rep Penney Hoodenpyle, Portland Rep Trish Garner, Vancouver Rep Kathy Walker, Gresham Area Branch Co-president Peggy Taylor, Lake Oswego Branch President Mary Pat Silveira, On-line Branch President Elena Rae, Portland Branch Co-president Katie Raetz, Tigard Area Branch Co-president Ilga Ross, Vancouver Branch President Pat Wozniak and AAUW of Oregon Co-president Pat Lehman.

Pat Squire began by calling roll so that everyone knew who was on the call. Due to a power outage in her neighborhood, Pat joined the meeting by phone; everyone else was visible on Zoom. Pat explained that according to the IBC rules, this was her last meeting as chair. The office rotates alphabetically to the next branch, which is the On-line Branch. After a brief discussion, Elena and Penney said that they will share the job.

The March IBC meeting minutes were approved as sent last spring, with Claudia explaining that she received no corrections after they were sent.

Pat Squire discussed the AAUW of Oregon Summer Skills Camp, which she, as AAUW of Oregon Program Vice President, had coordinated. There were 10 different workshops offered over a two-week period and they were very successful! Members could sign up for as many as they wanted to attend, and attendance was higher than at the usual annual face-to-face summer meetings. The most heavily attended was the workshop lead by Trish Garner, AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair, titled "The Work We Need to Do". All of the workshops except for #4, "What do AAUW State and National do for us? And what about that strategic plan?", are available on YouTube by clicking AAUW Oregon Summer Skills Camp.

Mary Pat said that she missed having officer counterparts' sessions, a usual feature of each AAUW of Oregon state meeting. AAUW of Oregon Co-president Pat Lehman said these sessions will be offered soon, also by Zoom. Ilga said that she had received a request for a MailChimp tutorial and that she was reworking her summer 2019 presentation for that purpose.

Pat Wozniak said that AAUW of Washington held a one-day conference this summer and they had separate officer counterpart sessions. Kay reported that the meeting was a webinar with AAUW CEO Kim Churches discussing the 5-Star Branch program and national strategic plan. There was a member recruitment and retention luncheon program, and options for a Public Policy Lobby Day and Technology Meeting the Needs of Younger Members. Leader training breakout sessions were offered simultaneously. All presentations were recorded/transcribed and may be found on the AAUW of Washington website.

Trish Garner, as Oregon's Public Policy Chair, discussed the proposal for state-wide redistricting. Its goal was to eliminate the state legislators from re-districting the state and put that job in the hands of a 12-person commission of citizens. The petition did not get enough signatures to be put on the ballot. She briefly described her work with the League of Women Voters, covering police accountability measure discussions. The first round was held in July and the second in August. The biggest issue is about binding arbitration. Trish talked about an Oregon legislature special session, concerning the federal CARES Act.

In Portland there is a move in Multnomah County to fund pre-kindergarten schools, with the tax cost based on taxable income and home value. The Portland Branch of AAUW is supporting this.

Penney reported that the League of Women Voters in Washington County is putting out Spanish versions of the state ballot measures and the state voters' guide.

Arlene, a member of the AAUW of Oregon Nominating Committee, asked for suggestions for someone to fill out the term for the North Central District Director, as the person holding that office has quit. She also asked for suggestions for a state president-elect.

Pat Lehman added that she also needs suggestions for an Oregon AAUW Fund Chair, which is an appointed position. Both Claudia and Ilga were state Fund Chairs for two terms and talked about how much they enjoyed it and why!

GRESHAM AREA BRANCH - Arlene reported that the branch is using Zoom for all branch meetings. At the September meeting they will install new officers, give awards and have a "happy hour" celebration. The branch has two new presidents, Peggy Taylor and Bonnie Jepsen. They are keeping the enrichment groups; books, bridge, crafts, International Dining, Golden Girls, walking and needlework. They have added a public policy group. None of the groups, except for public policy, have been meeting even through Zoom.

Programs for the year include "Chalk the Vote", Mt. Hood Community College Foundation, Planned Parenthood, foster care, Rockwood Rising (an Hispanic group in the Gresham area) and Black Lives Matter. Next year the branch will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

HILLSBORO-FOREST GROVE BRANCH is holding all meetings on Zoom. One member who has no computer attends the meetings at the president's house. All of last year's officers agreed to stay in office for an additional year, except for the program vice president who had to resign. The other board officers agreed to act as the program committee.

The branch held three "social hour" meetings during the summer, with a board officer hosting each one. The subjects were: Where did you live when you were 10 and what was your life like? What did you like best about your favorite job? What favorite travel destination would you visit again and why? 8-9 people participated in each and got to know each other more personally.

Members donated and bought books and puzzles, and \$215 was raised for the branch local non-traditional student scholarship. The branch book group is meeting by Zoom. Penney Hoodenpyle is writing a survey for branch members to determine interests and help with future planning.

HUDSON'S BAY BRANCH began holding meetings via ZOOM in June. One member no longer uses her computer, so she visits another member to be included in the meetings. Branch meeting programs include: June - Installation of officers; July - Viewing and discussion of TED talk and video by Louie Schwartzberg "Gratitude"; August - Viewing and discussion of TED talk by Kriti Sharma "How to Keep Human Bias out of Artificial Intelligence"; September - Video created by branch members to be shown during the virtual "Peace and Justice Fair" in Vancouver on September 12, 2020

Book Group: June - "Whistling Vivaldi" by Claude M. Steele; July - "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens; August - "Lies My Teacher Told Me - Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong" by James W. Loewen; September, during "Banned Books Week" - "You Can't Read This - Forbidden Books, Lost Writing, Mistranslations and Codes" by Val Ross. In September members will also choose one banned book and defend it (briefly). October - "The Black Witch" by Laurie Forest; November/December - "The Road We Traveled" by Jane Kirkpatrick.

"Great Decisions" met in person in February for the first session of this year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it did not meet again until a ZOOM meeting on June 22. Since then, the group has met twice monthly and will end the 2020 series September

"Celebrating Women's History at Fort Vancouver" - In March, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site received a Women's History and Innovation Impact Grant from the National Park Foundation. It will fund the creation of a women's history and interpretation resource guide for interpreters leading

programs at the fort and help to tell the stories of the women who lived at Fort Vancouver during the fur trade era from 1825 to 1860.

LAKE OSWEGO BRANCH began Zoom meetings shortly after Covid-19 prevented members from meeting in person. The board met throughout the summer, as have six book clubs, Advocacy, Lunch Bunch, Delightful Dining and a new interest group called "Story-telling." All meet on Zoom. The newsletter editors were willing to put out an extra edition of the newsletter this summer to help keep everyone up-to-date on what was happening..

The first full branch meeting on Zoom will be on Saturday, 12 September. There will be a brief business meeting, installation of the officers elected in the spring, introduction of new members and awards to the AAUW Fund Branch Named Gift Honorees. Claudia Gray will present a Legacy Circle pin to branch member Marty Maharg.

Programs for the 2020-21 year have been planned and it is hoped that the earliest meeting in person would be March 2021; the board will review the situation in February.

Representatives of the WLLLO Village [<https://www.wllovillage.org>], which operates in Lake Oswego, West Linn and the Stafford Hamlet, will speak at the October meeting. WLLLO Village is a non-profit organization that directs community efforts to allow people to remain living in their own homes as they age. In November, a representative of the Saturday Academy will speak on providing access to hands-on STEM learning for a diverse group of female students in grades two through twelve.

The current plan is to hold the December Holiday Party on Zoom. As difficult as it may be to party online, the thought is to ask people to share their holiday traditions or some similar kind of theme. The Advocacy Committee has decided on get-out-the-vote activities as its most immediate priority.

Branch members were able to participate in Chalk the Vote and to hold the quilt raffle on Zoom. The raffle was a great success and raised \$2,700 for the branch scholarship fund. The winner of the quilt is the daughter of State Senator Rob Wagner. She is giving the quilt to her dad, who will hang it in the caucus room at the capital in Salem.

ON-LINE BRANCH is in its 12th year and is holding all meetings on Zoom. There are 20 members of the branch with Elena Rae as the new president. Members are asked to volunteer to help with board positions. There is no branch newsletter: instead members are asked to write a blurb on whatever interests them. They are hoping to update both their Facebook page and their website. Hank Stevens is working on suggestions for activities between meetings.

This month they are discussing black feminism. Members will watch videos then share their impressions.

PORTLAND BRANCH has been holding their meetings on Zoom since May. Thanks mainly to the effort of the communications chairs, this has been a fairly smooth transition. New officers were installed at the June meeting and book groups will continue on Zoom.

The branch has a very active public policy committee, and they feel lucky to have AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair Trish Garner as a member and resource.

Following the example of the state, the branch goal is to make the communications chair a voting member of the board and to bring the branch strategic plan more in line with that of the state. The hope is to generate branch enthusiasm for AAUW, making it easier to recruit for vacant positions on the branch board.

TIGARD AREA BRANCH held an in-person meeting in early March, then cancelled the April meeting. In May they met using Zoom with the Broadway Rose Theater director as speaker and gave him a speaker's fee equivalent to what ordinarily would have been spent for rent and refreshments. In July at the program planning meeting, members decided to hold all monthly programs through at least February 2021 via Zoom.

Branch meetings are scheduled the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Membership has increased with the addition of several women active in their respective professions. On September 9th Mardy Stevens will share her experiences on the AAUW National board. The October speaker will be Kathy McAlpine, Tigard Police Chief. Only one of the branch interest groups, the book group, is currently active. The first book is "Flu: The Story of the Great Pandemic of 1918", by Gina Kolata.

The "Clean Closets for College" fundraiser has been modified to be contactless and will be conducted in October. Discarded household soft goods and clothing will be collected and sold to Value Village by weight. Proceeds go to the branch PCC scholarship. The branch directory has been reformatted to include photos taken from several sources and has been mailed to members.

To encourage giving to the AAUW Fund by Tigard Area Branch members in this year, the branch will hold a drawing at the December meeting. To enter, a member must make an online donation to AAUW at the national website of at least \$25 during November before the meeting. The member then forwards her receipt to the branch Fund chair (Ilga Ross). A ticket in the donor's name is deposited for every \$25 donated, up to a maximum of 5 tickets. Ilga will provide the prizes, which will be from local businesses that members would like to support. The prizes will be ordered after the drawing and come to the winners directly from the business. Prizes may be from a local winery, bakery or other businesses that mail or deliver.

VANCOUVER BRANCH celebrates its 89th anniversary in November! Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, starting in March Vancouver Branch has either held meetings using Zoom technology online or has discontinued them. The March and April general meeting presentations were cancelled. The annual program planning meeting was held online.

The election of officers was held by email. The executive board now consists of two previous board members and three new board members. The make-up of the branch board of directors includes these 5 elected officers plus the public policy chair, the scholarship chair and the past president. The board set goals for the coming year, which include putting the membership directory on the branch website, returning the holiday brunch to a fundraiser and planning at least three field trips.

The branch budget committee met and made plans to fund 2021-2022 scholarships to WSUV and Clark College from their fund at the Community Foundation, and tentative plans to fund a NCCWSL student from WSUV, Tech Trek campers, and the additional cost of mailing this year's membership directory to all members. Some expenses are tentative depending on the progress of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The three book groups have continued to meet monthly, or bi-monthly in the case of the Nonfiction Group, using Zoom. The Great Decisions group, held jointly with Hudson's Bay AAUW, has met using Zoom. The branch's Mah Jongg group has met once a week using two types of technology, one to play the game and the other to communicate while doing so. The Story Tellers group has written compositions on monthly topics and shared them with one another by email. Only the bridge group has been stymied by social distancing and has not operated since the pandemic began.

The September general meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 10 a.m. using Zoom. The speaker will be branch member Suzan Borno, who will share her experiences growing up as a Muslim Woman in the Arab world.

The **Portland Metro Interbranch Council website** has been set up by Ilga Ross, who is the AAUW of Oregon Communications Vice President. The site is available at portlandmetroibc.weebly.com. Ilga asked members to please check the webpages for accuracy and send any changes or updates to her at ilgaross@yahoo.com. She would like to keep the website as current as possible but can only do so if others send information to her. There are limitations to what can be posted because it is a free site. If a

branch newsletter is sent out via Mail Chimp, it can be linked. Short documents such as branch minutes can be linked, but long PDF newsletter files tend to be rejected.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the IBC will be on Tuesday, November 10th at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom.

Pat Squire adjourned this meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Claudia Gray,
Secretary

INCLUDED:

IBC Rules

2020-2021 IBC roster