

The regular meeting of the Portland Metro Interbranch Council was held on Tuesday, November 10th, 2020. As dictated by the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, the group met by Zoom. Chair Penney Hoodenpyle called the meeting to order at 10:01. Also present were secretary Claudia Gray, Gresham Area Rep Arlene Lemieux, Hillsboro-Forest Grove Rep Edith Lippert, Hudson's Bay Rep Kay McMurry, Portland Rep Trish Garner and Vancouver Rep Kathy Walker. Branch presidents attending were Bonnie Jepson (Gresham Area), Claire Berger (Hillsboro-Forest Grove), Mary Pat Silveira (Lake Oswego), Elena Rae (On-line), Katie Raetz (Portland), Marsha Brockmeyer and Ilga Ross (Tigard Area) and Pat Wozniak (Vancouver).

Penney began by congratulating Mary Pat on her appointment as the new **AAUW of Oregon North Central District Director**. Mary Pat has joined all the branches in the district so she can get their newsletters and keep up with their activities.

Penney then asked for reports from AAUW of Oregon officers. Claudia reported that she and her **Governance Co-chair** Betsy McDowell (Salem) are now also the state's **AAUW Funds Co-chairs**; Claudia will take the lead on Funds and Betsy on Governance. As Governance chairs they have been working with questions from branches and as Funds chairs they send out a letter each month to the branch Funds chairs. They will be moderating a branch Funds chairs training on December 9th.

AAUW of Oregon Communications Vice President Ilga reported that the state newsletter is now being mailed to each member via MailChimp. Unfortunately, some computers are dumping the newsletter in their SPAM folder so she has sent out messages alerting members to this problem. The state now has a new technology committee, which is a standing committee on the state board. The state events coordinator Nancy Brown is setting up training workshops and speakers on Zoom for all members. The AAUW of Oregon website is being cleaned up by Marguerite Damewood who is discarding old materials.

AAUW of Oregon Program Vice President Pat Squire announced four Zoom programs for November: "President's Club" with branch presidents and the state co-presidents on Sunday, Nov. 15th at 2:00; Kathy Dew will talk about leadership transitions and succession on Monday, Nov. 16th at 7:00 p.m.; Nancy Brown will do Tech Talk on Facebook on Monday, Nov. 23 at 7:00, and on Nov. 30 at 7:00 Eve Nañez will speak about "The Traumatic Origins of the Thanksgiving Holiday in the U.S." Nañez is the Indigenous Event Coordinator, Reed College Multicultural Resource Center.

AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair Trish Garner reported that although there has been some talk of a special session of the Oregon Legislature, it will probably not happen. The state is working on wording for a proposed bill which would require publicly held corporations whose principal executive offices are located in Oregon to have boards that have a certain number or percentage of female directors and directors from underrepresented communities.

The AAUW of Oregon board of directors voted last month to not hold an in-person annual meeting in April. They will instead have a virtual meeting on Zoom.

The national AAUW office has announced that NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) will be held May 26th to 29th.

GRESHAM AREA BRANCH — The branch had the Mt. Hood Community College Foundation's director as the speaker at the October branch Zoom meeting. One of the branch's scholarship recipients also joined the meeting. The branch has met the endowment level but the interest will only cover half of the scholarship amount, so they are attempting to get to the \$50,000 level that will ensure the full

scholarship expense will be covered. The branch is having a virtual fund-raising this year and they hope to get close to the full amount needed.

This month members will hear Lisa McMahon from the Oregon Youth Connection. OYC is a part of Our Children Oregon, a non-profit that helps foster care and former foster care youths. In December the branch will have their virtual holiday tea. Officers are mailing out Christmas cards with tea bags to members as a virtual fundraiser. The interest groups have not met yet, even the books groups, but officers are trying to get the interest group leaders more accepting of Zoom.

HILLSBORO-FOREST GROVE BRANCH heard League of Women Voters Washington County President Kathleen Hersh talk about ballot measures, and in November will hear branch member Judy Janowitz talk about emergency preparedness, again on Zoom. The annual fundraiser of poinsettia sales is going well and members from the Tigard Area Branch have also ordered. The money raised goes to a scholarship at Pacific University to support a non-traditional student.

The branch is having trouble finding a president-elect, although all other offices have been filled. In January the state is offering a training session on succession and HFG President Claire is looking forward to that for help. The branch membership vice president has put together a folder for each new member; it includes a welcome note, a list of branch officers and their contact information, a copy of the branch bylaws and policies, the latest branch newsletter and the branch directory.

HUDSON'S BAY BRANCH – In October program vp Janet Cottingham curated four short TED talks on the general topic of “Misconceptions.” Members got information on reading the news without filters, seeking out the source of reporters’ and commentators’ information, using multiple outlets, separating fact from fiction and realizing statistics can be misleading.

The branch sent \$500 from savings to the regional library’s foundation during “Friends of Libraries” week,” the third week of October, designating the money to help fund author events. They also sent a thank-you note from the branch to the staff at each of the fifteen branches in the regional library system that week.

In November they will discuss the election. Each member is allowed three minutes to express her ideas about it and President Kathi Pickett will moderate the discussion. In December they will continue the tradition of gathering individual donations for the Vancouver YWCA and for the local Seafarers’ Center, if they are doing a holiday gift program for seafarers this year.

In October the book group read *The Black Witch* by Laurie Forest. It was a challenge for all who want storylines wrapped up at the end of a book, because this novel is the first of five in a series for young adults in the Fantasy genre. For November/December the book is *This Road We Traveled* by Jane Kirkpatrick, which is a Christian historical fiction based on the life of Oregon pioneer Tabitha Moffat Brown. “Tabby” was named the “Mother of Oregon” for her work in education in the Forest Grove area. Great Decisions 2021: the books have been received and members will meet by Zoom.

ON-LINE BRANCH —Branch board members called the members asking about their willingness to hold office or otherwise contribute to the branch. Elena reported that there were lots of good conversations, although several members decided to “opt out”, asking that they not be included. They are trying to find activities for members to do between meetings. Some will watch Michael Moore’s “Planet of the Humans”, which looks at the mainstream environmental movement.

Elena asked about archiving old materials and Claudia responded. She had just cleaned out the state historical files and suggested that storage space is always at a minimum and can be very expensive so clean out as much as possible. Anything that is useful to someone should be given to that person and not left in a box under a bed. Old technology that is no longer accessible should be tossed and the best thing to save is still paper: copies of minutes, awards, newsletters, even photos.

Kay mentioned that Hudson Bay Branch archives are stored at Washington State University/Vancouver and are used by the archival students as a learning tool.

LAKE OSWEGO BRANCH in October heard representatives of the WLLLO Village, a non-profit organization that directs community efforts to allow people to remain living in their own homes as they age. In November they will hear speaker Barbara Miner talk about Girls Engage in Technology, a program of Saturday Academy.

All of the branch interest groups are meeting by Zoom. Mary Pat highly recommended the book *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson, which had recently been read by the non-fiction book club. Since all branch meetings are virtual, some branch members are complaining of Zoom fatigue or “screen” fatigue!

After the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the branch held a matching fundraiser in her honor by donating \$1,000 to the national AAUW Funds and asking others to do the same. The total sent was around \$2,700.

Mary Pat is looking forward to the state’s succession training but said that in a time of virtual-only meetings, it is difficult to get to know new members and harder to identify potential leaders.

The state office sent all District Directors a list of the AAUW Members at Large in their respective districts, and Mary Pat forwarded that information to all of the branches in the North Central District. She plans to write to those on the Lake Oswego area list, inviting them to join the branch, and to send them a newsletter. She agreed to report her results at the IBC meeting in January.

PORTLAND BRANCH — The October branch meeting featured a speaker on race relations. The branch awarded three scholarships to Portland Community College. There was initially a problem because the college, following national Title IX rules, insisted that there be no gender-specific wording in the contract. The contract was re-written and approved by the college. The branch donated \$500 to the Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon to help with scholarships for the Saturday Academy summer workshops.

Branch officers plan to write holiday cards on December 2 to send to all members, and on December 15 will deliver cookies to members in lieu of the usual holiday gathering, “to let them know that they are treasured”. The branch will share information about the women who received support from AAUW endowments, and photos and bios of these Fellows will be sent to members. This is a virtual fund raiser for AAUW Funds. The board will discuss what to do about the list of AAUW Members at Large that was sent to the Portland Branch.

TIGARD AREA BRANCH —The “Clean Closets for College” fundraiser was modified this year to be contactless and yielded sufficient proceeds to fund a good portion of the branch PCC (Portland Community College) scholarship. Five members delivered this year’s collection of discarded household soft goods to Value Village in October.

Branch meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The October speaker was Kathy McAlpine, Tigard Police Chief. Her talk was timely and interesting, touching on being a woman in a traditional man’s field and on current policing issues. On November 11th, State Representative Courtney Neron will speak on what it has been like to run a campaign for reelection and about the challenges and triumphs of her first term in office; she joined the branch this year. December will feature a readers’ theater led by member Linda Talluto on women’s suffrage. There will be a drawing for prizes, which is a fundraiser. Donations of \$25 to the AAUW Funds will buy a ticket to be put into the box for the drawing.

Last month the book group read *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Next is a mystery by Phillip Margolin, followed by *Why They Marched* by Susan Ware, which is about little-known suffragists.

Ilga will be one of the presenters on a state training session about revitalizing branches; this session is scheduled for January 6th.

VANCOUVER BRANCH – Due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic, Vancouver branch has held its regular meetings online using Zoom technology. Six of the seven interest groups have also continued their activities using the Internet or email, with the bridge group being the only one unable to meet. At the meeting on November 14, the speaker will be Ruby Lewis, Vancouver NAACP officer and Clark College instructor. Ms. Lewis will speak on Microaggressions as related to race relations.

On December 12th, the branch will host a Virtual Holiday Brunch using Zoom. The brunch will feature music, entertainment and a raffle that supports campers for AAUW Washington Tech Trek. Tickets for the raffle are \$20 each. Prizes include Amazon gift cards and wine. Those attending the Virtual Brunch are encouraged to wear holiday headgear or hats and to BYOB. January 9th's general meeting will feature Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle who will speak on "Current and Future Issues for the City of Vancouver".

Vancouver Branch unanimously passed the amendment to its bylaws concerning the use of funds raised by the branch. There is now a password-protected area on Vancouver AAUW's website that can be used by members to access newsletters, the membership directory, member bios and branch bylaws.

Announcements – Penney announced that AAUW of Oregon is accepting nominations for the Breaking Barriers Award; nominations should be sent to Penney by January 10th.

Mary Pat reminded us that December 10th is United Nations Human Rights Day with the theme "Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights".

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the IBC will be on Tuesday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom.

Penney adjourned this meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Claudia Gray,
Secretary

NOTE: Style rules for writing have changed, so I Googled it!

According to the *Chicago Manual of Style* and the *Modern Language Association*, titles of books and other complete works, such as newspapers and magazines, should be italicized.