

The regular meeting of the Portland Metro Interbranch Council was held on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021, by Zoom. Chair Penney Hoodenpyle called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Also present were secretary Claudia Gray and branch representatives Arlene Lemieux (Gresham Area), Kay McMurry (Hudson's Bay) and Trish Garner (Portland). Branch presidents attending were Peggy Taylor and Bonnie Jepson (Gresham Area), Claire Berger (Hillsboro-Forest Grove), Mary Pat Silveira (Lake Oswego), Elena Rae (On-line), Katie Raetz (Portland), Ilga Ross (Tigard Area) and Pat Wozniak (Vancouver). There were no changes to the November minutes as sent.

AAUW of Washington - Pat Wozniak reported on activities of AAUW of Washington. The branch presidents are meeting on the last Monday of each month by Zoom. Karen Anderson, State Public Policy director and Nancy Sapiro, the state's new lobbyist, have scheduled a virtual Lobby Day on February 1. Karen will lead a morning informational session. The purpose of this session is to review AAUW's legislative priorities and to talk about how to lobby legislators. Major issues this year are hospital mergers, safety of pregnant patients, tax equity and childcare. All members are encouraged to participate. Branches will be encouraged to set up meetings to lobby their legislators.

There will be a state AAUW meeting on Saturday, April 17, which will be free to all members. Branches were reminded to file the IRS 990-N or appropriate 990 forms by each November 15. If a branch is lax, it can be difficult to get re-instated. Ilga commented that national AAUW has a packet that will help branches if they need to be re-instated.

AAUW of Oregon Program - Pat Squire reported that the state's annual meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday, April 18th, and at the request of members will be streamlined to be shorter than last year's meeting. The theme will be "Celebrating Our Resilience and Commitment". A few days later a second session will be held for the AAUW of Oregon Funds awards and the membership awards.

The state is offering Zoom training sessions in January: "How to Build/Rebuild a Branch", "AAUW's Five Star Program", "Instagram for Branches", "Mission-related Programs for Your Branch" and "Bias and Hate and What the Oregon Department of Justice is Doing to Address It".

AAUW of Oregon Public Policy – Trish reported that there will likely be a virtual lobby day sometime in March. She believes it will involve a half hour of instruction on how to communicate with legislators and then a panel discussion about the mechanics of how a bill proceeds through the legislative process. A panel of legislators and others will discuss and present examples of this process.

The 2021 Legislative Session has begun but many of the proposed bills haven't yet been drafted. The primary reason for this is that the Legislative Counsel's office had to draft bills for three short legislative sessions.

The state AAUW will focus on a bill that requires publicly traded corporations whose principal offices are in Oregon to have a minimum number of women and people from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors. It is anticipated that a bill will be filed later in January. The lobby group is also prioritizing an age discrimination task force bill.

AAUW of Oregon Communications – Ilga reported that both the national AAUW and AAUW of Oregon have posted statements on their websites about the attack on the national Capitol on Wednesday, January 6th. The deadline for the state newsletter is January 20th.

The state technology committee is running a survey of branches to discover what technology they are using, which formats and how many of their members use each.

On-line Branch – Elena said that the branch will need a finance vp and a secretary for the next year. She sent to all members the information on the national AAUW art contest and the information on this IBC meeting. She also shares the national “Membership Matters” mailings with all branch members.

The February branch meeting will be based on the book *Caliban and the Witch* by Silvia Federici. Elena said it was dense and thought provoking, and that she found herself looking at cat videos instead – as seeing a picture of a cat will give her two more minutes of sleep at night!

Gresham Area Branch continues to have board and branch meetings with Zoom. For the first time there will be a book group meeting this month with Zoom, the first meeting of any interest group.

The membership committee sent Christmas cards to all members with a little gift. They also called each member, to keep in touch and to find out how to improve participation in branch programs.

The January program will be on East County Rising, a nonprofit in the eastern part of Multnomah County that recruits people of color to run for elected offices. Their goal is to have more of a voice in planning and administering local agencies. The February program will be a social..

“Calling All Angels” is the one big fundraiser for the branch. Instead of the usual luncheon and auction, this year the event was virtual and raised over \$11,000! Members were contacted through the branch newsletter, emails and personal calls. Most of the funds went to the branch’s Mt. Hood Community College scholarship, which is now fully endowed at \$50,000. The rest went to AAUW Funds and the branch NCCWSL scholarship fund.

Hillsboro-Forest Grove Branch – Branch officers have been revising the branch strategic plan to follow the AAUW of Oregon state strategic plan. Because of the pandemic members are not active now so it has been difficult to find someone to fill the position of president-elect. Two of the branch members offered to help anyone in the branch with learning about technology.

In December members met on Zoom for an evening of laughter. Shown were short vignettes from tv shows and TED talks. The February branch program on Zoom will feature AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair Trish Garner speaking on the current political situation in Oregon, upcoming bills and what the focus will be for the AAUW lobby group.

The branch co-sponsored a panel discussion with the Washington County Forum, “Forging New Paths: A conversation About Change, Leadership and Hope”. The panel was made up of three young women of color who hold public office, one of whom is a member of the branch. They talked about the difficulties of running and winning a campaign.

Hudson’s Bay Branch - In December they had a Zoom holiday tea party featuring the game Scattergories. By post office mail, members received an invitation which included two holiday tea bags, a list of Scattergory categories and a sheet for writing individual answers. Playing the game led to some spirited discussions (“Why does ‘oat meal’ count as an O answer but ‘red nail polish’ does not for R?”) Each member was invited to share a childhood holiday memory or a favorite recipe; some members did both. The recipes were sent to all members via email. Members were asked to make financial donations to two groups usually supported with the donation of items – Clark County YWCA and the Vancouver Seafarers’ Center – and to the national AAUW Funds for greatest needs.

The January program was a TED talk, “The Opportunity Gap in U.S. Education and How to Close It”, by Anindya Kundu, based on her work as an academic researcher at a juvenile detention center in Chicago, one of the nation’s largest centers of this type.

Book Group titles: January - *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald; February – *Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America* by Candacy Taylor; March – *Cold Dish* by Craig Johnson

On February 8, members of the Hudson's Bay and Vancouver Branches will join with some residents at Vancouver Pointe retirement center to explore the topics in "Great Decisions 2021." Zoom meetings will be held at 2:00 PM twice a month this spring

Lake Oswego Branch – In December the branch had a Zoom holiday party during which members shared stories of holidays past, favorite decorations and recipes. All of the recipes were collected as a document and shared by email with all members. There was also a December holiday quiz, with questions relating to Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. The prizes were AAUW scarves that a member had designed a few years back.

The January meeting featured Chief Jeff Groth of the Sherwood Police Department. February is Lake Oswego Reads month, and the LO Library has chosen *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, as its book. For its branch meeting, the branch will host a related video.

The branch advocacy committee is planning ways in which to celebrate and disseminate information for International Women's Month in March. Some of the themes will likely be the impact of the pandemic on women (e.g., unemployment, increased domestic responsibilities, domestic abuse), women in leadership at local and national levels, and forgotten women. The committee is still discussing its plans and these themes may change.

All branch, board and interest group programs are continuing on Zoom. The Lunch Bunch interest group will feature a cooking class this month. The non-fiction book club has been reading a number of books on racism, the most recent is *How to be an Anti-Racist*, by Ibram X. Kendi.

AAUW sent all branches a list of national-only members living in their area. Mary Pat tried to contact those who live in the membership area of Lake Oswego. A number of the people did not have email addresses, and it seemed futile to try to engage them while still communicating virtually. She wrote to each of those with email addresses. The majority of these were returned because the email addresses were no longer valid. Of the remaining, she heard back from two, one of which was an AAUW Fellow! Neither has yet joined, but they are in continuing communication, receiving branch newsletters as well as invitations to branch meetings

Portland Branch - Holiday cards were written to all members by the Portland board. Diane Winn spearheaded this effort and wrote a beautiful template greeting that used in all the cards. This provided the warmth and concern that the cookies were intended to provide but without the logistical nightmare. Hence- no cookies.

In mid-December Judy Holt organized a virtual fundraiser for AAUW Funds. Diane Wynn created a mailer that highlighted AAUW's Fellowship recipients. These young women are very impressive, and the fundraiser has garnered more than \$3,000. On January 20th Portland Branch Program VP Linda Loftin will join AAUW of Oregon Program VP Pat Squire and Linda Lybecker (AAUW of Oregon Immediate Past Program VP) to discuss how strong mission-related programming promotes the branch and enhances member experiences.

On February 10th at 10:00 AM, they will hear from Dr. Christina Lancioni, an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at OHSU. She oversees a translational immunology laboratory focusing on the vulnerability of young children to serious infectious diseases. She will discuss Covid-19 testing, immunization for Covid-19 and addressing the immune system. All are welcome to join on Zoom.

All interest groups are on hiatus except book groups, which meet by Zoom. The Wimpy Walkers are taking walks, although the group is limited to six people, wearing masks and staying six feet apart.

The board is planning to make phone calls to all members, checking in as well as hoping to lay the groundwork for more members to step up for leadership positions. Membership VP Lisa Perrine has put together a list of women who have suggested interest in leadership in the past. She has volunteers who

have agreed to serve on the nominating committee. Finding members willing to step into leadership positions is very difficult.

Tigard Area Branch is holding monthly meetings and book group meetings on Zoom. The next two book group readings are *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummons and *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.

The December program was a readers' theater on women's suffrage, directed by member Linda Talluto. The presentation is now on YouTube at the Tigard Area Branch website.

On January 13th the program will focus on support for recent immigrants, with speaker Cynthia Kenyan. She is a long-time volunteer at Pamoja House, a multicultural organization serving the diverse immigrant community in the SW Portland area through education, counseling and vocational services. The organization specializes in ESL, driver's education, tutoring and citizenship classes. In February, author and teacher Christy Wilson will speak on social justice. She is the author of the book *Teacher Interrupted*.

Vancouver Branch continues to hold its monthly board and membership meetings on Zoom, with between 20 and 30 attendees. The three book groups and the Mah Jongg group continue to meet by Zoom. This month, the nonfiction book group is discussing *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss, which tells the story of how Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment and make it the law of the land.

On December 12th the branch had a Virtual Holiday Celebration using Zoom. There was entertainment, games, contests for best headgear and ugliest Christmas sweater, door prizes, and a raffle to support campers for AAUW Washington Tech Trek. Tickets for the raffle were \$20 each. Prizes include Amazon gift cards and wine. \$2,410 was raised for Tech Trek.

On January 9th Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle spoke at the general membership meeting. Her topic was "Current and Future Issues for the City of Vancouver".

In November, the board approved an increase in the amount of the branch scholarships. The two scholarships to Clark College were increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and the two scholarships to WSU-V were increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000, for a total of \$9,000. The scholarships go to women in STEM.

The nominating committee is hard at work, although most, if not all, of the current board members have agreed to another 1-year term. The board is working on a member survey and job descriptions for elected positions.

NOTE: Some years ago the IBC prepared general job descriptions for branch officers. Those were used as the basis for the AAUW of Oregon job descriptions. Claudia offered to attach the IBC descriptions to these minutes for all the branches to use.

National AAUW – In December CEO Kim Churches presented a Zoom "state of the organization" talk, citing the national strategic plan and focusing on repairing Title IX and paycheck fairness. More than 100 people were on the call. At one point the group split into two "chat rooms" to discuss what AAUW means to them and the possible effects of dropping the degree requirement for membership. AAUW is conducting research on women in manufacturing and pay equity in academic institutions.

AAUW of Oregon Program Vice-president Pat Squire reported that the AAUW of Oregon Summer Skills and training workshops have been posted to YouTube; go to AAUW Oregon YouTube.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the IBC will be on Tuesday, March 9th at 10:00 AM by Zoom. Penney adjourned this meeting at 11:10 AM.

Claudia Gray,
Secretary

ATTACHMENTS: IBC job descriptions for branches

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

The job descriptions are not dated because they are very fluid documents. They have been updated over the years by people holding those positions, which is what we hoped for when they were first written.

ALSO ATTACHED THIS TIME: Vancouver Branch Scavenger hunt info