

The regular meeting of the Portland Metro Interbranch Council was held on Tuesday, March 9th, 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), Edith Lippert (Hillsboro-Forest Grove), Kay McMurry (Hudson's Bay), Kathy Walker (Vancouver) and Trish Garner (Portland). Branch presidents attending were Peggy Taylor and Bonnie Jepson (Gresham Area), Mary Pat Silveira (Lake Oswego), Elena Rae (On-line), Susan Marthens (Portland), Ilga Ross (Tigard Area) and Pat Wozniak (Vancouver). AAUW of Oregon Co-president Pat Lehman and Program VP Pat Squire also attended. There were no changes to the January minutes as sent.

**AAUW of Washington** — Pat Wozniak reported that the state held a lobby day on February 1 by Zoom from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM and that 140 people attended. There were presenters and speakers on both tax reform and hospital mergers; Margaret Babayan talked about women's need for tax reform in Washington and Dr. Laura Sienas detailed the risks to women's health created by hospital systems that take medical decisions out of the hands of patients experiencing crises in pregnancy and the health professional caring for them. For those who missed all or part of the meeting, the recording will be available on the state website and can be accessed at <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/2020/12/28/lobby-day-2021/>.

The state convention is on Saturday, April 17, 2021. In the morning, officers will be elected for the state board for the 2021-2023 term and there will be voting on bylaws changes. There will be a number of educating and entertaining presentations in the afternoon. The event is free and open to all.

Virtual Tech Trek camp will be July 11-16, 2021 for girls selected for 2020 and 2021. Core classes will include chemistry, climate change issues, cybersecurity, human physiology and robotics.

The state is planning a health summit for June 12, 2021. AAUW Washington achieved their first star in AAUW's 5-Star program. The program runs through June 2021. A presentation which outlines the program is available on AAUW Washington's website at: [https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2020/07/AAUWWAConfAug2020\\_5Starprogram.pdf](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/files/2020/07/AAUWWAConfAug2020_5Starprogram.pdf).

**AAUW of Oregon Program** – Oregon produced 16 virtual Continuing Education programs from October to February. The anti-racism track was particularly well attended, as was a technology talk by the state's event coordinator Nancy Brown. She has been in charge of handling the technology for all of Oregon's Zoom meetings, which she then edits to post on YouTube.

The state Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for 90 minutes starting at 1:00 PM, followed by an Awards Celebration on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> for 90 minutes. The annual meeting will feature a Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson as speaker; she was instrumental in getting a bill passed that requires preschool for all children. The awards evening speaker will be Alexandra Vargas Quinones, an AAUW International Fellow from Peru who is attending Portland State University. This event starts at 7:00 PM.

The state lobby day will be on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM by Zoom. On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM there will be a state-wide town hall meeting with guest Julia Brown, Chair of the national AAUW Board of Directors. She will discuss the proposed bylaws change to open AAUW membership to all, without any degree requirement.

**AAUW of Oregon Communications** – Ilga reported that she has redesigned the format of the state-wide *Oregon News* so that members can easily print it. She will use Mail Chimp for the March state-wide virtual meetings and she is hoping that branches can share their programs virtually.

Ilga has posted a bulletin board to share information between branches. The link is [portlandmetroibc.weebly.com](http://portlandmetroibc.weebly.com). Links to branch websites are included as are state events.

**AAUW of Oregon Public Policy** – Trish discussed three bills taking priority for Oregon AAUW: one on diversity on business boards, another on teaching civics and the third on age discrimination. The board diversity bill says that any publicly traded corporation whose principal offices are in Oregon must have a minimum number of women and people from under-represented communities on their boards of directors. Businesses must report each year and the bill includes a fine of \$10,000 for the first year of non-compliance. The first hearing of the bill is on Thursday, March 11 at 1:00 PM in Salem. Trish asked that members send support letters now. The civics bill would require schools to include at least one semester of civics taught in the classroom. The age discrimination task force meets on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The AAUW of Oregon lobby corps has supported 20 bills so far.

**Northwest District** – Mary Pat is in charge of credentials for the Oregon annual meeting next month; she did the job last year also. She said that all Oregon branches and members had already been sent their credential forms, with the request that these be returned no later than April 1.

Branch presidents in her district have sent in their yearly reports, with most branches emphasizing member retention. Branch boards have sent cards, sent goodies and made phone calls to keep in touch with members. All meetings are still virtual - on Zoom. No branch stopped holding programs, but some interest groups have not met. Fundraising has not only NOT slowed but in some cases more money was raised virtually than had been raised in person.

Mary Pat thanked Ilga for putting all the information about other branch programs in the state on line in one location.

**Central District** – Elena reported that the branch reports are coming in from her central branches. Most hold meetings by Zoom, although Albany meets outdoors when they can. Eugene-Lane held meetings on nuclear war and what the results might be. Bend sent holiday cards to members. Tech Trek is cancelled because national AAUW said it could be held only on Zoom.

**On-line Branch** will have a program on propaganda in May, covering fake news and how to spot it, with a discussion.

**Gresham Area Branch** had its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party on-line in February, with 35 members attending. Each received a goodie bag with a cupcake and games. There was also a reporter from the *Gresham Outlook* in attendance; the branch made the front page the next day!

The January program featured the Executive Director of East County Rising, Luz Reyna. Her organization recruits and helps elect people of color to board and elected offices in the east county area. In March the speaker will be from Planned Parenthood and in April the director of My Father's House, a nonprofit helping homeless families, will speak. My Father's House has a new jobs program for their clients.

The public policy group will be looking into ways the branch can support the community college funding bill. They are looking for the right person at Mt. Hood Community College to work with. The book group will be discussing *Exodus* by Leon Uris next week. Other books on the list are *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larson, *Circe* by Madeline Miller and *The Vanishing Half* by Britt Bennett.

**Hillsboro-Forest Grove Branch** – The Forest Grove Branch was established in 1931 and will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Hillsboro Branch was established in 1954 and the branches merged in 1987.

The February meeting featured a speaker from Pacific University talking about stress. Her field of research is stress in older people and her talk led to a good discussion about how all those attending are handling stress in this pandemic. The March meeting will focus on six incredible women in Oregon. The branch finally has a president-elect: a long-time member is retiring as a nurse in Forest Grove schools

and agreed to take on the position. The branch is establishing a dues assist program for members having trouble paying AAUW dues.

The “Winesome” fundraiser has been cancelled due to Covid and the fact the winery is closing. Penney said that there will be a virtual campaign instead, with letters going to all members. Money raised in this event goes to a scholarship for a non-traditional student at Pacific University. The plant sale in the spring usually raises money for a NCCWSL (AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) attendee, but the nursery is closing and will only allow HFG members to buy what’s left. The book group, meeting on line, is reading *The Vanishing Half: A Novel* by Brit Bennett.

**Hudson’s Bay Branch** – The March 10th annual meeting will include the results of the branch election of officers, with voting done by e-mail before the meeting. A new membership vice president and finance officer will be elected. When branch president Kathi Pickett asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, one member volunteered immediately. Before other members could be added to the committee, the finance officer said that she would serve for one more year. The new member of the Nominating Committee asked the current membership vice president if she would continue for one more year and she said that she would. This means that all current officers will be continuing for the next year and the branch will be electing all new officers in 2022, something not done in the past.

Considering the mindset of many people after so many months of covid restrictions, the April program will focus on “Kindness”. They have also had a series of YouTube videos for programs.

Member Sharon Bartling died this past month. She had been a professor in the English Department of a university in Texas. She was the “starting force” for a voter registration project for two years before covid arrived. Sharon and her husband joined the branch at the start of a “Great Decisions” group. Sharon is an example of the quiet members who make a significant impact.

“Great Decisions” study group is meeting twice monthly on the second and fourth Monday. The meeting begins with a video on that session’s topic produced by the Foreign Policy Association, followed by discussion. The Book Group will discuss *The Cold Dish* by Craig Johnson in March, *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes in April and *The Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett in May. All are fiction featuring resourceful women in their own place and time facing some of the issues faced today.

**Lake Oswego Branch** – The branch is focused on themes of a sense of community. The January meeting featured Chief Jeff Groth of the Sherwood Policy Department. In February they heard from Planned Parenthood.

The March meeting on a Saturday will be the annual tea event. Officer reports will be given, officer elections held and the Branch Named Gift Honorees announced. There will be a history of tea with differences explained and members will share their tea experiences. All branch offices will be filled; however, it was necessary to change the position of Program VP to VP for Program Coordination. Instead of assuming all of the program responsibility herself, the incumbent will work with a committee. There will be a member “shadowing” the president as a president-elect.

The branch advocacy group has been working to support the AAUW of Oregon Public Policy work, including the federal fair pay act and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. There are six branch book groups, a lunch bunch, which has included a cooking shows on Zoom and a story-telling group.

**Portland Branch** – An OHSU pediatrician/infectious disease specialist did a Zoom presentation on Covid in February. A high number of branch members attended by Zoom as did members of other branches.

On March 10 they will have a general meeting via Zoom. Scholarship Chair Barbara Spencer will interview Teri Patapoff, Major Gifts Officer at Portland Community College Foundation, to give a

rundown on the current process for selecting and awarding scholarships to PCC students. Unfortunately, none of the current recipients are able to attend because of their busy schedules. The branch will include them in a future program at some point. Judy Holt, Funds Chair, has initiated a virtual fund raiser for scholarships, using touching letters from current recipients.

Sue Thomas, Past President, will officiate electing and appointing branch officers. Two members are new to the board and the president-elect position is still vacant. Delegates to the state annual meeting will be selected.

All meetings and most study groups are via Zoom. In May the branch Honors Luncheon is scheduled with a speaker and installation of new officers. Board members made another round of calls to branch members—they were all delighted to hear from the branch and the calls may lead to a candidate or two for leadership positions in the future.

**Tigard Area Branch** — Co-president Marsha Brockmeyer is unable to continue due to health reasons. As such, the branch does not have a president nominee for next year.

The next branch meeting is tomorrow evening and will include elections after a presentation by Christina Kline, Interim Executive Director of the Portland Community College Foundation, and Brianna Aragon, scholarship recipient for 2020-2021. Instead of holding a separate branch meeting in April, members will be encouraged to attend the AAUW of Oregon Annual Meeting events on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The branch will conclude the year in May with a program on climate change.

The book group is currently the only active interest group. Three more books have been selected for discussion: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano and *The Vanishing Half: A Novel* by Brit Bennett.

**Vancouver Branch** continues to hold its regular meetings online using Zoom technology. The branch has purchased a year's subscription for their use. In February Laura Nagel spoke on "The Future of News: Evaluating (Mis)information." Laura is a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Clark College and offered insights on how to judge the validity of news items from various sources.

At the March meeting, the speaker will be Dr. Donna Hansel, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Hansel, Chair of the Department of Pathology at OHSU School of Medicine. Dr. Hansel will give an overview of where the U.S. population stood a year ago in terms of the understanding of and response to the COVID-19 virus and the trajectory of research and treatment since then. She will discuss how the U.S. response has evolved along with the science and the use of tools and laboratories in management, diagnosis and treatment. She will also look ahead, to what we might expect of this pandemic in the near- and long-term. Also at that meeting, members will vote on a slate of officers for next year, with all of our officers are willing to serve a second year. The increase in dues by AAUW National will be discussed, as well as the possibility of increasing our branch dues by \$2. In April, the branch's general meeting will include a performance of the play "May's Vote", which presents two fascinating women from Washington's past - from their childhoods through the successful fight for the vote, despite their vastly different views on how to win it.

Vancouver Branch has donated \$9,000 in scholarship funds to two local colleges for the scholastic year 2021-2022. Two scholarships of \$1,500 have been made available for women attending Clark College next year and two scholarships of \$3,000 have been made available for women attending Washington State University Vancouver next year. After the branch passed an amendment to their bylaws in 2020 that does not allow funds raised by the branch to be used for anything other than the purpose stated on fundraising materials, WSU is no longer subtracting advancement fees from donations. Because of this, the university is again awarding Vancouver Branch scholarships rather than the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington doing so, as they have since 2017.

The branch is encouraging members to attend WA State AAUW's free virtual convention on April

17 where (among other things scheduled) Kimberly Churches, CEO of AAUW National, will speak on the proposed bylaw amendment that will eliminate the education requirement for membership.

**Announcements** — Voting will be open in all of April for the proposed bylaws change to eliminate any degree requirement from membership.

IBC members asked for copies of any branch dues assistance policies; they will be attached to these minutes.

The next regularly scheduled Interbranch Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Penney adjourned this meeting at 11:30.

Claudia Gray,  
Secretary

ATTACHMENT: Branch dues assist policies

## **AAUW BRANCH POLICIES FOR DUES ASSISTANCE**

### **PROPOSED POLICY of the HILLSBORO-FOREST GROVE, OR, BRANCH**

- As part of the branch budget Donations line item, a Dues Assist Fund shall be established for those who cannot continue their membership or who cannot join the branch for financial reasons.
- The fund shall be administered by the president(s), the finance vice president(s) and the membership vice president(s), with names of those applying for and receiving these funds kept confidential.
- The assistance may be for all or for part of the total dues, depending on how much the applicant can pay.
- The assistance shall be for one year only, with any further help determined each year.
- Branch members may donate anonymously to the Dues Assist Fund.

### **PORTLAND BRANCH DUES ASSIST POLICY**

#### **D. Dues Assistance Policy and Procedures**

1. With the increasing cost of national AAUW dues, the Board of the AAUW Portland Branch developed the following policy and procedures to assist prospective and existing members who would like to join and/or continue their memberships but do not have the resources.
2. A dues assistance budget item was included in the 2007-08 Branch budget. Income for the item comes from current member donations. Assistance is provided based on the availability of funds.
3. For the purpose of assistance, there are two categories of members: new members and existing members.
  - a. New members: New graduates (within the first two years after graduation): Eligible for national membership for one year through Give a Grad a Gift; the branch will pay state and branch dues if requested. Other new members: Eligible for branch payment of up to 50% of total dues.
  - b. Existing members: Eligible for branch payment of up to 50% of total dues.
4. Procedure for requesting assistance
  - a. A new or existing member who is in need of assistance should contact the Branch Finance VP and indicate, if appropriate, what percentage of total dues they are requesting. Existing members must make a request at the time of membership renewal (no later than June 15 each

year). New members' requests are to be made at the time they indicate they want to join. When the request is made, the Finance VP will send the individual the written policies and procedures related to dues assistance.

b. Requests are handled in order of receipt. If there are sufficient funds to meet a request when it is received, the Finance VP can notify the individual immediately that her request has been approved. If the Finance VP cannot approve the request at the time it is made, individuals will be notified of the decision within 2 weeks.

c. If the request(s) is greater than the total funds available, the Finance VP will bring the requests to the president(s) and membership chair for discussion and a decision.

d. Once the individual has sent in the balance (her share) of the dues, the Finance VP will send the dues to State and National as usual, will adjust the records to reflect the assistance, and will inform the individual by phone or e-mail that her dues have been paid in full. (Note: adopted budgets are never changed, however approval may be given to overspend a category if necessary.)

e. Information is confidential regarding who has requested/received dues assistance.

### **TIGARD AREA BRANCH HELPING HANDS DUES SCHOLARSHIP**

Recognizing that illness, a death in the family, divorce, return to school, job change, or other financial setbacks may make it difficult for an AAUW Tigard Area Branch member to pay membership dues, the Helping Hands Dues Scholarship has been established.

Current active members with membership up for renewal and past active members whose dues have lapsed no more than one year are eligible for the Scholarship. An active member is defined as one who has attended at least six branch meetings in their previous membership year. When extenuating circumstances have prevented member from attending meetings, the Membership Vice-President and the Treasurer will review the applicant's eligibility. Persons who have not previously belonged to AAUW can become eligible for a Helping Hands Dues Scholarship by attending three branch meetings (the maximum allowed by the Standing Rules) in either the previous or current membership year and by being referred to the Membership Vice President or Treasurer by a current active member.

The scholarship covers completely National and State dues. The branch dues will be waived. The dues assistance is for one year. Continued assistance beyond one year will be considered if the member's circumstances have not changed and there are no new applicants for the funds. The Membership Vice-President and the Treasurer will make the decision.

The availability of the scholarship funds will be advertised in the branch's newsletter. Such funds are currently available. The person needing assistance will notify the Membership Vice President. The Membership Vice-President and the Treasurer will interview the applicant with the information kept confidential.

Monies for the Helping Hands Dues scholarship will be solicited at membership renewal time via the membership renewal form.

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