

AAUW Bennington Branch
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
June 4, 2022 at Old First Barn, Bennington, VT

Present: Approximately 35 members and guests

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

President Kathy Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., welcoming guests and new members to an event that combined the social luncheon postponed from March due to the pandemic and the June picnic. She announced the 96th anniversary of the AAUW Bennington Branch and invited people to view the album-in-progress assembled by Gudrun Hutchins.

Secretary Julie Mackaman summarized the minutes from the 2021 membership meeting, which are posted on the Bennington AAUW website. She explained that in the main order of business, three officers were elected last year; however, since the terms of Wagenknecht, Mackaman and Treasurer Jan Day will not end until June 30, 2023, no election is required in this meeting. Suzanne Kirkpatrick moved, Jennifer Kern seconded that the minutes be approved; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jan Day reported that despite reduced revenues due to the year's near lack of public programs in which donations are periodically collected for the scholarship fund, the fiscal year will end in the black with sufficient funds for 2021-22 scholarships. She attributed the fund's stability to Silent Angel contributions, revenues from sales of *Scratchings*, and net proceeds from the September 2021 Oldcastle Theatre fundraiser. She added that the combined social luncheon/picnic had brought in approximately \$300 to be donated to national AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

Membership

Committee chair Norma McShane, who has replaced Claudia Dalton due to health issues, reminded the branch that 2022-23 dues paid prior to July 1 are \$72 (\$62 national, \$10 branch), but after July 1 will be increased to \$77 (\$67 national, \$10 branch). She conducted a raffle for those who had paid their dues by the time of the luncheon. She added that a new committee (Sheila Mullineaux, Judy Murphy, Dawn Rodrigues) has been formed to discuss ways to grow branch membership, and she will attend a workshop about recruiting and developing volunteers.

Programs

Committee chair Mullineaux reviewed the 2021-22 programs and collaborations with other organizations, and distributed a survey to solicit evaluation of the year's programs and feedback on potential programs for the year ahead.

Scholarships

Committee chair Jennifer Kern reported that to date the fund has awarded \$56,964, including scholarships and book awards, to 53 different women students. Along with committee members Murphy and Hutchins, she introduced multiple-scholarship recipient Wendy Lyons who has pursued her college education with branch support and recently accepted a job as peer advocate counselor. (See attached scholarship history, compiled by Hutchins.)

Theater Fundraiser

Committee co-chair Madeline Kennedy announced that this year's scholarship fundraiser will be a matinee performance of *Sheep Dog* on August 28, 2022 at Oldcastle Theatre. On behalf of co-chair Mary Feidner, she added that a renewal letter to Silent Angels, who together donated \$1,700 to the 2021-22 scholarship fund, will go out toward the end of the summer.

Hospitality

Chair Kirkpatrick said that while hospitality tasks have diminished during the pandemic due to Zoom programs, with the reintroduction of more in-person meetings, refreshments and related hospitality tasks will resume. She added that hospitality is a good opportunity for new members to get to know other members and familiarize themselves with the branch and its activities.

Newsletter

Editor Rodrigues asked for members to contribute to the newsletter, from Scribble Sister columns to guest articles reflecting a range of interests, such as gardens and book reviews.

Adjournment

Murphy moved, Kern seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm, with the branch's two longest serving members, Hutchins and McShane, slicing the 96th anniversary cake for dessert.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mackaman
Secretary

Attached: Scholarship History