

VAAUW Branch Meeting, November 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:42 am.

Jan reintroduced the four themes that were the focus of the President's message in the Venice Views. DIVA: make a difference, inclusion, visibility, and accountability. She commented that the organization has been "hitting it out of the park between October's and today's meeting." Jan asked people to turn to someone they didn't know and say hello. She recognized Bea Holt, president of the Florida AAUW, who was in the audience.

Bev Weltzien then spoke, saying she was pleased with the turnout for the meeting and encouraging people to sign up for the December Holiday Luncheon. She asked if there were any corrections to the previous minutes, which there were not. She recognized Judy Napier, a guest of Jane Metcalf, and former member Susan Farstrup, who is visiting. Bev encouraged people to order the polo shirts with the new VAAUW logo by contacting Joyce Mikulski.

Bobbi Amero announced a new policy: the national organization will remove them from the roster if people don't pay their dues on time. If they pay later, they will be listed as new members. Anyone who has a question about dues and renewal notices should call Bobbi.

Development - Cynthia Bioteau

The Strategic Plan is to raise \$50,000 this year. The three main programs for Development are the RBG presentation on January 14 (tickets available in early December, \$40 each), the Home Tour on February 9, and the Giving Challenge on April 9-10. She asked people to let her know if they have any new ideas for development.

Trena Kelly and Dee Collins spoke about the Home Tour. The committee is proposing to charge \$250 for businesses and sponsors to place an ad on posters that will be placed in front of each home. They requested the use of antique or vintage cars to be on display at the homes. About 100 volunteers are needed to work in various jobs. A chair is needed for the raffle baskets.

Education - Wendy Seeley

The Scholarship Reception is November 20, 4:00-6:00 PM at Café Venice. Thirty people have signed up. Please pay before the event by sending a check to Bobbi Amero. There are five scholarship recipients; four will attend the reception, and one woman will participate via video.

Membership – Marge Collin

Marge introduced Judy Napier, guest of Jane Metcalf and acknowledged another guest who attended the meeting but left before introductions. Marge encouraged members to bring guests to our meetings and events.

SIGs - Lynda Weston

Lynda introduced a representative from each SIG and encouraged members to sign up today.

Banned Books - Lynda Weston

Book Club – Lynda Weston

Bridge for Fun – Bernadette McEnenery

Coastal Cruising – Paula Dulski

Cook's Corner – Joan Kieran

Euchre – Charlene Turczyn

Evening Out – Melanie Odom

Exploring with Your Camera – Val Dwek and Lynda Friedman

French Conversation – Jane Metcalf

Lunch Bunch- Lydia Russo and Anita Kunkle

Mix and Mingle – Kathleen Pickering and Judith Houston

Walk and Talk – Beth Gamel

Public Policy - Barbara Constantz

Barbara reported that 900,000 petitions are needed to get a reproductive rights amendment to Florida's constitution on the ballot for November 2024. The next challenge will be voter turnout, since 60% voter approval is required for passage. She noted that blank petitions were available at the Public Policy table for anyone who wished to sign. Barbara reminded members to read the monthly Public Policy column in the Venice Views and note the Zoom offerings listed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Rahaim