

## **November 9, 2023 VAAUW Branch Meeting**

Jan Harris called the meeting to order at 11:42 am.

Jan reintroduced the 4 phrases that were the focus of the Presidents' message in the Venice Views: DIVA: make a difference, inclusion, visibility, and accountability. She commented that between October's meeting and today's meeting, the organization has been "hitting it out of the park." She asked people to turn to a person 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 encouraged 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 a guest of Jane Metcalf, Judy Napier, and former member Susan Farstrup, who is visiting. Bev encouraged people to order the polo shirts with the new VAAUW logo from Joyce Mikulski.

Bobbo Amero announced that there is a new policy that if people don't pay their dues on time the national organization will take them off the roster, listing them as new members if they pay late. Someone asked when dues are due. Bobbi responded that National should be sending out reminders. Anyone who has a question about dues should call Bobbi.

Cynthia Bioteau spoke about the Strategic Plan's goal to raise \$50,000 this year. The 3 highlights for Development are the Home Tour in February, the RBG presentation in January (tickets available in early December), and the Giving Challenge in April. She asked people to let her know if they have an idea for development.

Trena Kelly and Dee Collins spoke about the Home Tour. They have a plan to put posters in front of each home for advertising, which will raise money. In addition, they suggested that businesses could sponsor a home for \$250 or \$150 for smaller homes. They made a request for antique cars. They need about 100 volunteers to work in total, for various jobs.

Wendy Seeley spoke about the Scholarship Reception at Café Venice on Nov. 20. 30 people have signed up. She needs people to pay. There are 5 recipients. 4 will be there in person and one will be there via video.

Lynda Weston encouraged people to participate in the SIGS. She introduced a representative from each SIG:

Banned Books - Lynda Weston

Book Club – Lynda Weston

Bridge for Fun – Bernadette McEnerney

Coastal Cruising – Paul Dulski

Cook's Corner – Joan Kiernan

Euchre – Charlene Turczyn

Evening Out – Melanie Odom

Exploring with Your Camera – Val Dwek and Linda Friedman

French Conversation – Jane Metcalf

Lunch Bunch- Lynda Russo and Anita Kunkle

Mix and Mingle – Kathleen Pickering

Walk and Talk – Beth Gamel

Barbara Constantz spoke about Public Policy. 9,000 petitions are needed to get a reproductive rights bill for Florida on the ballot for November of 2024. The next challenge will be voter turnout. Barbara reminded members to read the Public Policy column in the Venice Views every month and to take note of the Zoom offerings listed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm.