

Venice AAUW Board Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2023

Present: Bobbi Amero, Cynthia Bioteau, Debbie Blackwell, Marge Collin, Jan Harris, Susan Hotzler, Joyce Mikulski (via phone), Jo Rahaim, Wendy Seeley, Pam Swarts, Bev Weltzien, Lynda Weston

Meeting called to order 9:40 AM.

Minutes of October 31, 2023 submitted and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbi Amero reported as of 11/30/23, the total assets are \$28,861.95 and no liabilities.

Bobbi will create a crib sheet to explain qualified tax exempt purchases for board use. Bobbi has APLOS, a non-profit software program that has a place to record donations. Purchasing or using other software is not necessary.

Chair reports

Vice President – Joyce Mikulski via phone

- Strategic Plan Review. A committee has been formed and the first meeting will be January 8, 2024. The committee members are Cynthia Bioteau, Leslie Curley, Bobbi Amero, Pam Swarts, and Susan Hotzler.
- Polo shirts. Remaining shirts from the first order will be sold at the Holiday Luncheon on December 14 and new orders will be taken at that time. Bobbi Amero, Joyce Mikulski and Jan Harris will resolve the polo shirt payment and reimbursement to Jan.
- Board retreat. In place of a board retreat, members will be encouraged to attend the AAUW regional conference which will be held on April 4, 2024 at the Venice Art Center.
- Softball Team Sponsorship. The board voted to consider sponsoring the girl's softball team for their spring season starting February 3. Joyce will look into the details of the sponsorship. Lynda Weston made the motion, Susan Hotzler seconded, and the entire board approved the sponsorship fee.

Membership – Marge Collin

- There is one new member.
- Judith Houston offered to manage a membership table at the Home Tour.
- Marge has arranged to sell home tour tickets at Island Walk's Wednesday Market and will also have membership applications available.
- Marge had discussions with Kathleen Pickering about more aggressive utilization of our Mix and Mingle events to bring in new members.
- Marge called two members who have resigned to get feedback on the reasons for their resignations. One has had health issues and the other woman has not returned her call.
- Office Depot gave VAAUW a credit for the cost of printing the directory because of the numerous omissions and errors. Any future printing projects should be taken to Office Depot to use our credit.

- Marge will print out the corrected directory and mail it to members who requested another copy. The current directory will not be reprinted.

Media — Nancy Brex and Susan Hotzler

- Reminder that all articles for the monthly newsletter need to be submitted by the 15th of the month. Send the articles/information for the newsletter to the email AAUWveniceviews@gmail.com.
- Information about the Home Tour is on the Venice Mainstreet website and other events including RBG program in January.
- Paid the annual fee to renew membership in Venice Mainstreet.
- Continually updating the membership roster on the AAUW website with new information, and the Home and Activities sections.
- Setting up the website on EventBrite so people can purchase tickets for the Home Tour event online. The first 25 tickets purchased with EventBrite are free; there is a fee for the remainder. Jan Harris suggested looking into using Evite for any of our programs, which is free.
- It was recommended to limit the use of e-blasts and to use it for priority communications.
- The seminar on cyber security was very successful. Jan suggested putting the Powerpoint presentation on our website. Jo to contact Nancy Savenko regarding writing an article about the program for the Venice Gondolier. Jo will write thank you letters to the speakers.
- It was recommended to offer an educational workshop for members on using our website.

Development – Cynthia Bioteau

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Event on January 14, 2024:

- Volunteers are in place to work on publicity and as hostesses at the event.
- A pre-event news release will appear on Venice Mainstreet
- An article will be in Venice Views before Christmas luncheon
- A program/flyer will be distributed on each chair with an envelope for on site donationFull planning committee meeting to be held immediately after Christmas luncheon for decisions and next steps re: advertising, ticket sales, and all other loose ends.

Home Tour on February 9, 2024

- Dee Collins and Trena Kelly are chairs for this event and will provide updates.
- Judy Houston is finalizing the tickets. Patti Warner is up to date on tickets, and Marge Collin has approval from Islandwalk to sell home tour tickets at their farmers market.
- Judy Houston hopes to interview one or two of our exciting homeowners for more publicity. Elaine Winquist is in charge of the artisans, and Marge Ostrom will assign them as she has seen all the homes.

Giving Day April 9-10, 2024

AAUW Venice is now registered to participate in The Giving Partner! The event is April 9-10. Paula Dulski has offered to host a solicitation party at her home on the evening of April 9 with the goal of

raising \$10-\$15,000. Additionally, the AAUW Venice "Our Story" narrative will be included on the Giving Challenge website.

Education – Wendy Seeley

Scholarship Reception November 20, 2023

38 members attended the scholarship reception at Café Venice. Four of the five recipients were present and another sent a video message. They gave inspirational messages about their educational journey and the impact of receiving the scholarship.

Tech Trek

Wendy created individual packets for each school which included a colorful three-page Tech Trek brochure, letters to the principals, science, math and technology teachers, and a cover letter which described AAUW's role in the program. Each packet was delivered personally to the school receptionist who thought the program sounded great for the 7th grade girls interested in STEM, and were happy to distribute the materials. Student nominations are due December 15th.

Programs – Pam Swarts

Update

Pam plans to tighten the time for program presentations and give members more time to connect with each other, sign up for SIGS, etc. Marigene Whitten has volunteered to manage hospitality, and Lydia Russo offered to coordinate providing cookies.

Program schedule

- January 11, 2024: focus on our partnership with USF. Bobbie Amero will introduce the speaker.
- January 14, 2024: "An intimate evening with Ruth Bader Ginsberg."
- February 1, 2024: Sneak peak home tour overview with volunteer orientation.
- March 14, 2024: features Tech Trek
- April 11, 2024: Annual meeting

Public Policy – Debbie Blackwell

- Women's healthcare abortion petition looks like it will have enough signatures. Keep collecting!
- Clean Water petition does not have enough signatures however keep petitioning to present a healthy look for next year as bigger sponsors are enlisted to help with cost and movement.
- Debbie Blackwell will be attending Lobby Days in Tallahassee January 16-17. She will visit local representatives pending appointments.
- Members are encouraged to write letters to newspaper editors on AAUW public policy topics - like saying no to vouchers and transparency where the voucher money is being distributed and to whom. Another topic needing exposure is banned books. Suggested using the April meeting to hold a workshop on how to write letters to officials. Pam Swarts commented, "Silence is Consent."

SIGS – Lynda Weston

No updates.

Old Business

Membership brochure. A new version will be created by Marge Collin.

New Business

Art in the Afternoon (AITA)

Jan discussed VAAUW's position promoting Art in the Afternoon as an activity for our members. The following motion was made to provide clear guidelines on the criteria that will be used for allowing outside organizations to offer activities for VAAUW members.

Pam Swarts made the following motion: VAAUW will create a "lane" for outside organizations to be promoted by VAAUW. These organizations must meet our (AAUW) non-profit, non-partisan, and non-religious mission. They must be charities, cultural, or educational. Seconded by Bobbi Amero. 9-Yea; 0-Nay; 1-Abstain

Room Set-Up for Group Interaction

To encourage more interaction among the members, changes are being considered. For example, at branch meetings, groups will be formed based on birthday month, alphabetically by last name, etc.

Lynda Weston made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jo Rahaim, and passed at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Rahaim, Secretary