

January 11, 2024, VAAUW Branch Meeting

Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien, Co-Presidents called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

Bobbi Amero, Treasurer, Financial Director, created a separate account item under Assets called Stripe payments. It is a record of online sales.

Marge Collin, Membership Director, introduced seven guests attending the meeting. Present were two new members, Judy Napier and Dr. Ellen Kempf.

Joyce Mikulski, Vice President, stated the Strategic Planning Committee determined our chapter is on target for meeting our goals. Polo shirts can still be ordered; \$30-\$33, small to extra-large. Send payment to Joyce. Our chapter is sponsoring a Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball Team. Our logo is on their t-shirts. The first game is February 3, 2024 at Wellfield Park.

Kathleen Pickering, Community Involvement chair, encouraged members to volunteer at the Women's Resource Center and/or the University of South Florida. The nominating committee is meeting to discuss candidates for the positions of Program Director, Vice President, SIG Director, and Finance Director. The election is in April.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, reviewed the three fundraising projects underway this Spring; Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation January 14, Home Tour February 9, and Giving Challenge in April. Strategic Plan's goal is to raise \$50,000 this year.

Trena Kelly and Dee Collins spoke about the Home Tour. Each member is asked to sell 5 tickets each. Volunteers are still needed to fill positions at several homes. More details will be discussed at the February 1 meeting.

Trena Kelly announced Art in the Afternoon will be held at the Venice Library on January 17, 1:30-2:30 PM. Melanie Odom mentioned several upcoming programs; Dinner Out at Café Venice on January 17 and two events sponsored by the Friends of the Venice Library; Media Literacy on January 18, and Sue Chapman as Mable Ringling on January 25. Online registration is required.

Lynda Weston, SIG Director, reminded members to sign up for any of the 13 SIGs. The Banned Books SIG is reading two books, *Stuck in Neutral* and *Stamped*.

Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy Co-Director, discussed several important issues.

- The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship/Family Empowerment Scholarship For Educational Options Purchasing Guide which allows the use of voucher money for non-educational items.
- The FL legislature is considering a proposal to allow 16–17-year-old teens to work 30 hours per week on school nights. Contact your legislator.
- Write to the governor to request removal of Bridget Ziegler from the Sarasota County Board of Education due to her inappropriate behavior.
- The Abortion Petition received enough signatures to be placed on the ballot.

Barbara Constantz, Public Policy committee member, reminded members of the Public Policy Zoom meetings offered by AAUW. Pre-registration is required. Contact Barbara for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.