

## **AAUW Venice Branch Minutes – November 15, 2024**

Location: The United Church of Christ - 620 Shamrock Rd, Venice, FL

The meeting was called to order by co-president, Jan Harris. A program by Dr. Aly Busse, education director of Mote Marine and Aquarium, was introduced by Lynda Weston, our newly appointed Program Director.

Jan Harris, Co-President, offered a Civility Moment, which will become a staple of our meetings going forward.

Debbie Blackwell encouraged members to write a brief note to President Biden to instruct the Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment. Forty cards were signed and posted.

The meeting was called to order with the announcement of the minutes and Treasurer's reports being posted and approved on our website. There is \$51,657.82 in the VAAUW account and approximately \$24,000 in the Gulf Coast Foundation Account.

Judy Napier of the Membership Committee introduced new members and guests. She presented Trena Kelly with a 50-Year Award as an AAUW member.

Patti Warner gave an update on the Home Tour, scheduled for February 14, 2025. Four homes have been secured. The posters and tickets are designed and ready for distribution. Members are asked to sell tickets and sign up for jobs for the event day. 1000 tickets are available for sale.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, announced the Wine Tasting has been rescheduled for early April due to hurricane damage. Leona Cross-eye will still host it at her home with her co-host Cindy Sproehnle.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski spoke about our youth softball sponsorship. A new team will be announced for the Spring season. She also encouraged members to purchase VAAUW shirts. 3/4 length sleeve shirts are available. Call her to buy.

Wendy Seeley, Education Director, announced Tech Trek, a STEM camp, is now starting to offer applications to the schools. January 15, 2025, is the

scholarship reception to honor the recipients at Hotel Venezia at 6 PM. Ticket sales will begin at the Holiday Luncheon.

Our new SIG Director, Hilda Dillman, gave updates on Study/Interest Groups (SIG). Considerations for new activities will be announced in the future.

Nancy Brex, Co-Media Director, announced that the Directory will be available on the Venice AAUW website starting this year. Printed books will no longer be passed out to the membership. It can be printed directly from the website under the Members Only section. Any board member can assist a member in accessing it.

Public Policy Director Debbie Blackwell also urged members to advocate for Clean Water in our state.

Old Business: The membership unanimously approved the changes to the by-laws that show the description of our officers.

New Business: Kathy Black, our Historian, requested members to send photos with captions so that she could retain the history of VAAUW.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Lynda Weston, seconded by Leona Crosskeye.