

Venice AAUW Board Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2024

Present: Bobbi Amero, Debbie Blackwell, Nancy Brex, Marge Collin, Jan Harris, Susan Hotzler, Joyce Mikulski, Wendy Seeley, Pam Swarts, Bev Weltzien, Lynda Weston. Cynthia Bioteau and Jo Rahaim by phone.

Meeting was called to order by Bev Weltzien at 9:53 AM.

Joyce Mikulski made a motion to accept the March 5, and April 2, board meeting minutes as distributed. Motion was seconded by Lynda Weston. There being no discussion, the motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Amero

A current report was not available. Bobbi stated there was little change from last month's report. The Tech Trek camps will use over 50% of our funds, which may require transferring funds from the Home Tour.

Bobbi will submit next year's budget by May 15.

Paula Dulski will be the acting treasurer while Bobbi is away.

SIG Report – Lynda Weston

Moulin Blanc Cafe on 41-Bypass has offered its facilities for upcoming SIGs meetings.

Matinee Movie Mavins met for the first time in April and will meet again in May. A leader is needed.

Euchre SIG is to agree on a meeting location. It will be addressed in the fall.

Media Report – Nancy Brex and Susan Hotzler

There will be one Venice Views newsletter for June, July, August and September. The other nine months will be split into three-month segments with Nancy, Susan, and Ann Saller each taking a segment.

Deb Jackson has agreed to work on PR for the branch.

Public Policy – Debbie Blackwell

Debbie Blackwell raised the issue of informing members about all important issues that will be on the Florida ballots during the summer/fall months. It was decided that all voting information will be communicated via Eblast. Voter Plans were distributed to 150 persons at the April 11, 2024, branch meeting.

Vice President – Joyce Mikulski

Joyce submitted a report summarizing the outcomes of the 2023-24 Strategic Plan. The goals established for Programs, Public Policy, President and VP's Community Involvement, Communications, Membership, Development, and Finance were completed. The Education goal of awarding scholarships is "in process".

The new Venice AAUW graphics are being widely used on correspondence, t-shirts, and the website. A new graphic is in the library to use at the bottom of correspondence, and other communications to be used as a footnote that includes our identity as a 501(c)3 organization.

Development – Cynthia Bioteau

Final Giving Challenge Results: 61 Donors, \$5,150 in donor gifts
\$10,800 with Patterson Fund match and award of a \$500 raffle "prize".

Suggested protocol for donor gift acknowledgment and tracking was submitted and discussed. Acknowledgement of volunteer hours/activities was also discussed but guidelines were not finalized. Susan Hotzler made a motion to accept the gift acknowledgment guidelines, seconded by Joyce Mikulski, and passed unanimously.

The protocol is as follows: Donations of cash, securities, in-kind, and estate gifts will be entered in the donation spreadsheet managed by the Development Director. These will be forwarded on from the Treasurer when received, or from members who have solicited on behalf of AAUW.

A notice of any donations received by the Treasurer will be sent to the Development Director and/or Secretary for acknowledgement.

An annual honor roll of donors was suggested and discussed but not finalized.

The Home Tour leadership team for the 2025 Home Tour has been determined.

Co-chairs: Marigene Witten & Patti Warner with Marge Ostrom as consultant

Tickets: Sybil Hoffmeyer

Parking: Dee Collins

House Manager: Rosemary Smith

Raffle: Bev Weltzien, Jan Harris

Publicity: Deb Jackson, Judy Houston

Liaison to AAUW Board: Cynthia Bioteau

An initial 2025 Home Tour organizational meeting was held on 4/10/24 with the co-chairs and development director in attendance. The proposed date of Friday, February 14, 2025 was suggested with an alternate date of February 13. The suggested theme is "In Love with Venice". Selection of the four homes on the tour must be finalized by September.

A wine-tasting fundraiser hosted by Leona Crosskey-Marsani who lives on Casey Key was discussed. The proposed date is November 10. Pam Swarts made a motion to plan a wine-tasting fundraiser in November 2024. Seconded by Susan Hotzler and passed.

Membership – Marge Collin

New Member reception was held on April 23. Scheduling the event earlier next year to increase member involvement was suggested. A special thanks to Suzanne Biviano who hosted and the board who supplied the brunch.

Marge is working on resolving the discrepancy between the national roster of members and our branch roster.

A motion was made by Susan Hotzler, seconded by Joyce Mikulski to waive local and state dues for life members. Motion passed unanimously.

Education – Wendy Seeley

There were 169 nominations for Tech Trek camp in Florida with 101 girls completing an application. Six girls were chosen to attend camp, with one on the wait list.

Kristin Taylor from GCCF stated the Scholarship Portal Opening to review applicants was delayed due to issues with uploading the FAFSA federal aid form.

Programs – Pam Swarts

Pam submitted a list of nine topics and speakers for the 2024-25 season with the suggestion that programs be reviewed at the July board meeting. It was encouraged to include a DEI program. Pam is moving to Minnesota and the new program director is Charlene Turczyn.

Old Business

Bev clarified information about By-laws: Changes in By-laws are directed by the FL AAUW and voted on by our membership. Policies and procedures are initiated and are voted on by our board.

Membership brochure is tabled until our Public Relations committee is established.

New Business

Lynda Weston secured a new location for branch meetings at the Venice United Church of Christ, 620 Shamrock. The meetings will be 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at no charge. Wi-fi is available. Food and beverages TBD.

Upcoming Board Schedule

June – No meeting

July through October - ZOOM at 10:30 AM

Branch meetings will begin in November. There will be 7 meetings, 4 are presentations or programs.

Susan Hotzler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lynda Weston seconded. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Collin and Jo Rahaim