

VAAUW Board Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2024 - DRAFT

Zoom Meeting

Present: Jan Harris, Bev Weltzien, Joy Mikulski, Pam Swarts, Lynda Weston, Wendy Seeley, Jo Rahaim, Susan Hotzler, Nancy Brex, Marge Collin, Debbie Blackwell, Cynthia Bioteau, Charlene Turczyn

Co-president Bev Weltzien called the business meeting to order at 11:08 AM. A presentation on Zoom etiquette, facilitated by Pam Swarts, preceded the business meeting.

Secretary's Report – Jo Rahaim

Jo Rahaim made a motion to approve the April 30, 2024, board minutes. Motion seconded by Cynthia Bioteau and approved as submitted.

Finance Director's Report – Bobbi Amero

Treasurer's report was sent by email. Total Liabilities plus Total Equity as of 5/31/2024 is \$52,794.94.

Vice President's Report – Joyce Mikulski

- The Strategic Plan Committee (Joyce Mikulski, Pam Swarts, Bobbi Amero, Cynthia Bioteau, Susan Hotzler, and Leslie Curley) met for a final review of our 2023 - 2024 goals. All goals were met.
- Lynda Weston is a new member of the Committee, replacing Pam Swarts.
- The 2024-25 Strategic Plan was completed, approved by committee members, and distributed to all Board members. It will be available to all members on the website.

Membership – Marge Collin

- Work continues reconciling our membership roster with the national membership roster.
- Lapsed members are being contacted.
- Create a mentoring program and an orientation program for new members. Include member expectations and civility requirements. Consider a new member welcome packet.

Media Directors – Nancy Brex, Susan Hotzler, Paula Dulski, Ann Saller

- Paula Dulski joined the team as director of Media Tech, e.g. Zoom meetings, Powerpoint presentations, e-blasts, etc.
- Marge Collin will send the updated member directory for the web site.
- Summer issue of Venice Views was distributed. The next issue will be in October.
- Using our Facebook page to post pictures of summer events and member gatherings.
- Posting public policy messages on Facebook and on the website regarding local and national elections, and upcoming public policy forums from AAUW.

Development – Cynthia Bioteau

- Venice AAUW policies and procedures state the Development Director is responsible for appointing an endowment chair to encourage members to consider making gifts through their estates. Jo Rahaim under consideration for this position.
- Fundraising events will be scheduled on an interval basis to allow for more volunteer interactions without volunteer burnout. The following events are currently under consideration:
 - November 11, 2024: Wine Tasting event on Casey Key
 - December Holiday Luncheon and possibly a Silent Auction
 - February 14, 2025: Annual Home Tour
 - April 2025: an additional fundraiser under consideration
- Details were provided on projected costs and net earnings for each event.
- Marigene Witten and Patti Warner are co-chairs of the Home Tour. Planning for four homes but will consider adding a fifth.

Education – Wendy Seeley

- Six young women attended Tech Trek at Stetson University and FAU.
- Four scholarships for the coming school year were awarded at \$3,000 each.
- Scholarship application should be simplified. In an effort to offer financial assistance to more “non-traditional” women, the policies, procedures and criteria will be reviewed. Wendy and Debbie Blackwell will discuss and present appropriate changes to the board at the August meeting.

Programs – Charlene Turczyn

The following programs scheduled for 2024-25

- October 10, 2024, Shopping excursion at women-owned businesses in downtown Venice
- November 14, 2024, MOTE presentation by a female marine biologist
- December 12, 2024, Holiday Party, Paula Dulski and Mitzi Fielder, co-chairs
- January 9, 2025, Cheryl Ellerbeck, USF College of Education
- February 6, 2025, Computer instruction
- March 13, 2025, Cybersecurity
- April Annual Meeting
- May 8, 2025, Venice Chamber of Commerce 100th Anniversary and Women’s Leadership
- June 2025 Ringling School of Art
- Bev suggested scheduling Shannon Staub, former Sarasota County commissioner. Charlene will contact.
- Board must approve programs before speakers and topics are confirmed.
- Susan Hotzler made a motion to approve the tentative calendar of programs as presented. Jo Rahaim seconded and was passed.

Public Policy – Debbie Blackwell

- Debbie reported U.S. Department of Education issued new regulations regarding Title IX enforcement effective August 1, 2024. AAUW endorses these significant changes and joined 70 gender and civil rights organizations in a letter to school administrators in K-12 and higher education urging swift implementation of policies consistent with new Title IX rules. Debbie urged VAAUW to share the AAUW letter with our local school administrators.
- Debbie identified four initiatives on Florida ballot that impact women's health and rights. Suggested placing these issues on the VAAUW website and Facebook page to encourage our membership to vote.

SIGS- Lynda Weston

- Most SIGs not meeting during the summer with the exception of the Book Club, which is meeting through Zoom.
- Need leaders for Euchre, Mah jong, and Movie Mavins.

Old Business

- Bev is reviewing our Policy and Procedures documents and will make changes.
- Lynda Weston described the new meeting place starting in November. It is Venice United Church of Christ, 620 Shamrock. Meetings scheduled for 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.

New Business

- Bev discussed e-blast procedures, i.e. email communications which are sent to the whole membership. It is to be only used for branch business which affects everyone.
- Jan facilitated a discussion about inappropriate behavior at SIG meetings. She prepared and distributed a document, Member Behavior Guidelines. Joyce suggested contacting the state and national AAUW boards for their guidelines and procedures for handling disruptive members.
- Board members are to study Jan's and AAUW documents to discuss further at August board meeting.

Jo Rahaim made a motion to adjourn at 12:53 PM, seconded by Debbie Blackwell, and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Rahaim