AAUW Board Meeting 01/03/2023

**PRESIDING**: Bonnie Underwood

**PRESENT**: Terri Bawden, Barbara Benson, Rosette Dawson, Patricia Griffith, Linda Hendrick, Judy Higgins, Sandra Huggins, Bonnie Underwood, Gina Van Hess

Call to order: 3:00 pm

Approval of agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of minutes of December meeting: Approval pending approval of amended minutes.

Financial: Patricia Griffith

* Financial year ended in excellent shape. $4000 grant received from Windermere. Mermen fundraising and Tote bag sales resulted in $23,000 for scholarships. Patricia gave a recap of the Merman calendar sales.
* Dues increase: National is increasing dues by $5.00. Patricia suggests that we reduce our local dues to $18 in order to keep the total amount at $100.
*Patricia moved that we change our branch dues to $18 for 2023. Seconded by Gina. Motion passed unanimously.*
* Budget for 2023 was presented. It is based on membership of 35 members. Terri spoke of a potential new member. Rosette proposed the creation of a special fund to cover the cost of any dues increases. Discussion about this idea.

Publicity: Terri Bawden

* Terri will meet with a member of the Chamber of Commerce committee to see if they can arrange for the TV program, Evening Magazine, to cover the Anacortes 4th of July parade with the goal of making the Merman Float a new tradition for that parade.
* It was suggested that she also contact the editor of *Fidalgo Magazine* to see if they might feature one of our “Mermen” in that publication.

Program: Sandra Huggins and Gina Van Hess

* The January meeting speaker will be Phyllis Woolwine speaking about “Women At The Helm: Defining Stereotypes in the Male-Dominated Marine World.” The meeting will be both in-person at the Library and on-line and will begin at 7:00 pm. Check-in and short introduction will begin at 6:45.
* The February meeting speaker will be Jimmy Blais, from MJB, talking about Waterfront Development in Anacortes. Mr. Blais has requested that there be no general invitation to the public about this meeting to forestall any protesting.

Scholarship: Barbara Benson

* The Anacortes Foundation has not yet responded to our request for their scholarship meeting schedule. We are looking for new members for our committee.

Tech Trek: Rosette Dawson

* The money from Marathon for Tech Trek is pending but our Special Projects Fund is at $21,000 because of unused funds from previous years.
* Teachers have been contacted and they are enthusiastic.
* Trish is doing a wonderful job but we need more volunteers. We would like to have one for each of the schools that are participating.

High School Volunteers: Terri Bawden

* There is interest in volunteering from some students but, so far, not in the areas where we could use some help.

Membership:

* Three new members have joined our branch. They are: Sally Polk, Catherine Carr, and Dianne Szerlong.

Land Acknowledgement: Bonnie Underwood

* Bonnie read the statement that is being suggested as an acknowledgement of our area history as original Native tribal territory. It reads:”I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Coastal Salish and Swinomish People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.”

Other News:

* Linda Hendrick is working on improving our hybrid meetings. She is also looking for information on “Zoom etiquette” and how to acknowledge everyone who is participating in our meetings. Incorporating “chat” messages and questions needs to be managed in some way and whether or not we record the meetings is also a question.
* Terri is looking for suggestions on how and when to ask potential members if they would like to join our branch.
* Bonnie announced that our February Board Meeting will be on January 31, instead of the first Tuesday in February.

Adjourned: 4:01

Respectfully submitted,

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Judy Higgins, Secretary