



**American Association of University Women North Carolina (AAUW NC)
Board Meeting - February 17, 2021
Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 17, 2021

Meeting Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Location: via Zoom call

Board Members Present: Kathy Pearre; Janet Bunger; Pat Ashe; Wendy Haner; Laura Garmendia; Lena Murrill-Chapman; Adrienne Stuckey; Cheryl Wheaton; Margie Maddox; Christi Whitworth, Jane Terwillegar, and Adrienne Stuckey

Guest: Mary Ann Bents

Subject	Discussion/Progress/Decisions
Welcome/Introduction	<p>Jane Terwillegar, President, called the meeting to order at 7:31pm with a welcome to everyone.</p> <p>Mary Ann Bents was welcomed and introduced as working with Laura Garmendia on the Mailchimp account for the <i>Connect</i> newsletter.</p>
Administrative Items	
Approval of the previous meeting's minutes	<p>Minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting were provided via email by Adrienne Stuckey, Secretary, prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Members were asked for review and approval of the meeting minutes. A link to the minutes in Google Docs was also provided in the meeting chat for real-time review.</p> <p>Discussion resulted in no corrections.</p> <p>The Board agreed to approve the minutes as presented.</p>
Treasurer's Report	<p>Wendy Haner, Treasurer, reported an increase in upcoming monthly charges from Tech Triad. These are an additional \$50 per month for licensure for embedded programs in the site and additional \$10 per month for maintenance. She will include this in the upcoming year's budget to be presented at the annual meeting.</p>

	<p>She reported she will be using 650 members as the estimate for creating the upcoming budget for FY'22.</p>
<p>Planning for Annual Meeting with Business Meeting</p>	<p>Jane Terwillegar reported on the current plans with some additional input requested.</p> <p>The event graphic will be an AAUW word cloud in a Chuck Taylor sneaker (in honor of the first female U.S. Vice President).</p> <p>Friday Evening schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kim Churches, AAUW CEO - Opening speaker - Friday evening at 7:30 PM - no presentation title yet ● Christi Whitworth shared the <i>Wine and Wisdom</i> plans for the evening, which include “bring your own wine” to the <i>ZOOM</i> call, with an in-home scavenger hunt. <p>Saturday Morning schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justice Anita Earls – Keynote Speaker - Sat AM. Justice Earls has requested questions be submitted in advance. no presentation title yet. ● Ideas for awards and recognition for branches and/or members. Ideas for member and branch recognition included (a) members of 50+ years; (b) past presidents, and (c) branches that did unique programs this year remotely. Additional ideas are requested; please send them to Jane Terwillegar.
<p>Reports</p>	
<p>Nominations Report</p>	<p>Janet Bunger reported:</p> <p>Pat Ashe is the sole nominee for president. Janet Bunger is the sole nominee for branch advocate.</p>
<p>Communications Committee</p>	<p>Lena Murrill-Chapman reported.</p> <p>The committee meets each Monday. Jessica Posa does not attend these meetings to preserve her paid hours of availability; the committee prioritizes what to ask her to do each month. The committee is assessing the various features of the website to ensure that all of them are still necessary and up-to-date. Training will be offered soon for branches for navigating technology and resources for virtual activity.</p>

	<p>Jane Terwillegar requests that board members explore the website to check on the currency of the text materials and report to her which need to be updated.</p> <p>Laura Garmendia reported on new editor training for <i>Connect</i> newsletter. Mary Ann Bents will help complete the annual meeting <i>Connect</i> issue. Recent Issue Opening Rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Branch Newsletter: 450 people opened (39.5% opening rate) ● February Opportunities: 393 opened (31 clicked on the link in it) ● Announcing our Candidates: 383 opened (30%) ● ERA: 282 opened (22%; 35 people clicked on the link)
<p>Branch Activity and <i>Connect</i> Branch Issue in February</p>	<p>Janet Bunger reported.</p> <p>Two branches (ODC and Charlotte) have invited current fellowship recipients to share about their funded projects at upcoming meetings. Janet will send out the links, so board can attend.</p>
<p>Report on <i>ZOOM</i> Utilization</p>	<p>Kathy Pearre reported.</p> <p>Book groups continue. Several branches use the account for meetings. One branch is using it for an upcoming fundraiser speaker event.</p> <p>The annual subscription fee (\$150) for our Zoom account is in the budget proposal for next year.</p>
<p>AAUW NC Virtual Program Series</p>	<p>Pat Ashe reported.</p> <p>A brief online survey was sent to all members; over 60 responded. A third of them had never attended the virtual series but had good feedback ideas. Several topics of interest were listed by respondents. People attend because they like to learn and find the topics interesting. People don't attend because of time constraints and conflicts. The second-most popular time requested was 2:00pm, after 7:00pm, which was first.</p> <p>Upcoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 22 - Dr. Shannon Gower, Physician &

	<p>Medical Director for Medicaid in NC - “Hot Topics in Women’s Health Across NC”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 22, 7pm - Cheryl Tung, Wake Co. League of Women Voters Representative - “Advocacy in Action: Tools to create change” ● May 20 - Lynn Edmonds, Public Schools First (NC) - Will discuss current education issues in NC <p>Kathy Pearre reports attendance around 40-50 on most of the virtual programs.</p> <p>Lena Murrill-Chapman reported that many Greensboro members ask her if the virtual programs will be live-streamed through Facebook & YouTube. She believes this would increase attendance. This is a setting in <i>ZOOM</i> to link to existing Facebook and YouTube accounts. Kathy and Lena will discuss this separately.</p> <p>Kathy Pearre recommended we consider offering a small number of lunchtime programs each year. She also suggested reducing the number that the board hosts and increasing the number of branch virtual programs that we promote.</p>
By-Laws and Policies	<p>Jane Terwillegar reported that Jean D’Addario recommends identifying a central web-based storage location for all AAUW NC documents to facilitate continuity between leadership from year to year.</p> <p>Some discussion occurred around whether older materials on the website need to remain there. Alternative cloud storage is under consideration (e.g., Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Dropbox). Some things don’t need to be kept. Some things need to be stored but not accessed frequently. Some things need to be stored for at least annual access. Additionally, the chosen storage solution needs to allow for supporting documents from each board meeting to be stored with their associated meeting minutes. Training will need to be provided to the board members for using the selected program efficiently.</p>
Legislative Report	Margie Maddox reported; see Appendix A.
National Bylaws Endorsement Discussion	Jane Terwillegar reported.

Various perspectives were discussed, all expressing support for expanding membership in AAUW to women without college degrees. Men have already been admitted for AAUW membership since 1987.

Board Vote:

Cherrie Wheaton moved that the Board recommend members support a yes vote on the change to the membership requirement. AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization by eliminating the degree requirement to membership.

Laura Garmendia seconded.

Additional discussion was solicited, and there was none.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (10 of 10 voting members present).

See Appendix B for the draft statement from the AAUW NC executive committee in support for the National Bylaws proposal for removing the college attendance or degree requirement for membership. The board discussed whether to publish the statement in Appendix B as-is or to make edits. All comments that were made were in support of the draft statement prepared by Kathy Pearre.

There was also discussion about how to publicize this vote and the supporting statement. Ideas included providing branches with multimedia materials explaining the vote and our AAUW NC support of it. Additionally, there may need to be conversations in and across branches about potential objections and why many of our board members and other members have changed their positions over time to support expanding membership. Another suggestion is to publicize the Board's statement of recommendation on the vote in *Connect* and on the web and social media (with an email address provided for comments) as a start.

Board members are encouraged to revisit the minutes from 1/13/2021, when many additional publicity ideas were generated.

Conclusions

Next Meeting	March 10, 7:30pm (this is a week earlier than typical)
Future Meetings	April 21, 7:30pm
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.
Secretary	The minutes were prepared and submitted by Adrienne Stuckey, Secretary, AAUW NC.

APPENDIX A

Legislative Update from State Public Policy Chair

For Ex. Board Meeting 02/17/21

During the past month, I have been involved in the following activities:

1. Developed a draft of legislative priorities for AAUWNC. This is based on the public policy legislative priorities identified nationally and then augmented with specifics in our state. This remains fluid and I hope to have it more finalized in a month or so as the NCGA continues to work.
2. Asked the Branch Public Policy Chairs to encourage all of their members to contact their legislators to encourage them to support the passage of Governor Cooper's proposal to expand coverage of the unemployment insurance to 26 weeks and setting the maximum benefit at \$500 or half the weekly wage of workers.
3. Forwarded the idea on to headquarters that AAUW consider developing a state level Two Minute Advocate that can be used across states to help promote legislation related to our issues. This is being explored by national as a possibility. Currently using information from the NC Justice Center to serve this function.
4. Following the progress of the NCGA which is to publish an update response to the Leandro report. Due date was February 15th; nothing has been shared.
5. Signed Public Schools First petition opposing HB 32 which increases funds for opportunity scholarships and funds to private schools.
6. Continue to monitor several bills: HB 37 which relates to promoting in-person schooling across the state; and SB 59 which reinstates teacher salary raises for having a master's degree.
7. Signed letter of support by the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion that was sent to the president, Vice president and leaders of Congress to encourage the expansion of Medicaid in the Southern States.
8. Encouraged Branch Public Policy Chairs to encourage their members to ask their legislators to support the Governor's budget proposal which included teachers' pay raises, family/medical leave coverage, minimum wage amounts and COVID relief funds.

Margie Maddox

APPENDIX B

Draft under Discussion for AAUW NC Board Statement of Support for Bylaws Change 2/17/21



AAUW NC Board Endorsement National Bylaws Change, 2021

The AAUW NC Board of Directors strongly supports the recommended Bylaws amendments regarding membership eligibility in AAUW and encourages all state members to **vote in favor** of the amendment.

The proposed bylaw change for national AAUW states:

An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the current requirement for membership explicitly denies membership to those without a college degree. Maintaining exclusionary membership requirements does not promote equity for all women and girls. We **must** change this now.

We urge all members in North Carolina to be part of this important change by voting **YES** to the amendment.