

## **WILPF-US SECTION BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Held via teleconference and was recorded.*

### Board members present:

- President: Mary Hanson Harrison
- New Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski
- Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Jan Corderman
- Chair of the Nominating Committee: Laura Dewey
- Chair of the Membership Development Committee: Shilpa Pandey
- Chair of the Development Committee: Marybeth Gardam
- New Chair of Program: Barbara Nielsen
- New Chair of Program: Teresa Castillo
- At-large Board Member: Dixie Hairston
- US Section Member of the International Board, Melissa Torres

**Facilitator:** Laura Dewey      **Dashboard facilitator:** Ellen Schwartz

**Note taker:** Eileen All decisions are underlined and in bold print.

1. **Check In:** Barb thought CSW was amazing & our events were good. Eileen spoke of a women's play by Thea Iberall called "We Did It For You" about historical women who worked hard to give us rights. Mary was glad WILPF got its name on the radio for water protests coming Thursday. Jan happy to be here. Shilpa is enjoying south Calif. weather. Melissa is back to Austin from CSW, staying with her step dad. Mb. worked one month on WILPF work & is now taking 3 days to watercolor. Dixie was asked about the bombings in Austin, TX; she took a long walk to find people are living their lives...no deterrence. Laura's branch had history of Vietnam overlapped Alpha Hertz event in Detroit huge success. Nancy Price:called in

2. **President:** 1. She found CSW was interesting; they tried to get women's voice heard but it was more NGO ish. Their panel did well and was received well. There was highlighted concern about Bayer-Monsanto merger because the Justice department is not preventing it. 2. She pointed out that with the Ghana congress coming up, attendees must get visas and shots and get other needed info. 3. We have to learn more about the WILPF Reorganization plan: what it means and ramifications of it, because we are a large section. Nancy and Mary sent International letters in opposition. She suggested Kathy Sharkey to lead with intents for goals.

3. **Secretary:** Eileen thanked everyone for **approving the January minutes prior to meeting.**

4. **Goals:** Eileen asked everyone to tell what their top 3 goals for the board were and why. She started by expressing her top goals. 1. Support an integrated approach to growing WILPF both financially and growing in skills to get our work done in a visible manner. 2. Banning the bomb and supporting the Poor Peoples' Movement because most groups agree with these actions and to show we are doing something important. 3.

Strengthening our relationships abroad because we are dealing with dangerous world issues of possible nuclear war and effects of climate change, and we need to stick together.

Others were not ready to talk about goals. Barbara, Mary, Laura and Eileen were willing to work on these together over the next week and all of us agreed to have a strict half hour board meeting next Tuesday, 3/27, from 9-9:30PM EST.

**5. Treasurer:** Jan's committee has not created a finance policy but they discussed hiring a financial planner. They want to take 1/2 of the 2017 earnings to be used for the 2018 operating budget since we may have a deficit of \$51K in 2018 as shown in the budget thus far. However by hiring a part time capacity building coordinator (\$27K) and a part time fundraising consultant (\$19.5K) it is hoped WILPF will make a profit this year. Because the \$25K Craig's List grant just came through again this year the numbers are better. She pointed out if needed, we can use 1/2 of the \$90K Sangines money in 2017 and 1/3 in 2018. Other fund monies are to come in from the Miami fund (\$50K) but they can hold the principal. The Dean Reed fund of \$10K must be held in perpetuity but interns for WILPF US can use the interest. The committee also wants to move some of the Pax Elevate Global Women's Index fund earnings. Since 2008 when we invested in this fund has quadrupled.

Questions re Treasury:

-Mary reminded Jan we are switching from banking at Bank of America to a Credit Union that has > 5000 associates coverage across the U.S.. It will take 60 days to process the change.

-Laura spoke of Line 98, CSW: For the Agriculture panel Mary was on, two of 4 speakers were paid though they are not WILPF members. Melissa said this payment was setting a double standard, a precedence. She was asked to get a more diverse panel but couldn't among members so two of the people on Melissa panel had to pay their own way. Mary explained they paid for gas for Catia, & little if any \$ for Ana. Melissa questioned where the \$5500. went if all that was paid for was the panel fee and gas and Dixie said they had to account for every dollar prior to going. Mary said the agri. panel was a last minute plan with no time to get approval; she suggested we look at the specific amounts since Jan has the receipts. *Jan agreed to check this.* Barbara was concerned about what we pay for panels and suggested we may need to set a policy that includes a requirement for advance scrutiny. There is no recollection of previous presidents being required for pre review. No one made a proposal to make a policy at this time.

Melissa and Dixie said they were frustrated because of lack of accountability re membership and keeping to budget. An attempt to approve **the budget was stalled until an amendment leaving out the CSW line item 98 was made. Then all approved by acclimation.** *CSW, line item 98 will be voted on next meeting in an amended budget.*

Jan presented her last item..an in person 3 day board meeting & training, which was in the budget, line 58. Topic- Board Development: Meeting with Intent and training with Kathy Sharkey. It is planned for September in DesMoines for board members and fund raising development and include meeting our new fundraiser. There is free space in the

office building but no video/screen gadgets in it. Costs will be about \$6000 for 8 people on board and 4 on the development team for travel and 1-2 people lodging in a motel. Laura suggested a doodle pole for dates of the 3 days that work for each of us, and Barbara asked about teleconferencing trainings with the 4 in the development team for their half day.

## **6. CSW, Practicum**

Dixie described the 10 practicum, 1 practicum alumnus, and 2 local to global attendees as being very thoughtful in their discussions and the events they attended. "They wanted to integrate the work they were doing in their community with WILPF work." She described Mary's panel with four others as well attended. Melissa and her panel with 4 practicum students on Friday was also good on intersectional leadership and feminism. They got great questions & great exposure for WILPF. They sent their preliminary report to Marybeth to be sent on to the Robertsons (who provide the grant for the practicum). Dixie hopes to get a better design and format of this report so it looks more professional but she is confident the information is there. Some of the post practicum projects the student graduates have planned are promising, particularly working with the international congress in Ghana, doing social media and other communication, and another doing work with Kozue Akibayashi's campaign in the Korean peninsula. Dixie and she are encouraging & facilitating the students to work on the WILPF US issue's committees or the Peace Women: Reaching Critical Will. Melissa added that when the nation, but particularly NYC students, was having their walk out against small arms, the Peace Women & Reaching Critical Will and most Practicum participants went to elementary & high schools to support them during the walk out. They wore their WILPF buttons and photos were taken. She, too, found this year's group low keyed but clear in what they wanted to do. Many did not know what 1325 was. Two students did very good presentations. It was a very good week. (Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts since civilians are increasingly targeted and women have no voice in decisions.)

### **Comments:**

Jan-One of the attendees is forming a branch in Chicago. Mary was glad to meet the group and & found they seemed more cohesive than past groups. She had a good time with them and they were relaxed and dedicated. Barbara was there and pleased with the group. One alum was in the ban the bomb march last year and shared; she also interacted well with the students. Barb was pleased to see her blossom. Laura suggested we encourage participation of attendees who live near a branch.

## **7. Development**

Marybeth reported 2 new members joined since January. The committee has been having monthly meetings and plans to get the Spring appeal out in April. Info about CSW & Practicum will be in the appeal. The Robertson report is done.

**The Development Chair asked for a vote to approve the concept and processes outlined in her proposal: (This includes the finances and making a commitment to work on the plan.)**

-To create a model for fundraising sustainability that incorporates recruiting goals and support for branches, while encouraging branches to think strategically about future goals and initiatives and enhance our visibility with more investment in coordinating our internal and external communications.

-This is the first year pilot of what is hoped will be an ongoing 2-3 year program that will eventually be offered to each of our branches to help support and revitalize them.

-It has the potential for dramatically increasing our fundraising donor base, our annual development income, our national and local visibility, and our recruiting skills. In addition it will better connect branches to national issue committees, ONE WILPF calls, any potential regional meetings and leadership training opportunities.

-The additional costs being added to the budget by this proposal are \$47,000 (to hire a part time communications specialist and a grant writer) and we are targeting fundraising income the first year of between \$15,000-\$45,000 and membership income between \$4200 and \$6300 with up to 180 new members as we work closely with 6-9 branches/communities. If this works the potential is to make \$50K then up to \$90K the following 2 years.

-The Development Chair underscores that this plan will demand the focus and commitment of many of the Board Members if we are to be successful.

-The current government forces us to be bold and active. It is the responsible thing to do though it will require a lot of work on our parts.

Comments...after clarifying the request:

Laura: This is a heavy report, very ambitious. I hope each board member can help out (connect with branches, fundraise, something) and it's not left only to committee members. It is do-a-ble.

Mary: This can't be taken lightly. It requires commitment of the board which is already working hard. 200 people joined last year - 20% joined because of friends; others from social media. As board members we can talk with our friends. 'Our time is now, as Mb said.' We have expert members who keep us informed and suggest actions. Kathy Sharkey can further prepare us.

Jan admitted she was a late comer to the plan. She echoed the above comments and added, "We have to coordinate this with what we have. We have good support with Chris, Glenn, our P&F writer McDowell".

Shilpa: has been involved with the original discussions but is concerned about not having enough know how.

Eileen explained she supports this and is committed to work on it but does not feel confident that she can do all that is needed, will make mistakes, with all that needs to be done. Many larger progressive organizations, some well funded and staffed, are in the Boston area taking on WILPF members like me, though my main commitment is to WILPF and they know it. She wished she had more activist experience and feels inadequate, but will work hard because she feels it's her responsibility in this area.

Laura This is a grassroots initiative and I'm glad we are starting with 6-9 branches.

Mary: We are zeroing in on a few branches and will learn as we go, and reach out.

By starting with a few you can talk with them.

**Barbara made a motion to approve the proposal, Laura second.**  
**No-one objected to accepting this plan.**

### **8. Nominating**

Laura reported the ad hoc committee met 2x They got 12 applications for the Congress in Ghana, one was late so it was dropped. By the end of March they plan to have the names for the International congress.

Melissa & Barbara asked for clarification on deadlines: The letters of recommendations were not due on the 17th, only the applications. No-one asked for an extension.

### **9. Program**

Barbara (Teresa was not able to get on the call)

Referred to the report she sent out. She asked all to read it. We were short on a few calls.

10. **IB Report** Melissa is working to get the info out needed for the Intl Congress to the US branches. She was asked to push the US in a campaign against the meeting between Trump & Saudi Prince Van Noon. There's been a lot of rhetoric without detail. She is awaiting some IB info, that will need design work, for an adequate presentation. Laura asked if she was getting any questions re reducing the number of IB reps. Ans: None, but some have gone to IB.

### **11. Membership Development**

Shilpa reports the welcome packet is ready and they will soon get it out.

They are planning to make webinars and programs for new member orientation. She received some materials from international and found they were enthusiastic about the planned orientations. Also, they plan to make phone calls to new members, particularly those at-large members so they don't feel isolated. She contacted one branch that tends to work in isolation and doing one event per year and hasn't gotten a call back after their event. This is a challenge and she expects with the committee's integrated plan & better coordination, situations like this will be bettered. They are also discussing having regional meetings, workshops & conferences and other ways we can increase our outreach. Ex. Have a meeting of a few branches in a region and a board member go in talk. Shilpa had a meeting yesterday in Ventura, Santa Paula with members ready to form a branch.

Marybeth was glad to see so many initiatives getting started

**Dixie at large** explained all she planned to say was covered in the CSW and Development reports

Laura: We can **meet re goals next Tues, 3/27**, because we are not taking a vote. Eileen will be helping on goals.

Non board attendees. Nancy came and went. Ellen stayed on

Darien: found the board meeting inspiring. She applauded everyone.

Meeting Started: 8:40 Ended: 10:55 pm

Below is the report mentioned above.

**Program Report** -Barbara Nielsen

**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, US Section  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO: US Board**

**FROM: Program Committee Chairs Teresa Castillo & Barbara L Nielsen**

**DATE: 2018 March Board Meeting, 3/20/2018**

**RE: Report of Program Committee Chairs March 2018**

The Program Committee met on March 4, 2018. There were reports from Committees, Members and any Branches on the call on "Upcoming Program-Related Actions and Plans for March, April. Going forward into April, the Program Committee chairs will continue our outreach to branches and to work with issues committees on plans going forward for April and May and on information around the International Congress in August. One of the chairs attended the CSW and will report on that in the upcoming eNews and perhaps contribute information to an article in the upcoming Peace & Freedom.

▪ **ad hoc committee on Poor People's Campaign**

banner, educational materials, connections, 40 days of actions Mother's Day to Summer

Solstice, get on Loop list

▪ **branch members present on their branch actions, plans**

East Bay, San Francisco) San Francisco Bay Area/ Greater Bay Area event(s): Barbara Nielsen, Nancy Price, Oakland, 4/15, flyers, organizing meeting this Monday, big and successful, buses from Monterey and North Bay

Fresno, water forum in 2 weeks (branch Earth Democracy ctte), Jean Hays, 3rd water forum, all day) experts

Des Moines: March 24, March for our lives (DSM) for gun control legislation, MHH – International Women's Day

Ann Arbor: Odile Hugonot Haber: meeting branch 3/10 to schedule priorities, new members, plus also March 24, Marching for our lives

Monterey Peninsula: Judy Karas – program had been crisis in Yemen, PowerPoint – series of programs in Monterey library, suffragists, and movie re women's movement.

Scarred Land, Wounded Lives movie, on impact of military environment 4/29; went before Monterey City Council, Mayors for Peace; Mayor of Monterey has joined Mayors for Peace. (All US Mayors for Peace)

New York Metro: Renée Prespare – Working on direct democracy and educational work around that focus.

- **·One WILPF Solidarity Events**

The April 8 call will be the first Public Call and it will have great content, and everyone on the team is excited about the possibilities (M. Harrison, B. Nielsen)

- **·AHR**

(B. Nielsen) The committee had a first meeting but there had been confusion about the time of the meeting and few people were in attendance – we fix the discrepancies and re-notice invitations and will have our next call on the first Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 5:00 pm / 6:00 / 7:00 / 8:00 pm – working on a panoply of issues and figuring out how best to organize ourselves and issues and work on capacity

- **·AHR Committee Racial Justice Working Group**

(C. Leinonen) The working group's first meeting was exciting and covered many issues and the mission, aims and goals we will begin with as we undertake this work. Next meeting is Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 5:00 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 8:00 pm. Nancy Price offered: But could it also review the role of African-American women in the civil rights movement – it's also overlooked – the A-A men were lifted up but women were not.

Courteney – racism not just about A-A people, minorities in general, got materials and much is from women, so we are going to be reading from more cycles

- **·Corporations v. Democracy** No one on call

- **·Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance (Cindy - has this maybe been changed to Cuba, Women and the Bolivarian Alliance? If so, when, & thanks! bln)**

(M. Gonzalez of Cuba committee for C. Domingo) Working on writing a statement/info re impact on Trump's travel restrictions on Cuba since June 2017 – the increased restrictions on USA travel there has been having huge impact – negative, the huge film festival is impact.

No new visas for Cubans to come to the US – so they cannot present work at conferences here

Trying to reach general public here to get info out to people and have some dialog about effect of Trump's decisions towards Cuba – trying to get the word out. Focusing in on the way to take back the process of civic public elections to make them more transparent

- **·DISARM-End Wars**

(B. Nielsen) Please notice info from our committee in the March eNews regarding a new ANA scholarship program for the “next generation” (18-29 year olds) to member

organizations for young people/members who want to learn about what the ANA DC Days are about, attend, learn, go back to community and work on anti-nuclear issues (could be also our nuclear ban petition). Encourage branches to look into this – find students, maybe also help fund them to go to ANA Days this May [also would include time for ANA annual meeting held adjacent to the issues lobbying].

- **•Earth Democracy**

(N. Price) World Water Day on \_\_\_\_\_. Earth Day 4/22, military pollution of water, huge problem, NTP working on handout to be made available to branches  
Info on Dawn Nelson (Ann Arbor branch?), very involved in following way the UN SDGs are being implemented – has been on calls, Has been asked to submit a statement with deadline of 3/7 – women’s human rights and gender equality to the SDGs with impact on drinking water, sanitation services – might be useful to produce 2-page double-sided SDG goals from point of women’s human rights and gender equality in SDGs. Important to track how they are being tracked – and need to be applied to the US. Dawn is learning how we can do this in the US – i.e., #45’s focus on infrastructure with private corporations re water and sanitation (they’re trying to get their feet in the door at the UN to do the implementations. She goes q June for 2 weeks for meetings in NYC.

Odile – Dawn is a grad of the school of natural resources at Michigan – and has great ability, too, pushing her to do more. Odile has written an article about climate change finance for women and human rights. She went to COP 21, kept in touch with some of the women there – maybe for P&F.

- **•Immigration & Border Militarization** No one on call

- **•International Board Member Information, Notices** No one on call

- **•Middle East**

Odile, Yemen, and US Senate bill on it – there is work being done. Odile ME, every 3rd Thursdays, and eNews every month, and eNews on Yemen, this month on Palestine and Israel, Ellen Rosser, Genie Silver, four new members, writing articles. Looking at how to get branches and at-large members involved in writing letters to the editors and Op-Ed pieces because the existing info is so poor and we have good info on it. We will be asking people on specific topics each month – single topic each month and will have facts on those issues.

Action Alert on the Sanders Bill was discussed.

- **•Mini-Grant Committee**

The program chairs are embracing the mini-grant committee’s being part of the program committee and looking forward to working with this committee.



▪ **UN Programs (student Practicum in Advocacy, Local to Global, at CSW)**

The programs are scheduled to start next weekend; there will be two WILPF-involved panels with one involving presentations by the president of WILPF and others, and the other one presentations by the two practicum directors and two practicum student alums. There will be other WILPF members in attendance, including program chair Barbara Nielsen at the CSW.

We had a full meeting and ran out of time to discuss these points but agreed that they are necessary for our success and will address them before and at our next meeting.

We discussed changing our meeting date FROM Sundays – possible meeting days of the month might be First Tuesdays of the month, or Second or Fourth Mondays. Still under review but likely Fourth Mondays.

Second – two-parts – Improving & Expanding Our Effectiveness:

Knowing & Improving Capacity: What can we do, what do we have the capacity to do, and what would be the most effective to do in the next couple of months, follow-up on discussion from February meeting  
Improving Communications and Interconnectivity between 1) Our issues; 2) Branches/Groups/At-Large Members and Issues Committees work; 3) Members Geographically Close (often in branches) but not working together

Third - Keeping in Mind the Goals and Strategies of Our Program Strategic Plan