

WILPF US SECTION BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 7/17/18 Held via teleconference and was recorded.

PARTICIPANTS:

- President: Mary Hanson Harrison .
- Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski .
- Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Jan Corderman
- Chair of the Development Committee: Marybeth Gardam, came on later
- Chair of the Nominating Committee: Laura Dewey .
- Chair of the Membership Development Committee: Shilpa Pandey
- Chair of Program Committee: Barbara Nielsen, came on a little late
- At-large Board Member: Dixie Hairston

Board members not present:

- US Section Member of the International Board, Melissa Torres
- Co-Chair of Program: Teresa Castillo, stepping down

Robin Lloyd came in as a guest at 10:10 PM ET

Facilitator: Laura Dewey **Dashboard facilitator:** Mary Hanson-Harrison
Started 8:40PM, Ended 11:40PM EDTs Call was recorded.

Decisions are underlined and in bold print.

1. CHECK IN:

Shilpa: Heat wave ended in Calif, Dixie: Doing data collection, Jan: Doing well in IA
Mary: having a cool day. She just ended her fourth day of her new job, Eileen is still enjoying harmonica. She is worried about the stock market after attending a trading workshop; it is expected that the market will go down significantly by the end of the year or early 2019. Laura: wrote a letter to her newspaper re Putin and crooks.

2. SECRETARY: Eileen

Reported the email approval of the May minutes.
She shared the answers five members gave for this meeting's Diversity/Inclusive question: What 3 things do I bring to a relationship? She asked if everyone had a chance to take the pre-test to find no one has taken it yet, but they said they were glad of the reminder.

3. TREASURER/CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE: Jan

Jan referred to her spread sheet which was updated to include actuals through June. No-one received the report early because it was too large to go through.

INCOME Bequests: Our Organization was fortunate to be remembered in the will of two friends; their bequests totaled almost \$68,000.

We have transferred 1/3 of our 2017 Bequest Income (\$16,062) into our checking account in accordance with our Bequest policy.

EXPENSES Fundraising expenses are below the half year mark but there's still work to be done to meet our goal; Marybeth is a great steward of our resources.

SUMMARY of the FIRST HALF of 2018

Thanks to \$68,000 in bequests and Practicum/Local2Global program coming in \$5,000 net under budget, if our other projections are accurate, we'll end the year with a \$30,000 deficit. Any dent we can make in that deficit with new income or other savings will be welcome.

The Board Training in DesMoines, Oct 4-6 was discussed.

-Mary: We are spending a lot of money. We don't want this training/retreat to be just a listening experience. We want to be able to learn about each other to communicate better, reflect and to brainstorm some issues. Also we want some social time.

-Barbara may not be at the whole training because of work.

-Mary is asking Eileen for help with finance issues going forward. Eileen is willing to help others understand what she learned in the workshop and wants to help with the finance committee.

-Barbara suggested Jackie Gabaso get involved when we talk with the DesMoines mayor. Jackie is a lifetime WILPF member and liaison for Mayors for Peace. Jan met Jackie and will talk with her.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mary

The most challenging tasks for these last months have been responding (in many ways) to the proposed reorganization plan - Constitution & By-Laws - offered by WILPF International. We submitted a reiteration of the previous dissent.

Other activities included:

- PLANNING A WWINGS trip to the San Diego branch with program presentation
- PANEL APPROVED FOR GHANA CONGRESS
- WORKING WITH THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN: attended the rally in DC with other WILPFers
- MET WITH D.C. Metro and VIRGINIA LEADERS while in D.C. for the rally
- WROTE A SUMMARY OF WILPF US ACTIVITIES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS, past and future, for the Ghana Congress Section Reports.
- RESENT RESPONSE to WILPF INTL: REORGANIZATION and BY-LAWS (deadline met) and continued corresponding with Section Presidents about the issue.
- PLANNING the WILPF US Face-to-Face Board Meeting and Training sessions in Des Moines, Oct 4-6
- WRITING PRESIDENT'S CORNER and helping to edit Peace & Freedom
- ONE WILPF CALLS, Various committee responses, thank you notes, etc
- INTERNATIONAL - ALTERNATIVE DELEGATE for CONGRESS update

Robin Lloyd just got on the call....but left because we were about to have an executive session about adding alternate delegates to Congress. During the early part of the executive session Shilpa was asked to leave the call. She and Robin Lloyd were invited back after the session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION DECISION: Proposal to accept Shilpa Pandey and Eliza Garba as Alternate Delegates for Congress ——— Both were accepted.

Shilpa was told of the decision when she returned to the call and Mary was to inform Eliza the next day.

5. CHAIR OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Marybeth

- CASE STATEMENT -Mary Dooley and Marybeth have nearly completed this. It will be used with letters to major donors and adapted for Foundation Grant proposals.

- EARLY BUDGET PREPARATION - Marybeth asked the Board and will ask the Finance Committee to proactively aim for a 2019 budget, even a draft that isn't approved, that is ready to be submitted and approved early in January, because delay affects the Development Committee's ability to approach funders. Marybeth also asked we seek fiscal oversight from a large non-profit, with a seasoned CFO, which might provide support for our volunteer Treasurer and help with a 3rd party objective preparation and analysis of our budgets.

- SPRING APPEAL Because of the low response to the appeal the Development Committee is thinking of calling people and asking for help to do this. Issues around Congress are consuming much time for the board. Mary D is advising that we consider a 3rd appeal this year using a personalized letter...and asking for donations more often, a proven successful strategy. Mary D. also feels that we need to be telling more COMPELLING STORIES of the impact our work has in communities across the US, in order to better inspire donors. She asked us for stories and requests will be going out to all members by email for such stories.

- DONOR LEAD PROSPECTING

a. Marybeth gave 4 solid leads in SanDiego to MaryHH, who will soon be in San Diego

b. Marguerite Adelman and Marybeth identified about 80 potential Donor Leads in Essex County NJ

c. They need 3-5 hours per week help from other members to do this time consuming research. Laura has offered to help.

- MOVING PEOPLE UP A LEVEL OF GIVING Mary D, Chris W and Marybeth are developing strategies for asking each recurring paying member to increase their LEVEL of giving over the next year.

Chris Wilbeck has supplied a list of recurring payments which have stopped being charged, and we are alerting those folks.

- WWINGS PROJECT REPORT

a. Marybeth prepared a Training Packet for all the Field Organizers and did trainings.

b. They had successful visits to New Jersey and DC, and announced the start up of a new branch in Northern Virginia.

c. Marybeth will be visiting St. Louis branch, Shilpa will go to the Los Angeles branch and Mary HH made the first presentation to the DesMoines, IA branch. The DesMoines branch has committed to participate in the WWINGS project going forward.

d. Jan Corderman was the Field Organizer for Chicago, Rockford IL and Columbus OH. She did not feel comfortable doing sustained outreach where our branches are either

very new or still very fragile. Marybeth's report indicated: NOT doing this kind of outreach is not an option.

- FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT - MARY DOOLEY

Mary D is a little less than half way through her committed hours for WILPF proved to be very helpful to our Development efforts. Her work has been timely, responsive and valuable. The impact of her consulting will be felt for years to come. Marybeth submitted to the board Mary D's quarterly Development Consultant report listing Mary d's Major accomplishments to date: 7/16/18

- COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT – MICHAEL IPPOLITO

Since Michael began working on our Social Media (for DISARM) last Fall, the amount of activity on social media grew substantially, but was mostly DISARM flavored news items. **Since June 1st, 2018 we've seen an increase in both number and frequency of posts (Total posts are up 190%),** and the issues addressed are a much broader cross section of WILPF's prime issues. He put much energy and time into posting the prepared posts provided by the Poor People's Campaign during their 40 Days of Action. Michael continues to do **social media training and research.** He is contacting branches to find those with Facebook pages, websites and contact information for those page administrators. He will be adding Twitter which will increase numbers even more. It's all part of our effort to promote our social media and web identity and visibility. Michael is also working with Glenn on some **improvements to the ONE WILPF Call webpage** and doing audio editing. Michael is also providing utube presentations of our speakers and **making inquiries** about and doing research on more user-friendly options for new website design. Our July 12th ONE WILPF Call was a good example of the **outreach connections he is making with other movement collaborators.**

-At the end of her report, Marybeth asked for feedback about having our budget prepared by January. Jan answered it was possible, despite late donations.

-Marybeth also asked that we have good fiscal oversight from a third party for our finances. She suggested looking for someone good from a non-profit organization to consider at a future meeting. Mary HH said finding someone will be up to the Finance Committee and Marybeth asked there be a meeting of the committee fairly soon. Eileen suggested possibly finding someone financially good from within WILPF to do a double check. Barbara brought up the use of Quick books and Excel, both of which Jan explained Chris was very good at. Jan acknowledged that Chris will be looking at all her future WILPF finances reports in the future. Marybeth explained that her request is more than a double check it's an attempt to get an analysis of how we think and projections for the future. She added that some non profit company accountants will do this pro bono.

Barbara said that when she was WILPF treasurer she found the auditors did what Marybeth wants very well without charging too much, and like Mary HH, suggested this be brought up at a finance committee meeting.

Jan added that the CPA working with her on the 990s might be helpful and added that our WILPF finance report is being led differently now; it is presented with issues in mind so this needs to be evaluated differently.

Barbara and Eileen expressed interest in being on the finance committee call.

6. CHAIR OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Laura

Brief report sent.

CONFERENCE CALL ON LEADERSHIP, May 31, 2018

In an ongoing effort to recruit candidates for the Board elections, the N.C. held a Maestro conference call in an attempt to get members to think about becoming leaders or increasing their leadership roles, whether in the branch, issue and standing committees, or on the board. However the purpose of the call was not clear to all the presenters, and we probably had too many presenters, which took time away from the members to talk about their leadership experiences. Mikayla Varunok chaired the call and feedback was favorable.

2018 ELECTIONS

The deadline for applications to run for the Board is July 29. Board members are urged to suggest candidates or nominate them (A nominating form is on the website in the "Leadership webpage.) Seven positions are open: (Co)President, Personnel Chair, two At-Large positions, Development Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, and Co Program Committee Chair. The openings were announced at two OneWILPF calls. Laura suggested extending the application deadline to August 19 only for those positions for which no one has applied.

Three people expressed interest in running for board positions but didn't submit applications.

Barbara suggested making the deadline in Sept considering the Congress. Laura responded we pushed it up because people were not responding last September, but the committee was not thinking about the Congress, so she will bring it up with the committee soon.

Jan asked that the deadline for board members to nominate someone be extended. She also asked if they look at how necessary it was to wait 30 days to get ballots back. Laura pointed out that she has asked the Board a few times for nominations and no-one has. If a board member has someone in mind she asked them to talk with her and she, Laura, will call that person.

Marybeth comment, "It seems common for WILPFers to think about taking on leadership jobs at the last minute. We need to raise awareness keep it early, helping people to think long term.

VOTING VS CONSENSUS As a pilot we tried Voting for months.

Barb: Consensus works well when there is time to discuss and minds remain open.

Marybeth: Agrees voting is working well in the board and she would like to see it continued. Consensus was a good idea; we may want to use it in issues meetings where our discussions are deeper and more discerning. Training is necessary to use consensus well.

Barb suggested to encourage consensus but not make it mandatory. Branches and issues have been voting.

Mary added that consensus is problematic. It could be strategic because all you need is one person to oppose and it blocks a decision.

Laura: would like to change the by-laws for board decisions but to let other committees use a vote or consensus as they wish. Training in consensus is difficult to implement. Barbara said many years ago the WILPF Board had yearly consensus training, but when one person does not understand the process it throws it off. In the past decade people have been coming to decisions with pre-set opinions. She suggested letting units decide. Eileen said that after last month's Steering Committee discussion on consensus she was convinced it was not working. She likes the ideal of it but now prefers we vote.

Voted Decisions:

1. The Board is to use the voting process and ask for the Bylaws Committee to put this on the November ballot

Laura Marybeth, Eileen, Barb, Jan, Dixie, Shilpa, Mary voted yes Unanimously passed.

2. We change the By-Laws to reflect that Standing & Issue committees can make decisions by voting or coming to consensus. The exception would be when hiring people or appointing people to positions There were no Board objections.

7. CHAIR OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Barbara

TERESA STEPPED DOWN As co-program chair, she found a new all consuming job she loves in costuming for a theater group leaving little time for P.C. She will continue in her Fresno branch. The Board thanked her for all her good work with Program.

THE P.C. HAS SWITCHED THEIR COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO MAESTRO CALLS They had a short call this month on the Poor People's Campaign, Solidarity, Hiroshima. San Francisco's Hiroshima activity got so popular that their branch and others groups could not attend this year. The P.C. are encouraging branches to come on the calls to break down the 'silos' some branches are in.

REPORT FOR CONGRESS Responded to the request for help in writing our report for Congress and Mary completed and submitted it

LOOKING FOR HELP ON RAPID RESPONSE TEAM for writing to newspaper, etc

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS ARE BEING DISCUSSED -hoping to have a small working group on this.

MICHAEL IS HELPING THE P.C. TO DO MORE OUTREACH WITH ISSUES, OUTSIDE OF DISARM, ADDING TWITTER - The P.C. had one call and will have another in August.

MANY P.C. MEMBERS WILL BE ACTIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS - Barbara Taft from the Middle East Committee will be there.

Mary said we have 6 more months and need to appoint an interim program chair with the hope the person may want to continue. It is a two person job. Barbara will ask the

committee to see if anyone with some experience is interested. People are busy and the Toronto and Dublin conference are coming up.

CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE -Shilpa

She had a meeting with a group in Orange County. Six or seven women showed and Shilpa found what issues they are having and how we in WILPF can help them.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 1523 (Approximately 125 had 'bad addresses')

MEMBER RENEWALS, NEW & GIFT MEMBERS

-Renewals are up by 306, most likely due to renewal reminders

approx 41% of renewals received, to date, were from the renewal reminder letters

approx 33% of renewals received, to date, were mailed in by the branches who collect US dues from their members

the cost of the mailings totaled \$2954 which was covered by the \$3615 additional donations received

-Year-to-date new member count is down by 43 (65 vs 108) compared to last year.

The next group the M.D. committee is targeting is those who have not contributed since 2012.

Shilpa has more outreach meetings lined up in Los Angeles area, Orange County.

Laura thought it would be interesting to know how many renewals are from those under 35yrs. Perhaps with a check off box. Shilpa thought we could put this question in our renewal letter. Barb suggested saying, "We would like to know how many people in WILPF are under or over 35 yrs."

Barb asked Shilpa and the Membership Committee to consider a few things, "What are we doing re those who don't have money to become members but do work for WILPF?" She suggests the branches provide gift memberships and that allows the active person to vote. She thought it would be helpful to find out what branches do with those who can't afford to pay dues. She also added that discussion is needed re some individuals paying international but not national dues (International allows this and individuals are considered members of WILPF.) and some sections are not being required to pay dues.

AT LARGE -Dixie

PRACTICUM AND LOCAL TO GLOBAL She and Melissa usually begin their work on the Practicum and Local to Global in August but this year they are having a earlier weekend retreat to begin the process. The budget will be similar to last year. Two Practicum students asked that Melissa and she re-open the survey contest because they did not have an opportunity to participate. Melissa has all the responses and will compile them and send out the report.

There were no comments or questions for Dixie.

MORE

Mary will call Eliza but feels it is disingenuous unless we get her some money. If Eliza is able to go we need to find some money for her. Mary and Laura said they would ask their branches.

Barbara announced that Elsa Mandosa, the new chair of the Houston branch, has joined the Immigration and Border Issue committee. Houston has been the home of this WILPF committee. With pleasure we welcomed her to this issue committee.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: September 18, 2018 8:30PM EDT