

## WILPF US Section Board Meeting

1.

Sept 18, 2018 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

**Facilitator:** Laura Dewey **Dashboard facilitator:** Mary Hanson-Harrison

Started 8:45 PM, Ended 11:42 PM EDTs

**Decisions are underlined and in bold print.**

### 1. CHECK IN

**2. SECRETARY: Eileen** was unable to get the 6/26 Steering Committee notes or the 7/17 Board notes accepted because everyone had not yet reviewed them. She read the responses of 5 members to the Diversity/Inclusion question: In my interactions with others, what might be harmful about my responses?

### **3. TREASURER: Jan** **INCOME**

Brandt bequest Income of \$67,906 helps offset planned deficit of \$50,000 and additional unplanned deficit (Treasurer's error) of \$50,000. JAPA notified national that an additional \$500+ will come in this month. Year To Date - we've exceeded our income projections by almost \$30,000 with 1/3 of the year remaining

### **EXPENSES**

General Expenses are well below projections (by \$21,000) but we expect to come in very close to the budgeted amount by the end of the year. Final numbers – It's pretty hard to overcome a \$100,000 deficit, but anything could happen.

### **ASSETS**

-The Pax account is growing, but our 1/2 of 2017 earnings (\$12,593.51) will be transferred per our decision in January.

Savings #1 = \$28,847 of Branch funds from JAPA. This is only about \$1,000 of our money.

-Bequest Savings account is healthy at \$99,612. Funds are tied up by policy; the finance committee may bring a policy change to the Board.

-After many calls to Kaiser regarding a payment due to us they paid us twice. We plan to return the overpayment to Kaiser at the end of year so they won't come after us.

#### **4. PRESIDENT: Mary**

2.

**WWINGS trip** She found San Diego had a high energy group.

##### **GHANA**

Mary explained we didn't all agree re governance at the Ghana Congress but we were congenial.

The WILPF Ghana Congress took a lot of time to prepare but we truly enjoyed Accra. Mary invited others to talk about the Congress.

*Workshop; Sisters! Keep the Seeds in Your Hands: From West Africa to the US Heartland!*

We were all in a circle and able to share our stories. Shipa liked we could link the grassroots in Africa with what goes on in India. It was successful. Jan thought the 6 speakers and the attendees spoke very well. Their stories described hard working lives with economic injustice, some violence and cleverness to hide good seeds, rejecting Monsanto GMOs. Eileen was pleased to hear that the University of Ghana was accepting more females. Public education became free for both males and females through high school last year thereby preparing women to apply to college.

*Our Dissent-* Mary thought we had a strong democratic delegation and we carried our banner well. We had 16 votes against the organization plan. Approximate 100 voted for the change.

-Jan added the US had 19 people who went to Congress. We can see pictures on the WILPF Facebook page. It includes a picture of Melissa who gained a position. Disappointedly, instead of 31 we now only have 6 representatives for all our Sections. Good news: All 19 who went to Ghana have decided to make lengthy reports about the Congress. These will be featured in Peace and Freedom magazine.

*There was a good Feminism workshop prior to the former Congress.  
The Section Presidents went to the special tea.*

#### **5. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Marybeth**

**FALL INTERN** Melisa Wayland, from Florida Southern College, will be doing donor search research for course credit and no pay.

**APPEALS** - Mary Dooley our Development Consultant has been helping us better analyze our donor data, working with lists and reports that Chris pulls for us. Mary has 45 hours left on her contract.

**-SPRING APPEAL** was disappointing compared to last year. Personal calls were made.

**-FALL APPEAL** Mary Dooley suggests 3 then 4 appeals / yr. We will try to make the appeal look different from advertisements. The September 1st appeal looked like a personal letter and included one of two member stories. For future appeals to 1800 we may have to hire a mailing service.

3.

**-END OF YEAR APPEAL** will again be a more personalized letter format, enclosed with a smaller than usual glossy 'report' that summarizes our work this year. We're again hoping to TELL STORIES that make a strong case for donor support. Several members said they were willing to share inspirational stories of WILPF work and the relationships they've built in WILPF that have changed them or their communities.

**PDF TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER** -Jan Corderman has been arranging for the next phase (3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 3 year program) in leadership training for the Board and Development Committee of WILPF US, which is being held in early October in Des Moines.

### **BOARD SUPPORT**

Remember: All Board Members pledged to donate or raise \$500 each year of our terms.

### **MAJOR DONORS**

We've mailed CASE STATEMENTS to a list of major donors, asking them to give us feedback and to meet with one of us; we want to ask them to increase their donations.

### **FOUNDATIONS**

Mary Dooley suggested a few foundations. We sent our 'case statement' to the **Fonda Family Foundation**. We will be making an online application for funding our 2018 distribution for Mini Grants to the **Clif Bar Family Foundation** by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nancy Price recently suggested we apply to the **Patagonia Foundation** for environmental work.

**WWINGS PROJECT REPORT** – a collaboration with Membership Development and other committees. Work begun in the Spring and continued this summer is bearing fruit, but the timetables are slower than we'd hoped. The donor research we are doing in the WWINGS branch locations is helping us add TARGET LEADS that could result in broader support over time.

### **ONE WILPF CALLS -**

The last 2 calls (in August and September) focused on two new projects/collaborations that the Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee is presenting as good potential ways for our WWINGS branches and all our branches to create more outreach into their communities.

1. We promoted the idea of community DISCUSSION GROUPS to read together and discuss the book **SCREWNOMICS: HOW THE ECONOMY WORKS AGAINST WOMEN & REAL WAYS TO MAKE LASTING CHANGE** by Rickey Gard Diamond.
2. We featured Riki Ott from an organization called **ULTIMATE CIVICS** which is launching a school curriculum for middle and high school students, which can also be used with adults, called **ACTIVATING MY DEMOCRACY**. This curriculum comes at a time when many school systems are calling for more civics and social studies curriculum options for students.

## **COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR**

Despite a slow recovery from hip surgery Michael Ippolito has been busy with facebook, editing our audio recordings, contacting branches, revising web pages, facilitating Maestro calls and investigating possible new website formats and other things. He has not put as many work hours in as expected (we pay him by the hour) and is giving us a discount on a website design he and his associate are creating with our critique.

Marybeth sent a link to an early web design; she plans to hold a SPECIAL BOARD SESSION for a more thoughtful discussion about the new website plan.

**BROCHURE ON BEQUESTS PLANNED GIVING** Mary Dooley and Jan Corderman and our Committee Members are working on this brochure.

## **6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Laura**

**INTERNATIONAL** sent out a list of things they want from the America's regional delegate and alternate. Beatrix, from Costa Rico, and Janet Stegler from the U.S. are being considered for the Regional delegate and alternate positions, respectively, and both need to complete provided forms. The section presidents will vote after the preliminary requirements are completed.

**NATIONALLY** - We still have six empty Board positions and only one candidate, Valerie Young, who is the only one who has completed the application forms; she applied for an at large position.

We must abide by Pennsylvania law which requires WILPF US to have a president, treasurer and secretary. Two members have been considering running as co-presidents and one just announced her interest.

The board brain-stormed at length as to how to attract more candidates. Some expectations of a candidate were brought up. A discussion about having one year terms for key positions leaned to being unacceptable because of the needed time to learn the job. Appointing a member to fill in when someone leaves a position is now a plan strongly considered for the future. The board has to work too hard, which discourages some people from running. It was decided the deadline for applications has to be extended and each board member will contact their branches and others when another urgent e-news goes out requesting candidates to run for the board.

**Decision: 9/30 will be the nomination deadline; Oct 20 will be the applications deadline for all the positions except the one yr at large position. All agreed**

We were tired and it was too late for further reports so at the next Board meeting we will start with reports from Shilpa, Dixie and Barbara.

## **7. NEXT BOARD MEETING** October 6, 2018 face-to-face in Des Moines.