

WILPF US Board Meeting

January 15, 2019 The meeting was held via teleconference and was recorded.

Participants:

- Past President: Mary Hanson Harrison
- New President: Darien DeLu
- Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski .
- Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Jan Corderman
- Chair of the Membership Development Committee: Shilpa Pandey
- Exiting Chair of the Nominating Committee: Laura Dewey
- Chair of Program Committee: Barbara Nielsen - announced her resignation on this call
- Exiting At-large Board Member & Co-coordinator of Practicum: Dixie Hairston
- New At-large Board Member & Chair of Earth Democracy Program: Nancy Price

Guests: Alternate Regional Delegate, filling in as temporary Liaison: Janet Slagter, Joan Goddard and Robin Lloyd attended for short times .

Absent:

- Exiting Chair of the Development Committee: Marybeth Gardam (was helping her daughter and new grandson in the hospital.)

Facilitator: Eileen Kurkoski

Dashboard facilitator: Ellen Schwartz

Call Started 8:35 PM Ended 11PM EST,

Decisions are underlined and in bold print.

Agenda:

1. New members of the board were welcomed. Rules of the 'stack' were reviewed.

2. Secretary Report- 11-20-18 Board minutes were approved when amended.
Barbara-chose to stand aside.

3. Outgoing President's Report Mary referred to her report which is below these minutes. Our governance position at the International Congress was reported well in MyWILPF (International website report) and she suggested we view the website regularly. Dawn Nelson's work at the U.N. is noted. Mary offered clarifying information on a controversy at the Monterey, CA branch which was criticized for bringing in an anti-Semitic speaker. Mary also covered Peace Development Fund's invitation to WILPF US to participate in the Women Peacemakers Initiative in San Francisco this March.

4. Practicum Update Dixie Our delegation consists of only 8 Practicum students (20 applicants) this year; about half are national and the others international. There will

be two Local2Global participants (2 applicants). The budget reflects this real number of participants.

5. Nominating Committee Update Laura

There are many open Board positions and the committee had 2 applicants but they did not qualify because of lapses in paying dues. Laura submitted a timeframe/deadline for our next years election in line with this year time. A question remained for the board. What are we to do with the open chair positions? Barbara suggested having working groups without chairs on the board until the next election.

6. Treasurer's Report We finished 2018 with a small surplus of \$12,598. despite a large budget in the red most of which got covered with bequests. More money was brought in by reminding members to renew their membership. Jan pointed out this year's budget is \$90,155. in the red. That deficit takes into account the bold projections of the Development Committee for 2019 income. Their work in writing and submitting proposals to foundations and others brings the hope of securing grants from new sources. She added we won't see as much in savings through lower expenses as we saw in 2018. We know we can adjust the items if necessary. Because of a large deficit this year Jan had concerns which were discussed in the December Steering Committee:

- a) it isn't possible to save \$7,000 towards the next International Congress in 2021; we are setting aside \$3000 for our upcoming U.S. Congress in 2020.
- b) keeping Michael Ippolito's communication work to 15 hrs/wk, rather than increasing it to 40hr/wk in the summer. Let him know now so he can make plans. She was not sure what he would be doing in the 40 hrs. Further discussion included Nancy's wish to see Michael's and Glenn's contracts.

Decision: Vote on budget as submitted. Jan & Shilpa abstained. Passed with 4 yes votes. The 2018 Board members voted because Darien thought it made more sense for them to do so since they were more involved with the budget.

7. Development Committee Update Mary presented for Marybeth. The committee did well. From the treasurer's report, the Development Committee brought in a net income of \$57,986 for individual contributions, which was well above their projected net income of \$43,230, and it came in \$12,000 under in expenses. Mary showed confidence in the 3 year WWINGS initiative to grow our section. As an ex-officio Mary will work on gathering new members and fund raising.

8. Membership Development update Shilpa

A 45 minute first newcomer's webinar-orientation will be coming soon, probably April. They plan to have long-time members speak at these intro sessions. She is working on establishing newer branches including Orange county, CA, where she is now living.

9. Program Committee report Barbara Many issue committees are setting priorities now. Disarm has a working group which Nancy Price & Pat Schroder are part of. Middle East members are looking to build capacity by including more M.E. issues while continuing to work on Israel/Palestine and getting Hamas to the peace table. Corp vs

Democracy has been quiet, but plans to meet soon. Advancing Human Rights group members have been working on local issues and not interested in national. The small racial justice working group is continuing; they are going through the book, 'White Rage' and are talking of discussing 'White Fragility' next.

Barbara announced she is stepping back from the board to focus on her health, income and capacity building in her local branch as well as coalition building. She expressed confidence in the board going forward and pleasure in serving.

10. Earth Democracy update/report Nancy will send a report. Highlights include:

- 1) working on 2 infographic cards – one to be in Spanish and a new one on military contamination
- 2) writing a mini-grant for Pat Elder's educational tour on military contamination
- 3) working with Dawn Nelson (UN work) on sustainability – sanitation & water.
(Nancy noted corporations are entering the UN in an effort to privatize its work.)
Dawn is also on WILPF International's Environmental committee.
- 4) helping on the coordinating committee in DC for the March events.
- 5) trying to create a panel with Joe Gerson for ICAN at the NATO anniversary in DC.
- 6) writing a fact sheet on NAFTA with Marybeth 7) writing Letters of Inquiry to 3 foundations for the grants committee.

11. International message Janet All regions now have delegates. Monthly international call meetings have been difficult to participate in because of times (Janet) and phone issues (Beatriz Shultess – Americas Representative, International Board). The minutes from the meetings are fortunately good and times will begin to vary, to accommodate different time zones.

-International wants by February 14 1) the names of section-delegate liaisons (few sections have one) 2) Self Assessment of how our section is doing with inclusion/ diversity & governance 3) how we are implementing International programs from 2018 to 2021 (see MyWILPF website). 4) what sections are working on

-For the next call on 2/28, Janet wants to report back on how/what the U.S. is doing and what we want from International. She wants to suggest International stay out of branch details, because they got involved in Monterey, CA. (See Mary's report below.) No-one from International contacted the U.S. board regarding the controversy.

-An in-person, International Board members only, meeting is being planned in Zurich, Switzerland on May 11 to celebrate the 1919 centennial of WILPF's 2nd Congress; it will be followed by a board meeting the next day. An alternate place is Geneva where prices are cheaper.

-Since we don't have a liaison person, Janet volunteered to be a temporary liaison. She will need contact information for each branch and she will draft what she will need from each to report.

-Nine African countries are working on "Stop the Killer Drones".

-U.S. members and other peace groups are attending conferences in Europe re NATO bases abroad.

-New Middle East region is starting to conduct studies in Libya, Serbia & Yemen. They are getting support from the Canadian, Swiss and Dutch governments.

12. Discussion & Future Expectations Darien

Appreciation for those leaving the board.

a. PDF: Women Peacemakers Initiative, a one day event, 3/22, in San Francisco. Darien will send out a list of compiled criteria for the delegates and post the invitation to the branches. *Issues:* Women Cross DMZ, Women for Genuine Security and WILPF are all working on similar issues, including peace, justice, environmental protections & human rights *Goals of the Conference:* 1) find out more specific information about each other: how and what each is doing; 2) explore areas of possible collaboration, ex., find out where their members are located and work legislatively with them; 3) reflect on women's role in a patriarchal society; 4) connect the dots between agriculture/water and war/peace. Eileen will research the two organizations the WILPF delegates will be meeting with and will send the board her findings.

b. Addressing the International questionnaire, having our own **U.S. self evaluation** and working out the details for **WILPF US Congress 2020** will be covered in e-mails and on the Steering Committee meeting call, 2/12.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 19, 8:30 PM EST

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: February 12, 2019 8:30 PM EST

(Outgoing) PRESIDENT'S REPORT - WILPF US SECTION • JANUARY 15, 2019

Always keep the faith in yourselves and in (y)our vision and mission.

Passing on the torch with a short December report, and thank you all for your dedication, down-right hard work and, most importantly, your keen sense of what's right that helped us survive and thrive.

December was a month of work and celebration. In this report, I'm not reporting on my activities as such, rather items that should be brought to your attention.

• **Follow up for GHANA CONGRESS** Below are two important reports you can access on *mywilpf.org*. Please make it a priority to visit this site as frequently as possible. We should get into the habit, me included, of writing our opinions and observations on articles, etc. on the site. Also note that the explanation of our dissent is very well written, and I have thanked the editor(s).

GHANA CONGRESS REPORT: https://www.mywilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/WILPF_Congress-Report_Web-single.pdf

DAWN NELSON'S REPORT: <https://www.mywilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/An->

Environmental-Lens-for-WILPF-Vision-for- 2018-2021.pdf

REGIONAL ACTIVITY: There's been considerable discussion on the recent event held by our Monterey Branch. It was a lecture by Gilad Atzmon, a former Israeli, writer and well-known jazz musician. Members of the branch knew of him and had heard and/or read his books. However, in a communication with Joyce Vandevere, organizer of the event, Dr. Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco, where he serves as coordinator of the program in Middle Eastern Studies. Joyce then wrote back to Dr. Zunes and invited him to come and speak if he wished.

Subsequently, the event and question of anti-Semitism was brought to WILPF INTERNATIONAL. I hope to know more about their response by our board meeting on Tuesday.

[As a reminder, here is my response to Joyce's email to Zunes: Dear Joyce, thank you for your reasoned response to Mr. Zunes and his opposition to Gilad Atzmon's writings. I have reviewed the article cited by Zunes and find it disturbingly lacking in specifics. Above and beyond that, WILPF is an organization dedicated to bringing varying opinions to the table, particularly women's voices. In this "us and them" governing mentality that is

dominant in today's political and public discourses, we must stand up for bringing different points of view to the public consciousness and respecting differences of opinion. Your invitation for Zunes to come and speak is exemplary of "differences coming to the table," a cornerstone in the foundation of democracy.

I wish I could be there to support your event and hope to see (perhaps participate in) subsequent dialogues in our WILPF US community and your Monterey branch. It is so important that we, as women and peace activists, offer safe places for expressing differing opinions with respect and open-minded debate.

From Joyce Vandevere after the event:

On Sat, Jan 5, 2019 at 10:30 PM **Joyce** Vandevere
<jvandevere@comcast.net> wrote:

Monterey County WILPF2s program with Gilad Atzmon went very well - about forty people came. (in spite of it being the middle of the day on a Friday) He comes across as a man who is thinking about

what is happening in the world around him and trying to make sense of it - a truth seeker. Peggy Olsen (recent co-chair of our branch) writes of the event:

"I was bowled over by Gilad. Charming, amusing, an excellent speaker. and smart. Nothing to disagree with or cause such outrage. ...Maybe Gilad has changed, but again there was nothing to support his being 'a lightning rod for anger.' Totally puzzled by Zunes..."

We had a good discussion after his talk with many questions and comments. Following his lead, the prevailing mode was that of pursuing truth.

He spoke about how some folks are trying to silence him, and I was made well aware of that by two emails to me from Dr. Stephen Zunes, professor at University of San Francisco trying to persuade me to cancel the talk (followed by his communication with WILPF UNO). Then there was a long phone call from someone who may be from the local synagogue - I am too deaf to know for sure - but not too deaf to get the gist of his remarks that we must not allow Atzmon to speak. I tried to be polite to both of them and expressed appreciation for their letting me know their views, even though I would not cancel the event. With Zunes, I also suggested that he might like to come be a speaker for WILPF himself sometime. He is the author of *Tinderbox* and often speaks on the Middle East, North Korea and other political science subjects

The day after the event a phone message was left at the Monterey Peace and Justice Center by someone who did not leave his name: "Are you the Monterey County Branch of the KKK? If not, why are you hosting an event with a famed anti-Semite?2

None of those opposed to his speaking came to the event so far as I know. There was no disruption. Mediterranean fare was served before the talk and there was a convivial pleasant

atmosphere throughout.

Gilad sold his books at the event and gave copies of *The Wandering Who?* and *Being in Time* to the Monterey Peace and Justice Center's library. I had read *The Wandering Who?* before we invited him and was very engaged by it. I am now reading *Being in Time*. I am learning from him and being challenged to think. I recommend reading his books rather than listening to those who would silence him, those who brand him as an anti-semitic for which there seems to be no evidence. Also as

a Holocaust denier which he is not. But he does ask questions. Questions that make some people uncomfortable.

• **PDF: Women's Peace Initiative (see below):** on the agenda

PDF Women Peacemakers Initiative

In 1981, Peace Development Fund first brought donors together as peace and anti-nuclear funders. Now, more than 35 years later, we continued to be faced with wars and nuclear build-up. On the foreign policy front, our government has become more bellicose and more isolationist. Now is the time to bring donors and activists together to bring about the peaceful, anti-nuclear worlds we have long sought, one that treasures human rights.

As we began to discuss this concept with our communities, we realize that, with our fiscally sponsored groups, we have the potential for facilitating movement-building as well as capacity building at the organizational level. These cross-sectional conversations are especially well-suited to work with groups that share similar missions and visions.

This year, Peace Development Fund is excited to announce the Women Peacemakers Initiative and to invite three or more of our fiscally sponsored groups, to participate. The Initiative will be anchored by Women for Genuine Security, Women Cross DMZ and the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom-U.S. We invite you to join

together in a one-day conference to discuss your work, your needs and explore possibilities for collaboration. The Women Peacemakers Initiative, like other future planned initiatives, is aiming to bring together groups that are affiliated with PDF through grants or The Sustainability Project, that are run by women, and that focus on peace and anti- militarism. We envision you will come together to make connections, network, learn, and receive support from one another. We believe that by facilitating this convening, your organizations will have a greater opportunity to grow and thrive.

The Women Peacemakers Initiative is proposed for the dates of 3/22/18, 3/29/18, or 4/5/18 (all Fridays) in the San Francisco Bay area. PDF will provide a stipend of \$2,500 to support the travel and accommodations of up to five people from each organization. Below, you will find a draft outline for the Women Peacemakers Initiative meeting.

Introduction

History of Organizations Mission of Organizations Current Campaigns Lessons Learned Strengths and Weaknesses

Draft Agenda

Support Needed

Introductions to other related groups. Is there a feminist foreign policy? Reception and wrap-up