

WILPF US Board Meeting 3/19/19

March 19, 2019 The meeting was held via teleconference and was recorded.
Start time: 8:32PM EST End time: 11:11PM

Participants:

-President: Darien DeLu
-Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski .
-Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Jan Corderman
-Chair of the Membership Development Committee: Shilpa Pandey
-At-large Board Member & Chair of Earth Democracy Program: Nancy Price
-President pro tem: Mary Hanson Harrison
-Alternate Regional Delegate, filling in as temporary Liaison: Janet Slagter
Guests: Ellen Schwartz, Regina Sneed, Cindy Domingo, Joan Goddards

Agenda:

1. Secretary Report: Eileen agreed to make two amendments to the January minutes, after which the minutes were approved with Jan Corderman's motion.

2. Delegation to Venezuela: Darien explained the twelve of them in the delegation saw a big difference from what was in the U.S. news. They arrived at the time of a black out which prevented people from getting bank money and pumping water, and other things that required electricity. Food was grown in many places and seemed adequate, but getting adequate medicines, medical products and health care were a big problem because of sanctions. They talked with many people and found the votes for Maduro were legitimate and Guaido's claim to be president illegal. Discussion began on whether we should make a position statement.

3. WILPF US action on and responses to Venezuela: Cindy Domingo, WILPF US Chair of the Cuba, Women, and the Bolivarian Alliance, is very aware of what countries are supporting the more conservative Guaido vs Maduro. Though she and others want to make a position statement on Venezuela, discussion suggested caution because other WILPF sections are supporting Guaido. Conclusion: Cindy and her committee need to continue working on their statement.

Darien took a moment to emphasize supplemental info is to go to the board 10 days before board meetings. About 5 minutes of board call times are allowed for short updates or responses to questions on board members' submitted written reports

4. Treasury report: Jan Corderman reported that with January's actuals in (February numbers are not reconciled yet), there are no surprises in either income or expenses. She also noted that our PAX investment had recovered all of 2018's losses per the March 8 report.

5. Earth Democracy: Nancy Price's report covered 2 issues. a. the **DisArm** working group has decided to focus on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

(TPNW) in collaboration with NuclearBan.US, in Vermont and California. They think this focus may help obtain grants. b. **Earth Democracy** is planning work with Pat Elder CivilianExposure.com regarding citizens (and military families) being affected by PFOS/OA chemicals used in military firefighting foam, which contaminates soil and water 'forever' and correlates with miscarriages, birth and genetic defects, and many cancers. Pat and she are discussing plans for a tour of CA WILPF branches in 2020 to cover this issue and access to safe, affordable water. Nancy has developed an info card covering this issue.

Mary found she can work with Earth Democracy about non GMO seeds.

5. Membership Development: Shilpa got no questions re her report. Highlights included: a. we had a successful meeting in Columbus, OH with around 10-15 participants from Suzanne Marilley's Capital University. b. we launched the Orange County, CA branch, with almost 100 people in attendance c. and we started outreach, with a survey, on an at-large branch which we are naming the "Jane Addams branch".

6. Ad Hoc Holistic Program Group- A committee tasked to 'Create a proposal for an approach/structure for the entirety of WILPF US program work & activities, at all levels, to clarify the role of the Program Chairs, facilitate/encourage collaborative work among the issue committees, and strengthen the connection & work between branches & the Prog. Comm.' Regina Sneed reported it had two meetings, one set a mission statement and the second decided to do a SWOT analysis and are getting feedback on this. Mary will send a Monkey Survey for the group to include in decision making.

7. Discuss: In-person board meeting & training in Des Moines, April or May. Jan Corderman emphasized the purpose is to better organize WILPF and determine who else should go besides board. A decision was made to meet May 31-June 2 if we are ready, and move the Board meeting into this.

8. PDF's "Women Peacemakers Initiative" Nancy Price Up-
date: This Friday, 3/22, in San Francisco, Setou Ouattara, Shilpa, Darien, Cheryl Spencer, and Barbra Nielsen plan to present the history of WILPF, lessons learned, and SWOT analysis to Women for Genuine Security and Women Cross DMZ. Nancy asked for help in determining what support we can offer both groups.
-We could tour: lift up what DMZ are doing (their resolution for peace between the Koreas). Setou has contacts West Africa.
-Women for Global Security is concerned about health. They could work with us in militarism including the infographic card.
-Kathy Sharkey, from PDF, spoke of programmatic support of various kinds.

9. Appointment of US Liaison to the Americas Region Representative

Laura Dewey is going to put out another email requesting volunteers.
Per Darien two applicants didn't come close to meeting the 2 yr requirement. -
Jan: We need to think of good people we want and ask them to serve. We have 5 empty board positions. Ellen Schwartz: As an appointee before 2010 for treasurer, she got nagged until she sent in an application.

-Nancy: Being invited to San Fran shows confidence, we have been accomplishing inspiring work.

-Janet; has noted few other sections have had success finding a liaison. At the face to face board mtg in Geneva they may decide this isn't going to work.

-Darien: will send out a 'blow our own horn' e-news to show how well we are doing.

10. Letterhead and Letters Mary

One letterhead needs to represent whole WILPF. Anything that goes out must pass by Darien. A letter going out on behalf of WILPF should be sent to Secretary for storage.

11. WILPF US Congress 2020

Milwaukee and Madison have been suggested as sites and the Fresno branch is considering it, though it may be pricey.

12. Objectives for the Practicum and L2G

After Eileen Kurkoski and Jan Corderman gave brief reports on their experience with Practicum and L2G this year discussion began on objectives we want to achieve with this remarkable program. Questions came up: "Do we want to keep the program?" "How do we integrate Practicum students into our branches?" "How do these two programs fit into the WILPF US program?" These questions will be further discussed in the steering meeting next month; a working group may be set up.

Jan and Eileen were invited to a soiree with the WILPF UN staff, Madeleine Rees, WILPF Intl. secretariat, and some local WILPF members, and other leaders in the New York area. Like WILPF US, International would like to re-establish a branch in NYC, with some members monitoring UN activities as it had done in the past. A new branch has formed in Westchester, NY, and had representatives at the meeting. After some discussion those present admitted they were very busy with many issues and were not sure how to gather support for a branch.

13. Other reports submitted to the Board

A. Development Committee report, submitted by Marybeth Graham provided The WWINGS Quarterly Wrap Up, and that the committee is planning closer communications with major donors this year. Marybeth was not **present**.

B. International Board report, submitted by Jan Slagter, covered several items, including: Madeleine Rees' concern about WILPF's reputation regarding branch activities and making position statements on politics in other countries. This will be discussed with plans to make a resolution at the in-person IB meeting in Switzerland in May; Janet plans to go to this meeting and requested help to find a host. Jan will look into finances to help Janet. Also, Beatriz Schulthess and Janet are working on a response to their proposal to include more inclusion of communication originating from groups, branches and sections to balance communication from International to its base.

14. Next Board Meeting: May 21, 8:30PM EST