

WILPF Board Meeting, July 30, 2019

Start time: 8:35pm ET End time: After Executive session: 12:54 AM ET

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
-Past President: Mary Hanson Harrison
-Facilitator of Development Committee (with the Chair being vacant): Marybeth Gardam
-Alternate International WILPF Americas Region Representative: Janet Slagter
-Communications Co-ordinator, independent contractor: Micheal Ippolito, for the presentation of his proposal
Guests: Joan Goddard

Note: Decisions made are **underlined and in bold font.**

Agenda:

1. The board voted to have two eNews in October, instead of September.

2. Proposals from the Collaborations Committee (Marybeth) Since January a committee has been working on a report to streamline a process for short and long term agreements.

This is a process for national to use but branches may also want to use it as a guide. Mary thought we might consider setting up a folder to find with whom branches are collaborating.

Eileen asked for an orderly exit clause if a collaboration is not working out. There may be an end date since it mentions a time span.

Nancy asked about long term relationships and collaborations with shorter (e.g., month-long) terms. Response: A MOU would not be needed because it's short term.

- **Simple sign ons: All of the board accepted this process proposal.**
- **Long term collaboration agreements: All agreed to the proposal, with the proviso that an exit addendum clause will be drafted and added to the collaboration procedures proposal. The board will be asked to discuss and approve that addendum, via email.**

3. Proposal to Co-sponsor a Candidates Forum in Detroit on September 1. (Nancy)

Maureen Taylor has invited WILPF and many other groups to attend and propose a question to the presidential candidates. They plan for 800-1000 participants for Sept 1, from 2-6 pm ET and we have one month to prepare. Nancy will find out what other groups are participating, besides Vets for Peace. She asked us to send her questions we would like to ask. On behalf of WILPF she is considering a question about funding human needs by moving excessive war funding to deal clean water, housing, etc.

Jan proposed offering \$100 in support of the forum, if needed. If Nancy finds they need money, she'll send the request to the board for an email vote..

The Board accepted the proposal to co-sponsor the Candidates forum in Detroit.

4. Budget Amendments Proposals (Jan and Darien)

Jan noted that even with budget amendments we agreed to at our May Board meeting, we are still projecting a deficit of \$74,425. The Finance Committee has some recommendations for the Board to consider, some of which are the result of Darien's contacts with Committees who do not expect to need all of their projected expenses.

The Finance Committee's recommendations to the Board, which have unanimous support of the Finance Committee:

Line 58, Leadership Expense: Expenses through June are \$2369 – no expenses are projected through December: **reducing line from \$4,000 to \$3000 will allow some unanticipated expenses. Approved.**

Line 59, International Congress: While the Board is interested in preparing for 2021 Congress expenses, **this year doesn't appear to be the year we can raise an additional \$7,000: \$7,000 to \$0. Approved.**

Line 84, Coalition Dues – Memberships: \$1,000 to \$500. Approved.

Line 85, Mini-Grants: \$10,000 to \$3,000. Approved.

Line 86, UN Practicum/Local To Global: \$21,544 to \$16,689 to reflect actual expenses. Approved

Line 87, Leadership Institute: \$400 to \$0. Approved.

Line 91, Program Chair(s): \$400 to \$0. Approved. (There are no program chairs.)

Line 93, Earth Democracy: \$6,300 to \$2750. Approved.

Line 96, Advancing Human Rights: \$400 to \$100. Approved.

Line 97, Beloved Community (Issue Committee approved at 2017 Congress): \$400 to \$0. Approved. (There is no Beloved Community)

Line 99, Immigration (Issue Committee approved at 2017 Congress): \$400 to \$0. Approved

Line 100, Programs Initiatives & Br & Mem support Misc: \$500 to \$0. Approved.

Line 101, Membership Development: \$4500 to \$3500. Approved.

These budget amendments will bring our deficit to less than \$50,000. If we decide not to hold a Congress in 2020, we won't need to start any planning in 2019, meaning a further reduction in the deficit by \$8,250 to around \$40,000 (assuming we meet our income projections which includes \$42,000 in Grants with \$14,500 of that amount soon to be received).

Jan made the following recommendations to the Board, noting that she made the same recommendations to the Finance Committee, which rejected them.

1) Eliminate the fall/winter Peace & Freedom or just the printing and mailing of it (\$6000 in Printing and \$600 in postage) while increasing the number of E-news and adding an annual report via e-mail. Three of five Board members rejected this recommendation.

2) Jan also recommended reducing the work assigned to the Communications Director. With five months left in the year, we would be able to find savings in that \$27,000 line. Jan reminded the Board that the Communications Director Position was a new position in 2018, created as a trial project. We were fortunate to receive a \$67,000 Bequest in 2018. We have not yet been as fortunate this year in bequests and we may also not be able to achieve our projections in Grant income. Part of the Communication Director's work is doing facebook and twitter posts, previously handled by volunteers and for which a committee is being formed to consider our Social Media needs and the best way forward. This part of the work could revert to volunteers and also give the Committee an opportunity to consider the way forward. We could also wait on website work that this position is doing until we have the funds; perhaps the funds could be obtained through a grant. The Board was split on this recommendation. It was unclear how many hours would be cut.

Most board members think we need a good website and a good social media plan. Website work will be addressed under an extra proposal.

5. UN Commission on the Status of Women Programs -Practicum and Local to Global (Eileen & Mary)

This program is too important to let go. Most likely we can get funding to continue it and we can pull together necessary information that was not passed on to us from the previous faculty/coordinators. This program can help us to develop better relationships with international.

Marybeth suggested we have we an exit strategy if we can't set up a program.
Darien: Jean Verthein said she can help with UN passes if there is a problem.

Nancy said it's essential to get info on university contacts, which we have not received. Jan mentioned we have receipts that will help with identifying lodging options and other contacts.

Vote: All agreed we need to do what is necessary to continue the UN CSW Program The ad hoc committee will expedite this work.

6. Proposed changes in our Program Committee (Program 2.0)

We will comment on line.

7. Pledge for Peace Campaign Proposal Michael Ippolito presented the board with a six-page proposal that would make WILPF the center if we want to take it on. He answered questions at the board meeting. In his presentation Michael said he has been proud to work with WILPF but is disappointed we are thinking of cutting time. He added, "with the political scene for next year we need to be well organized and this pledge is a good way to counter Trump".

The proposal covers most of the values and issues WILPF has been working on and more, and WILPF can adjust how much involvement it wants to have. His description: "the Pledge for Peace campaign is a plan for collaboration with many groups to inspire and impact American culture leading up to the November 2020 elections". He has approached other organizations that showed some interest yet did not sign on; he has not looked at the amount of time or costs that would be needed to carry the plan out.

The data used in outreach would be on the website he is planning for WILPF. The outreach team would be coordinated by Michael and would include organizing vigils and **local decision-making assemblies** and **getting legislators to sign the pledge**.

The board considered Michael's proposal carefully, including extra discussion time in second continuation board meeting on August 2 (see item 8). We will continue to need Michael for web and call work and would like him to train a committee to do social media outreach. Our budgeted funds are limited as is our capacity to do outreach, set up vigils films and forums, which our members prefer rather than mainly symbolically signing on to a movement. We are near the end of a process to re-organize our Program and issue work and this will disrupt it. For these reasons we can't accept his idea for this campaign running up to the 2020 election.

7. Timing of WILPF US Congress

Should we hold our Congress in 2020 (as is normal), 2021 (the year, also, of the International Congress), or 2022?

Discussion focused on the best time to have a US Congress, considering the importance of next year's election, how busy we are now and limited help from branches. Darien would like to have a congress during her term.

A Straw Vote on possible Congress years (in which one could vote multiple times) showed a preference for 2021.

2020 EK JC

2021 EK DD MH NP

2022 DD NP

We will continue to think more about the Congress and discuss and vote on it on line.

Days later the online vote decided to have our next national Congress in 2021:

2020 - Shilpa and Jan

2021 - Darien, Mary, Nancy and Eileen

2022 - no one

8. The Board had another call August 2, from 8:30 to 9:30 PM ET, at which the May Board minutes were approved and discussion continued on Michael Ippolito's proposal. The results are noted above in item #7.

9. Next Board Meeting: September 24 at 8:30PM EST A volunteer to facilitate is sought.

Hi Everyone,

Tonight's call: (605) 313-4159, access code: 792832

For the 8:30 PM ET call tonight...

1. continuing the discussion of Michael's pledge
2. passing the May board minutes. See May board minutes attached.
3. Practicum Com. make plans for a meeting to prepare for applications for the Faculty/Coordinator UN Program position.... See e-alert re position.

I can read my notes on what we covered July 30 in the exec. comm; I am reluctant to send them out..