

WILPF US Board Meeting 1/28/20

Participants:

- President: Darien DeLu
- Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski .
- Treasurer/Chair of Finance: Jan Corderman
- Program Chair: Joan Goddard
- Chair of the Membership Development Committee: Shilpa Pandey
- At-large Board Member & Chair of Earth Democracy Program: Nancy Price
- Past President: Mary Hanson Harrison
- Regional Delegate Liaison: Jane Doyle

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

Agenda:

1. November 29, 2019 minutes were approved after changes about presentation titles at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in March.

2. The Board voted unanimously to endorse two items from the Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee. Consistent with our concern for Human Rights the Board took a strong stand in opposition to the unilateral and crippling US sanctions against Cuba. The Board voted to endorse the:

- 1) International Days of Action Against sanctions and Economic War – March 13-14, 2020” and
- 2) Second National Conference for the Normalization of US-Cuba relations, March 21-22 in NYC [which subsequently was postponed to November 2020].

Both items oppose unilateral sanctions against countries that have not violated international law, and these are especially in regard to US sanctions against Venezuela, Iran, Cuba, and North Korea.

2. WILPF’s UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Programs planned to address the Beijing Declaration (the goals set by the UN Women’s Conference 25 years ago). WILPF’s CSW Programs – with five Practicum students, two Local to Global WILPF members, and two faculty – and other WILPF US leadership were preparing for the busy and interesting March 8-14 week. [Note – Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, the March 2020 CSW was cancelled, along with the two WILPF programs.]

4. The Pentagon: Exposing the Hidden Polluter of Water Tour Board member and organizer, Nancy Price, has updated our WILPF website including information about the 20 planned stops of the Tour and on the special Military Poisons website, [Due to the coronavirus health emergency, the March tour took place in the first three cities and with media interviews.]

Pat Elder was the tour's key speaker. He has researched the health effects on local communities of chemicals used on military bases. WILPF contracted a publicist to film the tour, and World Beyond War and Veterans for Peace posted announcements about the tour. Many thanks go to the Patagonia foundation for their grant, funding most of the tour. The Board discussed how it may supplement the Patagonia grant.

4. Progress continues with Program 2.0 Branches got a survey, asking which topics they have covered in the last 2-3 years and their likely interests for the next 12-18 months. Their responses will inform the long-term plans the Issue Committees leaders make.

5. Where do we want to spend our money?

Jan reviewed the WILPF US 2020 Budget which was prepared by the Finance Committee (Darien DeLu, Marybeth Gardem, Mary Hanson Harrison, Eileen Kurkoski and Jan Corderman). Because the February meeting is not a Board meeting, action may be taken by email.

Income is projected to be similar to 2019 at \$187,727.

Spending is projected at \$266,857 or about \$80,000 more than projected income.

Expenses for 2019 totaled \$176,058. The bulk of the additional spending is to cover increased Development expenses \$17,000 vs \$5,000 in 2019, a second P&F (compared with only one in 2019) with an electronic version for the second one (a cost of approximately \$6,000) and in additional spending for "Programs, Initiatives, and Branch and Member Support" (\$71,468 in 2020 vs \$28,488 in 2019).

The proposed budget includes \$55,000 in transfers from bequest savings and investment income pursuant to policy and a transfer from reserves to cover the one-time cost for a new website. After those transfers the projection is a deficit of \$25,969.

The Board looked at the foundational components of our budget:

a. Programs, Initiatives & Branch & Member Support:

Coalition Dues & Memberships,

Commission on the Status of Women, at the United Nations (CSW) Practicum & Local to Global, CSW Parallel Presentation(s),

Leadership Institute,

One WILPF & Solidarity Events,

WILPF for Poor Peoples' Campaign (PPC),

Program Chair(s), Disarm, Middle East, Cuba/Bolivarian, **Earth Democracy**, Advancing Human Rights, Women Money & Democracy, Membership Development, WILPF Women In Network Growing Stronger (WWINGS), 2021 WILPF US Congress.

Grants, Mini-grants

b. Communications - e-newsletter, Peace and Freedom magazine, website, functioning office

c. Basic structures - board, office, part-time contracted employees, branches, International Congress (costs for international \$20,000 each year)

The Board discussed the substantial organizational benefits of having an executive director. However, we realize we would need much more money to hire one.

After discussion at the February Steering Committee meeting, the board members voted unanimously by email in March to approve the budget as presented at that meeting.

6. Should Board members be expected to contribute \$500 each year?

The board will further discuss this issue at the next meeting.

7. Should we evaluate the make-up of our Board? To explore this proposal an ad hoc committee will form, including two board members and two to three non-board members. Board Members Volunteers: Jan Corderman, Shilpa Pandey

8. The Board voted unanimously on a contracted collaboration with “An Economy of Our Own” The group is made up of impressive advisors dedicated to seeking generative change in the economic status of women, particularly of women of color. AEOO is gathering educational tools and resources for Econo-Consciousness-Raising groups, and preparing local public events on women’s economic concerns. WILPF hopes to participate with AEOO in two conferences; the first conference will be in June in Washington D.C. and the second in November in California.

9. Plans for WILPF US Congress 2021 have started - A Pre-Congress Committee, consists of board members, Eileen Kurkoski, Nancy Price, Mary Hanson Harrison, and Darien DeLu; as well as Detroit (2014) Congress Coordinator, Laura Dewey, and Jane Doyle. They are discussing and researching options. Mini-virtual congress gatherings this year in July are being discussed but additional volunteers are needed for the virtual gatherings.

10. The Board formed an ad hoc committee on how to make our board service more enjoyable. Mary Hanson Harrison agreed to head it up and is looking for more help. Some ideas brought up included having an in-person board meeting at the 2021 Congress, singing briefly at meetings, sharing bloopers and successes in activism, and telling light political jokes.

11. Should we change how we reach out to non-WILPF-members? The board began a discussion regarding who should get e-news and e-alerts and if non members should be allowed on One WILPF calls. Right now e-alerts and One WILPF calls are only for members. Should the e-news offer a link to One WILPF calls, for non-members? Darien plans to talk with our technology specialist regarding the feasibility of making some changes. Also, we’re reprinting more copies of our WILPF US brochure.

12. Next Board Meeting: March 31, 2020, 8:30 PM EST

Time: Start time 8:35 PM EST End time 11:06 PM EST