

WILPF Board Meeting 5/26/20

Participants:

- President: Darien DeLu
 - Secretary: Eileen Kurkoski
 - Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair: Jan Corderman
 - Program Committee Chair: Joan Goddard
 - Membership Development Committee Chair: Shilpa Pandey
 - At-large Board Member & Chair of Earth Democracy Issue Committee: Nancy Price
 - Acting Development Committee Chair & Chair of Women, Money & Democracy Issue Committee: Marybeth Gardam
 - Americas Region Alternate Representative: Janet Slagter
 - US Liaison to the Americas Region Representative: Jane Doyle
 - Acting Nominating Committee Chair & Member of Pre-Congress Committee:
Laura Dewey
- Also: Ellen Schwartz, Michael Ippolito

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

Agenda:

1. Check-in & Agenda Review- Briefly share how you de-stress at the end of the day.

2. Board Commitments Revisions (Jan Corderman facilitating) The ad hoc committee reviewed the current board commitments and proposed revisions which included:

-removing the yearly \$500 support expectation of board members and asking them to provide an unspecified monetary contribution beyond membership dues.

-expecting Board members to be vigilant of potential members and invite them to join

Discussion points included:

-a suggestion that a sentence be added saying, "If you have a problem with any of these, please contact __tbd."

-Checking off commitment items seemed heavy handed to some, but to others it was a way to be sure the new member was aware of the responsibilities s/he was taking on.

-a suggestion that financial contributions be talked about privately.

-If someone does not check off an item the nominating committee would call and talk with the person

Because members wanted to think more about the revisions, future discussion will be via e-mail and possibly voted on in a week.

3. Board Committee Chair Reports

Treasurer: Jan Corderman

-Our income is a little low, but it is very early in the year, and we have not had an appeal yet. Because the CSW was cancelled we have little debt.

-Jan made tentative arrangements for a webinar on Strategic Planning with our fiscal sponsor, Peace Development Fund, for a Saturday in early November. We want nominated or newly voted in applicants to be included in this webinar.

-Jan also encouraged Board members to make a letter for a “virtual ArtBuild”, in support of the Poor Peoples Campaign. The letters spell out “Everybody’s got a Right to Live”.

4. WILPF US Virtual Meeting Platforms (Ellen Schwartz facilitating)

-There is interest in seeing others while on calls. We are considering whether we want to use other platforms for some future meetings.

-Ellen is not recommending a platform but is using Zoom now and Women, Money and Democracy Issue Committee may be using it this summer for their meeting. It’s easy to use and fairly secure.

She suggested we try other platforms; they have similar features but must be experienced. We referred to a chart comparing multiple platforms. Some have been updated since the chart. Webex, Zoom (about \$15./mo for up to 100 participants, costing more for up to 500), Google and Microsoft are included.

-Michael Ippolito provides Maestro free for WILPF. He stated there is now a 2.0 Maestro which does much more, which costs \$200 / month, and allows 500 participants, video, screen sharing, registering, voting and white board. The text pad will be returning. Maestro records meetings for archives, but it does not offer end to end encryption (few platforms do). He is willing to train people for Zoom, too, though Zoom offers training.

-Further comments: Shilpa uses all the platforms in her work and finds them similar, suggesting going for the least expensive one. Jan added that Free Conference Call now has a visual interface; Darien noted that “Free” Conference Call is now asking for money.

Nancy asked if we should consider which platform would be best for our virtual Congress next year. We are not dropping Maestro but considering adding another platform. This will be discussed again.

5. The March Board Meeting Minutes were approved by all.

6. Program 2.0 One Year Themes Discussion

-Joan Goddard asked for feedback on a theme for WILPF US for the upcoming year; this is not a solidarity theme. Basically we have two suggestions 1. Eileen’s - *“Security for All” with several categories like health care, jobs, housing, clean water & air for all, gender equality and no nuclear weapons*, and 2. Marybeth’s - *“Together We Rise” with categories including create an economy that works for all, and return to normal*.

Both themes bring the message across only when the category examples are provided. The program committee sent these out to the Issue Committee chairs and to Mary Bricker Jenkins (Poor People’s Campaign liaison) and got no responses.

-Comments: For some people the word security brings up a vision of *military*, because the word has been co-opted.

6. WILPF US Congress 2021 Darien De Lu reported the committee, -- consisting of Laurel Dewey, Nancy Price, Joan Goddard, Eileen Kurkoski, and Mary Hanson Harrison

-- is considering an in-person Congress in August 2021. Because many of our members are older and prone to COVID 19, and because the development and dissemination of a vaccine is unlikely for at least eighteen months, we decided we will instead have a virtual Congress in August. We are considering reserving a spot in Sacramento temporarily, just in case we can meet in person.

We have a Congress Program (ConPro) committee and Mary Hanson Harrison is on both committees. The ConPro committee consists of Robin Lloyd, Mary H-H, Martha Collins and four members from Fresno: Leni Reeves (Cuba & Bolivarian Comm.), Karina Lopez, Beverly Fitzpatrick, and Janet Slagter (Americas Region Alternate Representative),

A theme being considered for the Congress is 'Branch Activism'.

7. Website and New Website Darien De Lu briefly reported many improvements have been added to our present website. Existing eAlert items have had dates and brief descriptions added, so search engines can find key words.

Regarding a *new website*: After a year and a half of work deciding what we want, after viewing many other websites, and after researching web developers, the bid was awarded to Michael Ippolito and his web colleague Chris. The details of the contract are being worked out.

Some key reasons for the *new website* are cell phone viewability, more colors options, and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, particularly visual problems.

8. White Supremacy Culture Document Training? (Nancy Price facilitating) Valerie Young, from the Advancing Human Rights Committee, asked if we wanted a racial justice training.

We considered the essay on white supremacy culture, from a document called, "***Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups***", by **Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun, ChangeWork, 2001**. "White Supremacy Culture" brings up characteristics like perfectionism, defensiveness, power hoarding, patriarchy and offers antidotes to these. We discussed the *possibility/usefulness* of having a *training* on this document. Nancy and others found this would be helpful for all WILPF member interactions. Nancy spoke with Mary Bricker Jenkins who suggested certain racial justice training would help make us a more inter-relational group. 'Standing Up for Social Justice' (SURJ), the White group helping with Black Lives Matter, could do the training.

Comments: It would be interesting to see what else Valerie would offer and perhaps participate, and to work with this "White Supremacy Culture" document. It would take decades to remedy some of these listed characteristics. Reading *White Fragility* was highly recommended, and that book was partially discussed in the WILPF Racial Justice workgroup last year.

Val suggested we have some paid positions for capacity building or field work, to take the burden off the board. (Unfortunately the pay would have to be very low.) Marguerite Adelman, grant writing co-chair, suggested grants need to include pay for the project organizer.

9. Closing Thoughts (Darien De Lu facilitating) Darien commended all of us for our work over the past five years. We are getting a lot done: we have a Bequest brochure, Issue Committees that are functioning, and are getting a new website. We have One WILPF Calls and Program 2.0, and we are collaborating with several other organizations.

10. Future Meetings:

Steering Committee Meeting, June 30, 8:30 PM ET

Board Meeting, July 28, 8:30 PM ET

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Kurkoski