

WILPF Board Meeting, July 27, 2021 (via Zoom)

Participants:

Board Members:

Darien De Lu: President

Nancy Price, At-large Board Member, Co-Chair of Earth Democracy Issue Committee, and Interim Secretary

Jan Corderman: Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Ellen Thomas: Personnel Committee Chair and Disarm Issue Committee Co-Chair

Linda Conte: At-large Board Member

Steering Committee:

Jane (Cricket) Doyle: US Liaison to the Americas Region Rep

Dianne Blais: Board Notetaker and Jane Addams At-Large Branch Convener

GUESTS:

Joan Goddard: Anti-Racism Team (ART)

George Friday: Triad Branch

Theresa El-Amin: Founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Branch

Philip Cole: Disarm Issue Committee

Barbara Nielsen: Life Member

Margo Schuler: Disarm Issue Committee

Note: Motions are in bold font; Decisions and Action Items are underlined

AGENDA with Motions SUMMARY

Announcement & Check-in

Old Business

- 1 **Minutes** of May Board Meeting Approved as distributed.
- 2 We will be receiving a substantial bequest!
- 3 **The Board agrees to hiring a fundraiser** Passed
- 4 **There will be no membership meeting and no resolutions at the 34th Triennial Congress** Passed.
- 5 **Suspend the WILPF US UN CSW Programs planning until initiating hiring in 2/22** Passed unanimously
- 6 **Approve the ART's resource list for broad WILPF US use** Passed unanimously
- 7 Evaluation of *The New Corporation* film showing & related WILPF programs

New Business

- 8 **Adopt the updated Guidelines for US WILPF Committee Best Practices** Steering Committee (SC) voted to defer
- 9 **Add to our Fall ballot the Bylaws amendment on Disqualification from Membership** had no vote as entire time allocated was used in discussion
- 10 Identify a committee to draft a Code of Conduct
- 11 Consider whether to endorse Back from the Brink
- 12 Comments from Meeting Visitors
- 13 International Update

Check-in and Announcement of virtual International Triennial Congress next summer so consider possible changes for the International Constitution, By-laws and 2022-2025 Program.

- 1 **May 2021 Board Minutes – Approved** without discussion or corrections.
- 2 Jan reported a bequest of \$104,000 that we should get soon.
- 3 Proposal: **The Board agrees to the hiring of a fundraiser, for 40 hours a month to do duties based on the initial job description and with limited additions from the seven cut duties and/or the most important work previously left to volunteers. Darien De Lu will appoint a committee, consisting of a few active Development Committee members and up to one non-Development Committee member to agree on such job description refinements and proceed (as decided at July 27, 2021 Board Meeting: Long Version of Agenda, page 1 of 5) to search and hiring process. The committee will start after August and initiate the search no sooner than October, with hiring no sooner than November 1, 2021, with the expectation of beginning work as soon as possible, for the position to continue through January or February 2023. Proposal passed with one Nay**
- 4 WILPF US Congress Update and Vote on proposal: **Given the special nature of the WILPF 2021 Congress, which does not lend itself to the kinds of ongoing discussions which provide a productive foundation for a membership meeting and for consideration of resolutions and other business, the Board agrees that there will be no membership/plenary/business meetings and no resolutions at the 34th Triennial Congress. Such items as might otherwise be offered for resolutions may be addressed through the appropriate issue committee or by the Board.** Cricket said that not having any membership/plenary/business meetings is troubling and thinks input from the members is important. Proposal passed with 1 abstention.

Jan suggested that at the Meet the Leadership event, that the 6 board members each speak about what they like about being on the board. Darien asked about a screen-shared list of issue committee members and other WILPF leaders not on the board. Jan volunteered to get pics, etc. and pointed out that Nikki Abeleda is really good at layout and design. Cricket would contact people but would like Ellen to help putting it together.

5 Proposal: Suspend the WILPF US UN CSW Programs planning until initiating hiring in 2/22. Cricket suggested that we maintain contacts with any groups that we had dealt with. Jan agreed the committee should meet to maintain contacts and work on hiring. Proposal passed unanimously

6 WILPF US Anti-racism work:

A. Vote on Proposal: **WILPF US approves the Resource List for Dismantling White Supremacy for broad WILPF US use.** The Anti-Racism Team (ART) is three WILPFers who facilitated the national seven-week study group based on Paul Kivel's book, *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice*. Growing out of that work, ART has produced this Resource List (with primary author, Janice Hawkins, assisted by Eileen Kurkoski and Joan Goddard). Proposal passed unanimously

B. The Localize! Ctte. Update: The committee's seven members, including a Black woman and a disabled woman, have met four times to 1) encourage every WILPF US member to devote time to anti-racism work and 2) promulgate best practices for welcoming a variety of people/cultures into WILPF branches and support member involvement with local groups active on anti-racism and economic justice issues.

Discussion of George Friday's ideas and Tura Campanella Cook's contact with Sha'an Mouliert was postponed to September.

7 Ellen noted that her work with Marybeth on the panel before *The New Corporation* film & programs turned out well and attendance of over 80 participants was better than on any other WILPF zoom meeting thanks to social media outreach. The cost for our access to the film (for up to 100 viewers) was \$262.50.

New Business

8 Proposal: Adopt the updated Guidelines for US WILPF Committee Best Practices This update changes the method of decision making in committees from consensus to majority vote.

5 members of the SC voted to delay; 1 abstention and 1 vote not to delay

9 Proposal: Add to our Fall ballot the Bylaws amendment on Disqualification from Membership. Cricket and others had numerous concerns (changing quorum, etc.). Jan noted that this does *not* involve the branches. Darien needs more feedback than just at board meetings. Not voted upon.

10 Code of Conduct: Identify ctte. to draft it: Cricket and Linda will work on this in the next two months as both think this is necessary. Baraba Nielsen said that she'd like to work on this and Jan would look for material. Linda said she'd like support from others. In the chat, Margo also volunteered for the committee.

11 Ellen Thomas read the disarm Proposal: WILPF US agrees to endorse the Back from the Brink campaign with its five policy solutions: "Pursue global elimination; End hair-trigger alert; Cancel enhanced weapons; Renounce first use; End sole authority". This campaign calls on the US to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. WILPF US stresses that simply preventing nuclear war is not our ultimate goal, which is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. But we recognize that there are practical steps that need to be taken in that direction, and we wish to show our solidarity with groups that seek the same goal of a world without nuclear weapons (NW). We will continue to support legislation such as Eleanor Holmes Norton's HR-2850, calling for total abolition and supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Ellen then summarized Ira Helfand's (from BftB) and Ray Acheson's contrasting positions on this proposal. The Disarm Committee (about 75 members but 50 basically never participate) vote was 8 yes, 6 Nos and 1 abstention. Nancy mentioned that we need to educate members and the public about our arms policy and budget. After discussion and zoom chat comments on "No First Use", with clarification that Darien will confer with International about this proposal before any publication, the proposal passed with 4 yeas and 1 abstention.