

WILPF Board Meeting MINUTES, July 22, 2023 (via Zoom)

Participants:

Board Members:

Darien De Lu: President
Barbara Nielsen: Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair
George Friday: Program Committee Chair
Philip Cole: At-large Board Member
Martha Collins: Development Chair
Dianne Blais: Secretary, Jane Addams (JA) Virtual Branch Convener
Shilpa Pandey, Interim Membership Development Chair

International Members (part of the “Pool of Pundits”)

Jane (Cricket) Doyle: US Liaison to the Americas Region Representative
Dee Murphy: WILPF International Advisory Board Rep.

GUESTS:

Joan Goddard: candidate for At-large Board Member
Theresa El-Amin: Fannie Lou Hamer branch
Jeneve Brooks: Development & Fundraising Coordinator
Jan Corderman: co-coordinator of WILPF US CSW Programs

Dianne volunteered to be a vibes watcher and Dee and Darien shared being the timer.
Darien read subject lines of the 3 announcements:

- 1) Status Update on WILPF Registration for Fundraising in Pennsylvania
- 2) Board and Other Pundits Members Expected to Speak at First WILPF Gathering
- 3) Important 2024 Congress Positions Filled (Congress Coordinator and Congress Program Chair)

Check-in – 5 min – Roll call of the Pundit Pool and other WILPF members present told us their location or branch

Old Business

1 - President’s Orientation to Key Agenda Items –Darien noted that a key question is about *capacity*. WILPF US has many aspirations, but what are we *doing* to have the membership, volunteers, leadership, and money to accomplish them?

2 - May 2023 Board minutes – Approved as no one had any corrections to the latest version which had Darien’s and then Dianne’s edits.

3 - Board member involvement in the August WILPF Gathering – A report with a tentative schedule was sent to the Pundits list on July 19. Also, announcement #2 gave

more info. Dianne noted again who would be speaking and asked all to prepare their talk ahead of time.

4 - Updates & Q&A from each reporting (more than 2 days before meeting) Board Ctte.

Chair – Jan spoke about the WILPF US UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) programs (Practicum and Local to Global. Shilpa and Jan will be presenting the program ideas over the next several months. There is a CSW ad hoc committee. The Membership Development Committee is having monthly meetings and preparing for hiring the board-approved Organizer position, for member recruitment, to work with branches.

George: Program meetings are the last Tuesday each month.

5 - Congress Updates: Virtual or In-Person? If In-Person, *Partially Hybrid*? –

In spite of the current weakened activism of branches and the hesitation to risk COVID of some older members, Dee recommended we stay in-person. and the board did not disagree. We anticipate that attendance will be sufficient.

Making the Congress a fully hybrid event would be prohibitively expensive. However, a *somewhat* virtual option is being worked on -- with much lower costs for tech equipment.

6 - Proposed Bylaws Amendments (carried over from May Board meeting) –

“Bylaws Amendment PROPOSAL - Internationals, Advisors Pool, etc.”– sent to Pundits list on July 21

After *four months* of discussion and refinement, the Bylaws Committee unanimously approved these interrelated and integrated amendments, which were presented in a similar form at the last Board meeting and which would implement a number of Bylaws updates and changes. The ctte. now asks the Board to approve **placement on the annual WILPF US ballot** of these seven amendments,

The amendments address those changes in International positions (created and/or removed by International Constitution changes approved in the 2018 and 2022), specifying the terms and selection of the new positions (see list below) and removing the no-longer-existing “International Board Member”. (Before the Constitutional changes adopted at the 2018 Int’l Congress, *every* section had one IB Member.) Also, the text formalizes the new advisory body, based on the “Pool of Pundits” (now tentatively called the Advisors Pool). That body would include acting/interim standing board committee chairs as well as WILPF US’s three new International WILPF positions (the US Liaison, the Int’l Advisory Bd. Member, and the IAB Alternate). Additionally, the proposed amendments make other related changes, including adding information about executive sessions and changes to the Steering Ctte. and Finance Ctte.

This proposal was postponed until September’s board meeting after Barbara voiced unspecified concerns about possible conflicts with aspects of these amendments and the statutes of Pennsylvania, where WILPF US is incorporated. Barbara will work to clarify and substantiate her concerns, within the next 10 days. The Bylaws committee will work on it in response. Cricket would like to get Barbara’s concerns.

New Business

7 - WILPF US Fundraising: Jeneve Brooks, our Development & Fundraising Coordinator/Strategic Outreach Coordinator, discussed her four major efforts:

- 1) major donors – sent out 3 mailings to 5 major cities (WILPF's Youtube channel subscription has tripled in 1 month)
- 2) researching grants (long process, so she's currently focusing on sponsorships as well)
- 3) coordinating development meetings – with dev. staff, their liaisons, and the ctte. chair, Martha – to work as a team
- 4) creating special events (WILPF-leader descendants contacts) and “cultural philanthropy”, which looks at donating as an act of love, for the public good..

Theresa noted that people want to know “What do you need the money for?”

8 - Three Finance Ctte. Proposals to Cut Current Budget Items (presented but subsequently declared as not to be voted on)

These three proposals would reduce the budget by a total of \$28,413, with actual savings being lower, due to the delayed start of the position in proposal 3.

1. Cut the \$6,238 for the line item for the in-person Board meeting in October 2023. Barbara suggested that the Board utilize the in-person time together at the 2024 Triennial Congress in Minneapolis.

2. Cut the \$9,575 for the printing and mailing of a paper version of the Fall/Winter Issue of Peace & Freedom magazine (editing/formatting costs would remain in budget). (An eAlert would provide members with a link to the digital version uploaded to the WILPF US website.)

3. Cut the (originally) \$12,600 budgeted for the part-time Membership Development Coordinator/Organizer contractor position, originally funded to start as early as July, now unlikely before September 2023 (dependent on the time needed for the hiring preparation).

Martha voiced her agreement that a 2-day board meeting before the Congress would be good and concern about donations being affected by not printing the P&F.

9 - Joan Goddard's Application for appointment to the vacant At-Large Board Member position was sent to the Pundits list on July 21. Joan is calling branches and looks forward to her service in the months until Jan. (The Board votes on such appointments in the executive session after the open meeting.)

10 - eNews Developments: Partial report sent to Pundits list on July 17.

Our current eNews editor is resigning from that position after the eNews for September. (She'll continue to edit *Peace & Freedom*.) *She's suggesting that we consider a radical new approach to eNews!*

1. Shall we form a committee to explore new approaches? Dee suggested that op ed pieces and other articles be accepted. Barbara suggested looking at the website and being creative in other ways. Dee would like to be on this committee.

2. Re: volunteers to be ctte. members for a search and hiring ctte., for a new editor of the eNews. Darien will send out an e-mail to the branches, but no one volunteered.

11 - No to NATO Work – George had sent out a report to the Pundits listserve.

Building on their prior WILPF US *No to NATO* work, some WILPF US members are continuing to work in coalition to address the militarism of NATO. Their work is not currently taking place within the Disarm Ctte. (The Program Ctte. will be discussing the possibility of a new WILPF US structure of *working groups*, to work on issues – like No to NATO work – that relate to the concerns of multiple issue cttes.)

It is important for WILPF US to continue to be active with the United Against NATO mobilization of the Global Women for Peace. WILPF involvement helps ensure that our WILPF US analysis of how militarism, NATO and the US Command System contribute to the climate crisis, global warming and catastrophic climate events in the US and worldwide is publicized. Actions in protest of the 75th anniversary in DC, July 9-11, 2024 are a great opportunity.

Theresa praised George and Nancy for their significant leadership in this area.

12 - Staff Contracts: (for most full-year staff) Dates of Contract Term –

This proposal is intended to standardize, as possible, the dates of contract terms to avoid winter-holiday-time negotiations and to align more realistically with our budget approval dates.

Proposals:

1. For routine contracts for most full-year staff, the dates of their contract terms will be April 1 to March 31.

After discussion, the vote was 2 Ayes, 3 Abstains and 1 Naye so Darien read the next proposal but then Phillip changed his vote to No so the measure did not pass and the following proposal was not pursued.

2. For workers newly hired between Jan. 1 and April 30 (inclusive), in most cases, regardless of start date, the term for their first contract will conclude on March 31 of the *following* year.

Also, for workers newly hired between May 1 and December 31, (inclusive), in most cases, the term for their first contract will conclude on that same date – March 31 of the *following* year.

Initially, this was narrowly passed: George, Martha, Phillip – *abstain*; Barbara – *nay*; Darien & Dianne – *yea*

However, it became a **tie vote, and therefor failed, after Phillip moved his vote from abstain to nay.**

13 - Proposed New Listserve for a proposed (and likely) new AHR subctte.: Communications, Culture, and Sensitization was not discussed as other alternatives are being considered.

14- September Board Agenda, including Expectations for Agenda Item Submission

For the September Board agenda, Darien is requesting *each* of the Board and *other* Pool of Pundits members to submit one or two agenda items. Darien will offer only a few “fill-in” items.

Please be sure that the item has first been discussed, refined, and – as possible – finalized within the relevant committee.

Here are the *standard* expectations for agenda item submission:

1. “title” and nature/goal of the agenda item
 2. Who will be presenting this item?
 3. When is the *written* report giving background information to be provided to the Pundits listserv,
 4. What is/are desired board activity/ies? (update, Q&A, discussion, decision on a proposal — what proposal, etc.)
 5. How much time is requested for each of those activities? (Approximate is fine! Depending on other agenda items, it may be shortened or extended.)
- All agenda item content *must* be submitted to Darien and/or the Pundits list by 5 pm (local time) on Sunday, September 17.

15 – WILPF Member Guest comments (up to two minutes)

Theresa thanked Jan for her branch building efforts.

End of Agenda Items - Public meeting adjourns

Break

Executive session

Joan was approved unanimously as At-large Board Member.

Concerns were discussed about the burdens of Board work, including the long Board meetings. It was noted that the lack of advance feedback on items means that the board has to discuss it all at the meeting. All of us taking responsibility for preparation and concise comments could substantially shorten the meetings. Probably we all feel over-extended...

The Board also agreed on certain members to make calls to Jennifer Bailey, Program Chair, to d clarify her status.