

WILPF Board Meeting MINUTES, Sept. 30, 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
Joan Goddard: Acting At-large Board Member

International Members (Pool of Pundits)

Dee Murphy: WILPF International Advisory Board Rep. and
Domestic Prisoners of War (DPoW) Issue Committee Chair
Jane "Cricket" Doyle (on phone): US Liaison to the Americas Rep

GUESTS:

Theresa El-Amin: Fannie Lou Hamer branch
Marybeth Gardam: Development (guest to talk about 2024 Congress)

Announcements:

On Sept. 17, WILPF US joined 75,000 others at climate-fossil fuels mass march in NYC, joining the peace contingent

Welcome new At-Large Board Member Joan Goddard! The term runs until the January 2024 Board meeting.

WILPF Board special meeting: Sat., Oct. 14 The special meeting will be at the usual time: 10 am PT and feature a special presentation from the Development Team in preparation for a vote at the Nov. 18 Board mtg.

Calls to Branches' Contact Persons Coming Both the Nominating Cttee. members and At-Large Board, Joan Goddard, will be making calls.

WILPF Int'l request for UN Statement submissions on the topic of "Poverty and Women" Contact our International Advisory Board Member, Dee Murphy, for more information. You can reach her at congresscoordinator@wilpfus.org.

Request for volunteers: Time-keeper: Barbara

Check-in *If WILPF had reasonable and sufficient funds, what staff role or political project would you want to see realized?*

Old Business

1. President's Intro – Darien spoke about effects of stress affecting our efforts and need for JOY.

2. Secretary's Summary – Dianne reported **actions & decisions** from the last board mtg.

3. Approval of Minutes from last Board meeting May 2023 Board minutes were approved noting the needed correction of Joan's title.

4. Board and Board Committee Reports

A. Presentation from each reporting Board member who submitted a written report at least 72 hours before the Bd. mtg.): Darien De Lu, President; George Friday, Nominating Ctte.; George Friday, Program Ctte.

In her Program Ctte. report, George said she wants all to come to DC for NATO's 75th in DC July 9-11. George also advocated for "working groups" as a new term and way to structure issue committees, as well as inter-committee work.

B. Standing Board Committee Appointments. – The appointments below, made by the chair, interim chair, or acting chair of the following committees, were announced and will be voted on in executive session:.

Nominating Ctte.: Jan Corderman, Virginia Pratt, Eileen Kurkoski, Theresa El-Amin, Phillip Cole

Development Ctte.: Marybeth Gardam, Eileen Kurkoski, Jane Sloane, Nancy Price (Barbara Nielsen, as Treasure, is named in the Bylaws as a ctte. member.)

Membership Development Ctte.: Jan Corderman, Dianne Blais, Marybeth Gardam, Gloria McMillan, Phillip Cole, Joan Goddard

Finance Ctte.: Phillip Cole, Jan Corderman, Marci Henzi, Eileen Kurkoski, Shilpa Pandey, Margaret Pecoraro, Margo Schulter (Martha Collins, as Development Ctte. Chair, is named in the Bylaws as a ctte. member.)

5. WILPF US's 2024 Congress

1) Virtual Congress –

Darien talked again about the various in-person, hybrid, and semi-virtual options. "True" hybrid, she said, entails high costs for **hybrid-needed technology/electronics** (monitors, cameras, mikes, tech. assistance, etc..)

She also asked "How much can we ask *virtual* full participants to pay?"

She also noted that, due to asstd. delays, no contract with the hotel had been signed.

Marybeth talked about the various problems of an in-person congress (carbon footprint of flights, access for older and disabled individuals, facility costs, etc). She noted lack of involvement by the Minnesota Branch. She would like budget numbers.

Vote on the proposal: Should we do an in-person Congress with virtual options?

(A Nay means an all virtual congress)

Darien – Nay

Joan – Yea (w/ hope)

Martha – Yes, then later Abstain because of financial concerns

Phillip – Nay

Dianne – Yea

Barbara – Yea

George – Yea

Base on two nays and five yeas, the proposal passed: The Board supports an in-person Congress.

2) Congress Cost & Budget Considerations –

Darien wanted an agreement on the expected number of participants at the Congress, in order to make budget estimates. Darien suggested 70, Dee 50. (The number of rooms we would reserve for the “block” required for the contract would be about half of the number of likely participants, based on the assumption that most participants will want to share a hotel room (with two queen beds.) Darien stated that past congresses averaged about 100.

Once we sign for the number of rooms, we can not lower the number that we’re committed to have. We have to pay for at least 80% of the number.

Vote on the number to use. Darien asked each Board member to specify a number of participants for us to use in budgeting:

DD – 70; JG – 60; MC – 60; PC – 50; DB – 60; BN – 60; GF – 45

Based on this “vote”, 60 is the number to be used for the Congress budget.

3) Proposal for hiring a Congress Fundraiser —

Dee proposed that a particular person be hired who would approach businesses and get a percentage of the amount of money raised.

Barbara and others agreed that paying fundraisers based on a percentage of funds raised is not accepted as ethical by professional fundraising organizations. So we can’t do that, but hiring the candidate as an independent contractor or giving a gift might be workable. Dee would like the board to meet with the individual she recommends to start pulling in funds immediately.

Due to lack of more time, we agreed that this discussion could be continued via email.

6. Follow-up on 2023 Gathering –

Dianne Blais asked for comments regarding the Gathering (Wed., Aug. 16, & Thurs., Aug. 17). Comments were positive: Well done! Ran smoothly as hoped!

Phillip hopes this year’s WILPF Gathering set a template for the future.

7. Four of the 6 formerly Proposed Bylaws Amendments (carried over from May and July Board meetings) –

The Bylaws Ctte. now asks the Board to approve **placement on the annual WILPF US ballot** of only four of these amendments, on which the ctte. all agreed. They address –

#1 & 4 - Formalizing in WILPF US Bylaws the changes in International positions (created and/or removed by International Constitution changes approved in the 2018 and 2022): specifies the terms and selection of the new positions (see list below) and removes the no-longer-existing "International Board Member".

#3 - Specifying the term of the only remaining ex-officio position, the Past President(s) (plural if there are two Co-Presidents)

#6 - Removing staff members from the Standing Board committees.

Note – The ad hoc Bylaws Ctte. will prepare a summary of each amendment's purpose and effects, with pro and con arguments, as needed. All of that will be included with the ballot documents.

Vote on the proposal to include these four amendment proposals in the upcoming annual WILPF US ballot, for WILPF members' to vote on individually:

#1 – All *yea*, except for Phillip *abstained*

#3, #4 and #6 – unanimous approval

8. UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), WILPF US Programs (Practicum and Local to Global – L2G) – Shilpa was not present so postponed.

Barbara brought up the WILPF US contributions for the 1,500 word statement by WILPF International for the 2024 UN CSW theme of poverty & women.

At least two issue cttes. are working on statements, and this needs to go through the Program Committee. WILPF International will use section input like ours to draft the final statement.

New Business

9. Social Media Ctte. Updates and Proposals – Darien, chair of the former Social Media Ctte, reported:

1) As of this month, the ctte. has expanded its role to now become the Communications Ctte. and will be prioritizing communications areas for attention as well as developing communications plans.

2) Proposals

1. WILPF US should get off of Twitter – now "X" – i.e., no longer post there, thus no longer providing them with content.

Vote: Martha Abstained and Dianne voted Nay and everyone else voted YES.

2. WILPF should get a Threads account. That's the social media that is linked to Instagram and Facebook, which – for progressive activists – is taking the place of X. Only staff can post. Barbara recommended that WILPF Leaders should be able to post. Dee suggested links to web-site so DPOW doesn't have to create their own page. Dee noted that Michael created a site/blog for the Congress.

Vote: Unanimous YES.

3) The Communications Committee will discuss production aspects of *Peace and Freedom* magazine (P&F). Particularly, what are the pros and cons of printing on

newsprint, printing in black and white, printing the issues abroad for less than half of what we currently paying?

Phillip and Barbara (and evidently all others) were against printing overseas. They both opposed continuing the current four-color printing.

10. Comments from WILPF member guests –

Theresa talked about board members, board meeting lengths, and the importance of orientations. She hopes for 100 people to give \$100 for the Congress and is opposed to hiring fund-raisers. She had asked to be on the Membership committee but her name was missing on the committee member request. She has contacts she'd like to bring to the Congress.

End of Agenda Items - Public meeting adjourns

Executive session

All listed ctte. appointments were approved.

Darien again asked Board members to prepare for board meetings by reviewing documents and having them available in the meeting, so that board meetings can be shorter.

Barbara again asked for a WILPF calendar. Darien noted that it would need constant updating and someone to do that. No one has volunteered.