

WILPF US Board Meeting MINUTES, January 27, 2024 (via Zoom)

Approved as submitted by Board on March 23, 2024

Participants:

National 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 Committee Chair, Incoming Development Committee Co-Chair

Dianne Blais: (Outgoing) Secretary

Joan Goddard: (Outgoing) At-large Board Member

Incoming Board Members:

Marybeth Gardam: Development Committee Co-chair

Ginger Harris: Secretary

Cee' Cee' Anderson: Personnel Committee Chair

Tina Shelton: At-large Board Member

Other Pundits Members:

Dee Murphy: WILPF International Advisory Board Representative

Jane "Cricket" Doyle: U.S. Liaison to the America's Region Representative

Invited GUEST Speakers:

Jan Corderman, WILPF US Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Programs, Local to Global Coordinator

GUESTS:

Theresa El-Amin: Fannie Lou Hamer branch Convenor

Dr. Linda Ridley, NYC

Announcement(s) in the meeting agenda of ongoing relevance

The 2024 WILPF-US Budget proposal is delayed.

The four **Bylaws amendments** on the 2023 member ballot all passed.**ed**

Volunteers upon request for Time-keeper– Dr. Ridley, and Vibes – Tina

Check-in: Name, location/branch, WILPF role, and description of object(s)

Formal Start of Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

1. President’s Welcome to a New Board Term: Darien welcomed and thanked the new Board members and expressed her appreciation of Robin Lloyd, not only for her Lloyd Family Legacy contribution but also for having a Burlington Branch Valentine’s Day event with dancing.

2. Secretary’s Summary from the Last Board Meeting: Dianne quickly reviewed *actions & decisions* from the November Board Meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Board Meeting: There were no edits or corrections, so the revised Nov. board meeting minutes stand as distributed

4. Board and Board Committee Reports from those Board members who submitted written reports before the meeting:

In her President’s report, Darien talked about being on ad hoc committees, hiring future WILPF staff, and her hope that all branches will be represented at the upcoming WILPF national Congress.

Martha was not yet present at this time.

Barbara and the Finance Committee have been collecting information the past months; the latest draft budget has a lot of blue cells that still need to be determined (TBD). There is a lot of flux in the budget. The budget will be presented in March (as was done last year).

Darien suggested we all review the draft budget before the next board meeting.

5. WILPF-US 2024 Congress budget, including virtual technology costs & registration fees: Jane “Cricket” Doyle, National Congress Committee (NCC) Chair, and Dee Murphy, Congress Coordinator, are planning for both an in-person and a partially virtual Congress, focusing on in-person presentations yet offering some virtual participation.

1) Budget Considerations: Cricket dealt with technical issues, and Darien mentioned some other cost factors. Tina spoke in favor of all vegetarian meals. Cricket asked for Board-member input on expenditure priorities and considerations, to help inform NCC deliberations.

2) Registration Fees: What is the *maximum* WILPF wants the *in-person* Congress registration costs to be (per person, excluding hotel lodging and travel)? How much might we ask *virtual* participants to pay for registration? These questions remained unanswered. Cricket asked for input via email regarding registration costs.

3) Board Retreat/“Gathering” before and after the 2024 Congress: Darien asked for input regarding activity options for the retreat. George believes some time should be devoted to an evaluation of the past 6 months and projection of next 6 months and beyond.

6. March 2024 UN Commission on the Status of Women, WILPF US Programs (Practicum and Local to Global – L2G): Jan Corderman discussed the **2024 proposed budget**. Marybeth suggested looking at lowering the WILPF US contributions to L2G; she

had thought Shilpa and Jan were working on donations. Jan noted that although they can't get more passes for official UN access, the off-site events are open to all. She named several WILPF members coming to the CSW, though they are not in this year's Practicum or L2G.

Budget APPROVED: 5 Yaes (Joan, Dianne, George, Phillip, and Martha) and 2 Abstentions (Darien and Barbara)

7. WILPF US collaboration with An Economy of Our Own (AEEO)

Proposal: Marybeth Gardam listed the many various advantages of supporting AEEO. The Board has approved WILPF's partnership with AEEO for the last few years, with many benefits to WILPF.

Barbara stated that ANY proposal involving money should go through the Finance Committee.

Proposal: As in prior years, allocate \$1,900 for continued WILPF-US partnership funding per "Budget request for AEEO-WILPF US Partnership for 2024." APPROVED: 5 Yaes (Joan, Dianne, George, Darien, and Martha) and 2 abstentions (Phillip and Barbara)

8. Thanks to and Farewell Messages from Outgoing Board Members:

As this was the last meeting for Joan Goddard (At Large Board Member) and Dianne Blais (Secretary), they said a few final words.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Installation of new Board Members:

Cee' Cee' Anderson (Personnel Committee Chair), Marybeth Gardam (Development Committee Co-chair – with Martha Collins), Tina Shelton (At-large Board member), and Ginger Harris (Secretary)

Thanks to outgoing Board members: Dianne Blais (Secretary) and Joan Goddard (At-large Board member), who spoke fondly of their Board service.

10. Darien's proposal to add staff to do additional social media work:

Darien described her proposal to add staff for social media work under WILPF's Communications Coordinator:

One part-time staffer would manage our social media presence on FaceBook to engage with a broader audience (8 to 9 hours a week, averaging 36 hours a month).

A second part-time staffer would promote a peace culture – and hopefully raise interest in and funds for WILPF – by reviewing songs of peace, unity & social harmony via a YouTube Channel.

Discussion by George, Marybeth, Jan, Phillip, Theresa & Dee revealed concerns that these 2 items should be carried out by staff with an assured feminist lens; should await hiring of a new Executive Director and perhaps till WILPF-US has its new website; and should figure out whether the audience will be WILPFers or "outsiders."

On the proposal about songs, a question was raised about problems with copyrights on the songs. Darien clarified that this project would not involve *playing* songs but *talking about them*, with links provided to the specific songs.

No vote was taken.

11. Nominating Committee:

George Friday presented the 2024 schedule for WILPF's election in 2024, starting the nominating and application process earlier, taking into consideration possible conflicts with the mailings of our fundraising appeals and national events, such as the elections. With three abstentions and five ayes on accepting the schedule, the Board decided to defer final voting on the proposed schedule until the March Board meeting.

Barbara asked why no candidate bios were on the ballot. Darien said the ballot packet provided the standard information, the candidates' statements, and gave the link where members could find bio. and extensive additional information on our website.

George declined to chair the Nominating Committee in 2024.

Darien requested nominations for 2024 Nominating Committee Chair. Marybeth asked that this be discussed in Executive session.

12. 2024 Board (& Steering Committee) Meeting Dates:

Darien suggested leaving them the same as in 2023, since they seemed to work OK for the existing and new Board members.

Tina asked if there will be two Board meetings in May: one May 25th, and a second one at WILPF's Congress (May31-June 2). Darien said yes.

Marybeth asked that the February Steering Committee meeting try to finish by 3:00 pm ET so that members can join the Restart Chicago event via zoom.

Unanimous APPROVAL for keeping former schedule – on the fourth Saturday, with the Board meeting in alternate months (starting in January), at 10 am PT / 11 am MT / noon CT / 1 pm ET, and the Steering Committee in the other months (with no December meeting, except in an urgent situation).

13. “No to NATO/Yes to Peace” events in D.C. July 9-11, 2024 (approximately NATO's 75th anniversary):

Dianne proposed that WILPF support this coalition effort with a \$1,000 donation for speaker systems, venues, etc. The Disarm Issue Committee had unanimously supported this proposal at its Dec.10, 2023 meeting.

APPROVAL by the Board was 4 in favor, 2 abstaining (Phillip & Barbara), no nays.

14. Veterans For Peace (VFP) peace walk starting in Augusta, Maine in April and hopefully ending in DC by July 5, in time for the **No to NATO** events there: Dianne reported that our Disarm Issue Committee had unanimously supported WILPF co-sponsorship of VFP's **peace walk**, although [PeaceWalk2024.org](https://www.peacewalk2024.org) doesn't currently mention the No to NATO events.

Marybeth, Tina, Barbara, and Eileen commented on how WILPF branches might both enhance and benefit from participation in the walk: get branch members near the route to join the walk and hold local events in conjunction with it, e.g. local teach-ins, speakers, raising awareness of how NATO has changed, and compiling “report cards” on candidates’ positions on issues.

Darien has authority to endorse the Peace Walk via executive decision since it doesn’t require a specific donation from WILPF and it is consistent with WILPF’s positions.

15. Comments from WILPF member guests:

Theresa said the meeting had felt rushed.

Cricket apologized for what she felt was her bad mood.

Joan plans to attend some, but not all, future Board meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Post-Meeting:

In executive session, discussion focused on potential candidates for the Nominating Committee Chair. The Board continues to seek possible candidates for this important position.”

Terminology:

The “Pundits” include WILPF US Board members & WILPF US members who fill certain positions for WILPF US related to International WILPF and that are stipulated in the WILPF International Constitution and Bylaws.