

## **WILPF Board Meeting MINUTES, May 31, 2022 (via Zoom)**

### Participants:

#### Board Members:

Darien De Lu: President  
Jan Corderman: Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair  
Shilpa Pandey: Membership Development Committee Chair  
Ellen Thomas (ET): Personnel Committee Chair and Disarm Issue Committee (IC) Co-Chair  
Linda Conte: At-large Board Member  
Philip Cole: At-large Board Member & Disarm Issue Committee  
Dianne Blais: Secretary and Jane Addams (JA) Virtual Branch Convener

#### Extended Steering Committee:

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

#### GUESTS:

George Friday: Triad, NC, Branch  
Theresa El-Amin: Founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer, GA, Branch  
Barbara Nielsen: Life Member  
Eileen Kurkoski: Boston, MA, Branch  
Emily Keel: Poor People's Campaign (PPC) Liaison

### **Note: Decisions and Action Items are underlined>**

Announcements – update zoom, Bylaws Committee met, U.S. liaison is again Jane Doyle, all WILPF members are invited to a luncheon on June 19 in Fairfax, Va., WILPF Statement on Roe v. Wade embracing joint statement by WILPF's Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee & the US Women and Cuba Collaboration went out by eAlert on May 26.

Check-in of all attendees

Visitors to the board meeting were able to speak during the meeting for up to one minute on two items **or** up to two minutes on one item, as well as for up to two minutes at the end of the open Board meeting.

1. Jennifer Bailey, back as Program Committee Chair, is pleased with the great work of the issue committees.
2. Int'l Congress Delegation (4 delegates and 4 alternates) has met and will meet again in June. Theresa's Equity workshop was approved. Additional workshop proposals were from the U.S. Darien thinks the US Section, w/ 1,400 members, is about 1/5 of the world membership number. Nancy would like a central coordination of proposals from the US.

3. Financial Update – The six bequests last year were breathtaking. Possible changes that might be submitted since the budget approval in November: intern position, legal expenses, 2 two development positions, Darien’s assistant, organizer (as we need some help since we’re losing members faster than gaining them).

4. One WILPF Calls: Nancy P. is willing to continue, and Marybeth for a while. Marybeth has proposed that WILPF pay a part-time coordinator to do the work. Numerous members noted how they appreciated the 1WILPF calls which encourages participation. The average number of attendees is about 40, but many of these members represent their branches and hopefully report to the branch members.

Phillip is willing to make calls to each branch to be part of the program. The committee to draft a specific proposal is Phillip (temporary convener) and Linda, with Marybeth as a resource and they will report at the next board meeting.

5. The board approved an annual national “congress” in the years without an Int’l one but the Bylaws say a national Congress can only be every three years. A 2023 Planning Ctte. for “off-year gathering” needed: Ellen noted the 2021 workshops at the last Congress were amazing and its good for our reputation to have this. Nancy noted that speakers outside of WILPF were important; Nancy will meet w/ the new committee. Barbara will set up meeting w/ Dianne, Ellen, and Nancy in later August. 2024 Congress locations? Theresa suggested Atlanta, Phillip recommended Fresno, CA. WILPF needs a Congress committee – to be discussed at July board meeting.

6. Strategizing for WILPF US and for WILPF US Effectiveness: What strategy in Ukraine work, etc. to will make our voices heard effectively? Jennifer suggested research and designing programs with other coalitions – strategic planning for anti-war work. George said we must get rid of NATO (which Nancy noted pertains to Earth Democracy), so we need to come up with a strategy (Disarm is working on it).

7. Executive Session Agenda: Appointees for Bylaws Ctte. to be confirmed, in consultation with the Board Steering Committee as members, are Dianne Blais, Dee Murphy, Barbara L. Nielsen, Margo Schulter, Cherrill Spencer and Darien. Darien will accept any suggestions for Bylaws changes. Other committees are also looking for members.

8. WILPF inner/outer racial justice work: The Board will have an “inner” training at the board retreat in June. AHR can address “outer” racial justice work.

9. June In-Person Board Meeting

Board meeting Announcements: (All times in EDT):

Sunday, June 19: 11:00 – 12:45, 3:45 – 6:15,

WILPF members luncheon 1:00-3:30

Monday: June 20 10:15 – 12:30

Zoom access to meetings is planned.

Emily is working on PPC logistics for June 18 and Jan on PPC buttons and T-shirts.

Board vote on proposal to adjust the Reimbursement Policy to include reimbursement for airport transportation (taxi or shuttle). Passed unanimously.

June Board mtg. (6 hrs., 30 min. total) and retreat planning

1. Strategic planning for an effective, healthy, and diverse WILPF US future, for a three-to-five-year period – 1 ½ to 2 hours (Jennifer and others will get back this week to Darien)
2. Personnel – Ellen: 30 min.
3. Finances – Jan: 45 min
4. Development (raising \$ - how to ask - will be asking board members to make thank you calls) – Eileen & Darien, 30 min.
5. Membership Development/recruitment – Shilpa & Jan: 45 min
6. Program – Jennifer: 45 min
7. Other bd. topics: Updates, focus/discussion on branch health & standards, 2024 WILPF Congress Planning, Board Handbook Review – Darien will give board members an updated handbook before the retreat. Shilpa suggested discussing integration of programs for overall strategy. Jan suggested discussing board recruitment and how to make being a board member more attractive – Jan will come up with ideas.
8. Team building activities and exercises (2 ¾ hrs.) – Shilpa will jot down ideas.

10. Comments from Visitors: Theresa thanked Darien, Jan and Dianne for agreeing to speak on June 17 at the restart of DC branch. Barbara wished the board success in DC and welcomed Jennifer.

**Executive Session:** The Bylaws Committee is an ad hoc committee, so the Board Steering Committee was consulted on the appointees, who were confirmed. A member has made a complaint, which the board proposes to have heard by a 3-person peace panel.