

WILPF Board Meeting, May 25, 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
Shilpa Pandey: Membership Development Committee Chair
Ellen Thomas: Personnel Committee Chair and Disarm Issue Committee Co-
Linda Conte: At-large Board Member

Steering Committee:

Janet Slagter: Americas Region Alternate
Jane (Cricket) Doyle: US Liaison to the Americas Region Rep
Dianne Blais: Board Notetaker and Jane Addams At-Large Branch Convener

GUESTS:

Mary Hanson Harrison: Congress Coordinator
Eileen Kurkoski: Anti-Racism Team
George Friday: Disarm Issue Committee & Fannie Lou Hamer (FLH) Branch
Theresa El-Amin: Founder of the FLH Branch

AGENDA with Motions SUMMARY

Motions are in bold font; Decisions are underlined

Check-in and Moment of Silence (1 year since George Floyd's death)

Old Business

- 1 **Minutes** of March Board Meeting discussion/ /approval. **Approved**
- 2 Proposal to **Hire Ad hoc Development Ctte/Fundraiser** discussed but vote postponed.
- 3 Anti-racism work: Proposal for **A new LOCALIZE! WILPF-wide Race/Class Awareness- Action Ctte** **Passed unanimously**
- 4 Congress Update. Darien's proposal for **An awards ceremony at Congress, to recognize and affirm key allies** **Passed with 1 abstention.**
- 5 Darien De Lu's proposal **An ad hoc ctte. to work on offering a presentation/discussion at Congress eliciting and exploring possible approaches and directions on Longer-term Planning for WILPF Organizational Success** **Passed unanimously**
- 6 Making board positions more doable, Part 2, postponed, to be combined with the report on past board members' survey, to next Steering meeting.

New Business

- 7 The New Corporation, "viewing party" will probably be in July
- 8 A decision on the UN CSW Programs Ctte proposal that **WILPF US not plan for a 2022 WILPF US UN CSW Practicum or Local to Global Program** postponed.
- 9 Use Microsoft Teams/Meetings?
- 10 Comments from Meeting Visitors & International Update

After **Check-in** and a moment of silence on 1 year anniversary of George Floyd's death – *to consider what we each have learned, and what we still have to learn* – we proceeded.

Old Business

1 **Board Minutes** – Approved without discussion or corrections.

2 Ad hoc Development Ctte's (Jan and Eileen's) Proposal to **Hire a Fundraiser for 2022**. Eileen had sent out the most up-to-date Fundraiser job description earlier in the day specifying a part-time (averaging 23 hours a month) year-long contract for \$35-\$40/hr. One page (7 items) had been cut from the original tasks listed by Mary Beth due to budget constraint of approximately \$10k. Her summary: Want to hire the best fund-raiser WILPF US can afford and get 1 or 2 Development Chairs ASAP. Volunteers would play an important part but they'd have to be trained. Mary Beth and Mary have concerns that more time is needed by the Fundraiser than the contract specifies.

Jan and Shilpa were ready to vote but Ellen said she would abstain. Darien recommended that people email her regarding concerns and ideas before the vote at the next meeting.

3 **Anti-racism work**

The Anti-Racist Team ("ART" – Eileen Kurkoski, Joan Goddard, Janice Hawkins) is hosting and nearly half-way through a 7-session book study group of *Uprooting Racism*. They have also compiled a 23-page Resource Listing on racism/racial justice.

Darien proposed a **new LOCALIZE! Ctte – WILPF-wide Race/Class Awareness-Action Ctte**. A key function of the ctte. would be to prepare a presentation for the WILPF Congress but the ctte. *might* also write monthly eNews articles, referencing the ART Resource Listing and suggest certain items for branch/member study.

So far, 3-4 members have agreed to join the ctte. to work on these issues *within* WILPF – with member education on racism & classism *and* on welcoming a *variety* of people / cultures into WILPF branches and work: Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC); working class and other low-income individuals; young(er) people; and people of different gender identities, including non-binary. Also, the ctte. will encourage and support (with "how-to" info and stories) branch and member involvement with *local* groups active on anti-racism and economic justice issues.

Mary pointed out that the entire Congress is an enactment of this committee's goals. Darien noted that the issue committees work on issues outside of WILPF, but this is a push to get branches and at-large members working "internally" (in WILPF) and locally.

Proposal Passed unanimously

so Darien will proceed to convene the committee and Cricket offered to participate.

4 **WILPF US Congress Update** Mary had sent a whole list of possibilities and we all have the opportunity to see EACH presentation and talk and listen to each other.

Darien's Proposal: **An awards ceremony at Congress, to recognize and affirm key allies**. Darien recommended Margaret Flowers, Ellen suggested Margaret Kimberly and Nancy recommended Veterans for Peace. Jan said she'd like a business meeting but didn't know where the awards would stop and she wanted to honor WILPF members.

This discussion led to Jan's question as to why her agenda proposal was not added to the agenda. For future clarity, Darien agreed to inform the Steering Committee about the protocol of the deadline when she stops accepting agenda items.

Jan also asked about a designated spot during Congress for a business meeting. Dianne and Janet stated that business meetings are *de rigueur* at any convention/congress. Janet additionally proposed that resolutions be part of a business meeting. Nancy agreed that a business meeting is foundational to our organization.

Nancy also recommended that in the awards ceremony we welcome new branches. Darien asked that thoughts about the award ceremony be circulated via the steering committee list-serve but asked for a vote on her proposal. Darien also requested use of the Steering Committee list-serve to discuss the possibility of a business meeting.

Proposal for an awards ceremony passed with 1 abstention.

We will talk about the honor roll at the steering committee meeting.

5 Longer-term Strategic Planning. Darien De Lu's proposal: **An ad hoc ctte. to work on offering a presentation/discussion at Congress eliciting and exploring possible approaches and directions for WILPF Organizational Success.** Six members already have agreed to work on this.

Dianne thought the committee could present their work at the business meeting. Janet suggested that members come prepared with their suggestions to the meeting and the committee could collect and analyze all suggestions and put it together afterwards.

Nancy pointed out we need to think about the various components – financial, branch, issue committee, work with external allies, and collaborations with external groups – and have them be part of the discussion. As an organization, we should elicit comments from and about the membership, the branches and the issue committees, as a holistic conversation. How to build new branches and keep old branches going will hopefully be covered. We want internal and external collaborations. We want action and practice, not just education and theory.

Jan suggested the committee could pull together Nancy's ideas, put out some eNews articles, present and get suggestions at Congress – and then pull the responses together.

Proposal Passed unanimously

~~6~~ Making board positions more doable, Part 2 Postponed until the Steering meeting, to be combined with the report on the past board members' survey.

New Business

7 The New Corporation "viewing party": In our March board meeting, members were enthusiastic, and Dianne Blais had volunteered to do some of the initial footwork. Based on Dianne's work, Darien made a proposal that WILPF host a PREVIEW "viewing party" of this new film! Tentatively, that would be on Thursday, June 17-- as a WILPF US outreach and member-education activity. She said there's a cost to show it AND a cost per person. Probably the cost would be about \$300. The Women, Money & Democracy Issue Ctte. would like to be the "sponsor", including offering a possible discussion after the film. This event would also be an opportunity to discuss some new efforts WSD is planning in the realm of addressing corporate power.

Eileen hoped there would be flexibility in its showing. Marybeth isn't able to see it on June 17th, so a date in July would be better. A July date also allows more time for publicity. With encouragement from multiple Board members and no objections, plans will go forward.

8 The UN CSW Programs Cttee (Jan, Eileen and Mary) proposed that **WILPF US not plan for a 2022 WILPF US UN CSW Practicum or Local to Global Program** because the committee thinks the 2022 CSW will be virtual. Students would not be going to NYC and benefitting from in-person attendance. In 2021, we had five Practicum students and two Local to Global participants, but planning started in Dec. 2020, so a decision needs to be made now. Darien was concerned about the loss of momentum, noting that it would be a less expensive event if virtual and suggested we postpone this decision until next month's Steering Committee.

9 Use Microsoft Teams for Meetings? \$12/month/person gives access to many excellent Microsoft offerings. Shilpa uses Microsoft Teams at work, and it has many functions. However, people have to have a particular log-in and be trained. Nancy requested more info, and Darien will provide it.

10 Comments from Meeting Visitors:

George – She appreciates Ellen mentioning last Saturday's event: Making History with New Branches in the South. According to the Black Liberation Caucus Agreements, issued on May 22, 2021, each branch can have two members (of African descent) on the Black Liberation Caucus steering committee, which meets monthly.

Several Black Liberation Caucus members signed up for Emoji Unity talks about freeing all political prisoners and challenging patriarchy within the black liberation movement.

Theresa – Her attendance at the 2012 CSW was life-changing and a big deal in Columbus, Georgia.

In less than five months, three new Black-majority branches have been started in the South: the Triad in NC, Atlanta, Ga and the Fannie Lou Hamer in Columbus. She's considering a Charlotte branch. SARN – has donated hundreds to start the new branches.

Because WILPF US is 106 years old, Theresa recommended a fund-raising goal of \$106,000 (106 people at \$1,000). WILPF must build membership to fund-raise. Theresa wants to run for the board.

Janet spoke about the International Triennial Congress (actually, because of COVID 19, it will be four years since the last Congress). It will be next summer, virtually. Because WILPF International has a grant for this from PeaceNexus, a consultant has been hired who is working with a core group to plan the Congress. This process is bypassing the standard International committees. Janet and three other ed International Board (IB) members – from Lebanon, Germany and Costa Rica – objected. They want a more democratic alternative, following the procedures stipulated in the International WILPF Constitution and By-laws. Janet wants us (WILPF US) to review the WILPF Constitution and By-laws for possible amendments and consider recommended program for 2022-2025.

Nancy got an e-mail about the Environmental Working Group (EWG). Since the IB is supposed to know about communication between the Secretariat and members, Nancy will forward the e-mail to Janet. Nancy wants the EWG to be funded and supported and its newsletter developed.

Janet and Cricket will write an article for the E-News after the next IB meeting.