

WILPF EXTRA Board Meeting MINUTES, February 3, 2022 (via Zoom)

Participants:

Board Members:

Darien De Lu: President

Jan Corderman: Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Shilpa Pandey: Membership Development Chair

Ellen Thomas: Personnel Committee Chair and Disarm Co-Chair

Philip Cole: At-large Board Member & Disarm Issue Committee

Dianne Blais: Secretary and Jane Addams (JA) Branch Convener

Steering Committee:

Janet Slagter: America's Region Alternate

GUESTS:

Mary Hanson Harrison

Nicki Abeleda

John Sepulvado

Ellen Mass (Boston branch)

George Friday: Triad Branch

Theresa El-Amin: Founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Branch

Barbara Nielsen: Life Member

Dee Murphy: WILPF member, JA branch

Ashley Carrington

Margo Schulter

Joan Goddard

Visitors to the board meeting were able to speak 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

Note: Decisions and Action Items are underlined>

1- 2021 Congress – Review & Evaluation (Mary H. Harrison)
14 day adventure's "success" was amazing technologically. There were 3 organizing principles: intentional; sustained engagement (all branches contacted for input with practice sessions); collaboration.

Survey got 34% reply; next survey will be on follow-up of use of videos. Theresa pointed out that this was more a conference than a congress, as there wasn't a membership/governing meeting. Mary said that voting virtually was the obstacle.

Ellen Mass asked about link for the Congress sessions:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNz1wyPMccmGo-MGslrLUhibiWKFRL6-S>

2- Round Robin w/ each board member & Mary: Making board positions more doable. Darien thinks an ED (Executive Director) would be good but expensive (full-time \$50-70K/yr). Dianne wanted to fill empty positions to spread out the work. Ellen mentioned younger members. Jan suggested asking people at meeting and others to step up. Also, each board member should think about replacements like Laura Dewey is doing. Mary said we need perks, but it is hard during Covid. We should have board members travel to branches to refresh themselves. Shilpa said we need more appreciation and support of each other.

4- **Building Branches from the Inside-Out Initiative** (started about a year ago) Review & Evaluation. Mary spoke and Nikki gave a presentation on the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model. Inside-Out involves a lot of internal branch work with a story telling lens and sharing with other people. 17 members responded to Nikki's anonymous survey with a generally positive evaluation. All five participating branches participated in the Congress. Nikki hopes to have applications for the next cycle of Inside-Out out by March.

3- **John's Report including Presentation of ideas on listserv logistics.** 3 items: external communication (tone, social media, free radio & TV messages); internal communication (trust, disagree w/o being disagreeable) sense of sisterhood/belonging/connection is always needed; reconciliation process. Onboarding new members is very important. On-line communications tend to emphasize differences in culture. Ashley asked about conflict resolution when Blacks aren't on the board. She said she'd help. Theresa wants to be on the list-serve committee.

5- Round Robin: What can *you* do to help prioritize and move forward our bd. work? Phil suggested using E-News to publicize the vacant Board positions. The monthly meetings should be publicized and attendance encouraged. He has spent 20-30 hours working on mediation. Jan wants to reach out to more branches. Dianne has made and will continue to make suggestions.

Dee asked about new member orientation – finding out about the history of WILPF – and why WILPF members are not allowed to talk freely at meetings. John said that his phone number is the way to contact him.

6- WILPF US Bylaws and how they pertain to the Board. Darien noted that all Board meetings are open to all members and other Bylaws provisions

dictate Board processes. Barbara asked about filling empty board positions and Darien said that there will be no further publicity so soon after the annual board elections, although board members can make suggestions. Darien mentioned the Bylaws sections involving International will need to be updated. Barbara (and Ashley) wanted a copy of Janet's suggested amendments to International.

Visitors: Theresa was disturbed by Darien's e-mail to Madeline Reese about Theresa bypassing typical channels of communication.

Barbara thanked all and appreciated the openness.

CHAT: *Black and White Styles in Conflict* is a book Theresa highly recommends.