

**American Association of University Women
Fairbanks Branch
Annual meeting
March 21, 2016
Home of Aldean Kilbourn**

Members present: (25) Vera Alexander, Pat Babcock, Brenda Birdsall, Kathi Cameron, Brenda Dow, Karen Emerson, Carolyn Gray, Phyllis Haggland, Aldean Kilbourn, Shirley Liss, Gael Murakami, Gretchen Murphy, Monique Musick, Ritchie Musick, Rita Osborne, Etsuko Kimura Pederson, Joyce Potter, Carol Schlentner (via cell phone), Margaret Soden, Kayt Sunwood, Molly Tedesche, Terry Tirrell, Pat Turner, Barbara Van Flein, and Carla Willetto

Guests: (1) Laura Walsh

President Ritchie Musick welcomed members/guests and asked for introductions. The meeting was called to order at 7:56 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Ritchie added 'UAF Partner report' to the agenda. Margaret Soden moved the agenda be approved with the addition, Pat Babcock seconded.
Motion passed.

Minutes: Rita Osborne stated the minutes had been sent to members (3/15/2016). Carla Willetto moved minutes be approved, Margaret Soden seconded. **Motion passed.**

Financial Summary: Vera Alexander gave a brief financial report and stated we are on track with the budget. We provided \$1,000 to the Educational Foundation (EF), and \$200 to the Legal Advocacy fund. We have \$2,000 in our convention travel funds (monies received when the Alaska AAUW state group was dissolved). We provided two \$1,000 scholarships. Other expenses are meetings related. Currently have \$8,077 in assets.

Committee reports:

Programs: Gael Murakami gave a review of program activities.

September-Tour of North Pole Library and Carla Willetto gave report on the AAUW National Convention held in San Diego

October-Membership brunch held at the Fairbanks Resource Agency with 37 members/guests. Program presented by Carla Willetto, AAUW slide show with national and branch information, current goals/activities with emphasis for lifelong education and equity for women/girls

November-Held at the Noel Wien Library, two AAUW American Fellowship recipients (Casey Brown and Steffi Ickert-Bond) shared what the fellowships meant to them with 14 members/guests attending

December-Holiday potluck and gift exchange/collect items for the IAC (Women's Center) at Ritchie Musick's home with 14 members/guests

January-Informal luncheon at the Cookie Jar Restaurant with 15 attending

February- Linda Witt, League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley on Voting Registration, and explanation of voter restriction laws being passed in other states with 15 members/guests

March-Annual meeting at Aldean Kilbourn's home with member/speaker Molly Tedesche on her PhD studies and science outreach

April-Scholarship luncheon at the Raven Landing in Library/Lounge

May-Arrangements being made

Membership: Carla Willetto stated there are 52 members including three new members Don Gray, Firmin Murakami, and Marilyn Russell. We have received AAUW National recognition for our membership increase. As the result of the Shape the Future Campaign we received three complimentary memberships and those were provided to Casey Brown, Sarah Stanley, and Rita Osborne. For the Give a Grad a Gift program we provided five recipients with complimentary membership. Carla reiterated that Ellen Whitcher was a big supporter of AAUW as was evident during the introductions and she was responsible for many being involved with AAUW.

Social Media and Website: The website was started in the fall of 2014 after Lisa Maatz, AAUW lobbyist from Washington DC, said at a luncheon that our branch would need a website to attract and connect with younger members. Gael Murakami was the one with the experience and volunteered. The website can be viewed at www.fairbanks-ak.aauw.net and has links to the national website www.aauw.org. She has expanded content to include an archive of past newsletters and minutes of Board and Membership meetings. This area is protected from the public with a password. Our Bylaws are also posted on the website. The branch already had a Facebook private group created by Ritchie. In addition to the website, Gael created a Public Facebook Page open to the public which can be used to publicize meetings open to the public and the annual House Tour (www.facebook.com/AAUWFairbanksAKBranch.) She also worked with the Branch Board to opt into the national AAUW Membership Payment Program to make it easier for new members to join and current members to renew using credit cards on-line.

House Tour: Margaret Soden reported the AAUW annual house tour is scheduled for July 9, 2016, which is the second Saturday in July. The committee will be meeting soon and the date will be in the next newsletter. The committee is looking for a variety of homes, large, small, energy efficient, etc. Over \$2,000 was earned in 2015.

Scholarship: Barbara Van Flein stated there were 15 applications for scholarships, four were not local and three may possibly not be local. A very nice letter is sent to those not chosen along with information about other AAUW national scholarships.

Under UAF partner say that Ritchie reported FROM Sine.....

Under ByLaws

1. The drop date to be changed from July 1st (never enforced) to November 30th.
2. Branch membership dues to be waived for UAF.....
3. Branch dues to be half price for members joining January-March 15 to align with

Book Group: Jodi Gouwens leads this ongoing group that meets on the second Monday at 1:30 pm at Jodi's home and other locations.

Writers Group: Rose Levno is in charge of the group which meets for lunch at Pike's on the third Thursday of the month although the group will start rotating to other restaurants.

Public Policy: Carolyn Gray announced the Barriers and Bias webinar being held on 3/30 in Kayt Sunwood's office Eielson 219 (and that members could also listen in from home). Journalist, commentator and author Cokie Roberts will moderate a panel of experts on the importance of women in leadership roles. Equal Pay Day is April 12 and AAUW has suggestions on their website to promote this event. AAUW is promoting Title IX to insure equality in education.

Historian: Barb Matthews is the historian and she no longer drives at night so wasn't able to attend the meeting. She is collecting clippings and photos of our events.

AAUW Tech Savy Program: Terry Tirrell discussed AAUW's Tech Savy Program. Terry is a dual member with St. George, Utah and that group has received funding and provided a one-day community program focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for girls in the 6th to 8th grades. The program consisted of hands on science experiments in the morning and real-life skills such as public speaking in the afternoon. The cost of the program is about \$10,000 with \$5,000 from the AAUW grant and they charged \$10 for participants/\$5 for parents. The remaining amount was from funding provided by local businesses and groups. Nation wide in 2015 there were Tech Savvy conferences at 17 sites serving 1750 girls and 730 parents. St. George had 175 girls participating. The National AAUW program provides training for 1-2 members in Washington, DC and the goal for branches is to have 200 participants. Applications are due in September for the 2017 year.

UAF Partner: Ritchie reported from Sine Anahita, the campus representative for our UAF partner. Sine was able to participate in a nation wide review of 26 applications for social science related grants.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

Equal Pay Day: April 12 is Equal Pay Day; the day women earn the equivalent of men during January-December 2015. Letters were sent last year urging businesses to provide discounted lunch or food item to women, however there was no response. Later found this is illegal. There was discussion although no action.

Increase in Branch dues: There is a proposal to increase the branch dues \$5 from \$11 to \$16 to cover additional meeting expenses we have been incurring. Margaret Soden moved for a 2016/17 dues increase to \$16, Terry Tirrell seconded. **Motion passed.**

Approval of the By-Laws: Gretchen Murphy, chair of the bylaws committee, stated our bylaws had not been reviewed for several years and there are some required AAUW changes. In addition a few changes are proposed for our branch which include

1. November drop date (was July 1st although not in practice).
2. Complimentary membership for UAF Partner campus representative
3. January 1-March 15 half dues for branch to align with AAUW national dues
4. Electronic copy and hard copy to be kept for secretary minutes

Carolyn Gray moved the bylaw changes be approved, Terry Tirrell seconded.

Motion passed.

Margaret Soden moved to approve the new format required by AAUW, Aldean Kilbourn seconded. **Motion passed.**

Election of Officers and Nominating Committee: The nominating committee presented the slate of officers.

President-elect, Margaret Soden

Vice President Programs, Pat Babcock and Joyce Potter

Vice President Membership, Carla Willetto

Treasurer, Gael Murakami

Nominating Committee, Carol Schlentner, Sandy O'Connor and Joyce Potter

Ritchie Musick stated our bylaws don't allow for serving more than two terms and Carla would be serving a third term. Aldean moved to suspend the rules for a 3rd term for Carla as Vice President Membership, Margaret Soden seconded. **Motion passed.**

Margaret Soden moved to accept the unanimous ballot, Terry Tirrell seconded.

Motion passed.

Program: Molly Tedesche, AAUW member and PhD candidate was introduced and Molly provided information about her academic background, PhD studies and her science outreach.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm. Margaret Soden moved to adjourn, Aldean Kilbourn seconded. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by

Rita Osborne, Secretary