



American Association of University Women
Capital Branch
February 4, 2020
Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Jennifer Verive at 5:20 PM. Members present are recorded on the sign in sheet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Verive reported on the status of the “5 star” rating, and the first star has been earned in Communications. Programs is the next star, which will be accomplished with the Work Smart program. Community Mapping, who we’re communicating with, will be the third star pursued.

Jennifer announced that the survey on dues paid vs the operating budget of what the branch considers important has been completed, and it’s obvious that a dues increase is needed; this will be an action item at the next membership meeting.

Caroline PUNCHES provided an exercise on Public Policy Do’s and Don’ts which was completed by each table, and everyone enjoyed learning!

Jennifer Verive reported the Nominating Committee has been at work and will have an announcement soon.

MEMBERSHIP

Iris Blaisdell and Diane Koditek reported the branch membership is 74 members coming into tonight’s meeting; they welcomed two visitors this evening and introduced Victoria Lum, joining this evening and bringing membership up to 75!

PUBLIC POLICY

Co-chair Janice Noble reminded members to sign up for the AAUW Two-Minute Activist and use it to let Congress and Senators know of support for the ERA. With Virginia, 38 states have now ratified the ERA but the issue is that ratification has gone beyond the deadline. There are resolutions introduced in both the House and the Senate to extend the deadline and another to allow ratification to start over again. Meanwhile, three states have sued to block the ERA on the basis of reproductive “rights” - by which they mean to block rights. Janice passed out AAUW’s 2020 Gender Policy Agenda, which outlines our priority issues for the 2020 election season, policies which AAUW would like to see implemented.

PECANS

Chair Kathy Steinle was more than happy to report that only 4 bags of pecan halves are left! She hailed Shirley Hammon as the star for selling all the remaining milk chocolate covered specialty bags.

FEAST OF CHOCOLATE, February 8th

Co-chairs Jan Sullivan and Chris Perdomo reported they are ready, with 23 gift baskets, 20+ gift certificates, and ticket sales very close to 200!

INTEREST GROUPS

Reports: Gourmet group is taking February off and going to enjoy Glen Eagles Restaurant for Valentine's Day. Great Decisions will continue meeting one to three times this year. Book clubs: evening book club is reading "Where the Crawdads Sing" and afternoon book club is reading "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine". Knitting and Crochet group meets from 1 to 3 pm and all are welcome. Informal lunch for February will be Glen Eagles on Feb. 19.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Website and Twitter are updated and in operation; and are responsible for the first Star earned!

PROGRAM

The speakers this evening are Joetta Brown from Nevada Commission for Women and Florence Phillips for ESL In-Home Program. Joetta Brown was the first speaker, reporting that Nevada has now joined the National Association for Women. The Commission is made up of 10 Commissioners with a goal of "Advance Women Toward Full Equality in All Areas". Currently they are working from a survey conducted through the Secretary of State of Nevada businesses and women's roles.

Florence Phillips gave a robust presentation on ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada. Her program has been in operation 16 years this month and was recognized as a CNN Hero. Statewide there are 254 tutors with 480 students; in Carson City there are 34 tutors with 84 students, 92% Hispanic with other learners from all over the world. But – there are 300 locally and 900 statewide on the waiting list and 7/8ths of them are women. The program also offers classes for citizenship and has funds to help pay fees for the application which will soon be \$1,140. The program also offers GED preparation, for both ESL and English speakers, and there is a computer literacy program. The program is funded strictly by donations and grants as a 501(c)3.

The March program topic is Criminal Justice.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty McGarry
Co-Recording Secretary