

**Greater Naples Branch AAUW
Branch Meeting – December 7, 2013
Hodges University**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President Ellen Granger.

Ellen pointed out that on every table there are Tech Trek flyers about a conference for 8th grade girls sponsored by AAUW Florida, which is looking for both financial and volunteer support for this event. She announced that the annual holiday party would be held at the Estuary Club House at Grey Oaks and that there was a flyer at each table with the details. There will be a lovely buffet and passed hors d'oeuvres. There are also flyers about the annual STEM conference for 5th grade girls. Carolyn Crew's daughter designed the wonderful graphics. Ellen reminded the audience that December 31 is the deadline for donations for named scholarships. She introduced Mandy Goldenberg, a new member and both a graduate and current student at Hodges, who will ensure that Hodges students know about the prize offered by AAUW Florida to a graphic design student to design the logo for the 2014 state conference in Orlando. Ellen invited members to attend the conference with her.

Nancy Beights invited members to join the Non Sequitur Society. The first Non Sequitur group began meeting in 1972 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Nancy came to Naples in 1984 and she and Agnes Babcock started the Naples group shortly thereafter. On December 12, they will have a joke night at Alexander's. On January 9, they have reserved Masterpiece Mixers. That venue is limited to 30 people, so interested members should contact her soon if they want to attend. On February 23, there will be a financial planning meeting. It is free but limited to ten people. On March 13, there will be a mini-book discussion and on April 10 a farewell dinner. Ellen commented that this information is on the web site as is all information about our various groups and their activities.

Program. Program chair Susie Mehas announced that the annual holiday party would be different this year in that attendees didn't need to bring an appetizer or a gift for kids. Instead, there will be a Dollars for Scholars box for attendees to deposit a donation in.

Susie introduced speaker Eileen Connolly-Kessler, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Collier County. Eileen oversees the Foundation's mission and \$70 million in assets. She spoke on the Foundation's activities and the many opportunities it provides to donors.

Jackie Pierce presented a proposed amendment to the Standing Rules, which she said had been printed in the Gulf Breeze. It said, "**Committee Appointments:** Every member of GNB AAUW is encouraged to serve on a branch committee. The Committee Chairman appoints the members of her respective committee after considering the following qualifications:

- a balance of new and experienced committee members;
- availability to serve for a two year administration;
- capable computer user; and,

- knowledge and individual skills pertinent to that committee.” Ellen noted that this motion came from Committee and did not require a second. She called for a vote and the proposal passed unanimously.

Jackie presented a second proposed amendment, which had also appeared in the Gulf Breeze, that is going to the board for discussion. The GNB Charitable Foundation board proposed an amendment to the branch’s standing rules to decrease the allocation to the Educational Opportunities Fund from \$25 per member to \$10 per member. There was concern from some members attending that this would decrease the amount of funding for national scholarships. Ellen encouraged members to email or call her with questions or concerns about this proposed amendment. She also encouraged members to contact Foundation board members with any questions or concerns.

Communications. Vi Steffan reported that the new web site membership database is up and running. She noted that the database is an alphabetical list and that members can search for a particular member without scrolling through the entire list.

School and Community Relations. Nadine Wells reported that scholarship applications are available on the web site. February 14 is the cutoff date.

Special Presentation. Vi Steffan commented that former board presidents were a tremendous resource for her when she was president and she wants to make sure people know who these former presidents are. Therefore, new nametags have been printed for them that say “Past President.” She presented new nametags to the past presidents in attendance.

Tours and Talks. Donna Walker reported that there will be a Tours and Talks day trip to the Everglades on Wednesday, January 29. Attendees will carpool. She asked interested people to respond by January 15. Another Tours and Talks event will occur on March 13. Jackie Pierce is taking members on a personal tour. Members will enjoy tea at Audrey’s Tea House. This will be in honor of Women’s History Month.

Fundraising. Ellen said there were tentative plans to do a fundraiser in the fall that might involve tablescapes with a book theme. Perhaps interior decorators and various businesses in town could provide decorations for a table. Attendees could bid on the tablescapes they wanted to take home. Ellen said she recently went to a similar event that raised \$60,000. We would need to start work on this now and it would need the support and help from members. She asked members to phone or email her if they are able to help. The money raised would go to 2015 scholarships.

STEM. Caroline Crew announced again that the theme this year is STEM Girls Count. She said that if members believe this statement and are interested in supporting Collier County girls in science and technology, they should consider helping with the event. It takes about 4,000 hours of work to put this event on. Caroline is looking for volunteers and donations. It costs \$25 to sponsor a girl. This enables a girl to attend without charge. They have a great line-up of

presenters. The speakers are women from our community who are in diverse fields. This is also an important event for parents – they learn how to support their girls in these fields.

Membership. Ellen asked members to check their information in the directory on the website. She said that names of people who have not renewed are no longer in the directory. Members must renew in order to get a ballot and vote in the state election in the spring. Rose Ford reported that we have about 140 members. She asked members who brought guests to introduce them. She thanked Vi for the tremendous amount of work she did in getting the new database up and running.

Minutes. The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Misc. Ellen announced the number of the winning 50/50 ticket.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Glenda Struthers,
Recording Secretary