



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
CALIFORNIA ONLINE BRANCH
MINUTES OF BOARD BUSINESS
CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL
April-June 2021**

Branch Established October 2, 2001

Attendance:

Shelley Mitchell, President
Jean Simutis, Treasurer
Gail Swain, Program VP
Bev Van Citters, Membership VP
Harriet Tower, AAUW Funds VP
Sandy Kirkpatrick, Communications Chair
Cathy Foxhoven, Speech Trek Coordinator

April

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Reviewed and approved the Q3 minutes, which were then posted on the branch website.
- Reviewed the Q3 financial report, which was then posted on the branch website.
- Held a Zoom branch “Happy Hour” on April 9.
- Received notification from AAUW CA AAUW Funds committee that our nominee, Harriet Tower, was selected as the State Named Gift Honoree. The surprise presentation was made at the state annual meeting on April 17.
- Held a Zoom program presentation of the play “We Did It For You,” featuring several branch members acting in the roles. (This was originally intended to be the Q3 program, but a delay in the recording process pushed kept it from being available until April.) The presentation was repeated the following day at the end of the state organization’s annual meeting. Cathy Foxhoven later shared comments sent to AAUW CA praising the production.
- Lilian Chang, the winner of the branch Speech Trek competition and state finalist, won first place in the state competition held at the state annual meeting. She was awarded a \$1,500 prize.
- Bev Van Citters announced there would be no summer Happy Hours (July or August), but they would resume in September.
- Noted that when the branch policy is reviewed in the fall, the programs section should be updated to reflect the use of Zoom. Gail Swain and Sandy Kirkpatrick volunteered to review the bylaws and policy in the fall.
- Discussed possible Q4 program ideas.
- Renewal notices were sent out on April 29.

May

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Shelley Mitchell accepted Roli Wendorf’s offer and appointed her to conduct the branch’s financial review at the end of the year.
- Held a Zoom branch “Happy Hour” on May 7.

- Shelley Mitchell filled out a questionnaire to assist AAUW CA receiving Five-Star status from national AAUW for having 90% of branches in the state holding at least two programs supporting AAUW's strategic plan.
- Began an email list program discussion of the recent AAUW webinar about advancing AAUW priorities 100 days into the new Biden administration. The participants shifted its focus to a discussion of the recent AAUW vote to eliminate the degree requirement, which narrowly failed to pass. An unacceptable (personal attack) comment from one participant led to a board discussion of how to handle such cases in the future, agreeing this needed to be addressed in the policy review in the fall.
- Discussed possible online platforms that could be used in future programs. Bev Van Citters offered to do more research and report back at the annual board planning meeting. Key concerns would be privacy, security, and ease of use. She also noted the board's responsibility to protect members' personal information, including their email addresses.
- To make better use of our Google Suite account, began work on drafting a member survey using Google Forms, and a few board members experimented with the chat function in Google Hangouts to see if it held potential for branch programs.

June

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Held a Zoom branch "Happy Hour" on June 5.
- After getting confirmation from Cherie Sorokin that the documents she shared with the group during the program discussion were public information, posted them on a newly created "National AAUW Activity" page on the branch website (located under the ABOUT US parent page).
- Bev Van Citters reported a 16th new member for the year, and noted there have been 11 captioned videos of member interviews. She updated the Welcome document for 2021-22, which was then posted on the members-only section of the branch website.
- It was agreed to notify "MOB" members (primary members who pay national dues through the CA Online branch) who have not yet renewed that national dues will increase July 1, to encourage them to renew before that date.
- Held a Zoom board planning meeting on June 24 (see separate minutes for that meeting.)
- Finalized the member survey and sent it to all members on June 26.
- Approved the minutes of the June 24 Zoom board meeting, which were then posted on the branch website.
- Agreed upon a 2020-21 president's gift for Shelley Mitchell from Shop AAUW.
- Reviewed AAUW's Five-Star recognition program's criteria.
- Discussed book titles to be considered for a branch program discussion, including six titles recommended by AAUW that were written or edited by AAUW fellowship recipients.
- With 40 members responding to the member survey as of June 30, agreed to wait until all the results have come in before making decisions about future program methods.

Signed,

Sandy Kirkpatrick