



**Minutes of the California Online Branch
Board Zoom Meeting
January 29, 2024**

Branch Established October 2, 2001

Attendance:

Gail Swain, President, Social Media

Jean Simutis, Treasurer

Elaine Johnson, Program VP

Gail Swain, Membership VP

Charmen Goehring, AAUW Fund

Randa Blanding, Communications Chair, Website

Patrice Lyn, Public Policy

Cathy Foxhoven, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Speech Trek

Sharon Westafer, Secretary

Tobi Balma, Guest, Free Memberships

Mary Isaac, Guest Tech Trek

Absent:

Bev Van Citters (Excused) Tech Group, Shelley Mitchell, Newsletter (Excused), Harriet Tower, Book Group

Gail called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She welcomed board members and guests and shared an inspirational message.

Board Reports:

Financial: Jean reported that the branch is in good shape financially. More new members have been added than budgeted and speech tech donations were received in the first quarter. 75% of budgeted expenses have been spent. Jean uses Zelle to pay expenses. Gail suggested that the cost of insurance be investigated as the branch pays as much as in-person branches. Charmen will explore the cost.

Membership: Amy Hom is the branch's newest member. She is the State Public Policy co-chair. Tobi spoke about the AAUW Shape the Future campaign. For every two new primary members a branch gets, they are given one free membership. Three free memberships are allowed. She suggested that the Shape the Future selection process be added to the membership V.P. job description. Selection of the recipients will be up to the Membership V.P., with approval of the board.

Program: Elaine discussed the remaining programs for the branch year. March 23 will feature Aileen Rizzo speaking about equal pay. Shelley Mitchell is tentatively scheduled for May 25th to discuss women taking on leadership roles in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Fund: Charmen is waiting for the year-end report from National.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Cathy reported that the March program will feature her daughter, who will speak about restorative justice.

Public Policy: Patrice announced that the next meeting will be February 19th at 7 p.m. The latest Public Policy issues will be discussed. She mentioned that the State Public Policy committee has a monthly newsletter with the latest Public Policy updates. She also explained about Lobby Days; the registration deadline is February 19th. She also announced AAUW Public Policy webinars that are coming soon. Patrice and Amy Hom are working on getting college students to join Lobby Days and the online branch. Gail suggested that the branch cover the \$5 branch dues for student members. Randa announced that fifty girls have signed up for GovTrek.

Speech Trek: Cathy requested help with judging and timekeeping for the branch contest which is March 17th at 1 p.m. Tobi and Patrice volunteered to help with judging, along with Gail. There are three contestants so far.

Communications, Website: None

Tech Trek: Mary Isaac donated \$1000 for two campers to attend the Virtual camp this year. The cost per camper is \$500. Mary would like the online branch to find two campers for the spots. Discussion occurred. Mary is willing to help train online branch participants in the process of selecting campers, provide information and fund two campers for the branch each year. It was agreed that the branch should help with funding campers.

Motion: Charmen moved that the online branch support two or more virtual campers for 2024; Randa seconded. Motion carried.

Tech Group: Bev emailed a report listing meeting dates and topics. She thanked Randa for her help and announced that she will be stepping down from the position in June.

Newsletter: Shelley will be stepping down as editor in June.

New Business:

Nominating: Gail listed open positions and asked anyone willing to continue in their job, or who has suggestions for officers, to contact her.

Bylaws: Any changes required by National do not require a membership vote. There will be changes this year.

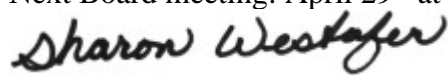
Annual Meeting: Gail would like to have the meeting by zoom rather than by email. A recap will be given regarding what has been accomplished this year and suggestions for the future. Discussion occurred regarding the date and speaker, which will be determined.

Discussion occurred regarding the elimination of the degree requirement for membership. This will be voted on in April. Gail will place an article in the March newsletter.

Motion: Charmen moved that the CA online board supports the elimination of the degree requirement coming up for vote by AAUW; seconded by Randa. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Board meeting: April 29th at 7 p.m.



Sharon Westafer, Secretary