



Minutes of the California Online Branch Board Zoom Meeting January 15, 2025

Branch Established October 2, 2001

Attendance:

Gail Swain, President

Shelley Mitchell, Finance

Elaine Johnson, Program VP

Randa Blanding, Communications Chair, Website, Tech Trek

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

Sharon Westafer, Secretary

Kathi Harper, Public Policy

Total attendance: Seven

Gail welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

No additions to the agenda.

Minutes: The quarterly minutes have been posted to the website.

Financials: Shelley reported that there is little financial activity at the present time. She has no recommendations for changes to the budget. She is working with the Department of Charitable Trusts regarding the 2023 report, and the 2024 report. They say the check for 2023 was delinquent although it is an error on their part.

Membership: Elaine announced that the new roster is on the branch website, under business in the members only section. There are currently 111 branch members, including thirty-eight primary and four state officers. She will identify members who have been affected by the fires in Southern California and will notify Charlene Goehring, State President. Elaine is also reaching out to members at large and inviting them to join the branch.

Newsletter: Due date for articles is the 20th of the month. Randa announced that the new website is up.

Public Policy: Kathi reported that the state is working on public policy priorities. They are working on the information sent in from the questionnaire sent to members in December. The vote to approve recommendations will be in April. Kathi is also on the National Public Policy committee. The Board of Directors tells the National committee director what they want her to spend her time and resources on, then she brings the policies to her committee. There are three top priorities this year: Secondary

education, including Title 9; Advanced degrees; and Pay Equity. Other priorities are worked on with coalitions. At the state level, members tell the committee their priorities and the committee works on those. National is not focusing on K-12 but the state is. The state committee is also working on the School Board Project. They will be working with members to monitor school boards to be sure they're complying with state laws. The committee is also gearing up for the March lobby days. One day will be in person and one day will be via zoom. New surveys will be distributed on February 1 regarding how the election went in the member's area.

Program: Cathy announced that the February 22 program will be the branch Speech Trek competition and will include Penelope the Powerful Poet. This is a CA online competition and there will be four competitors. California online is sponsoring the students. Each student will receive a stipend. The final branch meeting will be the annual meeting, date pending.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The DEI group will meet on January 28th and will feature a mother whose son, Eric Gardner, was killed. She is working on getting justice for him and all young Black men who have been killed.

Speech Trek: The branch will receive \$800.00 to sponsor a student. There are four competitors this year. Twelve branches will be receiving \$800 to conduct a contest. Any money left over from Speech Trek will be going to Tech Trek for a workshop that includes a speech component. The branch will award \$350 to first place; \$250 to second place; \$150 to third place; and \$50 honorable mention to its contestants. The first place winner will compete at the state level in April.

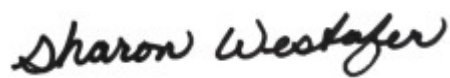
Fund: The board agrees that no Fund chair is necessary at this time because members are generous with donations. As of November 30, \$10, 905 has been donated.

Tech Trek: There is \$500 in the branch Tech Trek account. Randa will contact Dr. Mimi regarding funds and candidates. Randa will also check with her regarding the video and certificates from last year.

Nominations: Gail asked for volunteers to help her with nominations for next year. Gail will not be president so it's ok for her to chair the committee.

Announcements: Elaine congratulated Gail regarding the branch designation as a 5-star branch. Gail thanked the board for their work.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. **Next Board Meeting April 15th, 7 P.M.**



Sharon Westafer, Secretary