

AAUW Northville Novi Branch Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:30am via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Present: 26 members, 1 presenter.

WELCOME: President Jane Hecker opened the meeting at 11:30. Jan VanGasse, AAUWMI President in attendance today.

PROGRAM: Denna Parks introduced David Lowenstein from MSU Extension, Macomb County for today's presentation – Gardening to Attract Essential Pollinators. David is an entomologist with a PhD in Ecology from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and a Masters in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin.

Some Highlights:

Native flowers such as Milkweed, Blazing Star, Golden Rod, Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm) attract many pollinators as well as places for butterflies to lay eggs for their caterpillars. Herbs such as dill, creeping thyme and parsley are great for pollinators and their larva. Discusses grasses including lawn. Thinner fescue is better than Kentucky Blue, and allowing a few “weeds” such as white clover and more will attract pollinators, and can be mowed after they bloom in the spring.

Minimize pesticide use and don't spray while flowers in bloom. In your garden, consider the space. The kind of sunlight over the season, soil conditions such as soil type and drainage as well as pests including deer or ground mammals. Container gardens are quick to dry out or can get too cold during winter. Native flowers bloom for a short time, so vary the timing spring through fall. Annuals that bloom all season usually have been over-bred for color and the look at the expense of nectar.

Many insects are important pollinators and predators. Discussed a variety of bees from bumblebees to tiny shiny green sweat bees. Spring cleanup vs fall is best because insects overwinter in leafy clutter. Homeowners can create bee condos to attract nesting space for pollinators.

SECRETARY REPORT: Minutes submitted by Diana Chirillo, Secretary Pro Tem. No corrections.

The February 8, 2022, meeting minutes will be placed on file.

TREASURER REPORT: Joyce Murdock

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| Beginning Balance (2/01/2022) | 15,644.24 | Checking Account | 13,089.53 |
| Total Income | 7,104.78 | Super Saver Account | 6,883.85 |
| Total Expenses | 230.96 | PayPal Account | 2,555.68 |
| Ending Balance 02/28/2022 | 22,529.06 | Total 02/28/2022 | 22,529.06 |

**CFSEM Endowment (12/31/2021) 119,141.79 Mkt. value +2021-20212 Contrib. \$ = 119,141.79
an increase of about \$2,700 over last month**

Income: Fashion Show ticket sales are coming in.

Expenses: Costs for Fashion Show. February report will be approved at the March board meeting and placed on file for audit. Treasurer reports are approved by the board at the end of the following month and placed on file for audit.

Jan: Endowment amount is based on last year.

PRESIDENT: Jane Hecker: Happy Birthday to all our members with March birthdays! Today is International Women's Day.

AAUW has a 5-star recommendation system. We will talk more about that at a later meeting. Notes the Northville-Novis chapter has retained 90% of its membership which checks a box. More info to follow.

AAUW of Michigan: Jan Van Gasse: AAUW Michigan convention will take place in person in Midland, Michigan on April 29, 2022. It is the 100-year anniversary of AAUW-Michigan. Will present Golden Recognition Awards for member with over 50 years. An optional Dow Garden Walk will take place at 3:00pm with \$10 admission fee.

There is an opening for Co-VP of Programming. Barb Duran and Ruth Briggs of the Wyandotte Chapter are running for Co-VP. Shelia Blair will serve as President for a term of two years.

PROGRAMS: Patty Domin (not present):

Rhonda York and Susan Schanne filing in to report for Programs. Next meeting will be in person at the Novi Police Department Training Room located at 10 Mile Road and Taft. There will be a Women in History Trivia night, prizes, fun and entertainment. It will be great to reconnect with everyone in person again.

Mary Jane Kearns notes there will be an Equal Pay Day presentation by the Public Policy Committee after the trivia games, with updates on current statistics with a slide presentation.

Patty Sneed notes that all presentations are set for the year.

Idea to invite Doug Wallace, Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce to speak at an upcoming meeting. He has a story about how his mother inspired him to become involved in the community.

Send Patty Domin an email with any ideas for future speakers.

Membership: Karen Zyczynski:

April 1st starts the push to get current members to sign-on for another year and bring in new members. The April trivia night meeting will be a fun event and a great meeting to introduce AAUWNN to potential new members.

Please let the hosts know how many new members you will be bringing for planning purposes.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mary Ann MacLaren:

Mary Jane Kearns: Update on Shoe Collection fundraiser. 1325 pairs of shoes collected so far toward 2500 goal. Reaching this goal will net our chapter \$1000. Rhonda York has signed the contract with the organization. They requested photos of the shoes to verify they are up to their standards.

With the contract signed, the cut-off date for collection is May 1, 2022.

There will be more information to follow about what the organization does with the shoes.

Kudos to Jeri Alam for collecting 3 carloads of shoes.

Jan VanGasse and Mary Jane Kearns discuss spreading news of this fundraiser to other AAUW chapters in the state. More information about it will be shared with Jan.

Fashion Show: Karen Zyczynski: Karen notes how the mission of AAUW fits well with the purpose of the fashion show event. This event highlights the work being done by women designers with goals such as using up-cycled materials in the designs, supporting a sophomore still pursuing her education at MSU and more. Accessory vendors include Rebel Nell who helps otherwise unemployable women in Detroit to create jewelry. The photographers for the event will be Schoolcraft College photography students. The profits from one of the door prizes will go to support woman's organizations. AAUWNN is supporting women in many ways at the Fashion Show event.

The last fashion show took place in 2019 with a profit of about \$10,000. The goal for 2022 was \$11,000. Ticket sales are light this year; we need to hit the 125 ticket sale minimum to continue with the event. We are at 110 paid guests. We have \$5,700 from sponsors. Estimating a profit this year of \$5,000 unless more tickets are sold.

Deadline for ticket sales is March 14, 2022.

EDUCATIONAL GIFTS and LEGAL ADVOCACY: Jane Heckler: The scholarship committee is meeting tonight to discuss 13 Novi High School applicants, 5 of which are need based. On March 21st Northville High School applications will be picked up.

Corinne Vincent: NCCWSL National Scholarship (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). This event currently has no posted speakers, workshops or sponsors. There are no applicants interested in attending due to this lack of information. This event is not in person and is still online only.

Suggests the AAUWNN Board discuss possibly using funds allocated for the NCCWSL event to be instead allocated to local options for women's leadership opportunities.

PUBLIC POLICY: Mary Jane Kearns: Equal Pay Day information will be presented at the April meeting. On Thursday, March 10, Mary Pollock from the Birmingham chapter will do a virtual zoom presentation on the topic of the current petitions drives in Michigan.

BY-LAWS, POLICIES and PROCEDURES: Jan Wilhelm: Voting on the AAUW national ballot will be open April 7 to May 15, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS: MaryAnn MacLaren: Andrea Cortelyou is the administrator for the new AAUWNN Facebook page and will keep that updated. She also created an Instagram account. Looking for assistance on "end design" for creating the chapter newsletter.

Mary Jane Kearns asks if Andrea will post information about the shoe drive. Rhonda York replies that she already has that information and will do a Facebook post.

Mary Ann MacLaren sent an email today to AAUWNN members with a link to this zoom meeting, a link to the program slide show, and a link to the MSU Extension gardening website. https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/

NOMINATIONS: Patty Domin (not present): More about nominations will be in the April newsletter.

Jane Heckler: Next meeting is trivia night. Thanks to Denna for the great program.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Chirillo
Secretary Pro-Tem