

AAUW Annual Report 2015-16

Maria DeWald

Community Initiative Liaison

- The list of Initiative Chairs was continually edited throughout the year as necessary; there was communication with all leaders regarding updating their Membership Booklet and Website data
- All the Initiatives were present at the membership Open House to explain their missions and seek volunteers except for two which arranged for tables.
- At least monthly communication emails and/or conversations have been sent/conducted with reminders concerning due items such as budget request forms, newsletter deadlines, Program meeting presentations, and annual reports, as well as encouragement regarding attendance at AAUW events
- This year, I only mentioned the Help Wanted Column for seeking Initiative volunteers/support once or twice as a separate column did not get much traction. Chairs seemed more likely to write an article asking. In addition, monthly briefings via short 5 minute informational briefings at monthly membership meetings continued September through April with, I believe, Ann Pinna, Kris Puzza, Betty Harrel, Kay Bishop, Jackie Goffe-McNish, and Sabashnee Gevender giving presentations. However, things got switched around a lot this year so I am not positive concerning some of the presentations.
- Developed a report summarizing all funding requests for 2016-17 and will served as Community Initiative spokesperson on the Committee to examine these funding requests.
- Some Initiative Chairs have reported themselves or through me at Board meetings and, regardless, they are reminded monthly of the opportunity or the commitment as appropriate.
- There were several changes, as well as a lot of passionate/important work accomplished in/through the Initiatives including:
 - * the reinstatement of the Girl's Conference to be held in fall 2016, with a vibrant committee, two co-chairs, an active partnership with DCC, and monthly meetings for planning;
 - * International Initiatives reenergized the International Womens' Day March and the UN trip including a follow-up meeting with a film and discussion to promote more growth next year;
 - * STEM was reorganized and now includes Let's Do Math and perhaps the renewal of Liberty Partnerships with Marist. Barbara and I had several meetings with new members interested in STEM and hope to make some significant strides next year;
 - * Stand Up to Domestic Violence/ Court Watch has increased its membership with 5 newly trained participants. They also have diligently reviewed the 17 page Fund For Modern Courts report, preparing a comment report in response. Although we no longer are partnering with the Fund, a lot was learned and continues to be implemented;
 - * Diversity, both as an Initiative and a Committee, has held dynamic meetings including the most recent ones of a trip to Jamaica and a lecture on Islam. It is hoped they will prepare at least one general membership meeting next year in conjunction with the Program VPs and continue to education the membership regarding diversity issues;

- * Leading to Reading continues to bring in many donation dollars, gives out hundreds of books, and has successfully implemented their new Infant program;
- * Healthcare Awareness continues to solidify their programs and is set to expand their programs next year from 10 to 20 participants, a larger meeting space, a Spanish program, WEEKLY meetings, a Children's Literacy program, connections to resources, and utilization of their new website; and,
- * Extending Girls Horizons continues to lead monthly programs in partnership with the Girl Scouts.

These are all very impressive women and programs that do a lot of good in the Community.

- In addition to the above comments on the work of the Initiatives, it should be noted:
 - * **STEM:** Still needs more consistent programming and a way to include all the members that have interest. This could take many different formats such as Math Buddies type tutoring program similar to Book Buddies, a workshop at the 2017 Girls' Conference or a separate conference perhaps in partnership with DCC or IBM or the like. This is a major national/State mission goal and important to pursue;
 - * International Initiatives has requested a committee be put in place to help build the program