**Portland Branch Annual Business Meeting**

**March 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Ilga Ross, Co-President.

Copies of the 2015 meeting minutes and of the treasurer’s report were distributed. Ilga Ross appointed Linda Loftin and Linda Wood to approve this year’s minutes on behalf of the membership.

Ilga Ross announced that the mandatory by-laws revisions have been reviewed and approved by the Board and are now available on the website. By-laws chair Sue Trotter completed the changes and the Board approved them.

Ilga Ross then turned the chair over to Barbara Spencer, Co-President.

Barbara Spencer reviewed the process of developing the strategic plan starting in 2014. The general focus of the plan has these components: Interest groups, public policy, STEM, and university relations. It has been a two-year process.

**Reports:**

* Public Policy: Barbara Spencer gave the report on behalf of Barbara Gaines, the group’s chairperson. The group has looked at challenges at both the national and local levels and has provided input to Branch programs. Human trackiffing, foster care, child care for university student’s children, and the minimum wage legislation have been the main areas of study. The group has also been instrumental in encouraging members to participate in the “Two-minute activist.”
* STEM: Lisa Perrine and Sue Thomas reported on the progress of the STEM group. The Branch had 10 members attend the Saturday Academy Fundraiser Luncheon and presented a check for $350 to be used for a scholarship and to pay the Interns that teach the Girl Scout classes. Lisa Perrine gave a description of the program which is a collaboration of Saturday Academy and the Girl Scouts. The girls are taught basic programing and wearable electronics (product production) at classes taught by trained high school girls who are paid interns. Our Branch provides adult supervision for the classes.
* Fundraising and PCC Scholarships: Judy Holt reported that this year the Branch sent over $6000 to National for AAUW programs. She advised that if donations are made they should be listed under the unrestricted category so that they can be used where needed. She also described the great success of the small fundraisers in homes. Each home event requests $25 or more per person in a donation. Judy Holt said that we are always looking for new ideas for fundraisers. Susan Marthens announced that the Branch gave two $1500 scholarships to PCC for use next year.

**Election of Officers:** The nominating committee was introduced: Ginny McQueen, Kathe Hart, Peggy Hickman, Kate Skelton and Eleanor Krause. The nominees are:

* Co-Presidents: Trish Garner and Ilga Ross
* Program Vice President: Diane Winn
* Secretary: Karn Hill
* Delegate-at Large: Linda Wood (one-year term)

Judy Holt moved that the slate of officers be elected. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Approval of delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention:** The following have been named as delegates:

Ilga Ross, Diane Winn, Lisa Perrine, Trish Garner, and one slot yet to be filled. Kate Skelton moved that the delegates be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Upcoming Program Highlights:**

* April 11, Marianne McClure speaking about Habitat for Humanity
* May 19, Honors Luncheon at Jake’s Grill
* August 14, summer picnic

Barbara Spencer gave thanks for the organizers of today’s event: Diane Winn, Suzanne Fleming, and Peggy Hickman.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM

Sue Thomas

Recording Secretary