

Rose City Reporter

February 2022

Presidents' Corner

Our purpose in writing this article is to share with you what your Portland Branch board is contemplating. A subgroup of the board is meeting weekly to investigate the future of our branch, potentially **ending the Portland branch**. Put simply, no one wants to step forward and “take their turn.”

The hardest job in our branch from November through February has been that of the Membership VP. She must find both members willing to be on the nominating committee, then candidates to be officers. This is an annual avalanche of the word “**no.**”

There are multiple issues driving this concern, but it comes down to lack of membership participation. Attendance at programs has declined as well as willingness to be an officer. This has been an issue seen prior to the pandemic.

COVID-19 has distilled our focus in many ways. Zoom has made showing up easier for some. Keeping a connection that promotes the closeness of our group has been gone for two years and longer. AAUW has been replaced for many members by church groups, homeowners association, etc. **We cannot compete.**

We would love to hear all thoughts, questions, rebuttals, please.

Susan and Katie

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*****Nominating Committee Update – Board Positions Open for Nomination*****

Our nominating committee members are standing by their phones and computers waiting to hear that **YOU** would like to step-up and become an active partner in the leadership of our Portland Branch!!!

We have candidates to fill the positions of Program VP, Finance VP and Director-at-Large!!!

Positions open for nominations are:

President Elect – This person will serve as President Elect in 2022-2023, President in 2023-2024, and Immediate Past President in 2024-2025.

President – This person will serve as President in 2022-2023 and Immediate Past President in 2023-2024

Program VP - This person will serve a two-year term, 2022-2024.

Finance VP - This person will serve a two-year term, 2022-2024.

Director-at-Large - This person will serve a one- year term, 2022-2023.

WANTED

An energetic and giving member(s) willing to step-into a leadership role in our branch as President-Elect or President. We would love to see some new faces with fresh ideas on our board.

***Would YOU consider becoming President of the Portland Branch? Nominations for the position will be announced in the March newsletter and voting will take place at the annual March meeting. The term begins July 2022. As committee members talk to prospective candidates, we are asked questions about the position, time commitment and responsibilities. Listed below are some frequently asked questions and our responses.

What does a president do? The AAUW president serves as a liaison between the national organization, the state organization and the local branch membership. That may seem overwhelming, but the president does not do this alone. She is supported by a board consisting of a competent leadership team with a president-elect, a past president, and member positions, both elected and non-elected, who share responsibility for decision making and branch operations. Now that might sound complicated, but it really isn't. It means that the president and her board work as a team to match the AAUW mission and goals with the interests of its branch. For example, responsibilities for finance, programs, membership, fundraising, study and interest groups, current affairs, scholarships, and even by-law changes are delegated to a specific branch board member. **Thus, the president is like a conductor of a strong and competent orchestra, with each member playing an important role.** Working with smart and dedicated women is a real pleasure. AAUW Portland Branch is collaborative.

Can this job be shared with a co-president? Absolutely! We highly recommend co-sharing of elected positions. Each of the co-presidents can share the position responsibilities according to their interests, skills and even vacation schedules. Basically, you divide the position according to each other's strengths. Our branch has had successful experiences with sharing the president's position. AAUW Portland Branch is casual and fluid.

How much time does it take to be president? Our existing by-laws call for five regular board meetings and four branch meetings including the Annual Meeting to be held annually. (Currently specified in the by-laws, but there is a process for change.) The president is responsible for conducting the board meeting which consists of board member reports and group discussion and decision making. The branch meetings are planned by the program vice president and committee. The role of the president in branch meetings can be determined by the program head and president. If a president can't attend or doesn't feel comfortable in speaking before large groups, she can delegate responsibility to another board member. AAUW Portland Branch is flexible.

I'm new to Portland and AAUW and don't feel comfortable taking on this role. Being president builds on a lifetime of experiences and skills, so newcomers can take on this role. It is refreshing to see women who are new to Portland and AAUW bring a vision reflecting their own unique personal and professional lives. Our past presidents have worked in education, government, healthcare and industry. There is no template of experiences that is required to become president. Rather the president is a woman who is encouraging, empathetic, inquisitive, and decisive. Being president provides the opportunity to make a solid statement on your support for women and girls in Portland, one that reflects your past experiences and hopes for the future. AAUW Portland Branch is inspirational. Many of our board members took the leap and took on a board position after only being a member for 3 months...they are thrilled that they stepped up.

The Nominating Committee is asking all members, whether new or experienced, to consider taking on the important branch role of President-Elect or President for the 2022-2023 cycle!

If you are interested in any of the open positions; have any questions about what duties a position entails or if you know someone whom you believe would be an excellent candidate, please contact any member of the nominating committee. You will be part of a collaborative, casual, fluid, flexible and

inspirational organization; one where you can make a difference within your own style and approach. You won't be bound by the past, but you can work towards a better day. **Interested? Please reach out and contact a member of the nominating committee.**

Ginny McQueen – ginnymaq@gmail.com, 503-650-9933

Nancy Thomas – nmthomas@teleport.com, 503-201-4420

Karn Hill – karnbhill2@gmail.com, 503-206-8444

Donna Pregill – dmp503@gmail.com, 503-292-8659

Jacque Wheeler – wheelerjax46@gmail.com, 503-477-8816

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Results of the Holiday Fund Raising Event

Thanks to all the generous members of the Portland Branch of AAUW, we raised a total of \$5363 for National Funds during the fundraising period in December. The on-line auction of the 11 items brought in \$1080. Sixteen members met Claudia Gray's challenge to donate one dollar for each year of AAUW (140). Portland members continue to support the mission of AAUW. The recipients of AAUW's training in salary negotiations, scholarships, and legal support thank you.

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NOT RECEIVING THE ROSE CITY REPORTER?

If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, try checking your SPAM Folder. Some members with Gmail accounts have discovered that the newsletter has been found in their SPAM Folders.

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Study and Interest Groups

Breakfast in Bridgetown (open)

Second Thursday, 9 am, unless otherwise stated

Group on hiatus

Current Affairs (open)

Second Mondays, 1:30 pm

Group on hiatus

Contact: Nadyne Rosin, 302-519-3715, nadgerro@gmail.com

Curtain Call (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathhart@hotmail.com

First Tuesday Reader's Theatre (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Judy Holt, 503-652-6524, jholt58@gmail.com

International Lunch Group (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Literary Comments and Criticism (open)

Fourth Thursday, 11:30 am

Date: February 24

Transcendent Kingdom by Yea Gyassi

Zoom meeting

Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Mahjong (open)

Beginning mahjong lessons

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Mary Shaw, 503-939-4589, docsu@hotmail.com

Modern Fiction (open)

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM

Date: February 22

The Last Bookshop in London by Madeline Martin

Zoom meeting

Contact: Nancy Thomas, 503-201-4420, nmthomas@teleport.com

Movie Mavens (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Suzanne Fleming, 714-898-6456, multiteach@aol.com

Non-Fiction Book Group I

Third Wednesdays, 10 am, Elephant's Deli on NW 22nd Ave.

Date: February 16

The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays 6pm, Joyce Lew's, 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd.

Date: February 18

The Empire of Pain by Patrick Radden Keefe

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Overbooked (closed)

Second Tuesdays, 10 am

Date: February 8

Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie by Lisa Napoli

Zoom meeting

Contact: Linda Stern, 503-232-5637, lindamstern@comcast.net

Sleuth Sisters (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon

Date: February 23

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz

Zoom meeting

Contact Carla Huegli, 503-457-6145 or cshuegli27@gmail.com

Wimpy Walkers (open)

First Saturdays, 10 am

Date: February 5

Explore Willamette Historic District of West Linn.

Meet at the corner of Willamette Falls Drive and 12th Avenue in West Linn.

Lunch to follow

Walk Leader: Judy Holt, 503-652-6524

RSVP required by February 1

Contact: Joyce Kligman, 503-309-3185 or joycekligman1@gmail.com