

AAUW-Loveland BOARD Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 8, 2024:

Board Members Present:

Karla Marroquin (Host)
Teri Arends-Smith
Leni Bohren
Karen Danbom
Linda Espanol
Jill Osofsky
Claudia Ward
Jan Witt

Focal Points of Discussion:

- **AAUW Stand on Reproductive Freedom** - A forthcoming Message from President Karla Marroquin will be Emailed to all Loveland Branch Members for support to *amend* the State Constitution. Kathy Wilson, a former member of AAUW-Loveland, is currently Co-Director of Action & Advocacy and is a board member of the League of Women Voters Colorado. Kathy will collect valid signatures from registered Colorado voters for the November ballot - to **protect** Colorado Reproductive Freedom.
- **AAUW Community Presence** - Some identified areas were DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Diapers & Feminine Products, and The Matthews House. Dr. Maria Gabriel, Director of DEI with Thompson School District, will be our January 22nd Program Speaker. At that meeting, the recommendation to form a “Community Action Projects” Interest Group (structured strength in numbers!) will be open for discussion & receptive to volunteers.

Leni Bohren informed us that she’s now working with 2 others (1 engineer & Kathy Hartman, who was instrumental in starting Loveland’s Recycle Program) as a Task Force on Climate Change & Sustainability. Leni has 30 years of air quality experience in association with Colorado State University.

- **Conversations with Authors (CWA)** - Committee to start up again late February, or early March. Martha DiCicco is the Committee Head.
- **Flower Sale Update** (from Claudia Ward) - Per Claudia’s conversation with Melanie from Plantorium, the following prices @ cost were provided:

Geranium BASKETS ordered *individually* @ \$23.90; we’ll repeat last year’s pricing at \$40. Colors: Red, Salmon, Lavender & White

Geranium QUARTS (5-tray minimum/variety) @ \$36.80/flat; we'll repeat unit pricing at \$7. Colors: White, Salmon, Red & Violet

Begonia QUARTS @ \$36.80/flat; we'll repeat unit pricing at \$7. Colors: Petticoat Rose, Yellow, Red & Orange

Our Pre-Order form will be due by Friday, February 16th; and, the Final Order Form will be due after our March 25th Monthly Meeting. The Flower Sale date is set for Saturday, May 11th. Wanda Marker has offered her home (again!) for both the Friday, May 10th Prep (including any designated outbound Deliveries) and customer Pickups on May 11th.

- **Scholarship Luncheon** - Saturday, May 18th will be the date; the venue to be announced later. Per Leni Bohren, the Scholarship Committee (Chris Wertheim, Fran Feinerman & Leni) is to meet next week. Community College Applicants from Front Range & Aims (Loveland/Berthoud) will be the initial focus. Further discussion ensued to also target Project Self-Sufficiency of Loveland. Jill Osofsky has volunteered to help review applications.
- **Website Update** (from Karen Danbom) - The Website Committee (composed of Jill Osofsky, Claudia Ward, Teri Arends-Smith & Karen) recommended that our Branch budget for a Webmaster to format & maintain our website. The Committee Members are able to edit & update. Based upon Jill's local & national average research, she made a motion that AAUW-Loveland budget up to \$500 for a Webmaster. All present Board Members voted in favor of this motion.

At the Board Meeting, it was agreed that our Website needs to be a cornerstone for attaining a more relevant presence in our community. It was also discussed to have an AAUW-Loveland table with collateral material for strategic placement.

- **Financial Update** (from Teri Arends-Smith) - Current Bank Balance is @ \$5,066. AAUW-Loveland plans to donate \$100 to First United Methodist Church for use of their Fellowship Hall for our Monthly Meetings. [Teri also restated that All Saints Episcopal Church in Loveland charges \$35 for room rentals.]
- **Future Board Meetings** - It was decided to hold Board Meetings every January, March & July. Jan Witt reminded us that Membership Renewals are triggered by Emails from National AAUW based on one's initial date of joining. Karla announced that a Nomination Committee needs to be formed for the election of our Fall 2024 Officers.