

the **Twig** branch newsletter – July 5, 2022

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING: We will have a planning meeting for next year's program on **Wednesday, July 13 at 7 PM at the home of Tammy Hewuse**. That's at 404 Vandervort St., Tomah. Everyone is welcome! If you're not able to come and have ideas, please send them to Tammy at hewuse@gmail.com.



MINUTES FROM OUR LAST MEETING:

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Present: Megan Divyak, Tammy Hewuse, Julia Palmer, Deb Thiel, Dick Thiel, Tina Thompson, Nancy VanderMeer, Deb Young, & Cindy Zahrte

Next meeting: TBD

1. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program at the Tomah High School. Tomah HS has one of the highest rates of female students in STEM programs. Tomah HS received a grant from Project Lead the Way (PLTW), an American nonprofit organization that develops STEM curricula for use by US elementary, middle, and high schools. Through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, K-12 students learn problem-solving strategies, critical and creative thinking, and how to communicate and collaborate through hands-on activities, projects, and problems reflective of real-world scenarios and careers.
2. The presentation was provided by Allen "Chip" Thompson in two different classrooms. Chip is a math and science teacher and loves to teach engineering. One of the classes he teaches is Principles of Engineering, where the students get involved in the design and application of engineering projects, including statistics.
 - a. In the first classroom, he shared two projects, a marble sorter, and a projectile ping pong. The marble sorter was 3D printed. There are four students assigned to each project. About 20% of the students are female.
 - b. We then went to a second classroom that uses Augmented Reality (AR), a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view. Chip gave us a tour of the equipment used to create the 3D projects, and then demonstrated the use of AR glasses and graphics. AR let us see the real-life environment right in front of us—trees swaying in the park, dogs chasing balls, kids playing soccer—with a digital augmentation overlaid on it. Many of those present were able to wear AR glasses and experience augmented reality.

- It was an excellent presentation by Chip with many questions asked by the group. Though the curriculum is provided by PLTW, much of the knowledge about the equipment, computer programs, and the network was self-taught. The program requires a huge investment in infrastructure and sustainment from the HS. Chip is passionate and dedicated to the advancement of the STEM program at Tomah HS. Thank you, Chip Thompson!

Minutes of our Branch Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting was held May 31, 2022 at the Tomah Chamber office. A quorum was established, and President Deb Thiel began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Those present: Deb Thiel, Dick Thiel, Audrey Chambers, Megan Divyak, Julia Palmer, Sonia Olson, Bonnie Peterson, Tammy Hewuse, Tia Hewuse, Cindy Zahrte, Deb Young, Barb Sullivan, and Barb Mundinger. **This was the 50th anniversary of our Branch! Congratulations, AAUW Tomah Branch!**



(l-r) Newly elected officers: Cindy Zahrte, Co-President; Deb Young, Secretary; Deb Thiel, Co-President. Missing: Tia Hewuse, membership VP.



Deb Thiel noted that AAUW – National is holding Thursday “office hours” by preregistration should you need assistance or information.

We discussed fundraising at the American Legion fish fry. licensing requirements and for the period of one year and reported.

The former AAUW EF classified by AAUW National as

We thank everyone who assisted the Afghan women. Many Mary products or provided items at a \$340 extra that was used to fund conference registration. Ten

There was discussed about logo. Not much choice is This was part of the discussion recruitment and orientation

Deb Thiel is working on the 5- She summed things up by stating, “It was a really good year. We have a dynamic group that is action-oriented and caring.”



Megan Divyak is to check on availability There was discussion about state reporting for raffles. A raffle license is more than \$600 in revenue must be

(Educational Foundation) is now Funds Development – Greatest Needs.

with the Prep for Success effort with Kay consultants donated extra discount. We ended up with about two registrations for the NCWSL virtual dollars was put into our general funds.

possibly ordering shirts with the AAUW available from the national website. regarding outreach, member (TBD).

Star application for the Tomah Branch.

CONGRATULATIONS! *Julia Palmer – 50-year Branch & Founding Member*

Tammy Hewuse, Program Chair, reviewed the year's program, noting the rescheduling of the STEM program to June 7th. She is also collecting program ideas. She also mentioned the "Hello Girls" being on a Viterbo schedule. She is planning a Program Planning Meeting at her home on Wed., July 13 at 7:00. She needs your ideas!



(l-r) Tammy Hewuse, Tia Hewuse, Cindy Zahrte, Sonia Olson.

Audrey Chambers, Financial Officer, reported on the many heartwarming notes that were written to the Afghan women and AAUW from the Prep for Success effort. She has kept a separate ledger for this project. Audrey noted that we have \$601 ear-marked for scholarships. Deb Young made a motion, seconded by Dick Thiel, to approve moving forward with a donation to AAUW, including research relative to the requirements of the 5-Star Program. Motion carried. Cindy Zahrte moved for approval of the financial report, seconded by Dick Thiel. Motion carried.

Megan Divyak reported on the updated Branch website and use of social media. Our Facebook page has been updated to include the new AAUW logo and provides an opportunity to share posts, program reminders and invitations. She can use any content and photos that AAUW members wish to supply. She plans to continue with monthly posts to Facebook. Tia Hewuse suggested that we ask each program presenter to provide Megan with a "blurb" prior to the meeting. This will help with our marketing efforts and promoting AAUW.

Cindy Zahrte, Public Policy Chair, said that the issue of gerrymandering and fair maps will come up again in ten years in WI. At AAUW-WI, two resolutions have been passed: 1) Climate Change and 2) Critical Race Theory is not being taught. She suggested Inclusivity as a program idea prior to the elections in November 2022 and providing a checklist where candidates stand on key AAUW issues in order to align our programs with Public Policy.



(l-r) Deb Young, Barb Sullivan and Barb Munding enjoy conversation.

Julia Palmer said that she saw no required changes coming from AAUW-WI that would require a change to our local Branch Bylaws. Any changes in our Bylaws need to be voted on by Branch members and sent to AAUW-WI for approval.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Chair Barb Sullivan has been involved in a couple of meetings regarding this and she reports that we are supposed to set up a local branch committee. If you'd like to be on the committee, let Barb S. know. She also noted that during the past five years, our Branch has become more diverse in age of its members. She suggested that we may reach out to Ft. McCoy in the recruitment of members. She suggested understanding trans-gendering as a potential program idea.

Deb Thiel acknowledged the Branch officers with a gift of appreciation.

Julia Palmer and Deb Young served as the Nominating Committee for 2022-2024. For the position of President, the candidates presented were Cindy Zahrte with Deb Thiel as Co-Presidents. Barb Sullivan moved to suspend the rules and elect by general acclamation; seconded by Audrey Chambers. Motion carried.

Tia Hewuse was nominated for the office of Membership VP. Dick Thiel moved approval; seconded by Barb Sullivan. Motion carried.

A nomination from the floor was made for Deb Young as Secretary. Motion to approve by Barb Sullivan; seconded by Dick Thiel. Motion carried.

Bonnie Peterson agreed to continue as the Twig newsletter editor for the coming program year, asking to reassess continuation after the year.

A proposed budget was presented by Audrey Chambers. Dues should be submitted by June 30th. Dick Thiel moved to accept the budget proposal; seconded by Barb Sullivan. Motion carried. Breakdown of dues: National \$67, State \$13, Branch \$16 for a total of \$96.

Julia Palmer will chair our Branch Funds Development.

Cindy Zahrte offered her convertible to be used in the July 4th parade in Tomah with Julia Palmer riding. Signage to promote 50 years of AAUW in Tomah.

(l-r) Cindy Zahrte, Julia Palmer, Audrey Chambers, Deb Thiel, Tammy Hewuse, Bonnie Peterson, Megan Divyak, Deb Young, Barb Sullivan.



Member's Stories: **Dick Thiel** is originally from Wauwatosa, WI. He is nearly 100% German descent and 3rd generation American. He is one of three boys and as a child enjoyed imaginative play, drawing and doodling. He provided a humorous glimpse into his early life. He considers himself a visual learner and credits family camping experiences with introducing him to the wider world. In general, as a youngster he hated city life. So, it was in 1968 when his family moved to a country home west of Waukesha in the Kettle Moraine region that his love and interest in the outdoors and wildlife developed. In particular, he became interested in wolves and wolf research. He continued studies at UW-Stevens Point and this led to a very distinguished and prestigious career as a wolf ecologist and biologist. He published a book in 1993. He and wife, Deb, raised two daughters who have both become engineers. He credits the influence of his mother, the abilities of women, and the experiences of his adult daughters and wife for his desire to join AAUW.

Deb Young is the oldest of seven children in a family from the Green Bay area. Her career path began at age 19 when she joined the Army. At that time, only 2% of the Army was female. At age 21 she started college classes and was the first in her family to receive a Bachelor's degree in 1995. She became a Federal employee as an Army instructor. She also continued with coursework, part-time, and in ten years achieved a Master's degree. She is continuing with working on her Doctorial degree. She had worked at Ft. McCoy prior to

transferring to the VA Medical Center. She retired in December 2021. As she reflected on her experiences, she was surprised that she often found herself “working sideways” with her male counterparts. Throughout the work transitions, however, she kept finding the need to re-establish her career credentials. This, she believes, helped her in finding her voice as a systems leader and educator. She said that taking a personality test was helpful in dealing with challenges, building networks, being a transformative leader and her desire for continuous learning.

Thank you, Deb Young and Dick Thiel for sharing your stories and reflections with our Branch!

Editor's Note: I apologize for not getting everyone in a photo of our Annual Meeting. Sorry!

Please send newsletter items to Bonnie Peterson, AAUW Secretary, at wordemp@centurylink.net. 608-372-7501