

Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was held on June 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., immediately after the 30th Triennial Congress, at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

Board Members Present:

Laura Roskos (Co-President)
Nancy Munger (Co-President)
Paij Wadley-Bailey (Secretary)
Barbara Nielsen (Treasurer)
Laura Santana (Development Committee Chair)
Pat O'Brien (Nominating Committee Chair)
Tura Campanella Cook (Program Committee Co-Chair)
Carol Urner (Program Committee Co-Chair)
[Regrets: Denise Hall (Personnel Committee Chair)]

Ex-Officio Members Present:

LeFlora Cunningham Walsh (Y-WILPF)
Monica Kinkel (Y-WILPF)
Chris Morin (Past President)
Audley Green (International Board Rep)
Ann Chalmers Pendell (J.A.P.A. Board President)

Staff present:

Stacey Ferguson (Operations Director, WILPF)

Also present:

Mary Zepernick (presentation)
Darien DeLu
Sandy Silver

1. The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed, and accepted. Tura offered to be time keeper. Stacey took minutes – the draft to be forwarded to Paij (Secretary) for editing.
2. Check-In, by everyone.(Check-ins have been part of the Agenda structure for awhile)
3. Date for Next Board Meeting.
DECISION: October 25-27 2008, at Cape Cod, with all members arriving by October 24th. [Note: Board meetings are held twice each year, during the spring and fall.]

4. A presentation on “Consensus Decision-Making” was made by Mary Zepernick. She defined these guidelines, including how it works, why it should be used and when agreement cannot be reached. Mary distributed a hand-out entitled “Consensus Decision-Making”. Mary left the Board meeting at 2:05 pm, after her presentation. Laura R. added that “chart padding” is used to keep the issues and decision in the minds of all present at various meetings. She commented on the tendency in the past to “over-discuss”, suggesting that time and reflection prior to and during the decision-making process and supporting a comfortable board culture is essential to good decision-making. She also commented that some members feel they could not truly express themselves on the Board and expressed that this was an unhealthy Board culture and affirmed that changes needed to be made to ensure a healthy Board culture. Finally, Laura R. referred to and distributed a book, *The Best of the Board Café*, referencing pages 84-85 [isbn 10:0-940069-40-70], expressing how difficult it can be for a Board member who strongly disagrees with a Board decision

5. Conference Call Report of May 29: Highlight was discussion of a new site/location for the WILPF Office. Carol asked that a charge for the Committee also include a process to be followed and an opportunity for all members to participate in the decision-making process. The committee in question is a committee of current and past board members and WILPF members to make a recommendation on the appropriate location of WILPF US’ location going forward within an agreed upon timeframe, preferably within the calendar year 2008. Laura S offered to be on this committee, although she does not want to chair it. Pat offered to chair this committee. Laura R. asked the Board for recommendations of non-Board members to be part of this committee as well as current Board members. Tura suggested that an invitation be sent out to all members; and that members and branches should be utilized to locate potential re-location sites. Chris nominated Carol Seeley as a non-Board member for this committee. A member recommended the possibility of a virtual set-up instead of a new physical location: this would enable staff to be located in multiple locations with no central office.

6. Negotiations Committee: Laura R spoke about the continued negotiation with former staff. She suggested that two other Board members join this Committee. Barbara, Paij, Tura Monika expressed an interest in joining. Laura R and Nancy will take the lead in all negotiations.

7. “Walk-the-Map” – a process for deepening understanding of culture and other ways of being, whereby each Board member takes 30 minutes to express (with no interruptions or questions before during or after her sharing) was proposed by Paij. She has experienced much success with this process in terms of deepening transparency, creating the safe space; and which is used by many African-American women activists. Paij proposed the Board “Walk the Map” at its fall (October 2008) meeting.

8. The Y-WILPF Presentation was made by LeFlora which included membership; outreach in schools/college campuses/community centers; programming and funding. LeFlora highlighted both the short-term and long-term goals, with a calendar of projects and events. She also highlighted Y-WILPF's intentions to be present at the Republican National and the Democratic National Conventions. Laura S asked about outreach to young women-of-color. LeFlora will return to the Board with a proposed amendment that addresses changing the dues structure, working with Barbara ("since changing the dues structure is something that is necessary for all members, not just Y-WILPF") in preparation for the October Board meeting. Laura R requested that the Y-WILPF budget recommendation be referred to the Finance Committee before a formal discussion begins concerning this budget. Agreed. LeFlora did indicate that some budgetary decisions are urgent, especially concerning the Gertrude Baer Seminar in Geneva. Barbara said the Finance Committee would address funding for the Gertrude Baer Seminar to present recommendations to a Steering Committee telephone conference.

9. Development

Laura S proposed an increase in fund-raising expectations for Board members. She proposed raising the current amount of \$500 to \$1,000 per Board member; and cited several different potential resources which included reaching out to community members, friends or making personal donations. She clarified her request by stating that she is not suggesting we fund-raise by requesting money but, rather that WILPF Board members should explore other creative avenues for fund-raising. There was much discussion about the proposal, some Board members asking for further discussion via e-mail. Laura S absented herself.

A point was made that traveling and paying for lodging for each Board member is financially taxing and that needs to be considered when discussing Board member fund-raising. Laura R stated that room and board for formal Board meetings is funded by WILPF and is not an expense of Board members.

It was agreed that all remaining issues and discussion be taken up at the next Steering Committee meeting.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paij Wadley-Bailey, Secretary, WILPF Board

[Approved by Board via Steering Committee, Sept. 10, 2008.]