

## **American Association of University Women of East Mesa (AZ) Branch General Meeting Minutes December 1, 2021**

Welcome - Bev Byrd welcomed new members, who introduced themselves: Nancy Klotovich from Montana, Penny Link from Chicago, and Denise Haala. Welcome new members!! Also, thanks to hostesses Joanna Larson and Mary Linnemann for the amazing treats.

**Program:** Amy Fa'atoafe was our speaker. She is Executive Director of Native American Fatherhood and Families Association. She told of her background, and detailed the amazing work that the association does to strengthen families. Their curriculum promotes the value of fatherhood and motherhood. In addition, Amy serves on the City of Mesa Human Relations Advisory Board. We were all impressed with her passion for children and families. Thank you, Amy!!!

**Call to Order:** Bev Byrd called the business meeting to order at 1:30.

Quorum established

**Minutes from November meeting:** Minutes were sent to all members via email. Motion by Mary DeChesnay, seconded by Betsy Flaten to approve. Motion carried. New member contact information was included in the December newsletter. Directions to check membership information on the national website will be provided.

**Treasurer's report:** Sandy Williamson presented the report - ending balance - \$11,952.29 \$5,000 has been given to ALL in Education; \$3,000 to Matthew 25 Prison Ministries. Motion by Judy Shehanian, seconded by Kay Eakin to file the report for audit. Motion carried. Sandy reported that Rhysa Davis and Monique Bassi have audited the books; all is in order.

Program VP - Activity Fair Report - Mary Linnemann and Bev Byrd reported a positive experience; the book "She Persisted" was given away. Mary Linnemann highlighted future programs, and asked anyone who is willing to do a presentation to contact Mary.

### **Committee Reports**

Scholarship - Judy Taucher-Lewis was absent, but reported via Bev Byrd that applications will be available starting January 1, 2022, with a deadline of March 15, 2022. A news article on the scholarship program is in the works and will be submitted to the Mesa Tribune.

Scholarship Luncheon - Judy Shehanian had updates on the luncheon which is Saturday, February 26, 2022. She passed sign-up sheets. Tickets will be \$40; and will be available this year at the Recreation Office at Leisure World. There will be no silent auction, and this will be the last year for jewelry sales. There will be three or four raffle baskets. If you have decoration ideas contact Judy S.

Public Policy/Diversity & Inclusion - Sandra Lackore presented the Annual Report of the Arizona Community Foundation as an excellent example of diversity and inclusion. Fifteen of the thirty-two members of the Board are minority persons. ACF manages the funds that provide income for our scholarships. Sandra encouraged us to access the report; can be found on-line.

Nominating Committee - this year's committee is Jan Kelly, Sandra Lackore and Rebecca Elliott. Open positions are: President Elect, Membership Vice-President, Treasurer and Scholarship Chair Elect. Talk to one of the committee members if interested. Keep all communication confidential.

**New Business:**

Bev Byrd reported that two donations were approved by the Executive Board - \$5,000 to ALL in Education; \$3,000 to Matthew 25 Prison Ministries/Rio Salada College Incarcerated Re-Entry Program.

**Women in History** - Mary DeChesnay - This month's outstanding woman was Wilma Mankiller. In 1993, AAUW gave their highest honor, the Achievement Award, to Wilma Mankiller, who was the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation and recognized for her contributions toward improving the lives of the Cherokee people. During her tenure, Mankiller worked to improve the lives of the Cherokee people. She created a job center, increased the number of tribal health clinics, and brought jobs and businesses to the Cherokee jurisdiction. Summer programs for young people and adult literacy were added. President Bill Clinton appointed her to be an adviser to the federal government on tribal affairs, and later, in 1998, Clinton would grant her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Thank you Mary for another informative presentation!

**Adjournment:** -Motion by Betsy Flaten, seconded by Shirley Davis to adjourn, at 2:45 p.m.  
Next meeting - Wednesday January 5, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Dill  
Secretary, East Mesa AAUW Branch