

AAUW - LITTLE ROCK, AR

MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2022 MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Zenobia Harris, Maria Jones, Kathryn Buri, Nell Matthews, Jean Pennucci, Janai Harris, Lula Brooks, Mary McGehee, Winifred Stamps, Gloria Bastidas, Michelle Rhoden, Carol Young, Denise Ennett, Amie Lien, Debra Tillery, Liz (last name not available or known), Susan Holt

11:01 AM – The meeting was called to order by Pres. Zenobia Harris and presenters were introduced.

Presenters:

Susan Borne, granddaughter of Adolphine Fletcher Terry, presented the history of her grandmother's activities and the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House in downtown Little Rock. The house, built in 1840 by Albert Pike, has a lengthy and significant history for Little Rock and Arkansas. In 1871, it was on the edge of town. The Fletcher family years in the house were 1889 – 1910. Adolphine was 7 years old when she moved into the house; she married David Terry in 1910. She was involved in volunteer work that included the Black community from which she learned much. Adolphine was active in public service; she served on the library board for 36 years and worked to desegregate the library system. In 1958, she was the leader of the Women's Emergency Committee during the Central High crisis. Her efforts were broad – health, social welfare, education, social justice, and art.

Maria Jones presented a PowerPoint showing the 2009 thesis by Kara Ellis, M.A., at UALR. Her information concerned the actions of AAUW during the Little Rock desegregation crisis. These included a forum on job opportunities, 5 book clubs, and hosting music listening. Adolphine Terry and Vivion Brewer in AAUW started the Women's Emergency Committee (WEC) that helped to re-open the schools. There was overlap between AAUW and WEC; they fought Amendment 52 which would have destroyed public education. They also fought the teacher purge in the Little Rock School District in 1959, focusing on a recall election of 3 school board members who fired teachers. This thesis by Kara Ellis concluded that the Little Rock AAUW came out the better for its desegregation crisis activities.

Diana Glaze, an AAUW member since the 1950's, reported involvement in integration and also the ERA. She had met Phyllis Shlafly, an ERA opponent. Regarding Little Rock politics, she presented information on AAUW's involvement in mayoral elections. In 1976, the mayor was elected by the city board of directors with the board saying Little Rock is not ready for a woman mayor. The following year, Lottie Shackelford was elected mayor. She said that AAUW has taken on civil rights in the past and is still dealing with that. Zenobia Harris added that AAUW has served on the right side of history.

Nomination Committee Report -

Lula Brooks reported that June Lloyd is the other committee member. Voting will be held in May. Nominees for offices are: Dr. Mary McGehee for Co-President, Maureen Terrafranca for Co-Vice President for Membership and Dr. Lottie Adams for Co-Vice President of Membership, and Nell Matthews for Treasurer. A nominee for Vice President of Programs is needed.

Announcements –

Maria Jones and others shared their memories of Lilla Preyer who passed away on February 4 at the age of 99. She was very much appreciated by AAUW for her involvement, having joined in 1988 and having been an active member. The branch has donated to an education fund in her honor.

Nell Matthews provided additional information about Period Project efforts. There is a “More Chances Period” on Facebook; people can see there what is needed to help young women. The Period Poverty Program and Bright Futures are also active. She indicated lowering the sales tax on these products can be an activity for AAUW.

Maria Jones updated information about the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame event. The AAUW table is nearly filled. Tickets are \$200 and the dinner will be on April 20 at 5:30 PM. Get money to Nell if you want a ticket for the AAUW table at the event.

Mary McGehee reported the AAUW April 9 membership meeting will be at the Terry Library. Members should invite people to come in order to recruit members. Meeting time is 11 AM to 1 PM; members donate to cover lunch.

Zenobia Harris presented AAUW State Convention information. “Eyes on Tomorrow” is the theme. The virtual convention will be on May 21; there is no registration fee – donations requested.

The next meeting will be on April 9, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 AM.