AAUW/CT Strategic Plan Questionnaire

Branch Reports

**Question #1:** How has COVID impacted your Branch? Has your membership remained stable, if not, has it increased or decreased? Are you able to recruit new members?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* Greatly affected. Members have quarantined both physically and mentally.
* Lost one member. Did not renew
* Setting up Zoom meetings.

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky

* Last in-person meeting was in March. Zoom meeting during the summer
* Membership stable. Lost one member. Recruit by word of mouth. No new members

Bridgeport, Carole J. Fanslow

* Last in person meeting was Dec. 2019. March meeting cancelled.
* Annual meeting in May was via telephone. At the Sept. 14th meeting, the Board will decide whether or not to hold a fall meeting
* Book Author luncheon cancelled
* Upcoming December meeting will feature the five (5) scholarship recipients.
* Branch celebrating its**“90th” Anniversary** September 2021

Greater Meriden: Karen Grava

* Book Author luncheon rescheduled to April 10Th, 2021 at the Aqua Turf Club
* Welcomed one (1) new member

**Question #2:**How are you continuing to engage your membership? Do you plan to sponsor programs in the upcoming months? Are you using the Zoom format and has that been successful? How are you connecting with members not comfortable using Zoom?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* Set up a Zoom meeting on “Hunger Insecurity” with a speaker from Essex food bank.
* Several members use Zoom

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky

* Executive Committee has met many times over the summer by Zoom
* Emailed members concerning decisions made and asked for input
* Plan Zoom meetings September through December. Do not know if Zoom will be successful

Greater Meriden: Karen Grava

* Meeting virtually through December.
* The September meeting will relate to racial justice in CT. (September 21st, 7:00 P.M.)
* October will feature Rick Hanley, Associate Professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University. Topic: “Social Media in the Presidential Campaign”
* All Zoom meetings will be held at 8:00 P.M. Will return to afternoon meeting when “In-person” meetings can resume

**Question #3:** What are some of your planned upcoming programs? Is there a Zoom link to help facilitate sharing them with other branches? Are your “Interest Groups” still continuing to hold meetings?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* Planning a “Social Distancing” dinner at Langley’s Restaurant in September. The speaker will be from the League of Women voters and will discuss SUFFRAGE.
* Zoom meetings for October and November.
* *Mystery Dinner* planned for December. May have to cancel
* Book club will meet via Zoom

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky:

* Meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:15 P.M.
* September will be a panel discussion, “Understanding Racism as power and self-interest: a bridge to equity and activism”
* October will feature Victoria Martinez, recipient of an AAUW Career Development Fellowship. Art and Print-making master’s candidate at Yale.
* November will be a fundraiser to support AAUW driven initiatives. Guest speaker will be Shirley Faye who will present a monologue in costume about Susan B. Anthony and her work in the suffrage movement.
* December: Presentation on*food justice*and they will donate to the local food pantry
* Membership Chair, Sandy Ferguson, sends on Zoom links the day of the meetings
* They do not have*Interest Group* meetings

**Question #4:**Has your branch awarded any scholarships? If so, how many, and in what monetary amounts?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* Scholarships to NCCWSL. Hope to send three girls next year
* Also, $500.00 scholarships

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky:

* A yearly $2,000.00 scholarship in June
* An award to help elementary schools purchase books. This year will feature POC as protagonists and heroes

Bridgeport, Carole J. Fanslow:

* Branch awarded five (5) scholarships

Greater Meriden: Karen Grava

* Scholarships to four (4) high school students; five (5) mature women scholarships; and one (1) mentee scholarship

**Question #5:** Doesyour branch send out a newsletter? If so, how often?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* Yes, monthly. Mailed to members without email

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky:

* No newsletter

Bridgeport, Carole J. Fanslow

* Newsletter published 3 or 4 times a year or whenever necessary.:

Greater Meriden: Karen Grava

* Newsletter published several times a year. (Carolyn MacDuff)

**Question #6:**How will the proposed increase in dues affect your branch/membership?

New London, Gay Clarkson

* We have not discussed the proposed increase in dues. **“Getting the members to pay** **their 2020 dues has been an effort.”**Most of the members have paid.

Storrs/Willimantic, Stephanie Dubinsky:

* We plan to poll are members for their input

Bridgeport, Carole J. Fanslow:

* Latest news to members was to encourage members to renew their membership. "Not sure what will happen though if there is a due increase by National."