

Minutes for IBC Meeting (02/26/2025)

Attendees: Joyce Bluett, Teri Brecht, Shirley Breeze, Sandy Brody, Nancy Hutchins, Carol Davis McDonald, Debbie McWard, Kay Meyer, Chris Nobbe, Charlotte Parsons, Grace Poertner, Lynne Roney, Jan Scott, Diane Sher, Pat Shores

Quick recap

The group discussed various updates, including an upcoming art exhibit, branch events, and the need for a new IBC secretary. They also focused on financial management, including a proposed dues increase, the need for new members, and the challenges faced by their organization. Last, they discussed the importance of staying informed about national developments, the potential for more involvement in national committees, and the idea of using Zoom for events to overcome location barriers.

Next steps

- Lynne to make changes to the minutes as suggested by Carol.
- Jan to call the printer about ordering bookmarks.
- Shirley to proceed with ordering 1000 bookmarks, spending no more than \$500.
- All branch representatives to get RSVP counts for the Chevy's lunch after Ellen's memorial to Karen Francis as soon as possible.
- Diane and Grace to work together on reviewing IBC financial records.
- Jan to add "National Dialogue" as a regular agenda item for future meetings.
- All branch representatives to discuss with their branches the idea of co-hosting quarterly events and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- Christine to send the AI meeting transcript to Lynne and Carol.
- Jan to send the AI meeting transcript to herself.

Summary

Branch Updates

Christine announced an upcoming art exhibit called "Making Their Mark: Tapping a New Wave of Women Artists." The group discussed upcoming branch events, including the AAUW MO-sponsored legislative briefing, Girl Scout patch program, and senior fair. They also mentioned the need for a new IBC secretary, with Lynne agreeing to continue in the role for this meeting. The meeting concluded with a reminder about Ellen Irons' memorial service and a gathering afterwards at Chevy's restaurant.

Minutes and Financial Report

Corrections were made of the minutes of the previous meeting and will be filed as corrected. The financial report was filed as presented.

Website and Facebook Page Management

The IBC website is currently managed by Lynne. Anyone interested in taking it on is welcome to do so. Nancy Hutchins was able to gain access to the Facebook page and will update it.

Activity Reports

Kay reported that the International Relations Lecture Series is looking ahead to the March and April lectures after having to postpone and possibly reschedule January and change February to Zoom. A Zoom account may be set up for future use. Branches need to send in their contributions for the IRLS to Kay.

Teri reported that Adelante continues to have good book discussions via Zoom.

Pat reported that the only details known about the next National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) are the dates (May 28-30) and location (University of Maryland, College Park).

IBC Spring Luncheon Preparations

Teri confirmed that the entertainment for the upcoming IBC spring luncheon on March 29 will be an a capella quartet called "Mixed Nuts." Nancy reported that arrangements for tablecloths, napkins, and menu are set, with only the cake remaining to be organized. Sandy reported that the Barbara Lackritz awards are ready, with Lynne stepping in to present them. Carol is handling registrations and evaluations, while Joyce will create a display board of "Sheroes" based on attendee submissions. The group also discussed table arrangements for Kirkwood-Webster Groves to sell jewelry and pecans, as well as space for lottery tickets and registration. Diane suggested using an online service like Punchbowl or Eventbrite for future events to avoid issues with the post office, and reminding members to send in their reservations early. Carol agreed to look into the online option.

CU Partnership

Debbie reported that Webster University had not yet figured out their role in the partnership, despite previous discussions, but is still interested in NCCWSL and our fellowships. Diane mentioned that WorkSmart is being reorganized and will be available only to college and university members, which could be a selling point for membership. The group agreed to further investigate these changes.

Financial Review and Compliance Discussion

The group agreed that a financial review for 2022 and 2023 is overdue. The review aims to ensure compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. Diane suggested that the review should include a detailed classification of expenses and revenues, moving away from just transaction-based reports. The committee also discussed the need for consistency in financial reporting across branches. The responsibility for managing IBC finances was confirmed to lie with Carol. Last, it was mentioned that IBC operates independently and branches do not contribute to its financial reports.

Bookmarks

The group discussed printing new bookmarks for the Interbranch Council. Shirley initially proposed printing 500 bookmarks, but after discussion and reviewing past expenses, the

group leaned towards printing 1,000 bookmarks. Carol reported that in 2022 they printed 1,000 full-color, two-sided bookmarks for \$250.

Motion: *Shirley Breeze moved and Lynne Roney seconded a motion, further amended, to spend no more than \$500 to print at least 1,000 bookmarks. Motion carried.*

This quantity is deemed more practical for distribution to libraries and community events.

Dues Increase and Financial Concerns

The group discussed a proposed dues increase for the organization. The increase has not yet been voted on, but some members expressed concerns about its size, potentially 34%. Grace noted it could impact donations and branch survival. The discussion then shifted to financial management issues at the national level, including high rent costs due to a long-term lease agreement. Members debated the organization's staffing and management, with some criticizing past decisions. The group acknowledged the challenges in attracting new members, especially given the aging membership base. Members are encouraged to make comments online.

Addressing Financial Challenges and Involvement

The team discussed the financial challenges faced by their organization, with a focus on membership fees and the need for new members. They expressed frustration with the lack of responsiveness from the national organization and the need for more involvement from members. The idea of having more members was proposed as a potential solution, with the suggestion that new members could be attracted through discounts. The team also discussed the importance of staying informed about national developments and the potential for more involvement in national committees. The idea of having a regular agenda item to discuss national news and finances was proposed. The team also discussed the need for better connections with local colleges and institutions.

AAUW Membership Challenges and Solutions

The group discussed challenges with membership and recruitment in their AAUW branches. Sandy and Christine suggested having branches take turns hosting events for all members to reduce planning burdens and attract new people. January and February would be good times to do this using Zoom to overcome weather, location, and driving barriers. They agreed to discuss this idea further with their branches before the next meeting. They note that although overall membership has declined significantly over the years, some branches are still gaining new members occasionally through publicity and relevant programming. The meeting concluded with plans to share the recording and AI summary.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Roney, interim secretary, with the help of AI Companion