



Associated Women's Meeting January 7, 2019

Attending: Barbara Angevine - *Belknap*, Jozi Best - *Sullivan*, Cindy Blandini - *Carroll*,
LeeAnn Childress - *Merrimack*, Ann Fifield - *Merrimack*, Judy McPhail - *Merrimack*, Ruth Mann - *Merrimack*,
Elaine Moore - *Cheshire*, Edith Regan - *Rockingham*, Ruth Scruton (call in) - *Strafford*

At 10:00am, AW President, Elaine called the meeting to order leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

December 2018 Meeting Minutes - Discussion about who is on the email list - updates will be made to ensure everyone is receiving the minutes and information. LeeAnn will add the word DRAFT to the meeting minutes and we'll correct them at the next meeting. Deedee made a motion to accept the minutes and LeeAnn seconded it.

Treasure's Report - Budget item for County donations - Not all counties are supporting the AW's request for a donation - everyone is encouraged to attend our county meetings and ask them to support us. Ruth S. suggested that we really need to let the counties know how much we do. *LeeAnn will send out a follow up post card with due date (March 30th 2019)*. Budget item for annual meetings - Jozi said it is included in the budget that the first vice president can go to the annual meeting. Elaine checked with Diane, this report showed it is last year's budget figures, because we not submitted a new budget yet. Following that we went proceeded to go line item by line item to determine this year's budget. Deedee made a motion to approve the budget as changed, Ruth M seconded it.

Letter to Counties requesting money for donations for David's House - have been mailed out. Barb was concerned that last year's donation from Belknap has never been cashed. It is now no longer valid and will go back into Belknap's coffers. It appears to be an ongoing problem how to collect and release the money to David's House. This issue was tabled until next month.

Telephone Meetings - we agreed this is a good safe way to handle cancel traveled meeting and we'll set up a call in and an email information plan. Elaine volunteered to do this. Email information will also be mailed out with instruction on how to call in.

Planting of the Ruth Scruton's thank you tree - 6th of May meeting. Ruth S requested that we get a non-hybrid lilac because it is more **bee** friendly. It's important that it be a pollinator friendly plant.

Fundraising Ideas - Ruth S volunteered to do a paint/craft night at the NHFBF office. Elaine suggested we do more small fundraisers like this and spread it out through all the counties (if possible). Ruth encouraged everyone to research fun crafty projects and send ideas to so we can determine what to do in the spring. Elaine wants everyone to also think of a farm based fundraiser and email her the idea to discuss.

Promotion & Education - Denis Ward called Elaine asking if we would be interested in handling the P & E program. Elaine wants to wait until after she attends the upcoming AFBF and Fusion annual meetings to better be able to discuss more ideas and suggestions about this program. Jozi added that it is smart to not make decisions until we have more information and wanted to add that we have some direction already and that maybe we not need to add more to our plate. It is a good idea to have some goals before anyone goes to Fusion so that we have concrete ideas and can ask good questions and get more information to support what we are trying to accomplish. More discussion followed about School to Farm programs in the counties. Deb Cox is doing a great job.

Location of February 4th Meeting - Jozi suggested a meeting at Stonewall Farm. Jozi will talk to them about a School to Farm event. However since the weather in February can be unreliable, Elaine suggested that we ll call in meeting for our February 4th meeting. LeeAnn will post it on Facebook and the Post.

Planning a April meeting - Visit to David's House – put it on Facebook and the Post, and email – ask for donations, monetary, canned foods, dry goods, sod tabs, wipes, etc. Check the list on their website for what the need is. Elaine will go over there and make contact with them about the meeting room date and what they need.

Farm History Books – amount left – have approximately 80 books that are left. It was suggested that we could start gathering more Farms and their stories to continue the 100 year old farms. Keep the stories in case we decide to continue another book. We can post the new farm stories on the TBT Facebook page.

Legislative – Jozi reported that a recent meeting a lot of items like the animal welfare, farm plates, current use, park visits, and other items was discussed. She also noted that there have not been any Monday morning calls for several weeks. Jozi recently spoke to Rep Kristy Atherton from the Governor's Commission of Humane Treatment of Animals is who working with the group. There was a meeting with Senator Shaheen here at NHFBF talking about how our NH farmers are being effective by the current government shut down. Senator Shaheen was looking for suggestions for solutions. Farmers have not received any money relief from some of the programs yet. Jozi is concerned about how well the farmer's wives are doing. She is concerned about the families of the farms that are losing out on some help. Jozi brought up how do children these days grow up without having access to farms and learning about the possibility of learning farming business...liability is the biggest issue.

Ruth Mann said that because of the government shut down, some NH farmers who want to hire migrant farmers are not able to get the forms that need to be submitted now. Jozi said if the people completed and turned in the forms done right away there may be a way to get some action by May.

Other

Elaine had some concerns about the AITC book – what is actually happening with the program. We haven't seen any feedback. Feedback goes to Deb Cox. Elaine will contact Deb about that. Jozi suggested again that we really need one designated person per county to be responsible for the reading program. Discussion followed that that was already covered except for Coos county. Currently individual ladies are taking books to their county meetings. Ruth suggested that we add to our meeting agenda/minutes AW feedback of their reading experience so we have it recorded and Elaine can follow up with AFBF with what we are doing.

Barb said Elaine sent out a letter that should go out to every member. A well written "greetings letter" ...to remind all our members to get involved with our AW projects...to follow along with our Facebook page, etc...

Barb regarding the Abbie Sargent Collection – should we get a committee going again? Sandy will bring in what she has.

Barb submitted a copy of a simplified budget report that is easier to understand. Elaine has shown it to Diane. Diane will do whatever we think is best.

Ruth S. was on Chronical last week on "Soil Sisters". She gave a lot of important information that was relayed during the TV segment.

Barb made a motion to adjourn and Sandy seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
LeeAnn Childress, Secretary